

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

These Rules & Regulations reflect the following guiding principles:

- To promote, develop and ensure the effective management of AFL Masters football matches
- To recognize that AFL Masters competition sits within a national framework
- To create a fun and engaging league for Players aged 35 years and older
- To create competitions without recording scores, points or ladders so that the focus is on participation, fun, social interaction and fitness
- To provide a safe, fair and inclusive game for all involved
- To ensure Player welfare is paramount

These Rules & Regulations constitute a By-Law and are made by AFL Masters Western Australia Inc. in accordance with its powers under the Constitution.

These Rules & Regulations:

- Contain 'introductory boxes' which provide background, context and meaning to the Rules that follow
- Contain a philosophy, code of conduct and policies in the schedules which form part of the Rules & Regulations
- May be amended by AFLMWA pursuant to its Amendment of Rules & Regulations Policy

The AFL Masters competition plays under the Laws of Australian Football as determined by the Australian Football League. These Laws are updated annually and published by the AFL. AFLMWA has deviated from these Laws to provide for Laws which better suit the AFL Masters competition.

All Players must indicate their willingness to abide by these Rules & Regulations during the registration process.

Each Rule shall be read and construed independently of the other provisions in these Rules. Parts of a Rule may be valid if other parts or provisions of the Rule are deleted.

A copy of the AFLMWA Rules & Regulations will be provided on the official AFLMWA website.

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DEFINITIONS

'AFL' means the Australian Football League

'AFL Masters Inc' is a separate association with member states and territories that organises AFL masters' competitions including the annual Australian National Carnival.

'AFLMWA' means AFL Masters Western Australia Incorporated.

'Official AFLMWA website' means www.aflmasterswa.com.au

'Annual General Meeting' has the same meaning as prescribed in the Constitution of AFLMWA

'Australian National Carnival' means a state v state masters football carnival held annually under the auspices of AFL Masters Inc.

"Board" means the Board of Management referred to in the AFLMWA Constitution

'Charge' means an act of colliding with an opposition Player where the amount of physical force used is unreasonable or unnecessary, irrespective of ball proximity.

'Club" means a Club competing in an AFLMWA competition

'Competition' means an AFLMWA Competition

'Board Administrator' means the person employed by AFLMWA to administer the competition pursuant to these Rules

'Constitution' means the Constitution of AFLMWA Inc.

'Carnival' is a series of games played outside regular zone fixtures, at a single venue

'Delegate' means a member club representative

'Fixture' means the list of matches, venues, times and dates in a season as determined by the Board

'Laws of Australian Football' means the Laws of Australian Football 2017 published by the AFL and amended from time to time.

'League' means AFLMWA League

'Masterules' means a Men's competition for 40 years old (as at January 1st of that year) and over

'Melee' means an incident involving three or more Players and/or Officials who are grappling or otherwise struggling with one another and which, in the opinion of the Umpire or any other person authorized by AFLMWA, is likely to bring the game into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of AFLMWA or the competitions conducted by it.

'Metropolitan Match' means a regular home and away match or a 'Carnival' where metropolitan teams play at one Club location every two, three or four weeks.

'Official' includes any person registered or acting on behalf of a Club in relation to any match approved or controlled by AFLMWA or any elected office bearer of a Club

'Official of a Club' means director, committee member, employee, coach, team support person or any person acting as or holding himself or herself out as an agent or volunteer of a Club

'Official Team Sheet' means the Official form that discloses Players and Officials participating in a match

'Player' means a person who plays or is selected to play with a Team or a person who otherwise trains with a Team or who is within the purview of these Rules.

'Playing Surface' means the field of play; inside the boundary line, goal line and behind line excluding the area between such lines and the perimeter fence

'Reportable Offence' also means a 'Red Card Offence' under these Rules

'Season' means the AFLMWA competition season which starts around March and ends around September each year.

'Seniorules' means a Men's competition for 45 years of age and over, as at January 1st of that year.

'Superules' means a Men's competition for 35 years old of age over, as at January 1st of that year.

'Tribunal' means the WAFC's Community Football Tribunal which may hear cases under these Rules

'WAFC' means West Australian Football Commission Inc.

AFLMWA PHILOSOPHY

AFLMWA is committed to the ideals, principles and disciplines of AFL Masters as expressed in the Philosophy shown hereunder and in the AFLMWA Code of Conduct that is included in these Rules & Regulations.

All member Clubs, their Players and supporters are required to accept, commit to and abide by the AFLMWA Philosophy and Code of Conduct.

All Member Clubs, their Players and supporters should take the time to read them carefully and acknowledge their commitment by completing annually their respective affiliation and registration requirements on-line.

The most important aspect of our game is that it is "FOOTY FOR KICKS".

All AFLMWA participants should adhere to this philosophy and accept the following guidelines:

- The game is played for fun and enjoyment by all.
- Egos are to be left at home.
- All Players recognise good performance in others and applaud the efforts of both teams and umpires.
- Criticism of other Player's performance and ability is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Disputing an umpire's decisions or abuse of any umpire is unacceptable, will not be tolerated, and will result in either penalties or withdrawal of Player registration and the right to play.
- On field and off field fighting, violence or bad language is unacceptable, will not be tolerated, and will result in either penalties or withdrawal of Player registration and the right to play.
- All Players irrespective of ability or skill are to be given equal time on the ground at all times where possible.
- Hospitality to visiting teams is very important. As we partake of other team's hospitality during our travels to away games, all member Clubs and Players recognise the importance of returning the favour and treat other teams and Players in the same manner as they would wish to be treated themselves.
- AFLMWA recognises the importance of involving our families in our activities and Clubs are required to actively encourage their participation.

New Players are always very welcome and should be made fully aware of the Philosophy and Code of Conduct and adhere to what is required of them as a representative of the Club and AFLMWA.

All AFLMWA Member Clubs and Players are to avoid a “winning at all cost” attitude. All are expected to recognise that at our age, it is not how many games are won, but the spirit in which games are played. For that reason, we have modified rules and modified attitudes to playing to minimise the risk of injury and keep us playing and enjoying our great game even longer.

Those Rules include:

- No scored games
- No Finals Games
- No premiership Ladder

All AFLMWA Member Clubs and Players recognise that from time to time far more Players arrive to play in a game than can take the field and that when this occurs Players are to be rotated of the bench with equal playing time provided to all where it is possible. Whether Players can take the field or not might also be influenced by a Member Club’s own rules that relate to:

- paid membership
- attendance at training
- participation in Club activities and duties and willingness to travel to away games.

SECTION 2: COMPETITION GOVERNANCE

1. FIXTURED MATCHES

1.1 The Board shall arrange inter-club football competitions for affiliated clubs within the association.

2. NON-FIXTURED MATCHES

2.1 Non-Fixtured matches require Board approval due to insurance purposes. To seek approval, please provide a written request to the Board Administrator with a minimum of 5 working days' notice.

3. POLICIES

All clubs, players and officials are bound by the following Football Policies as outlined in **Appendix 1**:

- Heat Policy
- Concussion Policy
- Vilification Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Uniform Policy

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct covers both on-field and off-field activities. It covers verbal as well as physical conduct and applies to all members, players, umpires, team officials and spectators.

- The Constitution, By Laws and Rules & Regulations of AFLMWA shall be adhered to always.
- The Philosophy of AFLMWA shall be adhered to always.
- Disputing Umpire's decisions will not be tolerated.
- Violence, fighting or threatening behavior at any game or Club function will not be tolerated.
- Swearing, abusive and threatening language at any game or Club function will not be tolerated.
- Racial, sexist or religious abuse, vilification or actions that may offend another will not be tolerated.
- Members, Players and supporters shall respect and abide by directives of the Club administration.
- Every endeavor will be taken to ensure players under the influence of illicit substances and/or alcohol do not partake in physical activities such as games and training. If a player is suspected of either of these during a game, the umpires and coaches will have the final determination whether the player is to continue and the outcome is to be recorded on the match sheet.
- An acceptable level of background checks should be taken on Club administrators and leaders to ensure they can carry out the Club's expected standards and behaviors.
- Participants don't engage in or promote binge drinking.

- Participants don't engage in or promote the use of illegal/illicit drugs.
- Participants and clubs ensure a family friendly environment for all venues and events.
- Participants don't allow bullying or vilifying behaviour and don't tolerate these behaviors from fellow Club members or spectators.
- Participants recognise the sensitivities around Mental Health and support players suffering from mental health issues.
- Maximum care is taken for players travelling to and from matches and official Club functions with respect to match times, driving times, fatigue management, drink driving, etc.
- We don't expect players to partake in physical football activities whilst suffering the effects of serious injury or concussion.
- Personal/Sensitive issues are managed discretely with respect for the individuals involved.

5. APPEALS

5.1 Clubs are entitled to appeal bylaw breach penalties on the grounds that the penalty provided was not fair and reasonable given the circumstances. The Board will convene an independent appeal panel. The following process shall be applied:

- 5.1.1** A club shall submit a written communication addressed to the Board requesting to appeal a penalty within 48 hours of receiving notification of the penalty, accompanied by a \$250 bond. Within the written request to appeal the club will outline why the grounds for the penalty were not fair and reasonable.
- 5.1.2** The Board will convene an appeal panel with members of the Community Football Tribunal to determine whether the penalty was fair and reasonable based on the evidence provided and any new additional evidence provided by the club.
- 5.1.3** If circumstances prevail whereby a hearing must be heard prior to the clubs next match, the Board will make a reasonable attempt for this to occur.
- 5.1.4** Board members may not sit on the appeals panel.
- 5.1.5** The Appeal Panel may use its full discretion to gather and consider any relevant evidence in making its determination.
- 5.1.6** A club attending an appeal hearing may be represented by an advocate. An advocate may not be represented by a legal practitioner.
- 5.1.7** The appeal panel shall not dismiss any case on grounds of technicality.
- 5.1.8** The decision of the appeal panel must be communicated back to the club within a reasonable period of time after the decision has been made.

6. CLUB FINES

6.1 AFLMWA will maintain a fine register throughout each season and invoice Clubs monthly.

6.2 The Board Administrator may impose the following fines on Clubs for breach of these Rules & Regulations.

Breach of Rule	Maximum penalty
6.2.1 Home Club failure to provide an umpire	\$200
6.2.2 Failure to carry out a physical inspection of the ground/change rooms/facilities	\$200
6.2.3 Failure to display an emergency response plan	\$200
6.2.4 Failure to have a first aid kit and defibrillator on match day	\$200
6.2.5 Forfeiture of a game without providing the board with adequate notification	\$200
6.2.6 Providing an incomplete match report sheet to the umpire	\$300
6.2.7 Playing an unregistered Player	\$500
6.2.8 Failure to forward the match report sheet to the Competitions Administrator	\$200
6.2.9 Failure to provide adequate first aid at any sanctioned fixture	\$200
6.2.10 Failure to supply information/documentation to the Board	\$500
6.2.11 Failure to attend Board meetings without providing a prior formal apology (when formally requested by the board to be in attendance)	\$200
6.2.12 Bringing the game and/or AFLMWA into disrepute	\$1000
6.2.13 Breach of a Policy under these Rules	\$1000
6.2.14 Unauthorised or improper use of AFL Masters Logo, AFLMWA Logo or WAFC Logo	\$1000
6.2.15 Failure to display required logos, as per current sponsorship agreements directed by AFLMWA, on match apparel	\$1000

7. FORMS

The following forms are available on the AFLMWA Website for downloading and use by Member Clubs

- Nomination criteria and form for AFLMWA, Country & Metropolitan Clubs of the Year
- Nomination criteria and form for AFLMWA, Country & Metropolitan Person of the Year
- Nomination criteria and form for AFLMWA Life Member
- Nomination criteria and form for AFLMWA Hall of Fame
- Match day Checklist

8. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

The Board makes the AFLMWA Rules & Regulations in accordance with its powers under its constitution. These Rules are administered by the Board Administrator and/or the Board.

The process for amendment of the Rules & Regulations is as follows:

- 8.1** At the end of each season each Club President may submit proposed changes to the Board by 31st October of that year.
- 8.2** The Board and the Board Administrator will then discuss and consider all suggested changes and may accept or reject any proposed changes at their absolute discretion.
- 8.3** A summary of all proposed changes and rationale for each change will be provided in writing to the Clubs.
- 8.4** The Club Presidents will then have until a designated time to consider the summary and make further comment in writing to the Board Administrator.
- 8.5** The proposed new Rules may be discussed at the AGM
- 8.6** All rule changes are to be finalized prior to the season starting.
- 8.7** The final Rules & Regulations will be provided in an electronic copy to all Clubs prior to the season commencing. An electronic copy will also be made available on the AFLMWA Website for downloading.
- 8.8** These By-Laws cannot be changed throughout the current season unless deemed a requirement by the AFL or to correct a clear mistake or to correct any drafting errors.

SECTION 3: SEASON ADMINISTRATION

9. REGISTRATION & TEAM SHEETS

9.1 Registration

No player shall be eligible to take part in any match under the control of the **Board** until an online registration form is completed and approved through Footyweb. Players must not alter their name or date of birth to register via the Registration System.

9.2 Permits

Players wishing to play in both the AFLMWA and WAAFL/WACFL/MFL competitions must be primarily registered in current season with the association/club that they intend to play the majority of their football with. A Type 2, Local Interchange Permit can then be requested by a club in another association for the period of time in which the player will be playing in both associations.

9.3 Team Sheets

Clubs are to update their Team Sheet in Footyweb within 72hrs of the completion of the match. All matches will automatically lock after this 72-hour period. If access is required outside the 72 hours, please contact the Board Administrator.

9.4 Player Even Up

Players are permitted to play with opposition clubs to assist with numbers provided they are listed on their Primary Club's team sheet for the same match day. The same player should also have their name recorded (handwritten) on the team sheet that is filed and kept by the club that the player is playing for.

10. FEES AND COSTS

All Clubs are required to ensure that all fees and fines are paid within 30 days of receipt into AFLMWA bank accounts nominated by the Board.

- 10.1** Failure to do so may deem the Club to be un-financial, in effect removing all membership rights until the debt to AFLMWA is paid in full.
- 10.2** Each Club must pay all its affiliation fees by March 31st each year.
- 10.3** Any requests outside this arrangement must be submitted in writing to the Board Administrator before March 31st of the relevant season.

11. AGE REQUIREMENTS

This rule establishes which age groups participate in each Competition. A stipulated age group promotes Player welfare as Players of a similar age are competing with and against each other. It also brings people of a similar age together in a fun and social setting. These age groups apply in metropolitan competitions only (not country competitions).

11.1 The three age groups of AFLMWA competitions are:

- i. Superules – 35 years and over.
- ii. Masterules – 40 years and over.
- iii. Seniorules – 45 years and over.
- iv. Super-Seniors – 55 years and over.
- v. Legends – 60 years and over.

11.2 Clubs may register Players of 33-35 years of age. Such Players may participate in Superules matches provided that there are no more than two (2) Players aged between 33-35 years of age from the one Club playing at the same time and that such Players are not given priority over those who meet the above age criteria.

11.3 AGE EXEMPTIONS

The purpose of this rule is to provide a fair and equal contest between Clubs while allowing Clubs some flexibility to play underage Players in certain circumstances. This rule aims to achieve an equal playing field while also ensuring the safety and welfare of the Players.

11.3.1 Country matches

For matches played in the country, where it is not always possible to have the full number of Masters Age Players available, Clubs will be permitted to play Players under the age of 35 years to make up the required numbers in a team. The captains of each competing country Club must agree to the under-age Player(s) participating in the match prior to the commencement of the match. However, in the interests of football and the philosophy of AFLMWA, underage Players are not to play to the exclusion of available “over-35 age” Players.

11.3.2 Special Age Exemption

Any Club wanting to play an underage Player must provide a request in writing to the AFLMWA Board showing extenuating circumstances for the inclusion of such Player(s) by noon on the Thursday prior to the commencement of the game. The Board will consider the application and approve or decline the request and notify each competing Club of its decision in writing by 5pm on the Friday before the match.

12. AWARD NOMINATIONS

12.1 The elected Board of AFLMWA will annually consider nominations for Country & Metropolitan Club & Person of the Year, Life Membership and WA Masters Hall of Fame.

12.2 The nomination criteria and nomination forms are available for download on the AFLMWA official website. The criteria are subject to change as the Board sees fit and will be updated within 48 hours of the board meeting where changes were agreed to and officially recorded in the minutes. Any nomination must be considered against the criteria listed on the website of the date of the submitted nomination.

12.3 Metropolitan nominations can be submitted at any time of year, up to the November board meeting and the board will announce annual metropolitan winners and successful nominees at either the end of year AGM or first Delegates Meeting in the following season.

12.4 The annual country award nominations are required to be submitted before June board meeting to allow an announcement of winners and successful nominees at the annual Country Carnival.

13. NON-MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS OF CLUBS

13.1 Sponsorship

Clubs may obtain their own sponsorships if they do not conflict with AFLMWA sponsors.

13.2 Provision of documents to AFLMWA

Prior to the start of the Season, all Clubs must promptly provide to the Board: financial, Club and Player related information if requested by the Board including, but not limited to:

- Incorporation certificate
- Financial statements
- Audited statements
- Constitution
- Contact details (including mobile phone numbers and email addresses) of Club President, Secretary and Delegate
- Home ground address and a list of available facilities, including but not limited to whether the premises are licensed.

14. INSURANCE

14.1 All insurance requirements must be completed by 31 March each year as requested by the Board.

15. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS CALLED BY THE BOARD

15.1 If requested by the board, a club should send a nominated Delegate to meetings as required by the Board and unless a formal written apology is received by the Board prior to the meeting, a non-attendance will be deemed a breach by the Club of non-match day requirements and may incur a fine as listed in the list of Club fines in section 9 of these Rules.

16. NEW CLUB ENTRY CRITERIA

16.1 In the instance where a non-member club seeks membership with AFLMWA, the current Board will meet and consider the application within 30 days of receipt of the application. For an application to be considered, it must be submitted either electronically, physically mailed or in person to the Board before January 1st of the current season and must include the following items:

- Covering letter
- Incorporation certificate
- 2-year business plan
- Copy of Constitution
- Player lists – including age of all members
- Catchment zone and catchment clubs
- Risk Management Policy and Emergency Response Plan
- Contact details (including mobile phone numbers and email addresses) of all Committee positions - Club President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Delegate and General Committee if applicable.
- A printed or electronic, high-resolution copy of the Member's proposed logo and/or emblem
- The proposed uniform of the club – playing uniform, club shirt
- The position and detailed description of playing grounds, changing rooms (addressing Male and Female use) and clubrooms and whether such grounds and facilities are shared or not and, if so, upon what basis and with whom.
- The number of teams from the club desiring to compete in the League
- 2 years current affiliation fees, to be held as a bond. This bond will be returned in full at the completion of the 2nd year in the competition and once all expenses for both seasons are paid in full (includes but not limited to: Presentation night tickets, Board imposed fines, football purchases etc.)

16.2 In addition to the above, the board may request other relevant information including but not limited to: catchment area history, relevant copies of RSA's and documents relating to distribution of liquor, financial reports and any overarching tribunal matters.

SECTION 4: MATCH OPERATIONS

17. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this rule is to outline the roles and responsibilities of persons involved on match days.

17.1 Club match day requirements

- 17.1.1 No Clubs in the League shall play any match, including scratch and/or friendly matches, without the sanction of the AFLMWA.
- 17.1.1 The host Club must carry out a physical inspection of all aspects of the field, change rooms and surrounding areas prior to the commencement of play on the day of the games to ensure that they are safe for the utilization of Players, officials, members, supporters and spectators.
- 17.1.2 The host Club will have on site an accessible first aid kit and defibrillator.
- 17.1.3 An emergency response plan is required from each Club on their procedure to handle a serious or life -threatening incident. This is to be displayed clearly within the Club surrounds and in change rooms on that Clubs game day.
- 17.1.4 All Players taking part in a match must be registered and listed on the relevant Official Team Sheet before they participate in the match.
- 17.1.5 Each Player listed on the Official Team Sheet shall be offered a minimum of 50% of the match duration.
- 17.1.6 The nominated club representative shall ensure that all Players sign the Official Team Sheet prior to entering the ground.
- 17.1.7 Each team must be ready on time for the start of each match and for the start of each quarter.
- 17.1.8 The completed Official Team Sheets must be posted by the Clubs to the Board Administrator immediately to reach him by the Wednesday following each game.
- 17.1.9 Any concerns or issues relating to the officiating of games are to be directed in writing to the Board Administrator.
- 17.1.10 **Any breach by a Club of a match day requirement may incur a fine as listed in the list of Club fines in Rule 9 of these Rules.**

17.2 Coach's requirements

- 17.2.1 Individual Team coaches on game days are to have a minimum Level 1 AFL Coaching Accreditation and be present at all times during the teams allocated fixture.
- 17.2.2 All training sessions are to be overseen by a coach with a minimum of Level 1 AFL Coaching Accreditation.
- 17.2.3 All accredited club coaches must have a current Working with Children Card if training involves children under the age of 18 years.

17.3 Umpires' match day requirements

- 17.3.1 The Minimum age for all Umpires is to be 16 years of age.
- 17.3.2 Following each game in which they officiate, umpires must receive from each team a copy of the Official Team Sheet which details a complete list of participating Players to enable the umpire to make any entries on the sheet that he deems fit. These sheets are then returned to their relevant teams after signoff (to be stored for the entirety of the season).
- 17.3.3 Officiating umpires must record an official report with the names of any Players shown a yellow or red card during the game. This report must be submitted to the direct attention of the Umpire Co-Ordinator or Board Administrator within 72 hours.

17.4 AFLMWA match day Requirements

- 17.4.1 The Board shall, no later than the March board meeting of playing year, arrange the Fixtures to be played by the Clubs during the ensuing season.
- 17.4.2 The Board shall appoint Umpires for each Metropolitan match. Umpires are supplied for Country matches by each team competing in those matches.
- 17.4.3 On completion of the Official Team Sheet at the first fixture on any given game day, AFLMWA will deem that the inspection of the ground and ancillary equipment has been completed by the appointed host club representative and that the said ground and equipment has met with the aforementioned representative's approval.

17.5 Match Day requirements for Metropolitan and Country Carnivals

- 17.5.1 17.5.1 AFLMWA will provide persons adequately trained in First Aid at Metropolitan Carnivals however, the Board encourages all Clubs to provide adequate room and facilities for those practicing first aid at the Carnivals and where possible additional suitably trained personnel to assist. Where Carnivals are held in country locations it falls to the host Club to make similar arrangements.
- 17.5.2 AFLMWA will ensure that Defibrillators are on hand with suitably trained and qualified first aid personnel at each Carnival present.

18 THE LAWS OF THE GAME FOR AFLMWA MATCHES

This rule sets out the laws of the game as they apply to AFLMWA competitions. All matches shall be conducted under the Laws of Australian Football 2017 as updated, but have been modified as set out below.

18.1 Match time

All matches are to be played over four quarters of 13 minutes including stoppages with no time on added.

18.2 Scoring

Scores are not kept in any WA Masters fixtures and therefore are not required to be recorded on team sheets. Scoring may be permitted in specific circumstances if formally requested and subsequently approved by the WA Masters Board.

18.3 Number of Players in each team

If excess Players are found to be on the field by the umpire, then the offending team is to remove those excess Players from the field immediately. The Game is to continue as it would normally after the count

18.4 Rucking

18.4.1 At all times the ball shall be thrown up and not bounced.

18.4.2 A free kick shall be awarded against any ruckman who raises his knee or leg against his opponent when contesting any ruck knock.

18.5 Marking

The Player in front of the pack competing for a mark is to be given every protection and opportunity to take the mark. Any unnecessary or deliberate interference by an opposition Player in attempting to mark or prevent the Player in front of the pack from taking the mark shall result in a kick being awarded to the Player in front of the pack. This interference includes but is not limited to taking the form of a knee or boot being put into a player's body and does not include punching or spoiling the ball.

18.6 Protection of the Player

A Charge (shirt front) is banned irrespective of ball proximity.

18.7 Penalties

50-metre penalty – If an extra penalty is to be applied to a team after an opposition player takes a mark or is awarded a free kick, a 50-metre penalty shall be applied and not 25m or any other distance.

18.8 Number of Players on the field

If the full complement of Players for a team cannot be filled, both sides must start the game with an equal number of Players on the field. Should the number of on-field Players be reduced due to injury or red card infringements during the game, both teams must maintain equal numbers. Where possible, clubs are encouraged to utilise the "Even Up" rule.

18.9 Use of Yellow and Red Cards

In the event of a Red or Yellow card being issued, the following should occur:

18.9.1 The umpire will inform the offender the reason for the order off and record the type of offence in their notebook

18.9.2 Clearly indicate to a Club official what type of offence occurred by holding the appropriate Yellow or Red card vertically with one hand and directing the offender to leave the field by pointing to the nearest boundary point with an outstretched arm. The offender shall leave the field immediately and proceed directly to the interchange

area. The Club official shall then acknowledge the field umpire's action and shall monitor any playing time penalty accordingly.

- 18.9.3** If a player is shown a yellow card, that player is unable to take further part in the remainder of the quarter that the offence was committed in and the entire next quarter. If the offence was committed in a break of quarters, the player will be unable to take part in the next quarter. There is no carry over to the next fixture if an offence is committed in the 4th quarter of a game.
- 18.9.4** If a player is shown a red card, that player is unable to take any further part in the game and the incident may be referred to the Community Football Tribunal.
- 18.9.5** The umpire will award a free kick against the offending Player or official at the spot where the offence occurred, or where the ball is at the time, or where the ball is deemed to be at the time, whichever would be the greater penalty for the offending team.
- 18.9.6** After the match, the field umpire shall record on the match report, the name and number of the offender and whether a Yellow or Red card offence was committed.

18.10 Boundary Umpires

18.10.1 If there is no boundary umpire, the central umpire will adopt the "last touch rule" whereby the last player to touch the ball has a free kick paid against them. If not obvious, the field umpire may elect to have a ball up ball, 10 metres in from where the ball went out.

18.10.2 Centre Square Rules to operate if boundary Umpires are available.

18.11 Negative Tactics

- 18.11.1** No Player is to impede the path, touch or harass an opposition Player when the ball is outside 5 metres.
- 18.11.2** When any such act of harassment occurs one of the field umpires must immediately give a free kick
- 18.11.3** This free kick is to be given, even if it is by the second umpire who is not in control.
- 18.11.4** The free kick shall not disadvantage the team offended against.
- 18.11.5** If the Player repeats the act of harassment, that Player is to be carded according to the severity of the incident.
- 18.11.6** The report shall be for misconduct, in that the Player committed a breach of the laws against an opponent in a deliberate and/or violent manner.
- 18.11.7** Goal/Boundary umpires are instructed that they are to inform field umpires at the next appropriate break in play (after a score, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ time), when these tactics are noticed by them.

18.12 PLAYERS AGED 50 OR OVER

- 18.12.2** Players aged 50 or older on the day of the match played may choose to involve themselves in limited physical contact and shall be identified with a unique jumper as outlined in the Uniform Policy. Players wearing an identifying jumper:
- 18.12.3** Are not to be tackled and instead must be corralled. Once corralled, the field umpire will treat this as a tackle and the player must immediately try to dispose of the football.
- 18.12.4** May be bumped but not with enough force to knock the player to the ground, on or off the ball.

18.12.5 May not have the ball knocked or chopped out of their hands while attempting disposal

19. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AND OTHER CARNIVALS

- 19.1** AFLMWA players and clubs may take part in Carnivals outside of AFLMWA sanctioned games subject to having sufficient player numbers and to receiving and accepting an invitation to field a team or teams by the appropriate governing bodies.
- 19.2** All Players registered with AFLMWA are eligible to make application to take part in the Australian National Carnivals subject to completing an online application and accepting without exception all terms and conditions outlined on relevant registration forms (including the Carnival Code of Conduct) and paying the costs determined by the National Board and also AFLMWA.
- 19.3** Players who have registered their interest for a National Carnival who have not paid their fees in full and in advance of the due date may, at the discretion of the WA Masters Board, be deemed to have not completed their registration and will not be eligible to play.
- 19.4** To register and be an eligible player for selection in a WA representative team, a Player must be a current registered Player of an AFLMWA Club and have played a minimum of three rounds (not games) during the season to which that selection applies.
- 19.5** The maximum number of players per team will be decided by the governing body of the competition, not AFLMWA.
- 19.6** The coach of a representative side is to be selected by a sub-committee or panel appointed by the AFLMWA Board. The AFLMWA Board must also endorse the selection panel's choice.
- 19.7** Players selected to represent WA must wear the playing uniform and appropriate apparel as required by AFLMWA which will display the state colours of gold and black and show the AFLMWA Logo and WAFC Logo and other insignia as stipulated by AFLMWA.

SECTION 5: TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES

20 INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

20.1 The Tribunal Guidelines are adopted by AFLMWA to provide clubs, players and officials with clear guidelines for those who commit reportable offences and the span of the Tribunal Guidelines covers all Players & Team Officials in AFLMWA

21 PROCESS

21.1 Report

The Board Administrator will assess all reports and referrals of potential Reportable Offences. Reportable Offences are reported as follows:

- 21.1.1 Notice of Report:** May be lodged by an officiating Umpire or an Umpire Coach.
- 21.1.2 Referral:** May be lodged by a Match Day Official or AFLMWA Board Member.
- 21.1.3** All Notice of Reports & Referrals are to be submitted by 12pm Monday after the match is played.
- 21.1.4** The Board Administrator will gather the required information relevant to making a decision on whether a charge is made.

21.2 Determination of type of offence and appropriate charge

21.2.1 Following the review of each report or referral, the Board Administrator will determine whether the charge is appropriate and alter the charge if required. There are three types of Reportable Offences:

- A low-level offence
- A classifiable offence
- A direct to tribunal offence (referred directly to the community football tribunal)

21.2.2 The Board Administrator will inform the player and their club president if a reported or referred player has been charged and the corresponding base sanction for that charge by 5pm Monday after the match is played (or next working day in the event of a Public Holiday).

21.3 Options available to the player or official charged with a reportable offence

21.3.1 A player or official charged with a Reportable Offence may either:

- Submit an early guilty plea, in which case the relevant sanction for the Reportable Offence will apply.
- Contest a charge at the Community Football Tribunal using evidence to show they are not guilty of the classifiable offence or guilty of a lesser charge.

21.3.1 The player or official charged must submit their Option by 12pm Tuesday after the match is played.

21.4 Tribunal Hearing

21.4.1 The tribunal will hear a charge for which a Player or Official had pleaded not guilty or has pleaded guilty to a lesser charge. The tribunal may find the Player or Official guilty of the original charge, a lesser charge or not guilty of any charge. The tribunal will determine the appropriate sanction within the Standard Range of Penalties for the Reportable Offence if it finds the player guilty of a Reportable Offence.

21.4.2 Umpires or Victims may provide evidence prior to the Tribunal hearings however must be available to be contacted by the Tribunal Chairman during the hearing period if required.

21.4.3 Players, Officials and Umpires are permitted to be accompanied by an advocate however this advocate may not be a legal practitioner. An advocate will only be permitted to provide evidence on the Player, Official or Umpires behalf.

21.4.4 The Community Football Tribunal will operate within the Community Football Tribunal Guidelines

21.5 Appeal Hearing

21.5.1 A player or official may decide to appeal the decision of the Tribunal to the Community Football Appeal Board based on the severity of the sentence provided being unreasonable. All appeal lodgements must include new evidence that illustrates that the penalty was unreasonable accompanied by \$250 non-refundable fee.

21.5.2 The AFLMWA Board also reserves the right to appeal decisions of the Tribunal to the Community Football Appeal Board based on the severity of the sentence provided being unreasonable.

21.5.3 The Community Football Appeals Board will operate within the Community Football Tribunal Guidelines

22 REPORTABLE OFFENCES

A reportable offence occurs where a Player or Official commits any of the offences set out in Law 19.2.2 of the Laws of Australian Football. Broadly speaking there are three categories of Reportable Offences

22.1 Low Level Offences

The following are low-level offences which do not require classification however may be addressed by Field Umpires directly or the Board Administrator (after consultation with the Field Umpire(s)) through issuing of a Yellow or Red Card. In the case of a red card, the player will receive an automatic 1 match suspension.

If relevant an appropriate evidence is present, the AFLMWA Board has the powers to:

- i. Issue Yellow & Red Cards
- ii. Upgrade a Yellow Card to a Red Card
- iii. Downgrade a Red Card

Low Level Offences cannot be taken to the Community Football Tribunal:

- | | |
|--|---|
| i. Attempt to strike, kick or trip | x. Wrestling |
| ii. Careless contact with an umpire | xi. Obscene gesture |
| iii. Spitting at another player | xii. Disputing decision |
| iv. Melee | xiii. Pinching |
| v. Staging | xiv. Interfering with Player kicking for goal |
| vi. Making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with an injured Player | xv. Not leaving playing surface |
| vii. Using abusive, insulting, or obscene language | xvi. Shaking goal post |
| viii. Time wasting | xvii. Prohibited boots, jewelry, equipment |
| ix. Throwing or pushing a Player after that Player has taken a mark, disposed of the ball or after the ball is out of play | xviii. Any other act of low-level misconduct which is not a Classifiable Offence or Direct Tribunal Offence |

22.2 Classifiable Offences

List of Classifiable Offences

The following offences are Reportable Offences that are graded by Field Umpires directly or the Board Administrator (after consultation with the Field Umpire) to determine an appropriate base sanction:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| i. Striking | viii. Headbutt or contact using head |
| ii. Kicking | ix. Eye-gouging/unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the eye region |
| iii. Kneeing | x. Unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face |
| iv. Stomping | xi. Scratching |
| v. Charging | xii. Tripping |
| vi. Rough Conduct | |
| vii. Forceful front on contact | |

Grading of Classifiable Offences

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction
Intentional	Severe	All	Tribunal
	High	High/Groin	Tribunal
		Body	Tribunal
	Medium	High/Groin	3 Matches
		Body	2 Matches
	Low	High/Groin	2 Matches
		Body	1 Match
	Careless	Severe	All
High		High/Groin	3 Matches
		Body	2 Matches
Medium		High/Groin	2 Matches
		Body	1 Match
Low		High/Groin	1 Match
		Body	1 Match

As indicated in the table above, the determination of a base sanction for a Classifiable Offence will be made based on an assessment of whether:

1. The conduct is Intentional or Careless
2. The impact is Severe, High, Medium or Low; and
3. The Contact with the other Player/Official is High/Groin or to the Body

22.3 Direct to Tribunal Offences

List of Direct to Tribunal Offences

The following offences are Reportable Offences that are sent directly to the Community Football Tribunal to determine an appropriate penalty within the Standard Range of Penalties:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Intentional contact with an umpire ii. Striking an umpire iii. Spitting on or at an umpire iv. Spitting on another person v. Attempting to strike an umpire vi. Instigator of a Melee vii. Biting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> viii. Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire ix. Any classifiable offence which attracts a base sanction that AFLMWA finds inappropriate x. Any other act of serious misconduct which AFLMWA considers appropriate to send to the Community Football Tribunal. |
|--|--|

The Community Football Tribunal will determine the appropriate sanction for a Direct to Tribunal offence within the Standard Range of Penalties.

STANDARD RANGE OF PENALTIES

Offence	First Offence	Second Offence
Striking	2-10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Kicking	2-10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Kneeing	2-10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Stomping	2-10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Charging	2-10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Rough Conduct	2-10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Forceful front on contact	2-10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Headbutt, biting or contact using head	2-10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Eye-gouging/unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the eye region	2-10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face	1-5 weeks	2-10 weeks
Scratching	1-5 weeks	2-10 weeks
Tripping	2-10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Intentional contact with an umpire	4 weeks – 2 years	Life Ban
Striking an umpire	2 years – 10 years	Life Ban
Spitting on or at an umpire	1 year – 5 years	Life Ban
Spitting on another person	2 – 10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Attempting to strike an umpire	1 year – 5 years	Life Ban
Instigator of a Melee	2 – 10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks
Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire	2 - 10 weeks	4 – 20 weeks

SECTION 6: APPENDICIES

APPENDIX 1: Policies

HEAT POLICY

The Heat Policy aims to minimise any potential heat injuries of Players, umpires and Club officials.

Players / Umpires

- Ensure adequate fluid intake prior to game and during game (500-700mls per quarter).
- Use water and electrolyte drinks.
- Apply 50+ sunscreen in sunny conditions.

Coaches

- Rotate Players, especially running Players, through interchange bench.

Clubs

- Use cooling aids – ice vests, spray bottles, sponges, fans (in rooms and on interchange bench)
- Choose heat permeable jumpers and socks.
- Provide adequate fluids in appropriate bottles.
- Ensure trainers are fit enough to access as many Players as possible during the game.
- Include additional Player to squad.

Medical

- Do not play Players suffering from a febrile illness, vomiting or diarrhea.

AFLMWA

- Schedule games to avoid hot conditions where possible
- Increase the number of water runners to run fluids in high risk conditions (extra three)
- Increase the length of intervals to enable teams to leave the field for the shade of the rooms at each change in higher risk conditions i.e. 25 minutes for $\frac{1}{2}$ time and/or 10 minutes for $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ time.
- Provide extra field and boundary Umpires
- Reduce length of quarters
- Consider postponing or rescheduling games in extreme risk conditions.

CONCUSSION POLICY

In the best practice management of concussion in sport, the critical element remains the welfare of the Player, both in the short and long term. Concussion refers to a disturbance in brain function that results from trauma to the brain. The changes are temporary, and most Players recover completely if managed correctly. The key components of management of concussion are:

- a) Suspecting the diagnosis in any Player with symptoms such as confusion or headache after a knock to the head;
- b) Referring the Player for medical evaluation; and
- c) Ensuring the Player has received medical clearance before allowing them to return to a graded training program.

A Player suspected of having suffered a head injury/concussion or is knocked unconscious shall:

- i. Be assessed by any member of the team's support personnel using the Pocket Concussion Recognition Tool (CRT), preferably within 10 minutes of the incident.
- ii. Use of the Pocket (CRT) requires NO medical training.

Any Player who FAILS the Pocket CRT assessment:

- i. Is not permitted to return to the playing surface.
- ii. Shall have their names notified to the field Umpires, who will record the Player's name in the match report, which is then submitted to AFLMWA

A Player whose name is submitted to AFLMWA as having FAILED the Pocket CRT is NOT permitted to play in the competition until his Club receives a Medical Certification clearing him to play.

A Player who suffers a concussion should on the day of the match:

- i. NOT consume alcohol and keep well hydrated.
- ii. NOT drive a motor vehicle.
- iii. NOT be left alone, and be woken every 2-3 hours during the night to ensure they are well.

Seek IMMEDIATE medical attention if they:

- i. Are unconscious for more than 5 minutes.
- ii. Develop visual disturbance.
- iii. Are confused.
- iv. Develop nausea/vomiting.
- v. Have a headache not responding to Paracetamol or Ibuprofen.

Pocket SCAT2



Concussion should be suspected in the presence of **any one or more** of the following: symptoms (such as headache), or physical signs (such as unsteadiness), or impaired brain function (e.g. confusion) or abnormal behaviour.

1. Symptoms

Presence of any of the following signs & symptoms may suggest a concussion.

- Loss of consciousness
- Seizure or convulsion
- Amnesia
- Headache
- "Pressure in head"
- Neck Pain
- Nausea or vomiting
- Dizziness
- Blurred vision
- Balance problems
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling slowed down
- Feeling like "in a fog"
- "Don't feel right"
- Difficulty concentrating
- Difficulty remembering
- Fatigue or low energy
- Confusion
- Drowsiness
- More emotional
- Irritability
- Sadness
- Nervous or anxious

2. Memory function

Failure to answer all questions correctly may suggest a concussion.

"At what venue are we at today?"

"Which half is it now?"

"Who scored last in this game?"

"What team did you play last week / game?"

"Did your team win the last game?"

3. Balance testing

Instructions for tandem stance

"Now stand heel-to-toe with your non-dominant foot in back. Your weight should be evenly distributed across both feet. You should try to maintain stability for 20 seconds with your hands on your hips and your eyes closed. I will be counting the number of times you move out of this position. If you stumble out of this position, open your eyes and return to the start position and continue balancing. I will start timing when you are set and have closed your eyes."

Observe the athlete for 20 seconds. If they make more than 5 errors (such as lift their hands off their hips; open their eyes; lift their forefoot or heel; step, stumble, or fall; or remain out of the start position for more than 5 seconds) then this may suggest a concussion.

Any athlete with a suspected concussion should be IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM PLAY, urgently assessed medically, should not be left alone and should not drive a motor vehicle.

RACISM AND VILIFICATION POLICY

AFLMWA acknowledges the diversity of its members, officials and Players and accepts it has a responsibility to promote positive and constructive relations between all groups within AFLMWA. AFLMWA undertakes to actively promote a management and social environment that engenders mutual respect and cultural sensitivity between members, officials and Players of all affiliated Clubs.

No Player in his capacity as a Player of a Club or, in the course of carrying out his duties or functions as or incidental to a Player of a Club or any Director, Officer, Servant or agent of a Club (including without limitation any coach, assistant coach, trainer, medical officer, runner or person entitled to enter the arena during the course of or prior to or during a break in play in any match) shall act towards or speak to any other person in a manner, or engage in any other conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person (“the person vilified”) on the basis of that person’s race, religion, colour, ethnic descent or national or ethnic origin, sexual preference, orientation or identity, special ability or disability. The scope of this rule does not exclude incidents off the playing arena.

If it is alleged that a person has contravened this Policy, an Umpire, Club or Player may, by 5.00 pm on the first working day following the day on which the contravention is alleged to have occurred, lodge a complaint in writing to AFLMWA.

AFLMWA will put in place a conciliation meeting and the Clubs and individuals concerned. This process must be within three (3) working days of the incident., private and no public statement can be made by the Clubs, Players or any representative involved.

The Tribunal will hear the evidence at the conciliation meeting and can:

- i. Determine that there is no case to answer.
- ii. Mediate and assist in resolving the issue.
- iii. Refer the case to the Tribunal

If the matter is referred to the Tribunal and the person is found guilty the following guidelines are used for penalty:

1st Offence	Player (or other person) to be suspended for a minimum of three (3) playing dates.
2nd Offence	Player (or other person) to be suspended for a minimum of six (6) playing dates.
3rd Offence	Player (or other person) to have his registration revoked to participate in the competition and must make written application to AFLMWA to have his registration re-instated.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Any Player or official who is found to have engaged in, or is suspected of engaging in the unacceptable use of E-mail, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or any other social networking site, including blogs, regarding AFLMWA in any way, may be dealt with by AFLMWA as it deems fit, notwithstanding the behaviour did not occur on the playing field.

A breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including deregistration of Player/s. Individuals should also be aware that any breach of this policy may also be subject to or result in civil and/or criminal proceedings.

Without limiting the operation of this by-law, unacceptable use may involve the Player or official

- Criticising umpires, Players or any other person involved in AFLMWA
- Engaging in bullying behavior including but not limited to name-calling or making condescending, offensive (including racist or sexist) or abusive remarks about any person
- Use of AFLMWA Logos without approval of the Board of Management
- Damaging the reputation of AFLMWA, the Board of Management, sponsors or the relationship between AFLMWA and its stakeholders
- Disclosing confidential or privileged information about AFLMWA, the Board of Management or stakeholders; or
- Engaging in any other behavior which AFLMWA reasonably determines, in its absolute discretion, to have breached this policy.

It is not relevant that the Player or official making the remarks was not aware that the content could or would be made publicly available.

All Players and officials are personally responsible for their actions and words when using social media.

Players and officials should be aware that they may be identified by other users as being associated with AFLMWA when participating in social media for personal use, even if they haven't explicitly identified themselves as being so.

Individuals should not rely on a site's security settings as being a guarantee of privacy as information may be shared and reposted in less secure settings.

When using social media, individuals may notice inappropriate content relating to AFLMWA. The Board would like to be alerted to inappropriate content to enable it to correct misinformation or provide further information or relevant context where appropriate.

UNIFORM POLICY

This Policy relates to the use of logos, colours and design of each playing uniform used in the Competition.

Every Club, upon admission to AFLMWA, must apply for and obtain permission from the Board to use the colours, uniform and design under which the Club proposes to play and the same, when approved by AFLMWA, shall be registered by AFLMWA.

Any Club desiring to vary or alter its colours, uniform or design must first apply for and obtain permission of the Board of Management to make such a variation or alternation, provided always that notice of such change of colours or design is given to AFLMWA not later than the date of the final Board meeting in the year preceding the year in which such change is to be affected.

No Player shall take part in a match unless he wears the Clubs official uniform or is given permission by the opposing club wear an alternative uniform. The exception to this rule is that any player over the age of 50 may wear a club jumper or similar that are unique to other playing uniforms in use to identify the player's age in contests and allow players to adjust play accordingly as per Rule "Players Aged 50 and Over".

No Player shall take part in a match without wearing satisfactory footwear. The field umpire must be satisfied that such footwear does not constitute a danger or increase the risk of injury to the Player or to other players competing in the match.

All member Clubs are required to display on both on and off-field apparel such logos that are from time to time deemed necessary by the Board. The display of the AFL Masters logo is mandatory on all Member Clubs on field Jumpers in conjunction with the WAFC logo.

Special requests for one-off or special event, on-field uniforms can be approved at the discretion of the WA Masters Board if formally submitted and approved.