



McDonalds Ballarat Football Netball League Inc

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2024 Ballarat Football Netball League – General By-Laws

GENERAL BY-LAWS

In accordance with the powers given 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 Interpretation

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

- "League" means the Ballarat Football & Netball League Incorporated.
• "Seniors" are defined as Seniors, Reserves and Under 19 football competitions
• "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 football competitions
• "Board" means the Board of Directors constituted pursuant to Rule 21.
• "Rules" means the Rules of the Ballarat Football & Netball League Incorporated.
• "Penalty Unit" is defined as \$10.

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.

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.

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

The League shall circulate each year a Club Information 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 General 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 within 14 days a copy of their audited Annual Report as presented at their Annual General Meeting. Failure to provide a copy of a clubs audited Annual Report will see the





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Ballarat Football & Netball League impose a fine of 25 penalty units.

2. Board Meeting Format

Correspondence raised by the General 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 Chairman or General 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, Chairman or General Manager. These reports will be duplicated and circulated with minutes.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. League Passes

The following outlines what passes entitle bearer to:

Ticket Admits

- BFL Life Members ticket
- BFL League Partner Pass
- BFL League Official Pass
- BFL Media Pass
- AFL Victoria Country Directors Pass
- AFL Victoria Country Pass
- Dual Gate Pass - 2 x adults & children U/17 free





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9. Life Membership

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

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. Affiliation

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.

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.

Clubs must be affiliated with the League to participate in scheduled finals matches and for registered players to be eligible for league awards.

13. Affiliation Fee

Each affiliated Club shall pay to the League such affiliation fee as is fixed at the Annual General Meeting of the League.

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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

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 General Manager can organise a presentation.





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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 throughout the season.

19. 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 whereby exceptional circumstances apply and approval is granted by the General Manager or Football Manager.

20. Child Safety Standards:

In accordance with AFL Victoria Rules, the league is committed to promoting and protecting the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people who participate in sanctioned competitions within the Ballarat Football Netball League banner. The league, clubs, coaches, players, and spectators should adhere to the policies in place: <https://www.aflvic.com.au/safeguarding-children>

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. Fixture Procedure

The League 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.





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Such submission should be received by the League not later than a date as nominated by the General Manager, for the following season.

24. 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 General Manager seeking approval from the BFNL Board to compete. This excludes any pre- season competition organized by a club outside the league.

25. 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.

In the event of an uneven number of games being played across any competition, the League will adopt the Match Ratio format to determine ladder positions.

Teams will be sorted based on the ratio of matches won. If more than one team is on the same win ratio then they will be sorted by highest %, points for, and then lastly by alphabetical order.

26. 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 may 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
Any BFLW football fixture	20 penalty units

27. 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 General 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.





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28. 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:

Clubs shall be given written formal notice and provided with seven (7) days to pay all outstanding debt exceeding 60 days.

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:

Additional financial penalty at the discretion of the Board / Executive

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

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

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.

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. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. Smoking

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

Match Day

1. Football Records

Each home club will be allocated an amount of Football Records for distribution at matches. The Records should be distributed at both senior and junior venues.





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The Home club must make arrangements for the allocation of Records to be collected from the League.

2. Change of Venue

The Fixture Committee consisting of the Director of Operations, Chairman of Directors, General Manager and Football 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Calling off Games

The Ballarat Football Netball League has a fixture committee comprising of the General Manager and Football Manager in conjunction with the Chairperson and Director of Operations 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 General 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.

6. 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 & BFLW	NETBALL
Team sheets	Team sheets	Score sheets
League B&F vote cards (sealed)	League B&F vote cards (sealed)	League B&F vote cards (sealed)
Report sheet (if	Report sheet (if	Report sheet (if applicable)





applicable)	applicable)
Timekeeper cards	Timekeeper
Goal Umpire cards	Goal Umpire cards
Match results sheets	Match results sheets
Interchange/order off sheets	Interchange/order off sheets
Match day report sheets	

7. Scoreboards

Each venue used for BFN 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.

8. Venue Lighting

If natural light is deteriorating during a game, Clubs or Umpires shall have the authority to turn on venue lighting to improve conditions to allow a fixture to continue. The Umpire shall however have the authority to call a game off if they consider 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.

9. Turf Wickets

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

10. 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 League shall discontinue to play such player until the penalty sentence has expired.

11. 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 General Manager of the League. 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.

12. AWARDS

Henderson & McLean Medals

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.

An award known as the "McLean Medal" shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the A grade netball competition.

Secret voting for such award shall be made by the Central Umpires officiating at all Senior & A grade matches.

The Umpires officiating at each senior & A 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





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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. 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 medals. 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.

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 or Wrestling
All senior clubs will receive a minimum of 20 tickets with the option to purchase more.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:





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Merv & Mary Howard Memorial Shield

Senior football win	3 points
A Grade netball win	3 points
Reserve football win	2 points
B Grade netball win	2 points
C Grade netball win	1 point
D Grade netball win	1 point
E Grade netball win	1 point
U19 football win	1 point
19 & Under netball win	1 point

Merv & Mary Howard Memorial Junior Shield

U/17 Sen & Res win	3 points
U/15 Sen & Res win	2 points
U/13 Sen & Res win	1 point
17 & Under Sen & Res netball win	3 points
15 & Under Sen & Res netball win	2 points
13 & Under Sen & Res netball win	1 point
Draw - Points halved	

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.

13. 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	Sebastopol	Sunbury		Sebastopol	
Nth Ballarat	Bacchus Marsh	Darley	Melton Sth	Sunbury	Bacchus Marsh	Darley
Sunbury	Melton Sth	Nth Ballarat	Sebastopol		Sebastopol	

14. 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 BFN Major Sponsor logo. One logo would be permitted under the number on the





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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.

15. 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.

There shall continue to be no requirement for BFLW 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.

16. 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.

17. Uniform Policy

Trainers White top

Water Carriers Light Blue shirt

Runners Fluorescent Pink shirt with pink shorts

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

Junior Coaches Yellow Vest must be worn

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.

FINALS

1. Finals – Venue

In accordance with By-Law 127, 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.

2. Use of Facilities for Finals

In the event where the League requires the use of club facilities for the BFLN Finals match day, a fee of \$200 per day of use shall be paid to the Home club to account for the cost and use of utilities on that match day.

3. 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.





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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.

4. 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
2019	East Point	Sunbury	Redan
2020	<i>*Cancelled due to COVID-19</i>		
2022	Sunbury	Lake Wendouree	Mount Clear
2023	Bacchus Marsh	Melton South	Sebastopol
2024	Redan	Sebastopol	East Point
2025	Sebastopol	East Point	New Draw Required
2026	Melton South	Ballarat	
2027	Darley	Bacchus Marsh	
2028	Lake Wendouree	Redan	
2029	Melton	North Ballarat City	
2030	New Draw Required		

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Shorts

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





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Final 6 Format - Fixturing

Week 1

A - 1 v 2 Qualifying Final
B - 3 v 6* 2nd Elimination Final

If 3rd 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

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.).

8. Drawn Football Finals

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

The teams will change ends following a break of no more than three minutes.

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.

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.





9. Eligibility for Finals

When reading the Finals Eligibility by-laws, the above hierarchy of competitions, with Senior Football at the top and Under 11 Senior 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 (e.g. 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 10).

SENIORS (Senior, Reserve and U/19 Grades)

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.

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:

Where an Under Age player is selected to play in an open age side (Seniors or Reserves)

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 19 or any open age side

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 clearance 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.

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.

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 a 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 final's series with any other side unless they have met the finals eligibility criteria.

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 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.

Finals eligibility is calculated at the conclusion of the Ballarat FNL home and away matches. Finals matches played are not included when determining finals eligibility.

Coates League games are counted as senior matches played. Where the player does not have a senior club affiliation (Mount Clear, Ballarat Storm, Woody Yaloak) the player will have their games applied to their junior club.

RDFNL Club 18 matches are NOT counted towards player eligibility





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The GWV Rebels are not recognised as a player's home club.

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.

AFL Victoria VFL player eligibility rules must be considered when determining a player's eligibility within the Ballarat FNL competitions.





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

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.

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:

Where an Under Age player is selected to play in an open age side (Seniors or Reserves)

Where a registered Junior player is selected to play in the Under 19 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.

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 clearance 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.

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.

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 –

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.

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.





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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 & 146.

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.

The GWV Rebels are not recognised as a player's home club.

Finals eligibility is calculated using home and away matches only. Finals matches played are not included when determining finals eligibility.

Permit games played outside of Ballarat FNL competitions do not count towards a players finals eligibility.

Permit players from a club outside of the Ballarat FNL cannot participate in BFNL Finals matches.

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 players 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).

Note: Update to align with 50% of matches played in a higher competition as per Hierarchy.

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 they have 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).

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 player who has participated for the Senior side on the Saturday shall not be eligible to play with the Reserve side on the Sunday.

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.

10. 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.





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SPONSORSHIP & MARKETING

1. 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.

2. BFNL Sponsors

Clubs shall, where requested:

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.

Offer BFNL Sponsors products for purchase at their venue. Failure to do so shall result in a fine of 10 penalty units per offence.

3. 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.

4. Protected Sponsors

The Ballarat FNL at times will enter in to partnerships that provide exclusive arrangements. These arrangements shall be protected and no club shall be permitted to enter in to a naming arrangement that conflicts with these protected partners. Clubs who enter into naming agreements with sponsor that directly conflict with league partners shall be fined an amount determined by the board of the league. Protected partnerships of the league are implemented for the overall benefit of the league and member clubs.

Protected partners of the league shall be issued to clubs from time to time.

5. Home Team 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.

6. 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.





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Appendix:

1. 2024 Standard Start Times:

SENIOR FOOTBALL

Grade	Start Time	Ground	Quarters	Breaks
Senior Football	2:15pm	Full	4 x 20min PLUS time on	5min - 20min - 5min
Reserve Football	12:00pm	Full	4 x 24min No time on	5min - 12min - 5min
U/19 Football	9:50am	Full	4 x 22min No time on	4min - 10min - 4min

SENIOR NETBALL

Grade	Start Time	Court	Quarters	Breaks
A Grade	2:30pm	Full	4 x 15min	3min - 5min - 3min
B Grade	1:15pm	Full	4 x 15min	3min - 5min - 3min
C Grade	12:00pm	Full	4 x 12min	2min - 4min - 2min
D Grade	11:00am	Full	4 x 12min	2min - 4min - 2min
E Grade	10:00am	Full	4 x 10min	2min - 3min - 2min
19 & Under	9:00am	Full	4 x 12min	2min - 4min - 2min

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Grade	Start Time	Ground	Quarters	Breaks
U/17 Senior	3:15pm	Full	4 x 20min No time on	3min - 5min - 3min
U/17 Reserve	1:35pm	Full	4 x 20min No time on	2min - 4min - 2min
U/15 Senior	12:15pm	Full	4 x 15min No time on	2min - 4min - 2min
U/15 Reserve	11:00am	Full	4 x 15min No time on	2min - 4min - 2min
U/13 Senior	9:55am	Full	4 x 12min No time on	2min - 4min - 2min
U/13 Reserve	8:55am	Full	4 x 12min No time on	2min - 4min - 2min
U/11 Senior	8:00am	Half	4 x 10min No time on	2min - 2min - 2min
U/11 Reserve	8:00am	Quarter	4 x 10min No time on	2min - 2min - 2min

JUNIOR NETBALL

Grade	Start Time	Court	Quarters	Breaks
17 & Under Senior	3:00pm	Full	4 x 12min	2min - 4min - 2min
17 & Under Reserve	2:00pm	Full	4 x 12min	2min - 4min - 2min
15 & Under Senior	1:00pm	Full	4 x 10min	2min - 3min - 2min
15 & Under Reserve	12:00pm	Full	4 x 10min	2min - 3min - 2min
13 & Under Senior	11:00am	Full	4 x 10min	2min - 3min - 2min
13 & Under Reserve	10:00am	Full	4 x 10min	2min - 3min - 2min
11 & Under Senior	9:00am	Full	4 x 10min	2min - 3min - 2min
11 & Under Reserve	8:00am	Full	4 x 10min	2min - 3min - 2min

BFLW FOOTBALL

Grade	Start Time	Ground	Quarters	Breaks
Women's	12:45pm	Full	4 x 20min No time on	5min - 10min - 5min
Under 18	11:15am	Full	4 x 15min No time on	5min - 7min - 5min
Under 16	9:45am	Full	4 x 15min No time on	5min - 7min - 5min
Under 14	8:30am	Full	4 x 12min No time on	5min - 7min - 5min





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2. Club Guernsey's



Bacchus Marsh



Ballarat Seniors



Ballarat Juniors



Ballarat Storm



Darley



East Point Juniors



East Point Seniors



Lake Wendouree



Melton



Melton South



Mount Clear Juniors



North Ballarat



Redan



Sebastopol



Sunbury



Woody Yalook Juniors





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3. AFL/ AFL Victoria policies

Numerous different Policies apply to football across Victoria and Australia, in relation to a number of different topics. The Ballarat Football & Netball League has adopted the following AFL Victoria Policies & Forms.

Please visit the BFN website – bfnl.com.au to access further information on any of these Policies and Forms.

Rules and Regulations

- Laws of the game 2024: <https://play.afl/learning-resource/laws-game#article-0>
- National Community Football Policy Handbook: <https://play.afl/learning-resource/national-community-football-policy-handbook>

Player Transfer & De-registration

- [2020 National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations](#)
- [2020 National Player and Official De-registration Policy](#)

Gender Diversity Policy

- [Gender Diversity Policy – Community Policy](#)

Online Media

- [AFL Social Media Engagement Policy](#)

Coaches and Trainers

- [AFL Coaches Code of Conduct](#)
- [AFL Trainers Policy](#)
- [Concussion Management](#)

Duty of Care

- [Negligence and the Law in Football](#)

National Age Dispensation Policy 2019

- [Age Dispensation Application Template](#)

AFL Respect & Responsibility Policy:

- This document is a renewed Respect and Responsibility Policy, supplemented by a new protocol for managing complaints and incidents. Find the Policy [HERE](#)

AFL Victoria Smoke Free and Alcohol Management Policy & Resources:

- AFL Victoria acknowledges its role in promoting healthy environment standards amongst all Leagues & Clubs, who are required to have in place appropriate Smoking and Alcohol Management Policies. Find the AFL Victoria Smoke Free Policy [HERE](#), or for the Alcohol Management Policy, [CLICK HERE](#).

Infectious Disease Policy:

- AFL Victoria acknowledges its role in dealing with the issue of the spread of Infectious Diseases within football. Find the Policy [HERE](#)

Anti-Doping:

All AFL Victoria Affiliates are governed by the AFL Anti-Doping Code. The clauses of the AFL Anti-Doping Code that are legally enforceable by ASADA at community football level are the ones that are





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taken directly from the WADA Code. There are a number of other clauses in the AFL Anti-Doping Code that have been included by the AFL (with the approval of ASADA) to specifically relate to the AFL competition where the resources & support systems exist to be able to manage & administer such obligations.

- Find the AFL Anti-Doping Code [HERE](#)
- Find an Anti-Doping Message for Community Football Leagues [HERE](#)

Safeguarding Children and Young People

- [Child safety standards](#)

Affiliate Regulations:

- [AFL Victoria Community Affiliate Regulations](#)

