



# By-Laws 2023



FOOTBALL COMMISSION INC.

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

### 1 RULES AND REGULATIONS

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 no longer suited to playing competitive, modified, full contact football.
- 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 the By-Laws 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 the AFLMWA Board 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.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

'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](http://www.aflmasterswa.com.au)

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

"Board" means the AFLMWA Board as per the current Constitution.

'Board Administrator' means the person contracted to AFLMWA to administer the competition pursuant to these Rules.

'Coach' means a currently accredited person, registered via coach.afl website 'Constitution' means the Constitution of AFLMWA Inc.

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

'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.

'On field official' means an umpire, coach, trainer, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid officer, runner, water carrier. '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.

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

"Spectator" means any person who attends an official AFLMWA game day or official WA State training session

'Superules' means a Men's competition for 35 years old of age over, as at January 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 3 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, supporters and spectators are required to accept, commit to and abide by the AFLMWA Philosophy and Code of Conduct.

All Member Clubs, their players, supporters and spectators 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 decision or abuse of any umpire is unacceptable, will not be tolerated, and will result in either penalties or withdrawal of player's 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's registration and the right to play.
- All players irrespective of ability or skill are to be given equal time on the ground 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 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 their 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 ladders

All AFLMWA Member Clubs and players recognise that from time to time, more players arrive to play in a game than can take the field and that when this occurs players are to be rotated off the bench with equal playing time provided to all where possible.

## SECTION 2: COMPETITION GOVERNANCE

### 4 FIXTURED MATCHES

The board shall arrange inter-club football competitions for affiliated clubs within the association and will endeavour to have all fixtures completed and circulated with current by-laws within 7 days of the March board meeting of each year.

### 5 NON-FIXTURED MATCHES

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.

### 6 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
- Post Injury/Illness Return to Playing Policy
- Western Australian based National Carnival Selection Criteria

### 7 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 behaviour 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 endeavour 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 behaviours.
- 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 behaviours 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.
- Under no circumstances do we 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.

## **8 APPEALS**

### **8.1 APPEALS PROCESS**

Clubs and individuals 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- If circumstances prevail whereby a hearing must be heard prior to the clubs next fixtured round, the Board will make a reasonable attempt for this to occur.
- Board members will not sit on the appeals panel.
- The Appeal Panel may use its full discretion to gather and consider any relevant evidence in making its determination.
- A club attending an appeal hearing may be represented by an advocate. An advocate may not be a legal practitioner.
- The appeal panel shall not dismiss any case on grounds of technicality.
- The decision of the appeal panel must be communicated back to the club within a reasonable period after the decision has been made.
- To avoid doubt – if an individual appeals a decision, the appeal must be endorsed by a member club.

## **9 FORMS (Appendix 2)**

The following forms are available as part of these By-Laws.

- Club of the Year nomination and criteria
- Hall of Fame nomination and criteria
- Life Membership nomination and criteria
- Person of the Year nomination and criteria

## 10 CLUB FINES

- AFLMWA will maintain a fine register throughout each season and invoice Clubs as required. •
- The Board may impose the following fines on Clubs and or Individuals for breach of these Rules & Regulations.

<b>BREACH OF RULE</b>	<b>MAXIMUM PENALTY</b>
<b>10.1</b> Home Club failure to provide an UMPIRE.AFL accredited umpire – Country Clubs only.	\$200
<b>10.2</b> Failure to carry out a physical inspection of the ground/change rooms/facilities.	\$200
<b>10.3</b> Failure to display an emergency response plan.	\$200
<b>10.4</b> Failure to have a first aid kit on match day.	\$200
<b>10.5</b> Forfeiture of a game without providing the board with a minimum of 48hrs notice prior to the commencement of the fixture. ( <i>unless abiding by WA State Government Covid Protocols</i> )	\$200
<b>10.6</b> Providing an incomplete match report sheet to the umpire.	\$300
<b>10.7</b> Playing an unregistered player.	\$500
<b>10.8</b> Failure to finalise the online Team Sheet within 72 hours of the game being completed.	\$200
<b>10.9</b> Failure to provide adequate first aid at any sanctioned fixture.	\$200
<b>10.10</b> Failure to supply requested information/documentation to the Board.	\$500
<b>10.11</b> Bringing the game and/or AFLMWA into disrepute.	\$1000
<b>10.12</b> Breach of a Policy under these Rules.	\$1000
<b>10.13</b> Unauthorised or improper use of AFL Masters Logo, AFLMWA Logo or WAFC Logo.	\$1000
<b>10.14</b> Failure to display required logos, as per current sponsorship agreements directed by AFLMWA, on match apparel.	\$1000
<b>10.15</b> Failure to list a COACH.AFL accredited coach on team sheet and/or be present on game day.	\$500
<b>10.16</b> Failure of member club (Metro) to be represented at Annual General, Special General Meeting and/or Delegates meetings as directed by AFLMWA for compulsory attendance.	\$250 (Set Penalty)
<b>10.17</b> Failure of member club (Country) to be represented at Annual General, Special General Meeting and/or Delegates meetings as directed by AFLMWA for compulsory attendance	\$250 (Set Penalty)



## **11 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:

- At the end of each season each Club President may submit proposed changes to the Board by 31st December of that year.
- The Board and the Board Administrator will discuss and consider all suggested changes and may accept or reject any proposed changes at their absolute discretion.
- A summary of all proposed changes and rationale for each change will be provided to the Clubs via email notification and for download on the website prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> March of that year or as soon as is practicable.

## **SECTION 3: SEASON ADMINISTRATION**

### **12 REGISTRATION & TEAM SHEETS**

#### **12.1 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.

#### **12.2 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 most of their football with. A Type 2, Local Interchange Permit can then be requested by a club in another association for the period in which the player will be playing in both associations.

#### **12.3 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.

#### **12.4 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.

#### **12.5 – Covid-19 Related Forfeits**

Clubs that have players subject to being Covid-19 positive or requiring isolation which will result in a forfeit for the upcoming fixture are to advise the AFLMWA Administrator and AFLMWA Fixture Director immediately with such advice provided by both email and direct telephone call. Clubs that provide this advice in a timely manner will not be subject to Club Fine 10.5 and fixturing will be adjusted where possible.

### **13.1 FEES AND COSTS - CLUBS**

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.

**13.1.1** 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.

**13.1.2** Any requests outside this arrangement must be submitted in writing to the Board Administrator before the payment is due.

### **13.2 FEES AND COSTS - PLAYERS**

All players are required to ensure that all accounts are paid within 90 days of receipt into AFLMWA bank accounts nominated by the Board.

**13.2.1** Failure to do so may deem the player to be un-financial, in effect removing all membership and playing rights until the debt to AFLMWA is paid in full.

**13.2.2** Any requests outside this arrangement must be submitted in writing and approved by the Financial Director before the payment is due.

## **14 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.

### **14.1 AGE BRACKETS**

The Age Brackets of AFLMWA Metropolitan competitions are:

- Supers – 35 years and over
- Masters – 43 years and over.
- Seniors – 50 years and over
- Women's – 35 years and over.
- 'Special Exhibition Age Groups' as directed by AFLMWA

Clubs may register players of 33-35 years of age. Such players may participate in Supers or Women's matches if 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.

Players birthday that falls in the calendar year may play up into the next grade ie a player turning 43 years of age in the calendar year of 2023 is allowed to play Masters 43 years and above.

Clubs wishing to play an underage player in Masters and Seniors that is not turning the required age in the calendar year are allowed to following these points are addressed –

- Both clubs approved the player/s to play;
- One of the umpires is advised of the player/s and jumper number;
- The player(s) is identified on the club team sheet with an asterisk(\*);
- The player(s) wears a red arm band;
- The player(s) do not play in a key position ie centre, Centre Half Forward, Full back, Ruck etc;
- No more than two underage players on the ground at any time;
- The nominated player(s) are within two (2) years of the older age group; and
- By Law 20.7 Number of Players on the Field – “Even Up” rule is adhered to at all times.

#### **14.2 SPECIAL AGE EXEMPTION – MASTERS/ LADIES/ SENIORS**

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. For any player approved of a special age exemption, the club the player is playing for must notify the opposition team and umpires before the match they are participating in commences to ensure this player can be managed on game day. Players are only eligible to play in one age group above their current age group.

#### **14.2.1 SPECIAL AGE EXEMPTION – SUPERS**

As per requirements of **Rule 14.2 Special Age Exemption**, to be considered for ‘special age exemption approval’ to participate in the AFLMWA Supers competition, the player must meet the below criteria:

- Turn 33 before the end of the competition year or;
- Between 31 and 32 with medical evidence that supports their ‘extenuating circumstance’ and request for special consideration.

#### **14.2.2 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 coaches 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.

#### **14.3 WOMEN’S AGE BRACKETS**

Participants in AFLMWA Women’s matches must be aged 33 or older. AFLMWA is applying a “grandparent rule” to participants aged under 35 for the years 2021 to 2023 to increase the minimum age to be 35. See below table for specification:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Age</b>
2021	33
2022	34
2023	35

Clubs may register players of 33-35 years of age. Such players may participate matches if 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. Any club wishing to register and play a player under 33 years of age, must submit a special age exemption request as per rule 14.2 Special Age Exemption. If a female participant chooses to play in a Men’s match, both clubs participating in the match must agree and approval must be sought from the AFLMWA Board prior to taking the field. In these circumstances, the participant is encouraged to identify themselves as per conditions for **Rule 20.10 – Players Over 50**.

#### **14.4 WOMEN'S COMPETITION**

Subject to AFLMWA Board approval, the AFLMWA Women's Sub Committee will determine the competition structure, commencement date and fixtures for each season.

#### **15 NOMINATIONS**

- 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.
- The nomination criteria and nomination forms are part of these by-laws and are included as appendices. 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.
- Nominations can be submitted at any time of year, up to the December board meeting and the board will announce annual winners and successful nominees at the Hall of Fame event or an AGM/SGM of their choice. Life Membership can only be considered at a General or Special General Meeting and will be approved if a Special Resolution is passed approving the nomination.
- The AFLMWA Board reserves the right to decline any nomination, including Life Membership, for any category at any time provided 75% or greater of current Board members are in agreeance that the nomination does meet required criteria. The nominating club must be informed by either the Board Administrator or Chairman within 7 days of the Board making its decision and the reasons outlining why the nomination was not accepted.
- If the board declines any nomination, they may at their discretion renominate the person for a different award for the same season after consultation with the nominating club or person. The same process can be applied to "upgrade" the nomination.

#### **16 NON-MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS OF CLUBS**

##### **16.1 SPONSORSHIP**

Clubs may obtain their own sponsorships provided they do not conflict with AFLMWA or WAFC sponsors.

##### **16.2 PROVISION OF DOCUMENTS TO AFLMWA**

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.

### **16.3 INSURANCE**

All insurance details must be updated with JLT by 31 March each year or as requested by the Board. A copy of current certificate of currency is to be provided to the Board Administrator.

### **17 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS CALLED BY THE BOARD**

If requested by the board, a club must send a nominated Delegate to meetings as required by the Board and unless a formal written apology is received by the Board or Board Administrator 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.

### **18 NEW CLUB ENTRY CRITERIA**

#### **18.1**

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 December 1<sup>st</sup> 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. The minimum requirement is one (1) Supers side.

## **18.2**

If the application is approved, the nominating club will be invoiced to the value of 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.)

## **18.3**

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**

## **19 MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **19.1 Club match day requirements**

- 19.1.1 No Clubs in the League shall play any match, including scratch and/or friendly matches, against other clubs, whether Member Clubs of AFLMWA or not, without the sanction of the AFLMWA Board.
- 19.1.2 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. Clubs should use the AFL MATCH DAY app and email the host club's secretary or allocated official a copy of each report.
- 19.1.3 Host member clubs are required to provide a medical officer/sports trainer with a current "Provide First Aid" (1 Day Accreditation and previously known as Senior First Aid or Apply First Aid) on match day. If a host club is unable to provide a suitably qualified First Aid

person, with adequate notice, AFLMWA will assist the host club to find a suitable service provider.

19.1.4 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.

19.1.5 All players taking part in a match must be registered and listed on the relevant Official Team Sheet before they participate in the match.

19.1.6 The completed Official Team Sheets must be updated online before the Wednesday following each game. Failure to do so will result in a financial penalty.

19.1.7 Any concerns or issues relating to the officiating of games are to be directed in writing to the Board Administrator.

19.1.8 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.

19.1.9 When a Country club provides their own umpire, the umpire's name must also be entered in the relevant area of the online team sheet. Failure to do so will result in the club delaying payment to the umpire by AFLMWA and the club may incur a fine for as per Rule 10.

## **19.2 Coaches' requirements**

19.2.1 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.

19.2.2 All training sessions are to be overseen by a coach with a minimum of Level 1 AFL Coaching Accreditation.

19.2.3 In line WAFC Policy (WAFC-ECF-POL-002), all accredited club coaches must have a current Working with Children Card.

19.2.4 Every AFLMWA club is to have a minimum one (1) Level 2 accredited coach by 31 December 2024.

## **19.3 Umpires' match day requirements**

19.3.1 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 as required. These sheets are then returned to their relevant teams after signoff and clearly writing the Umpire's name (to be stored for the entirety of the season).



19.3.2 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.

#### **19.4 AFLMWA Match Day Requirements**

19.4.1 The Board will liaise with the WAFC to appoint umpires for all Metro fixtures as per the official agreement. Non-metro games may be officiated by local umpires.

19.4.2 Unless otherwise arranged with the Board Member for Finance, all metropolitan match day physio costs are to be paid directly by AFLMWA to the provider. A tax invoice must be provided to AFLMWA before payment will be made.

19.4.3 Metropolitan host clubs should issue invoices to visiting clubs 1 week prior to their fixture to enable pre-payment of any match-day costs.

#### **19.5 AFLMWA Photography**

19.5.1 Any person attending an official AFLMWA match day fixture or State training session must have written AFLMWA Board approval to take photographs and further approval to publish on any social media platform.

### **20 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 current Laws of Australian Football as updated but have been modified as set out below.

#### **20.1 Match time**

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

#### **20.2 Scoring**

Scores are not kept in any AFLMWA 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 AFLMWA Board. No scores or results for AFLMWA games are to be documented on Social Media or any other means.

### **20.3 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.

### **20.4 Rucking**

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

### **20.5 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.

### **20.6 Protection of all players**

A Charge (shirt front) is banned irrespective of ball proximity. The field umpire is to ensure that the game is played in the right spirits of AFLMWA, namely 'footy for kicks'. Shepherding should be conducted via blocking as opposed to hip and shoulder bumps with intent to knock a player off his/her feet. If an umpire deems a bump to be rough play, it should be dealt with an appropriate penalty.

### **20.7 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 to borrow players from the opposition club. If players are borrowed from other clubs not participating in the match, their names must be manually recorded on the physical team sheet.

### **20.8 Use of Yellow and Red Cards**

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

20.8.1 The umpire will inform the offender the reason for the order off.

20.8.2 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.

20.8.3 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 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of a game.

20.8.4 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.

20.8.5 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, whichever would be the greater penalty for the offending team.

20.8.6 A register of all cards issued is to be kept by the Board Administrator or Board member for Governance.

20.8.7 If a player receives 3 cards in any season, they will automatically be suspended for 2 weeks. This penalty is served on top of any prescribed or tribunal issued penalties.

## **20.9 Boundary Umpires**

If there is no boundary umpire, the central umpire will adopt the "last touch rule" whereby the last player to touch the ball by foot 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.

## **20.10 PLAYERS AGED 50 OR OVER**

Players aged 50 or older on the day of the match played may choose to involve themselves in limited physical contact. Players who elect to take this option shall be identified with a yellow or unique jumper (approved by AFLMWA) as outlined in the Uniform Policy. Players wearing an identifying jumper:

20.10.1 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.

20.10.2 Must not tackle, instead tagging a player will count as a tackle. Once tagged the player must immediately dispose of the ball in a legal manner.

- 20.10.3 May not have the ball knocked or chopped out of their hands while attempting disposal.
- 20.10.4 Where both sides have yellow jumper players it would be preferable for them to play on each other. Coaches are to communicate before games to establish number of yellow jumper players involved and potential positions they will be playing. The onus will also be on the yellow jumper players to match up on the field.
- 20.10.5 Yellow jumper players should not occupy key positions i.e. Ruck, Full Forward etc.
- 20.10.6 Before the commencement of any game with players wearing yellow jumper's, the coaches and/or umpires shall make all players aware of their obligations towards yellow jumper players during pre-game address.
- 20.10.7 Players electing to wear the yellow jumper should be noted on team sheet.

### **20.11 WOMEN'S COMPETITION - NEW PLAYERS**

Any women's player that is joining AFLMWA with no previous playing history may choose to involve themselves in limited physical contact by identifying with a unique jumper or shorts as outlined in the Uniform Policy. Players wearing an identifying jumper or shorts:

- 20.11.1 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.
- 20.11.2 Cannot tackle other players and instead must corral, the opposition player must immediately dispose of the football once corralled.
- 20.11.3 May not have the ball knocked or chopped out of their hands while attempting disposal.
- 20.11.4 Before the commencement of any game with players wearing a unique jumper or shorts, the coaches and/or umpires shall make all players aware of their obligations towards yellow jumper players during pre-game address.
- 20.11.5 Players electing to wear the unique jumper or shorts should be noted on team sheet.

### **21 NATIONAL AND OTHER CARNIVALS**

- 21.1 For all AFLMWA representative activations, a sub-committee will be selected by the AFLMWA board. This sub-committee will report directly to the AFLMWA board and may include members of the board.
- 21.2 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.
- 21.3 All players registered with AFLMWA are eligible to make application to take part in the National Carnival subject to completing an online application, accepting without exception all terms

and conditions outlined on relevant registration forms (including Codes of Conduct) and paying all costs determined by the relevant organising committee and AFLMWA.

21.4 All applications will be reviewed and must be approved by the AFLMWA board. If an application is refused or revoked, the affected person will be notified by AFLMWA of the reason within 7 days of the decision.

21.5 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 AFLMWA Board, be deemed to have not completed their registration and will not be eligible to play.

21.6 To register and be an eligible player for selection in a WA representative team, a player must be an active registered player of an AFLMWA Club and have played a minimum of three rounds for Men or two rounds for Women (not games) during the season to which that selection applies. The board reserves the right to approve applicants who have not met this criteria in certain circumstances.

21.7 The maximum number of players per team will be decided by the governing body of the competition, in conjunction with AFLMWA.

21.8 The coach of a representative side is to be selected by the sub-committee or other panel appointed by the AFLMWA Board. The criteria for nominees is to be provided by the AFLMWA Board. The AFLMWA Board must also endorse the selection panel's choice.

21.9 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 and WAFC. All jumper designs must be approved by the WAFC.

21.10 All fundraising is to be self-funded and managed by the sub-committee selected by the board. The subcommittee must keep accurate records and all funds are to be controlled by the AFLMWA board member responsible for the finance portfolio. Any potential sponsors must be approved by the AFLMWA Board.

## **SECTION 5: TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES**

### **22 INTRODUCTION & SCOPE**

22.1 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.

## **23 PROCESS**

### **23.1 Report**

The Board Administrator will assess all reports and referrals of potential Reportable Offences.

Reportable Offences are reported as follows:

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

### **23.2 Determination of type of offence and appropriate charge**

23.2.1 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 WAFC Community Football Tribunal)

23.2.2 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 as soon as possible.

### **23.3 Options available to the player or official charged with a classifiable reportable offence.**

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

- Submit an early guilty plea and accept the relevant sanction for the Reportable Offence.
- 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.

23.3.2 The player or official charged must submit their option within 24 hours of the charge being sent by the board administrator.

### **23.4 Tribunal Hearing**

23.4.1 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.

23.4.2 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.

23.4.3 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.

23.4.4 The Community Football Tribunal will operate within the Community Football Tribunal Guidelines.

### **23.5 Appeal Hearing**

23.5.1 A player or official may decide to appeal the decision of the Tribunal or Board through 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 bond to AFLMWA.

23.5.2 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.

23.5.3 The Community Football Appeals Board will operate within the Community Football Tribunal Guidelines.

### **23.6 Suspensions**

23.6.1 All suspensions incurred by AFLMWA participants will be recorded in the national registration system as decided by the WAFC and AFL.

23.6.2 Suspended matches are based on the competition the player normally plays in but at the discretion of the board administrator, "intra-state" and other carnivals may be counted towards the suspended dates.

23.6.3 Suspensions incurred in AFLMWA also affect involvement in all other leagues of football in WA and must be recorded accordingly so that a person is not unfairly removed from more matches than is necessary across multiple leagues. The AFLMWA board administrator will apply suspensions to a player so that he/she only misses the same number of games in each league they participate in. *e.g. If a player receives a 3-match*

*suspension in AFLMWA, they will potentially be suspended for 6-8 weeks. If this person also coaches at WAAFL level, they will be suspended for 3 rounds of the WAAFL before resuming coaching.*

23.6.4 Any person who has been suspended will be ineligible to participate in the National Carnival of the same AFLMWA Financial year.

## **24 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:

### **24.1 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 and appropriate evidence is present, the AFLMWA Board has the powers to:

- Issue Yellow & Red Cards
- Upgrade a Yellow Card to a Red Card
- Downgrade a Red Card

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

- Attempt to strike, kick or trip
- Careless contact with an umpire
- Spitting at another player
- Melee
- Staging
- Making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with an injured player
- Wrestling
- Obscene gesture
- Disputing an umpire's decision
- Pinching
- Interfering with player kicking for goal
- Not leaving playing surface
- Shaking goal post
- Prohibited boots, jewelry, equipment
- Using abusive, insulting, or obscene language
- Time wasting
- Throwing or pushing a player after that player has taken a mark, disposed of the ball or after the ball is out of play

### **24.2 Classifiable Offences**



**List of Classifiable Offences**

Direct Tribunal Offence

- Any other act of low-level misconduct which is not a Classifiable Offence or

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:

- Striking
- Kicking
- Kneeing
- Stomping
- Charging
- Rough Conduct
- Forceful front on contact
- Headbutt of contact using head
- Eye-gouging/unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the eye region
- Unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face
- Scratching
- Tripping
- Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire.

**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	<b>2 Matches</b>
		Body	<b>1 Match</b>
Careless	Severe	All	<b>Tribunal</b>
	High	High/Groin	<b>3 Matches</b>
		Body	<b>2 Matches</b>
	Medium	High/Groin	<b>2 Matches</b>
		Body	<b>1 Match</b>
	Low	High/Groin	<b>1 Match</b>
Body		<b>1 Match</b>	

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:

- The conduct is intentional or careless
- The impact is Severe, High, Medium or Low; and
- The contact with the other player/official is high/groin or to the body

Unlike other affiliate leagues around the country, the AFLMWA reserves the right to offer an early guilty plea reduction. The reduced early guilty penalty may only be offered if the board supports the decision.

### **24.3 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:

- Intentional contact with an umpire
- Striking an umpire
- Spitting on or at an umpire
- Spitting on another person
- Attempting to strike an umpire
- Instigator of a Melee
- Biting
- Any classifiable offence which attracts a base sanction that AFLMWA finds inappropriate
- 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:

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

The below table is for any player, coach, club member or spectator for behaviour of an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards another person or an umpire

The following auditory definitions are to be followed:

- Threatening – displaying an intention to cause bodily harm or causing someone to feel vulnerable or at risk.
- Obscene/Abusive – extremely offensive, foul and disgusting.
- Insulting – disrespectful or scornfully abusive.

Comments Were	Comments Directed	Conduct	Base Sanction	Early Plea
Loud*	At Umpire	Threat	Tribunal	NA
		Abusive / Obscene	4 matches	3 matches
		Insulting	3 matches	2 matches
	At another person	Threat	Tribunal	NA
		Abusive / Obscene	3 matches	2 matches
		Insulting	2 matches	1 match
Medium**	At Umpire	Threat	Tribunal	NA
		Abusive / Obscene	3 matches	2 matches
		Insulting	3 matches	2 matches
	At another Person	Threat / Obscene	3 matches	2 matches
		Abusive / Obscene	2 matches	1 match
		Insulting	1 matches	Reprimand
Low***	At Umpire	Threat	Tribunal	NA
		Abusive / Obscene	3 matches	2 matches
		Insulting	2 matches	1 match
	At another Person	Threat / Obscene	3 matches	2 matches
		Abusive / Obscene	2 matches	1 match
		Insulting	1 match	Reprimand
Threat / Obscene = If Player Unrepentant add 1 match to Base Sanction and Early Plea				
* = Could be heard more than 50 metres				
** = Could be heard less than 50 metres				
*** = Could be heard less than 10 metres -Conversational				

## SECTION 6: APPENDICES

### 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 ½ time and/or 10 minutes for ¼ and ¾ time.
- Provide extra field and boundary Umpires
- Reduce length of quarters
- Consider postponing or rescheduling games in extreme risk conditions.

## **CONCUSSION POLICY**

AFLMWA align to the National Concussion Policy (will be circulated when finalised). Supporting documents: AFL Concussion Policy

## **RACISM AND VILIFICATION POLICY**

AFLMWA acknowledges the diversity of all participants, supporters and families and accepts it has a responsibility to promote positive and constructive relationships 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, friends and families of all affiliated Clubs.

No player in his or her capacity as a player of a Club or, in the course of carrying out 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 should lodge a complaint in writing to AFLMWA as soon as possible, ideally within 1 working day of the incident. AFLMWA will put in place a conciliation meeting between the Clubs and individuals concerned. This process must be within 7 working days of the incident being raised. No private and no public statements can be made by the Clubs, players or any representative involved.

The board administrator and/or members present will hear the evidence at the conciliation meeting and can:

- Determine that there is no case to answer.
- Mediate and assist in resolving the issue.
- Refer the case to the Community Football 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, official, **spectator** or approved follower who is found to have engaged in, or is suspected of engaging in the unacceptable use of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or any other social networking site, including blogs, regarding AFLMWA in any way, may be dealt with by AFLMWA Board 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 behaviour 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 AFLMWA Board.
- Damaging the reputation of AFLMWA, the AFLMWA Board, sponsors or the relationship between AFLMWA and its stakeholders
- Disclosing confidential or privileged information about AFLMWA, the AFLMWA Board or stakeholders; or
- Engaging in any other behaviour 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. AFLMWA participants should also be aware that the use of email can be broadcast to social media channels and in some case, this policy will extend to email use.

Behaviour is so important because everyone has the:

- Responsibility to act ethically
- You are the representatives of AFLMWA and our football community • You are role models for new and prospective members.

## **UNIFORM POLICY**

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

Any Club desiring to vary or alter its colours, uniform or design must first apply for and obtain permission of the AFLMWA Board to make such a variation or alternation.

No player shall take part in a match unless they are wearing the Club's official uniform or is given permission by the opposing club to wear an alternative uniform. The exceptions to this rule is any player over the age of 50, new woman's player or a woman who has received approval to play in a men's fixture. In these instances, the participant may wear a yellow jumper or similar that is unique to other playing uniforms in use and may identify the player in contests and allow competing players to adjust play accordingly as per Rules 14.3, 20.10 and 20.11.

No participant or on field official 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.

#### **GENDER DIVERSITY POLICY**

AFLMWA are committed to inclusion and utilise the AFL's Gender Diversity policy in instances, where Trans, Non-Binary or other Gender Identity is raised.

Supporting document: AFL Gender Diversity Policy

#### **RETURNING TO FOOTBALL POLICY**

This Policy relates to any player returning to football after sustaining and recovering from a medical procedure, serious injury or illness that required medical attention.

AFLMWA is a competition with a fundamental purpose to keep participants actively engaged in AFL football once they finish their competitive playing careers in either amateur or professional football.

To ensure an adequate duty of care is met by all clubs, any person who has been hospitalised or sustained a serious illness or injury regardless of whether it was on or off the field, is required to seek clearance to return to participation by their treating medical professional. Illnesses or injuries include but are not



limited to: concussion (as per AFL policy), heart attack or stroke, broken or dislocated limbs, neck injuries (e.g. whiplash), organ transplants or removal, natural child birth or caesarean.

If a treating medical professional has advised that the player is fit to return to participation, the player's club, match day officials and AFLMWA Board Administrator should be notified of the participants return to playing and/or training.

If a player is unsure of their personal circumstances relate to this policy, they should seek the interpretation of the Board Administrator or a medical professional. All communications between an individual and the Board Administrator are to be confidential and in no way, is the Board Administrator to share the personal details of any participants injury, illness or hospitalisation with other parties unless the participant grants them permission to do so. The Board administrator may seek confidential clarification from the AFLMWA insurers or an appropriate medical professional.

By taking the field or training track, the participant agrees that they are "fit for play". If a participant is concussed, all clubs must refer to the AFL Concussion Policy.

#### **APPENDIX 1: AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CARNIVAL (INTERSTATE)**

- For all WA Masters representative activations, a sub-committee will be selected by the AFLMWA board. This sub-committee will report directly to the AFLMWA board and may include members of the board.
- 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.
- All Players registered with AFLMWA are eligible to make application to take part in the Australian National Carnivals subject to completing an online application, accepting without exception all terms and conditions outlined on relevant registration forms (including Codes of Conduct) and paying all costs determined by the relevant organising committee and AFLMWA.
- All applications will be reviewed and must be approved by the AFLMWA board. If an application is refused or revoked, the affected person will be notified by AFLMWA of the reason within 7 days of the decision.
- 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.
- To register and be an eligible player for selection in a WA representative team, a player must be an active registered player of an AFLMWA Club and have played a minimum of three rounds (not games) during the season to which that selection applies. The board reserves the right to approve applicants who have not met this criteria in certain circumstances.
- The maximum number of players per team will be decided by the governing body of the competition, not AFLMWA.

- The coach of a representative side is to be selected by the sub-committee or other panel appointed by the AFLMWA Board. The AFLMWA Board must also endorse the selection panel's choice.
- 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 and WAFC. All jumper designs must be approved by the WAFC.
- All fundraising is to be self-funded and managed by the sub-committee selected by the board. The subcommittee must keep accurate records and all funds are to be controlled by the AFLMWA board member responsible for the finance portfolio. Any potential sponsors must be approved by the board.

## **APPENDIX 2: FORMS & CRITERIA**

### **NOMINATION GUIDELINES: AFLMWA 'COUNTRY or METROPOLITAN CLUB OF THE YEAR'**

Each year nominations are accepted by the Board for the **Country Club of the Year** and **Metropolitan Club of the Year**.

*Footy for Kicks* represents more than a friendly game of footy every couple of weeks. The aim of AFLMWA Member Clubs is to encourage mateship and camaraderie while keeping ourselves fit. Our Member Clubs utilise Australian Rules Football to provide mental and physical elements of a healthy active lifestyle to our members' everyday lives. Creating and maintaining an environment where we as older players can enjoy playing the sport we love in a social and friendly atmosphere is critical to our growth and progression as an Affiliation, as Member Clubs and as individuals.

External to their game and training environments, our Member Clubs also have a responsibility to contribute to the Communities in which they play.

Member Clubs need to be able to encourage players in a way that will attract an appropriate degree of competitiveness on the field and to embrace our motto of *Footy for Kicks* with a full application of its meaning both on and off the field. This award is presented each year to the Member Club that is seen by the AFLMWA Board to have embraced the concept of our game, actively applying these concepts into their own club culture and making a significantly positive contribution to the community in which it is based.

- Nominations for the award need to be lodged with the Board before the December Board meeting each year.
- Nominations should include an extensive, detailed list of the nominated club's activities in their local community. These details do not need to be limited to the calendar year the nomination is for.
- Clubs may self-nominate themselves or any other Member club they deem deserved of this award.

- The decision made by the AFLMWA Board is final and should there be no suitable nominations received from clubs the Board reserves the right to make its own nomination.

**NOMINATION FORM: AFL MASTERS WESTERN AUSTRALIA COUNTRY / METROPOLITAN CLUB OF THE YEAR**

TO: Board Administrator, AFL Masters WA

The ..... (Name of nominating Club)

nominates the .....(Name of Nominated Club)

for the..... (Year) AFL Masters WA **Country / Metropolitan** (circle appropriate)  
Club of the Year, for the reasons outlined on the attached documents.

---

SIGNED: .....

POSITION HELD: .....

DATE: .....

## **NOMINATION GUIDELINES: AFL MASTERS WA HALL OF FAME**

The Board will accept nominations for the AFL Masters WA Hall of Fame from the following:

- Member clubs
- Members of the Hall of Fame
- Members of the AFLMWA Board

All nominations, having been received by the appointed time, will be forward to the AFLMWA Board for consideration at the February Board meeting.

The Board at its discretion will make final selections for those that are to be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Hall of Fame presentation dinner every two years:

Each nomination must be in writing and include:

- A cover letter stating what the nomination is for, the nominee's name, the club making the nomination and must be signed by the current Club President or authorised person.
- A high-quality photograph of the nominee.
- A detailed history of the nominee's football history, honours and achievements from all known AFL affiliates and leagues, including approximate games played. Attention should be given to the nominee's contribution to AFLMWA as a player and or volunteer.
- The number of times the nominee has attended National Carnivals either prior to or after joining AFL Masters WA.
- Any other information relating to the nominee that details efforts over the years relating to our sport or community based activities etc.

The nomination must be lodged with the AFLMWA Chairman or Board Administrator prior to the December Board meeting.

**NOMINATION FORM: HALL OF FAME**

ATTN: Chairman or Board Administrator, AFL Masters Western Australia Inc.

The .....

(Name of nominating Club)

Nominates .....

(Name of Nominee) for AFL Masters WA Hall of Fame for the reasons outlined on the attached documents.

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.....

SIGNED:

.....

POSITION HELD:

.....

DATE:

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF AFL MASTERS WA**

Life Membership of AFLMWA is the highest honour that is awarded to any participant within the Association.

It is distinct from Life Membership awarded by Member Clubs, the WA Country Football League, the WAAFL/PFL or any other entity for whom or in which the nominee may have participated prior to becoming involved in this Association. It is awarded to individuals who have made significant contribution to multiple football clubs or affiliations and is well known in the football community as an outstanding worker for the betterment of the game.

Nominations must be either submitted by a recognised affiliate Member club of AFLMWA or by members of the AFLMWA Board and must be shown to be supported by the Committee of the Member Club or AFLMWA Board. The nomination must include a detailed history of the nominee's service and commitment to the Member Club, AFLMWA and to the nominee's service and commitment to Australian Rules Football. The nominated person must meet the nomination criteria listed at the bottom of this form, which is to be confirmed by the AFLMWA board.

Existing life membership of any other organisation is not mandatory to gain AFL Masters WA Life Membership.

There is to be no restriction on the number of Life Members appointed each year, but there will not necessarily be appointments made every year. The calibre of nominees should be such that it maintains the extremely high standards of those people previously awarded this highest honour. **NOMINATION**

### **CRITERIA**

A nomination must be lodged with either the Chairman of AFLMWA or the Board Administrator. A minimum of 10 years' service in promoting the objects of AFLMWA as per item 3.a.i, ii & iii in the constitution.

A minimum of one supporting letter of support from a different club or affiliation, documenting their involvement in the game of Australian Rules Football.

Minimum of 5 years served on either AFLMWA Board or with the AFL Masters National body or alternatively 5 years of volunteer roles assisting WA at National Carnivals. The 5 years do not need to be served concurrently.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Featured newspaper or magazine articles highlighting the work of the nominee.

A high-quality photograph of the nominee should be submitted with the nomination.

Documentation of the nominees' contribution to their local community outside of their football participation should be included to strengthen the application.

**TIMING**

If the AFLMWA Board accepts the nomination after confirming all criteria is met, the nomination is to be considered via Special Resolution by the members at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting within 18 months of the nomination being accepted.



**NOMINATION FORM: AFL MASTERS WESTERN AUSTRALIA LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

TO: Board Administrator, AFL Masters WA

The .....

(Name of nominating Club)

nominates

.....

(Name of Nominee) for Life Membership of AFL Masters WA, for the reasons outlined on the attached pages.



SIGNED: .....

POSITION HELD: .....

DATE: .....

## **NOMINATION GUIDELINES: AFL MASTERS WESTERN AUSTRALIAN 'PERSON OF THE YEAR'**

In 1983 what was then known as Superules in Western Australia began recognising those individual members that contributed to the betterment of what has now become known as AFL Masters in Western Australia with the presentation of an Annual Award to the Person within the Association who each year had made an outstanding personnel contribution to our game in this state. This award is now known as the AFL Masters WA Person of the Year and along with Life Membership is one of the highest honours that can be bestowed to an AFLMWA club member in Western Australia. When making a nomination it should be remembered that this award is intended for a person who has made an outstanding contribution to our game and it is not an award for longevity or numbers of games played.

The Person that receives this award each year will be the nominee that the Board considers having made a lasting and significant contribution to the betterment of our game and to AFL Masters Western Australia.

- Nominations for the award need to be lodged with the Board by the December Board meeting in each Season.
- Nominees need to be a person who has made an outstanding contribution over a period of at least five years or more to the association and not just to their own club.
- Clubs can nominate any person who is a player or club member of either their own club or another club.
- The decision made by the AFLMWA Board is final and if no suitable nominations be received from clubs the Board reserves the right to make its own nomination for this Award.

**NOMINATION FORM: AFL MASTERS WESTERN AUSTRALIA PERSON OF THE YEAR**

TO: The Board Administrator, AFL Masters WA

The .....(  
Name of nominating Club) AFL Masters Football Club

nominates.....(  
Name of Nominee)

for the..... (Year) Annual AFL Masters WA **Country / Metropolitan** (circle appropriate) Person of the Year, for the reasons on the attached pages.

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SIGNED: .....

POSITION HELD: .....

DATE: .....