SOUTHERN TASMANIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INC.

Competition Rules 2026

1. FOREWORD

The Southern Tasmania Football League (STFL) Rules and Regulations are based on the traditional rules & regulations of Competition Football.

They are established with a view that all clubs should recognise and accept the following basic premises:

- A player cannot play for an SFL Club unless they are a registered SFL player.
- The SFL Board governs the SFL and is the decision-making group for operational matters and the arbitrator of any dispute concerning the rights of a particular club or a particular player.
- In the event that the dispute is unable to be resolved, the matter may be investigated by an independent investigation officer.
- All players confirm their understanding of and commitment to abide by all SFL competition rules and regulations when accepting the online competition registration process and any club player declaration form.

The Rules and Regulations are not intended to be a legal document. They are framed with the intention of all SFL Clubs accepting them understanding that SFL Management and Club personnel will work in a spirit of co-operation in the best interests of the SFL as a competition, all Clubs making up the competition and the players themselves.

2. ADMINISTRATION

THE RULES

These rules are considered reasonable by the SFL and that each rule shall be read and construed independently of the other provisions of these rules.
Parts of a rule may be valid if other parts or provisions of the rule were deleted.

ALTERATION TO RULES

These Rules and Regulations may be amended or varied from time to time by the SFL Board.
At least a majority of the SFL Executive must support any proposal before these rules can be altered.

FINAL DECISION

Where these rules provide for decisions to be made or action to be taken by the SFL Board or the appointed SFL Arbitrator, it is acknowledged that they are responsible to the SFL Board for decisions and actions and make those decisions and take that action within the context of SFL policies and guidelines.

Should the SFL Board be satisfied that any person who is in breach of or who has failed to comply with these Rules has acted honestly and, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, ought fairly to be excused from liability, it may relieve that person wholly or partly from that liability on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICER

The SFL shall be entitled to exercise its discretion to utilise the services of an Independent Investigations Officer to investigate any matter pertaining to the Rules and Regulations.

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Part 1- Preliminary

1. DEFINITIONS

Except where a different intention is apparent from the context, expressions used in these Rules and Regulations have the following meanings:

"AFL" - means the Australian Football League

*"**Association**"*- means a league, association, or other body (other than the league itself) which conducts a football competition in Southern Tasmania.

*"**Club**"*- means any of the clubs participating in the Southern Football League.

*"**Competition**"*- means the SFL competitions, including senior men's, women's, reserves and colts.

*"**Competition Manager**"*- means the person for the time acting as the Competition Manger of the League.

*"**Dual Registration**"*- means a player who is registered in both TSL, STJFL, OSFA and SFL competitions, with only one club in each league, and may transfer between each league as a player for both clubs.

"***Executive***"- means the SFL Executive made up of the President, Vice President and Directors

"Home and Away Matches" means any Match for which Premiership Points are awarded of potentially awarded, not being a Finals Series Match, Pre-Season Match or Representative Match.

*"**Home Team**"*- means the team named first on the League's published roster of Home and Away matches.

"Laws of Australian Football" means the Laws of Australian Football as published by the AFL from time to time.

*"**League**"*- means the Southern Football League.

"National Community Football Policy Handbook" means the Handbook containing AFL Policies and Rules that are applicable to Community Football as published by the AFL from time to time.

"Notice of Appeal" means a notice of appeal as defined in the National Community Football Policy Handbook.

"Premiership Ladder" means the ranking of clubs as determined under Rule 20.

"Premiership Points" means the points awarded to a Club during Home and away Matches as set out in Rule 20.

*"**Official**"*- means any person involved in the administration of a club.

"Penalty" - means the sanction applied to a club or person in relation to a breach of Rules.

"Permit" – means a Season Permit or Game Permit.

"Person" means any Person covered by the definition of a Person under the National Community Football Policy Handbook.

"Relevant Controlling Body" - means the Southern Football League

"Season Permit" – means a Permit which allows a Player to play one or more matches for a Club (other than their Source Club) and requires Source Club approval via PlayHQ.

"Source Club" - means the Club from which a Player is Transferring or Permitting, being the Club with which the Player is registered.

"Unregistered Player" - means a player whose name is not on the register of players (PlayHQ current season) or has been deregistered by the league

2. AUTHORITY AND EFFECT

2.1 These Rules and Regulations are published by the Southern Football League under the authority of the League's constitution and are binding on all clubs, players, officials and any other persons registered under these Rules and Regulations.

2.2 The League adopts the Laws of Australian Football subject to its right to vary those Laws from time to time where allowable by the AFL to vary.

2.3 The League adopts all AFL policies subject to any variations of policies where allowable by the AFL to vary.

2.4 Amendments to these Rules and Regulations can be made by majority vote of the Board.

2.5 Authorised officers:
Each Club shall lodge a list of three (3) people who shall for the purposes of these rules, be the Club's authorised officers. Any of these officers of the club have the right to act on behalf of the club in all matters including, but not restricted to, transfers, registrations and in the termination of matches. Should a person be replaced in this capacity, then the club must advise the SFL immediately. These people would normally be the President, the Football Director, and one other person delegated with the authority to act on behalf of the club.

3. CONSTITUTION OF CLUBS

3.1 The Constitution of a club or other instrument of constitution and any alterations or additions to that constitution, shall be subject to the approval of the Board.

3.2 Each club shall provide to the League its constitution within one month of its adoption and any alterations or additions to the constitution within one month of making the alterations or additions.

3.3 A club shall not alter its constitution in such a way that it conflicts with the provisions of any one of the constitutions and Rules and Regulations and resolutions of the league.

3.4 The Board shall not withhold its approval to a club constitution or any alterations or additions to it if there is no conflict with the provisions of the constitution these Rules and Regulations and resolutions of the league.

3.5 All Clubs agree to abide by the Constitution of the League, however in the event of a dispute, the overriding Constitution will be that of the league over any other Constitution that may have some association with the league via an Affiliation Agreement.

Part 2 – Committees

4. COMMITTEES ETC.

The Board shall appoint the following committees and tribunal, but it is not limited in appointing any other committee it deems necessary to conduct the business of the league:

- Appeals Committee: (In accordance with the Community Football Handbook)
- Independent Tribunal: (Governed by AFL Tasmania)
- Representative Teams Committee: Determined by the SFL Board
- Player Points Policy (PPS): Determined by the SFL Board

4.1 In Rules and Regulations dealing with the makeup of those bodies, a reference to a person being independent means one who does not hold office with a club.

4.2 In the event of a casual vacancy occurring on any committee, the Board shall appoint a replacement person as soon as practicable.

4.3 A club shall not be represented on any committee by more than one representative.

4.4 Except where otherwise specified the members of committee shall convene as soon as practicable after their appointment and decide their procedure, times of meeting and the notice necessary for convening meetings.

4.5 If a chairman nominated or appointed in accordance with these Rules and Regulations absent from a meeting the members present shall appoint a chairman from among their number for that occasion.

4.6 A quorum for all committees shall be 2 of the members except as otherwise provided in these Rules and Regulations.

4.7 APPEALS COMMITTEE

(a) The Board shall appoint each year an appeals committee in accordance with the Community Football Handbook.

(b) The committee has the function of hearing and determining;

(i) Appeals relating to refusal of transfers and;

(ii) Such other matters arising under these Rules or under the constitution of the League as the Board refers to it.

(c) On the hearing of a matter, the appeals committee

(i) Shall make a full and thorough investigation without regard to legal forms and solemnities.

(ii) May admit evidence that is considered relevant notwithstanding that evidence might not be admissible in a court of law; and

(iii) Shall observe the principles of natural justice.

(d) In reaching a decision the committee shall take into account;

(i) The interest of the public and of the game

(ii) The interest of the League and of the clubs and associations or bodies who are involved in the appeal.

(iii) The interests and all aspects of the player, including any hardship (financial or otherwise) likely to be suffered by him if the transfer is not given.

(iv) The player's age and length of service, and his value to the club association, or his body from which the transfer is sought.

(e) Subject to those requirements, the committee may regulate its own procedure.

(f) The appeals committee may fix the cost of an appeal and order that cost to be paid by one or more of the unsuccessful parties and shall decide at its' discretion as to refund or otherwise of the deposit.

(g) A decision of the appeal committee is final.

4.8 PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM COMMITTEE:

(a) The committee shall be made up of the Vice Presidents, Directors and nominated representatives.

(b) The committee is to convene to review the PPS annually not later than during August / September for consideration of any amendments for the following season.

Part 3 - Clubs

5. MEMBERSHIP LEVIES

Each Club shall pay the annual levy fixed each year for membership of the competition and any further fees or levies fixed from time to time by the League. The levy for the current year can be found in Appendix 1.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Club officials, coaches and players shall not make derogatory public comments in relation to any of the following;

- Opposition Clubs including their members and facilities
- The League
- AFL Tasmania
- Umpires
- Tribunal (Section 25.6 of the National Community Football Policy Handbook applies)

This includes comments made on social media platforms. (Section 12 (Social Media) of the National Community Football Policy Handbook applies)

Any breach of Section 6 may result in a penalty of up to $250.00 per breach applied to the Club and a sanction being imposed on the person.

7. CESSASSION OF A CLUB'S REPRESENTATION

Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules and Regulations to the contrary, the League may rule upon all matters arising from a club ceasing to be a club of the league, including and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the entitlement of the remaining clubs of the league to acquire the services of players.

8. OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS

8.1 Except as provided for under 8.3, any club which is in arrears to the SFL for a period of 30 days or more from the terms of the invoice, may be ineligible to receive any competition points which may be accrued by its teams, from that point in time until the overdue amount has been paid. The club may be deregistered in the event of the club refusing to pay outstanding monies. They may also be fined.

8.2 Subject to a final decision by the Executive no club shall participate in any finals match if there are any monies still owed to the SFL after the last roster match which is in arrears to the SFL for a period of 30 days or more from the terms of the invoice. Monies shall include association fees and other charges including undisputed fines as levied by the Executive.

8.3 Where extenuating circumstances exist, the SFL Executive may in its discretion, place a club on 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 SFL provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

Part 4 - Players

9. REGISTRATIONS

9.1 Player Registration
The registration of players is in accordance with the **National Community Football Policy Handbook**, Section B - Eligibility and Registration.

9.2 Coach and Officials Registration
(a) All team coaches must be registered with coach.afl membership annually and hold a current Tasmanian WWVP registration with details provided when registering.
(b) All other officials must be registered online with PlayHQ, and where required by legislation host a current Tasmanian WWVP registration. (Trainers-First Aid, Team Manager, Runner)

9.3 A club has the right to appeal to the appeals committee against any player registration decision under these Rules and Regulations with the decision of the appeals committee being final.

Any breach of 9.1 and/or 9.2 shall result in a penalty of $100.00 per breach applied to the Club.

10. TRANSFERS AND PERMITS

The transfer of players and player permits are in accordance with the **National Community Football Policy Handbook**, Part B- Eligibility and Registration, subject to provisions within Section 11.

11. PERMITS

11.1 A player may not be granted a Permit to participate with a Premier League club if the player's Source Club is a Premier League club.

11.2 A player whose Source Club is a Premier League club cannot play under permit for more than one Community League club in the same season.

11.3 A player may not be granted a Permit to participate with a Community League club if the player's Source Club is a Community League club.

11.4 A player whose Source Club is a Community League club cannot play under permit for more than one Premier League club in the same season.

11.5 A player that has qualified to participate in finals in both Premier League and Community League, in accordance with a Permit in one of the Leagues, can only participate in finals in one League.

11.6 Players from a Premier League club may not participate for a Community League club under a permit in the last four rounds of the season, unless that the player has played two or more Community League games in the corresponding competition, in that season prior to the commencement of the last four Community League rounds.

Any breach of section 11 shall result in penalty in accordance with section 13.1.

12. APPROACHING PLAYERS

12.1 A committee member, coach, player or other person reasonably connected with a SFL club may not approach a player who was last registered (including if currently registered) with a different SFL club in relation to transferring or otherwise participating with their club unless the club has provided written advice to the player's current club at least 48 hours prior to any approach. The written advice must be provided to the President, Secretary and/or Football Director of the club.

12.2 In the event a player approaches a SFL club regarding participating with that club, and the player was last registered (including if currently registered) with a different SFL club, the club being approached must cease communication until the same written advice under 12.1 has been undertaken.

Any breach of Section 12 shall result in a penalty of $500.00 per breach applied to the Club.

13. INELIGABILITY

13.1 A club that plays an ineligible (including unregistered and suspended) player shall forfeit that match (including finals) and will be subject to a fine.

Any breach of 13.1 shall result in a penalty of $250.00 per breach applied to the Club.

13.2 In the event of a forfeit, for ladder purposes, section 13.2.2 of the Laws of Australian Football applies.

13.3 Individual statistics from the game where an ineligible player participates will stand. That is, all players would receive a game against their individual tally, goals kicked would be added to season tallies, Association best and fairest votes stand (excluding the unregistered player) and any disciplinary matters would stand.

14. AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY

Player age eligibility is in accordance with the National Community Football Policy Handbook, Part B- Eligibility and Registration.

Any breach of section 14 shall result in a penalty of $500.00 per breach applied to the Club.

15. PLAYER AND COACH PAYMENTS

The AFL Tasmania Club Sustainability Model including player and coach payment limits applies.

Refer to ***Club Sustainability Model*** for the Total Player and Coach Payment Rules.

Part 5 - The Competition

16. NOMINATION OF TEAMS

16.1 All Clubs participating in the SFL will use best endeavours to have;

Premier League
Senior Men's, Senior Women's, Reserves Men's, U/18 Boys & U/18 Girls

Community League
Senior Men's, Senior Women's, Reserves Men's, U/18 Boys & U/18 Girls.

16.2 SFL Full Member clubs are defined under the Constitution as clubs that have multiple teams participating in the SFL annually.

16.3 Clubs shall enter teams into SFL competitions as follows;
a) By 15 December in the year preceding Clubs shall advise the SFL in writing of indicative teams for the upcoming season.
b) By 15 February of the respective season Clubs shall advise the SFL in writing of confirmed teams for the upcoming season, supported by a sufficient number of player registrations completed.

16.4 In the event a Club confirms a team in accordance with 16.3 b) and subsequently withdraws the team, the club shall be fined $500 per team withdrawn.

17. SCHEDULE OF MATCHES (FIXTURES)

17.1 Prior to the start of the season the League shall prepare and publish a schedule of matches for the season including home and away and finals series, showing the dates of all matches and the grounds allocated for home and away matches. Following confirmation and publication of the schedule, changes can only be made in accordance with 17.2 and 17.3.

17.2 During the course of a season the Board may make such changes to the schedule as it thinks necessary or desirable and may postpone or bring forward any match to such time and place as it determines appropriate.

17.3 Where two clubs in agreement wish to reschedule the date, venue or time of a game, a written request from the home club must be submitted to the League by close of business on Monday **prior** to the scheduled date of the game (5 days prior to a Saturday game) otherwise the scheduled roster shall stand. The League may approve or decline the request at its discretion.

Greater consideration will be given to requests that relate to events such as: Special rounds, fundraising events or similar, or U18 matches impacted by a shortage of players.

Guidance Note: The timeframe is in consideration of Umpire appointments that are finalised on Tuesdays, and reasonableness of implications of schedule changes to all parties.

17.4 If a League roster match cannot be played on the scheduled date because of the unavailability or unplayable condition of the ground that game in that round shall be abandoned and the points shared equally.

Match Times
17.5 The SFL Competition Manager shall determine the starting times for matches in consultation with the home club, and in accordance with the following;

Premier League

- The order of priority of matches in relation to timing is;
    - Senior Men's & Senior Women's
    - Reserves Men's
    - Boys U/18s and Girls U/18s
- Men's senior and Women's senior matches are to be scheduled back-to-back (either way around).
- A maximum of four matches shall be scheduled at the same venue on the same day.
- Where a club's home matches are scheduled across two days, this may be Friday evening and Saturday, or Saturday and Sunday, subject to the preference of the home club and agreement of the League.

Refer to Appendix 1 for day and time options.

Matches require the following periods of time allocated;

- Men's Senior 2.5 hours
- Women's Senior 2 hours
- Men's Reserves 2.5 hours
- Boys U/18 2 hours
- Girls U/18 1.75 hours

Community League

- To be determined in consultation with the home club.
- Men's senior and Women's senior matches are to be scheduled back-to-back (either way around) if being streamed.

Matches require the following periods of time allocated;

- Men's Senior 2.5 hours
- Women's Senior 2 hours
- Men's Reserves 2 hours
- Boys U/18 2 hours
- Girls U/18 1.75 hours

Finals

17.6 Finals shall be scheduled on such grounds as the Executive desire based on the following principles;

Premier League

Semi Finals and Preliminary Finals

a) Senior matches (men's and women's) shall be scheduled at the home ground of the highest placed club participating. If the home ground of the highest placed team is unavailable, the club shall have the choice of available venues.

b) Reserves and U/18's matches (boys and girls) shall be scheduled at one of the grounds being used for senior matches, based on best alignment of participating clubs.

c) Where senior teams from the same club are required to play at different venues during the same round of finals, consideration will be given to scheduling matches on either Friday evening or Sunday in addition to Saturday to avoid a direct conflict for teams within the same club.

Grand Finals

Shall be scheduled at the venue determined by the Executive as follows;

Friday or Sunday – Boys U18's and Girls U/18's

Saturday – Reserves followed by Women's Seniors followed by Men's Seniors

Community League

Week One, Week Two and Preliminary Finals

a) Men's Senior matches shall be scheduled at the home ground of the highest placed club participating. If the home ground of the highest placed team is unavailable, the club shall have the choice of available venues.
b) Women's Senior, Reserves and U/18's matches (boys and girls) shall be scheduled at one of the grounds being used for senior matches, based on best alignment of participating clubs.

Grand Finals
Shall be scheduled at the venue determined by the Executive as follows;
Friday or Sunday – Boys U18's and Girls U/18's
Saturday – Reserves followed by Women's Seniors followed by Men's Seniors

17.7 Finals hosting levies shall be determined by the League annually, and paid by the club hosting the match, including if played between neutral teams at the venue.

18. GAME DURATION

Premier League

18.1 The length of quarters shall be as follows:

Men's Seniors:	Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes **with time on**;
Women's Seniors:	Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes **with no time on;**
Reserves:	Each quarter shall comprise 25 minutes **with no time on;**
U/18 Boys:	Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes **with no time on**;
U/18 Girls:	Each quarter shall comprise 16 minutes **with no time on**;
Finals:	All finals shall be as above.

18.2 Length of breaks:

	Quarter Time	Half Time	Three Quarter Time
Men's Seniors	6 minutes	20 minutes	6 minutes
Women's Seniors	5 minutes	15 minutes	5 minutes
Reserves	5 minutes	15 minutes	5 minutes
U/18 Boys	5 minutes	15 minutes	5 minutes
U/18 Girls	5 minutes	15 minutes	5 minutes

18.3 In matches where there is no time on, the timekeepers shall stop the clock the following times:
i. Whenever directed to do so by the Field Umpire.
ii. When the Field Umpire blows their whistle twice to signify a stoppage due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. stretcher, player report). In such events, the Field Umpire will signal time back on with a single whistle with one arm in the air.
iii. Injured Umpire: When an umpire is injured or unable to continue and a field umpire fails to signal then timekeepers shall stop the clock when it becomes obvious that play will be unduly delayed.
iv. Any other exceptional circumstance determined by a Field Umpire.

Community League

18.4 The length of quarters shall be as follows:

Men's Seniors:	Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes **with time on**;
Women's Seniors:	Each quarter shall comprise 18 minutes **with no time on;**
Reserves:	Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes **with no time on;**
U/18 Boys:	Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes **with no time on**;
U/18 Girls:	Each quarter shall comprise 16 minutes **with no time on**;
Finals:	All finals shall be as above.

18.5 Length of breaks:

	Quarter Time	Half Time	Three Quarter Time
Men's Seniors	6 minutes	15 minutes	6 minutes

Women's Seniors	6 minutes	15 minutes	6 minutes
Reserves	6 minutes	15 minutes	6 minutes
U/18 Boys	6 minutes	15 minutes	6 minutes
U/18 Girls	6 minutes	15 minutes	6 minutes

18.6 In matches where there is no time on, the timekeepers shall stop the clock the following times:

i. Whenever directed to do so by the Field Umpire.

ii. When the Field Umpire blows their whistle twice to signify a stoppage due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. stretcher, player report). In such events, the Field Umpire will signal time back on with a single whistle with one arm in the air.

iii. Injured Umpire: When an umpire is injured or unable to continue and a field umpire fails to signal then timekeepers shall stop the clock when it becomes obvious that play will be unduly delayed.

iv. Any other exceptional circumstance determined by a Field Umpire.

19. FORFEITS

19.1 A team shall forfeit a match:
(a) In circumstances laid down by any of these Rules and Regulations that result in a forfeit; or
(b) Where a team fails to appear within 15 minutes of the official starting time or leaves the ground during playing time.
(c) Where written notification has been provided to the League in advance of the match.

If a club forfeits a match later than 5pm on the Thursday prior to the match a penalty of $250.00 plus the cost of the umpire fees shall be applied to the Club.

19.2 If a team because of failure to appear wishes to put forward a reason for its conduct the Board may in its absolute discretion re-open the matter with power to order the match be played on another day, but the decision of the Board is final.

19.3 A club cannot forfeit a senior match unless the club has first forfeited their reserves match in the round/weekend.

19.4 In the case of a forfeit, the match scores shall be recorded as follows;
1) Non-fofeiting team (winner of the game) 60 Points
2) Forfeiting team (loser of the game) 0 Points

20. PREMIERSHIP LADDER

20.1 The League shall maintain a Premiership Ladder for the purpose of determining the finalists for the final's series.

20.2 In Home and Away matches a winning team shall be awarded four points, a team that draws two points and no points shall be awarded in respect of a bye.

20.3 In the event of a match being cancelled both teams shall be allocated two points.

20.4 The ongoing percentage for each team shall be points scored for, divided by the points scored against.

20.5 In the event an uneven number of byes exist in a competition, match ratio wins shall determine ladder positions.

21. THE FINALISTS

Premier League

21.1 At the completion of the Home and Away Matches, the first four teams on the Premiership Ladder shall compete in the Finals Series.

21.2 Where two or more Clubs have accumulated the same total of Premiership Points, the Club with the highest percentage shall be placed first as between them.

21.3 Where two or more Club at the completion of the Home and Away Matches have accumulated the same Premiership Points and have the same percentage, the following procedure shall apply;

(A) the position of the tied Clubs shall be adjusted by accumulating the Premiership Points awarded to the relevant Clubs as a result of the Home and Away Matches played between them and placing the Club with the highest accumulated Premiership Points, first as between them;

(B) where the Premiership Points accumulated by the relevant Clubs remain equal, the position of the tied Clubs shall be adjusted by calculating each such Club's percentage based on the proportion of points scored for and against each such Club from the Home and Away Matches between them and placing the Club with the highest percentage, first as between them; and

(C) where two or more Clubs still remain tied, the position of the Clubs shall be adjusted by lot conducted and drawn by the Executive General Manager Football so that any Club drawn ahead of any other Club shall be placed ahead of such other Club or Clubs.

Community League

21.4 At the completion of the Home and Away Matches, the first five teams on the Premiership Ladder shall compete in the Finals Series, subject to 21.5.

21.5 In the event the number of the teams in a competition is six or less a final four will apply.

21.6 Where two or more Clubs have accumulated the same total of Premiership Points, the Club with the highest percentage shall be placed first as between them.

21.7 Where two or more Club at the completion of the Home and Away Matches have accumulated the same Premiership Points and have the same percentage, the following procedure shall apply;

(A) the position of the tied Clubs shall be adjusted by accumulating the Premiership Points awarded to the relevant Clubs as a result of the Home and Away Matches played between them and placing the Club with the highest accumulated Premiership Points, first as between them;

(B) where the Premiership Points accumulated by the relevant Clubs remain equal, the position of the tied Clubs shall be adjusted by calculating each such Club's percentage based on the proportion of points scored for and against each such Club from the Home and Away Matches between them and placing the Club with the highest percentage, first as between them; and

(C) where two or more Clubs still remain tied, the position of the Clubs shall be adjusted by lot conducted and drawn by the Executive General Manager Football so that any Club drawn ahead of any other Club shall be placed ahead of such other Club or Clubs.

22. THE FINALS

Premier League

WEEK ONE FINALS SEMI FINALS ROUND

First Semi Final	3 v 4
Second Semi Final	1 v 2
WEEK TWO PRELIMINARY FINAL	
Preliminary Final	Loser Second Semi-Final v Winner Fist Semi-Final
WEEK THREE GRAND FINAL	
Grand Final	Winner Second Semi-Final v Winner Preliminary Final

Community League

WEEK ONE FINALS / ELIMINATION ROUNDS	
Elimination Final	4 v 5
Qualifying Final	2 v 3
WEEK TWO FINALS SEMI FINALS ROUND	
First Semi Final	Loser Qualifying Final v Winner Elimination Final
Second Semi Final	1 v Winner Qualifying Final
WEEK THREE PRELIMINARY FINAL	
Preliminary Final	Loser Second Semi-Final v Winner Fist Semi-Final
WEEK FOUR GRAND FINAL	
Grand Final	Winner Second Semi-Final v Winner Preliminary Final

23. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FINALS

Premier League

23.1 A player must have played in at least four roster matches for the club during the current season to be eligible to participate in finals, subject to 23.3

23.2 A player that participates in a senior Tasmanian representative team and/or Tasmanian team in a Coates League match which was scheduled on the same weekend as a Premier League match and the player would have otherwise participated in the Premier League match shall be regarded as having played in a Premier League match for the purposes of qualification for finals. The player shall be regarded as having participated in the Premier League competition/grade that the player last participated in prior to participating in the Tasmanian team.

23.3 A Tasmanian Devils VFL or VFL/W primary or development listed player must have played in at least three roster matches for the club during the current season to be eligible to participate in senior finals.

Guidance Note: 23.3 shall end at the conclusion of the 2027 season and 23.1 shall apply for all players.

23.4 A player shall not be eligible to play in reserves or U/18 finals unless they have played in at least four rosters matches in that competition during the current season, subject to 23.1.

23.5 A player who participated in a senior final cannot subsequently play in a reserves final unless they have played more than 50% of their roster matches in the reserves during the season, subject to 23.1.

23.6 A player who participated in a Community League finals match cannot subsequently play in a Premier League finals match in the same season.

23.7 An U/18 player is eligible to participate in a U/18 final if they have played in four U/18 roster matches during the same season (per 23.3) irrespective of whether the club is participating in senior and/or reserve matches during the same round/weekend of finals or the player has participated in a senior or reserves final (but cannot play in more than one team per 23.7).

23.8
A player may not participate in more than one finals match on the same weekend in all Southern Football League competitions.

23.9 Where clubs are participating in;

a) Men's Senior, Reserves and Boys U/18's in the same round of finals;
b) Men's Seniors and Reserves in the same round of finals; or,
c) Women's Senior and Girls U/18's in the same round of finals;

The club may select eligible players under 23.1 and where applicable age qualified in any team.

23.10 Applications for exemptions to allow players who are otherwise ineligible to participate in finals shall only be considered in the following circumstances;

a) The player has been unable to participate due to a long-term injury which is verified with provision of medial documentation.
b) The club is able to demonstrate there is insufficient available and eligible players to field a full team, and the player/s being requested exemption have played 1-3 games in the team during the season and/or have been consistent players for the club in lower age groups e.g. U/16's.

Guidance Note: Exemptions under 23.10 (b) may only be applied for and approval granted for each individual finals match.

Any breach of section 23 shall result in penalty in accordance with section 13.1.

<u>Community League</u>

23.11 A player must have played in at least four roster matches for the club during the current season to be eligible to participate in finals.

23.12 A player shall not be eligible to play in reserves or U/18 finals unless they have played in at least four rosters matches in that competition during the current season, subject to 23.8.

23.13 A player who participated in a senior final cannot subsequently play in a reserves final unless they have played more than 50% of their roster matches in the reserves during the season, subject to 23.9.

23.14 A player who participated in a Premier League finals match cannot subsequently play in a Community League finals match in the same season.

23.15 An U/18 player is eligible to participate in a U/18 final if they have played in four U/18 roster matches during the same season (per 23.9) irrespective of whether the club is participating in senior and/or reserve matches during the same round/weekend of finals or the player has participated in a senior or reserves final (but cannot play in more than one team per 23.14).

23.16

A player may not participate in more than one finals match on the same weekend in all Southern Football League competitions.

23.17 Where clubs are participating in;

a) Men's Senior, Reserves and Boys U/18's in the same round of finals;
b) Men's Seniors and Reserves in the same round of finals; or,
c) Women's Senior and Girls U/18's in the same round of finals;

The club may select eligible players under 23.9 and age qualified where applicable in any team.

23.18 Applications for exemptions to allow players who are otherwise ineligible to participate in finals shall only be considered in the following circumstances;

a) The player has been unable to participate due to a long-term injury which is verified with provision of medial documentation.
b) The club is able to demonstrate there is insufficient available and eligible players to field a full team, and the player/s being requested exemption have played 1-3 games in the team during the season and/or have been consistent players for the club in lower age groups e.g. U/16's.

Guidance Note: Exemptions under 23.18 (b) may only be applied for and approval granted for each individual finals match.

Any breach of section 23 shall result in penalty in accordance with section 13.1.

24. TIES IN FINALS

24.1 In the event of a tie in any final the umpire shall advise the captains that after a five-minute break, during which ends will be changed, Additional Time of two five-minute periods, plus time on (men's seniors only) shall be played. There shall be no time on for women's senior, reserves or U/18's except where provided under 18.3 & 18.6.

24.2 During the five-minute break coaches and officials may go to their teams as if it were a three-quarter time break.

24.3 After the first five-minute period of Additional Time the teams will change ends immediately, coaches and officials not being able to go onto the ground.

24.4 At the conclusion of Additional Time, the Club which has scored the highest points is the winner of the Match.

24.5 If the scores are still tied at the conclusion of Additional Time, each Club shall immediately change ends at the conclusion of Additional Time for Further Additional Time and shall change ends again after the first five (5) minute period without delay. At the conclusion of the Further Additional Time, the Club which has scored the highest points is the winner of the match.

24.6 If the scores are still tied at the conclusion of Further Additional Time, the process set out in Regulation 24.5 will be repeated until, at the conclusion of any repeated period of Further Additional Time, the winning Club can be determined; and

24.7 During any period of Further Additional Time, there will be no breaks in play for Coaches or Club Football Officials to access the Playing Area.

25 WOMEN'S & GIRLS U/18 UNIQUE RULES

25.1 The following amendments apply to Women's Seniors and Girls U/18's.

(a) Centre Ball Up (5, 6, 5 Starting Position)
   i. Players must line up with five (5) pairs inside the 50m arcs, with one (1) pair located in the goal square. The wingers must start in the space between the width of the centre square and the boundary line. Once the ball is thrown up and in play, Players can move anywhere.

(b) Throw Ins
   i. All boundary throw ins will be brought in 10 meters by the boundary Umpires.

(c) 16 Players on the field

26. FAIR PLAY RULE (COMMUNITY LEAGUE ONLY)

26.1 Community League Senior Women's, Men's Reserves, Boys U/18's and Girls U/18's shall be played with both teams having an equal number of players on the ground in accordance with the below.

Teams with less than 20 players on match day.

19 = 16 on field + 3 interchange
18 = 16 on field + 2 interchange
17 = 16 on field + 1 interchange
16 = 16 on field and no interchange
15 = 15 on field and no interchange
14 = 14 on field and no interchange

Both teams play with 14-16 on field with remaining players on the interchange bench. The number of players in the opposition team shall be up to a maximum full team list.

(a) If a player is injured and is forced from the ground the opposition is to still have equal numbers on the field. The team who loses a player through injury is to advise the umpire / opposition of the occurrence via the captain and or team runner.

(b) If a team has a player sent off by the umpire and does not have a replacement, then they will play short for the duration of the send-off period.

Any breach of section 26 shall result in a penalty of forfeiture of the match and a fine of $500 applied to the club.

27. CONCUSSION

27.1 AFL Community Concussion Guidelines in accordance with the National Community Football Policy Handbook, Part D - Health & Safety shall apply.

Any breach of section 27 shall result in a penalty of $500.00 per breach applied to the Club.

28. ACTIVE BLEEDING

28.1 Law 24 of the Laws of the Game applies.

Any breach of section 28 shall result in a penalty of $500.00 per breach applied to the Club.

Part 6 – Matches

29. TEAM SELECTIONS

Premier League

29.1 Squads for all teams are to be entered into PlayHQ in the accepted format (players in field position) in accordance with the below by no later than 3pm on the Thursday prior to the match.

- Men's Seniors – no more than 26 players including emergencies.
- Women's Seniors – no more than 24 players including emergencies.
- Men's Reserves – no more than 26 players including emergencies.
- Boys U/18's - no more than 26 players including emergencies.
- Girls U/18's - no more than 24 players including emergencies.

Community League

29.2 Squads for all teams are to be entered into PlayHQ in the accepted format (players in field position) in accordance with the below by no later than 10pm on the Thursday prior to the match.

- Men's Seniors, Women's Seniors, Men's Reserves, Boy's U/18's - no more than 26 players including emergencies
- Girls U/18's - no more than 24 players including emergencies

29.3 In the event a Club plays a player in their Men's Seniors or Women's Seniors team that was not entered into PlayHQ in accordance with 29.1 or 29.2, the Club will be deemed to be in breach of Section 29.

Any breach of section 29 shall result in a penalty of $100.00 per breach applied to the Club.

30. NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN A TEAM

30.1 Teams shall consist of the following number of players;

Premier League

	On-Field	Interchange
Men's Seniors	Maximum of 18 Minimum of 14	Maximum of 4
Women's Seniors	Maximum of 16 Minimum of 14	Maximum of 4
Men's Reserves	Maximum of 18 Minimum of 14	Maximum of 4
Boys U/18's	Maximum of 18 Minimum of 14	Maximum of 4
Girls U/18's	Maximum of 16 Minimum of 14	Maximum of 4

Community League

	On-Field	Interchange
Men's Seniors	Maximum of 18 Minimum of 14	Maximum of 4
Women's Seniors	Maximum of 16 Minimum of 14	Maximum of 4
Men's Reserves	Maximum of 18 Minimum of 14	Maximum of 4
Boys U/18's	Maximum of 18 Minimum of 14	Maximum of 4
Girls U/18's	Maximum of 16 Minimum of 14	Maximum of 4

31. TEAM SHEETS

31.1 No later than 45 minutes prior to the commencement of a match the team manager of the participating Clubs shall exchange a copy of the Official Team Sheet from PlayHQ.

31.2 Team Sheets must display the following information:

(a) Surname, Christian names, and jumper number of each player participating in the game.
(b) Identify the interchange players.
(c) Identify the captain and vice captain
(d) List the full names of the official team runner/s, interchange steward, coach/es, medical personnel, and up to ten official trainers or water carriers.
(e) Identify where it becomes necessary to replace a guernsey worn by a Player during a Match and the replacement guernsey displays a different number.
(f) name and signature of the Team Manager.

31.3 All players must have an allocated number which aligns with the number on their playing jumper, and two or more players on the same team may not wear the same number.

31.3 The home Team Manager is responsible for supplying a copy of the Team Sheets to the interchange steward, officiating umpires and Live Stream Commentators (where applicable) 30 minutes prior to the game.

31.4 A player who is named on the game day team sheet who does not participate at any time during the game or is not on the interchange bench for the entirety of the game in the correct playing uniform will be removed from the team sheet.

Any breach of section 31 shall result in a penalty of $100.00 per breach applied to the Club.

32. COMMENCEMENT OF MATCHES

32.1 The siren shall be sounded as per the rule 10.3 of the Laws of Australian Football.

32.2 The captain, or their representative, is required to attend the coin toss for choice of ends in the centre circle before the one-minute siren.

32.3 It is an offence, to be reported by the umpire, if:
(a) A designated person is not present for the toss at the time specified; or
(b) A team is not ready at the official starting time**.**

32.4 Before the match each club is permitted to warm up and use footballs at an agreed part of the ground until the two-minute siren.

Any breach of section 32 shall result in a penalty of $250.00 per breach applied to the Club.

33. TIMEKEEPING

33.1 Each club must provide a timekeeper for each match (including finals).

33.2 The home club must provide one clock of a type approved by the League, and the clock shall be submitted to an examiner appointed by the league when required.

33.3 The timekeepers shall comply with law 10 of the Laws of Australian Football dealing with the keeping of records (refer Appendix 4 – Timekeepers Sheet), use of sirens, and time on, except where varied by the League under these rules (refer Section 18).

Any breach of section 33 shall result in a penalty of $250.00 per breach applied to the Club.

34. PERSONNEL ON THE PLAYING AREA

34.1 At grounds which have coach's boxes any official or player named on the official team sheet must use the facility provided. Trainers and water carriers may position themselves at intervals around the boundary line, provided they do not interfere with the functions of the interchange steward or other officials involved in the running of the match.

34.2 The maximum number of people allowed at the coach's boxes is ten (10) all of whom shall be interchange players and officials named on the official team sheet. All persons in this area must be clearly identifiable as to the club's identity.

34.3 The only registered club officials who may go onto the ground whilst the match is being played, are those listed on the team sheet.

34.5 The use of mobile telephones, walkie talkies or other electronic equipment is not permitted on the playing area during a match, except for the strip between the boundary line and the fence area.

Any breach of section 34 shall result in a penalty of $100.00 per breach applied to the Club.

35. OFFICIAL RUNNER

35.1 Each club may have an official runner in each match.
(a) Reserves & U/18 competitions may only have one runner per team only.
(b) Senior teams (male & female) only may use two runners. If two runners are utilised, only one runner is permitted on the field at any one time, and the runner must enter and leave through the interchange gate.
35.2 The runner must wear the approved league shirt and must be attired in appropriate clothing normal for running duties.
35.3 The runner's role is solely to deliver messages from the coaching staff to players on the playing area, and the runner must immediately vacate the playing area once the message has been delivered.
35.4 Runners must not interfere with the course of play. This includes standing in and filling a space during play.
35.5 The runner is not permitted to coach or remain on the field providing instructions and shall be asked to leave the playing area by the umpire/s. If the runner fails to immediately respond to any request from the umpire, then a free kick may be awarded against their team at the spot of the infringement or where the ball is at that time, whichever is the greater penalty.
35.6 Runners are not to act as trainers or water carriers in the senior grade.
35.7 Persons acting as a runner shall be at least 15 years of age.
35.8 Coaches are not permitted to act as runners or water carriers.

Any breach of section 35 shall result in a penalty of $100.00 per breach applied to the Club.

36. MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND WATER CARRIERS

36.1 A club may have a maximum of 10 medical personnel and water carriers in total. The 10 will be made up of a maximum of eight trainers and a maximum of 4 water carriers.
36.2 Trainers and Water Carriers shall wear League approved identification.
36.3 Doctors or Physiotherapists are permitted to wear civilian attire however must wear a league approved armband.
36.4 Water Carriers shall be at least 14 years old.

Any breach of section 36 shall result in a penalty of $100.00 per breach applied to the Club.

37. MATCH SCORES & PAPERWORK

37.1 The home team is required to enter game scores at quarter time, half-time, three-quarter time and full time in PlayHQ for all matches. This includes best players and goal kickers at the conclusion of each match.

37.2 The home team is required to live score Men's and Women's Senior matches using the PlayHQ live score system

37.3 No later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of a game, the home club's team manager will collect both Team Sheets (home & away) which must include the goal kickers and best player details for both teams and ensure that information from both team sheets is entered into PlayHQ prior to 6pm.

37.4 All game day information (Both team sheets complete with best playe25rs and goal scorers and both goal umpire score cards) are to be submitted on the SFL's Google Drive within 24 hours of the conclusion of the match.

Any breach of Section 37 shall result in a penalty of $100.00 per breach.

38. ADMISSION FEES

38.1 The following match Admission Fees may be charged by home clubs;

Adults	$12
Concession	$10
Children (Under 16)	Free

Part 7 – Umpires

39. BAN ON PLAYING

A person may not participate as a player or coach in the SFL Premier League or SFL Community League if the person has umpired (field, boundary or goal) in the respective competition in the same season.

Any breach of section 39 shall result in a penalty of $250.00 per breach applied to the Club.

40. UMPIRES CHANGE ROOMS

Umpires' changerooms at grounds may not be accessed by any Person other than the umpires, their trainers, ground managers, umpire escorts, SFL Officials and members of the umpires' body.

Any breach of section 40 shall result in a penalty of $500.00 per breach applied to the Club.

41. UMPIRE ESCORTS

41.1 It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a competent person to act as an umpire escort in appropriate supplied SFL apparel.

41.2 The umpire escort must be eighteen (18) years of age or older and capable of undertaking the duties required.

41.3 The umpire escort must escort the umpires onto the ground for match commencement, from the ground at half time, onto the ground to commence the second half and from the ground at the completion of the game and visit the umpires during quarter time and 3 quarter time breaks in the middle of the ground. They must escort the umpires to the door of the Umpire change rooms.

41.4 The duty of the escort is to;

- Assist the safety of umpires;
- Minimise the risk of abuse towards umpires; and
- Deter fellow club members and members of the public from possible unnecessary actions towards the umpires.

41.5 The home team is to supply an SFL approved fluorescent vest/jacket marked **"Umpire Escort".** This vest/jacket is to be worn by the **Umpire Escort** at any time when escorting the umpires.

The Umpire Escort is also required to be positioned at the umpire's huddle at the ¼ and ¾ time breaks. This person may double as an Interchange Steward.

Any breach of section 41 shall result in a penalty of $250.00 per breach applied to the Club.

Part 8 - Disciplinary

42. ORDER OFF RULE

Depending upon the severity of the offence the officiating umpire may issue a green, yellow or red card to a player. The below table details the circumstances of the card issued:

SFL		
GREEN	YELLOW	RED
• To be shown as a caution to a player • This player shall be sent from the field of play for 15 minutes	• To be shown when making a report • This player shall be sent from the field of play for 15 minutes	• To be shown when making a serious report or a second report against a player • This player shall be sent from the field of play for the remainder of the match

The Order off Law is in accordance with Law 23 of the Laws of Australian Football.

Players may be immediate replaced regardless of the colour of the card issued.

43. REPORTABLE OFFENCES

On behalf of the League AFL Tasmania shall administer reportable offences in accordance with the **National Community Football Policy Handbook**, Part E – Disciplinary Section 22.

In accordance with Section 22.1 (b) (iii) AFL Tasmania may levy a fee for the lodgement of Club Incident Referral Forms.

44. COMPLAINTS

Complaints in relation to breaches of AFL Policies shall be handled in accordance with the **National Community Football Policy Handbook**, Part E- Disciplinary Section 23;

AFL Policies include Member Protection, Vilification and Discrimination, Safeguarding Children, Social Media, Gambling and Match Fixing, and Ani-Doping.

45. MELEES

45.1 Any club deemed to have been involved in a melee by the Match Review Officer will be financially sanctioned.

45.2 Individual players involved in a melee may still be reported under the Laws of Australian Football and/or National Community Football Policy Handbook.

Any breach of section 45 shall result in a penalty of $200.00 per breach applied to the Club.

46. EFFECT OF SUSPENSION

46.1 In the event a suspended Person participates in a match or in any other way breaches AFL Policy in relation to suspended persons, Section 13 of these rules applies.

Part 9 - The Independent Tribunal

47. TRIBUNAL

On behalf of the League the AFL Tasmania Tribunal shall manage all matters in accordance with the **National Community Football Policy Handbook**, Part E- Disciplinary Section 25.

48. APPEALS

On behalf of the League AFL Tasmania shall manage all appeals in accordance with the **National Community Football Policy Handbook** Part E – Disciplinary Section 26.

In accordance with Section 26.1 (c) (i) (B) AFL Tasmania shall levy a fee of $500 for the lodgement of a Notice of Appeal.

Part 10 - Apparel & Equipment

49. UNIFORMS

49.1 Upon admission to the league Clubs shall apply for and obtain approval of the SFL Board to use the colours, uniform and design under which the club proposes to play. These uniforms, when approved, shall be registered with the SFL.

49.2 Any club desiring to vary or alter its colours, uniform or design shall first apply for and obtain the permission of the SFL to make such variation or alteration and when approved the same shall be registered by the same process, provided always that notice of such change of colours or alteration of design is given to the League not later than the first day of December in the preceding year to that in which such change is to be effected.

49.3 The materials used, and the manufacturing process of club uniforms must be approved by the SFL Board, who will have regard to any product license agreements from time to time. Any variation to the approved material or manufacturing process must be approved by the SFL.

49.4 All playing jumpers must display numbers on the back no less than 25cm in height.

49.5 Appendix 5 outlines authorised advertising space on playing jumpers, subject to 49.14. Clubs must also obtain approval for the type of sponsor from the SFL Board prior to any new sponsors' logos being displayed on Club Uniform.

49.6 Players are permitted to wear their club uniform-coloured shorts at all home games.

49.7 Away teams will wear white shorts in all SFL games unless otherwise approved by the SFL, or as permitted under 49.8.

49.8 Women's teams shall be permitted to wear an alternate colour than white for their away shorts provided that the colour does not clash with the home team's short colour.

49.9 Undershorts may be worn by a Player provided that the material is of a neutral beige colour only, unless the SFL has approved a Player to wear an alternative colour, and does not contain any sponsor advertising

49.10 Appendix 5 outlines authorised advertising space on playing shorts. Clubs must also obtain approval for the type of sponsor from the SFL prior to any new sponsors' logos being displayed on Club Uniform.

49.11 Players must wear socks of their club's approved colours. Socks may have a sponsor's badge/logo on them, if approved. All changes to sock designs and or sponsor logos must be approved by the SFL.

49.12 Clubs may utilize body transfers to promote sponsors. Transfers must be no larger than 5cm x 5cm (or equivalent) and must be approved by the SFL.

49.13 Football Boots must be worn when playing in the SFL and form a part of the official uniform.

49.14 Community League Clubs may display multiple sponsor logos on playing jumpers and shorts, provided the total combined area and approved placement limits outline in Appendix 5 are not exceeded.

Guidance Note: As at November 2025 existing approved apparel can continue to be used, but all future updates or additions of sponsor logos must comply with these requirements.

Any breach of section 49 shall result in a penalty of $500.00 per breach applied to the Club.

50. ON FIELD APPAREL SUPPLY

50.1 On-field apparel (warm up clothing, playing jumpers, playing shorts and socks) must be sourced through the following League approved suppliers.

In 2026 the approved on-field player apparel suppliers are:

- ID Clothing
- ISC
- Puma
- LRF
- New Balance

Failure to use an approved supplier may result in a fine, loss of points or expulsion from competition, as determined by the SFL.

51. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Law 9 of the Laws of Australian Football and Section 16 of the National Community Football Handbook applies.

Any breach of Section 51 shall result in a penalty of $100.00 per breach.

52. APPROVED FOOTBALLS

52.1 Clubs must use approved footballs in all matches conducted by the league as follows;

Premier League	**Size**	**Colour**	**Branding**
Men's Seniors	Size 5	Red for matches commencing before 2:30pm. Yellow to be used for matches commencing after 2:30pm.	N/A
Women's Seniors	Size 4	Red for matches commencing before 2:30pm. Yellow to be used for matches commencing after 2:30pm.	N/A
Men's Reserves	Size 5	Red for matches commencing before 2:30pm. Yellow to be used for matches commencing after 2:30pm.	N/A
Boys U/18's	Size 5	Red for matches commencing before 2:30pm. Yellow to be used for matches commencing after 2:30pm.	N/A
Girls U/18's	Size 4	Red for matches commencing before 2:30pm. Yellow to be used for matches commencing after 2:30pm.	N/A

Community League	**Size**	**Colour**	**Branding**
Men's Seniors	Size 5	Red for matches commencing before2:30pm. Yellow to be used for matches commencing after 2:30pm.	Clennett's Mitre 10 Logo

Women's Seniors	Size 4	Red for matches commencing before 2:30pm. Yellow to be used for matches commencing after 2:30pm.	Clennett's Mitre 10 Logo
Men's Reserves	Size 5	Red for matches commencing before 2:30pm. Yellow to be used for matches commencing after 2:30pm.	Clennett's Mitre 10 Logo
Boys U/18's	Size 5	Red for matches commencing before 2:30pm. Yellow to be used for matches commencing after 2:30pm.	Clennett's Mitre 10 Logo
Girls U/18's	Size 4	Red for matches commencing before 2:30pm. Yellow to be used for matches commencing after 2:30pm.	Clennett's Mitre 10 Logo

52.2 The home club shall provide three footballs to the umpires prior to commencement of each match for use in the match.

52.3 The home club shall provide at least one brand new ball for each men's and women's seniors match.

52.4 The League shall provide footballs for use in Finals matches (cost of balls included in host club levy).

52.5 Clubs must purchase all match footballs through the SFL.

Any breach of section 52 shall result in a penalty of $250.00 per breach applied to the Club.

Part 11 – Awards

53. AWARDS

Best & Fairest

53.1 At the conclusion of each season the League shall provide an award for the best and fairest player in each Premier League and Community League competition.

53.2 The field umpires shall, after each home and away match, log onto the OfficialsHQ system and allocate their preferences for best players in their game, their first choice to receive three votes, their second choice to receive two votes, and their third choice to receive one vote.

53.3 The player receiving the largest number of votes at the conclusion of the roster season shall be awarded the best and fairest.

53.4 In any season, a player found guilty and suspended for a reportable offence in a roster match under the Laws of Australian Football (including SFL Representative games) shall be ineligible to win the best and fairest award for any competition.

Guidance Note: Any player who is reported and issued with a reprimand shall remain eligible to win the best and fairest award for any competition.

53.5 In the event of two or more eligible players securing the same number of votes, the award shall be shared and presented to each player.

Leading Goal Kicker

53.6 At the conclusion of each season the League shall provide an award for the player that has kicked the most goals in each Premier League and Community League competition.

53.7 In the event two or more players have kicked the same number goals, the award shall be shared and presented to each player.

Player of the Final

53.8 At the conclusion of each Premier League and Community League competition Grand Final the League shall provide an award for the player adjudged best player on the ground in the match.

53.9 The player of the final shall be selected by a person, or panel or persons, appointed by the Board in advance of the Grand Final.

Representative Teams

53.10 Following any representative team match/es during any season the League shall provide an award for the player adjudged the best player for the team in the match/es.

53.11 The best player award for each representative team shall be selected by the coaching panel of the respective team.

Club Championship

53.12 At the conclusion of each season the Bibby Shield shall be awarded to the Community League club that accumulates the most premiership points across all Community League competitions combined.

53.13 At the conclusion of each season the Club Championship shall be awarded to the Premier League club that accumulates the most premiership points across all Premier League competitions combined.

Other Awards

53.13 At the conclusion of each season the Executive may present any other awards it determines from time to time.

53.14 The League awards shall be known as:

Premier League	Men's Seniors Best & Fairest	William Leitch Medal
Premier League	Women's Seniors Best & Fairest	LA Ottaway Medal
Premier League	Reserves Best & Fairest	George Watt Medal
Premier League	Boys U/18 Best & Fairest	V.A. Geard Medal
Premier League	Girls U/18 Best & Fairest	*Not Named*
Premier League	Men's Seniors Leading Goal Kicker	Hudson Medal
Premier League	Women's Seniors Leading Goal Kicker	Nietta Lynch Medal
Premier League	Reserves Leading Goal Kicker	*Not Named*
Premier League	Boys U/18 Leading Goal Kicker	*Not Named*
Premier League	Girls U/18 Leading Goal Kicker	*Not Named*
Premier League	Men's Seniors Best on Ground – Grand Final	Wade-Ling Medal
Premier League	Women's Seniors Best on Ground – Grand Final	Jess Wuetschner Medal
Premier League	Reserves Player of the Final	*Not Named*
Premier League	Boys U/18 Player of the Final	*Not Named*
Premier League	Girls U/18 Player of the Final	*Not Named*
Premier League	Senior Men Premiership Coach	Fagan Medal
Premier League	Senior Women Premiership Coach	Andy Smith Medal
Premier League	Men's Best Representative Player	Hodgman Medal
Premier League	Women's Best Representative Player	Sandra Eaton Medal
Community League	Men's Seniors Best & Fairest	Hodgman Medal
Community League	Women's Seniors Best & Fairest	Cara Brooke Medal
Community League	Reserves Best & Fairest	Johnstone Medal
Community League	Boys U/18 Best & Fairest	Lipscombe Medal
Community League	Girls U/18 Best & Fairest	*Not Named*
Community League	Men's Seniors Leading Goal Kicker	Colin Smith Award
Community League	Women's Seniors Leading Goal Kicker	Melinda Green Medal
Community League	Reserves Leading Goal Kicker	*Not Named*
Community League	Boys U/18 Leading Goal Kicker	*Not Named*
Community League	Girls U/18 Leading Goal Kicker	*Not Named*
Community League	Men's Seniors Best on Ground – Grand Final	Gorringe-Martyn Medal
Community League	Women's Seniors Best on Ground – Grand Final	Jodie Mather Medal
Community League	Senior Men Premiership Coach	Garry Williamson Medal
Community League	Senior Women Premiership Coach	Brad Willis Medal
Community League	Reserves Player of the Final	*Not Named*
Community League	Boys U/18 Player of the Final	*Not Named*
Community League	Girls U/18 Player of the Final	*Not Named*
Community League	Men's Best Representative Player	*Not Named*
Community League	Women's Best Representative Player	*Not Named*

Part 12 – Representative Teams

54. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

54.1 All registered players may be selected to play in SFL representative teams during any season. Players selected will be advised of the date(s) of the representative game(s) and the dates and times of trainings by the appointed coach. All registered players accept that they may be selected to play representative football when they register to play in the competition each season.

54.2 All registered players who are injured at the time of their selection must provide a medical certificate which states the nature of their injury and the expected date of return to training and playing.

54.3 All registered players who at the time of their selection are unable to train due to work commitments must provide a signed letter from their employer stating their inability to train or play in representative football.

54.4 A player who has been selected in a representative squad / team and who neglects to train or play or fulfil all requirements as directed by the Coach and/or Board shall on failing to satisfy the Board as to their reasons, shall not be available to represent his/her club in the following SFL roster match after the completion of the representative game(s).

54.5 The Board shall appoint representative coaches, team managers, medical personnel and other support positions required.

Part 13 – Miscellaneous

55. SERVICE OF NOTICE

Any notice required to be served under these Rules and Regulations may be sent by email or by ordinary mail and in the case of mail shall be deemed to have been received, unless the contrary is claimed, in the normal course of mail delivery.

56. SFL FORMS

56.1 The Board may design and alter from time to time such forms for the implementation of these rules as it thinks appropriate.

56.2 A form that is required to be lodged at the office of the league is correctly lodged if it is sent by scanned email within the time specified for the particular form.

57. FINANCIAL PENALTIES

57.1 All financial penalties imposed to clubs must be paid by the club within 7 days upon notification. If the penalty is not paid in this time period, the club will not be permitted to participate in any games for premiership points until the fine is paid in full.

58. EXECUTIVE DISCRETION

Notwithstanding any provisions of these rules, the Board of the SFL, in exceptional circumstances, reserves the right to make the final determination in relation to any matter not covered within these rules.

APPENDIX 1 – Membership Levies

Membership Levies for season 2025 are as follows:

Full Members	**$600**
Associate Members	**$360**
Recess Member	**$300**

Please note: As at 12 November 2025, the 2026 membership levies are under review and will be updated, once finalised.

APPENDIX 2 – Forms

National Community Football Policy Handbook TEMPLATES

B0301 LATE TRANSFER APPLICATION FORM

B0302 CONTROLLING BODY REQUEST FOR TRANSFERREFUSAL EVIDENCE

B0303 NOTICE OF APPEAL-TRANSFER REFUSAL

B0305 STANDARD PLAYER DECLARATION

B0401 AGE DISPENSATION APPLICATION

B0504 COACH CITATION NOTICE

B0701 DEREGISTRATION WARNING NOTICE

B0702 DEREGISTRATION NOTICE-REPORTABLE OFFENCE THRESHOLD

B0707 REREGISTRATION APPLICATION FORM

C1001 NOTICE OF COMPLAINT- PROHIBITED CONDUCT

E2201 NOTICE OF REPORT

E2292 INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

E2203 NOTICE OF CHARGE- EARLY GUILTY PLEA OFFER LOW LEVEL OFFENCE

E2204 NOTICE OF CHARGE EARLY GUILTY PLEA CLASSIFIABLE OR AUDITORY OFFENCE

E2205 NOTICE OF CHARGE- DIRECT TRIBUNAL REFERRAL

E2301 NOTICE OF COMPLAINT

E2304 NOTICE OF BREACH- EARLY GUILTY PLEA OFFER

E2305 NOTICE OF BREACH- DIRECT TRIBUNAL REFERRAL

E2051 TRIBUNAL ADVOCATE AND WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

E2502 NOTICE OF TRIBUNAL OUTCOME

E2601 NOTICE OF APPEAL

APPENDIX 3 – Premier League Scheduling Options

Option 1

Friday		Saturday	
Girls U18's	5:45pm	Men's Reserves	10:30am
Boys U18's	7:30pm	Women's Seniors	1:00pm
(or other way around)		Men's Seniors	3:00pm

Option 2

Friday		Saturday	
Girls U18's	5:45pm	Men's Reserves	10:30am
Boys U18's	7:30pm	Men's Seniors	1:00pm
(or other way around)		Women's Seniors	3:30pm

Option 3

Friday		Saturday	
Women's Seniors	5:45pm	Girls U/18's	11:00am
Men's Seniors	7:45pm	Boys U/18's	12:45pm
(or other way around)		Men's Reserves	2:45pm

Option 4

Saturday		Sunday	
Men's Reserves	10:30am	Girls U/18's	11:00am*
Women's Seniors	1:00pm	Boys U/18's	12:45pm*
Men's Seniors	3:00pm	(or other way around)	

Option 5

Saturday		Sunday	
Men's Reserves	10:30am	Girls U/18's	11:00am*
Men's Seniors	1:00pm	Boys U/18's	12:45pm*
Women's Seniors	3:30pm	(or other way around)	

Option 6 (must alternate with Option 7)

Saturday		Friday or Sunday	
Boys U/18's	9:00am	Girls U/18's	6:00pm* or 10am*
Men's Reserves	11:00am		
Men's Seniors	1:30pm		
Women's Seniors	4:00pm		

Option 7 (must alternative with Option 6)

Saturday		Friday or Sunday	
Girls U/18's	9:15am	Boys U/18's	6:00pm* or 10am*
Women's Seniors	11am		
Men's Seniors	1pm		
Men's Reserves	3:30pm		

Notes:
1) Clubs must schedule a minimum of one Seniors Women's match per season at the preferred playing time, being 1pm, 1:30pm or 2pm.
2) *Time variable around other Friday or Sunday matches at the respective ground
3) The above options are on the basis of grounds having lighting that meets minimum standards for community football.

SFL Premier League Timekeepers Report Form

Date: Venue: Grade:

Home Team			
Quarter	**Goals**	**Behinds**	**Total**
1			
2			
3			
4			
Total			
Away Team			
Quarter	**Goals**	**Behinds**	**Total**
1			
2			
3			
4			
Total			

SFL Premier League Playing Times

The length of quarters shall be as follows:

Senior Men: Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes with time on.

Senior Women: Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes with no time on.

Reserves: Each quarter shall comprise 25 minutes with no time on.

U18 Boys: Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes with no time on

U18 Girls: Each quarter shall comprise 16 minutes with no time on

SFL Premier League – Length of breaks

Seniors: ¼ time – 6 minutes, ½ time - 20 minutes, ¾ time – 6 minutes

Women's Reserves & U18's: ¼ time – 5 minutes, ½ time - 15 minutes, ¾ time – 5 minutes

First Quarter	Time	Third Quarter	Time
Umpires enter field		Umpires enter field	
Home team enter field		Home team enter field	
Away team enter field		Away team enter field	
Start		Start	
Finish		Finish	
Time between 1st & 2nd quarter		Time between 3rd & 4th quarter	
Second Quarter	**Time**	**Fourth Quarter**	**Time**
Start		Start	
Finish		Finish	
Time between 2nd & 3rd quarter			

Signature: Name: Club:

Procedure for sounding siren

The Timekeepers shall sound the siren at the times and on the number of occasions as set out in Table 1.

Start of Match	Number of Occasions
Five minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the Match and as Umpires enter the Area	Once
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of Match)	Once
End of first quarter	Once
Start of Second Quarter	
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of quarter)	Once
End of second quarter	Once
Start of Third Quarter	
Five minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the quarter and as Umpires enter the Arena	Once
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of quarter)	Once
End of third quarter	Once
Start of Fourth Quarter	
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of quarter)	Once
End of fourth quarter	Once

Stopping and recommencing time

10.6.1 Stopping Time

The Timekeepers shall stop the clock which is used for the timing of the match when:

(a) Directed to do so by the field
(b) The goal Umpire signals that a Goal or Behinds has been scored
(c) The boundary Umpire signals that the football is Out of Bounds or Out of Bounds On the Full or
(d) The field Umpire crosses their arms to indicate they are going to throw the football up

10.6.2 Recommencing Time

The Timekeepers shall recommence the clock used for the timing of a Match when:

(a) Directed to do so by the field Umpire in accordance with Law 10.6.3
(b) The football is bounced or thrown up by the field Umpire
(c) The football is brought back into play after a Behind has been scored
(d) The football is thrown back into play by the boundary Umpire or brought back into play by a Player (as the case may be), after it has gone Out of Bounds or Out of Bounds On the Full
(e) The football is obviously in play or
(f) The Umpire calls 'Play On'

10.6.3 Signalling

A field Umpire shall signal to the Timekeeper to stop the clock or re-start the clock used for the timing of the Match by blowing a whistle and raising one arm above their head.

SFL Community League Timekeepers Report Form

Date: _____ Venue: _____ Grade: _____

Home Team			
Quarter	**Goals**	**Behinds**	**Total**
1			
2			
3			
4			
Total			
Away Team			
Quarter	**Goals**	**Behinds**	**Total**
1			
2			
3			
4			
Total			

SFL Community League Playing Times

The length of quarters shall be as follows:

Senior Men: Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes with time on.
Senior Women: Each quarter shall comprise 18 minutes with no time on.
Reserves: Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes with no time on.
U18 Boys: Each quarter shall comprise 20 minutes with no time on
U18 Girls: Each quarter shall comprise 16 minutes with no time on

Community League – Length of breaks

All Grades: ¼ time – 6 minutes, ½ time - 15 minutes, ¾ time – 6 minutes

First Quarter	**Time**	**Third Quarter**	**Time**
Umpires enter field		Umpires enter field	
Home team enter field		Home team enter field	
Away team enter field		Away team enter field	
Start		Start	
Finish		Finish	
Time between 1st & 2nd quarter		Time between 3rd & 4th quarter	
Second Quarter	**Time**	**Fourth Quarter**	**Time**
Start		Start	
Finish		Finish	
Time between 2nd & 3rd quarter			

Signature: _____ Name: _____ Club: _____

Procedure for sounding siren

The Timekeepers shall sound the siren at the times and on the number of occasions as set out in Table 1.

Start of Match	Number of Occasions
Five minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the Match and as Umpires enter the Area	Once
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of Match)	Once
End of first quarter	Once
Start of Second Quarter	
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of quarter)	Once
End of second quarter	Once
Start of Third Quarter	
Five minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the quarter and as Umpires enter the Arena	Once
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of quarter)	Once
End of third quarter	Once
Start of Fourth Quarter	
Two minutes prior to the scheduled starting time	Twice
One minute prior to the scheduled starting time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of quarter)	Once
End of fourth quarter	Once

Stopping and recommencing time

10.6.1 Stopping Time

The Timekeepers shall stop the clock which is used for the timing of the match when:

(a) Directed to do so by the field
(b) The goal Umpire signals that a Goal or Behinds has been scored
(c) The boundary Umpire signals that the football is Out of Bounds or Out of Bounds On the Full or
(d) The field Umpire crosses their arms to indicate they are going to throw the football up

10.6.2 Recommencing Time

The Timekeepers shall recommence the clock used for the timing of a Match when:

(a) Directed to do so by the field Umpire in accordance with Law 10.6.3
(b) The football is bounced or thrown up by the field Umpire
(c) The football is brought back into play after a Behind has been scored
(d) The football is thrown back into play by the boundary Umpire or brought back into play by a Player (as the case may be), after it has gone Out of Bounds or Out of Bounds On the Full
(e) The football is obviously in play or
(f) The Umpire calls 'Play On'

10.6.3 Signalling

A field Umpire shall signal to the Timekeeper to stop the clock or re-start the clock used for the timing of the Match by blowing a whistle and raising one arm above their head.

APPENDIX 5 – Apparel Requirements

SFL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Front of Jumper

1. SFL Logo - max 60mm x 80mm
2. Club Logo - max 60mm x 80mm
3. Club Sponsor - max 900mm2

Back of Jumper

4. Club Sponsor - 300 x 60mm2
5. Playing Number, no less than 25cm in height
6. Club Sponsor - max 900mm2

Front of Shorts

7. SFL Logo - max 60mm x 80mm (left leg)
8. Club Sponsor- max 80 x 80mm2 (right leg)

Back of Shorts

9. Club Sponsor- max 80 x 80mm2 (left leg)
10. Club Sponsor- max 80 x 80mm2 (right leg)

ALL MEASUREMENTS (W) X (H)

PREMIER LEAGUE & COMMUNITY LEAGUE CLUBS MUST USE THEIR RESPECTIVE PREMIER LEAGUE & COMMUNITY LEAGUE LOGOS