

BFNL FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

Football:

In accordance with the powers given it under Rule 20.2.5 of the Rules of the Ballarat Football & Netball League Incorporated, the Board of Directors has adopted the following By-Laws for the upcoming season.

Operational

1. Interpretation

In these By-Laws, unless the contrary intention appears;

- a) "League" means the Ballarat Football & Netball League Incorporated.
- b) "Seniors" are defined as First, Second & Third Eighteen Teams
- c) "Juniors" are defined as Under 17 Seniors, U/17 Reserves, Under 15 Seniors, U/15 Reserves, Under 13 Seniors, U/13 Reserves & U/11 Senior, U/11 Reserve, U/9 Senior and U/9 Reserves.
- d) "Board" means the Board of Directors constituted pursuant to Rule 21.
- e) "Rules" means the Rules of the Ballarat Football & Netball League Incorporated.
- f) "Penalty Unit" is defined as \$10.

2. Powers

The League shall, subject to its Statement of Purposes, and to its Rules, comply otherwise with the Laws of Australian Football (released by the AFL) and AFL Victoria Country.

3. Matters not Provided for

In the event that any matter arises which is not provided for in the Rules; in these By-Laws; or in the Rules of the Australian Football Foundation, or the AFL Victoria Country rules, the Board shall have full power and discretion to determine such matter.

4. Admission Prices

Admission prices will be determined by the Board prior to the commencement of each season, with sufficient time for clubs to complete their budgets for the coming year. Disbursement of gate receipts is covered by By-Law 21.

5. Change of Venue

The Fixture Committee consisting of the Director of Operations, Chairman of Directors, Regional General Manager and Operations Manager shall review all match venues on a weekly basis and determine any venue change not later than 5pm on the Wednesday preceding the round of matches. Match programming is covered in By-Law 34.

6. Clearance & Permit Curfew

In accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rules, the League imposes a clearance & permit curfew. No clearance or permit shall be handled after 5pm on the Friday preceding a round of matches, until 9am on the Monday following a round of matches unless & except where by exceptional circumstances apply and approval is granted by the Regional General Manager or Operations Manager.

7. Club Officials, Notification of Office Bearers & Annual Reports

The Operations Manager shall circulate each year a Club Information Review Form to be completed and returned by a date nominated by the Board. The information on the form will be included in the Season Information Booklet and circulated to all other clubs and members of the media.

Clubs must inform the League immediately of any change of personnel after submission of the form or changes of communications details for any individual listed on the form.

All affiliated Clubs must, within fourteen days of the holding of their Annual General Meeting, notify the Operations Manager of the League, in writing, of the names of all office bearers, their address, telephone number(s) and email address. Clubs must also submit to the League a copy of their audited Annual Report as presented at their Annual General Meeting by the 31st December. Failure to provide a copy of a clubs audited Annual Report will see the Ballarat Football & Netball League impose a fine of 25 penalty units.

8. Football Guide/Records

Each home club will be allocated an amount of Football Guides/Records for distribution at matches. The Guides should be distributed at both senior and junior venues. Each senior club must supply notes via email (only) to shane@aflgoldfields.com.au prior to 5 pm on the Tuesday preceding each round.

The notes must not be of more than 250 words for the senior record. Notes exceeding this amount may have any text after 250 words deleted. Failure to provide such notes will see a fine of 20 penalty units imposed on the offending club/s.

The Home club must make arrangements for the allocation of Guides to be collected from the printer.

9. Home Game Levy & Statement

The Board will determine the Home Game Levy to be paid as the name suggests each occasion a club has a home game, prior to the commencement of each season, giving clubs sufficient notice for budgeting purposes.

The Home Game Levy will be set by the Board prior to the commencement of the season, and payment of HGL invoices must be paid by 12 noon on the Wednesday following the completion of any given home game. Failure to provide payment in full along with the invoice receipt within such time frame will incur a 10 penalty unit fine.

The Home Game Levy is calculated to cover the following direct expenses:

- Umpires
- Advertising
- Programs
- Footballs
- Netballs; and
- Other items determined by the board.

The fundraising efforts of the BFNL cover other indirect expenses relating to football each week. Staff Salaries, Phone, Fax, Postage, Printing & Stationary and other sundry costs.

10. Interleague Policy

The Ballarat Football Netball League has a long tradition in the WorkSafe Victorian Country Championships and is recognised as one of the most successful Leagues ever. The League expects all member clubs to support the Interleague campaign and encourage players and officials who are selected to participate. From time to time, the League may approach clubs for the use of its facilities for training and/or matches.

The Match Committee, comprising of four Selectors plus one Chairman of Selectors and the Coach, shall coordinate the selection of the training squad, and from time to time any additions or deletions can be made.

All squad members (fit & injured) are expected to attend training unless excused by the coach or a member of the selection panel. Players who fail to attend training without notification or make themselves unavailable for Interleague may incur a suspension of a minimum of one match.

At the discretion of the match committee, allowances may be made for playing coaches and those who have given good service to the BFNL Interleague campaign in previous years, or to any other player in exceptional circumstances that are approved by the BFNL Board. All senior and junior Interleague representatives will be supplied with shorts and socks if selected to represent the league.

11. Jumpers

All jumpers in both Senior and Reserve matches must carry different numbers. Players must be wearing the number that corresponds to the Official League Program and the team sheet. Refer By-Law 116.

12. Submission of Selected Sides

Seniors:

Each club must submit their selected sides in the Senior, Reserve and U/19 grades into the system prior to 8:30pm on the Thursday night preceding a round of matches. Players must be named in their corresponding position and must also have their allocated number entered into the system.

Should any player take the field outside the 22 named players and up to 5 emergencies, a 25 penalty unit fine per player not named will be enforced upon that club unless the club can provide evidence to support a valid reason for the change. The system will generate an automatic email that will be distributed to all media contacts for publishing each Friday.

Clubs participating in matches that are scheduled to play on a Sunday will be permitted to submit an extended bench of 7 players (4 interchange plus 3 emergencies) however sides still need to submit all players in position and with jumper numbers.

Failure of a Club to correctly submit a side to the system shall result in a fine of 25 Penalty Units.

Juniors:

Each club must submit their completed team lists into the system any time prior to the commencement of their game with enough time to print out and use as the club's official team sheet for match days. All grades must print off copies of their team sheet from the system. Team sheets must represent a 100% accurate account of the players who take the field on a weekly basis.

Late changes may be recorded by hand on the official match day team sheet however these changes must be made prior to the start of the match and submitted on the system immediately following each game in time for submission of results deadline.

Refer to By-Law 13. Any changes made must also be replicated on any other team sheet in circulation on the day.

13. Submission of Final Results

All clubs will be responsible for the submission of final results immediately following the completion of each game. It will be the responsibility of the HOME club to enter the final scores of each game however each club is responsible for entering their own best players and goal kickers for every match.

The deadline for submission of all results for each match day is 6pm. For night matches, the deadline will be 11pm. All final scores, best players and goal kickers must be submitted by this time, clubs failing to meet this deadline shall incur a penalty of 5 penalty units per offence.

14. Incorrect Team Sheet Listings

In the case where a club submits their team sheet prior to the start of the match to the Umpires and Opposition and it has been determined that specific players, who end up participating in the same match and have not been included on the official team sheet for that match, shall be subject to penalties as deemed appropriate by the BFNL Board of Directors.

Penalties may be distributed in the way of a fine, the loss of premiership points and percentage or a combination of both, depending on the set of circumstances surrounding the scenario. These penalties are on top of those issued for breaching other BFNL By-Laws in relation to the selection of sides.

15. Live Scores

For Senior competition football matches only, it will be the responsibility of the HOME club to conduct live scores via the program supplied by the league. Failure of a club to conduct the live scores service (without a valid excuse) shall incur a fine of 10 penalty units. For all other competitions, live scores are recommended but not compulsory.

16. Media Commitments

Each club should attempt to make personnel available to the media as requested in order to aid the promotion of the League.

17. Player Milestones

The Ballarat Football Netball League will present player milestone certificates to players having reached 100 senior BFNL games, 200 senior BFNL games and every 50 games thereafter. It is the responsibility of the player's club to inform the League of when a milestone is about to be reached, so the Operations Manager can organise a presentation.

18. Practice Matches

The League must be notified of all practice matches, including the participating grades, clubs, date, times and venue to ensure Clubs & Players are insured. It is recommended that all Practice Matches be officiated by Official Umpires.

Clubs must ensure local government policies and procedures are followed to ensure booking of all venues and facilities are finalised well in advance to the commencement date of each practice match. It is also the responsibility of each club to place a booking at least 2 weeks prior to any practice match for any required umpires.

Umpire bookings placed inside 2 weeks of any practice match cannot be guaranteed they will be filled.

19. Turf Wickets

Clubs with turf wickets bear the responsibility of arranging the wickets to be covered and uncovered throughout the season.

20. Umpires

The Ballarat Football Umpires Association caters for all BFNL Matches and supplies umpires as negotiated on a year to year basis. The BFNL shall also have a separate agreement with the Riddell Football Umpires Association to supply umpires as negotiated on a year to year basis.

21. Gate Receipts

The Board shall have power to establish policy from year to year in respect of the disbursement of gate receipts of the minor round of matches and the finals series matches.

22. Special Arrangements

The Board may in its discretion, make special allowances to affiliated Clubs in the defraying of expenses in conducting the affairs of the League and in so doing, shall honour agreements entered into or arrangements made with affiliated Clubs.

The Board shall determine any such special allowances prior to the commencement of any season and advise all affiliated Clubs of any decisions in relation to special allowances and expenses.

23. Duties of League Officers

The Officers of the League appointed pursuant to its Rules, shall carry out such functions and perform such duties as are set out in the Rules and in addition such duties and functions as may be directed by the Board from time to time.

24. Honorarium

Office Bearers of the League shall be entitled to receipt of an Honorarium, such Honorarium to be fixed at the Annual General Meeting of the League.

25. Other Duties

The Board may in its discretion, delegate any one of its number to perform other duties and functions and if appropriate, may recommend that Honorariums relating to such duties, be fixed at the Annual General Meeting of the League and shall further have power to appoint from time to time, committees to carry out any of its duties and functions.

26. League Passes

The following outlines what passes entitle bearer to:

Ticket Admits

- BFNL Life Members ticket - bearer & vehicle
- BFNL Sponsors Tickets - bearer & vehicle
- BFNL Complimentary Pass - bearer & vehicle
- BFNL Directors Pass - bearer, guests & vehicle
- BFUA Umpires Pass - bearer only
- BFNL Media Ticket - bearer only & vehicle
- BFNL Netball Umpire Ticket - bearer only & vehicle
- AFL Victoria Country Directors Pass - bearer & vehicle + 1 guest
- AFL Victoria Country Goldfields Region Pass - bearer only
- Dual Gate Pass - 2 x adults & children U/17 free (cars cost \$1)

27. Life Membership

The major criteria must be service to the League, and such service must incorporate recognisable achievement over a period of time.

28. Smoking

Smoking is prohibited within BFNL Headquarters and at all official BFNL functions. Smoking is prohibited at all Junior and Youth Girls matches. The BFNL has also adopted AFL Victoria's Smoke Free Policy.

29. Surplus

In the event a surplus is shown in the accounts at the completion of the season, the League may in its discretion, and prior to the declaration of a dividend, transfer to a Reserve Fund, such sum to be decided by the Board and such Reserve Fund shall be deemed to be the property of the League and any affiliated Club ceasing to be a member of the League shall have no equity in any monies then contained in such Reserve Fund.

30. Dividend

The League shall not declare a dividend in cash form. However, funds may be made available for all clubs to finance capital improvements (e.g. time clocks at all grounds, wind socks, Interchange Steward Shelters, nets behind goals, etc.) from time to time subject to the availability of funds.

31. Affiliation

- a) The League shall admit such Football Clubs as it may from time to time determine provided such Football Clubs comply or are capable of complying with the Rules and these By-Laws and the Regulations of AFL Victoria Country. Refer Rule 22.3.
- b) Each Football Club affiliated with the League during the previous season shall be deemed to be an affiliated member of the League for the following season subject to payment of such affiliation fees as are specified and fixed by the League at its Annual General Meeting and any other outstanding monies due to the League.

32. Affiliation Fee

- a) Each affiliated Club shall pay to the League such affiliation fee as is fixed at the Annual General Meeting of the League.
- b) Affiliated Clubs neglecting or refusing to pay its affiliation fee; its declared share of any loss that may be incurred; any levy that may be made; or any fine as imposed by the Rules or these By-Laws, and such failure or refusal continues for one month after due notice has been given by the Board, shall be subject to the next following By-Law, be subject to expulsion.

33. Expulsion

A two thirds majority of members of the League present at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, may expel such Club from the League or take such other action as it may determine in relation to the Club's affiliation with the League or permit its continued affiliation on such terms and conditions as it may deem advisable.

34. Programming

The Board shall arrange the programming of all matches and shall have the power to re-arrange the order of games and the grounds upon which matches are to be played if at any time, the question of suitability or availability of grounds arises.

35. Fixture Procedure

The Operations Manager, in conjunction with the Director of Operations and Regional General Manager, shall determine the fixture for each season. Each club shall be entitled to make a submission to the League on issues to be taken into consideration, although no guarantee is made that all situations will be catered for.

Such submission should be received by the League not later than a date as nominated by the Operations Manager, for the following season. The fixture will be released publicly prior to Christmas each year, for the following season.

36. Other Matches

No affiliated Club shall, without the prior approval of the Board, engage in any match other than those programmed. All pre-season practice matches are to be umpired by official Umpires including Central, Boundary and Goals.

Any BFNL club wishing to take part in any football competition that is not administered by the Ballarat Football & Netball League, must write to the Regional General Manager and Ballarat Football & Netball League Operations Manager seeking approval from the BFNL Board to compete. This excludes any pre-season competition organized by a club outside the league.

37. Points

In all matches four points shall be counted for a win, two for a draw and zero points for a loss. At the conclusion of the minor rounds, if two or more Clubs have gained an equal number of points, the position of such Clubs on the Premiership ladder, shall be determined by the percentage of goals and behinds scored for and against any such Clubs.

In the case the BFNL fixture contains a bye, for the purpose of ladder calculation 4 points will be awarded to the team with the bye in a given round of matches.

38. Forfeiture

If any Club forfeits a match, provided such opposing Club has a completed team sheet, four points shall be awarded to the Premiership score of the opposing Club, which also shall have added to its percentage account, the average number of goals and behinds scored in matches against the defaulting Club during the season.

Fines will be imposed by the BFNL to Clubs who forfeit scheduled fixtures or any scheduled match within the Ballarat Football & Netball League.

The following fines will apply -

- Senior Football 300 penalty units
- Reserves Football 150 penalty units
- U/19 Football 50 penalty units
- Any Junior Football fixture 20 penalty units
- A Grade Netball 100 penalty units
- B Grade Netball 50 penalty units
- C Grade Netball 25 penalty units
- D Grade Netball 25 penalty units
- E Grade Netball 25 penalty units
- 19 & Under Netball 25 penalty units
- Any Junior Netball fixture 20 penalty units

39. Expenses

Any Club which forfeits its engagement, shall on top of any penalty imposed by the league (see By-Law 38) be responsible for the expenses incurred in the arrangements of such match, unless it gives notice to the Operations Manager of the League not less than twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of such match of its notice of intention to forfeit. This will be in addition to the fine imposed by the League.

40. Calling off Games

The Ballarat Football Netball League has a fixture committee comprising of the Chairman, Director of Operations, Regional General Manager and the Operations Manager who shall monitor the condition of venues and make a judgement call as to whether matches shall proceed for a given round. Individual matches called off by clubs are deemed as forfeiture and nil points awarded for the fixture.

If agreement is reached between clubs to call off a match, it is to be in writing, endorsed by the controlling umpire on the day and forwarded to the League Operations Manager immediately and premiership points shall be shared. For all other matters not catered for in this By-Law, refer to the AFL Laws of the Game in the AFL Victoria Country handbook.

Team sheets must still be submitted for games even in the event that a match is called off. In the event of a forfeit, the opposing team shall submit a team sheet and those players named are deemed to have played in the game. This information is important when determining finals eligibility.

In the event where a suspended player is a representative of the non-forfeiting side, these games shall count as games served in reference to the suspension the player in question has received.

41. Match Day Paperwork

Not later than 7pm on the night of a match, all match day paperwork as listed below, must be returned to BFNL headquarters (or an alternative location nominated by the League).

All paperwork of Clubs playing in such matches must be collected by either the home team's delegates or other accredited representative on the day and submitted to the league headquarters.

The Home Club shall be responsible for ensuring all documentation is submitted to the League by 7pm on the night of a match. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of 20 Penalty Units.

The following list of match day paperwork will be required for submission:

SENIORS	JUNIORS	NETBALL
Match day checklist	Match day checklist	Match day checklist
Team sheets	Team sheets	Scorecards
League B&F vote cards (sealed)	League B&F vote cards (sealed)	League B&F vote cards (sealed)
Report sheet (if applicable)	Report sheet (if applicable)	Report sheet (if applicable)
Timekeeper cards	Timekeeper	
Goal Umpire cards	Goal Umpire cards	
Match results sheets	Match results sheets	
Interchange/order off sheets	Interchange/order off sheets	
Permits of any kind	Permits of any kind	
Match day report sheets	Spirit of Sport	

42. Scoreboards

Each venue used for BFNL matches, both senior and junior, must be equipped with an operational scoreboard. Scoreboard attendants must be of a suitable age and competent to do a satisfactory job. Scoreboards should operate throughout all games and must be kept as accurate as possible. Clubs must supply scoreboard attendants for each and every game.

A fine of 10 penalty units will be issued for each game where the scoreboard fails to be attended and/or operational.

43. Time Clocks

All time clocks displayed to the general public at BFNL venues must run from zero upward without stopping for time on. A fine of 2.5 penalty units per occasion the clock is not used (or used incorrectly) will be imposed.

Time clocks used by timekeepers may count down towards zero (stopping for time on in senior competition only).

44. Board Meeting Format

Correspondence raised by the Regional General Manager & Operations Manager to be restricted only to that which requires a decision from the Board. All other items will be listed, but only raised if questioned.

General Business will take place immediately after Correspondence and any Director with an item requiring discussion or a decision should have the Regional General Manager or Operations Manager list it as General Business rather than raise it in the report.

Director's reports will be held at the end of the meeting, and these will be circulated with the meeting notice for review. Director's reports will only report on activity - issues requiring a decision should be listed in General Business. Directors with questions on reports should contact the reporting director, Regional General Manager or Operations Manager. These reports will be duplicated and circulated with minutes.

45. Match Report Sheet

It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that umpires fill out and sign off on a match report sheet for each competing team in each football game for seniors down to U/13's and have it inserted in the match day paperwork envelope. Penalty 10 units per offence.

46. Umpire Signature Book

All Umpires will be required to sign the Umpire signature book prior to their match indicating they have officiated in the corresponding match. The sheet from the Umpire signature book that shall contain signatures from all Umpires who have officiated at the ground each match day, shall be submitted to the league in the match day paperwork and one copy of the sheet shall be retained by the home club.

Failure of clubs to submit an Umpire signature sheet shall result in a fine of 5 penalty units.

47. Use of Two Footballs

In the event of extreme weather conditions, two footballs may be used in a match with the change of footballs occurring at each quarter time break to ensure no advantage is gained by either club. Both clubs must agree to the use of two footballs.

If no agreement is met, only one football may be used.

48. Ground Lighting

If natural light is deteriorating during a game, Clubs or Umpires shall have the authority to turn on ground lighting to improve conditions to allow a fixture to continue. The Umpire shall however have the authority to call a game off if he/she considers the conditions unsafe.

Prior to a venue being considered suitable for night or twilight games, clubs must apply to the League for permission to host a night or twilight game, and meet criteria as determined by the League.

49. Fundraising

At venues, is the right of the Home Team, however Visiting Teams should be permitted to conduct activities that are internal based and which form a part of a Club's week to week activities. E.g. Best player tickets, first goal tickets etc.

50. Interchange/Area Agreement

On an annual basis, all leagues affiliated with AFL Goldfields and AFL Central Victoria shall enter into an Area Agreement to allow those Clubs with Junior teams in those competitions to Interchange players to assist with player numbers.

Clubs need to be aware of the terms and conditions associated with the agreement and must have the appropriate approvals in place prior to allowing any player to take the field on an interchange/area agreement.

51. Outstanding Debt to League

All clubs must ensure any outstanding debt to the League **does not exceed 60 days** from the date of the invoice. The following process shall apply to clubs who have outstanding debt that reaches the 60 day mark:

- a) Clubs shall be given written formal notice and provided with seven (7) days to pay all outstanding debt exceeding 60 days.
- b) Should a club fail to pay the full amount that has exceeded 60 days within the seven (7) day period provided, the Board / Executive shall determine which of the following penalty/ies shall be applied:
 - I. Additional financial penalty at the discretion of the Board / Executive
 - II. Loss of premiership points for the current and/or following season, which may be applied to age groups at the discretion of the Board / Executive
 - III. Application to the AFL Goldfields Commission to apply for the loss of Community Club Sustainability Program points and/or a reduction in the CCSP salary cap under the player points system for the current and/or following season
- c) Clubs who have any debt exceeding 60 days on the 1st August in each season, and where and unless approval has been given by the Board, may be deemed ineligible to compete in the Leagues finals series. In addition, the club will not be considered eligible to host any finals matches or provided with any Catering/Bar/Fundraising rights.
- d) All clubs must settle all outstanding debts with the League prior to the League's AGM in each year (with the only exception being debts relating to FootyMart orders placed after November 1st). Clubs who have not paid all debts (excepting Footymart orders as stated) will not be eligible to vote at the Leagues AGM.
- e) Clubs who carry debt into the new year may be subject to the above stated penalties in point b) being applied for the upcoming season.

Clubs may apply to the Board / Executive for special consideration by providing a written submission outlining how the club's debt has exceeded 60 days and outlining the club's commitment to a repayment plan to clear in full all debt in a timely manner. Submissions will only be accepted on club letterhead submitted via email and if the Board /Executive is satisfied that the above criteria is met.

52. Hire of Facilities

The maximum charge for any club charging another Club for the use of their ground & facilities during the home & away season are as follows:

- Junior games: \$100
- Senior game: \$200

If clubs wish to use the social rooms at a venue during or following the completion of their match, then they must approach the venue's President to arrange a price and conditions of use for the social room and facilities.

53. Use of Facilities for Finals

In the event where the League requires the use of club facilities for the BFNL Finals match day, a fee of \$100 per day of use shall be paid to the Home club to account for the cost and use of utilities on that match day.

54. Junior Club Alignment With Seniors

Every junior club shall have alignment with a senior club in the Ballarat Football Netball League that will provide a pathway from junior football to senior football for all club members.

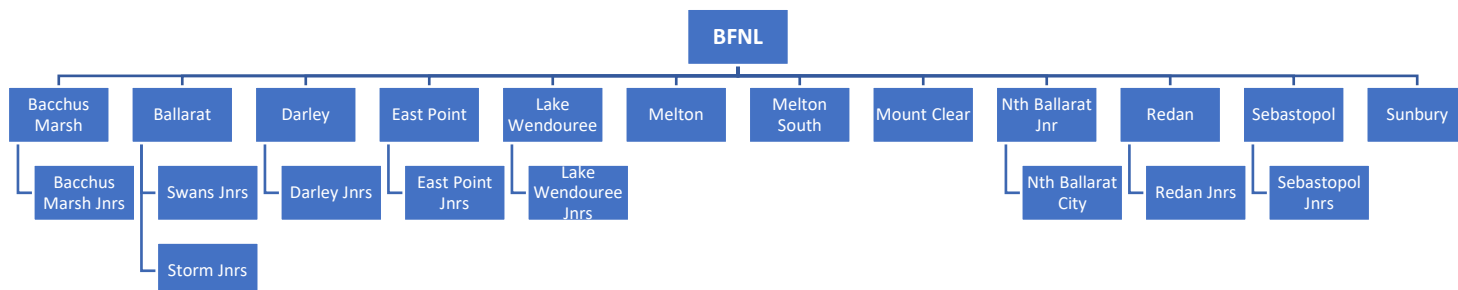
The Mount Clear JFC are the only junior club with no alignment to any senior club in the competition and all MCJFC players shall have an open clearance to play with any AFL Victoria Country club upon completion of their final year in the U/17 competition.

An interchange agreement will also exist for MCJFC players wishing to play senior football in the BFNL. This agreement will allow MCJFC top age U/17 players to play senior football with one selected BFNL club on permit. The BFNL club structure is as follows:

Therefore, the East Point FNC, East Ballarat JFC and Golden Point JFC equal one club and have the same voting rights as a club with senior and junior alliance.

The North Ballarat City FNC is an affiliate of the North Ballarat JFC therefore they fall under the banner of the juniors even though they are senior club.

The below table reflects the criteria used by the BFNL to determine memberships of the League (as per the BFNL’s constitution). Clubs will be allocated the following membership/votes:



Bacchus Marsh	4	Ballarat Swans	4	Darley	4	East Point	4
Lake Wendouree	4	Melton	3	Melton South	3	Mt Clear	2
Nth Ballarat	4	Redan	4	Sebastopol	4	Sunbury	3
Board	12	Ballarat Storm	2			Total	57

55. BFNL Sounding of Siren Policy

The BFNL understands the importance of keeping to the running sheet for match days and ensuring all games finish at their scheduled finishing times.

Therefore, the following policy must be adhered to for all matches (except Senior football) competing in any BFNL competition:

- Both Timekeepers must make an assessment of time at half time of every match (except Senior football)
- If it is determined that the match is running behind schedule, the time remaining until the scheduled finishing time shall be split equally in half also factoring in enough time for a three quarter time break (see division of breaks in By-Law 111).
- If further time is lost throughout the second half, regardless of how long the final quarter has been running for, the siren MUST be sounded at the scheduled finishing time.

A penalty of 5 penalty units will apply for clubs who fail to sound the siren at scheduled times as per the official BFNL running sheet provided to clubs prior to each season.

56. Pre-Match Warm Ups

The Ballarat FNL has an expectation that clubs will avoid the opposing side during their entry onto the ground both at the start of the game and at half time, and during any on-ground “warm up”.

The Ballarat FNL requires that each club will warm up at opposing ends of the ground, with the clubs using the easternmost Coach’s Box to warm up at the eastern end of the ground, and the remaining club (who shall be using the most western of the Coach’s boxes) to warm up at the westernmost end of the ground.

It is understood and accepted that when clubs enter the ground they shall do a lap of the centre square, and when doing so they need to ensure they avoid the other side and their warm up area if the opposing side is already at one end of the ground.

This By Law shall apply to ALL grades. It may also be applied to junior grades of football if an incident arises.

Clubs who breach this policy shall be determined to have acted in a provocative manner and may be fined up to an amount of \$500. In instances where this By Law is breached and the breach results to a more serious incident (e.g a melee) the offending Club may face more serious charges as determined by the Board.

DISCIPLINARY

The following Disciplinary By-Laws should be read in conjunction with the AFL Goldfields Tribunal, Match Review Panel and Investigations Overview documents available to clubs.

MELEE MATRIX

Where a melee occurs during any senior or junior football match, the following process shall be followed when a melee matrix form is completed:

1. Umpires to complete Melee Matrix form (one per club) noting the following:
 - a) Players actively involved from the one team
 - b) Duration of the melee
 - c) Level of aggression in melee
 - d) Umpires intervention in melee
 - e) Officials involved
2. The WHITE copy is submitted to the League. The YELLOW copy is retained by the Umpire. The PINK copy is retained by the away club and the BLUE copy is retained by the home club.
3. The League's Operations Manager will contact the clubs involved in the melee upon receiving a copy of the melee matrix form. At this point, clubs will be provided with an opportunity to:
 - a) Accept the resulting fine; or
 - b) Dispute the details completed in the form by provision of official club submission that outlines their version of events and witnesses who can attest to what is written
4. The club submission will be forwarded to the League Board to make final determination on:
 - a) Whether the initial fine shall remain in place and apply
 - b) Whether the initial fine may be reduced to a lower amount
 - c) Whether the initial fine should be overturned; or
 - d) Whether the initial fine should be increased
5. Clubs will be informed of the League's final decision (if Board intervention is required) and sent an invoice (if applicable) that must be paid within 30 days of the invoice being issued
6. Failure of clubs to adhere to the melee matrix process or pay a melee invoice within the 30 day terms may see the Clubs subjected to additional penalties that may range from additional fines, reduction of Player Points, loss of premiership points and percentage, etc

57. Codes of Conduct

The Ballarat FNL has adopted various codes of conduct, which include (and are available from the league website):

- Junior Coaches & Club Officials
- Junior Players & Parents and Spectators of Junior Football
- Senior Coaches & Team Officials
- Senior Players & Spectators
- Club Officials

58. Investigations

Investigation procedure is dictated by AFL Victoria Country Rule concerning Unbecoming Conduct in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook.

When the League Investigations Officer conducts an investigation in the League he/she shall provide at least 48 hours' notice in writing to a club notifying of any interviews.

All interviews will be conducted at League Headquarters, or at a place to be determined by the Investigations Officer.

59. Investigation Fees

In instances where a club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rule 5.0 (Unbecoming Conduct) the required fee of \$500 shall be lodged, the full amount of \$500 shall be retained by the league.

The following policy will be enforced by the league for investigations:

- a) When the Investigations Officer determines that there is no case to answer, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200, and the balance of \$300 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.
- b) In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the Ballarat Football Netball League Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$200 and the balance of \$300 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.
- c) In cases where the Investigations Officer refers the matter to the Ballarat Football Netball League Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of their \$500. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined \$300 (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations Officer for his/her services.

Note: The above financial policy shall be applied in cases where the Investigations Officer shall be paid the standard fee of \$300. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. more difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the Investigations Officer may request an amount over & above the flat rate of \$300 and which will be negotiated with the Ballarat Football Netball League accordingly. In such instances, the Ballarat Football Netball League will adjust the amount of \$300 to the revised amount in the above case.

Should a club fail to be able to commit to attend investigation interviews at Saxon House and as such the venue is changed to suit the need of the club affected, a flat fee of \$100 shall be charged to that club which shall be paid to the Investigations Officer.

Clubs who fail to cooperate with the investigation process shall be fined a minimum of \$200. The League, in conjunction with the Investigations Officer, shall determine if a club has failed to cooperate with the investigation process. Examples of failing to cooperate include players/officials not turning up for interviews, clubs failing to confirm availabilities for interviews or clubs withholding members from the investigation process.

Any other fines implemented as a result of recommendations from the Investigations Officer or as a result of a subsequent Tribunal hearing shall be issued to the club in question on top of any other fines or fees that apply.

60. Tribunal

The AFL Goldfields Tribunal is held on the Tuesday following a round of matches at BFNL Headquarters. Investigations hearings may commence from 6.00 pm, Under age cases commence at 6:00pm and senior cases may commence from 7:00pm. If clubs wish to apply for a set penalty, then the club must notify the Operations Manager by 12 noon on the Monday following a match if the charge is to be contested.

After 12 noon, it will be assumed the club is happy to take the set penalty if it is available to be taken. Either club, the reporting Umpire or the Ballarat Football Netball League may request the hearing proceed, prior to 12 noon on the Monday. Tribunal will not commence a new case after 10.30pm with any pending cases held over until a later night. Club attire or smart casual attire must be worn at all tribunal cases.

Clubs not represented at Tribunal hearings shall incur a fine of 25 Penalty Units in addition to any fine imposed by the Independent Tribunal. The BFNL will provide a TV and a couch in the foyer for those waiting to attend a case. Wednesday nights will be used as a backup night for cases overflowing to the next day in any given week.

Statutory Declarations

Statutory Declarations may be accepted if any party to a report (ie. the reported player, the player allegedly offended against and the reporting umpire), is unable to attend owing to work or study commitments, or in the case of illness or injury.

Note: A "letter" submitted as evidence will not suffice, and the Statutory Declaration must be signed by a certified signatory (E.g. Justice of Peace, Police Officer, etc.) and date stamped at least 12 hours earlier than the scheduled start time for a tribunal case.

Providing the Ballarat Football Netball League is notified as early as possible after the report (no later than 12pm Monday), and that such Statutory Declaration is lodged with the Ballarat FNL no later than 12 hours prior to start time on the day of the hearing, the Statutory Declaration may be accepted.

Any Statutory Declaration submitted must set out:

- I. The reason for the missing party's inability to attend the hearing of the person cannot attend the Tribunal on the scheduled night
- II. A full description of the incident (or incidents) being the subject of the report. This must include – Time of incident (e.g. early in 3rd quarter), location of incident (e.g. right side wing), location of ball, any provocation, details of incident (e.g. blow with right hand), force of blow, result of impact / collision / blow, etc.

Any reported player who fails to attend or fails to submit a Statutory Declaration as outlined above, or fails to give notice as above, may have the charge or charges heard in their absence.

Similarly, any witness who fails to attend or submit a Statutory Declaration or fails to give notice as above, may be dealt with as the Tribunal sees fit. Any such non-attendance may result in action as determined by the Tribunal and can include fines upon a Club or the suspension of the player.

Any reported player, witness or umpire who has a legitimate request for an early hearing e.g. work or study commitments, must submit such request by telephone to the Ballarat FNL as early as possible, and no later than 12 noon on the day of the hearing.

Advocates / Appearance

The Ballarat Football & Netball League also requires that both the reported player and the offended player / witness bring along a Club Advocate with them to the hearing.

The Ballarat Football Netball League also requires that both the reported player and the offended player / witness, and their advocates, do dress in an appropriate manner (minimum of smart casual or Club attire) that recognizes and respects the sanctity of the Tribunal.

No tracksuits or hats will be allowed into the tribunal.

Anyone who is a Barrister or Solicitor or is qualified to act as a Barrister or Solicitor is prohibited from acting as an Advocate.

Video/DVD Evidence

If clubs wish to use their own video/DVD evidence they must provide a signed Statutory Declaration, which certifies that the video/DVD has not been altered or tampered with. League video evidence does not require a statutory declaration to be used as part of any tribunal case or investigation.

61. Independent Tribunal and Appeals Board

An Independent Tribunal and Appeals Board, (The Tribunal), shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

Three members of such Tribunal shall form a quorum. Nominations for membership of the Tribunal and Appeals Board shall be advertised and intending nominee's names shall be forwarded to the Operations Manager seven days prior to the first meeting of the Board after the AGM.

62. Tribunal Duties

The Tribunal shall deal with and decide protests, disputes, and charges against Clubs, players, officials, and office bearers of Clubs and to fine, suspend or otherwise deal with such protests, disputes or charges as they think fit.

63. Match Review Panel

A Match Review Panel, comprising up to 5 members, shall be appointed by the Board at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting. The Match Review Panel is an independent panel of members who shall be asked to review incidents raised by clubs and Umpiring Associations from official league video evidence and asked to determine if a specific player or players in question may have a case to answer to under AFL Victoria Country rules (as stipulated on the AFL Victoria Country report form).

See page 19 for an overview of how the Match Review Panel process is conducted. A fee of \$200 shall apply for Match Review Panel requests in the following instances:

- a) If an MRP case is requested and the MRP determines there is no case to answer to, the club who requested the case to be reviewed will be charged a \$200 fee.
- b) If an MRP case is requested and the MRP refers the case to the Tribunal then the following shall apply:
 - I. If the reported player(s) is found guilty, the club of the guilty player shall be charged a \$150 fee.
 - II. If the reported player(s) is found not guilty, the club requesting the case shall be charged the \$150 fee.
- c) If the MRP determine a player may have a case to answer and the set penalty applies, the reported player may accept the set penalty and the club of the guilty player shall be charged a \$150 fee.

Match Review Panel fees are to be invoiced and retained by the League in which the player competes in.

64. Tribunal & Match Review Panel Membership

The members of the Tribunal and Match Review Panel shall not hold any other office in the League, nor be an official of any Club affiliated with the League, nor have been an official of any Club affiliated with the League for a period of 12 months.

Any person wishing to become a member of the AFL Goldfields Independent Tribunal or Match Review Panel must have not played for a period of 24 months. A person may not be a member of both the Tribunal and Match Review Panels at the same time.

65. Unsatisfactory Evidence

The Tribunal shall have the power to fine any player or official who, in the opinion of the Tribunal, does not present his/her evidence in a satisfactory manner.

66. Representation

If desired, any Club or player concerned in any protest or charge, may be represented by a delegate or representative, provided such delegate or representative is not a qualified member of the legal profession. Refer to AFL Victoria Country Handbook "Tribunal Procedure Information".

67. Decisions Final

Notwithstanding any appeals to the AFL Victoria Country Appeals Board, the Tribunal's decisions and penalties shall be final and such penalties may extend beyond its term of office.

68. Optional Penalties

Optional penalty for players reported for some field offences, and the guidelines for their implementation are annexed in the AFL Victoria Country handbook:

- a) If a player has accepted the optional penalty in the current or preceding season he must front the tribunal if reported again in that time frame, unless in special circumstances approval is provided by the Ballarat Football Netball League for a further set penalty to be applied.
- b) Umpires shall report and charge players in the manner provided for in these regulations but the report shall not be heard by the Tribunal unless so requested by one or more of the umpires who lodged the report, the reported player, the player allegedly offended against or an official of either club.

Such request shall be made via email to the league operations manager no later than 12.00 Noon on the Monday immediately following the match. If the tribunal subsequently finds the charge sustained it shall have the power to impose such penalty as it deems fit.

69. Sustained Reports

A Club who, in a grade, has six (6) sustained reports for the season shall show the League why they should not be suspended from the League.

70. Lack of Quorum

In the absence of a Quorum at a meeting of the Tribunal, or if for any other reason it is unable to meet, any players charged shall be eligible to play for their Club until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal. In the event of a member of the Tribunal reporting a player or an official of a Club, such person charged shall be dealt with by the officers of the League.

71. Player Unavailability for Tribunal Hearing

In instances where a charged player is unable to attend a scheduled hearing of the AFL Goldfields Independent Tribunal, he/she shall be ineligible to play until the matter is heard and determined by the Tribunal.

72. Tribunal Sentencing - Umpiring Games

In 2007, the Independent Tribunal introduced the concept of requiring suspended players to voluntarily Umpire games of football as part of their sentence/suspension.

The following rules apply to players Umpiring matches as part of their sentence from the Tribunal:

- a) If a player is sentenced to serve weeks on the sideline as well as Umpire games of football, players will not be asked to Umpire more games than they are suspended for.
 - a. Players are restricted to Umpire 2 competition games per weekend
 - b. Games umpired must be within the Ballarat FNL
 - c. Players who Umpire are to serve their matches with a qualified BFUA Umpire and not a Club Umpire
 - d) If a player does not turn up to fulfil their Umpiring duties without a suitable explanation (which is to be approved at the discretion of the BFNL), a further 2 weeks will be added to the suspension from playing per offence, and/or a fine may be applied to their club.

73. Guilty Verdict Fee for Independent Tribunal Hearing Outcomes

Any Club whose player is found guilty of an offence by the Independent Tribunal shall be fine \$150 per guilty offense in addition to any other penalty handed down by the Independent Tribunal.

This is to assist with the increasing costs associated with hosting tribunal cases. Funds received via this fee shall be retained by AFL Goldfields

74. Reports Resulting from Match Review

The Match Review Panel shall have the power to lay a report following the analysis of BFNL footage that has been raised with the league from any club or Umpiring Association.

The Match Review Panel shall follow AFL Victoria Country rules when laying a report from video footage. The BFUA shall provide an advocate to prosecute all Match Review Panel cases that have been referred to the tribunal and at no point shall a member of the Match Review Panel be present during a tribunal case. The two systems shall remain independent of each other.

75. Using Video Evidence in Tribunal Cases

Where video evidence is available from a Ballarat Football Netball League authorised media outlet video production team, this evidence WILL be shown in accordance with AFL Victoria Country guidelines for video evidence at the commencement of the case.

Where a Club wishes to tender a Club or non-Ballarat Football Netball League video as evidence in a particular case, the Club must notify the Ballarat Football Netball League no later than 10am on the day of the hearing and such video must be delivered to the Ballarat Football Netball League no later than Noon on the scheduled day of the tribunal hearing.

The video evidence MUST also be accompanied by a signed statutory declaration confirming that the footage provided is true and correct and has not been altered in any way (excluding slow motion footage).

Video evidence received after this time, unless agreed to by the league, will not be accepted as evidence in the case. A member of the BFNL Board, Regional General Manager or Operations Manager and the Umpiring Association General Manager or Umpiring Association Chairman have the right to lay a report and/or request an investigation based on video footage presented to them.

76. Club Umpire Reporting Powers

Under AFL Victoria Country Rules and BFNL By-Laws any person who takes the field and acts as an Umpire (whether a BFUA official or a Club Volunteer) does have the full powers of an “officially accredited” Umpire, and therefore can report or send off players at their discretion.

Volunteer Club Umpires who lodge a report are also represented by the BFUA advocate at any subsequent tribunal hearings.

It is further worth noting the following rules from the AFL Victoria Country Rules Handbook to clear up any confusion – In the AFL Victoria Country Rule Book the definition of an umpire includes all field, boundary and goal umpires officiating or at a match. Volunteer Club Umpires shall register with the AFL Victoria Country Football Development Manager and Players can be umpires if there are insufficient numbers of umpires available.

Therefore, once we establish that any Volunteer Club Umpires are “official umpires” they have an obligation to report as part of their duties as an umpire.

To ensure that your Volunteer Club Umpires are registered as Volunteer Club Umpires and that they have the full power as outlined above, all Clubs must ensure that these Volunteers do complete the official AFL Victoria Country Clearance/Registration Form – circling the Registration field, and then write at the top of this form “CLUB UMPIRE”. The League shall then register these Umpires with the AFL Victoria Country Football Development Manager as a Club Umpire. Clubs must also carry out this step to ensure that your Club Umpire is covered by the AFL Victoria Country Insurance Policy.

77. BFNL Board Members/Umpires Observer Power to Report

Where a BFNL Board Member or Umpires Observer is in attendance at a junior game (Under 17, Under 15, Under 13, Under 11 and Under 9, they shall have the same powers of reporting offences as the appointed umpire.

Note: In addition to the above, any official BFUA Umpires Observer/coach at any League game also has the power to report players/officials and due process will be followed under AFL Victoria Country Rules.

78. Comments in the Media

Any Club Member (player or official) found to have made inappropriate comments in the media towards a member of the Ballarat Football & Netball League (BFNL), AFL Victoria Country (AFL Victoria Country) or Umpiring Association (BFUA or RDFUA) shall be fined an amount at the discretion of the Board.

The BFNL Board shall decide appropriateness of the comments made and the offending party will be given the opportunity to explain their actions prior to a fine being handed down.

79. Tribunal Audio Files

Clubs will be provided with a copy of the audio file from a Tribunal Hearing when requested. The BFNL shall charge a fee of \$100 for providing this copy.

80. Teams not Breaking from the Huddle

When the single siren is blown to indicate the end of a break the club/s not breaking from the huddle will be fined 5 penalty units per occasion with clubs to be named on the umpire’s match report sheet.

81. Leaving Playing Field

Senior, Reserve & Third Grade (Under 19) sides, shall be permitted to leave the playing field during the half time interval - including the Finals Series. Junior grade sides must remain on the field at ½ time, except under extreme weather conditions. Clubs leaving the playing field inappropriately shall be liable to a fine of 20 penalty units for all Senior, Reserve and Under 19 teams and a fine of 10 penalty units shall apply to all Junior teams.

Failure of Clubs to return to the playing field by the specified time will result in a fine of 2 Penalty Units per Minute being applied.

82. Late Appearance

Clubs who fail to appear on the playing arena at the scheduled time shall receive a fine of 2.5 penalty units per minute. The offence shall be recorded by the officiating Umpire on the match report sheet following the match and the club will be informed of their fine by the Operations Manager.

83. Incorrect Program Listings

Players participating who are not listed in the program or are listed with a number that does not correspond to the number worn during a match shall be fined 5 penalty units.

84. Non-Attendance at Club Delegates Meetings

Clubs who fail to attend or apologise for non-attendance of Club delegate at General Meetings held by the league will be fined 5 penalty units.

85. Failure to Appear at BFNL or AFL Victoria Country Training Session

Any Club that fails to be represented at an official BFNL or AFL Victoria Country Training course will be fined 10 penalty Units per offence.

86. Bringing the BFNL into Disrepute

Any club that in the view of the Board brings the Ballarat Football Netball League into disrepute can be fined any amount as determined by the Board. In such instances clubs will be given the opportunity to show due course as to why further action should not be taken against them.

87. Suspension

In the event of the Tribunal deciding at any time that a player of any Club shall not be permitted to play with such Club the Club upon receiving such notice from the Operations Manager of the League shall discontinue to play such player until such notice is withdrawn by the Tribunal.

88. Disqualifications

A Club expelling a player or official from its Club shall forward within a week of such decision, particulars of such person and offence to the Operations Manager of the League and the Regional General Manager of AFL Victoria Country – Goldfields Region. The person so expelled shall have the right of appeal against his expulsion to the Board.

No Club shall be permitted to play such player, nor shall an official be entitled to hold office until his appeal has been determined by the League.

89. Unauthorised Entry Onto Playing Arena

Any Player or Official who enters the playing arena during the course of a match and somehow involves themselves in any type of incident shall receive an automatic four (4) match suspension. Suspensions are subject to approval from the Board of Directors of the Ballarat Football Netball League and further sanctions may also apply depending on the severity of the incident. Supporters from clubs who conduct similar behavior shall be banned from attending BFNL matches for a period of time to be determined by the Board.

Awards

90. Henderson Medal

- a) An award known as the "Henderson Medal" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the senior grade competition.
- b) Secret voting for such award shall be made by the Central Umpires officiating at all senior grade matches.
- c) The Field Umpires officiating at each senior grade fixture, shall immediately following the conclusion of the match, select their idea of the three fairest and best players in the match. They shall then number one, two and three in order of preference in a sealed addressed envelope their three nominations. Their number one nomination to receive three votes, number two selection to receive two votes, and number three selection to receive one vote. They shall then hand the sealed envelope to the Ground Manager.
- d) In the event that the two Central Umpire system is in operation, then the two Central Umpires shall confer, agree upon a joint nomination and otherwise comply with paragraph (c) hereof.
- e) At the end of the minor rounds of matches, the League shall gather all votes made during the minor rounds and the votes shall be counted and the player or players receiving the largest number of votes shall be awarded the medal. In the case of an equal number of votes being awarded to more than one player, then players receiving such equal number of votes shall be declared joint winners and separate medals shall be struck and awarded.
- f) Any player who has incurred disqualification during the season shall be ineligible to receive the medal unless they have been suspended for the following reasons: Time Wasting, Wrestling or refusing to play inter-league football for the Ballarat Football Netball League. Players who are suspended from an incident that occurred while playing inter-league football will be eligible to win the medal.
- g) All senior clubs will receive a minimum of 20 tickets with the option to purchase more while stand alone junior clubs will receive a minimum of 2 tickets to the Henderson Medal which is the premier evening on the Ballarat Football & Netball League calendar.

91. George King Medal

An award known as the "George King Medal" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Reserve Eighteen competition and rules in relation to the George King Medal shall be identical to those provided for the Henderson Medal.

92. Dick Rees Memorial Trophy

An award known as the "Dick Rees Memorial Trophy" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Third Eighteen competition and rules in relation to the Dick Rees Memorial Trophy shall be identical to those provided for the Henderson Medal.

93. Gordon Wise Memorial Trophy

An award known as the "Gordon Wise Memorial Trophy" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Under 17 Senior competition and rules in relation to the Gordon Wise Memorial Trophy shall be identical to those provided for the Henderson Medal.

94. Keith Rawle Trophy

An award known as the "Keith Rawle Trophy" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Under 15 Senior competition and rules in relation to the Keith Rawle Trophy shall be identical to those provided for the Henderson Medal.

95. Lloyd Sims Trophy

An award known as the "Lloyd Sims Trophy" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player/s in the Under 13 Senior competition and rules in relation to the U/13 Senior Best & Fairest Trophy shall be identical to those provided for the Henderson Medal.

96. Robert Allan Medal

An award known as the "Robert Allan Medal" shall be awarded to the player who is regarded to have the most potential to further his football in the following grades (U/13, U/15 & U/17). The award will be voted upon by all coaches in that particular grade, Inter-league coaches, votes by umpires if applicable & Talent Scouts within the region. All junior Clubs will receive a minimum of 20 tickets with the option to purchase more.

97. Club Championship Shield

On an annual basis, the league will award a Club Championship Shield which will be presented at the Henderson medal. The award will be known as the Merv & Mary Howard Memorial Shield, and it will be awarded to the Champion Junior Club, and to the Champion Senior Club.

Points towards this award will be accrued as follows:

Merv & Mary Howard Memorial Shield Merv & Mary Howard Memorial Jnr Shield

Merv & Mary Howard Memorial Shield		Merv & Mary Howard Memorial Junior Shield	
Senior football win	3 points	U/17 Sen & Res win	3 points
A Grade netball win	3 points	U/15 Sen & Res win	2 points
Reserve football win	2 points	U/13 Sen & Res win	1 point
B Grade netball win	2 points	17 & Under Sen & Res netball win	3 points
C Grade netball win	1 point	15 & Under Sen & Res netball win	2 points
D Grade netball win	1 point	13 & Under Sen & Res netball win	1 point
E Grade netball win	1 point		
U19 football win	1 point		
19 & Under netball win	1 point	Draw - Points halved	

98. Recognition of Service Award

The Ballarat Football & Netball League will, on an annual basis, award a "Recognition of Service Award" to a Club/League volunteer for providing outstanding service. The Award will be known as "The Keith Lawrence Recognition of Service Award", and will be awarded at the Ballarat FNL Annual General Meeting.

Officials

99. Coaches/Umpires Meeting

Two meetings will be convened annually between BFNL Coaches and representatives of the BFUA. The structure of the meetings will be determined by the league with one meeting to be directed more towards senior football and the second meeting relating to junior football matters.

A penalty of 5 penalty units per coach for non attendance will be imposed on the offending club.

100. Stretchers

Clubs must ensure a sports medicine approved 'MES Scoop Frame' style stretcher is placed at the interchange area. It is recommended an additional stretcher is also placed at the interchange area. Failure to comply shall result in a fine of 10 Penalty Units.

101. Coaches Accreditation

All Coaches from seniors through to U/9 Reserves and Youth Girls within the Ballarat Football & Netball League shall be registered with the Ballarat FNL and shall be so accredited to the level as determined by the AFL Victoria Coaches Accreditation policy.

This policy is provided to clubs prior to the commencement of the season and is available from AFL Victoria Football Development Managers.

It is now compulsory for U/11 and Youth Girls Coaches to have their level 1 accreditation.

102. Officials in Bench Area

Only persons authorised may enter the playing arena during the playing of a match and Match Day Officials must remain within the marked area around the interchange box. Clubs competing in the BFNL senior competition are permitted to have up to 4 officials (including Coach, Asst Coach, Chairman of Selectors, etc) within the marked confines of the Interchange box. Junior clubs shall be permitted to have a maximum of one (1) coach and one (1) assistant coach.

Furthermore, Clubs (Junior & Senior) are permitted to have up to two (2) runners, six (6) trainers and/or water carriers, and four (4) interchange players. Junior clubs can refer to By-Law 119 for requirements on interchange players. Clubs will be allowed to use an additional two (2) water carriers in extreme weather conditions, however, this must be approved by the Umpire.

All, apart from Trainers and Water Carriers, are to remain seated in the coach's box at all times during play, or within the confines of the perimeter lines surrounding the Coach's Box. If no lines are marked, all must remain within the confines of the Coach's Box.

If there is insufficient space within the coach's box, or no box is provided, then remaining officials are to be situated outside the boundary line.

Trainers and Water carriers may be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest. All other personnel not mentioned above are considered unauthorized, and umpires have been instructed to remove them from the ground.

Any Club desiring authorisation of any other officials must apply to the League for such authorisation, prior to the commencement of the match.

Coaches and their coaching staff who don't remain within the perimeter lines surrounding the coaches box will be penalised 10 penalty units per offense.

For junior football – the head coach must wear the league approved and supplied coaches vest at all times during the game. This is to allow easy identification by the umpires of the coach of that particular team. If there are joint coaches, both coaches must wear the approved vest.

Clubs will be fined 10 penalty units per offence where a coach is not correctly attired with the approved coaches vest.

103. Club Runner

Refer to AFL Victoria Country Handbook, "Runners". Clubs may use up to two (2) club runners for each match however only one (1) runner is permitted to be on the field of play at any time. There is no requirement for runners to use the interchange gate.

104. Ground Manager

For Senior match days, the Secretary, or an approved representative of the first named Club in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. For Junior match days, the Junior Coordinators of both clubs, or an approved representative of both Clubs in any match arranged by the League, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Board, shall be regarded as Ground Manager.

The Ground Manager's duties shall include the supervision of arrangements for the proper conduct of such matches and attend to the duties set forth in the Appendix section, and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the League. A fine of 5 penalty units shall be imposed for each occasion these officials are sighted not correctly attired, and a fine of 5 Penalty Units will apply if the Ground Manager of a Club is not listed in the Football Program.

A fine of 10 penalty units shall be applied if the Ground Manager, in the opinion of the umpires or the Ballarat Football & Netball League, does not correctly perform his/her duties. Ground Managers will be supplied with a vest from the Ballarat Football & Netball League and this vest must be worn on match days to ensure the Ground Manager stands out in the crowd on match days.

Any club who fails to supply a Ground Manager, a penalty of 10 penalty units shall apply.

105. Water Carriers

A maximum of up to 4 Water Carriers can be used by Senior & Junior Clubs. Water carriers must be of sufficient age that they do not impose risk to themselves and others. In extreme weather conditions, clubs will be permitted to appoint a further two (2) water carriers however this must first be approved by the Central Umpire(s).

Water carriers must be competent and able to fulfil the required duties of a water carrier and must be a minimum of 12 years of age. Water carriers are to run water to players and umpires and remove themselves from the playing arena immediately.

At no stage should a water carrier remain out on the ground if they are not handing water to players. A fine of 5 penalty units will apply to clubs found guilty of using water carriers to fill spaces on the ground.

106. Timekeepers

A Club shall for all grades provide a Timekeeper. The home club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signaling device and a backup device for the use of Timekeepers.

Timekeepers at all matches shall be required to keep the scores. The Goal Umpires scorecards are to be used on the day, but in case of a dispute, the timekeeper's scores will be forwarded as evidence to the League. A fine of 10 Penalty Units will apply should a Club fail to provide a Timekeeper for any BFNL fixtured match.

A fine of 20 Penalty Units shall apply if a Club fails to provide an audible signaling device and "back up" siren or bell.

107. Interchange stewards

The home and visiting clubs must each appoint one Interchange Steward per match at all levels. The steward will perform such functions as set out in rule 3.2 of AFL Laws of the Game, in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook. A fine of 2.5 penalty units will be imposed for each occasion these officials are sighted not correctly attired.

Both Interchange Stewards must sit with each other by the fence to record each player transaction and keep track of time a red or yellow carded player has spent off the ground, except in extreme weather conditions when it is permissible to sit in a covered area where all interchange exchanges are still highly visible.

A fine of 10 Penalty Units will apply should a Club fail to provide an Interchange Steward for any BFNL fixtured match.

108. Trainers & the AFL Goldfields Trainers Association (AFLGTA)

The requirement for Qualified and Registered Trainers shall be:

- Basic Qualification Required - Level 2 First Aid,
- Sports Trainers Certificate

All Clubs will be required to have one (1) representative from each club at ALL AFLGTA meetings.

All clubs will submit a list of their trainers, including accreditation, to the AFLGTA and your league administrator prior to the commencement of each season.

Clubs shall have accredited trainer in attendance at every match in which all clubs are participating. Clubs (Junior & Senior) are permitted to use up to four (4) trainers in a game:

Trainers can be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest.

It will be a requirement for all clubs to register at least one (1) trainer with the AFL Goldfields Trainers Association (AFLGTA). Furthermore, at senior level all trainers that take the field must be qualified as per the minimum requirements as set out by AFL Victoria Country

Furthermore, at junior level each club must have a minimum of one (1) trainer that can take the field who is qualified and registered.

ATTIRE: Trainers are to be attired as per the guidelines as set out by the AFL Goldfields Trainers Association and will be advised to clubs prior to the start of the season.

STRETCHERS Clubs are to ensure that an approved First Aid stretcher is placed at the interchange area in plain sight. Additional stretchers may if available be kept in this area.

Failure to carry out this instruction shall incur a fine or such other sanction as seen fit by the league board.

109. Boundary Umpires

A Club shall, where required, provide a Boundary Umpire who shall be attired in a white shirt or jumper. The Central Umpire(s) shall adjudicate in regard to the competency of the person, which must be complied within five minutes or the match is forfeited. Should a club fail to provide a Boundary Umpire where advised, a penalty of 5 penalty units may be imposed. This By-Law is relevant for all BFNL competitions when competing for points (senior and junior).

110. Goal Umpires

A Club shall, where required, provide a mature person as a Goal Umpire who shall be attired in a white coat. The Central Umpire(s) shall adjudicate in regard to the maturity of the person, which must be complied within five minutes or the match is forfeited. All Goal Umpires supplied by clubs are to wear white coats and use white flags.

A 2.5 penalty units fine will occur for any of the above per item for Junior Fixtures, and 5 Penalty Units for Senior Fixtures.

PLAYING GUIDELINES

111. Commencing Times

All matches shall commence at such times that are fixed and appointed by the Board. Any Club unable to field 12 registered players (with the exception of By-Law 137 in junior football only) at the appointed time shall be fined such sum as is fixed by the Board, and if not ready by half an hour after the appointed time, shall forfeit the match (fines as per By-Law 38 for forfeiture of match also apply).

Goal umpires must synchronize their watches with the timekeepers prior to the commencement of the match.

Commencement times will be as follows:

Senior Football				
Grade	Start	Ground	Qtrs	Breaks
Senior football	2.15pm	Full	4 x 20mins (+T/O)	5min / 20min / 5min
Reserve football	11.55am	Full	4 x 24mins (No T/O)	5min / 15min / 5min
U19 football	9.55am	Full	4 x 22mins (No T/O)	4min / 12min / 4min
Junior Football				
U/17 Seniors	3.10pm	Full	4 x 20mins (No T/O)	3min / 5min / 3min
U/17 Reserve	1.30pm	Full	4 x 20mins (No T/O)	2min / 4min / 2min
U/15 Seniors	12.15pm	Full	4 x 15min (No T/O)	2min / 4min / 2min
U/15 Reserve	11.00am	Full	4 x 15min (No T/O)	2min / 4min / 2min
U/13 Seniors	9.55am	Full	4 x 12min (No T/O)	2min / 4min / 2min
U/13 Reserve	8.55am	Full	4 x 12min (No T/O)	2min / 4min / 2min
U/11 Seniors	8.00am	2/3	4 x 10min (No T/O)	2min / 2min / 2min
U/11 Reserves	8.00am	1/3	4 x 10min (No T/O)	2min / 2min / 2min

Fines of 1 penalty unit per minute shall apply for clubs who fail to adhere to the running sheet. The Central Umpire is to make note of clubs who do not comply with starting times of all matches.

For all competitions where time on does not apply (Reserves through to U/11 Reserves), if a match is interrupted by an injury to a player preventing the match from continuing, the clock must continue to run and scheduled finish times must still be adhered to. Only when the safety of the player has been guaranteed and removed from the playing arena can a match restart. Lost time cannot be made up.

112. Colours and Uniforms

Each Club shall register its uniforms and priority of registration shall determine the exclusive right to wear such colours and uniforms. Any Club desiring to register new uniforms must submit a sample to the Board and seek approval for such registration.

The following concessions have been granted -

- Melton South FNC has been granted approval to use an alternate jumper (which is the opposite in design to their home strip) which must be worn for all away matches with exception of point
- The Melton South FNC must wear their 'traditional' jumper (Navy with white yoke) for all games (Home & away) against the Darley FNC.
- The North Ballarat City FNC must wear an alternative strip against the Darley FNC, Bacchus Marsh FNC, Melton South FNC (away only) and Sunbury FNC (away only). The traditional strip may be worn for all other matches.
- The Sunbury FNC has been granted permission to wear an alternate strip (which is the opposite in design to their home strip) in away matches against Melton South, North Ballarat City and Sebastopol.

Below is a complete list of clubs who must wear alternate strips for both home and away games

Club	Away Games				Home Games		
Darley (Jnrs)	Bacchus Marsh	Nth Ballarat			Bacchus Marsh	Nth Ballarat	
Melton South	Nth Ballarat City	Sebastopol	Sunbury		Sebastopol		
Nth Ballarat City	Bacchus Marsh	Darley	Melton Sth	Sunbury	Bacchus Marsh	Darley	
Sunbury	Melton Sth	Nth Ballarat City	Sebastopol		Sebastopol		

113. Footballs

The League will supply one football per senior home game per club, plus one spare for the season. The Ballarat Football Netball League will supply all junior clubs with one leather and one synthetic football at the beginning of the season.

The footballs to be used in Junior Grades are as follows -

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • U/9 Senior & Reserves | Size 3 (Red or Yellow) Synthetic |
| • U/11 Seniors & Reserves | Size 3 (Red or Yellow) synthetic |
| • U/13 Reserves | Size 4 (Red or Yellow) synthetic |
| • U/13 Seniors | Size 4 (Red) Leather |
| • U/15 Seniors & Reserves | Size 5 (Red) leather |
| • U/17 Seniors & Reserves | Full Size (Red) leather |
| • Youth Girls | Size 4 (Red or Yellow) synthetic |

114. Excess Numbers on the Ground

Any side who is found to have breached the pre-determined number of players allowed on the field during play will have the following sanctions imposed:

- The time of the quarter and score at the point in time the incident occurs shall be noted.
- The incident will be referred to the League to investigate the matter and if proven:
 - All points scored in the quarter that the breach occurred will be forfeited: and
 - In addition, offending clubs may be issued a fine at the BFNL Board's discretion.

115. Logos on Uniforms

A maximum of four logos may be attached to the front of playing Guernsey, each of which must not exceed 10 cm x 6 cm, one of which must be the AFL Victoria Country & AFL Victoria Country Sponsor logo (if applicable) and one the BFNL Major Sponsor logo. One logo would be permitted under the number on the back of the Guernsey, it would not exceed 35cm by 15cm.

Four logos 10cm x 6cm would be permitted on shorts. In special instances, clubs may apply to the Ballarat Football & Netball League for permission for an additional sponsor on the front or rear of their Guernsey, and such requests will be determined at the discretion of the Board.

116. Numbers, Shorts & Socks

All players must wear AFL Victoria Country approved uniforms complying with the registered colours of their club and including numbered jerseys, and wear shorts and socks of registered colours. The numbers worn by players must correspond with the player's card and official League program, otherwise the Club shall be liable to a minimum fine of 5 penalty units for each such offence.

In the event of replacement of a jersey during a match, the Ground Manager and Central Umpire must be notified of the change of player's number or the Club shall be liable to a fine of 5 penalty units.

In the BFNL junior competition, ALL clubs in U/11 Senior, U/13 Senior & Reserve, U/15 Senior & Reserve and U/17 Senior & Reserve competitions will be asked to wear white shorts for all away games. The U/11 Reserves and Under 9 Senior & Reserves competitions will continue with wearing coloured shorts for all games.

There shall continue to be no requirement for Youth Girls clubs in terms of the colour of shorts that need to be worn however it is recommended that clubs wear socks and shorts in registered club colours.

117. Bike Shorts

Bike shorts may be worn by players under their playing shorts however they must be flesh toned. A fine of 2 penalty units will be imposed on clubs for each player on each occasion coloured bike shorts are worn.

118. Uniform Policy

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| • Trainers | All white with a number |
| • Water Carriers | Light Blue shirt, with navy shorts/pants |
| • Runners | Fluorescent Pink shirt with pink shorts |
| • Interchange stewards | White coat must be worn |
| • Goal Umpires | White coat must be worn |
| • Club Volunteer Umpire | White shirt must be worn |
| • Mentor Top | Purple shirt must be worn. |
| • Ground Manager | Fluro Yellow Vest must be worn |
| • Umpire Escort | Orange Vest |

Club Officials not wearing uniforms as outlined above shall be removed from the ground by the Central Umpire and shall not be allowed to return until correctly attired.

Clubs who have incorrectly attired officials shall be fined 2.5 penalty units per offence.

119. Interchange Players

For Senior, Reserve and U/19 age groups, clubs will be allowed a maximum of twenty-two (22) players that may be listed on the team sheet and participate in any given match.

Where a duplicate copy of Team Sheets is exchanged between competing clubs, that copy must be identical to which is handed to the Umpire.

Failure to comply - 5 Penalty Units.

At junior level, U/9 Reserves through to U/17 Seniors, the Ballarat Football Netball League will take the following stance in regard to interchange players:

- a) Clubs will be allowed to have up to six (6) interchange players per side in U/11 Senior, U/13 Senior, U/15 Senior & U/17 Senior competitions.
- b) Clubs will be allowed to have up to eight (8) interchange players per side in U/9 Senior & Reserves, U/11 Reserve, U/13 Reserve, U/15 Reserve & U/17 Reserve competitions.
- c) Permission from opposition club is no longer required to arrange additional numbers on the bench.
- d) Clubs are encouraged to assist their opponent with numbers if sides are uneven.
- e) Clubs failing to follow this process will risk losing points and percentage

Youth Girls clubs should refer to the Youth Girls Match Rules for rules surrounding player numbers.

120. Registration

Every club is responsible for the registration of their own players; however, all registrations expire on the 31st day of October. Players must be reregistered with their club on an annual basis should they wish to continue to play with that club control of the League and such registration must be filed with the League before that player will be permitted to play provided:

- a) In the case of such registration being signed on the day of the match, the Form must be signed by the player and handed to the Ground Manager for lodgment with the League.
- b) Any Club playing an unregistered player at any level will be penalised as per AFL Victoria Country Rule 1.3. Such penalties will include loss of match points and fines not less than \$500 (Senior, Reserve & U/19 games) or not greater than \$250 (Junior games). A player participating without signing a form is not insured and the club may be held liable for any injury via negligence, therefore, such a process exists to protect clubs.
- c) Clubs will forfeit points from match that an unregistered player plays in, unless extraordinary circumstance exist and the decision is over ruled by the board of the Ballarat Football & Netball League and the AFL Victoria Country Area Manager.

121. Illegal Clearances

Any player who illegally obtains a clearance or permit shall be disqualified and the League after consultation with the AFL Victoria Country may impose such penalty it considers appropriate upon the Club playing such ineligible player. Further sanctions may also be applied by the AFL Victoria Country.

122. Clearances

Refer AFL Victoria Country Handbook, "Clearances".

123. Football Stops

Aluminum stops are not permitted. Magnesium stops are acceptable.

124. Talking Devices Used on the Field of Play

Listening/talking devices (such as a walkie talkie) are banned from being used by club officials whilst on the field of play. This includes the banning of use by water carriers, trainers and runners. The only exception to this rule is for Coaching staff sitting in an elevated position away from the Coaches box where players cannot hear their instructions.

125. Wearing Gloves During Competition

Gloves are permitted to be worn in all BFNL competitions.

FINALS

126. Finals – Venue

In accordance with By-Law 128, the Board will determine all finals venues. Factors that will be considered include ground condition, participating teams, amenities, spectator attraction and the respective positions on the ladder of the participating senior teams.

a) Catering

The Board will conduct a draw for the Catering rights for both the Senior Finals series and the Junior Finals series. All clubs in each competition are included. The catering rights once awarded apply to the entire finals series. Once a club has been drawn for either Junior/Senior catering, they will not be eligible for catering in that section until each club has had the opportunity to cater.

The Board will determine a fee on a commercial basis for the catering rights. Clubs may “on sell” their opportunity only to another BFNL Club, or pass up their opportunity, but will not be replaced in the draw until all other clubs have had the opportunity.

b) Booth

The Board will conduct a draw, in which all clubs are included, for booth rights for the entire Senior finals series. Once a club has been drawn, they will not be eligible for booth rights until each club has had the opportunity. The Board will determine a fee on a commercial basis for the booth rights. Clubs may pass up their opportunity but will not be replaced in the draw until all other clubs have had the opportunity.

Note: Where required, the league will instruct Clubs as to any “exclusivity arrangements” that must be adhered to for Catering and Booth sales. This will occur to protect agreements with League Sponsors and must be adhered to for both Finals Catering / Booth and the regular season where advised.

Failure to comply will result in a fine of 50 Penalty Units

Year	Senior Catering	Senior Booth	Junior Catering	Lightning Premiership	Pre-Season Lightning Premiership Raffle	Round Robin Raffle
2018	Ballarat	Darley	Ballarat	Sebastopol	New Draw Required	
2019	East Point	Sunbury	Redan	Ballarat		
2020	Sunbury	Lake Wendouree	Mount Clear	Darley		
2021	Redan	Sebastopol	Sebastopol	Mount Clear		
2022	Bacchus Marsh	Melton South	East Point	North Ballarat		
2023	Sebastopol	East Point	New Draw Required			
2024	Melton South	Ballarat				
2025	Darley	Bacchus Marsh				
2026	Lake Wendouree	Redan				
2027	Melton	Ntrh Ballarat City				
2028	New Draw Required					

c) Raffle

For Junior football, the club who has the catering rights will also be given the rights to the ground raffle for each match day during the finals series. For Senior football, the two competing Senior sides on the day will be allowed to conduct a ground raffle.

d) Rooms

The Ballarat Football Netball League reserves the right to allocate the use of rooms to clubs during the senior and junior finals series. Consideration will be given to clubs who have more than one team participating in a finals series and clubs will be kept together as much as possible.

e) Shorts

The Ballarat Football Netball League reserves the right to allocate what colour shorts each club is required to wear during the course of senior and junior finals series.

f) Final 6

Week 1

A - 1 v 2

Qualifying Final

B - 3 v 6*

2nd Elimination Final

If third wins, advances to 2nd Semi Final. If 6th Wins advances to 1st Semi Final

C - 4 v 5* 1st

Elimination Final

Winner advances to 1st Semi Final EXCEPT when 6th beats 3rd in 2nd Elimination final. When 6th beats 3rd in 2nd Elimination Final, winner of 1st Elimination Final advances to 2nd Semi-Final.

Week 2

D - Winner A v Winner B* 2nd Semi Final

If 3rd team wins 2nd Elimination Final. If 6th team wins 2nd Elimination Final, winner of 1st Elimination Final will advance to 2nd Semi-Final.

E - Winner C v Loser A* 1st Semi Final

If 6th team wins 2nd Elimination Final it advances to 1st Semi Final while winner of 1st Elimination Final would advance to 2nd Semi-Final.

Week 3

F - Winner E v Loser D Preliminary Final

Week 4

G - Winner D v Winner F Grand Final

127. Finals

All playing arrangements, and the grounds upon which all finals matches are to be played, shall be determined at the discretion of the Board.

The main criteria when scheduling will be the ability to attract the biggest crowd and profile for the league, ability to secure and collect the full gate revenue, suitable facilities for players and spectators and neutrality where possible. Ground raffles at finals matches will be allocated to the two competing senior teams.

The league may at its discretion, allocate final matches to the higher placed senior side provided the club's venue meets the relevant criteria (e.g. suitable spectator and player facilities, ability to collect a gate etc.).

128. Drawn Football Finals

In the event of a drawn game in any Finals match (including the Senior Football Grand Final), the following shall apply:

- a) The teams will change ends following a break of no more than three minutes.
- b) A five-minute quarter will be played (including time-on) before immediately changing ends for another five-minute quarter (including time-on). There is to be no break between these quarters.
- c) If at the end of the second five minute quarter scores are still level, no change of ends will occur, play will be restarted at the centre bounce and the first score will win.

NOTE: For Junior Football ONLY, there will be no time-on in Junior Finals. If the ball is kicked over the fence and cannot be retrieved in a timely manner, the spare ball located with the Interchange Steward shall be used.

129. Eligibility for Finals

When reading the Finals Eligibility by-laws, the above hierarchy of competitions, with Senior Football at the top and U/13 Reserve Football at the bottom, should be taken into consideration when trying to figure out where a player can compete during the finals.

When players qualify to compete in finals they qualify for that competition and any competition that sits above them on the hierarchy (eg. If a player qualifies in the U/17 Reserves, that player qualifies for finals in competitions 5 up to 1, but not competitions 6 down to 9).

SENIORS (Senior, Reserve and U/19 Grades)

- a) A player must play in at least three matches for his Club in the minor rounds (home and away games) to qualify to play in the final series. A player selected as an interchange player and whose name is on the list of players exchanged before the commencement of the match and who is on the ground in uniform and ready to play and remains so ready until the conclusion of the match, shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match.
- b) A player must play in at least three matches in a grade to be eligible to play in the final series in that grade, except in the following cases:
 - i. Where an Under Age player is selected to play in an open age side (Seniors or Reserves)
 - ii. If a Reserves player is selected to play in the Senior side
 - iii. Where a registered Junior player is selected to play in the Under 18 ½ or any open age side

- c) A player shall not be permitted to take part in the finals series of matches unless he has previously played not less than three minor round matches (home and away) with his Club during the current season. Any player who changes Club mid-season shall be deemed a new player for the Club, with which he has been granted a permit to play and shall be required to therefore complete no less than three minor round matches with his new Club before being eligible to play in the final series of matches.
- d) A registered player, playing three games during the minor rounds (home and away) in any one season in a competition, shall be eligible to play finals in that competition and any competition that sits above it on the competition hierarchy provided all other finals eligibility criteria is met.
- e) Any player who, during the currency of the season, has played MORE THAN 50% of matches in the minor rounds (home and away) with a specific competition shall be ineligible to compete in a final series of any competition that sits below that competition in the BFNL competition hierarchy. The only exception to this rule is if the side in a specific competition that the player has an allocation of more than 50% of games played in is still in the competition, competing on the same weekend and all other finals eligibility criteria is met. Only then will a player be allowed to play in the competition that sits lower on the BFNL competition hierarchy. If the side competing in the competition that a player has an allocation of more than 50% games played in is knocked out of the finals, that player shall not be eligible to compete in a finals series with any other side unless they have met the finals eligible criteria.
- f) A player may only participate in one finals match in the age group the player has qualified for in any round of a finals series. No player is allowed to play in more than one finals match during the same round of finals, the only exceptions to this rule are mentioned in By-Law 132 and if a club has senior, reserve and U/19 teams in the finals and find themselves short of players in the reserves or U/19 competitions, it is then permissible to bring a player up from a lower age group to fill any vacancies.
- g) TAC Cup games are counted as senior matches played.
- h) AFL Goldfields Club 18 matches are **NOT** counted towards player eligibility
- i) The GWV Rebels are not recognised as a player's home club.
- j) VFL games are not counted as senior matches played. Players may only play with their nominated home club after being released by their VFL club on an Interchange Agreement which is sent to the league on a weekly basis. Clubs found playing players who have not been released by their VFL club risk losing points and percentage.
- k) Finals eligibility is calculated using home and away matches only. Finals matches played are not included when determining finals eligibility.

JUNIORS (U/17 Seniors down to U/11 Seniors)

- a) A player must play in at least three matches for his Club in the minor rounds (home and away games) to qualify to play in the final series. A player selected as an interchange player and whose name is on the list of players exchanged before the commencement of the match and who is on the ground in uniform and ready to play and remains so ready until the conclusion of the match, shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match.
- b) A player must play in at least three matches in a grade to be eligible to play in the final series in that grade, except in the following cases:
 - I. Where an Under Age player is selected to play in an open age side (Seniors or Reserves)
 - II. Where a registered Junior player is selected to play in the Under 18 ½ or any open age side
 - III. Where a registered junior player is selected to play in a higher age group on the BFNL Competition Hierarchy (e.g. Under 15 players playing Under 17). This is not to be at the expense of a registered and available player in that age group.
- c) A player shall not be permitted to take part in the finals series of matches unless he has previously played not less than three minor round matches (home and away) with his Club during the current season. Any player who changes Club mid-season shall be deemed a new player for the Club, with which he has been granted a permit to play and shall be required to therefore complete no less than three minor round matches (home and away) with his new Club before being eligible to play in the final series of matches.
- d) A registered player, playing three games during the minor rounds (home and away) in any one season in a competition, shall be eligible to play finals in that competition and any competition that sits above it on the competition hierarchy.
- e) A registered player in any BFNL Junior Competitions having played MORE THAN 50% of games with a higher grade, as listed on the BFNL Competition Hierarchy, shall be ineligible to play with the lower grade in the final series of matches, except in the following cases –
 - I. If a player participates in more than one game of a H&A match day, the first match played on that day is the only match that counts in terms of finals eligibility. For example, if a player has played in ten (10) U/15 Senior games but during 4 of those rounds, he also played in the U/15 Reserves, this will only count as six (6) games played in the U/15 Senior side when trying to determine finals eligibility.
 - II. If a player has participated in more than 50% H&A matches in a higher age group on the BFNL Competition Hierarchy, that player can be dropped to the lower grade during the currency of the H&A season.

When it comes to finals however this player will not be eligible to play finals in the lower grade except in the situation where the higher side in which the player has competed in more than 50% of games in is still in the finals series, then the player will be allowed to play in the lower grade, except in the scenario as outlined in rule 129 h).

However, if the higher side were to be knocked out of the finals, the player in question will no longer be allowed to compete in the lower grade's finals matches if they are still in the competition. Essentially, this player's fate is tied to the higher side and as soon as they are eliminated, so is the player in question.

NOTE: Rule 129 e) ii) DOES NOT apply to players moving between age groups, this will only be allowed for players within the same age group.

For example, a U/17 Reserve player who has played too many games in that age group (more than 50%) cannot come down and play finals with the U/15 Seniors if they are both in the finals unless they are qualified in that age group under other finals eligibility criteria.

- f) A player who has played more than one minor round match in a day (e.g. U/15 Reserves and U/15 Seniors) shall only have their first game recorded as a game played when determining finals eligibility. The second game will not count when determining finals eligibility.
- g) A player may only participate in one finals match in the age group the player has qualified for in any round of a finals series. No player is allowed to play in more than one finals match during the same round of finals, the only exceptions to this rule are mentioned in By-Law 131.
- h) Any player having played more than 50% of home and away games in a higher age group and is part of a side that wins the 2nd Semi Final, skips the Preliminary Final and progresses to the Grand Final, shall be ineligible to compete in the lower age group for the Preliminary Final even though both age groups are still in the competition.
- i) The GWV Rebels are not recognised as a player's home club.
- j) Finals eligibility is calculated using home and away matches only. Finals matches played are not included when determining finals eligibility.
- k) Where it states 50% of home and away games in this By-Law, it relates to the 50% of the junior competition and not the competition the player is also competing in. For example, if an U/17 player competes in the U/19 competition, as they play two more games than the U/17 competition, 50% of games played would relate to the U/17 competition and not the U/19 competition.

This also accounts for players who might compete in more than one age group above where they normally compete. For example, an U/17 Reserve player may play games in the U/17 Senior and U/19 competitions, if this player competes in more than 50% of games in those age groups, they shall be ineligible to compete in the U/17 Reserves finals series (see 129 e for exceptions this rule).

130. Interchange of Grades

Where a Club competes in more than one grade, a free interchange of players between grades shall be permitted. However, a player shall not be eligible to play in the final series of matches of any grade unless he has played at least three games in that grade or a lower grade (save and accept as provided for in the previous Finals Eligibility By-Law).

131. Replacements

Where a Club is involved in finals matches on a Saturday or Sunday of the same weekend in more than one grade, the following eligibility of player's requirements shall apply:

- a) A player who has participated for the Senior side on the Saturday shall not be eligible to play with the Reserve side on the Sunday.
- b) A player being in the twenty-two for the Reserves on Saturday will, save as provided below, be ineligible to play with the Seniors on the Sunday, however a Senior team playing on Sunday will be permitted, where a replacement player is required due to a late withdrawal of a selected senior player, to draw a replacement from the Reserves team that has played on the Saturday. For all under age teams the above rule will apply to the Interchange between Grades from Saturday to Sunday.

132. Clubs making Grounds available for Finals

Each club shall, as part of their standard User Agreement with their respective local government authority (LGA) for the use of their Reserve for the forthcoming season, shall arrange for their ground and facilities to be available for use by the Ballarat FNL for Finals fixtures, as and when required.

The BFNL will pay host clubs the following to assist with covering costs of hosting a final:

Junior Clubs: \$100 per day

Senior Clubs: \$100 per day

In most cases, such usage will include the use of the home / tenant club, but in some cases may not do so.

133. Ground Raffles at Finals

For Senior finals, the two competing SENIOR teams may conduct a ground raffle for each match day that they compete on. No other clubs or entities will be permitted to conduct a raffle at BFNL senior finals. For Junior finals, the club with the catering rights shall also have the rights to ground raffle during the course of the entire finals series. No other club or entity will be permitted to conduct a raffle at BFNL junior finals.

Sponsorship & Marketing

134. Naming Rights or Ground Sponsorship

No BFNL Clubs shall be permitted to enter into a "Club Naming Rights" Sponsorship without the written authority of the BFNL. All proposals must be submitted to the BFNL by the 1st March each calendar year to be considered.

Note: The BFNL will not consider any Club Naming Rights Sponsorship proposals where such agreements may conflict with any existing BFNL Sponsorship.

135. BFNL Sponsors

Clubs shall, where requested:

- a) Display BFNL sponsor signage at their venue, at no charge to the Ballarat FNL. The Ballarat Football & Netball League will be responsible for maintenance of such signs.
- b) Offer BFNL Sponsors products for purchase at their venue. Failure to do so shall result in a fine of 10 penalty units per offence.

136. Ambush Marketing

Ballarat FNL Clubs shall not be permitted to include inserts in or to provide handouts with the official Ballarat FNL Footy Record without the explicit permission of the Ballarat FNL.

The Ballarat FNL will only provide permission for Ballarat FNL Clubs to include inserts within or to provide handouts with the Footy Record when such inserts, handouts or promotions do not conflict with any Ballarat FNL Sponsor or licensee arrangement.

Ballarat FNL Clubs shall be permitted to issue handouts at or in the vicinity of BFNL venues to promote games, club events, social activities & forthcoming functions, only when such handouts do not include logos, promotions or offers which conflict with any Ballarat FNL Sponsor or licensee arrangement.

Clubs found breaching this By Law shall be fined an amount up to \$500 at the discretion of the Ballarat FNL Board.

137. Football - Minimum Numbers to Constitute a Game

For ALL football competitions (NOT including Senior Football), the following shall apply:

- a) Clubs who field a side with 12 (registered or borrowed) or more players will be eligible to play for points. This means, the score, percentage, best players and all goal kickers will stand.
- b) Please note, if one club lends another club players and the game progresses with 12 or more players per side, point a) shall apply.
- c) Clubs who field a side with 11 or less players will forfeit the points to the other side. Both teams are encouraged to still conduct a game with whatever players are available. The size of the ground can be reduced if need be.
- d) Where possible, clubs MUST assist their opposition to field a side of 12 or more players.
- e) In the event where one club assists another by lending them players, both sides must contain the same number of players for the game to go ahead. If there is an odd number, the team who has the most players (registered to their club) may play one extra player.
- f) In the event where both sides cannot field a side of 12 or more players, the points will be split. Clubs again are encouraged to still conduct a game however the score, percentage and goal kickers will not stand.
- g) In any round, the team that has been allocated the bye should assist other clubs by supplying them with as many players as they can.
- h) Borrowed players cannot receive Best & Fairest votes and goals kicked do not count in all League awards.
- i) If one team has less than 18 players, the opposition team must lend players to ensure even numbers take the field. Players must not be left to sit on the bench.

Junior Football (U/17 Seniors Down)

138. Fielding a Senior Side First

Where a club only has enough players to field one side in a particular age group, the club must compete in the senior competition of that age group unless they are provided with approval from the League to compete in the Reserves.

139. Yellow Cards (Juniors Only)

The following shall apply to all players in the Ballarat Football & Netball League junior competition (U/17 Seniors and below) to coincide with the BFNL Junior Code of Conduct:

- a) Any player who receives a red card during the course of any match, shall be asked to front the independent tribunal unless the set penalty applies. Red cards are shown for reportable offences.
- b) Any player who receives their first yellow card during the course of a season shall consider this as their first and only warning.
- c) Any player who receives a second yellow card during the course of a season shall be handed an automatic one match suspension.
- d) Any player who receives a third yellow card and every yellow after that, shall receive a two match suspension.

- e) Clubs wishing to appeal a card shown by an Umpire should do so by emailing the Football Operations Manager by no later than the close of business on the first business day after the match has taken place.
- f) The Tribunal shall deal with offending players via normal AFL Victoria Country procedures.

140. Under Age Grades

Qualification for underage competitions will be as follows for each age group:

- U/9 - Must be born prior to April 30th 2012
- U/11 - Must be under the age of 11 years on the 1st January 2019. Therefore must have been born on or prior to 30/04/2008
- Under 13 - Must be under the age of 12 years on the 1st January 2019. Therefore must have been born on or after 01/01/2006
- Under 15 - Must be under the age of 14 years on the 1st January 2019. Therefore must have been born on or after 01/01/2004
- Under 17 - Must be under the age of 17 years on the 1st January 2019. Therefore must have been born on or after 01/01/2002
- Under 19 - Must be under the age of 19 years on the 1st January 2019. Therefore must have been born on or after 01/01/2000

Junior Age Dispensation – The By-Law to permit junior players to play as an overage player in lower age groups after special consideration against selected criteria has been abolished. Players must compete in the age group in which they are eligible, or in a higher age group.

141. Minimum Age

A player must have turned 7 years of age prior to April 30th of the calendar year to play U/9 football. Therefore must have been born on or prior to 30/04/2012.

142. Police Checks & Working With Children Checks

Police checks are no longer required in the Ballarat Football & Netball League, however, Team Officials of all junior clubs must complete a Working With Children Check to comply with state law.

Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all Team Officials undergo a Working With Children Check. Forms can be collected from any Post Office and WWCC are free of charge for volunteers. It is the responsibility of the club to have all Club Officials who have contact with children under the age of 18 undergo a WWCC. The club must then record the details of each Club Official's WWCC on the IT system.

143. Junior Football Cap

In 2009, the Ballarat Football & Netball League introduced a cap on players per junior age group to the junior competition to assist clubs in spreading players across the competing clubs.

All grades of junior football from Under 11 to Under 17 shall have a cap of 50 players. The cap for Under 9 football shall be 45 players.

Any club found to have deliberately breached the cap by clearing or registering new players will be severely dealt with by the Board and the resulting punishment will be left up to the Board's discretion.

The only way a club can register more than 50 players in any age group is if they have more than 50 players wanting to re-register with the club from the previous year only. Any players who are not recognised as a registered player of the club in the previous year will be subject to the cap.

144. Niggling in Junior Football Matches (U/9 Reserves to U/13 Seniors)

For junior football in age groups from U/9 Reserves to U/13 Seniors, any player in the opinion of the Club Voluntary Umpire to be making unnecessary contact or "niggling" their opponent whilst the ball is not in the immediate area of play, shall be paid a free kick against them in the first instance.

If the behavior continues throughout the course of the match, the Club Volunteer Umpire may use their discretion and issue the offending player a yellow card and send them from the ground.

145. Underage Players Attendance at Tribunal Hearing

Players competing in U/9 and U/13 age groups who have been reported for an offence that has been referred to the Independent Tribunal for hearing shall not be forced to attend in person.

Instead of attending the hearing in person, the player will be asked to provide a written account of the incident and the player's parent or guardian and/or advocate will be asked to present the letter and related information on the player's behalf. This written account does not need to be a statutory declaration.

146. More Than One Match Per Match Day

Clubs who have 44 or more registered and available players on any given match day in a specific age group shall only be allowed to play in one match that day. Clubs may only allow junior players to participate in senior and reserve games if clubs are short of numbers. Clubs who breach this By-Law risk losing premiership points and a fine.

POLICIES

146. De-Registration / Non-Registration Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted the AFL Victoria Policy regarding De-Registration / Non - Registration. Please see Appendix section for further details.

147. Racial, Religious & Sexual Orientation Tolerance Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted the AFL Victoria Policy regarding Racial, Religious & Sexual Orientation Tolerance. Please see Appendix section for further details. The following shall apply to all BFNL football & netball competitions:

- a) Any registered BFNL player who is guilty of racial or religious vilification of a BFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, will incur a minimum of a 4-week suspension. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the Ballarat FNL Board and/or Ballarat Tribunal if they see fit.
- b) Should a member or supporter of a BFNL Club be found guilty of racial or religious vilification of a BFNL player, official or spectator, or abuse based on sexual orientation, the spectator will incur a minimum of a 12-week suspension from attending BFNL fixtures and his/her Club fined an amount of no less than \$250. This suspension may be increased at the discretion of the Ballarat FNL Board and/or Ballarat Tribunal if they see fit.
- c) Should a BFNL Club have a 2nd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 2nd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades) the Club will be fined no less than \$500 and this fine may be increased at the discretion of the Ballarat FNL Board and/or Ballarat Tribunal if they see fit.
- d) Should a BFNL Club have a 3rd racial or religious vilification offence, or a 3rd offence involving abuse based on sexual orientation (across all playing grades), the Club will be fined no less than \$1,000 and may face the loss of premiership points from each grade of their football and netball sides. Further, this fine may be increased at the discretion of the Ballarat FNL Board and/or Ballarat Tribunal if they see fit. In addition, the Club will be asked to undertake "Culture Awareness Training" for all players and members that will be presented by a Facilitator appointed by the Ballarat FNL.

148. Cyberbullying Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted the AFL Victoria Policy regarding Cyberbullying. Please see Appendix section for further details on this policy.

149. Environmental Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted AFL Goldfields' Environmental Policy. Please see Appendix section for further details.

150. Privacy Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted AFL Goldfields' Privacy Policy. Please see Appendix section for further details.

151. Restrictions on Players and officials Betting

The Ballarat FNL strictly prohibits Ballarat FNL registered players and officials from placing bets or wagering in a game or competition where players or officials are engaged. For the purposes of clarity, Ballarat FNL players and officials are not permitted to place Bets on the Ballarat FNL premiership.

This restriction does not apply to players being registered on the Website and betting on contingencies not related to the game or competition in which they are engaged and on the broad range of contingencies in racing and sports wagering and gaming offered by the Website.

The Ballarat FNL shall have access to live reporting facilities on the Website in order to allow the League to view customer details and transaction histories, and in cases where Players and / or Officials do breach this BY Law they shall face sanction/s as determined by the Board of the Ballarat FNL.

152. Photography & Video Footage at BFNL Games

Photography and taping of players at Ballarat Football Netball League football and netball matches shall be allowed so long as the photos and/or footage is taken of BFNL competition matches in play. At no stage may any person take a camera into the change rooms of either club to take any kind photograph or video footage without the permission of the people whose image is being recorded.

Further to this, photographs and video footage of BFNL games shall not be used for commercial gain without first obtaining the permission from the Ballarat Football Netball League and the participating clubs. Failure to adhere to this By-Law shall result in punishment as deemed necessary by the Ballarat Football Netball League Board of Directors.

153. AFL Victoria's Alcohol Charter

The Ballarat FNL will adopt AFL Victoria Country's Alcohol Charter to help facilitate a consistent approach to alcohol related issues across Community Football. A copy of the charter can be located in the Appendix section of this book.

154. Anti- Doping Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted the AFL Policy regarding Anti-Doping. Please see the BFNL website for further details.

155. Extreme Weather Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted the AFL Goldfields Policy regarding Extreme Weather. Please see Appendix section for further details.

156. Gender Regulation Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted the AFL Victoria Policy regarding Gender Regulation. Please see Appendix section for further details.

157. Infectious Diseases Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted the AFL Victoria Policy regarding Infectious Diseases. Please see Appendix section for further details.

158. Respect & Responsibility Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted the AFL Victoria Policy regarding Responsibility. Please see the BFNL website for further details.

159. Smoke Free Policy

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted the AFL Victoria Smoke Free Policy. Please see Appendix section for further details.

BFNL FOOTBALL MATCH DAY POLICY

Please see below for match day policies for every junior grade of football in the Ballarat Football & Netball League:

U/9 Reserves & Seniors:

- a) The U/9 competition shall be a 15 player per side competition with as many players on the interchange as the club likes. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same amount of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
- b) Games will be played on Friday night with U/9 reserves to commence at 6:00pm and U/9 seniors to commence at 7:00pm
- c) Players must be Under 9 years of age at the 1st January 2019
- d) Clubs will compete in registered club colours, including shorts
- e) A size 3 synthetic football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/9 matches
- f) Games will be played as 4 x 10 minute quarters with a 3 minute break at quarter, half and three quarter times.
- g) In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall be allowed to compete in the U/9 Reserve competition
- h) 15 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/9 games
- i) The AWAY club will provide a club umpire to officiate the U/9 Reserve game
- j) The HOME club will provide a club umpire to officiate the U/9 Senior game
- a) Mentors are permitted in U/9 matches. Only 1 mentor is permitted on the ground at any time per club and can be the team coach.
- k) Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.
- l) Generally speaking, first year players and/or players who are slow to develop in this age group will be selected in the U/9 Reserve side.

U/11 Reserves:

- a) The U/11 Reserve competition shall be a 18 player per side competition with as many players on the interchange as the club likes. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same amount of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
- b) Games will commence at 8:00am
- ⇄ Players must be Under 11 years of age at the 1st January 2019.
- d) Players must have turned 7 years of age prior to April 30th in the calendar year to register with a club.
- e) Clubs will compete in registered club colours
- f) A size 3 synthetic football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/11 matches
- g) In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall be allowed to compete in the BFNL U/11 Reserve competition
- h) 15 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/11 Reserve games
- i) The AWAY club will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/11 Reserve games
- b) Mentors are permitted in U/11 Reserve matches. Only 1 mentor is permitted on the ground at any time per club.
- j) All players competing in the U/11 Reserve competition may not change teams midway through a game and finish a match with the U/11 Senior side. Swapping of teams is not permitted.
- k) Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.
- l) Generally speaking, first year players and/or players who are slow to develop in this age group will be selected in the U/11 Reserve side.

U/11 Seniors:

- a) The U/11 Senior competition shall be a 18 player per side competition with as many players on the interchange as the club likes. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same amount of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.
- b) Games will commence at 8:00am
- c) Games will be played of 4 x 10 minute quarters
- d) Players must be Under 11 years of age at the 1st January 2019. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2007. Players must have turned 7 years of age prior to April 30th in the calendar year to register with a club.
- e) Clubs will compete in registered club colours
- f) A size 3 synthetic football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/11 matches
- g) In line with AFL Victoria rules, females shall be allowed to compete in the BFNL U/11 Senior competition
- h) 15 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/11 Senior games
- i) The HOME club will provide a club umpire to officiate all U/11 Senior games
- c) Mentors are permitted in U/11 Senior matches. Only 1 mentor is permitted on the ground at any time per club.
- j) All players competing in the U/11 Senior competition may not change teams midway through a game and finish a match with the U/11 Reserve side. Swapping of teams is not permitted.
- k) Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.
- l) Generally speaking, second year players and/or players who are faster to develop in this age group will be selected in the U/11 Senior side.

In addition to the above mentioned guidelines for U/9 and U/11 football, all U/9 and U/11 matches (seniors, reserves) will run under the following modified rules:

Modified Rules for U/9 and U/11 Matches:

1. **U/11 Reserve Matches: Club Volunteer Umpires:** As there are no points or percentage at stake only one club umpire will be required for each of the U/11 Reserves games.
2. Both clubs shall supply an umpire for U/11 Senior games
3. **Team Numbers:** Each team shall consist of the same number of players on the ground at all times. At no time should one side out-number the other. As per agreement, a minimum of 10 players per side can constitute a game and there has been no maximum placed on interchange numbers in U/9 and U/11 games as long as both sides have even numbers on the ground.
4. **Team Members:** Teams can be made up of both male and female players
5. **Resuming Play:** To start play, at the beginning of a quarter or after a goal has been kicked, the Umpire shall choose two players of equal size to contest the centre bounce. Each side may have 4 players each, usually the on-ball players, to be inside the centre square (or within a 20m radius if no square is available) to contest for the football. If there are 15 players or less, only 3 players per side may compete for the ball at the start of each quarter or after a goal has been kicked.
6. **Ball Ups:** The ball must be hit out of the ruck and shall only be contested by the two nominated players. At no stage can a third player contest in the ruck and at no stage can the ball be taken out of the ruck and kicked or handballed.
7. **Around the Ground Ball Ups:** Rules 2 and 4 apply to all field ball ups as well.
8. **Out of Bounds:** When the ball has been kicked out of bounds without being touched, a free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent. Where the ball has been touched and called by the umpire, play shall be restarted by a ball-up 10 metres in from the boundary line where the ball went out. Rules 2 and 3 shall now be applied.
9. **Running & Bouncing with the Ball:** A player is permitted only one bounce and then must dispose of the football by kicking or handballing to another player. If a player takes more than one bounce, a free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent. The player touching the ball on the ground constitutes as a bounce and the same rule shall apply.
10. **Kicking Off the Ground:** A player is not permitted to deliberately kick the ball off the ground. If a player is found to have deliberately kicked the ball off the ground, a free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent.
11. **Bumping and Tackling:** Bumping is permitted only from the side, any front on bumps shall be penalised by awarding a free kick. Tackling is permitted, normal tackling rules apply here. Sling tackles are illegal, and the tackler shall be penalised with a free kick awarded to the player who was tackled.
12. **Holding the Ball:** A player must not attempt to barge past their opponent, they must try to evade them. Failure to do this shall result in a free kick being awarded to the nearest opponent.
13. **Scoring:** Normal scoring rules apply. No score will be kept by goal umpires.
14. **Size of Ground:** Clubs may choose to reduce the size of the ground for these two age groups using portable goal posts. Rules 2 to 4 apply for ball-ups.
15. **Marking:** A mark shall be paid when the ball is disposed of by foot. There is no restriction on distance travelled at this level.
16. **Runners:** Runners may be used at this level of football. Runners are to deliver a message to the player and leave the ground straight away. Runners are only permitted on the ground to talk to players who are not in the direct play. At no stage should a runner be anywhere near the ball. Runners are not allowed to carry a coaches board on the field whilst the match is being played.
17. **Mentors:** Club mentors can be the coach of the side. Mentors are not allowed to carry a coach's board on the field whilst the match is being played. Club mentors are only permitted on the ground to talk to players who are not in the direct play. At no stage should a mentor be anywhere near the ball. Mentors are to deliver their message to the player and return to the coach's box straight away. The difference between a runner and a mentor is that the mentor can deliver coaching advice whilst on the ground whereas a runner cannot. A runner is to deliver a message and leave the playing field immediately.

18. **Mentors Inside the Forward 50m During a Kick-Out:** As long as the mentor is nowhere near the play, mentors are allowed inside the forward 50m during a kick-out to provide coaching advice to the players. No free kick shall awarded for mentors who do not get out of the forward 50m.
19. **Runners Inside the Forward 50m During a Kick-Out:** Runners are not permitted inside the forward 50m arc when there is a kick out. A free kick may be awarded against a runner of either side if they are inside the forward 50m arc when the ball is being brought back into play from a kick out.
20. **Jumpers:** Each team should be attired as per other sides who play within the club. Numbered jumpers should be worn and each player should be assigned their own number.
21. **Interchange:** Teams shall use the interchange bench as they see fit. There is no limit as how many kids can play in each team however there must only be 15 players on the ground per side at any one time and rule 2 must also apply.
22. **Order-Off Rule:** A Club Volunteer Umpire may order a player to leave the field for any of the below offences:
 - a) Fighting or unduly rough play
 - b) Persistent or deliberate breaking of the rules
 - c) Disputing the Umpire's decision
 - d) Objectionable language, remarks or behavior
 - e) Swearing at or abusing another player or the Umpire
23. **If a player has been ordered off the ground,** they shall not return to the playing field for the rest of the match. The Umpire shall then choose whether or not they wish to take the issue further with their own club and punishment shall be handled internally. If the incident is deemed to have been serious enough, the Umpire may then refer the incident onto the League by filling out a report sheet and the League shall follow up accordingly.
24. **15 Metre Penalty:** There are no 50m penalties at this age level, the penalty shall be 15 metres. The Umpire shall award a 15m penalty as per normal rules.
25. **Abuse from Official or Supporter:** If it is obvious that the Umpire is being abused by a Team Official or Supporter, the Umpire should ask the offending person to control their actions as they are at a junior match. If the abuse continues, they can hold play up and ask the home and/or visiting side to remove the person in question. Play shall be suspended until such an issue has been resolved. The League must be informed if such an incident has occurred. Unfortunately, due to a tight schedule for the rest of the day, time cannot be made up.
26. **Decisions Final:** The Club Volunteer Umpire is in charge of the match and every decision made by that Umpire is considered final. Players and Officials must abide by the Umpire's decisions and at no stage shall they dispute any decision made. Any issues arising from the performance of a Club Volunteer Umpire should be referred to the league for further investigation.

U/13 Reserves:

1. The U/13 Reserve competition shall be a 18 player per side competition with as many players on the interchange as the club likes.
NOTE: BFNL interchange player policy (BFNL By-Law 120) must be followed
2. Games will commence at 8:55am
3. Games will be played of 4 x 12 minute quarters
- 4- Players must be Under 13 years of age at the 1st January 2019.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours
6. A size 4 synthetic football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/13 matches
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall be allowed to compete in the BFNL U/13 Senior competition
8. 15 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/13 Reserve games
9. Each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all U/13 Reserve games
10. Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.
11. Generally speaking, first year players and/or players who are slow to develop in this age group will be selected in the U/13 Reserve side.

U/13 Seniors:

1. The U/13 Senior competition shall be a 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange.
NOTE: BFNL interchange player policy (BFNL By-Law 120) must be followed
2. Games will commence at 9:55am
3. Games will be played of 4 x ~~15~~ 12 minute quarters
4. Players must be Under 13 years of age at the 1st January 2015. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2003.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours
6. A size 4 leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/13 senior matches
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall be allowed to compete in the BFNL U/13 Senior competition
8. 15 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/13 Senior games
9. Each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all U/13 Senior games
10. Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.
11. Generally speaking, second year players and/or players who are faster to develop in this age group will be selected in the U/13 Senior side.

U/15 Reserves:

1. The U/15 Reserve competition shall be a 18 player per side competition with as many players on the interchange as the club likes
NOTE: BFNL interchange player policy (BFNL By-Law 120) must be followed
2. Games will commence at 11:00am
3. Games will be played of 4 x 15 minute quarters
4. Players must be Under 15 years of age at the 1st January 2019.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours

6. A size 5 red leather football will be used for all U/15 matches
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall be allowed to compete in the BFNL U/15 Reserve competition
8. 15 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/15 Reserve games
9. If the BFUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all U/15 Reserve games
10. Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.
11. Generally speaking, first year players and/or players who are slow to develop in this age group will be selected in the U/15 Reserve side.

U/15 Seniors:

1. The U/15 Senior competition shall be a 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange
NOTE: BFNL interchange player policy (BFNL By-Law 120) must be followed
2. Games will commence at 12:15pm
3. Games will be played of 4 x 15 minute quarters
4. Players must be Under 15 years of age at the 1st January 2017. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st January 2003.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours
6. A size 5 red leather football will be used for all U/15 matches
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall be allowed to compete in the BFNL U/15 Senior competition
8. 15 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/15 Senior games
9. Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.
10. Generally speaking, second year players and/or players who are faster to develop in this age group will be selected in the U/15 Senior side.

U/17 Reserves:

1. The U/17 Reserve competition shall be a 18 player per side competition with as many players on the interchange as the club likes
NOTE: BFNL interchange player policy (BFNL By-Law 120) must be followed
2. Games will commence at 1:30pm
3. Games will be played of 4 x 20 minute quarters
4. Players must be Under 17 years of age at the 1st January 2019
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours
6. A full size red leather football will be used for all U/17 matches
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall NOT be allowed to compete in the BFNL U/17 Reserve competition
8. 50 metre penalties shall apply in all U/17 Reserve games
9. If the BFUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all U/17 Reserve games
10. Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.
11. Generally speaking, first year players and/or players who are slow to develop in this age group will be selected in the U/17 Reserve side.

U/17 Seniors:

1. The U/17 Senior competition shall be a 18 player per side competition with up to six (6) players on the interchange
NOTE: BFNL interchange player policy (BFNL By-Law 120) must be followed
2. Games will commence at 3:10pm
3. Games will be played of 4 x 20 minute quarters
- ~~4~~ 4. Players must be Under 17 years of age at the 1st January 2019.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours
6. A full size red leather football will be used for all U/17 matches
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall NOT be allowed to compete in the BFNL U/17 Senior competition
8. 50 metre penalties shall apply in all U/17 Senior games
9. If the BFUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all U/17 Senior games
10. Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.
11. Generally speaking, second year players and/or players who are faster to develop in this age group will be selected in the U/17 Senior side.

U/19 Football:

1. The U/19 competition shall be strictly an 18 player per side competition with 4 players on the interchange bench.
2. Games will commence at 9:55am
3. Games will be played of 4 x 22 minute quarters with no time on
4. Players must be Under 19 years of age at the 1st January 2019.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours
6. A full size red leather football will be used for all U/19 matches
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall NOT be allowed to compete in the BFNL U/19 competition
8. 50 metre penalties shall apply in all U/19 games
9. If the BFUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all U/19 games
10. Gloves are permitted in any BFNL Senior, Reserve and U/19 competition.

Under 19 Football - 23rd Player Development Policy

The Ballarat FNL will introduce a policy whereby clubs may use a 23rd player in the Under 19 competition to further promote and develop junior (Under 17) players.

- Each team is allowed to utilise one (1) player from their aligned junior club (Under 17 team) for each home and away game to play as a 23rd player in an Under 19 game. This policy will not apply through finals games.
- The 23rd player is to be selected from a senior clubs aligned junior club. In the instance of the Mt Clear JFNC, senior clubs may select an Under 17 player from this club by agreement of the Mt Clear JFNC
- Competing clubs may only play a 23rd player if this position is utilized by both clubs competing in a fixtured match.
- The 23rd player is not restricted by position or amount of game time.
- An individual player will be restricted to a maximum of three (3) games as the 23rd player in a given season.
- NAB League (or equivalent) listed players will not be eligible to play as the 23rd player.
- Once an Under 17 player makes his debut in the senior/reserve team at his club, he will no longer be eligible to be selected as a 23rd player.
- Players selected as the 23rd Player are to be noted on official team sheets for opposition clubs and umpires. They shall have “**23P**” recorded next to their name.
- Selected players shall not be eligible for league votes or awards in the U19 grade.

Reserve Football:

1. The Reserve competition shall be strictly an 18 player per side competition with 4 players on the interchange bench.
2. Games will commence at 11:55am
3. Games will be played of 4 x 24 minute quarters with no time on
4. The Reserve competition is an open age competition and any male may compete provided all eligibility and registration criteria is fulfilled.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours
6. A full size red leather football will be used for all Reserve matches
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall NOT be allowed to compete in the BFNL Reserve competition
8. 50 metre penalties shall apply in all Reserve games
9. If the BFUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all Reserve games
10. Gloves are permitted in any BFNL Senior, Reserve and U/19 competition.

Senior Football:

1. The Senior competition shall be strictly an 18 player per side competition with 4 players on the interchange bench. Senior sides will be allowed to use four (4) interchange players for all matches.
2. Games will commence at 2:15pm
3. Games will be played of 4 x 20 minute quarters PLUS time on
4. The Senior competition is an open age competition and any male may compete provided all eligibility and registration criteria is fulfilled.
5. Clubs will compete in registered club colours
6. A full size red leather football will be used for all Senior matches
7. In line with AFL Victoria rules, female shall NOT be allowed to compete in the BFNL Senior competition
8. 50 metre penalties shall apply in all Senior games
9. If the BFUA do not appoint Umpires, each club will provide one club umpire each to officiate all Senior games
10. Gloves are permitted in any BFNL Senior, Reserve and U/19 competition.

BFNL NETBALL BY-LAWS

1. Controlling Body

- a) The controlling/administering body of the BFNL will be known as the "Netball Management Committee"
- b) The Netball Management Committee, through the chair, will meet in each year as often as deemed necessary by the Committee.
- c) The Netball Management Committee will report directly to the Ballarat Football Netball League Board of Directors.

2. Netball Victoria Membership

All players must be registered with their club via the Netball Victoria's MyNetball System

- a) All new players to the league must be registered themselves on the Netball Victoria MyNetball System before taking the court on Match Day.
- b) All players continuing with their home club from a previous season must be re-registered themselves via the My Netball. System. All contact details must be kept up-to-date, including current postal address, mobile phone and email address.
- c) All Coaches and Umpires must have registered themselves through My Netball prior to undertaking their roles with the BFNL Club
- d) Co-ordinators are not permitted to register any players – registrations must be completed by the individual.

3. Match Rules

- a) All BFNL matches shall be conducted according to Netball Australia Rules unless otherwise stated in these by laws, however BFNL by-laws should be referred to before any other rules.
- b) Starting times and match duration times will be set each season by the Management Committee.
- c) BFNL senior competition and BFNL junior competition be considered to be two separate competitions.

4. Venues

- a) Each Club will endeavour to play their home matches within the confines of, or as close as possible to, the ground where their Football Club is playing.
- b) Each home Club will be responsible for providing a court in fit condition, which must be approved by Netball Victoria & the Ballarat Football Netball League.
- c) Netball Australia Match Day Check List must be completed for each venue prior to the commencement of each round.
- d) All Club courts are to be situated outdoors, as the BFNL is an outdoor competition.

5. Umpires

Umpires must be registered with Netball Victoria

- a) Each Club will be responsible for payment of umpires on match day, for all grades, excluding the finals series.
- b) It is not acceptable to only have one umpire per game as it is a Risk Management issue, if a club can't obtain an umpire the below is the following procedure that must be followed.
 - The home team has the opportunity to supply a badged umpire in a reasonable time, if not,
 - The away team has the opportunity to supply a badged umpire in a reasonable time, if not,
 - Both teams agree on an unbadged umpire.
 - In the event of an umpire being sick or injured, another umpire can be substituted.
- c) If Clubs do not supply an umpire and a second umpire is supplied by the other competing team, the club who cannot supply the umpire are required to pay for the second umpire.
- d) If Clubs are unable to supply an umpire for all games in which their club competes, that Club may be asked by the Ballarat Football League & Netball Association to show due course why further action should not be taken against their Club.
- e) Umpires are not permitted to umpire more than 3 matches on the one day, and must not umpire more than 2 consecutive games. If a club umpire attends to play for their club, they only permitted to umpire two games on that day, and they must not be consecutive.
 - 1st offence – official warning
 - 2nd offence - \$50
- f) Umpires must have attained the Level of a C grade badge within any Association under the administration of Netball Australia to be eligible to umpire in either A or B Grade.
- g) To be eligible to umpire a C, D, & E grade and 19 & under match, the umpire must have:
 - Completed the Umpires online theory examination during the current season and obtain a pass mark of 70% AND the Online Foundation Umpires Course
 - In the event of a pass mark not being achieved, that umpire must sit the exam again within two weeks and pass.
 - Failure to sit the Umpires theory exam and pass, when required, the club is fined \$1000 for every match umpired in that season.
- h) Each Umpire must supply the BFNL Netball Operations Co-ordinator with proof of accreditation prior to officiating their first game

6. Officials

The Match officials are Umpires, Scorers and Timekeepers. The Team officials are Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, and up to three (3) other personnel, one of whom must be a Primary Care Person who is qualified to diagnose and treat injured or ill players.

- a) All coaches, team managers & umpires must have a Current Netball Victoria registration and be registered with the BFNL.
- b) A maximum of five players not on court at start of play, shall constitute the Team Bench
- c) Team Officials and Bench players MUST NOT engage in any inappropriate comments or any form of inappropriate behaviour; including moving up and down the side lines or along the goal lines, during play.

- d) Club Coaches and Team Officials must stay in the designated bench area during all Home & Away and Finals matches.
- e) **The appointed specified Coach is the only member of the club that can Coach on Match Day**

All coaches must have the minimum Foundation level coaching qualification by Round 3 of the season

7. Equipment & Match Day Paperwork

- a) The BFNL will supply all relevant paperwork.
- b) Hosting Clubs are required to print out the day's games scoresheets for each grade on match day.

Please note: 11 & under results are **NOT** required to be entered into My Netball.

- c) All Clubs are required to enter the results from their home game matches into the Netball Victoria My Netball system by 6pm Game day. These results include scores, best players, periods played and goal statistics.

Penalty:	1 st offence	warning
	2 nd offence	\$50, increasing by \$25 per subsequence offence
- d) Finalised team sheets must be entered into the Netball Victoria My Netball system by 12.00pm on the Friday before match day to enable the home team to print out all game's scoresheets.

Penalty:	1 st offence	warning
	2 nd offence	\$50, increasing by \$25 per subsequence offence
- e) In relation to finals series sheets, failure to enter into the Netball Victoria My Netball system by 12.00pm on Friday before the match will result in a \$100 fine.
- f) Failure to complete best & fairest and/or Spirit of Sport Vote cards will incur a penalty of \$50 fine

8. Players

For A Grade, B Grade, C grade, D Grade, E Grade & 19 & Under competitions the minimum age limit set for participants must be turning 15yo in the year of competition.

- For 17 & UNDER grade competition the minimum age limit set for participants must be turning 14yo in the year of competition.
- For 15 & UNDER grade competition the minimum age limit set for participants must be turning 12yo in the year of competition.
- For 13 & UNDER grade competition the minimum age limit set for participants must be turning 10yo in the year of competition.
- For 11&UNDER grade competition the minimum age limit set for participants must be 9yo at the time of competition.

If an underage player is found to have played outside the required limit in the current season the club will be fined \$50. Any exceptions to the above age requirements must be approved by the BFNL Netball Executive.

9. Junior Netball Cap

The Ballarat Football & Netball League has a cap on player per junior age group to the junior netball competition to assist clubs in spreading players across the 10 competing teams.

The cap is 24 players per age group. Any club found to have deliberately breached the cap by clearing or registering new players will be severely dealt with by the BFNL Netball Executive. The only way a club can register more than 24 players in any age group is if they have more than 24 players wanting to re-register with the club from the previous year only.

Any players who are not recognised as a registered player of the club in the previous year will be subject to the cap.

Penalty: Loss of 4 premiership points and games score. \$100 fine.

10. Working with Children Check

This check replaces the police check and is free for volunteers. This is applicable to all persons working with juniors up to the age of 18. It is mandatory by law as of January 2007 for coaches and volunteers to obtain this check if they undertake any of the following roles:

- a) Club personnel including coaches, trainers etc appointed or seeking appointment for reward.
- b) Volunteer personnel who will or are likely to travel away overnight with teams of players under 18 years of age and
- c) Persons appointed or seeking appointment to a role in which that person is likely to have individual and unsupervised contact with players Under 18 years of age.

The Working with Children Check Application Guide and Form is available from all Australia Post outlets or for further information see website:

www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren/

All junior coaches and officials associated with the BFNL require a current working with children check, their associated clubs will need to have a working with children check, their associated clubs will need to have a photocopy of the card on file.

11. Clearances

- a) A Clearance is required if a player wishes to transfer to another BFNL Club before or during the current home & away season.
- b) A clearance will not be granted after the 1st July of the current year
- c) A clearance is required if transferring to another club within AFL Goldfields

- d) Each club must process a clearance through the My Netball Database System
- e) No player will be granted more than one (1) clearance per season.
- f) Players who owe outstanding playing fees or are in possession of club property will not be granted a clearance.
- g) The existing Club has seven (7) days to approve or deny the clearance. If the club fails to deny the clearance within 7 days, the My Netball Administration system will automatically clear the player to the new club. The league will make the final approval through the My Netball Database System for all player clearances.
- h) All clearance notifications will be generated and sent via the My Netball Database System to all relevant members involved with the clearance.
- i) Penalty for playing without clearance is \$100 and loss of any competition points for the match(es) the player played in.
- j) **A clearance form is not required to the league before processing the clearance on the My Netball Database system. If the league does request the clearance form, it must be received and signed by the player or parent/guardian (if under 18 years) within 24 hours of the request**
- k)) If the Club refuses to clear the player, the League will write to the player advising the reason why and forward a copy to both clubs. Any dispute arising from clearance restrictions will be dealt with according to the Grievance Procedure outlined by Netball Victoria.

12. Uniform

- a) Each Club must register its uniform with the Netball Executive
- b) The Netball Executive must approve all uniform colours, designs and styles.
- c) Clubs must notify the BFNL Netball Executive in writing of any proposed changes to their uniform.
- d) **(d)** Players will not be permitted to take the court unless they are in full uniform. If uniforms are not ready, approval must be sought and given by the Netball Executive.
- e) Bike pants or boy legged briefs can be worn but shall be no longer than the dress when a player is standing upright.
- f) Socks must be white with club logo (if preferred) and must be purchased through BFNL approved supplier
- g) in the event of extreme weather, long sleeved tops can be worn underneath the uniform. It must be similar colour to the uniform. For the 11 & under competition, players may wear black leggings underneath the uniform
- h) Long nails are to be taped with appropriate sports tape in the following manner; one (1) piece of tape is to fully cover the top of the nail and one (1) piece of tape around the nail.
- i) Gloves are only permitted to be worn if accompanied by a current medical certificate. This certificate needs to be sighted by the match Umpire before the player takes the court. Only plain cotton gloves with no metal clips, sharp adornments, Velcro, rubber spikes or any other covering to enhance the catching of the ball shall be allowed to be worn. .
- j) No jewellery is to be worn. Wedding bands and/or medical alert bracelets may be worn and shall be covered with soft tape.
- k) Body piercing which cannot be removed shall be taped, upon approval from the BFNL Netball Directors – confirmation of this approval must be supplied.
- l) Taping, appropriate sports tape is to be used (no band-aids).
- m) Tongue piercings are to be removed.
- n) No adornment that may endanger player safety shall be worn.
- o) Elastic headbands are acceptable during play. Plastic headbands must not be worn during matches
- p) Sponsors logos are not permitted on bibs with the exception of required official BFNL major sponsor - WorkSafe.

13. Timekeepers/Scorers

- a) All teams must provide their own scorer/timekeeper for all matches. Scorers/timekeepers must sit together at the section provided at the court. One team member must stand down if the team has no scorer.
- b) The home club shall be required to supply all the necessary paperwork for the match including printing off of the scoresheet from the My Netball database management system. Clubs will be provided with all required paperwork by the League prior to the season.
- c) One official Scoresheet will be used for each match. This scoresheet must list the complete and full names (both given and Surname) of all players intending to take court. This scoresheet shall also indicate the positions played each quarter and the match score.
- d) A team may have up to 12 players on a team sheet
- e) The first named team is responsible to return the scoresheet to the League.
- f) A club official may add players to the team sheet at any time up until the commencement of the third quarter.
- g) At the game conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official scoresheet is correct, the official scoresheet is to be signed by;
 - a. The captains of both competing teams, and
 - b. The scorers
 - c. The officiating umpires only sign the score sheet to state they have officiated that game.
- h) If a scorer, team or club believes the score sheet is incorrect, they must not sign it and follow the grievance procedures to protest.
- i) A team wishing to protest must:-
 - a. Not sign the Official Scoresheet and notify the Committee of the intention to protest.
 - b. Lodge the protest in writing with the AFL Goldfields Netball Manager within 48 hours of the game being played.
- j) The Committee will advise the result of the protest and this decision shall be final.
- k) Clubs who fail to provide a time keeper/scorer will be fined \$50 for each offence

14. Conduct of Matches

- a) Game rules shall be those of Netball Australia, except:
 - (i) Timing - Refer by law 30
 - (ii) Late Start - Refer part (d)
- b) The Netball Executive shall determine a fixture and any changes to the competition inclusive of the starting times, venues and days of play for all matches
- c) Other than where prior arrangements have been made by the Executive, games shall commence at the following times and shall consist of four quarters:
- d) Teams are to change ends at each quarter time break
- e) The Board of Management may vary the starting times, game day and match conditions in finals.
- f) **Late Start**
 - (i) All clubs are to be in position and ready to start at the time set by the League or the mutually agreed, prearranged time.
 - (ii) Teams require a minimum of 5 players in order for play to commence.
 - (iii) Late arrivals may join at goal intervals, quarter time break or injury time.
 - (iv) **If one is not ready to start the commencement the game at the scheduled times and the** Umpires, Scorers, Time keepers and opposition team are in position and scheduled start time has passed the following action may be taken;
 - (v) If a team does not take the court at the required time - the clock shall commence. The Umpires shall instruct the scorer to award a 5 goal penalty to the non-offended team. If the offending team still does not take the court within a further 30 seconds, the game will be awarded to the non-offending team. **4 Premiership points to non-offending team no changes to %.** **Fine \$50.00 to offending team.**
 - (vi) **HOWEVER** all due consideration must be given when a change of venue has occurred. When a delay has occurred due to circumstances beyond anyone's control both delegates are to arrange a start time within 10 minutes of the scheduled start time.
 - (vii) If a club wishes to alter the starting time of a match during the Home and Away season then the club must notify the opposing Club's netball Delegate 72 hours prior to the match starting time. All changes must be notified and approved by the league.
- g) **Injury/illness/blood Policy**
 - (i) The umpires hold time for blood when noticed or for injury/illness when requested by an on-court player (in extreme circumstances the umpires may hold time without a request being made).
 - (ii) The player concerned **MUST** leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court. The timekeepers advise the umpires when 10 seconds remain.
 - (iii) Only primary care person/s are permitted on the court to assess the player's medical condition and to assist the player from the court.
 - (iv) In the event the primary care person/s advise the umpires that the player concerned cannot be removed safely within 30 seconds, the umpires will extend the time for the player to leave the court.
 - (v) The umpires may authorise other persons (including team officials) to assist the player to leave the court if needed.
 - (vi) Any blood on the ball or the court must be cleaned before play restarts and any blood-stained clothing replaced.
 - (vii) During the stoppage both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes, provided these are completed within the time allowed for the stoppage by the umpires.
 - (viii) If no substitution is made for the injured/ill player, or for a player who is bleeding, play may resume with the position left vacant. If the player is the Centre and no substitution is made, one player must move to play as Centre to allow the match to continue.
 - (ix) If the position is left vacant the player concerned or a substitute may subsequently, after advising the umpire, take the court immediately after one of the following:
 - (a) A goal has been scored (in this case the player or the substitute must play in the position left vacant)
- h) **Sanction: Free pass where ball was when play stopped – the player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry**
 - (a) A stoppage for injury/illness or blood
 - (b) An interval.
- i) **Other Stoppages:**
 - (i) The umpires may hold time or extend an interval if considered appropriate. Examples for which time may be held include (but are not limited to):
 - (a) Emergencies such as serious injury/illness of a player, injury/illness of an umpire or technical official/s, the equipment, the court, the weather or technical equipment
 - (b) Retrieving the ball
 - (c) Disciplining a player, team official or bench player.
 - (ii) The umpires decide the length of such a stoppage and ensure play restarts as soon as possible.
 - (iii) Team officials are not permitted on the court during a stoppage other than specified in Rule
- j) **Team Lists**
 - (i) Clubs must submit all coaches' names on the team sheet. Both a player's first name and surname must be printed clearly on the team sheet and must be easy to read.

Team sheets must be submitted to the Ballarat Football Netball League with the rest of the club's match day paperwork and sent to Saxon House after the completion of the last match and no later than 7pm on the night of the match played. Clubs who breach this deadline will be warned on the first occasion and fined \$50 for a second breach. Clubs who continually fail to send their paperwork in before the deadline will be asked to explain their actions and why the league should take no further action against them.

k) Scoreboards

- (i) All clubs are required to supply one working scoreboard for each BFNL match.
- (ii) The home club is to ensure that the scoreboard is being operated by a suitable club member and must ensure that the score is kept up to date at all times.
- (iii) A fine of \$50 shall apply for clubs who fail to supply a scoreboard or fail to have it operated to a suitable standard.

15. Game Cancelled/Forfeits

- a) If a game is cancelled before the match begins due to weather conditions, as long as both umpires agree, points shall be shared between the two competing sides. If a match is cancelled after ½ time due to weather conditions, the scores will be recorded from the point at when the match was cancelled. If umpires disagree to cancel the game, a Ballarat Football Netball League Official is to be contacted where possible, and they shall make the decision on whether the game shall continue or not. If a Ballarat Football Netball League Official can't be contacted the match must continue.
- b) If a team wishes to forfeit, they must notify the Ballarat Football Netball League Netball Operations Coordinator or Ballarat Football League Netball Manager, opposing team, and umpires, at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time.

The following fines for a forfeit will apply for the following grades:

- A Grade Netball - \$1000.
- B Grade Netball - \$750.
- C Grade Netball - \$500
- D Grade - \$250
- E Grade - \$150
- 19 & Under Netball - \$100.
- 17 & UNDER Netball - \$100.
- 15 & UNDER Netball - \$100.
- 13 & UNDER Netball - \$100.
- 11 & UNDER Netball - \$100.

- c) If a team forfeits and fails to notify authorities an additional \$100 fine per team, plus all umpires costs will be imposed.
- d) A team may submit a team sheet on the day of a scheduled game in the case where the opposing registered team forfeits. A team can name a maximum of 12 players on a score sheet where a forfeit applies which will count as a game played for all listed players when determining finals eligibility.

16. Drawn Game

In the event of a drawn game the points shall be shared, 2 points each. No extra time will be played for drawn matches during the home & away season.

17. Drawn Netball Finals

During any final including the grand final where at the end of the game the scores are tied there is a two (2) minute break during which time there may be substitutions and / or team changes.

At the end of the 2 minutes, there are a further 2 halves played, these times include;

GRADE	EXTRA TIME
A & B Grades	2 x 7 Minutes
C, D, and 19&U Grades	2 x 6 Minutes
E grade, 17&U, 15&U and 13&U, 11&U senior Grades	2 x 5 Minutes

At the end of the first interval played there will be an interval of one (1) minute where substitutions again can be made. Teams change ends to begin the second half of time on. If at the end of the second interval the scores are still level, then play continues until one team has a two (2) goal advantage.

During extra time, normal injury or illness procedures shall apply.

18. Representative Games

The Ballarat Football Netball League will appoint a senior, 17 & under, 15 & under and 13 & under coach on a minimum term of one year for all representative games involving the BFNL.

Please Note: Players must play for a BFNL club to be eligible for representative teams

The AFL Goldfields Netball Manager will organise the representative squad selection trials

Selection trials will be conducted under the following circumstances:

All players who have submitted a player registration form, if required shall be informed of the date, time and place where selections will be held.

1. A minimum of three selectors may be appointed for each team and shall be made up of the team coach and two other selectors
2. Selectors may be appointed to more than one panel
3. Teams will be published via BFNL website/Facebook page which have been selected within seven (7) days of the final selection trial
4. The selector's decision shall be final

19. BFNL Best and Fairest Votes

1. BFNL Best and Fairest votes shall be awarded in each game, as 3, 2, 1 votes, jointly by both umpires after consultation regardless of the match results. Umpires are to print both the Christian and Surname **CLEARLY** of the players receiving votes.
2. BFNL Best and Fairest votes shall be forwarded immediately to the League and kept in strict secrecy.
3. Should clubs fail to submit best & fairest vote cards for each match, on the first instance clubs will be warned and asked to submit the card as soon as possible, on the second instance, the club will be fined \$50.
4. Club Umpires failing to fill out the correct best & fairest card that corresponds to the grade they officiated in will result in a \$50 fine per in discretion.

20. Reports

In the event of a report being made on a player, coach or official by an umpire, the Ballarat Football League Netball Association will resolve the matter through the Ballarat Football Netball League Independent Tribunal. The umpire must notify the individual/s & club of the report being made and fill in the appropriate paper work and include in the match day paperwork that will be forwarded back to the League.

Members will then be informed of the next step taken by the Ballarat Football Netball League. BFNL report forms must be filled out by the reporting umpire and submitted to the league.

21. Investigations – Fees

In instances where a club lodges a request for an investigation in accordance with the Ballarat Football Netball League by-laws the required fee of \$500 shall be lodged, the full amount of \$500 shall be retained by the league.

The following policy will be enforced by the league for investigations:

- a) When the Investigations/Hearing Officer determines that there is no case to answer, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$300, and the balance of \$200 will be paid to the Investigations Officer as payment for his/her services.
- b) In cases where the Investigations/Hearing Officer refers the matter to the BFNL Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of \$300 and the balance of \$200 will be paid to the Investigations/Hearing Officer as payment for his/her services.
- c) In cases where the Investigations/Hearing Officer refers the matter to the BFNL Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of their \$500. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined \$200 (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the League for payment to the Investigations/Hearing Officer for his/her services.

Note: The above financial policy shall be applied in cases where the Investigations/Hearing Officer shall be paid the standard fee of \$200. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. more difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the Investigations/Hearing Officer may request an amount over & above the flat rate of \$200 and which will be negotiated with the BFNL accordingly. In such instances, the BFNL will adjust the amount of \$200 to the revised amount in the above case.

22. Player Qualifications

- a) Any player having played **8 OR MORE** games of the total home and away season in any grade or age group shall **NOT** be permitted to compete in any remaining home and away games in a lower competitions. For example, a club may not drop an A Grade player to their B Grade once that player has competed in more than 8 games of the season in the A Grade team. It is the **HIGHEST** graded game played on the day that will be recorded as a qualifying game. Any other game played on that day will not be recorded as a qualification game in a lower game, with the exception of a 19&U player who will have both the 19s & seniors grade recorded for qualification purposes.
- b) Players may play a maximum of 2 (two) games per round during the home and way season with their club eg. one 19s & 1 A grade or 1 D Grade & 1 C Grade. (normal qualification rules apply – see 22(c))

Please note: Junior and senior are separate competitions.

- c) Any player who has played **less than 8** games of total home and away season in any age group/grade shall be allowed to move freely between age/grades groups.
- d) Finals matches do not count when determining whether a player has competed **in 8 OR MORE** games during the season

- e) Any player that has played in a higher level than A Grade, e.g. Suncorp Super Netball, Australian Netball League or the Victorian Netball League within the last 12 months will be permitted to play **NO LOWER** than A Grade in the BFNL competition.

23. Finals

- a) The BFNL shall operate under the same Final System used by the football arm of the league for the finals series.
- b) Teams found playing an ineligible player during the finals will be considered to have lost that match.
- c) All BFNL finals shall be played at a venue determined by the Ballarat Football Netball League. Court dimensions and safety regulations must be deemed acceptable as per Netball Victoria's court audit requirements.
- d) A senior player can only play in one (1) finals match on the same weekend with the exception of players in the 19 & Under competition who can play in two (2) matches maximum on the same weekend, provide all the qualifications requirements have been met

24. Finals Eligibility

A player must play in at least five (5) matches for their club in the home and away rounds to qualify to play in the finals series in that specific grade, to be eligible to play finals in that grade.

Eg. Play A player 5 games in B grade, 3 games in C grade & 5 games in A grade – player is only eligible to play finals in either A or B grade:
Player A plays at least 8 games in 19&U & at least 5 games in A grade in the home and away rounds – player is only eligible for 19s & A grade.

A player must take the court and take part in a match for it to count as a game played. Players who remain on the interchange bench for the entire match shall not have the game recorded as a qualifying game.

Rule 25 – Disciplinary Procedures

Part (i) Interfering with League Officials

Any official, coach, player, committee member or member of a club who by word, or writing, electronic means, physical nature or by violent, abuses, harasses, threatens or attacks any official or witness of the League or any member of the Tribunal or any member of a league appointed committee because of any official action of that official shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit.

Part (ii) Bringing the Game into Disrepute

Any official, coach, player, committee member or member of a club that has been involved in conduct which is, in the opinion of the Board, unbecoming or likely to prejudice the interest or reputation of the League and/ or the game of Australian Football and/or the game of Netball or to bring the game of football or netball or the League into disrepute shall be dealt with as the Board deems fit.

Part (iii) Discipline of a Member

Notwithstanding anywhere contained in these Rules, the Netball Committee shall be empowered to take such disciplinary action as it considers necessary against the club, club official, player, umpire or other person where in the Netball Committee opinion such club, club official, player, umpire or other person has been guilty of any act, practice, conduct, matter or thing that is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interest of the league or calculated to bring or in fact bringing discredit on the league or any of its Constituent Clubs or a person connected therewith, or impair or affect the enjoyment by any club or person of the privileges associated with membership of or association with the league.

26. Record

- a) Teams must supply the Ballarat Football Netball League with team lists for A Grade, B Grade, C Grade, D Grade, E Grade and 19 & Under sides prior to round 1 for publication in the BFNL Record. All player's names with correct spelling and the position in which they play must be supplied.
- b) Junior Teams must supply the Ballarat Football Netball League with team lists for 11 & Under, 13 & UNDER, 15 & UNDER and 17 & UNDER sides prior to round 1 for publication in the BFNL Junior Record. All player's names with correct spelling and the position in which they play must be supplied.
- c) Any changes to the three sides should be passed on to the Netball Operations Coordinator by no later than 5pm on Tuesday before the match so that the record can be changed in time for printing.

27. First Aid

- a) Clubs must have a first aid kit on standby for all BFNL matches.
- b) Primary carer must hold a current/valid first aid certificate.
- c) Clubs who fail to have a first aid kit on standby for all matches will be fined \$100.

28. Fixture

- a) The BFNL shall run in accordance to the Ballarat Football Netball League Senior fixture.
- b) The BFNL Junior Competition shall run in accordance to the Ballarat Football Netball League Junior fixture.
- c) The Ballarat Football Netball League reserves the right to make changes to the fixture at any point throughout the season.

29. Commencement Times

The BFNL shall have the following commencement times of matches:

SENIOR COMPETITION

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
A Grade	2:30pm	4 x 15 mins	3 – 5 – 3
B Grade	1:15pm	4 x 15 mins	3 – 5 – 3
C Grade	12:00pm	4 x 12 mins	2 – 4 – 2
D Grade	11:00am	4 x 12 mins	2 – 4 – 2
E Grade	10:00am	4 x 10 min	2 – 3 – 2
19 & UNDER	09:00am	4 x 12 mins	2 – 4 – 2

JUNIOR COMPEITION			
17 & UNDER Senior	3:00pm	4 x 12 mins	2 – 4 – 2
17 & UNDER Reserve	2:00pm	4 x 12 mins	2 – 4 – 2
15 & UNDER Senior	1:00pm	4 x 10mins	2 – 4 – 2
15 & UNDER Reserve	12:00pm	4 x 10mins	2 – 3 – 2
13 & UNDER Senior	11:00am	4 x 10mins	2 – 3 – 2
13 & UNDER Reserve	10:00am	4 x 10mins	2 – 3 – 2
11 & UNDER Senior	9:00am	4 x 10mins	2 – 3 – 2
11 & UNDER Reserve	8:00am	4 x 10mins	2 – 3 – 2

The BFNL shall have the following commencement times for Dual Gate matches where both senior and junior netball will be played at the same venue, D & E Grade, 11 & Under and 13 & Under Senior and Reserves may need to be at a different venue on Dual Gate matches.

Grade Start Time Quarter Length Breakdown

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER LENGTH	BREAK TIMES
A Grade	3:30pm	4 x 15 mins	3 – 5 – 3
B Grade	2:20pm	4 x 15 mins	3 – 5 – 3
C Grade	1:20pm	4 x 12 mins	2 – 4 – 2
*D Grade	12:00pm	4 x 12 mins	2 – 4 – 2
19 & UNDER	12:20pm	4 x 12 mins	2 – 4 – 2
17 & UNDER Senior	11:20am	4 x 12 mins	2 – 4 – 2
17 & UNDER Reserve	10:20am	4 x 12 mins	2 – 4 – 2
15 & UNDER Senior	9:25am	4 x 10mins	2 – 4 – 2
15 & UNDER Reserve	8:30am	4 x 10mins	2 – 4 – 2
*13 & UNDER Senior	11:00am	4 x 10mins	2 – 4 – 2
*13 & UNDER Reserve	10:00am	4 x 10mins	2 – 4 – 2
*11 & UNDER Senior	9:00am	4 x 10mins	2 – 4 – 2
*11 & UNDER Reserve	8:00am	4 x 10mins	2 – 4 – 2

* Game played elsewhere

- For finals day, commencement times may vary depending on how many games are played.
- The BFNL reserve the right to change these times from season to season.
- If a club wishes to alter the starting time of a match during the Home and Away season then the club must notify the opposing Club's netball Delegate and Coach 72 hours prior to the match starting time. All changes must be approved by the League.

30. Special Circumstances / Provision Clause

Where these By-Laws are silent, the BFNL will have full authority to make any decision that ensures the integrity of the Ballarat Football League Netball League is maintained at all times. The Executive may in using its reasonable discretion and, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary or waive the requirements set out in the By-Laws relating to the Ballarat Football League Netball League.

31. Indemnity Clause

Except where provided or required by laws and such can't be excluded, the Netball Association (Ballarat Football League Netball League) and its respective directors, officers, members, servants or agents are absolved from all liability however arising from injury or damage, however caused, arising whilst participating as a member.