



CENTRAL MURRAY

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FOOTBALL COMPETITION RULES & BY-LAWS

2008

1. **The Central Murray Football League Incorporated Board of Management** shall have the entire control and management of all matches arranged by this League, and shall also have the power to settle all disputes which may arise in connection with any of such matters or in connection with the matches played under its patronage, and may do all such acts and things it may consider conducive to the League's interests or the game of football.
 2. The League shall be affiliated with The Victorian Country Football League.
 3. Each club shall nominate 2 delegates to attend special general meetings. At least one must sit at any Special General Meeting so called. Each Club has only **one** vote. Failure to attend a Special General Meeting or other League function where attendance is compulsory shall result in a fine of 20 units under by-law 34a, unless the Board accepts the Club's explanation.
 4. The Board reserves the right to bring any person acting in an official capacity for a club or player before it at any time for any purpose whatever. In the event of any player or person acting in an official capacity for a club receiving notification to attend a meeting of the Board or of any sub-committee, and failing to do so, he shall stand down and be suspended until his case is finally settled, unless he can give a suitable excuse, which may be accepted by the Board, for his non attendance. Proof of postage of such notification shall be sufficient evidence of the delivery thereof to the player or person acting in an official capacity of the club to whom the envelope containing such notification was addressed by registered post.
- 5. DELEGATES APPOINTMENT & FEES**
- a) Each club represented on the League shall subscribe to the League an affiliation fee of \$11.00 (GST Inc.) not later than the Annual General meeting each year; and no delegate member shall be allowed to take his seat or take part in the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting or following meetings of the League until such fees have been paid.
 - b) The Board may also at any time during the year, call on each of the affiliated clubs comprising the League, to contribute an additional sum of money to its funds. Each club shall pay the amount of any such request within **14 days** after notice thereof having been given to pay the same or any fine that may for any reason, have been imposed. At the CMFL Board's discretion a Club can be fined the sum of **10 units** for each seven days that such payment is overdue or can be suspended or disqualified from any representation thereon until such payment of such requests has been made.
 - c) Any club that does not meet its annual financial obligation to the Central Murray Football League, to the satisfaction of the CMFL Board prior to the last two rounds of the home and away season, will not be eligible to participate in the final series of that season in any grade.
 - d) The name of any new delegate nominated by a Club shall be submitted to the League. The new delegate may be excluded by a majority of the Clubs present.

- e) Any delegate of a club attending any Annual-General, Ordinary, Emergency or Special Meeting of the League or any of the Board or its sub committees in an unfit state, or being guilty of unseemly or disorderly conduct or any other conduct inimical to this League, may be fined or expelled from the League by three quarters majority of the Clubs present at such meeting.
- f) No delegate shall represent more than one affiliated club, or be a delegate (member) to, or office-bearer in any club, or be a delegate (member) to, or office-bearer in any other League or Association or other combination of clubs controlling football, unless by consent of the League delegates (members) assembled.

6. **NEW CLUBS**

- a) Applications by new clubs for admission to this League may be made to the Manager in writing, not later than 7 days, prior to the Annual Meeting in each year. A deposit of \$10, which will be refunded in the event of the application being refused, must accompany each such application. Provided, however, that the League at the Annual or any other General meeting, may, by a resolution passed by a majority of Clubs present and voting at the meeting, admit any new club notwithstanding that the provisions of the By-Law have not fully complied with by such new club, if satisfied that such non-compliance was due to inadvertence to the Central Murray Football League the club transferring must have complied with all VCFL rules relating to transfer of club.
- b) No new club shall be admitted to this League except by a **three quarter** majority vote of all member clubs within the League.
- c) Each new club admitted to this League shall, within **ten** days of its admission, notify the Manager of the League of the full given and family names, as well as the postal address of its delegates.
- d) Subject as here in after mentioned, each club with this League shall field a Senior, Reserve, and a Colts team, but in the event of the League that any club is unable to field a Reserve or Colts team, the Board may at its discretion admit any club to fill such vacancy in the competition on terms determined by the Board to be confirmed at every Annual meeting or a meeting specially called.

7. **SUB-COMMITTEES**

The following sub-committees may be appointed by the Board: Independent Tribunal, Rules Committee, Permits and Umpire Committee, Interleague Committee, League Investigation Committee

8. **INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL**

- a) An Independent Tribunal consisting of at least nine persons not connected with any clubs of the League, as hereinbefore constituted, shall be selected annually, and the decision and penalties imposed by such Independent Tribunal shall be final. Five members is the maximum number of any hearing, and three members shall form a quorum. This Independent Tribunal will deal with players and officials reported in accordance with the appropriate rules of the VCFL, The CMFL, and the Laws of Australian Football as well as any appeals disputes that may arise from such rules. They may also sit in judgement on any dispute or matters at the direction of the Board.
- b) Such Independent Tribunal shall deal with also all charges against officials and players, who may give unsatisfactory evidence. It shall be competent of the Board from time to time and at any time to appoint a substitute or substitutes on such Independent Tribunal in place of any member or members therefore who may be unable at any time or times to act, and any such appointment or

appointments may be for such period as the Board determines. No such substitute or substitutes appointed hereunder shall be connected with the League as hereinbefore constituted. Three members of such Independent Tribunal may grant a re-hearing of any dealt with by it, and decided upon, if, in its absolute discretion, it thinks necessary or advisable to do so, and that the fresh evidence or facts proposed to be submitted would or might have led to a decision different from that arrived at.

- c) The Independent Tribunal shall also hear charges referred to it by the Leagues Investigation Committee and have the power to impose penalties.
- d) The Tribunal Secretary or appointed substitute shall represent the League in presenting charges to the Independent Tribunal and may summon or arrange for any persons to appear to give evidence on the hearing of any charges against a player under Law 19 of Australian Football
- e) Any player charged with an offence to appear before the Independent Tribunal, shall have the right to be represented at the inquiry by a representative of the club.
- f) All applications for expenses incurred by witnesses attending Independent Tribunal cases, or by persons charged, shall be made to the CMFL Board who will deal with it.
- g) Any person having been suspended by the Independent Tribunal shall be eligible to resume playing after his club's Senior, Reserve or Third team has played the number of matches equivalent to his suspension period providing that he otherwise would be eligible to play in such game or games. For the purpose of this rule the Senior, Reserve and Colts match played on the one day shall count as one match only.
- h) Any player, or official failing to appear before the Tribunal when advised to do so without an acceptable reason shall be disqualified for a minimum period of two matches, this to be additional to any penalty arising from the hearing for that time.
- i) A deposit as prescribed by the VCFL shall accompany all appeals by clubs or player's advocate with any player charged before the Independent Tribunal.
- j) Clubs concerned shall send a player's advocate with any player charged before the Independent Tribunal on all occasions. Such advocates must not be members of the Legal Profession.
Penalty: 20 units
- k) Players or officials charged with an offence MUST attend the Independent Tribunal meeting. If necessary the Meeting will be adjourned and the player or official penalized as the Tribunal deems appropriate until attendance is confirmed.

9. **RULES COMMITTEE**

- a) A Rules Committee shall be formed at the discretion of the Board
- b) The Rules Committee will investigate required amendments to the rules and provide interpretations in the event of disputes over the rules.

10. **PERMIT & UMPIRE COMMITTEE**

The League Manager and Assistant Manager, shall meet as required during the season for the following purposes:

- a) To approve all registrations, clearances and permits to play.
- b) To investigate infringements and irregularities arising from match reports, team sheets etc and recommend penalties in accordance with other rules herein or submit recommendations to the Board for consideration.
- c) To retain a record of games played by players in all grades of the competition and at the competition of each home series compile a record of votes in the League Best and Fairest Awards.
- d) Providing the amount of penalty has been paid, a Club or player may within fourteen (14) days of being advised of any penalty, appeal to the League's Independent Tribunal against the decision.
- e) Where a dispute arises between a club and/or players and an umpire(s) that does not become a matter for investigation by the League it will be referred to the Central Murray Umpiring Board of Management for mediation.
- f) One week prior to the start of the season **each club** is to provide the name of one club member each year who is willing to be trained and coached to achieve Level 1 Umpiring Accreditation. This process to continue for three years (2008-10) until each club has three accredited umpires. This number is to be maintained into the future. **Penalty:** for failing to submit the information by date - 25 units and another 25 units for each week after.

11. **INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE**

An Investigation Committee may be appointed by the Board and shall consist of **five** members, **three** of which shall constitute a quorum, who shall deal with protests, disputes and charges against players, club officials or clubs, with the exception of charges preferred by Umpires and Stewards against players and officials under the appropriate law from the Laws of Australian Football and charges against any person and players who may give unsatisfactory evidence. Clubs requesting the evidence of umpires shall in the first instance pay their travelling expenses, but the cost of the inquiry (including such travelling expenses) may be charged to the losing side and may be retained from any dividend payable at any time to such club. Any charge answerable shall be referred to the Independent Tribunal for hearing and penalty.

12. **THE VCFL / CMFL CODE of CONDUCT**

From 2008 the League's code of conduct has been incorporated into its by-laws and penalties are now in place where breaches are found to have occurred. See appendix 1 for the full Code of Conduct. For the purposes of the rule the Home Club's executive assumes responsibilities of the Ground Manager where one is not designated.

Note: Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents/carers of players, coach's, officials and spectators.

12.1 **Person/s attending a match shall not:**

- a. Use offensive or obscene language to any player, coach, umpire, official or other spectator;
- b. Enter the playing surface during the course of a game without the prior approval of the Ground Manager appointed by the home club and/or CMFL;
- c. Dispute the decision of an umpire either during or after a game;
- d. Assault or act with aggression to any person/s;
- e. Behave in a way contrary to this Code of Conduct and/or the spirit of the game;

- f. Behave in a way which disturbs the enjoyment of the match by any other person/s, or brings discredit to the home club and/or the CMFL;
- g. Act in such a way as to exhibit racial, religious or ethnic intolerance, by language or other conduct, to any other person/s;
- h. Refuse to accept the reasonable direction of the Ground Manager, official of the home club and/or CMFL, or official of the team/club which that person/s is supporting.

- 12.2 Any person/s contravening **Rule 1** may be reported by the Ground Manager, Umpire or opposing club official to the Team Manager or other official of the team which that person/s is supporting. Where a team does not have a Team Manager present, a request or direction from the Ground Manager to any official of the team or the team's club shall be regarded as a direction to the Team Manager for the purposes of this rule/code.
- 12.3 The Ground Manager and/or Team Manager must advise the offending person/s of the relevant breach of the Code of Conduct. The Ground Manager, Club or CMFL Official or Umpire must note the details of their report to the Team Manager on the reverse of the team sheet.
- 12.4 In the event that the inappropriate conduct continues, the Ground Manager and/or Team Manager may request the offender/s to immediately leave the ground. This should also be noted on the team sheet. **(Victorian Police will attend if requested by Club officials. I am still confirming the expected response from NSW Police).**
- 12.5 In the event the person/s refuses to obey the direction of the Ground Manager and/or Team Manager, the Ground Manager may direct the umpire to terminate the match. In the event that the match is so terminated, the club's committee and/or CMFL Board may, at its absolute discretion award the competition points to the non-offending team, or declare that neither side shall be awarded competition points for that match.
- 12.6 Clubs which do not exercise control over their players, parents/carers of players, coach's, officials or spectators may be called upon by the CMFL Board to accept responsibility for their actions and the following penalties may apply (in addition to penalties which may be imposed by the CMFL's Independent Tribunal):

Code of Conduct Penalties

First Offence

A fine not less than \$250 and not exceeding \$500, and/or suspension of the player from playing, and/or suspension of the offender/s from attending future matches.

Second Offence

A fine not less than \$500 and not exceeding \$1000, and/or loss of competition points, and/or suspension of the player from playing, and/or suspension of the offender/s from attending future matches.

Third Offence

A fine not less than \$2000 and not exceeding \$5000, and/or loss of competition points, and/or suspension of the player from playing, and/or suspension of the offender/s from attending future matches.

12.7 On field Penalties for off field offences:

A free kick is to be awarded against a player, official and/or spectators in proximity of a coach's box who uses abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards an umpire.

13. PENALTIES

The board shall have the power to impose penalties as prescribed for the following infringements and irregularities.

- a) A club playing a player who is unregistered or who has not obtained the required clearance shall lose the match concerned and all points for that match shall be awarded to the opposing team. The offending team shall also be **fined 20 units** for every unregistered player in respect of the match and its score therein shall be disregarded for percentage purposes.
- b) A club who plays a player under a false name shall be **fined 50 units**, shall lose the match and the points will be awarded to the opposition. The player will be automatically suspended for two (2) matches. Player and club have the right of appeal to the League's Independent Tribunal.
- c) The Secretary of the Home Club shall forward complete match return envelopes (goal kickers, final scores, awards etc) to the Assistant Manager by 5pm Monday after the match.
Penalty: 2 units first offence, 10 units second offence
- d) Goal Posts not correctly padded - **Penalty: 5 unit**
- e) Goal Posts without flags holders - **Penalty: 5 unit**
- f) Failure to have the ground marked properly - **Penalty: 5 units**
- g) No siren - Penalty: 5 units
- h) Non posting of scores on scoreboard per match - **Penalty: 5 units**
- i) Incorrect posting of scores on scoreboard per match - **Penalty: 2 units**
- j) Player numbers and team sheets not corresponding - **Penalty: 5 units per player**
- k) Player's name or number appearing in the "Footballer" not corresponding with team sheets. (Three weeks grace given at the start of the season) - **Penalty: 2 units per player**
- l) Omission of any player's or required official's name from the team sheet - **Penalty: 5 units per omission.**
Team sheets are to include any player or club official intending to take part in the game or to be seated in or near (within 3 metres) the coach's box and inside the fence. If an official/spectator is not listed on the team sheet he/she should not be sitting inside the fence near the coach's box.

Coaching staff and team officials are to be sighted well back from the boundary line behind the line drawn in front of the coach's box at least 3 metres from the boundary line.
- m) Incorrect spelling of player's name(s) on team sheets - **Penalty: 2 units per player**
- n) Player's names not listed in alphabetical sequence on team sheets
Penalty: 2 units per player
- o) Umpire escorts not provided by a club - **Penalty: 2 units per each offence**
- p) Incomplete match report sent or Home Secretary fails to enter required information into Interfuse by 6.00 pm) after home games.
All Clubs must ring the Assistant League Manager by 6.00 pm to confirm this and notify of any reports.

Penalty: 2 units for first offence, 5 units for second or further offences.

- q) Clubs must submit Club notes to the Leagues printers by 10 am on Tuesday before their match. Club having the bye need not submit club notes in the upcoming round. **Penalty: 10 units**
- r) Each Club is required to have its President, Secretary and Senior Coach in attendance at the League's Best & Fairest Count. **Penalty: 10 units**
- s) Attendance at a CMFL meeting of coaches, interested club officials and umpire representatives prior to the commencement of the season is compulsory. **Penalty: 10 Units**

14. **MATCH ARRANGEMENTS**

- a) The Board shall arrange the program of matches for the season; this includes the pre-season Night Competition when conducted. When a match arranged by the Board between two affiliated clubs is fixed for any given date, no other associated club shall take part in a match without first obtaining the consent of the Board.
- b) All CMFL clubs will participate in the Night Series while it is conducted by the CMFL. The minimum fine for any CMFL Club that does not participate in the Night Series will be \$3500. The minimum fine for any CMFL Club forfeiting a match in Night Series while conducted under the auspices of the CMFL will be \$4500.

15. **CLUB COLOURS**

- a) Each club shall register its colours with the League, priority of registration to determine the exclusive right to wear such colours.
- b) No player shall take part in any match with an affiliated club, unless he is wearing the colours of his club as registered with the Board. A club shall be **fined 2 units** for each player who plays in any such match contrary to this by-law, provided, however, that any club may, without fine, change the colour of its knickers in any one or more matches during the season if authorized to do so by the Board. This by-law applies to jumpers, shorts and socks.

16. **REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS & COACHES**

- a) Each club shall register with the League the given and family names of each player, with his place of residence, previous to the commencement of the first match that he plays on the appropriate VCFL form.
- b) Players in the Colts competition shall be under the age of 18 as at the 1st of July, in the year of play. Where a club plays a player outside the prescribed age group, premiership points in the games that player has played are to be taken away or in the event of the team having no premiership points a fine of **20 units per game** in which the player participates to be imposed on the club, and the club and player dealt with as the Board sees fit.
- c) All Colts players shall before registration produce a registration form countersigned by one of his parents or guardians.
- d) If it is considered to be in the best interests of the League, the Board will having sought permission from the Regional Manager, allow the use of over age players **in the Colts** as follows:

- 1) CMFL Clubs may use up to 3 players who turn 18 before July 1st in the year of play to make their team up to 16 players. (In other words games in which these players are used become sixteen a side matches.
 - 2) Existing rules in regard to 16 a side games continue to apply for Colts (and Reserves).
 - 3) Teams fielding these U/18 players are not allowed to use interchange players.
 - 4) To be eligible, these U/18 players must not have played at senior level in the 2006 or 2007 seasons. (Reserves Grade is OK). An U/18 player who plays seniors in 2008 becomes ineligible for the Colts under this rule.
 - 5) Each Club is to supply the names of its proposed Under 18 players (for Colts matches) to the Board by 5.00 p.m. on the Friday one week prior to the commencement of the 2008 season. The Board will distribute a list of all nominated Under 18 players to Clubs for their reaction and comments prior to the opening round of the season.
 - 6) The CMFL Board reserves the right to remove a player(s) from any Club's U/18 list. Clubs may request the Board to consider a player's eligibility or suitability for this rule at any time.
 - 7) After Round 1, players may be added to a Club's U/18 list but may not play until the Board has approved the player and informed the other Clubs.
 - 8) 'When both clubs agree, both teams can use Under 18 players to bring sides up to 18 players (no interchange bench).
 - 9) Existing rules in regard to players who are eligible for Colts continue, i.e. they can play seniors and still be eligible for finals in the Colts competition.
 - 10) This rule will apply throughout 2008 including the Finals Series.
- e) Each club shall register with the League, the given and family names of each coach with his place of residence on the appropriate CMFL form, prior to April 1st 2008. All coaches must be accredited as per the VCFL rule. If a coach continues in his role having not obtained the necessary accreditation the penalty is to be loss of match points for any matches won by the team whilst the unaccredited coach continues to coach. In the event of no match points being received the league may impose a **fine of \$200 per game.**

17. **MATCHES-SEASON**

- a) The football season shall commence and terminate respectively on such dates in each year as the Board may determine.
- b) Each club shall prior to the commencement of each season register its playing ground.
- c) Should any club on any of the days appointed for the playing of a match (except where such match has been cancelled prior to the date appointed for the match, by written consent of the secretaries of the competing clubs and this League) fail to put in an appearance for the purpose of playing the match, such Club shall lose the match and it shall count as a win to the other side. The other side will receive percentage under VCFL regulations.

- d) In the event of by-law 16(c) occurring before **Friday 6pm** before the scheduled match, the club forfeiting the match must notify the Umpires Association and the Manager or the Assistant Manager. Failure to do so will result in a **20-unit** penalty.
- e) In the event of by-law 16(c) occurring the forfeiting club should by the following **Wednesday after the scheduled match**, list the reasons in writing for such a forfeit to the Board. Failure to do so shall result in a **20-unit** penalty.
- f) The Board may deal with a club in the event of by-law 16(c) as it thinks fit and may fine the club up to **50 units** for failure to meet its commitments.
- g) In the event of inclement weather, the captains of the competing teams shall decide the fitness of the ground. In the event of their being unable to agree the field umpire/umpires shall decide.
- h) Should a match be commenced, such a match must not be stopped except on the account of inclement weather and in exceptional circumstances and by the consent of both captains, but in the event of the captains disagreeing, the field umpire shall be constituted the sole referee.
- i) Should any match be stopped or not commenced on account of inclement weather or exceptional circumstances, the game may be played on a date fixed by the Board.

A list of the names of players and their allotted numbers bearing the signatures of all listed players and other required officials shall be handed to the field umpire before the commencement of the match, such list should be signed by the Team Manager or Secretary or Captain of the competing team. Failure to hand list in before the commencement of the march shall result in a **2-unit** penalty. Failure to have it signed by one of those above mentioned herein shall result in a (1) **unit** penalty. Clubs must also provide opposing teams with a copy at least 10 minutes prior to the stipulated starting time.

- j) **16 A Side Rule** - In the event that a Club is only able to field between 14 and 16 players in a Reserve or Colts match the game becomes a 16 a side match.
 A Club able to field more than 16 players must still cooperate under this arrangement and cannot field more than 16 players.
 When playing under this rule a team with more than 16 players may use up to 6 players on the interchange bench.

18.0 PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM 2008

The purpose of the player points system in the CMFL is to promote an even competition.

The Objectives are to:

1. Encourage clubs to develop and promote their junior teams and players.
2. Encourage clubs to recruit new players from outside the CMFL.
3. Better manage increasing player payments and improve the financial stability of clubs.

The Board has determined the following will apply for 2008:

Base Points

1. **The total points of each club is to be reduced by 2 points in 2008 and a further one point in 2009.**

2. **A player (not deemed a reserves player) recruited from another CMFL Club becomes a 7 point player for all recruits after 2007.**
3. **The winner of the Grand Final** is penalized 2 points for the following year, regaining 1 point each subsequent year until the penalty is removed - **Starting with the 2007 Grand Final.**
4. **The Runner-Up of the Grand Final** is penalized 1 point in the following year. **Starting with the 2007 Grand Final.**
5. **Appealing the Board's decision on the points allocated** – the process where Clubs wish to challenge the points allocated to a player by the League has been adjusted to allow for appeals to the CMFL Independent Tribunal.
The Process is as follows:
 - Step 1: Player's points rating is set by Points Review Panel consisting of 2 Board members, League Manager and League Clearance Secretary
 - Step 2: If a Club believes the points allocated are not correct, fair or reasonable it then asks for a review of the decision by the full CMFL Board.
 - Step 3: If the original decision is confirmed by the Board the Club can now appeal to the Independent Tribunal
6. **The definition of what constitutes a one point player has been amended.** From 2008 a player coming from the juniors is a one point player for the CMFL Club at which he played his first season of U15s. For all other CMFL Clubs he will be a seven point player.
If a junior player comes to a CMFL Club from outside the CMFL Juniors and is eligible for Colts he is a one point player for the Club at which he played his first Colts game. For any other CMFL club he will be a seven point player.

Application of the points system in 2008

Each Team's Base Points	2007	2008	2009
Swan Hill	41	39	38
Tyntynder	41	39	38
Lake Boga	43	41	40
Kerang	43	41	40
Woorinen	43	41	40
Cohuna Kangas	45	43	42
Koondrook-Barham	45	43	42
NNW United	45	43	42
Balranald	47	44	44
Leitchville-Gunbower	47	45	44
Tooleybuc-Manangatang	47	43	43
Lalbert	47	45	44

1. Each player registered to a club will be assessed according to the point system set out in this rule.
2. At the time of registration each new player shall complete a statement in a form to be approved by the League, which shall provide information concerning the player's previous playing history.

Both the player and an official of the club will be required to sign the form, certifying it as a true record. Any player providing false or misleading information shall be liable to penalties including, but not limited to, deregistration, suspension or fine. Any official of a club complicit in the deliberate submission of false or misleading information, shall be liable to fine or disqualification. The club of such player or official may be liable to a fine or loss of premiership points.

- The form will require the player and registering club to 'self-assess' points to be allocated to the player. The Secretary shall record these points in the club's total.

Points	Category	Explanation
1	Local players	- A player who first played in your Colts after joining from another League or played U15s first with the CM Juniors affiliated with your club, even if they are returning from another club.
2	VCFL District League player CMFL Reserves Player	- Mallee League, Golden Rivers etc.
3	VCFL Major country leagues VAFA players Victorian Metropolitan leagues All other states' metro and country league players State League player	- Bendigo, Sunraysia, Ovens & Murray - Vic Amateurs - Diamond Valley, Essendon District - VFL, SANFL, WAFL
4	Ex AFL Player	- who hasn't played with his CMFL Club as a junior or Colt
7	Player not deemed a Reserves Player transferring from another Central Murray FL Club to your club.	

Playing coaches are rated on the league from which they are recruited.

- A CMFL player wishing to return to a new CMFL Club from a District League is a 7 point player, less one point for each season spent in the District League after leaving the CMFL.
 - Clubs will initially rate their players and forward these to the League where each player's rating will be verified before being circulated to all Clubs.
 - A review of the system will be held after 2008 season
 - Players returning to their original CMFL Club after at least one season away return at their rating prior to departure.
 - AFL Players are now 4 points
 - Players from all VCFL Major Leagues are 3 point players
 - Players going to Darwin over summer and returning to the same CMFL Club for next season are treated as continuing with that Club so they drop a point upon returning each season.
 - A category for established reserve players swapping CMFL clubs to play senior football at another CMFL Club was created at 2 points.
- The terms 'State League', 'Major League' and 'District League' shall have the meaning defined by the Victorian Country Football League Rules and Regulations. If these terms are not defined by rules and regulations of other States, then the League may make a determination as to which Leagues are to be considered 'Major League' and which, 'District' Leagues.

- 5 **Appealing the Board's decision on the points allocated** – the process where Clubs wish to challenge the points allocated to a player by the League has been adjusted to allow for appeals to the CMFL Independent Tribunal.

The Process is as follows:

- Step 1: Player's points rating is set by Points Review Panel.
- Step 2: If a Club believes the points allocated are not correct, fair or reasonable it then asks for a review of the decision by the full CMFL Board.
- Step 3: If the original decision is confirmed by the Board the Club can now appeal to the Independent Tribunal

Review Panel

- (a) The Panel will consist of 2 Board members, League Manager and League Clearance Secretary. If a club is dissatisfied with the initial points assessment for a player, then the club may at any time apply for the review panel to undertake reconsideration of the points assessed. The review panel may take into account any relevant consideration, but particularly:
 - The age of the player
 - The injury history of the player
 - The recent playing history of the player
 - The length of time which has elapsed since the player last played at the level which has caused points to be assessed to him.
 - In the case of an COLTS player whose playing history for the previous two years was at a Central Murray Junior Football League different to that of the Central Murray Football League Club with which he now wishes to register, the living, schooling or work arrangements that may give cause for him to transfer clubs.
- (b) The review panel shall have the power to regulate its own proceedings. Its decision may be appealed to the full CMFL Board. Any club requiring a ruling on any issue concerning this rule shall do so by Notice of Motion to the League Board.
- (c) If the original decision is confirmed by the full Board the Club can now appeal to the CMFL Independent Tribunal.

Penalties for breaching the rule: Winners lose their 4 points and any percentage; a losing team receives \$500 fine and loss of score for percentage purposes.

19. **PREMIERSHIP CONDITIONS**

- a) The Home and away competition shall consist of a fixture of matches as created by the Board. For 2008 it will be 18 matches.
- b) In all matches four points shall be counted for a win, and two points to each team for a draw. There shall be NO points allocated for a bye.
- c) The finals shall be played as follows: A final five system will operate. The Elimination final will be contested between the fourth and fifth teams. The Qualifying final is played between the second and third teams. The First Semi final will be played between the winner of the Elimination final and the loser of the Qualifying final. The Second Semi final will be played between the winner of the Qualifying Final and the team finishing on top of the Premiership ladder after the conclusion of home and away matches. The Preliminary final is played between the winner of The First Semi Final and the loser of the second semi final. The Grand final will be played between the winner of the Second Semi final and the winner of the Preliminary final.

- d) The Board shall have complete charge, and control all arrangements at all grounds on which matches between affiliated clubs are played throughout the season.
- e) The monies paid at the gate for entry to home and away games shall be the property of the home club.
- f) The Board shall determine each year by the February Board meeting the levy to be paid by each club to meet the budgeted expenses of the League.
- g) The gate takings from the finals shall be pooled and all expenses paid by the League
- h) All finals will be allocated, as the Board deems appropriate. A tender system for holding a final will operate each year. The Board shall call for applications for the holding of a final or finals under League guidelines.
- i) All grounds on which finals matches are played come under the control of the Board as from the final home and away games and all senior clubs in the finals shall have equal rights to the use of the ground at least one night per week by application to the Board.
- j) There shall be up to 4 interchange players in the Senior, Reserve, and Colts competitions making a total of 22 players on the team sheet. (This assumes that 18 players have taken the field. In Reserves and Colts there might be 6 Interchange players if a team can only field 16 players in a game)

20. TIME OF STARTING MATCHES

20.1 SENIOR EIGHTEEN MATCHES

- a) Timekeepers at the completion of the Reserve Eighteen match shall sound the bell, siren or gong. The senior teams are to be on ground ready to start at 2.30pm. For finals matches, the senior teams are to be on the ground ready to start at 2.30pm including the Grand Final. Clubs entering the arena after this time will be fined **10 units per minute** they are late.
- b) all matches shall be four quarters each of 20 minutes playing time with time on to be added. The controlling body may in an emergency reduce such time.
- c) the time allowed between the first and the second quarters shall be five minutes. Coaches, trainers, selection committee and runner shall be permitted to enter the playing arena. Any team failing to comply with the first quarter time interval is to be fined 1 unit for each minute late. At half time the players may leave the playing ground for not more than 15 minutes but the game MUST recommence not later than 20 minutes after the end of the second quarter; the time keepers to notify the field umpire by sounding the bell, siren or gong when that time has elapsed. Any team failing to comply with the half time interval to be fined **10 units** for each minute late onto the ground for the first **three** minutes that they are late and then **20 units** for every minute they are late thereafter.
- d) the time between the third and fourth quarters shall be five minutes. Coaches, trainers, selection committee and runner shall be permitted to enter the playing area. Any team failing to comply with the 3-quarter time interval is to be fined **1 unit** for each minute late.

20. 2 RESERVES MATCHES

- 2a) Timekeepers shall sound the bell, siren or gong at 12.35pm and the teams are to be on the ground ready to start at 12.40pm. For finals matches, the timekeeper shall sound the bell, siren or gong at 12.10 pm and the teams are to be on the ground ready to start at 12.15 pm. Clubs entering the arena after this time will be fined **5 units per minute** they are late.
- 2b) All matches shall be four quarters each of 20 minutes playing time. Finals matches shall be of four quarters each of 17 minutes playing time with time on to be added. The controlling body may, in an emergency reduce such time, but such reduction must be notified to a responsible official of each club.
- 2c) the time allowed between the first and second quarters shall be 3 minutes. Any team failing to comply with the first quarter time interval is to be fined 1 unit for each minute late. At half time the players must be ready to commence play after an interval of not longer than 10 minutes, the timekeeper to notify the field umpire by sounding the bell, siren or gong when the time has elapsed. Coaches, trainers, selection committee and runner shall be permitted to enter the playing arena during the above times. Any team failing to comply with the half time interval to be fined **1 unit** for each minute late onto the ground for the first **three** minutes that they are late and then **2 units** for every minute they are late thereafter.
- 2d) between the third and fourth quarters there shall be five minutes break. During this period coaches, trainers, selection committee and runner shall be permitted on the playing area, Any team failing to comply with the 3 quarter time interval to be fined **1 unit** for each minute late.

20. 3 COLTS MATCHES

- 3a) the timekeepers shall sound the bell, siren or gong at 10.45am and the teams are to be on the ground ready to start at 10.50am. For finals matches, the timekeeper shall sound the bell, siren or gong at 9.55 a.m. and the teams are to be on the ground ready to start at 10.00 a.m. Clubs entering the arena after this time will be fined **5 units per minute** they are late.
- 3b) all matches shall be four quarters each of 20 minutes playing time. Finals matches shall be of four quarters each of 17 minutes playing time with time on to be added. The controlling body may, in an emergency reduce such time, but such reduction must be notified to a responsible official of each club.
- 3c) the time allowed between the first and second quarters shall be 3 minutes. Any team failing to comply with the first quarter time interval to be is fined 1 unit for each minute late. At half time the players must be ready to commence play after an interval of not longer than 10 minutes, the timekeeper to notify the field umpire by sounding the bell, siren or gong when the time has elapsed. Coaches, trainers, selection committee and runner shall be permitted to enter the playing arena during the above times. Any team failing to comply with the half time interval to be fined **1 unit** for each minute late onto the ground for the first **three** minutes that they are late and then **2 units** for every minute they are late thereafter.
- 3d) between the third and fourth quarters there shall be five minutes break. During this period coaches, trainers, selection committee and runner shall be permitted on the playing area, Any team failing to comply with the 3 quarter time interval to be fined **1 unit** for each minute late.

21. APPOINTMENTS

- a) Any club failing to keep its engagements or appointments as arranged by the Board shall be dealt with as the Board sees fit.
- b) For each player up to the number of eighteen players which any club fails to place in the field as a member of its team not later than the commencement of the second quarter of any match with an associated club the club guilty of such failure shall be fined 1 unit per player unless a satisfactory reason is submitted to the Board on the Wednesday following the match.

22. LATE STARTS (Home and Away Matches)

- a) Any Colts or Reserve grade match starting more than five minutes later than the starting time (10.45 am or 12.30pm) time keepers shall deduct evenly from the last two quarters that amount of time which will allow the following match to commence at the appointed time.
- b) Teams will be fined 1 unit for each minute of the first three minutes that they are late onto the ground and then 2 units for every minute they are late thereafter.
- c) If either club is not ready to commence the match within thirty minutes of each appointed time, the match shall be awarded to the opposing side, unless in each instance a satisfactory reason for the delay is given to the Board, which shall have the power to order that the match be played on a subsequent day or otherwise to finally decide the matter.
- d) If the umpire is late entering the arena, the teams should be on the ground at the same time as the umpire. Timekeepers should record the following times: Warning siren time, team enters the arena; match commences, on the time cards.

23. DRAWS IN THE FINALS - ALL GRADES

Where the result is tied at the end of the fourth quarter in a finals match the following will occur: After a break of 5 minutes, extra time consisting of two 5-minute halves with time on will be played until a result is achieved. **NO BREAK IS TO BE TAKEN BETWEEN HALVES NOR IS ANY COACHING TO BE MADE.** Teams will continue to kick in the same direction as they did in the fourth quarter in the first five-minute extra half and then change direction for the second five minute half. This method will continue until a result is achieved.

24. FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- a) No player shall be eligible to play with any of the clubs of this League in any final or Grand Final unless he shall have played with that club **at least 20% of** the home and away matches in the same season. A player having played **more than 66 % of** home and away games with his clubs Senior Eighteen shall not be eligible to play in any final or Grand Final match with his clubs Reserve Eighteen, unless the Senior Eighteen are also playing in **the same final.**
- b) To be eligible to play finals football in the Reserve Grade a player must be able to satisfy both requirements of Rule 22(a). Unless the Club's Senior and Reserves teams are playing in the same Final a player must also have played 20% of his total games in the home and away fixture for his Club's Reserves grade team. This 20% restriction applies to players from the Colts competition at all times. Should a Club be unable to field a Reserves team due to injuries the CMFL Board may approve an exemption to this clause.

- c) In the event of a protest under Rule 19 (a) or (b), the onus of proof shall be upon the player protested.
- d) For the purpose of Finals qualification and player eligibility, the VSFL under 18 competition shall be considered the equal of VCFL senior competition and VSFL Under 18 matches shall be considered matches of the players senior VCFL team for the purpose of eligibility to play in VCFL finals as per VCFL regulations, e.g. Fred Smith plays 4 VSFL Under 18 matches in the current season and one CMFL match for his club, and then he is eligible for CMFL finals as per CMFL Rules.
- e) A club playing an ineligible player in a finals game will:
 - 1) Forfeit the match in the event of it scoring more points than the opposing team.
 - 2) Be subject to a fine of up to **50 units**.

25. PROTESTS

- a) All clubs preferring protests, charges or disputes in connection with any League match shall forward particulars of the matter to the Manager of the League by twelve noon on Tuesday following the match in respect of which such protest; charge or dispute is preferred, together with **a fee of \$100**. Such fee is to be returned if the protest, charge or dispute is considered not to have been frivolous. The Manager of the League shall immediately on such protest, charge or dispute being lodged, notify the Secretary of the protested club, who shall furnish a reply thereto within 72 hours of receipt of such notice by him, and the Manager of the League shall thereupon after consultation with the Chairman of the Board, proceed to call a Special General meeting of the Investigation Committee to deal with the protest, charge or dispute.
- b) If any club, knowing that any player of an opposing club is ineligible to play, does not prior to the match notify the captain of the club with which such player intends to play, of the fact, a protest by such first mentioned club in respect of such player will not be entertained by the League.
- c) Any player knowing that he is ineligible to play, and who does not notify the captain of his own club shall be liable to disqualification or otherwise as the Investigation Committee, Board or Tribunal may think fit.
- d) Clubs preferring complaints against players, officials or umpires for alleged offences during a League match shall report same to the Manager by twelve pm on the Tuesday following the match committal of such offence or offences. A deposit of \$50 shall accompany all complaints under this By-Law; such deposit is to be forfeited if the Investigation Committee considers the complaint frivolous.
- e) Clubs preferring complaints against players, officials and umpires under VCFL Rule for Unbecoming Conduct must follow the prescribed procedures as laid down in the relevant VCFL Handbook.

26. PERMITS TO PLAYERS

- a) Subject as hereinafter mentioned permission of Permits and Umpire Committee shall be obtained by every person prior to playing for the first time with any affiliated club in a premiership match under the control of this League, and no application for such permission shall be dealt with unless there is produced herewith a clearance where under the By-Laws a clearance is necessary. Notwithstanding the above fax clearance or fax advice or telephone call (stating that the player has been cleared) being received by the Assistant Manager or Clearance Secretary of the League by **6 p.m. on Friday** prior to the commencement of his first match (from the Secretary or Clearance Secretary of the clearing League) shall be acceptable provided that a permit has been granted by

the Permits and Umpires Committee. If the clearance is not in the hands of the Assistant Manager or the Clearance Secretary within **21 days** from the date the first said match (in which the player takes part) is played; then the club playing such player shall lose all premiership points in respect of any match the said player takes part and points awarded to opposing team. A player not requiring a clearance may be permitted to play if his registration form is in the hands of the Assistant Manager or Clearance Secretary by **6p.m. on Friday** prior to the commencement of his first match.

- b) If any player obtains a clearance, and returns to this League up to a period of twenty-four months from the date of his clearance, the club to which he was previously attached shall have prior right to such a player.
- c) All regulations that apply to clearances as embodied in the Constitution of Victorian Football League shall apply to the Central Murray Football League Incorporated.
- d) Every player desiring a permit or endorsement of his clearance, shall not, after receiving such permit or endorsement, play with any other affiliated club without sanction of the Board.
- e) If any player plays with an affiliated club after he has been granted a clearance by that club, a further clearance must be obtained from that club before an application by that player for permission to play with another affiliated club will be dealt with.
- f) All applications for permits shall be in writing on prescribed forms and shall furnish such particulars as required on League permit forms, and the player desiring a permit shall, if so desired, appear before the Permits and Umpires Committee and furnish legal documents, such as birth certificates as the Committee so demands.
- g) Permit players are eligible to play only up to the 30th of June each year. Exceptions - permit players from Central Murray Junior Football League Under 15 competition to CMFL. (ALL GRADES).

27. **LIFE MEMBERS**

The Board shall elect life members of the League as per Rule 6 CMFL constitution. There shall be not more than two life memberships awarded annually. A nomination for life membership shall be made by a club delegate (member) or a Board Member and shall be lodged with the Board not less than fourteen (14) days before the election takes place. This election shall be by ballot, and the person or persons nominated shall not be present in the room during the course of the discussion or election. No life member shall have a vote as such in any League meetings.

28. **SECESSION OF CLUB**

No club having once become one of the clubs comprising or represented on the League shall be allowed to leave without the consent of the Board.

29. **EXPULSION – DISQUALIFICATION**

Any club expelling or suspending a player from its ranks shall forward to the Board within one week of expulsion or suspensions the name of such player together with particulars of the offence and the reason for such expulsion or suspension. The player shall have the right to appeal to the League, within fourteen (14) days for the date of such player receives notification of such expulsion or disqualification from the club. No player whilst under suspension or disqualification shall be permitted to play any League match. No club shall be allowed to play any player who has been

suspended or disqualified until the Board has finally decided his case. The League shall endorse no clearance for any player under expulsion or disqualification.

30. ALTERATION OF FOOTBALL COMPETITION RULES & BY-LAWS

The Board shall have the power from time to time to make such changes as may be deemed advisable for carrying out the Leagues purpose or objects. These changes shall be carried out in accordance with **Rule 42 of the CMFL Constitution.**

31. INTERPRETATION OF BY-LAWS

- a) Wherever the expression "Affiliated Clubs" appears hereinbefore throughout they shall be deemed to mean and relate to one or more of the clubs comprising or represented on this League.
- b) The word "Umpire" in these By-Laws shall be deemed to mean "Field Umpire, Boundary Umpire and Goal Umpire" unless such interpretation is expressly excluded, or unless repugnant to the sense and context.

32. INFRINGEMENT OF BY-LAWS

Clubs, players or members infringing any By-Laws of this League shall in any case where no penalty is hereinbefore expressly provided for, shall be dealt with as the Board may think fit.

33. STANDING ORDERS

- a) The order of Business, except at the discretion of the Chairman shall be as follows:
 - Apologies
 - Minutes of previous meeting
 - Business arising out of minutes
 - Confirmation of minutes
 - Correspondence
 - Treasurers report
 - Other reports
 - General Business
- b) No member shall speak to a motion more than once without the permission of the Chairman, except the mover of the motion who shall have the right to reply.
- c) No more than one amendment shall be accepted at one time, however, notices to future amendments may be given (foreshadowed).
- d) A motion "that the question be now put" cannot be debated, and if seconded, such a motion shall be submitted without delay.
- e) In dealing with correspondence, every letter after having been read, shall be taken as formally received unless a motion to the contrary be submitted and every letter be dealt with immediately after the contents have been made known.

- f) No discussion shall take place except on a motion or amendment moved, seconded or put into writing if so demanded by the Chairman.
- g) If the amendment is carried it shall become the substantive motion, the original motion lapsing, and there will be no necessity to put the original to the meeting. It will be competent, whether the amendment is carried or not, to receive other amendments one at a time to be decided in like manner until the subject before the Chair is finally disposed of.
- h) I) No member shall propose more than one amendment. No member shall speak more than once upon the same question without the permission of the Chairman, except the mover of the amendment to the motion, thereupon all discussions shall cease and questions shall be put.
 ii) Any member seconding a motion or amendment without remark shall not be held to have spoken thereon.
 iii) In any case of amendments being lost, the Chairman shall put the original motion to the vote without further discussion.
- i) A motion or amendment having been moved and seconded, debate may ensue, but not more than two speakers shall follow successively on the same side of the question. If after two speakers have so spoken, there be no other speaker to take the opposite view, the question shall be put forthwith.
- j) Any member with consent of the Chairman may offer an explanation of any particular expression used by him, but must confine him strictly to such.
- k) No member shall enter or leave the meeting whilst a vote or division is being taken.
- l) In all cases where a point of order is raised, the member is speaking he shall cease until the point of order is decided, the Chairman to decide the matter and not to allow discussion.

34. **INVESTIGATIONS OFFICER**

An Investigation Officer will be appointed by the Board to investigate any matter referred to him pursuant to the relevant VCFL Rule for Unbecoming Conduct.

35. **AFFILIATED CLUBS**

- a) All clubs must be represented when requested at all official League meetings and functions.
Penalty: 20 units
- b) All office bearers elected or incumbent at the club's annual meeting must be notified to the League, with relevant contact details, before the annual meeting of the League each year.
- c) All affiliated clubs must field Seniors, Reserves and Colts teams in the designated competitions.

36. **GENERAL**

- a) Should any matter in connection with the By-Laws or business of the League, other than already provided for in the By-Laws, be brought before the Board for its consideration, the Board may deal with such matter, as it shall deem advisable in the best interests of the game.
- b) The Laws of the Australian Football League as far as the same can reasonably be applied to this League shall be deemed to be incorporated in and form part of these By-Laws, but subject nevertheless to such additions and modifications thereof as are contained in these By-Laws.

c) **CMJFL**

For 2008 and 2009 while clubs from the CMJFL are integrated into the CMFL, the Sponsor System adopted between the CMFL clubs and the CMJFL clubs will continue where clubs are not already fully incorporated into a single entity.

The senior club will provide support, coaching expertise, an occasional pie night at the senior venue and in return, that club would be entitled to a "cooling off" period from the end of the junior season (last scheduled home and away match) that would expire on the **31st of December each year.** The aim of the cooling off period is to enable the senior body to speak to the junior player with the view of attracting that player to the senior club without competing pressure from other clubs. If that player was not committed to the senior club at the end of the cooling off period that the player would become a free agent, all players leaving Under 15 football should be approached by the senior club not just the "cream of the crop".

A penalty of **\$500** minimum on each occasion is to be imposed on any club infringing the rights of the sponsoring club under the above alignment during the cooling off period (**until the 31st December**) upon being found guilty by the investigations officer. This fine if imposed is to be handed to the CMJFL.

Any player from a junior grade may seek a permit to play with a CMFL club during the season under a Standardized Area Permit Agreement where the Clubs are not incorporated.

The alignment of clubs is listed below:

Balranald FC	Balranald Juniors
Kerang FC	Kerang Juniors
Cohuna Kangas FC	Cohuna Kangas Juniors
Koondrook/Barham FC	Koondrook/Barham Juniors
Lalbert FC	St Mary's Juniors
Lake Boga FC	North Magpies Juniors
Leitchville-Gunbower FC	Leitchville-Gunbower Juniors
Nyah United FC	Nyah United Juniors
Swan Hill FC	Swans Juniors
Tyntynder FC	Tyntynder Juniors
Tooleybuc-Manangatang FC	Tooleybuc-Manangatang Juniors
Woorinen FC	Tigers Juniors

- d) **In the event of a tie in the best and fairest voting** in any section, two or more awards shall be made. Where the highest vote getter has been ruled ineligible, the second higher vote getter will be declared the winner. In the event that more than one player finishes second on votes, the winner will be decided on a count back based on most three votes; most two votes; and most one votes.
- e) **Two new footballs are to be provided by the Home club in each senior match.** Two suitable footballs in good order and condition are to be provided by the Home club for each Reserve and Colts match. In finals footballs will be provided for the League.
- f) **Any supporters or barrackers who are known to be members of any affiliated club within the League** who, in the opinion of the Central, Boundary or Goal umpire, Emergency Umpire or Board Member, behave in an offensive manner by spoken remarks, or openly incite players on the field to play in a manner not conducive to the best interests of the game, or are the cause of any disturbance between the onlookers, will render the club to which they belong liable to appear before the Board or Tribunal who will have the power after dealing with the case to impose a special fine, suspend or expel such club from the League.

- g) **A rebate system will operate in the CMFL** whereby junior game patrons leaving before 2 pm on match days shall receive a rebate of \$5.00 off the adult admission price.
- h) The Board may from time to time have to power to change the value of a penalty unit in the penalty unit system of the League.
- i) The value of **ONE PENALTY UNIT** shall be **\$10.00**

37. INTERLEAGUE FOOTBALL

- a) Players selected in the CMFL Interleague training squad for representative matches may be sent to the CMFL Independent Tribunal if they do not furnish a medical certificate for the Leagues nominated doctor within 48 hours of the match in case of illness or injury or submit in writing some valid reason for not playing. The condition will also similarly apply to selected players who fail to attend training sessions when requested by the League through their club secretaries. The tribunal has the power to impose a suspension of up to 2 matches or fine if they so wish. (Interleague guidelines are produced each year by the Interleague committee and are given to the players who are selected in the initial training squad after the guidelines have been adopted by the board).
- b) Any player **found guilty** by the Independent tribunal on any charge shall be **ineligible** for the award of CMFL Best & Fairest during the current season, except where the charge related to time wasting.

38. CMFL JUNIOR DIVISIONS

For the next two years the Constitution and By-laws of the CMJFL will sit here as a CMFL by-law. They are attached as a separate document.

Appendix 1 – CMFL Code of Conduct

ADMINISTRATORS

On-Field

- Ensure appropriate rules and regulations are implemented that emphasise fair play and encourage enjoyment and sportsmanship.
- Administer in a just, fair and supportive manner.
- Role model appropriate behaviour by demonstrating integrity, equity and fairness.
- Respect the rights, dignity and wish of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Off-Field

- At all times act responsibly and represent yourself, your league and the VCFL in the best possible way and in a socially acceptable manner.
- Respect the rights and property of others at all times.
- Be willing to act responsibly and mentor those who come under your direct control where you see them acting outside acceptable standards of behaviour.

PLAYERS

On-Field

- Play by and adhere to the rules of the game.

- Accept the authority of all umpires and game officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Off-Field

- At all times act responsibly and represent yourself, your club, your league and the VCFL in the best possible way and in a socially acceptable manner.
- Respect the rights and property of others.

COACHES

On-Field

- Always operate within the rules and spirit of the game, teaching your players to do the same.
- Role model appropriate behaviour by acting with integrity and professionalism.
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience.
- Be responsible for decisions and the consequence of actions having utmost regard for high standards.
- Ensure that all equipment and facilities meet safety standards.
- Do not tolerate behaviour that may incite players and spectators against any on field official or public display of displeasure.
- Show concern and caution towards sick and injured players. Follow the advise of physicians or trainers when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or playing.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Off-Field

- At all times act responsibly and represent yourself, your club, league and the VCFL in the best possible way and in a socially acceptable manner.
- Respect the rights and property of others at all times.
- Be aware that your role as the coach does not stop once the game has finished.

OFFICIALS

On-Field

- Be responsible for the conduct of players, spectators and other officials.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Set the example by role modelling behaviour, which is positive and supportive and demonstrates integrity and fairness.
- Accept responsibility for the safety and welfare of players, umpires and other officials above all else.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Ensure adequate supervision by qualified and competent coaches
- Promote respect for opponents and condemn unsporting behaviour

Off-Field

- At all times act responsibly and represent yourself, your league/umpiring association and the VCFL in the best possible way and in a socially acceptable manner.
- Respect the rights and property of others at all times.

SPECTATORS

- Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people and players to do the same
- Accept responsibility for your actions
- Refrain from any form of harassment or abuse of others (did not use foul language or harass players, coaches, officials or other spectators)
- Provide a safe environment for the conduct of the game
- Be fair, considerate and honest in dealing with others
- Appreciate that people participate in sport for their own enjoyment and benefit not necessarily yours
- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and their team regardless of the outcome

- Condemn the use of violence in any form whether it is by other spectators, coaches, players, or officials
- Show respect for your team's opponents without whom there would be no game
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.