



## Competition Rules and Bylaws Amendments Summary 2007

### Introduction

The following document highlights changes to the 2006 Competition Rules and Bylaws where any such change has a material effect on the rules. It is intended that this document be used as an addendum to the 2007 AFL GSJ Competition Rules and By-Laws Document.

Reference to any Regional Variations are covered in Appendix 4 of the Bylaws document for 2007.

Where changes to a rule are deemed substantial not only in relation to content the full new wording is provided in this document. . Alternatively minor changes to an existing rule are shown with the changes indicated by bold typeface.

There are areas of global changes i.e. where a number of rules effected, as below:

- Match Ratio now replaces match points (now game wins) in all parts of the document
- **HOST Club is now defined as** - First named Club or team in the fixture, by default the Home Club. Where a Home club is not the Host club, agreement on match day responsibilities is to be pre- agreed between each prior to the match. Where appropriate refer to Regional variations

### 2. Competitions

2.2 Match wins in minor round matches:

- Match ratio will be used as the sole method of determining ladder position.
- Match ratio is determined by dividing the number wins by the number of games played.
- In the case of a draw, this is determined as half (0.5) of a win and this calculation is used when determining match ratio
- If a scheduled round is not played, the team with the bye in that round does NOT receive a match win.

2.3 In the case of a forfeit win, the forfeiting team will be awarded the lowest points for and the highest points against scored in the round in their age group (Mercy Rule to apply). The non-forfeiting team will be awarded the highest points for and the lowest points against scored in the round in their age group (Mercy Rule to apply). Ladders will be adjusted accordingly.

### 3. Laws of the Game

3.2 Synthetic footballs may be used in the event of wet weather as determined by the Match Umpire however the preference is to use leather footballs in all weather conditions.

### 5. Boundary Umpires and Goal Umpires

5.5 In the case that a team does not provide suitable Boundary Umpires, a member of that team will be responsible for throwing in the ball on the non-umpired side of the ground. In the case whether neither provides a boundary umpire the attacking side will throw the ball in. **For the first and second offences of a team not providing a boundary umpire, this will be noted on the appropriate paperwork. Upon the third offence, a fifty dollars (\$50) fine will be issued.**

### 7. Reporting, Prescribed offences and Disciplinary Procedures

The following is the procedure to be followed for ALL reports made by an umpire on match days. Note that this is only for actual reports and that scope will still exist to comment on other issues (send offs, warnings etc) on the match report document.

7.1 This Rule prescribes the procedures for the lodgement and notification of Notices of Report, pertaining to a Reportable Offence as identified under Law 19 of the 2007 Laws of Australian Football, as well as Prescribed Offences.

7.2.1 For the following Prescribed Offences, the reporting Umpire may, using discretion, utilise the Prescribed

Offences procedure.

#### Prescribed Match suspension – One Match

- Wilfully wasting time.
- Unduly interfering with a player whilst such player is kicking for goal.
- Disputing the decision of the Umpire.
- Using abusive, threatening or insulting language.
- Shaking a goal post.
- Throwing an opponent.
- Violently pushing an opponent.
- Attempting to trip by foot or leg.
- Attempting to strike a player.
- Unduly rough play.
- Refusing to leave the ground after being warned for not wearing the proper uniform.
- Wearing unacceptable equipment.

#### Prescribed Match suspension – Two Matches

- Intentionally trip by foot or leg.
- Striking a player.
- Charging an opponent.
- Failing to leave the ground when ordered off (misconduct).

7.2.2 For the purposes of this Rule 7, a 'match' shall include any representative and officially sanctioned AFL match (if applicable) as well as any competition match as the one match, and shall also include as the one match the matches played in all grades in a particular round for which the player would, but for the suspension be eligible, whether played on the one day or not.

7.2.3 The suspension shall take effect from and include the next competition match, as well as any representative and officially sanctioned AFL match (if applicable) following the game the subject of suspension for which the player would, but for the suspension, be eligible.

7.2.4 Competition games which are forfeited, washed out or for any other reason not played shall not be counted for the purpose of reckoning a period of suspension .

7.2.5 In the event of a dispute as to the games covered by a suspension, the dispute is to be referred to AFL (NSW/ACT) for determination

7.3 The Player may, through the Club President, request that the Prescribed Offence report be dealt with by the Tribunal, rather than as a Prescribed Offence. Such request is to be received by the AFLGSJ by no later than 5pm on the Monday following the match. The AFLGSJ will inform the Regional Committee President and the Tribunal Chairman of the request and the Tribunal will hear and determine the Report.

7.4 The AFLGSJ may, in its discretion, refer the Umpire's Prescribed Offence report to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President of the reported Player, the Regional Committee President and the Tribunal Chairman, by no later than 5pm on the Monday following the match. Where it so refers the Umpire's Prescribed Offence report to the Tribunal, it shall do so by informing the Club President of the reported Player.

7.5 The AFLGSJ shall refer the Umpire's Prescribed Offence report to the Tribunal if the reported Player has been previously found guilty by the Tribunal or has had a match suspension by way of a Prescribed Offence imposed in either the current or preceding season. Where it so refers the Umpire's Prescribed Offence report to the Tribunal, it shall do so by informing the Club President of the reported Player.

7.6 In all cases the Tribunal will hear and determine the Notice of Report where a Player:

- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an umpire.
- Attempts to make contact with or strike an umpire.
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards, or in relation to an umpire.
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person.
- Commits an act of misconduct where the umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.

#### 7.7 Action during Match

(a) Where an Umpire reports a Player or Official during the course of a Match, the Umpire shall use best

endeavours to inform the Player or Official of the report:

- (i) at the time of the incident;
- (ii) before the commencement of the next quarter; or,
- (iii) where the incident occurs in the final quarter, after the completion of the Match.

(b) The Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the Player or Official against whom a reportable offence has been committed of the Report.

(c) An Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or an official of a Team of the report where it is impracticable to inform the Player or Official who has been reported.

(d) Apart from informing a Player or Official of the report, an Umpire shall not speak with the reported Player or Official or any other Player or Official about a Report which has been made.

#### 7.8 Completing Notice of Report

As soon as practicable after the completion of the match, the reporting Umpire shall:

(a) Complete a Notice of Report, in quadruplicate, using the current AFL NSW/ACT form as supplied by the Board, clearly indicating if a Prescribed Offence has been imposed.

(b) Cause a copy of the Notice of Report, through the Ground Manager, to be given to an official from each team. Each team shall be responsible for the attendance of an official at the end of the match in question in order to receive such Notice and to be given an "all clear" from the Ground Manager. In the event of no such official attending, the Reporting Umpire shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Rule.

(c) Retain the quadruplicate copy of the Notice and give the original Notice of Report to the Ground Manager for action as set out elsewhere in this Rule.

#### 7.9 Lodgement of Notice of Report

Following receipt of a completed and submitted Notice of Report, the Ground Manager shall:

(a) Forward an electronic copy of the original Notice by email as a scanned attachment, or via facsimile, to the Regional Committee nominee (refer separate advice) and the AFLGSJ Administration Office, by 1.00pm on the next working day following the Match in question.

(b) Verbally advise the Umpires Coordinator as soon as possible after the game of the receipt of a Notice of Report.

7.10 The reporting of other matters provided for on the reverse of the Umpire Match Report form (AFLGSJ12) is to be in accordance with AFLGSJ regulations, issued by the Board from time to time, which refer to the processing of match-day paperwork.

7.11 Where a Player is sent off but the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report or utilized the Prescribed Offences procedure for the Player, the AFLGSJ may refer the Player to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President of the reported Player, the Regional Committee President and the Tribunal Chairman, by no later than 5pm on the Monday following the match.

7.12 This Rule applies where a Player is sent off twice or more in a season, but the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report or utilized the Prescribed Offences procedure for the Player in each sending off. Following the Player being sent off for the second time, the Player will automatically receive a one week playing suspension. The AFLGSJ will inform the Club President of the Player, the Regional Committee Present and the Tribunal Chairman by no later than 5:00 pm on the Monday following the match of the suspension. If the Player is sent off a third or further time during the season, the AFLGSJ will refer the Player to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President of the reported Player, the Regional Committee President and the Tribunal Chairman, by no later than 5pm on the Monday following the match of the referral.

7.13 The Tribunal shall be comprised of such persons as may be appointed by the Board or Regional Committee and shall enquire into reports by umpires of any player or official of any team participating in a match being conducted by or under the control of AFLGSJ.

7.14 Specific Disciplinary Procedures (Tribunal Rules) and Tribunal Guidelines (to assist in understanding rules and procedures) documents are available on the AFLGSJ website.

## 7.15 Reports on Players (Modified Rules)

Players reported in the Under 9's to Under 12's age groups will have their case adjudicated by a committee of their club comprising the Club President, Football Manager and Coach plus the Regional Umpire Co-ordinator . Where appropriate, the player will be disciplined by his/her club. The hearing is to be held within 5 days of the report . If a decision is not agreed by the group the matter is to be referred to the Regional Committee. The club will provide to the Administration Officer in writing (or electronically), a statement of the outcome of the report and any action taken within two (2) weeks of the report. Failure to do so may incur a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) and/or loss of points as determined by the Regional Committee

## 8. Teams

8.1.3 Splitting of teams must be determined before competition commences and can not occur during the season. Division of players in to two (2) teams is a club responsibility. The Board can provide guidelines only.

### 8.5 Team Nominations

Clubs nominating teams for entry into the Under 9's to Under 16's competition must have registered at least 75% of the minimum number of players (as set out in these Competition Rules and Bylaws) in that team by the date set down by the Regional Committee as the closing date for nomination of teams. **This rule only applies to AFLGSJ competition grade fixtures.**

8.7 Clubs should assess females playing in an older age group on a case by case basis. Refer to AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission policy if guidance is required.

## 9. Match Conduct

9.1.2 Late commencement of games **will** incur a forfeit if minimum players are not present fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time of commencement.

9.1.11 No time-on will be allowed for the MINOR round matches.

## 10. Protests and Disputes

10.1.1 Reports as above are to be signed by the Secretary of the reporting club and forwarded to the Regional Committee accompanied by a **one hundred dollars (\$100.00)** refundable (at the Regional Committee's discretion) deposit to reach the Administration Officer by 5:00pm of the Monday following the incident. A copy is also to be sent to the Secretary/President of the club, against whose member(s) the report is made. The Administration Officer will immediately arrange a meeting of the Regional Committee to consider the report.

10.1.2 Any player, official or club who feels aggrieved by any decision resulting from the enforcement of these rules may appeal. Such appeals must be lodged within three (3) days in writing and accompanied by a refundable (at the Board's discretion) deposit of **one hundred dollars (\$100.00)** and must set out the grounds of the appeal and include any evidence to substantiate that appeal.

## 11. Postponements

11.6 Where advice of a ground closure is received by 8:00 pm on the Thursday evening before the scheduled game(s), the Regional Committee will attempt to reschedule the game(s) to an alternate venue within the round. Clubs will be notified of the venue change and normal competition procedures shall apply. i.e. If one team does not arrive, then a forfeit win will be given.

11.9 Where a Local Government policy on ground usage requires the governing body/association and not an individual club (host) to adjudicate on and to administer matters of grounds being suitable for play, the Regional Committee may recommend to the Board for its approval a supplementary process for dealing with the issue of Postponement's and cancellations.

## 12. Allowed on the Field of Play

12.4 In Auskick & Modified rules games one coach from each team may advise the team from inside the field of play as per **Appendix 3 of these** rules.

**13. Send Off/Order Off** (in this rule any reference to 15 minutes is replaced by "for a period of time equivalent to one quarter"

## 15. Forfeits

15.1 A forfeit **WILL** be claimed against any team that CANNOT field the MINIMUM NUMBER of players for the relevant age group in accordance with rule 8.4 within fifteen (15) minutes after the agreed starting time. **If both**

**teams cannot field the minimum number, the result is a non-game.** Forfeit details must be listed on the team sheets with the umpire's signature. The teams may play a social match within the remaining allotted time.

15.2 Any forfeit must be advised to the Administration Officer, the opposing Club's Secretary and the Regional Umpire Coordinator before 8:00pm THURSDAY prior to the match day. If an umpire turns up to a game, because of late or non-notification of a forfeit, the forfeiting team is liable for the whole amount of the umpire's fees **and shared equally in the case of a double forfeit** unless a scratch match/social match is played.

## 16. Finals Series

16.1.2 In the event of a draw, additional time to be played for all age groups is five (5) minutes each way. The coach will be allowed to address their team during a three (3) minute break after the final siren. Where relevant, it is optional for teams to change zones at this point, noting no further changes can be made. The coach will not be able to address the team and sides will change ends at the conclusion of the first five (5) minute period.

If the game is still tied after additional time, teams do not change ends and the game restarts with a centre ball up. The coach will not be able to address the team. The team to score first will be declared the winner.

## 16.3 Eligibility

Any variation on the following is at the discretion of the Board in extenuating circumstances (for example, injury, illness, reduced games played due to forfeit or cancellation).

16.3.1 To play in finals, players' registrations must have been approved and they must have played at least five (5) games during that season within the age group that they wish to play. During the season, forfeits nominated on the day of the **match and washed out games** will be counted as games played.

16.3.2 In respect to all competitions (including Under 18's competition) any player who plays more games in an older age group than in a lower age group is ineligible for the finals in the younger age group.

## 18. Club Game Responsibilities

To mail all match day paperwork to the Administration Officer so as to be received no later than **Wednesday** following the match day.

## 23. Finance

23.1.3 If any club is in arrears to AFLGSJ or AFL (NSW/ACT) for a period of sixty (60) days or more, that club shall be ineligible for any match wins earned by any team from that club whilst that club is in arrears. Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Board may at its discretion, place a club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered to be financial with the League provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

B. Amend wording to - The case must be heard prior to the next scheduled competition match and the club must provide to the Regional Committee for review a statement of the outcome of the report and actions proposed at least 48 hours prior to the next scheduled competition match. This eliminates the chance of the player playing (influencing a game result) if potentially guilty of the charge.