



OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL BY-LAWS

Amended March 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. INTERPRETATIONS/DEFINITIONS | 4 |
| 2. AFFILIATION | 5 |
| 2.5 NEW AFFILIATION AND RESIGNATION OF CLUBS | 5 |
| 3. CLUBS - GENERAL | 5 |
| 3.2 CLUB AGM'S | 5 |
| 3.3 CLUB UNIFORMS AND COLOURS | 6 |
| 3.4 FINANCIALS | 7 |
| 3.5 CLUB IN DEFAULT | 7 |
| 3.6 CHANGES TO FEES..... | 8 |
| 3.7 SPECIAL LEVIES | 8 |
| 3.8 FINES | 8 |
| 4. ADMISSION CHARGES TO HOME AND AWAY GAMES..... | 8 |
| 5. COMPETITION STRUCTURES..... | 9 |
| 5.1 SENIOR COMPETITIONS (FOOTBALL & ALL NETBALL) | 9 |
| 5.2 JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS..... | 9 |
| 6. VENUES | 9 |
| 6.2 FINALS VENUES..... | 9 |
| 7. FIXTURE/LADDERS..... | 9 |
| 7.2 FINALS SERIES..... | 10 |
| 7.3 ADVERSE WEATHER | 11 |
| 7.4 GRADING..... | 11 |
| 7.5 FORFEITURE OF TEAMS..... | 11 |
| 8. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION IN SENIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS..... | 11 |
| 9. RULES OF FOOTBALL/NETBALL | 12 |
| 10. GENDER | 12 |
| 11. REGISTRATION AND DE-REGISTRATION | 13 |
| 11.2 PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY | 13 |
| 11.3 CLEARANCES | 13 |
| 11.4 PLAYER PERMITS | 14 |
| 11.5 COACH ACCREDITATION/REGISTRATION | 14 |
| 12. UMPIRES | 15 |
| 13. REPRESENTATIVE/INTERLEAGUE MATCHES..... | 15 |
| 14. FOOTBALL RECORD/PUBLICITY | 16 |
| 15. MEETINGS | 16 |
| 16. OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS..... | 16 |
| 17. ANNUAL PRESENTATION DINNER | 16 |
| 17.4 BEST AND FAIREST AWARDS | 16 |
| 17.5 MEDIA AWARDS | 17 |
| 17.6 GOAL KICKING/SHOOTING AWARDS | 17 |
| 17.7 PREMIERSHIP AWARDS..... | 17 |
| 18. LODGING OF COMPLAINTS | 17 |
| 18.3 POWERS OF OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL TO RESOLVE ISSUES..... | 17 |

| | |
|--|----|
| 19. VILIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION | 17 |
| 20. CODES OF CONDUCT..... | 17 |
| 21. MELEE | 18 |
| 22. ACTIVE BLEEDING | 18 |
| 23. ANTI-DOPING POLICY | 19 |
| 24. CHILD SAFE POLICY | 19 |
| 25. ALCOHOL AND SMOKING/VAPING BANS | 19 |
| 26. REPORTING PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS | 19 |
| 27. MATCH REVIEW PANEL..... | 20 |
| 28. TRIBUNAL - GENERAL | 21 |
| 28.5 APPEALS..... | 21 |
| 29. POLICY BREACHES | 21 |
| 30. INVESTIGATION / COMPLAINTS OFFICER..... | 21 |
| 31. LIFE MEMBERS | 21 |
| 32. PATRONS | 21 |
| 33. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISION CLAUSE | 21 |
| 34. OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL DECISIONS..... | 22 |
| 35. OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL - SENIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION BY-LAWS .. | 24 |
| 59. OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL - NETBALL COMPETITION BY-LAWS..... | 46 |
| 82. OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL - JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION BY-LAWS .. | 63 |

PREAMBLE:

BYLAWS: These Bylaws are the rules governing the internal affairs of the Outer East Football Netball. They are the operating procedures that determine the conduct and direction of the organisation.

1.0 Definitions and Interpretations

1.1 Definitions

In this set of bylaws, unless the contrary intention appears:

AFL means The Australian Football League.

AFL Victoria means Australian Football League (Victoria) Limited, ACN 147 664 579.

Affiliated clubs – means clubs who are considered member clubs under the Outer East Football Netball Competitions Constitution.

Associate clubs – means clubs/teams competing in OEFN competitions who don't meet Member club status.

Board means Outer East Football Netball Competitions Limited. ABN 84 160 417 818; Trading as Outer East Football Netball.

Board member means member of the Board.

By-Laws means the By-Laws of the Outer East Football Netball Board.

Chief Executive Officer means the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Board.

Club/s means those organisations as may be granted club member status of the Outer East Football Netball Board from time to time.

Delegate means the persons elected or appointed from time to time by a club Member, a League Member, or an Umpire Member to act for and on behalf of that club Member, that League Member or that Umpire Member to act on behalf of the club Member, the League Member, or the Umpire Member at General Meetings or otherwise.

Days means each day of the week, inclusive of weekends and public holidays, unless specified as Business Days.

General Meeting means the annual general meeting or any special general meeting of the Board.

League Member means a league who has entered into a membership agreement with the Board and granted League Member status from time to time.

Member means a member of the Board as set out in the Boards' constitution.

NCFPH means National Community Football Policy Handbook

OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL (or OEFN) means the governing administrative body of all competitions played in the Region under the control of the Board, as described in the Boards' Constitution.

Official means any person acting on behalf of a club Member, League Member or Umpire body.

Playing Time means the playing time of the match in question. For clarity, it does NOT mean Time of Day.

Registered Player means a person registered with Outer East Football Netball to play in the competitions conducted by or under the control of the Board.

Rules of Netball means current edition of the World Netball Rules of Netball 2024.

Umpire Member means an umpiring body who has entered into a membership agreement with the Board and as may be granted Umpire Member status from time to time.

Voting Member means Member Clubs, Member Leagues and Member Umpire associations.

1.2 Interpretations

Words and expressions contained in these by-laws will be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 (Vic) and the Act as in force from time to time.

1.3 Affiliated Body Rules & Regulations Adoption

Outer East Football Netball adopts the Rules & Regulations of the following bodies with which it is affiliated.

- AFL Victoria
- Laws of Australian Football
- National Community Football Policy Handbook
- Netball Victoria Rules and Regulations
- World Netball Rules of Netball 2024

The By-Laws in this document must be read in conjunction with them.

1.3.1 Unless otherwise specified within these By-Laws, the above listed Rules & Regulations will be adopted in Full.

2.0 AFFILIATION

- 2.1** Clubs wishing to participate in any Outer East Football Netball competition will only do so upon completion of an affiliation agreement unless another arrangement is agreed in writing with the Board and the club in question.
- 2.2** Each club affiliated with Outer East Football Netball will be named in Schedule 1 and shall pay an annual affiliation/subscription fee to be determined annually by the Board.
- 2.3** All clubs affiliated with Outer East Football Netball must have an Automated External Defibrillator in sound operating order. This Defibrillator must be accessible by all participants when the venue is in use.
- 2.4** Affiliated clubs must adhere to all reasonable requirements that support the Board and governing body sponsors. Items may include ground signage or exclusive purchase of all Board sponsor's products.
- 2.4.1** Failure of a club to support Board sponsors will result in a fine as stipulated by Schedule 4 and/or increased affiliation fees as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 2.5 NEW AFFILIATION AND RESIGNATION OF CLUBS**
All applications for Affiliation of new member clubs and resignation of existing member clubs are to be directed to the CEO & the Outer East Football Netball Board in accordance with AFL Victoria rules, Netball Victoria rules & the Outer East Football Netball Constitution.

3.0 CLUBS - GENERAL

- 3.1 Team Entries:** Clubs must field teams from the highest graded competition down. If the highest graded team cannot be filled, then the lowest graded team should be dropped, but only after permission from Outer East Football Netball.
- 3.1.1** Failure to comply with By-Law 3.1 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 3.2 AFFILIATED CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**
- 3.2.1** All Affiliated clubs and Associate Members must conduct their AGM prior to 30th November each year.
- 3.2.2** Clubs may submit a request in writing to Outer East Football Netball for an extension to this timeline. Such requests must state the reason for the request and show the extenuating circumstances for the request.
- 3.2.3** Any extension permitted will be at the sole discretion of Outer East Football Netball.
- 3.2.4 Lodgement of Annual Reports**
- a) All Affiliated clubs and Associate Members shall forward to Outer East Football Netball, no later than 30th January each year, one (1) copy of their Annual Report from the previous year.
 - b) Each Annual Report forwarded to the Outer East Football Netball shall include:
 - Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet.
 - List of all club office bearers.
 - c) Within 14 days of a club's AGM, the contact details of the below club committee members for the coming season are to be provided to the GM Operations, via uploading into the online competition management system or via provided templates, as stipulated by Outer East Football Netball from year to year. The office bearers that are required to be loaded as a minimum are as follows.
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Child Safety Officer

Clubs may be requested by Outer East Football Netball to supply the details of people fulfilling other club roles or provide them as they see fit.
 - d) Clubs must advise the GM Operations of changes made throughout the season to the club office bearers and their contact details within seven (7) days of the change.
- 3.2.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 3.2 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

3.3 UNIFORMS

3.3.1 All football uniforms shall carry any Outer East Football Netball logos, as specified by Outer East Football Netball.

3.3.2 All netball uniforms shall carry any Outer East Football Netball logos, as specified by Outer East Football Netball.

3.3.3 CLUB PLAYING UNIFORM AND COLOURS

- a) Each club shall register its uniform and colours with Outer East Football Netball upon annual affiliation with the Outer East Football Netball Board. Each club shall have an individual uniform/design, consisting of: Socks, Shorts, Football Jumper, and Netball Dresses & Bibs.
 - b) No club shall compete in any match in any uniform or colours other than its registered uniform or colours, and may only change, modify, or alter such registered uniform or colours with the written approval of Outer East Football Netball.
 - c) Where a new club/team enters Outer East Football Netball and its playing uniform clashes with an existing club's uniform, it will be incumbent on the newly entering club/team to provide and wear a clash uniform when competing in matches against an existing club/team.
 - d) On match day, no player shall be permitted to wear lycra or fabric bicycle shorts or under garments under their football shorts unless they are the same colour as their teams' shorts being worn in that match. Where other types of shorts are required on medical grounds, the CEO may approve the wearing of such shorts.
 - i) Visible lycra (or similar) upper body clothing does NOT constitute approved club/league uniform and cannot be worn.
 - ii) In Outer East Football Netball junior football competitions only, a junior club may request to use Outer East Football Netball approved long sleeve undergarments, which are to be worn underneath the clubs approved playing jumper.
 - e) All uniforms shall carry any logos specified by Outer East Football Netball and must be purchased from Outer East Football Netball approved supplier/s.
 - f) When making their pre-game visits to the respective change rooms or on field/court, the umpire(s) are authorised to check that all players are attired in correctly licensed Outer East Football Netball apparel. Any player not in the correct League attire will not be permitted to take the field/court until they are correctly attired and cleared to play by either the CEO, GM Operations, or an Officiating Umpire. In addition, failure to comply with this By-Law will constitute a breach of the Outer East Football Netball By-Laws, with the club also being subject to a fine(s) according to Schedule 4, or other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball. Serious or constant breaches of this By-Law will be subject to additional penalties which will be determined by and at the discretion of the Board.
 - g) No lace-up guernseys shall be worn.
 - h) Where a clash of football uniform occurs in home and away matches, the home listed team shall wear its registered uniform and the away listed team shall wear an alternative uniform approved by the CEO.
 - i) In either the home and away or finals matches the CEO, or their appointee, has the power to enforce which colour playing shorts or bibs each competing team shall wear. This will be done to assist with any clashes of playing uniform.
 - j) Where a clash of football uniform occurs in Finals, the CEO or their appointee will determine the uniform each team shall wear. This will be done to assist with any clashes of playing uniform.
 - k) Club jumper numbers must always be maintained to an acceptable standard. Poorly maintained jumper numbers may subject the club to a fine as determined by Outer East Football Netball and in accordance with Schedule 4.
- 3.3.4** All netball teams will wear uniforms, which will be the same colours as their club's football teams, approved by the Board and purchased from an Outer East Football Netball approved supplier/s.
- a) Designs must be registered with Outer East Football Netball and cannot be altered without consent.
 - b) Where a clash of netball uniform occurs, teams will wear distinguishable position bibs to assist with alleviating the clash.
 - c) Netball uniforms must also comply with the rulings in By-Law 66.
- 3.3.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 3.3 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

3.4 FINANCIALS

3.4.1 FEES

Outer East Football Netball will provide each affiliated club a full list of expected fees for the forthcoming season prior to the 1st of January.

Fees charged may include but are not limited to the following categories, unless otherwise stipulated in these By-Laws:

- Umpire rates
- Annual club &/or team affiliation
- Player Registration
- Media, Record/Social advertising, Game Footage/storage, Grand Final Footage, On Field/Court Apparel
- IT solutions, technology (Emails, etc)
- Footballs &/or Netballs allocations and prices
- Insurance - player or club
- Presentation/Awards events.

3.4.2 Outer East Football Netball will pass on any fee information it receives from its affiliated state sporting organisations in a timely manner to each of its clubs.

3.4.3 Outer East Football Netball may, from time to time, engage in preferred supplier agreements with partners to provide clubs and its competitions with beneficial supply arrangements which may assist in the operation of the clubs or Outer East Football Netball (i.e., medical equipment, Off Field Apparel etc.)

3.4.4 Outer East Football Netball, at its sole discretion, may charge the participant and/or the participants club a fee, to assist or to cover in full or in part the expenses it incurs with any representative football or netball program it participates in.

3.5 CLUB IN DEFAULT

3.5.1 No member shall be allowed to take part in any meeting unless all monies due by their club are paid, or a satisfactory reason for such delay is given and permission to take part is granted by the Board.

3.5.2 The Outer East Football Netball terms of payment will be listed as the due date on all invoices issued.

3.5.3 The following items require a deposit to be paid for prior to order placement with a supplier or despatch.

- Club on field apparel.
- Off field apparel.

3.5.4 Any club that is not within the trading terms of Outer East Football Netball accounts without the prior written consent of the Outer East Football Netball Board, will play but not be awarded any premiership points won in any game commenced, until all outstanding monies are received by Outer East Football Netball. No points will be awarded to the losing teams, but normal percentage conditions apply, as if the points were allocated. Any points so lost shall not be recoverable except by a ruling by the Board.

3.5.5 At the conclusion of the second last round of the competition season, any club that is not within the trading terms of Outer East Football Netball accounts, without prior written consent of the Outer East Football Netball Board, will not be awarded any Premiership points and cannot partake in any Finals Matches. The final standings as per Finals contention will be dependent on the number of eligible teams for that competition.

3.5.6 Any club disputing By-Law 3.5 may appeal in writing to the Board.

3.5.7 Should any club fail to meet its obligations under an instalment plan that has been initiated by adverse circumstances and duly approved by the Outer East Football Netball Board, an interest rate of 10% p.a. will be applied to the outstanding balance, calculated daily, and applied to the club's trading account each month.

3.5.8 Clubs to which the interest rate described above has been applied may still be subject to the further penalties described in by-law 3.5.

3.5.9 Further penalties may be imposed on clubs in default, including but not limited to a reduction of the clubs allocated points under the PPS policy or Netball points policy and/or a reduction to the clubs Salary Cap for the current or forthcoming season/s. The Board will have the sole discretion on this and any further penalties.

3.6 CHANGE IN FEES

- 3.6.1** Should Outer East Football Netball, at any time, decide that a change to the rates or charges of Outer East Football Netball or Affiliated bodies is required, then Outer East Football Netball will make the change and provide notice to all affiliated clubs.

3.7 SPECIAL LEVIES

- 3.7.1** If, in the view of Outer East Football Netball, a special levy is required in order to fund the purchase of any item or items of equipment required to maintain the efficient functioning of Outer East Football Netball, or any other financial need of a special nature, Outer East Football Netball may advise the clubs of its intention to propose such a levy at the next properly constituted meeting of the delegates. Such a levy would become binding upon clubs if delegates approved it by a vote of not less than two thirds majority from those eligible to vote.

3.8 FINES

- 3.8.1** The Board shall determine the schedule of fines annually. Refer to Schedule 4.
- 3.8.2** The CEO shall administer all fines stated in Schedule 4.
- 3.8.3** Clubs wishing to appeal against such fines shall do so in writing to the CEO and state the nature of their appeal. Such appeals shall be made within ten (10) business days of receipt of the fine.
- 3.8.4** The schedule of fines is used as a guide and Outer East Football Netball shall have the power to confirm, increase, reduce, amend, or withdraw such fines at any time.

4.0 ADMISSION CHARGES TO HOME AND AWAY GAMES

- 4.1** The Outer East Football Netball Board shall determine the admission fees for all home and away and Finals matches, on an annual basis, prior to the commencement of each season.
- 4.2** No admission charges shall be collected by clubs for Outer East Football Netball junior football competitions in the Home & Away rounds. (U9's to U17's, Friday & Sunday competitions).
- 4.3** No admission charges for Senior competition Home & Away games are to be collected prior to 7:30am. Clubs shall cease collection by the start of the third quarter of the Senior Men's match on the day of play.
- 4.4** No Home & Away admission charges shall be collected for Veterans competition matches unless By-Law 4.4.1 applies.
- 4.4.1** Clubs can ONLY charge admission for Veterans football matches if their games are being played between the U18's and Reserves, OR U18's and Women's football, OR Women's football and Reserves, OR Reserves and Seniors.
- 4.5** All players and officials shall pay admission charges. Club membership tickets admit to a club's home games during the Home and Away matches only.
- 4.6** Outer East Football Netball Season Passes will admit the bearer (and guest if stipulated below) entry to Outer East Football Netball matches as prescribed below:

| Ticket | Admits |
|--------------------|---|
| Season Pass | Bearer Only (including finals) |
| Life Members Pass | Bearer Plus One (including finals), The Plus one MUST enter with the Life Member. |
| Umpire Pass | Bearer Only (excluding finals) |
| Netball Early Bird | Adult Bearer and One Junior Netball Player Only (excluding finals) |
| Companion Cards | Government Companion cards will allow the companion to enter at no charge. The person they are accompanying is still required to pay. |

- 4.7** Outer East Football Netball may decide on a pass-out system for H&A &/or Finals matches at its discretion.
- 4.7.1** If any club is found to have failed to comply with By-Law 4, a fine according to Schedule 4 shall be issued to said club and the club or individuals within the club may also be subject to other penalties as determined by Outer East Football Netball at its discretion.

5.0 COMPETITION STRUCTURES

- 5.1 Senior Competition:** Member clubs of Outer East Football Netball must field teams in Senior, Reserves and U18 Football, as well as A, B, C, D and 17&U grades in Netball. The Senior competitions shall consist of Premier Division and Division One, with Senior, Reserves, Under 18s, Veterans and Women's Football competitions, and A, B, C, D, 17&U, 15&U Grade competitions in Netball with the option of 9&U, 11&U and 13&U Grades of Netball when available.
- 5.1.1** Should a club be unable to field a team in any of these competitions, a letter requesting exemption from the lowest grade must be sent to Outer East Football Netball prior to the 1st of March each season. Outer East Football Netball will then decide on the request.
- 5.2 Junior Football Competitions:** Member clubs of Outer East Football Netball Junior Football must field teams in the Under 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16 age groups (Boys); Under 9/10, 11, 13, 15 and 17 (Girls).
- 5.3** Should a club be unable to field a team in any of these competitions, a letter requesting exemption from an age group or competition must be sent to Outer East Football Netball prior to the 1st of March of each season. Outer East Football Netball will then decide on the request.

6.0 VENUES

- 6.1.1** Each affiliated club is responsible for liaising with its local council on the use of a suitable home venue/s for use in any given season.
- 6.1.2** Each affiliated club is responsible for registering its home venue/s with Outer East Football Netball annually.
- 6.1.3** Each Senior club will endeavour to play their home Netball matches within the confines of, or as close as possible to, the ground where their Football teams are playing.
- 6.1.4** All clubs Netball courts are to be situated outdoors. This does not preclude Outer East Football Netball from conducting finals indoors, or a club playing indoors where no other facility is available.
- 6.1.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 6 may result in a fine according to Schedule 4, a forfeiture of match or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

6.2 FINALS VENUES

- 6.2.1** Outer East Football Netball shall have sole discretion to select the grounds for the finals.
- 6.2.2** Clubs will have the opportunity to submit a final's hosting application prior to the allocation of finals venues. Such selection of venues by Outer East Football Netball shall be binding.
- 6.2.3** Where possible, finals venues will only be used for one day per weekend.

7.0 FIXTURE/LADDERS

Home and Away Series:

- 7.1.1** The CEO or their appointee will determine the Fixture/s annually.
- 7.1.2** Competitions shall be for a premiership and the fixture shall consist of a series of home and away and finals matches.
- 7.1.3** All clubs shall adhere to the fixture. If a club wishes to alter their scheduled match date or times in any way, they must do so by submission from all clubs involved to the CEO or their appointee not later than two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled match. Changes will not be final until they are confirmed by the CEO or their appointee.
- 7.1.4** Urgent changes (e.g., due to condition of ground) which result in change of venue only may be affected by mutual agreement of both team managers of teams involved, the officiating umpire and a member of Outer East Football Netball administration. Unless such an arrangement is made, matches must be played on grounds specified in the Official Fixtures.
- 7.1.5** A team's position on the ladder will be determined by the use of either: Premiership Points OR Match Ratio.
- a)** If Premiership points are used, four (4) points will be allotted for a win, four (4) points for a team in whose favour a forfeit is given, four (4) points for a bye or walkover, two (2) points for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss.

- b) A Match Ratio of *games won plus (games drawn, divided by two), divided by games played, multiplied by one hundred*, will be used in competitions where the total number of games played by the competing teams is NOT even.
- 7.1.6** At the conclusion of each round of home and away matches, the CEO or their appointee shall be responsible for the preparation of the ladder for each competition. The use of percentage or other determined ways of splitting evenly placed teams may be required from time to time.
- 7.1.7** In the event that at the end of the Home and Away series of matches teams have the same number of Premiership points or the same Match ratio, the following systems will be used to determine a team's final ladder position:
- a) **Percentage** – Will be used when each competing team in the competition is fixtured to play each other team an even number of times. Percentage will be calculated as *total points 'For' a team divided by the total points Against multiplied by one hundred*. The team with the highest percentage points will be ranked ahead of a team with lower percentage points.
 - b) **Head-to-Head Tie Breakers** - The use of Head-to-Head tie breakers will be used in competitions where teams are NOT fixtured to play each other team an even number of times.
 - c) **All Junior Football Competitions** will use Head-to-Head.
- 7.1.8** In competitions where Points and Percentage OR Match Ratio and Percentage are used, and in the event that teams are level on Premiership points/Match Ratio and percentage at the conclusion of the home and away matches, the higher position on the ladder shall be determined in the following manner:
- a) The team that has scored the most points 'for' shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder.
 - b) In the event that the teams cannot be separated as in 7.1.8a, the team that has recorded the most away wins shall be awarded the higher position on the ladder.
 - c) In the event that the teams cannot be separated, as in 7.1.8b, the affected teams shall compete in a 'play-off' match, under such conditions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 7.1.9** In competitions where Head-to-Head is used as the procedure of splitting tied teams, this will be done in accordance with By-Law 85.
- 7.1.10** The scores used to calculate the points and percentage for each competition ladder shall be those scores contained in the official goal umpires' card or scorers' sheet.
- 7.1.11** All Senior matches shall be played on Saturdays and Juniors matches on Sundays, except where the CEO or their appointee sanctions or directs those matches be played on any other day or night.
- 7.1.12** The CEO or their appointee shall, where possible, arrange the home and away fixture so that the senior, reserve and under aged football teams and Open Netball teams of any one club play at the same venue as each other on the day of the match and:
- 7.1.13** Notwithstanding By-Law 7.1.12 and where it is necessary for the proper management of the competition or where exceptional circumstances exist, the CEO or their appointee may schedule a match for any team of any club at another suitable venue other than what is set out in the published match fixture.
- 7.1.14** Failure to comply with By-Law 7.1 may result in a fine according to Schedule 4, a forfeiture of match or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 7.2 FINALS SERIES**
- 7.2.1** The CEO and their staff shall control all finals series, including the allocation of grounds.
- 7.2.2** Outer East Football Netball may appoint people to manage the finals series on behalf of the Board and CEO.
- 7.2.3** The CEO, or their appointee, shall be responsible for the allocation of changing rooms and the colour of shorts or clash jumpers if required for each competing team in all finals matches.
- 7.2.4** The CEO, or their appointee, may call for tenders from interested clubs or groups to provide certain works or services.
- 7.2.5** The CEO, or their appointee, may determine annually the number of passes allocated to clubs competing in the final's series.
- 7.2.6** The CEO, or their appointee, may determine annually the number of passes allocated to the hosting clubs.
- 7.2.7** Senior Competition Football Finals shall be played as per Outer East Football Netball Senior Competition By-Laws. The Finals system to be used will be determined annually.

- 7.2.8** Netball Finals shall be played as per Outer East Football Netball Competition By-Laws. The Finals system to be used will be determined annually.
- 7.2.9** Junior Competition Football Finals shall be played as per Outer East Football Netball Junior Competition By-Laws. The Finals system to be used will be determined annually.
- 7.2.10** Failure to comply with By-Law 7.2 may result in a fine according to Schedule 4, a forfeiture of match or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

7.3 ADVERSE WEATHER

- 7.3.1** Section 17 in the National Community Football Policy Handbook will be the ruling policy used for all Football and Netball matches played in Outer East Football Netball competitions.

7.4 GRADING

- 7.4.1** Outer East Football Netball at its discretion may elect to run the following competitions as graded competitions:
- Women's Football.
 - U18's Football.
 - U13 to U17 Junior Football, either boys or girls.
 - Junior age Netball, 17&U, 15&U, 13&U, 11&U.
- 7.4.2** All Open age Netball grades will be graded as A, B, C, and D grades, with A Grade given the highest ranking.
- 7.4.3** Outer East Football Netball shall distribute the relevant grading rules pertaining to each affected grade of Football or Netball at least one (1) month prior to the first fixtured match of the season.
- 7.4.3.1** In exceptional circumstances or unforeseen changes to a grade, this timeline may be altered, as long as clubs receive notice as soon as possible.
- 7.4.4** Open age graded rules provided prior to any given season will only be if required as an addition to the competition rules as stated in Netball Competition By-Law 58.

7.5 FORFEITURE OF TEAMS

- 7.5.1** Should a team forfeit a match, they will be classed as the losing team for the forfeited match, with the non-forfeiting team receiving a Win, and a fine as set out in Schedule 4 shall be applied to the forfeiting club. This fine will be administered by the CEO or their appointee. Should the "home" team forfeit a match, the fine will be paid to Outer East Football Netball. Should the "away" side forfeit, 50% of the fine will be paid to Outer East Football Netball and 50% to the "home" club, in consideration of the inconvenience caused to that club and its loss of revenue.
- 7.5.2** Any Forfeit due to low playing numbers shall be of the lowest graded team. I.e, the Reserves team will forfeit before the Seniors does and the D grade netball will forfeit before the C Grade, etc.
- 7.5.3** In the event of match day forfeiture, Outer East Football Netball, as directed by the Board, shall pay the umpires appointed to the forfeited football or netball match an amount as directed by the CEO. The forfeiting club is then responsible for reimbursing Outer East Football Netball for said costs of umpires.

8.0 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION IN THE SENIOR FOOTBALL DIVISIONS

- 8.1** The bottom team at the end of the home & away season in Premier Division shall be relegated to Division One.
- 8.2** The Premier club of Division One shall be promoted to Premier Division.
- 8.2.1** The Board may, at its sole discretion and under special circumstances, consider a submission in writing from the Premiers of Division One to remain in their current Division. This application must be submitted to Outer East Football Netball no later than twenty-one (21) days following the Division One Grand Final.
- 8.2.2** In the event of the Board approving a club's submission to remain in Division One, the Board may seek expressions of interest from other clubs in that Division to be promoted.
- 8.2.3** In the event of no clubs being promoted to a division, the composition of Outer East Football Netball divisions will then be structured at the sole discretion of the Board.

- 8.3** If, at the beginning of a season, the Premier Division competition has an odd number of teams or the number of football teams is not ten (10), the Board shall decide the relegation & promotion structure from each division prior to Round 2 of that season.
- 8.4** Each Senior Football club's aligned Netball teams will play in the same division as the Senior Football team, unless in exceptional circumstances the Board receives and duly deliberates on a club's Netball team/s playing in a division different to its aligned Senior Football team.
- a)** Where a club's Senior Football team is promoted or relegated, that club's aligned Netball teams will also be promoted or relegated.
- 8.5** The Outer East Football Netball Board shall retain the power to rearrange the Divisional structure at its discretion, in order to maintain competition balance when there are an odd number of clubs or when clubs leave &/or enter its competitions.

9.0 RULES OF FOOTBALL/NETBALL

- 9.1** All Football &/or Netball matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, and the World Netball Rules of Netball (as amended from time to time) unless otherwise stipulated in these By-Laws.
- 9.1.1** OEFN football competitions have an exemption for and do not utilise or recognise the following AFL Rules: Deliberate Rushed Behinds, 18.10 Starting Positions, 13.1 (a), (b) and (e). ie:(6,6,6). Incomplete Match 11.1.2 (b) and (c). Outer East Football Netball does not recognise the 30-minute time period referenced in these rulings. Outer East Football Netball utilises its own rulings as per By-Laws 43 and 89
- 9.1.2** **25-Metre Penalty** - In all Outer East Football Competition matches, a 25-metre penalty shall be paid in place of a 50-metre penalty.
- 9.2** Failure to comply with By-Law 9 may result in a fine according to Schedule 4, a forfeiture of match or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

10.0 GENDER

Background.

The AFL and Netball Australia are committed to inclusion and providing all people with an opportunity to participate in Community Football and Netball. It is the AFL and Netball Australia's view that, in Community Football, considerations of social inclusion have greater priority than concerns that may exist with respect to competitive advantage in relation to the participation of gender diverse players. That is not to say that competitive fairness is not important in Community Sport but the balance between social inclusion and competitive fairness is different in Community Sport than it is in Elite Sport.

- 10.1** Refer to the AFL's and Netball Australia's Gender Diversity Policies (schedule 15) and the National Community Football Policy Handbook section 8 for further information on the below:
- a)** Trans women and non-binary people are eligible to compete in girls and/or women's Community Football or Netball competitions; and
- b)** Trans men and non-binary people are eligible to compete in boys and/or men's Community Football or Netball competitions, provided that:
- i)** Such persons comply with all applicable Rules of the competition including the Anti-Doping Codes (dealt with in the Policy's in the section, "Anti-Doping and Testosterone"); and
- ii)** Where a referral is made to it, the AFL GDP Committee, acting reasonably, is satisfied that unacceptable safety risks do not arise from the person's proposed or continued participation in the competition (dealt with in the Policy in the section, "Safety Considerations").
- 10.2** In accordance with the directive from AFL Victoria to its members and affiliates, females who reach 14 years of age as of the 1st of January in the year of play are excluded from playing in any competition that is not a 'female competition'.
- 10.3** In accordance with the directive from Netball Victoria to its members and affiliates, males who reach 14 years of age as at 1st of January in the year of play are excluded from playing in any competition that is not a 'male or mixed competition'.

- 10.4** Failure to comply with By-Law 10 may result in a fine according to Schedule 4, a forfeiture of match, reversal of result or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

11.0 REGISTRATION/DEREGISTRATION

11.1 REGISTRATION - GENERAL

- 11.1.1** Any club, player, coach, or team official desiring registration with the Board shall complete the registration themselves & pay any fees due, prior to playing, coaching, or officiating in any match.
- 11.1.2** The Board or its appointee shall retain the power to refuse, withdraw, or suspend the registration of any player, coach, or team official, who fails to comply with any reasonable request from the Board or who, by their actions, has brought or may bring the game and Outer East Football Netball into disrepute.
- 11.1.3** No person shall be registered or re-registered under an assumed name, unless such assumed name and the reason thereof is notified personally to the CEO, together with the person's correct name and address at the time of registration.
- a) The CEO or their appointee shall keep such information confidential.
- 11.1.4** Outer East Football Netball adopts de-registration processes in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook Section 7.
- 11.1.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 11 will be subject to a Loss of match points, reversal of result and/or a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

11.2 PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

Background

Most people taking photos at sporting events are doing so for acceptable reasons and are using appropriate methods, for example, a parent videoing their child at a sports presentation or photographing their child on the field during play or a professional photographer taking photos for a club. Where a sporting event is held on a club's private property, privately owned land, a school or council owned facilities, the owner of private property or venue is able to restrict, ban or require permission of photography/videoing anywhere in their venue. (*Reference: Australian Sports Commission Website*)

- 11.2.1 Photography:** Outer East Football Netball employs photographers to attend various ground locations and these photos are placed in the weekly record and on the Outer East Football Netball website and social media. These photos are available to all clubs and players for purchase. Where a player does not want to have their photograph taken or published, for any reason, the onus is on the player to wear red tape on their upper arm which is visible. No player has to provide anyone any reason as to why they do not wish their photo to be taken.
- 11.2.2 Videography:** Clubs wishing to video a game for training purposes should notify the opposition club prior to the game and a copy of the video will be made available to the opposition club at the conclusion of the game, or another time as agreed by both clubs. Outer East Football Netball also employs Videographers to attend various ground locations to record Senior Football, B or A Grade Netball matches & all Grand Finals of Outer East Football Netball. These videos are placed on the Outer East Football Netball website and occasionally social media. These videos are also available to all clubs and to players for purchase. All videos are published, for the promotion of the Outer East Football Netball competitions & no player names are used for such purpose excepting where a match is classed as the match of the day & commentary of said match is made.
- ### **11.3 PLAYER TRANSFERS**
- 11.3.1 Football Transfers:** Refer to National Community Football Policy Handbook section 3.3 and National Player Transfer Regulations.
- a) Best & Fairest votes & Goals scored will transfer with the player should they be transferred to another club within Outer East Football Netball and to a club within the same competition grade.
- 11.3.2 Netball Transfers:**
- It should be noted that the intention of this By-Law on Netball transfers is not to restrict player transfer, but to enable clubs to keep records of player activity in and out of their club.

- a) Any player wanting to leave a club and join another club within Outer East Football Netball must complete a Netball Player Transfer through the Netball PlayHQ system. No player will be granted more than one (1) transfer per season, unless approved by Outer East Football Netball.
 - b) Any player wanting to leave a club must submit a transfer request through the PlayHQ system.
 - c) Netball Transfers shall open on the 1st of February in the season of play and close at midnight on June 30th each year. Additions to the playing list, apart from those being transferred from another Outer East Football Netball club, can be made at any time of the season.
 - d) No player shall be denied a transfer unless they are in possession of a club uniform or in some way owe the origin club money. If requested to do so by Outer East Football Netball, the origin club MUST provide proof as to why a transfer has been denied.
 - e) Any dispute concerning transfers shall be dealt with by the Outer East Football Netball Board or the designated official, whose decision shall be final. A player must be registered with the new club before taking the court.
 - f) In the event of a club playing players registered with an Outer East Football Netball club other than their own, a fifty-dollar (\$50) penalty will be issued, and the offending club may lose four (4) Premiership points for any game in which the uncleared players participate.
 - g) Best & Fairest votes & Goals scored will transfer with the player should they be transferred to another club within Outer East Football Netball and to a club within the same competition grade. The number of quarters/games played will not transfer with the player when they begin with the new club.
 - h) Players who have not played in an Outer East Football Netball competition in the past three (3) seasons will be free to register with any Outer East Football Netball club. A transfer through PlayHQ will be required but isn't able to be contested by the players previous club.
- 11.3.3** Origin clubs must respond to the transfer request within six (6) days (days in this section means consecutive days, including weekends/public holidays) of it being placed. If the clearance isn't responded to within six (6) days, it will be automatically approved.
- 11.3.4** Failure to comply with By-Law 11.3 will be subject to a Loss of match points, reversal of result &/or a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 11.4 PLAYER PERMITS - Football**
- 11.4.1** Refer National Community Football Policy Handbook section 3.7
- 11.4.2 Local Procedures:**
- a) Outer East Football Netball shall enter into "Local Area Agreements and Permit Agreements" with other affiliated Bodies for the permitting of players within the Boards, Competitions & Leagues.
 - b) Players who are on permits to Coates League or VFL clubs (Male OR Female) are ineligible to play two games in one weekend/round of matches.
 - c) Where a club is unable to field an U18 team in any given season, they can, upon submission to Outer East Football Netball, apply to have any U18 age eligible players permitted to one (1) other club only who have U18's, to allow these players to play underage football. These permits, if approved, must be done as a Season permit.
 - d) A player permitted under By-Law 11.4 is only eligible to play in the permitted clubs U18's team. If they wish to play Reserves or Senior Football, they must play those matches with their originally registered club.
- 11.4.3** Failure to comply with By-Law 11.4 will constitute a breach of the by-laws as the player will be ruled ineligible and will be subject to a Loss of match points, reversal of result &/or a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 11.5 COACH ACCREDITATION/REGISTRATION**
- 11.5.1** Any player or person desiring to be appointed as a Coach (including Assistant Coaches) of a team in any grade must be accredited in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook section 6 (Football) or Netball Australia's Coaching Course (Netball) prior to the commencement of the season, including complying with any minimum age requirements.
- 11.5.2** In the instance where coaches are not accredited a \$200 bond will be applied. Where a coach fails to complete the required accreditation within the timeframe specified by Outer East Football Netball, the club will forfeit the bond.

- 11.5.3** All coaches shall be registered with Outer East Football Netball as a coach via the required database.
- 11.5.4** Coaches/Umpires Meetings: Meetings will be convened as required between Outer East Football Netball and the Yarra Ranges Umpires Association &/or any other Outer East Football Netball approved Umpiring body/person as required for either Football or Netball from time to time.
- 11.5.5** Outer East Football Netball may call Compulsory meetings. Failure to attend may result in a fine for the Coach and club at Outer East Football Netball's sole discretion.
- 11.5.6** All Coaches shall have a current Working with Children's Check and a copy of this must be supplied to Outer East Football Netball by the 31st of March of the current season.
- 11.5.7** Failure to comply with By-Law 11.5 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, the loss of match points or other such penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

12.0 UMPIRES

- 12.1** The Outer East Football Netball Head/s of Umpiring for Football &/or Netball competitions are responsible for the appointment of official umpires.
- 12.2** Any umpire wishing to officiate in an Outer East Football Netball match must be accredited in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook section 6 (Football) or Netball Australia Accreditation Framework (Netball, Panel Umpires), including any minimum age requirements.
- 12.3** Officiating Netball Umpires and Football Field Umpires only, will be responsible for deciding and lodging the Outer East Football Netball votes for the Best & Fairest players in a 3-2-1 format (3 meaning best, 1 meaning 3rd best) for each match they officiate in.
- 12.3.1** Only one set of 3-2-1 votes is required per match, not one set of votes per umpire.
- 12.3.2** Such votes shall be recorded on a special card provided by Outer East Football Netball and/or entered into a selected electronic database and/or returned to the Outer East Football Netball office with the match paperwork.
- 12.4** Further information regarding Senior Football Umpire match duties, refer to Senior Football by-law 48.
- 12.5** Further information regarding Netball Umpire match rules, refer to Netball By-Law 74.
- 12.6** Further information regarding Junior Football Umpire match duties, refer to Junior Football By-Law 93.

13.0 REPRESENTATIVE/INTERLEAGUE MATCHES

- 13.1** The official colours of Outer East Football Netball representative sides shall be Navy Blue, Green, and White.
- 13.2** **Interleague player selection Policy:** The Selection Committee, comprising of three (3) Selectors plus one (1) Chairperson of Selectors and the Coach, shall coordinate the selection of the training squads, and from time to time, any additions or deletions to be made.
- 13.3** Outer East Football Netball shall appoint a Senior and Junior Interleague/Association Championship Coach/s on a minimum term of one (1) year for all representative games involving Outer East Football Netball.
- 13.4** All squad members (fit and injured) are expected to attend training unless excused by the CEO or their appointee.
- 13.5** Players who fail to make themselves available for selection without notification as above and/or clearance from Outer East Football Netball's appointed Medical Advisor will subject their club to fines as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 13.6** At the discretion of the selection committee, allowances may be made for playing coaches.
- 13.7** The player adjudged best on ground in the Senior Football match will be awarded the Tony Mitchell Medal.
- 13.8** The player adjudged best on ground in the Under 18 Football match will be awarded the Shane Smith Medal.

14.0 FOOTBALL RECORD/PUBLICITY

- 14.1** The CEO or their appointee shall be the Editor of the 'Football Record' on behalf of the Board who shall be the Publisher.
- 14.2** The CEO or their appointee shall have the power to edit or withdraw any club notes that are deemed to be detrimental to the interests of Outer East Football Netball.
- 14.3** Clubs may be charged a yearly fee for the advertising space on their page in the record or other such publicity purposes. Such fee will be determined by Outer East Football Netball each year.
- 14.4** Clubs will be on charged the cost of the records received for each home game. The amount of allocated records for home games will be determined annually by Outer East Football Netball as will the cost per record.
- 14.5** Clubs must provide accurate player lists for the 'Football Record', or other such publicity purposes.
- 14.6** Failure to comply will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4.

15.0 MEETINGS

15.1 Compulsory Meetings

- a) The league may convene compulsory meeting(s) for club officials as stipulated by the league from time to time. These meetings shall include, but are not limited to: League AGM, club Administrator Courses, Coaches Forums, Presidents Meetings, and Finals Participants Meetings.
- b) Fines apply for non-compliance, as per Schedule 4.

15.2 Representatives

- a) Two representatives of clubs must attend all Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings of the League. Such representatives shall be the President and/or Secretary and/or one other member of the club.
- b) Representatives may, with the prior approval of the League, appoint another person to attend Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings in their place.
- c) Fines apply for non-compliance, as per Schedule 4.

16.0 OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS/EVENTS

- 16.1** No club shall conduct a function on the same date as an official Outer East Football Netball Function.
- 16.2** Where possible the CEO or their appointee shall give adequate notice to all clubs of planned Outer East Football Netball functions, to avoid a clash with functions planned by clubs.
- 16.3** Failure of a club to attend a league official function will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or other such penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

17.0 ANNUAL PRESENTATION DINNER

- 17.1** A Presentation Dinner will be held annually.
- 17.2** The CEO or their appointee shall be responsible for the format and venue.
- 17.3** Affiliated clubs (Including Umpires) will be allocated 10 seats to the event (5 for Women's or Veterans only clubs) to be charged to each club at a rate decided annually.

17.4 BEST AND FAIREST AWARDS

- 17.4.1** Outer East Football Netball shall provide an award/s for the Best and Fairest player in each grade of the competition each year.
- 17.4.2** The voting for the Outer East Football Netball Best and Fairest Award/s shall be determined by the officiating umpires – refer By-Law 12.3.
- 17.4.3** The Best and Fairest Medals may be named to honour individuals who have provided outstanding service to Outer East Football Netball and to football and netball generally. The Medals names will be ratified each season by the Outer East Football Netball Board.
- 17.4.4** Any player who is found guilty of a charge and received a penalty of one (1) week or greater by the Tribunal, or has accepted the prescribed set penalty of one week (1) or greater, during home and away matches shall not be eligible to win an Outer East Football Netball Best and Fairest award during that season.

17.4.5 In the event of a tie in a Best and Fairest count in any grade, the award shall be presented to each of the players involved in such tie.

17.5 MEDIA AWARDS

17.5.1 Media Awards may be awarded to both football/netball players and umpires. These awards will be determined as required each season.

17.6 GOAL KICKING/SHOOTING AWARDS

17.6.1 The leading goal kicker/goal shooter of each Senior grade of football or netball, as well as each junior netball competition, shall receive an award/s from Outer East Football Netball. There shall be no goal kicking award awarded for junior football competitions.

17.6.2 The tally of goals shall be determined only in home and away matches.

17.6.3 Outer East Football Netball shall grant naming rights to the award/s in any Grade.

17.7 PREMIERSHIP AWARDS

17.7.1 The Premier team of each grade shall receive a Premiership Cup, a Premiership Pennant, and the match football/netball.

17.7.2 Each player and the coach of the Premiership team in each grade shall receive a Premiership Medal at the conclusion of the Grand Final.

17.2.3 The player nominated as the 'Best on Ground/Court' in the Grand Final in each grade shall receive a medal to recognise their achievement, presented at the conclusion of the Grand Final.

17.2.4 Outer East Football Netball shall grant naming rights to the Premiership Cup, Premiership Medal, and Best on Ground/Court Medals.

18.0 LODGING OF COMPLAINTS

18.1 All football related matters, Refer National Community Football Policy Handbook Section 23.

18.2 Any complaint pertaining to a Netball issue can be lodged through Netball Victorias Member Services or via contacting Outer East Football Netball through your club's secretary.

18.3 POWERS OF OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL TO RESOLVE ISSUES

18.3.1 Outer East Football Netball shall have the power to control club matches and settle any disputes which may arise in connection with finance, clubs, teams, and players in conjunction with the CEO.

18.3.2 The Outer East Football Netball Board and Staff shall have the power to refer any incident they may witness to an investigation officer who may report any spectators, players, clubs, and officials to the Tribunal in Accordance with the AFL "Laws of Australian Football" and for any other breach of these By-Laws.

19.0 VILIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION

19.1 All matters will be handled in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook Section 10.

19.2 All matters pertaining to a Netball issue shall be lodged through Netball Victorias Member Services.

20.0 CODES OF CONDUCT

Refer National Community Football Policy Handbook ruling Part C – Member Protection & Integrity for the full policies pertaining to Football.

20.1 The Outer East Football Netball Codes of Behaviour may be amended and altered to suit the needs of the Outer East Football Netball Board as required.

20.2 Outer East Football Netball will, from time to time, adopt and implement codes of conduct pursuant to advice obtained from AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria. These codes of conduct will be applicable to players, coaches, spectators, and officials. Breaches of these codes of conduct may result in disciplinary action being taken pursuant to these By-Laws or the penalties prescribed in the spectator's "code of conduct."

20.3 All Member protection matters will be handled in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook Section 9. These policies include Responsibility of a Person, General and Coaches Codes of Conduct, and additional responsibilities of a club.

- 20.4** All Social Media matters will be handled in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook Section 12.
- 20.5** All Gambling and match fixing matters will be handled in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook Section 13.
- 20.6** **Netball Codes of Conduct** - are located in Schedule 12.
- 20.7** **Spectator Behaviour Netball** – Condition of Entry: Refer to Schedule 9 of these By-Laws. A breach of these Codes of Conduct will see the offending person/s charged under the Outer East Football Netball Spectator By-Law.
- 20.8** **Adverse Comments in the media:** No Member or Official of any club or association affiliated with Outer East Football Netball is permitted to comment adversely on any aspect of Outer East Football Netball including Umpiring, Outer East Football Netball clubs, players, or officials to any form of media. Penalty for offending affiliates is a minimum fine of \$500.00
- 20.9** **Social Media - Netball:** Refer to Netball Social Media Policy (Schedule 10)

21.0 MELEE

Melee Definition

A Melee/Wrestle is defined as an incident involving Persons who are grappling or otherwise struggling with one another, and which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of the Controlling Body. In determining if a Person's conduct constitutes Engaging in a Melee/Wrestle, the following factors will be considered:

- (A) the duration the Person is involved in the Melee/Wrestle;
- (B) the vigour applied by the Person;
- (C) whether the Melee/Wrestle occurs at a break in play, particularly at quarter breaks and half time;
- (D) whether the Person contributed to an escalation of the Melee/Wrestle; and
- (E) the role of the Person (for example, Player or Football Official).

21.1 Incident & Penalty Procedure

- 21.1.1** The match review panel, when reviewing match footage, may also refer any possible Melee to the CEO if they believe a Melee may have taken place.
- 21.1.2** All melees occurring during finals games will be referred directly to Outer East Football Netball for consideration with regard to penalty.
- 21.1.3** Players may be reported for engaging in a melee.
- 21.2** Club Penalties for melees will be determined as per Schedule 4.
- 21.3** Multiple offences by a team within a season may incur additional penalties as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

21.4 Melee Fine Appeal Process

- a)** Clubs can make a formal request to have a melee reviewed. This request must be made in writing no later than 48 hours following an infraction notice.
- b)** The CEO or their appointee will review the melee and respond in writing within seven (7) days of receiving the Melee review request.

22.0 ACTIVE BLEEDING

- 22.1** Refer AFL Laws of the Game Rule 24 - Active Bleeding
- 22.2** Refer World Netball Rules of Netball 2024, for rulings on Blood.
- 22.3** No player is to participate in any Outer East Football Netball match or continue to participate in any Outer East Football Netball Match if that player is bleeding or has blood on any part of their person or uniform. The player shall leave the ground/court at the first appropriate time or upon the instruction of the Umpire or trainer. The Umpire will stop play if required.
- 22.4** A player refusing to leave the ground/court is a reportable offence.

23.0 ANTI-DOPING POLICY

- 23.1** Refer National Community Football Policy Handbook ruling 14.

24.0 CHILD SAFE POLICY

- 24.1** Outer East Football Netball adopts the National Community Football Policy Handbook Schedule 11, alongside the additional Policy and Code of Conduct mandated under Victorian Child Safety Standards legislation. OEFN Child Safety information will be published on the Outer East Football Netball website and reviewed yearly.
- 24.2** Each club participating in an Outer East Football Netball competition shall appoint a Child Safety Officer who complies with the Outer East Football Netball requirements from year to year, for each year of competition.
- 24.3** Any grievances or complaints in relation to Football will be dealt with in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook Schedule 23, notwithstanding the legislative requirements for mandatory reporting under the Child Safety Standards.
- 24.4** Any grievances or complaints in relation to Netball will be dealt with in accordance with the Outer East Football Netball Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.
- 24.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 24 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

25.0 ALCOHOL AND SMOKING/VAPING BANS

- 25.1 NO SMOKING/VAPING – Adult Sport:** Smoking or Vaping is strictly prohibited inside the perimeter of the fence surrounding the playing oval and in all change rooms, toilets and within ten (10) metres of any buildings located at the venue whilst games are in progress.
- 25.1.1 NO SMOKING/VAPING – Junior Sport:** Smoking or Vaping is strictly prohibited at Junior Sporting events.
- 25.2** Clubs are to ensure they have signage appropriately placed to identify any No Smoking/Vaping areas and take appropriate action to ensure these rules are complied with.
- 25.3 ALCOHOL**
Any affiliated club who serves alcohol on its premises either during, before or after match days or training, must ensure it holds a current state liquor license and complies with any or all laws pertaining to such activity.
- 25.4 ALCOHOL at Junior Sport Venues:** The consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited at Junior Sporting events.
- 25.5 Alcohol consumption - Under age Players:** The Board may disqualify for up to four (4) matches any player who is under eighteen (18) years of age, who drinks alcoholic beverages within the precincts of Clubrooms and grounds, either on match days, trainings or at League functions.
- 25.6** Clubs may also be sanctioned for a breach of By-Law 25 and may be subject to a fine or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

26.0 REPORTING PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

- 26.1** All Reporting of Players and Officials shall follow the rules set out in AFL Laws of the Game Rule 22, and the procedures set out in the National Community Football Policy Handbook section 22.
- 26.1.1** Players and officials may also be reported by the Match Review Panel and/or the Outer East Football Netball Investigator.
- 26.1.2** For reporting of netball players or officials, refer to By-Law 76.
- 26.1.3** Outer East Football Netball has received approval to utilize its own Classification Table for Junior Football incidents ONLY, in accordance with NCFPH Appendix 1 2 (b) (ii). This table can be viewed as Schedule 20.
- 26.2 WITHDRAWAL OF REPORT**
- 26.2.1** An Umpire may, upon approval of the CEO or their appointee, withdraw any notice of report in writing prior to the hearing of the matter by the Independent Tribunal.

27.0 MATCH REVIEW PANEL

Background

This procedure will enhance processes associated with alleged incidents that may have been missed by umpires but have been captured by official Outer East Football Netball footage. In the past, incidents of this nature have typically been referred to the Outer East Football Netball Independent Investigator. Please note that it is not practical or feasible for Outer East Football Netball staff or volunteers to review video footage of every game, every weekend. Outer East Football Netball will still be reliant on clubs primarily to raise alleged incidents as appropriate.

Outer East Football Netball Objective

One of the Outer East Football Netball objectives is to provide a safe environment for all players within our competition. The intention also with this rule is to ensure workload is minimised by reducing the need for costly and time-consuming investigations. The existing Investigation Process is still available if required.

27.1 Refer National Community Football Policy Handbook section 22.2 (b)

27.2 Formation of Match Review Panel

Annually a Match Review Panel shall be formed which may include a number of representatives of the CEO's choosing. The panel will review an incident referred to them by a person/s listed in By-Law 26.4 and from official Outer East Football Netball footage to determine whether that matter should be referred to the Outer East Football Netball Independent Tribunal. The Panel may refer any matter to the Tribunal, if in the opinion of the Panel there is a breach of the (AFL) Laws of Australian Football reportable offences 22.2.2.

27.3 The Match Review Panel may also elect to offer a set penalty for applicable Offences (as per the National Community Football Policy Handbook Appendix 1 – Reportable Offences).

27.4 Match Review Process

Persons authorised to lodge an incident for review by the Match Review Panel:

- Outer East Football Netball Member clubs (by the President or Secretary)
- Umpire (Officiating Umpire of the match)
- Yarra Ranges Umpire Association (President or Secretary)
- Outer East Football Netball Board member, or staff member.

27.4.1 **Notice in Writing:** Authorised persons outlined in By-Law 26.4 may lodge with Outer East Football Netball an Incident Referral Form setting out particulars of the matter for Video Incident Review via the National Community Football Policy Handbook Incident Referral Form. The Notice must pinpoint as accurately as possible when and where the incident occurred and what type of incident is required to be reviewed. Outer East Football Netball staff, in conjunction with the video supplier's staff, will determine if any video evidence is available. If video evidence is available, the matter will be referred to the Match Review Panel. The Match Review Panel, if appropriate, shall offer a Set Penalty OR refer the matter to the tribunal.

27.4.2 Video Incident Review - Key Timings

- a) An Official Representative must submit to Outer East Football Netball a Notice to Review by no later than **10:00am on the Monday after the game**. *(If a game is **not** played on Saturday or Sunday – 10:00am on the first day following the match will be the deadline and all other timings to adjust accordingly).*
- b) If Video Footage is available, the footage will be referred to the Match Review Panel as soon as possible.
- c) The Match Review Panel will advise the Outer East Football Netball office whether the player will be offered a set penalty or if the matter will be referred to the independent tribunal. All relevant details in relation to the report will be passed to respective clubs on Monday afternoon via a Notice of Charge.
- d) Where possible, the independent tribunal will sit on Wednesday night following the game.
- e) A club's player or official who is reported and subsequently found guilty at the tribunal will be charged a fee of \$150. A club's player or official who is reported and accepts a set penalty (including via an early guilty plea) will be charged a fee of \$50. If the player or official is found not guilty, no fee is payable. If a request by a club to review an incident is deemed frivolous, the requesting club will be fined \$150.

28.0 TRIBUNAL – GENERAL

Outer East Football Netball Tribunal processes will be run in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook section 25. Schedule 17 is an indicative guide for clubs on the Tribunal Processes.

- 28.1** The GM Operations is responsible for the Independent Tribunal arrangements.
- 28.2** If Players who are reported are found guilty by the Tribunal (includes reprimands) their club will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 28.3** The Tribunal Chairperson shall retain the power to decide if any clerical errors be taken into consideration when hearing of a matter before them.

28.4 DISCIPLINARY OFFICER

Outer East Football Netball may appoint one or more Disciplinary Officers, who may act in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook section 24.

28.5 APPEALS

By-Law 28.3 prescribes the procedures for an appeal commenced by a person in respect of a determination by the Disciplinary Tribunal under By-Law 27, a determination by the Tribunal on a Policy Breach notice served under By-Law 29 or other such matters as deemed appropriate by the CEO from time to time.

- 28.5.1** Outer East Football Netball will assemble an appeals board when necessary. Such appeals board shall not consist of any members who sat on the original Tribunal hearing case pertaining to the person/s appealing the decision of the Tribunal.
- 28.5.2** All Appeals Procedures shall be conducted in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook section 26 and Schedule 18 - Appeals.

29.0 POLICY BREACHES

All Policy Breach procedures shall be conducted in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook section 23.

30.0 INVESTIGATIONS / UNBECOMING CONDUCT / COMPLAINTS OFFICER

- 30.1** Annually, Outer East Football Netball shall appoint one (1) or more Investigation and Complaints Officers to deal with matters relating to unbecoming conduct, policy breaches and complaints.
- 30.2** Investigations for unbecoming conduct shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure set out in Schedule 19 Unbecoming Conduct – Investigations.

31.0 LIFE MEMBERS

- 31.1** Nominations for Life Membership shall be made on the standard form and shall be accompanied by any supporting evidence of their service and/or games played.
- 31.1.1** For Life Membership Qualification requirements, see Schedule 2 of these By-Laws.
- 31.2** The Board shall assess all nominations for Life Membership on their individual merit and shall make a recommendation to the Annual General Meeting of the Outer East Football Netball Board.

32.0 PATRONS

- 32.1** The Board may appoint any person or organisation as a patron of Outer East Football Netball.

33.0 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES / PROVISION CLAUSE

- 33.1** Where these By-Laws are silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of Outer East Football Netball is maintained at all times.
- 33.1.1** The Board or the CEO may, in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary, or waive the requirements set out in the By-Laws relating to Outer East Football Netball.

- 33.2** Subject to these By-Laws, in respect of any matter not expressly dealt with in the By-Laws, if the Board is of the opinion that a member or registered player or official has refused or neglected to comply with these Rules, or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member, registered player or official or prejudicial to the interests of Outer East Football Netball, the Board may refer the matter to mediation under Schedule 3 or to arbitration under By-Law 18.2, or resolve to proceed under this rule and resolve to:-
- a) fine that member, registered player or official; or
 - b) suspend that member from membership of the League for a specific period; or
 - c) expel that member from the League; or
 - d) deduct match points from that member; or
 - e) Disqualify that member from any match played in a finals series and award the match to the opposing team.
 - f) Suspend that player or official from participating in league matches for a specific period of time.

34.0 OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL DECISIONS

34.1 DECISIONS FINAL AND BINDING

A decision which results from business which has been raised and debated at a properly constituted meeting of delegates to Outer East Football Netball and which has been subjected to a vote is final and binding. Such decisions shall not be raised with any member of Outer East Football Netball other than at the next properly constituted delegates meeting.

This page has deliberately been left blank.



OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL

SENIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION BY-LAWS

35.0 OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL SENIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION BY-LAWS

All Outer East Football Netball By-Laws from 35 to 57 relate specifically to the conduct of Senior Football Competitions including Premier and Division One Men's competitions, U17/U18 boys, U19 Girls, Women's and Veterans competitions.

Amended March 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS – Senior Football

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 36. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS..... | 27 |
| 36.1 SENIOR MENS..... | 27 |
| 36.2 PREMIER & DIVISION 1 RESERVES | 27 |
| 36.4 PREMIER DIVISION U18 Boys | 27 |
| 36.5 DIVISION ONE U18 Boys..... | 27 |
| 36.6 VETERANS | 27 |
| 36.7 WOMENS..... | 27 |
| 36.8 MATCHES FOR PREMIERSHIP POINTS | 28 |
| 36.9 MATCHES FOR NO PREMIERSHIP POINTS | 28 |
| 36.10 TWO TEAMS IN AN AGE GROUP | 28 |
| 37. REGISTRATION | 29 |
| 38. PLAYER AGE REQUIREMENTS..... | 29 |
| 39. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM/SALARY CAP (Community Club Sustainability Program) | 29 |
| 40. PLAYING ARENA / GROUND FACILITIES | 30 |
| 41. PLAYERS BOOTS, JEWELLERY & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT..... | 31 |
| 42. MATCH TIMES. | 32 |
| 42.1 SENIORS | 32 |
| 42.2 RESERVES | 32 |
| 42.3 U18s | 32 |
| 42.4 VETERANS | 32 |
| 42.5 WOMENS..... | 32 |
| 43. DELAYS / CANCELLATION OF MATCHES | 32 |
| 43. DELAYS TO THE START OF MATCHES..... | 32 |
| 43.2 SENIORS | 33 |
| 43.2.7 RESERVES, U18s | 33 |
| 43.3 VETERANS/WOMENS | 33 |
| 43.4 INCOMPLETE MATCH | 34 |
| 44. TEAM SHEET/TEAM LIST/FOOTBALL RECORD | 35 |
| 44.6 DEMAND FOR PLAYER’S SIGNATURE | 35 |
| 45. FOOTBALLS..... | 35 |
| 45.2.1 SENIORS | 35 |
| 45.2.2 RESERVES | 35 |
| 45.2.3 U18s | 35 |
| 45.2.4 VETERANS | 35 |
| 45.2.5 WOMENS AND U19 GIRLS | 35 |
| 46. MATCH DAY PROCEDURES /OFFICIALS | 36 |
| 47. CLUB AND TEAM OFFICIALS – GENERAL..... | 36 |
| 47.4 RUNNERS..... | 36 |
| 47.5 TRAINERS & WATER CARRIERS..... | 36 |
| 47.6 TIMEKEEPER | 37 |
| 47.7 SCOREBOARD ATTENDANT | 38 |
| 47.8 UMPIRE ESCORTS | 38 |
| 48. UMPIRES GENERAL..... | 38 |
| 48.1 APPOINTMENT OF UMPIRES | 38 |

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 48.7 | PROFICIENCY OF UMPIRES..... | 39 |
| 48.8 | NON-ATTENDANCE OF UMPIRES..... | 39 |
| 48.9 | GOAL UMPIRES..... | 39 |
| 48.10 | BOUNDARY UMPIRES..... | 39 |
| 48.11 | APPROACHES TO UMPIRES | 40 |
| 49. | COUNTING OF PLAYERS..... | 40 |
| 50. | ORDER-OFF RULE..... | 41 |
| 50.1 | RED & YELLOW CARDS..... | 41 |
| 51. | TREATING OF PLAYERS – BLOOD RULE..... | 41 |
| 52. | PRACTICE MATCHES | 41 |
| 53. | MATCH DAY PAPERWORK..... | 42 |
| 54. | COMPETITION SPECIFIC RULES..... | 42 |
| 54.1 | VETERANS..... | 42 |
| 54.5 | WOMENS AND U19 GIRLS (Last Possession) | 43 |
| 55. | FINALS QUALIFICATIONS & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY | 43 |
| 55.1 | SENIORS..... | 43 |
| 55.2 | RESERVES..... | 43 |
| 55.4 | U18’S BOYS..... | 43 |
| 55.5 | U19 GIRLS | 43 |
| 55.6 | VETERANS..... | 43 |
| 55.7 | WOMEN’S..... | 44 |
| 56. | DRAWN FINALS | 44 |
| 57. | SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES / PROVISION CLAUSE | 44 |

36.0 COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

- 36.1 Senior teams:** Senior teams shall consist of twenty-two (22) players for Premier Division and Division One. No more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take the field in a match at any one time.
- 36.1.1** If a team has less than fourteen (14) players, they shall forfeit the game, subject to By-Law 36.7
- 36.2 Premier Division Reserve teams:** Reserve teams shall consist of twenty-two (22) players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take the field in a match at any one time.
- 36.2.1** If a team has less than 14 players, they shall forfeit the game, subject to by-law 36.7
- 36.3 Division One Reserve teams:** Reserve teams shall consist of twenty-two (22) players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take the field in a match at any one time.
- 36.3.1** If a team has less than 14 players, they shall forfeit the game, subject to by-law 36.7
- 36.4 Under 18 Premier Division Boys Saturday Competition Teams:** Teams shall consist of a maximum of Twenty-Eight (28) players, not more than sixteen (16) of whom shall take the field at any one time.
- 36.4.1** If both teams have twenty (20) or more players, teams must play with eighteen (18) players on the field.
- 36.4.2** Coaches must contact each other before the game to confirm or clarify 'in-principle' playing numbers & details for the upcoming game. (e.g., If both teams have 19 players, Coaches can agree to play with 18 players on the field).
- 36.4.3** Both teams must confirm the playing numbers for the match with the umpires at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- 36.4.4** If a team has less than fourteen (14) players, they shall forfeit the game, subject to By-Law 36.7
- 36.5 Under 18 Division One Boys Saturday Competition Teams:** Teams shall consist of a maximum of Twenty-Eight (28) players, not more than sixteen (16) of whom shall take the field at any one time.
- 36.5.1** No team shall have more players on the field than their opposition. Should a team fall below the maximum of 16 players on the field through injury alone (*not penalties through yellow and red cards*), the opposition is to even-up at the next possible opportunity.
- 36.5.2** If both teams have twenty (20) or more players, teams must play with eighteen (18) players on the field.
- 36.5.3** Coaches must contact each other before the game to confirm or clarify 'in-principle' playing numbers & details for the upcoming game. (e.g., If both teams have 19 players, Coaches can agree to play with 18 players on the field). This is preferred to be done by Friday morning, prior to the match.
- 36.5.4** Both teams must confirm the playing numbers for the match with the umpires at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- 36.5.5** If a team has less than twelve (12) players, they shall forfeit the game, subject to By-Law 36.7
- 36.6 Veterans:** (Also see By-Law 54.1): Veterans teams shall consist of a maximum of Twenty-Eight (28) players, not more than eighteen (18) players of whom shall take the field at any one time.
- 36.6.1** No team shall have more players on the field than their opposition. Should a team fall below the maximum of 18 players on the field through injury alone (*not penalties through yellow and red cards*), the opposition is to even-up at the next possible opportunity.
- 36.6.2** If a team has less than fourteen (14) players, they shall forfeit the game, subject to By-Law 36.7
- 36.7 Women's Football:** Women's teams shall consist of a maximum of twenty-four (24) players not more than sixteen (16) of whom shall take the field at any one time.
- 36.7.1** If both teams have twenty (20) or more players, teams must play with eighteen (18) players on the field.
- 36.7.2** Both teams must confirm the playing numbers for the match with the umpires at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- 36.7.3** If a team has less than fourteen (14) players, they shall forfeit the game, subject to By-Law 36.7

36.8 MATCHES FOR PREMIERSHIP POINTS

To constitute a match, the minimum number of registered players in any grade of the clubs shall be fourteen (14).

36.8.1 Any team with less than fourteen (14) registered players at the official starting time of the match shall forfeit the game, unless:

- a) An agreement is reached between the coach and team manager of each team, that the match will be played for premiership points, and:
- b) Registered player(s) are loaned on the day by the opposing club to enable each team to field a minimum of fourteen (14) players at the official starting time of the match, and:
- c) Registered player(s) that are loaned are sign and are named on the official team sheet. All loaned registered players must be identified by the letter (L) next to their name.

36.8.2 An Agreement Form to play the match for premiership points must be signed by the team manager and Coach of each team prior to the commencement of the match (see Schedule 5).

36.8.3 The Field Umpire(s) must be notified by the team manager of each team that a match will be played for premiership points, and the signed agreement form is to be lodged with the Field Umpire(s), who will also sign the agreement form, for return to the League Office with the match documents.

36.8.4 Loaned registered players shall remain as a player(s) for that team for the duration of the match or as determined by the coaches.

36.8.5 If, prior to the start of the 3rd quarter, registered players become available for the team without minimum numbers, then these registered players can replace loaned registered players, who then return to their team and can take the field to play for their club.

36.8.6 If a match is played for premiership points, umpires will award and record "Best on Ground Votes" for the Outer East Football Netball Best and Fairest Awards.

36.8.7 The club(s) will also officially record those players who kicked goals during the match for the Outer East Football Netball Goal Kicking Awards.

36.9 MATCHES FOR NO PREMIERSHIP POINTS

36.9.1 If an agreement is NOT reached to play for premiership points, then a match may be arranged and played for no premiership points.

36.9.2 The Field Umpire(s) must be notified by the Team Manager of each team that a match will be played for no premiership points and must agree to umpire the match if the clubs request the Field Umpire(s) to do so.

36.9.3 An Agreement Form must be signed by the Team Manager and Coach of each team and the participating Field Umpire(s) to play a match for no premiership points, and the signed Agreement Form is to be lodged with the Field Umpire(s) and is to be returned with the match documents (see Schedule 6).

36.10 TWO TEAMS IN AN AGE GROUP

36.10.1 Where a club fields more than one (1) team in the same age grade a player is permitted to move between teams. However:

- a) Once a player has played six (6) matches in one team, that player may not move to the other team for the remainder of the season.
- b) The first team a player plays six (6) games in is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the finals series.
- c) Where a bye is fixtured, no player is permitted to move to the other team during the week of the bye.
- d) If a club with multiple teams in one age group forfeits a match, the players selected in the forfeiting team cannot move to the other team.

36.10.2 Variations to these rules may apply in special circumstances and will be at the discretion of the CEO or their appointee.

36.10.3 Failure by a club to comply with By-Law 36 will be subject to a fine as per the Schedule 4, a loss of match points, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

37.0 REGISTRATION

- 37.1** Any club, player, coach, or team official desiring registration with Outer East Football Netball shall complete the Registration themselves & pay any fees due, prior to playing, coaching, or officiating in any match.
- 37.2** For all further Registration and Player Permit By-Laws, refer to By-Law 11.

38.0 PLAYERS AGE REQUIREMENTS

Competition Age groups will be decided by Outer East Football Netball on a year-by-year basis.

- 38.1** Outer East Football Netball Player Age group eligibility will be in accordance with the National Community Football Policy Handbook section 3.1 (b) and (c).
- 38.2** All Under 18 Senior competition players must be under the age of eighteen (18) on the 1st of January in the year of play.
- 38.3** All Under 19 competition players (Boys or Girls) must be under the age of Nineteen (19) years of age on the First (1st) of January in the year of play.
- 38.4** Under 18 Competitions – The Over Age Permit Policy will be determined in accordance with the AFL's National Age Dispensation Policy section 4 of the NCFPH. Applications for an exemption must be completed on the required form and presented to the CEO or their appointee for assessment.
- 38.5** Veterans players must attain the age of thirty-five (35) by the 31st of December during the year of play. An Underage Permit Policy may be determined each season as required.
- 38.6** Documentary proof of age must be made available to the CEO or their appointee upon request.
- 38.7** Proof of age shall be deemed to be copies of any document that verifies a player's date of birth. Such documents shall include: -
- a) Birth Certificate
 - b) Extract of Birth Entry
 - c) Drivers Licence
 - d) Passport
 - e) Any other 'official document' acceptable to the CEO.
- 38.8** A Statutory Declaration shall not be acceptable as proof of age.
- 38.9** Within seven (7) days of a written request from the CEO or their appointee a player shall present proof of age to be sighted by the CEO or their appointee.
- 38.10** In the event that the player cannot present their proof of age as in 38.6, the player shall be ruled ineligible to play until such time as it has been presented to the CEO or their appointee.
- 38.11** Junior competition players may obtain a permit to play football in a senior competition club. Permit players are also available for selection to play in Outer East Football U18 interleague matches.
- 38.12** A Junior competition permit player can play in a senior football competition subject to the following conditions:
- a) Signed parental permission is submitted and approved by Outer East Football Netball.
 - b) Commitment from the senior club that the junior players' development is the priority when permission is sought to play senior football.
 - c) A season permit application is submitted through PlayHQ and approved by all required parties, prior to the player playing a Senior competition match.
 - d) Any player seeking to participate in a Senior competition will be subject to By-Law 38.1.
- 38.13** Any club found guilty of playing a player who is ineligible due to By-Law 38.0 shall automatically forfeit all matches in which the player competed and shall be subject to a fine as per Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

39.0 PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM/SALARY CAP (Community Club Sustainability Program)

Outer East Football Netball adheres to the Football Player Points System Policy pertained in Schedule 16.

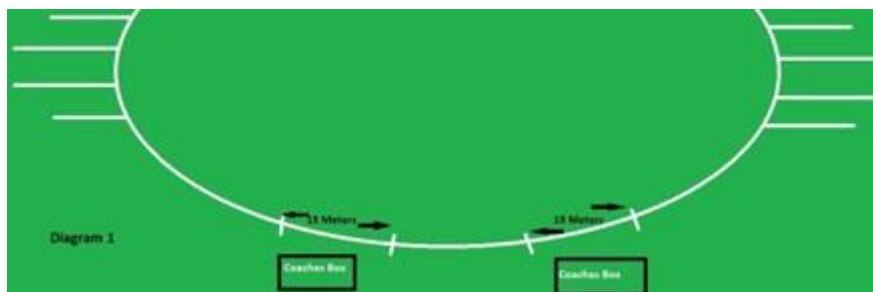
- 39.1** **Player points:** Player point allocations will be set by the Outer East Football Netball Board by September 1st of the previous season. Point allocations for season 2025 will be: -
- Premier Division will have a maximum limit of 46 points per match.
 - Division One clubs will have a maximum limit of 46 points per match.

- 39.1.1** From time to time the Outer East Football Netball Community Club Sustainability Advisory Committee may allocate a lower point limit total to any club it wishes.
- 39.2** Further rulings and application of Player Points will be ruled as per the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy, current for the year of play, which may be altered from time to time.
- 39.3** Clubs may apply for additional points limit total in any given season. A request in writing to the CEO must be made no later than twenty-eight (28) days before the first home and away match of the season.
- 39.4** The CCSP Special Consideration Request will be sent to the Outer East Football Netball Community Club Sustainability Advisory Committee for their consideration & assessment. The CCSP Advisory Committee will consider the matter and make adjudication. The club and Outer East Football Netball Board will be informed in writing on whether the application was successful or not.
- 39.5** In the event the subcommittee is unable to reach a consensus decision the matter would be referred to the Board for determination. Some matters may also be referred to the AFL Victoria CCSP Working Party as per the Policy.
- 39.6** Clubs shall submit their player points allocations by no later than two (2) weeks prior to the first home and away match of the season. Any applications for re-assessment of an individual players points allocation must be made within the requirements of the AFL Victoria Player Points System Policy.
- 39.7 SALARY CAP**
The Salary Cap for 2025 in each Division will be set as follows:
- Premier Division \$ 125,000
 - Division 1 \$ 88,889 (100k for 18 games played, prorated as 16 games played in 2025)
- 39.8.1** Adjustments may be made to these figures when clubs in any division do not play the same amount of Home and Away games. Outer East Football Netball will advise of such adjustments upon the completion of the fixtures.
- 39.9** Outer East Football Netball and its affiliated clubs will abide by the Salary Cap rules & regulations as set by AFL Victoria from year to year.
- 39.10** Schedule 7 of these By-Laws details further policies in regard to the Salary Cap Rules.
- 39.11** Failure to comply with By-Law 39 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by the Board or their appointee in line with the Outer East Football Netball Player Payment Rules.

40.0 PLAYING ARENA/GROUND FACILITIES

- 40.1** As per AFL guidelines, each club shall provide the following playing facilities as a minimum standard, which shall be approved by the Board and comply with the Marsh AFL Match Day Checklist to be completed by a representative from each competing club, prior to the first match of the day.
- 40.2** Two goal posts 6.4 metres apart and not less than 6 metres in height shall be placed at each end of the playing ground.
- 40.2.1** Two behind posts shall be placed at a distance of 6.4 metres apart from each goal post and in a straight line with them: the minimum height of the behind posts shall be 3 metres.
- 40.2.2** Between ground level and 2.5 metres, the goal and point posts shall be suitably padded.
- 40.2.3** Clubs shall provide 3 flag holders on the right-hand goal post and 2 flag holders on the left-hand goal post.
- 40.2.4** All areas behind the goal and behind posts, plus 15 metres in each direction shall be fenced.
- 40.3** A scoreboard, which shall be operational for each game, with legible numbers for scores. If an electronic scoreboard is used, a usable manual scoreboard must also be available.
- 40.4** Changing rooms for home and visiting teams, plus hot and cold water for showers.
- 40.5** Umpire's changing rooms containing a shower area separate from the players' area.
- 40.6** A suitable stretcher on the boundary at the interchange area at all times during the matches being played.
- 40.7** A properly marked playing arena in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, which shall not be marked with lime or lime product.
- 40.8** The boundary line markings shall be no less than 3 metres from the boundary fence or other obstacle.
- 40.9** A Dot or Line must be placed 15 metres from the centre of the Kick-Off Line towards the centre of the Playing Surface. This is where the Mark is to be set for a Kick-in.

- 40.10** Two interchange lines 15 metres apart marked across the boundary line through which players can be interchanged. There shall be 2 interchange gates which shall be placed in front of each coach's box. The line furthest from the centre of the ground must align with the edge of the coach's box and extend 15 meters along the boundary line towards the centre of the ground.



- 40.11** A Timekeepers' box, complete with efficient siren and back-up siren, bell, or gong, located so that the timekeepers have access to an uninterrupted view of the entire playing arena.
- 40.12** Adequately covered concrete cricket pitches (in accordance with local Council guidelines).
- 40.13** Adequately covered stopcocks, valves, or sprinkler heads where underground water reticulation is provided.
- 40.14** A suitable coaches box with seats for the home and visiting teams.
- 40.15** Suitable fencing around playing arena.
- 40.16** A restriction line in front of the coaches box, halfway between the boundary line and the fence.
- 40.17** Surfaces and surrounds, such as gates, fences, and advertising signs are in safe condition, well secured with no obstruction protruding.
- 40.18** Failure to comply with By-Law 40 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

41.0 PLAYERS BOOTS, JEWELLERY & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Outer East Football Netball adheres to the Protective Equipment rules pertained in National Community Football Policy Handbook section 16.

41.1 PROHIBITION OF ITEMS

A Player shall not wear during a Match:

- (a) any form of jewellery;
 - (b) boot studs, plates/cleats or any Protective Equipment (other than Protective Equipment approved by the Controlling Body) unless the field Umpire is satisfied that the item does not constitute a danger or increase the risk of injury to other Players competing in the Match; or
 - (c) Protective Equipment which has been approved by the relevant Controlling Body, if the field Umpire is satisfied that such equipment has, during the Match, become dangerous or increased the risk of injury to other Players.
- 41.1.1 Spectacles** – Players who wish to wear spectacles during matches and training sessions, should wear spectacles with plastic frames and plastic lenses. A band must also hold the spectacles on securely.
- 41.2** A field umpire may inspect players' boots, hands, guards, and surgical appliances prior to the commencement of play or at any time prior to the conclusion of the match. The field umpire shall have the sole prerogative to determine whether apparel or protective equipment has the potential to cause injury and shall instruct the player to remove such apparel or protective equipment.
- 41.3** Any player refusing to follow the Field Umpire's instructions may be issued a yellow or red card and reported.
- 41.4** Gloves are permitted to be worn by open age and junior registered players in competition matches. All gloves must be approved by the CEO or their appointee.
- 41.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 41 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

42.0 MATCH TIMES.

- 42.1** Playing times of a match shall be determined by the CEO or their appointee and ratified by the Board annually. Starting times may be changed upon application as per By-Law 7 in writing by the clubs and received and agreed to by the CEO or their appointee.
- 42.2 Senior Men's competitions:** All senior matches will commence at the time allocated on the fixture. All quarters shall be eighteen (18) minutes plus time on, with a five (5) minute interval for change of ends at quarter time, fifteen (15) minutes at half time, and five (5) minutes at three quarter time.
- 42.3 Reserves competitions:** All reserves matches will commence at the time allocated on the fixture. All quarters shall be twenty (20) minutes with no time on, with a five (5) minute interval for change of ends at quarter time, ten (10) minutes at half time, and five (5) minutes at three quarter time. During the finals, time on is only to be added in the case of extenuating circumstances.
- 42.4 Under 18 Boys competitions:** All Under 18's matches will commence at the time allocated on the fixture. All quarters shall be eighteen (18) minutes with no time on, a five (5) minute interval for change of ends at quarter time, ten (10) minutes at half time, and five (5) minutes at three quarter time. During the finals, time on is only to be added in the case of extenuating circumstances.
- 42.4.1** Under 18 matches that have received prior agreement to play with less than 16 players on the field for each team, may also reduce the length of the quarters with pre match agreement between both competing teams and the GM Operations or the Field Umpires officiating the match.
- 42.5 Veterans competition:** All Veterans' matches will commence at the time allocated on the fixture. All quarters shall be eighteen (18) minutes with no time on, with a five (5) minute interval for change of ends at quarter time, fifteen (15) minutes at half time, and five (5) minutes at three quarter time. During the finals, time on is only played in the case of extenuating circumstances.
- 42.6 Women's competition:** All Women's matches will commence at the time allocated on the fixture. All quarters shall be eighteen (18) minutes with no time on, with a five (5) minute interval for change of ends at quarter time, ten (10) minutes at half time, and five (5) minutes at three quarter time. During the finals, time on is only played in the case of extenuating circumstances.
- 42.7 Under 19 Girls competition:** All Women's matches will commence at the time allocated on the fixture. All quarters shall be Seventeen Minutes (17) with no time on, with a five-minute interval for change of ends at quarter time, eight minutes at half time, and five minutes at three quarter time. During the finals, time on is only played in the case of extenuating circumstances.
- 42.8** In the case of an interruption of a match due to extenuating circumstances, the remaining time to be played is determined as per Outer East Football Netball By-Law 43 - Delays/Cancellations.
- 42.9** If early games (prior to Seniors) are running behind time at half time, the last 2 quarters are to be equally shortened accordingly to allow the game to finish on time. This provision is NOT applicable in finals games.
- 42.10** Failure to comply with By-Law 42 will result in a fine as per Schedule 4, or other such penalty as Outer East Football Netball determine.

43.0 DELAYS / CANCELLATION OF MATCHES

Background

This procedure will enhance processes associated with Football matches which may be interrupted or delayed from time to time. In the past, incidents of this nature have typically resulted in games not being completed.

Outer East Football Netball Objective

The objective of these by-laws is to allow for the completion of Outer East Football Netball Senior competition matches as often as possible, whilst providing both participating clubs an even match on game day. Completion of one half (two Quarters) constitutes a game of football in any grade.

- 43.1** A game may not start or reach its conclusion for the following reasons: -
- 43.1.1** An invasion of the playing arena where the umpire(s) consider it unsafe to continue and are not able to resume play after a reasonable time.

- 43.1.2** A player or umpire is so seriously injured that it is deemed inappropriate to move them until medical assistance arrives.
- 43.1.3** If in the opinion of the umpire(s), the playing conditions deteriorate to a level that makes it unsafe to start or continue.
- 43.1.4** If in the course of a night match, the power supply fails.
- 43.1.5** Thick fog, lightning, or any other extreme weather condition prescribed as per National Community Football Policy Handbook section 17.

DELAYS TO THE START OF MATCHES

- 43.2** Where the start of a **SENIOR MATCH** has been delayed due to factors as in By-Law 43.1:
- 43.2.1** The Umpires will have discretion on the match start time until 3:00pm in conjunction with the CEO or Operations Manager.
- 43.2.2** If the match cannot begin by 3:00pm (50 minutes past scheduled start time) after consideration of the circumstances, the CEO or GM Operations will have the power to cancel or start the match later. Lights may be used if it is safe to do so and improve playing conditions to an acceptable level up until 5.45pm.
- 43.2.3** If the match has not begun by 4:30pm the match will be considered abandoned.
- 43.2.4** Players must not leave the venue until the match has been officially called off.
- 43.2.5** For the purposes of this rule, games scheduled outside of the normal start time of 2:10pm will be subject to discussions with the CEO or Operations Manager. (As a guideline, a Senior match should finish no later than 3 hours & 35 minutes after its scheduled start time).
- 43.2.6** Where a Team is directed to commence play by a field Umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to commence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match, in which case By-Law 7.5 applies.
- 43.2.7** Where the start of a **RESERVE GRADE** or **UNDER 18/19 (boys or girls)** game has been delayed due to factors detailed in By-Law 43.1, Time On/Extra Time does not apply for Home & Away matches. Timekeepers must maintain timing as if play were continuous.
- 43.2.8** In Under 18 and Reserve grade games, start times must be strictly adhered to regardless of whether teams take to the field or not. The actual play shall begin at any time but no later than the scheduled start time of the third quarter.
- 43.2.9** In the event of loss of time once a match has begun, the timekeepers must continue the time clock as if the match were still in progress and blow the sirens to signal the start & finish of each quarter or match. Contact should be made with the CEO or GM Operations for direction/confirmation as required.
- 43.2.10** Where a Team is directed to commence play by a field Umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to commence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match, in which case By-Law 7.5 shall apply.
- 43.2.11** If a Reserves or Under 18's finals match has been delayed due to the factors in By-Law 43.1, the continuation of play beyond the scheduled finishing time will be at the discretion of the CEO, GM Operations or Match Day Manager.
- 43.2.12** As a guide the latest start time for a Reserves and U18 (boys or girls) match is:
 - One hour past the match's scheduled starting time (only one half of football can then be played before the scheduled start time of the next scheduled match).
- 43.3 Veterans & Women's**
- 43.3.1** Where the start of a **VETERANS OR WOMEN'S MATCH** has been delayed due to factors as in By-Law 43.1: Time On/Extra Time does not apply for Home & Away matches. Timekeepers must maintain timing as if play were continuous.
- 43.3.2** In Veterans or Women's grade game, fixtured start times must be strictly adhered to regardless of whether teams take to the field or not. Actual play shall begin at any time but not earlier than the fixtured time AND not later than the scheduled start time of the third quarter.
- 43.3.3** In the event of loss of time once a match has begun, the timekeepers must continue the time clock as if the match were still in progress and blow the sirens to signal the start & finish of each quarter or match. Contact should be made with the CEO, GM Operations for direction/confirmation as required.

- 43.3.4** Where a Team is directed to commence play by a field Umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to commence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match, in which case By-Law 7.5 shall apply.
- 43.3.5** If a Women's or Veterans finals match has been delayed due to the factors in By-Law 43.1, the continuation of play beyond the scheduled finishing time will be at the discretion of the CEO, GM Operations or Match Day Manager.
- 43.4 INCOMPLETE MATCH**
- If a match is unable to continue within the time scheduled for the match for reasons beyond the control of either Team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the match to proceed) the following shall apply:
- (a) Prior to Half Time:** If a match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the match, the Teams shall depart from the arena. Immediate consultation with the GM Operations &/or CEO shall be sought by the umpires to determine if a resumption of play is achievable. The CEO or GM Operations may in their discretion vary the length and scheduling of the intervals, to suit circumstances. If the match is unable to recommence after consultation with the GM Operations or CEO, the match shall be deemed to be drawn if two even halves of football are unable to be completed. The scores of the Teams at the time the match was interrupted shall be used as the scores for each team for that match.
 - (b) Half Time & Beyond:** If the Half Time interval has been reached and the match is unable to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the match, the Teams shall leave the arena, or in the case of half time, not return to the arena. Immediate consultation with the GM Operations &/or CEO shall be sought by the umpires to determine if a resumption of play is achievable. The CEO or GM Operations may in their discretion vary the length and scheduling of the intervals, to suit circumstances. In the case where the match is unable to be completed the Team with the highest score shall be deemed the winner of the match and the scores shall be used as the scores for each team for that match.
 - (c) Match Not Able to Proceed:** Immediate contact with the CEO or GM Operations must be made and a field Umpire shall, having regard to the health and safety of the Players and any other relevant circumstances, determine whether a match is unable to commence or proceed. A field Umpire must determine that a match is unable to commence or proceed for such time as lightning is present at or within the Immediate Proximity of the arena where the match is being conducted, in line with the National Community Football Policy Handbook Section 17.3. The CEO or GM Operations may in their discretion vary the length and scheduling of the intervals, to suit circumstances, when Lightning is present.
 - (d) Recommencing of Play:** Where a team is directed to recommence play by a field umpire and the team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match, in which case By-Law 7.5 shall apply.
 - (e)** The CEO or GM Operations may vary the length and scheduling of the intervals, to suit practical circumstances.

Summary (for matches which start at traditional times):

- Completion of one half constitutes a game of football in any grade.
- A senior match cannot be called off before 3:10pm
- The latest a match can start in order to complete two quarters is:
 - Seniors - 4:30 pm
 - Reserves - 50 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the next match
 - Under 18 - 46 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the next match
 - Women's - 46 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the next match
- The latest a senior match can finish is 5.45pm
- Lights may be used to assist conditions.
- Contact should be made with the CEO, GM Operations for direction/confirmation as required.
- Games played outside of normal playing times will require confirmation with the CEO or GM Operations if any delay, change or abandonment to a game is required.

44.0 TEAM SHEET/TEAM LIST/FOOTBALL RECORD-PUBLICATIONS

- 44.1** The official team sheet shall include the jumper number, name in block letters in number order of each player, trainer, water carrier, runner, team manager, coach, and the identity of the team captain.
- 44.2** Team managers should ensure all participating players are acknowledged with a tick and players not participating are crossed out. Players added manually must be added on the submitted ORIGINAL copy to the umpires.
- 44.3** The team manager of each team shall present the ORIGINAL copy of the team sheet to the field umpire(s) fifteen (15) minutes prior to the match start time. Additional players may still be added to the team sheet if they arrive late, but only until the end of Half Time. A DUPLICATE copy is to be handed to the opposing team manager at the conclusion of the game (with goal kickers & best players noted). It is not necessary for the duplicate copy to be signed.
- 44.4** Clubs must provide correct team lists for the Outer East Football Netball Record or other such publication before the first match of the season, which are to be finalized by each club by the conclusion of Round Four (4).
- 44.5** Clubs must complete and publish their Football match team sheets in PlayHQ, with players in position, by noon the day before a match, or noon Friday (whichever is earlier). During the Home & Away season this applies to Senior team matches only. During Finals matches this applies to all teams competing. Any match day changes to these team sheets must be updated in PlayHQ by midnight on the Monday following the match.
- 44.6 DEMAND FOR PLAYER'S SIGNATURE**
- 44.6.1** The Captain, or his deputy, of any team shall have the power to demand the signature of any opposing player.
- 44.6.2** A player refusing to give their signature will constitute a breach of By-Law 44.6 and shall be ineligible to participate in the match.
- 44.7** Failure to comply with By-Law 44 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match points or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

45.0 FOOTBALLS

- 45.1** The Board shall specify the brand of footballs to be used in Outer East Football Netball football matches.
- 45.2** Prior to the commencement of each football match the home club will provide the Field Umpires with Outer East Football Netball approved full size footballs, as follows:
- 45.2.1 Senior Men's** – Two (2) new Size 5 leather footballs (red or yellow). Must be Kangaroo Brand.
- 45.2.2 Reserves** – Two (2) new or one (1) new and one (1) used (in good condition) Size 5 leather football (red or yellow). Kangaroo OR Match brand.
- 45.2.3 Under 18 Boys** – Two (2) new or one (1) new and one (1) used (in good condition) Size 5 leather football (red or yellow). Kangaroo OR Match brand.
- 45.2.4 Veterans** – Two (2) Size 5 leather footballs, new or used (in good condition, red or yellow). Kangaroo OR match brand.
- 45.2.5 Women's** – Two (2) new or one (1) new and one (1) used (in good condition, red or yellow) Size 4 leather footballs, Match brand.
- 45.3** The Field Umpire must approve all balls. (A spare ball of the same type including colour to that chosen for the match shall be placed in the care of the timekeepers).
- 45.4** Whenever night matches have been approved in accordance with these By-Laws, yellow leather footballs shall be used in all grades playing after dusk.
- 45.5** Subject to the agreement of the captains, prior to the match, footballs of the same color may be alternated during the match due to wet or muddy conditions as required.
- 45.6** All match balls must feature the following logos:
- Bendigo Bank or Karcher
 - Outer East Football Netball
- 45.7** Failure to comply with By-Law 45 will be subject to a fine as per Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

46.0 MATCH DAY PROCEDURES / OFFICIALS

MATCH OFFICIALS - GROUND MANAGER

- 46.1** During home and away matches, the President, or an approved representative of the first named Club in any match arranged by Outer East Football Netball or alternatively a person so appointed by Outer East Football Netball, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. The Ground Manager's duties shall include the supervision of arrangements for the proper conduct of such matches, and they shall attend to the duties as determined by Outer East Football Netball and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the CEO.
- 46.2** During Finals matches Outer East Football Netball shall appoint Ground/Match Managers to control all Finals Matches.

47.0 CLUB AND TEAM OFFICIALS – GENERAL

- 47.1** Only five (5) team officials (Coaches, Runner, Team Manager etc) plus correctly attired trainers/water carriers and interchange players shall be allowed inside the fence of the playing arena, including coaches' boxes which may be elevated or not.
- 47.2** A white line five (5) metres in length shall be marked in front of each coach's box, halfway between the boundary line and the fence of the playing arena.
- 47.3** All officials, coach, runner, plus interchange players listed in By-Law 47.1 must remain behind the white line (refer By-Law 40.15) at all times during play, except when legitimately entering the playing arena (as in the case of a runner, trainer, or interchange player).
- 47.4 RUNNER**
- 47.4.1** Each club shall have only one runner.
- 47.4.2** The sole duty of the runner shall be to confer with the player or players of their club.
- 47.4.3** Runners shall be of an age to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously.
- 47.4.4** A club runner may enter the playing arena during any football match, provided that the runner: -
- Wears an approved Outer East Football Netball runner's uniform.
 - Enters the playing arena for the purpose of delivering a message or instruction of a coach to a player of the club or other similar purpose.
 - Exits the playing arena immediately upon fulfilling their task.
 - Does not cajole, or in any way attempt to influence the conduct or performance of any player or players present on the playing arena.
 - Does not communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with any umpire or any player from the opposing club during any match.
- 47.4.5** The officiating Field Umpire may, upon any infringement of By-Law 47.4, order the offending runner from the playing arena for a period of fifteen (15) minutes playing time via a Yellow Card.
- 47.4.6** Any reportable infringement of By-Law 47.4 or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire, who shall include a field umpire, boundary umpire, goal umpire and emergency umpire, shall be referred to Outer East Football Netball to determine the penalty in accordance with these By-Laws.
- 47.5 TRAINERS AND WATER CARRIERS**
- 47.5.1** The sole duty of a trainer shall be to render medical assistance.
- 47.5.2** Each club must have a minimum of one accredited trainer in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook section 15 (including Defibrillator training) present during the entire match in which the club fields a team. All trainers must be registered with their club as a Medical Officer.
- 47.5.3** All on-ground trainers shall as a minimum, be a qualified AFL First Aider in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook section 15.
- 47.5.4** There shall be a maximum number of six (6) trainers &/or water carriers to be registered for each team and permitted to participate in a match.

- 47.5.5** Trainers may be stationed in the coaches' boxes and a trainer may enter the playing arena during a match, provided that the Trainer:
- Is providing medical assistance and/or water to a player.
 - Wears an approved Outer East Football Netball bib/polo (club polo under a bib), plain black pants or club shorts clearly identifying the Club to which they belong.
 - Does not communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with the umpire or any player from the opposing Club during any match. Nothing in this clause shall be construed to prevent a trainer attending to assist an injured umpire/officials and players of the opposing team, where appropriate and without restriction, in the interest of that individual's personal health and well-being.
- 47.5.6** Water Carriers may only enter the field once a goal has been kicked and must be off the ground before play has resumed. Water Carriers are to be stationed at the 50 Metre lines around the playing arena between the boundary and the fence.
- 47.5.7** Water Carriers shall wear an approved Outer East Football Netball Bib/polo (club polo under a bib) and club shorts clearly identifying the club to which they belong.
- 47.5.8** Trainers shall be of an age to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously.
- 47.5.9** Water Carriers must be a minimum of twelve (12) years old to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously.
- 47.5.10** The officiating field umpire may, upon infringement of By-Law 47.5, order the trainer or water carrier off the offending club from the playing arena for a period of fifteen (15) minutes of playing time.
- 47.5.11 Concussion:** Outer East Football Netball adopts the National Community Football Policy Handbook section 19 in relation to Concussion.
- 47.5.12** Any player who is suspected of suffering from concussion must immediately cease playing or training and seek medical advice.
- 47.5.13** Players who have suffered a concussion must NOT return to training or playing for a minimum of twenty-one (21) days and must also receive a Doctors clearance to do so.
- 47.5.14** Any player who suffers a concussion must follow the process in the AFL's, MANAGEMENT OF SPORT-RELATED CONCUSSION IN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL policy.
- 47.5.15 Pregnant Players:** Outer East Football Netball adopts the National Community Football Policy Handbook section 20 in relation to Pregnant Players.
- 47.5.16** Any reportable infringement of By-Law 47.5 or other infringement reported by the officiating umpire (including field, boundary, goal and emergency umpires) shall be referred to Outer East Football Netball to determine the penalty in accordance with these By-Laws.
- 47.6 TIMEKEEPERS**
- 47.6.1** A club shall provide a Timekeeper for all grades. The home club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signaling device for the use of Timekeepers (siren). One Timekeeper at all matches shall be required to keep the scores, the other Timekeeper shall be required to keep the time and operate the Siren.
- 47.6.2** During the home and away and finals series (except the Grand Final) one responsible timekeeper is to be provided by each club. The home club shall be responsible for the provision of time clocks. In all Finals matches the Hosting club shall be responsible for the provision of time clocks.
- 47.6.3** For Grand Finals, the CEO or their appointee will appoint timekeepers.
- 47.6.4** The matches shall be played in accordance with the starting times and intervals set out in by-law 42.0. In Senior Men's matches where Time On is utilized, Time On is to be administered in accordance with AFL rule – 10.6 Stopping and Recommencing Time.
- 47.6.5** A siren, capable of being heard across the ground at its most distant point, shall be sounded prior to the start of each quarter and at the conclusion of each quarter. A back-up or emergency siren, bell or gong shall be provided for all matches by the home or hosting club.
- 47.6.6** Timekeepers shall complete the required details on the official Outer East Football Netball Timekeeper's card. Timekeepers shall be the only people to be located in the timekeeper's box or area designated for timekeeping during matches.

- 47.6.7** Timekeepers are responsible for recording the times in which the Umpires and competing teams enter the playing arena prior to each half, as well as recording the time in which play commences each quarter.
- 47.6.8** Timekeepers shall have sole control of match time and no person (other than the match manager in finals) shall interfere with the timing of a match.
- 47.6.9** The minimum age for timekeepers shall be fifteen (15) years old.
- 47.6.10** Timekeepers are to keep records of any Yellow or Red Card incidents and be responsible for advising when players can recommence play by waving the appropriate flag provided by the home or hosting club.
- 47.6.11** Timekeepers are also required to record any major stoppages (stretchers etc.) in play on the time sheets in the space required.
- 47.6.12** Failure by a club to comply By-Law 47.6 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 47.7 SCOREBOARD ATTENDANT**
- 47.7.1** The home team shall appoint a scoreboard attendant to accurately record the scores during the playing of a match.
- a)** During the finals series, the hosting club shall appoint a scoreboard attendant to accurately record the scores during the playing of a match.
- 47.7.2** Scoreboard attendant shall be responsible for adjusting the score, if required, by the goal umpires.
- 47.7.3** Scoreboard attendants shall be of an age to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously.
- 47.8 UMPIRES ESCORT/PROTECTION**
- 47.8.1** Clubs shall be responsible to take reasonable care to protect umpires from abuse and violence on and off the playing arena.
- 47.8.2** Each club participating in a match, including finals, must supply one umpire escort for that match, who is to be named as such on the team sheet. The delegated persons from both clubs are to meet the umpires in the center of the ground at the quarter time breaks, and when leaving the ground at half time and after the match in all grades shall escort umpires from the field to their dressing room.
- 47.8.3** The home club shall be responsible for the provision of drinks to umpires at quarter time, half-time, three-quarter time and shall, where necessary, provide medical assistance.
- 47.9 PROFICIENCY OF OFFICIALS**
- 47.9.1** All runners, timekeepers, trainers, water carriers and other match officials supplied by a club shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their respective duties as required under these by-laws and the Laws of Australian Football.
- 47.10** Failure to comply with By-Law 47 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 48.0 UMPIRES - GENERAL**
- 48.1 APPOINTMENT OF UMPIRES**
- 48.1.1** The Outer East Football Netball Head of Umpiring is responsible for the appointment of official umpires. Where necessary, Outer East Football Netball may sanction the use of club umpires in any umpiring role.
- 48.2** All Outer East Football Netball appointed umpires shall have the power to report players according to the Laws of Australian Football (refer AFL Laws of the Game Rule 22). In matches where there is no Outer East Football Netball appointed field umpires, only the person officiating as the Field umpire may have the power to report players according to the Laws of Australian Football (refer AFL Laws of the Game Rule 22).
- 48.3** No match involving a club affiliated with Outer East Football Netball shall proceed without at least one Field Umpire.
- 48.4** All league appointed umpires must be eligible and accredited in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook Section 6 and wear Outer East Football Netball approved uniform. This includes colours and sponsors logos.

- 48.5** All clubs are liable for the umpire's fees during the home and away series, payable by cheque or other agreed arrangements upon receipt of an Invoice from Outer East Football Netball. Payments of umpire's fees are the hosting club's responsibility and should include all fees for all matches (Refer to Umpire's Fees contained in the Style/Fee guide provided to clubs prior to each season), unless otherwise stipulated by Outer East Football Netball.
- 48.6** If club umpires are required to fulfil any umpiring role, they must wear Outer East Football Netball approved uniform. This includes colours and sponsors logos.
- 48.7 PROFICIENCY OF UMPIRES**
- 48.7.1** All field umpires, goal umpires, boundary umpires, and other match officials, whether supplied by a club or the League, shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their respective duties as required under these By-Laws and the Laws of Australian Football.
- 48.8 NON-ATTENDANCE OF UMPIRE**
- 48.8.1** In the event of the non-attendance or incapacitation of any field umpire appointed, the remaining appointed umpires shall determine who shall replace the absent or incapacitated field umpire. Where two (2) field umpires have been appointed, it shall be appropriate for the remaining umpire to continue the game on their own.
- 48.8.2** Where an appointed boundary umpire or goal umpire fails to attend or is incapacitated, the home side shall provide a replacement. If the home side is unable to field a replacement umpire, the away side will be given the option to provide one.
- 48.8.3** Where no replacement umpire can be provided after following the steps in By-Laws 48.8.1 or 48.8.2, the field umpire may instruct a boundary umpire to fill a goal umpire position. Boundary umpire positions may be left unfulfilled, and if they are, the field umpire/s will assume the boundary umpire roles. In extreme cases where the goal umpire position is not filled, the field umpire/s may also assume the goal umpire roles.
- 48.8.4** In the event that no field umpire positions can be fulfilled, the home listed club must contact the CEO or GM Operations for direction/confirmation as required.
- 48.8.5** Where no league appointed field umpire/s attend &/or complete the match and a substitute umpire is chosen, then that substitute field umpire shall submit a 3 - 2 - 1, Best and Fairest Vote Card to the CEO or their appointee.
- 48.8.6** Failure to comply with By-Law 48.8 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 48.9 GOAL UMPIRES**
- 48.9.1** Goal umpires may be appointed by Outer East Football Netball, or by the clubs within Outer East Football Netball.
- 48.9.2** Goal umpires provided by clubs must wear Outer East Football Netball approved uniform OR a white coat. Such umpires do not have the power to report or order off players or officials. Yarra Ranges Umpires Association (YRUA) umpires do have the power to report.
- 48.9.3** At the conclusion of each quarter, the goal umpires shall compare scorecards. If they agree at the conclusion of the game, they shall sign the cards. Final scores must be endorsed in ink on the scorecards.
- 48.9.4** Should the goal umpires disagree with the final scores, the senior field umpire shall act as the arbitrator and will use the timekeepers' cards as an aid to resolve the disagreement.
- 48.9.5** Where the clubs provide goal umpires, the club shall supply three (3) goal umpires flags, at least 600mm square, for each grade.
- 48.9.6** The minimum age for goal umpires shall be fourteen (14) years of age.
- 48.9.7** Failure to comply with By-Law 48.9 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 48.10 BOUNDARY UMPIRES**
- 48.10.1** Boundary umpires may be appointed by Outer East Football Netball, or by the clubs within Outer East Football Netball.
- 48.10.2** Boundary umpires provided by clubs must wear Outer East Football Netball approved uniform OR white shirt, club shorts and socks, and must possess a whistle. Such umpires do not have the power to report, order off players or report officials. Yarra Ranges Umpires Association registered umpires do have the power to report.

48.10.3 Boundary umpires will be responsible for the following: -

- Throwing the football back into play.
- Signaling the football out of play.
- Signaling the football out of the playing arena on the full and nominates the spot on the boundary line that the free kick will be taken.
- Conveying the football back to the centre of the ground to the field umpire to commence play after a goal is scored.

48.10.4 U18 Boys, Veterans and Women's competitions may have specific rules pertaining to the out of bounds rule.

See By-Law 54 for Veterans rules and By-Law 55 for U18 Boys and Women's rules.

48.10.4 The minimum age for boundary umpires shall be fourteen (14) years of age.

48.10.5 Failure to comply with By-Law 48.10 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

48.11 APPROACHES TO UMPIRES

48.11.1 Only the team captain, vice-captain or runner shall be permitted to speak to any field umpire during the intervals of a match (ie, at Qtr time). Any player or official in breach of this rule may be reported and/or a fine issued to their club in accordance with Schedule 4.

49.0 COUNTING OF PLAYERS

49.1 Refer to Laws of Australian Football (Rule 5.5) (a copy of the current version of these rules at the time of this by-law modification is below):

5.5.1 Request by Captain.

The captain or vice-captain of a Team or Team Runner(s) may at any time during a match request that the field Umpire count the number of Players of the opposing Team who are on the Playing Surface.

5.5.2 Procedure

(a) *Where a request is made under Law 5.5.1, the field Umpire shall:*

(i) *stop play at the first available opportunity.*

(ii) *call into line within the Centre Square the Players of both Teams who are at the time on the Playing Surface and count the number of Players.*

(iii) *upon completing the count, ensure that each Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface and then recommence play at the position on the Playing Surface where the field Umpire stopped play; and*

(iv) *as soon as practicable after the match, report to the Controlling Body that a request has been made to count the number of Players in a Team and the number of Players actually counted.*

(b) *The maximum number of Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is 18 per Team or, in circumstances where a Player(s) has been ordered from the Playing Surface under Law 23, 18 less the Player(s) ordered from the Playing Surface.*

5.5.3 *Players Exceeding Permitted Number Where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:*

(a) *a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team.*

(b) *a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded:*

(c) *the Team shall lose all points which it has scored in that quarter up to the time of the count; and*

(d) *the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate, including overturning the loss of points prescribed by-law 5.5.3(c).*

5.5.4 *Correct Number and Request Without Merit Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:*

- (a) a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team.
- (b) a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded:
- (c) if a field Umpire is of the opinion that a request was made under Law 5.5.1 primarily to delay play or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field Umpire shall report the Player who requested the count for Time Wasting under Law 22.2.2; and
- (d) if Law 5.5.4(c) applies, the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate.

5.5.5 Post-Match Review

- (a) A club or other person may request post-match review by the relevant Controlling Body of a Team exceeding the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface where a request under Law 5.5.1 did not occur during a match.
- (b) Notification of the request and lodgement of relevant evidence must occur within 24 hours of the completion of the relevant match in a form prescribed by the Controlling Body.
- (c) The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate.

50.0 ORDER-OFF RULE

Implementation

Only field umpires and emergency field umpires have the power to send players from the ground. When ordering a player off, an umpire shall signal their intention by pointing to the interchange area with an outstretched arm and holding a coloured card above their head with the other. A player ordered from the ground must leave the ground through the interchange area immediately.

50.1 RED/YELLOW CARD RULE

- 50.2 Yellow Carded** – Player is off for fifteen (15) minutes of playing time. The yellow carded player can be replaced by another player during this time.
- 50.2.1** Yellow Card Offences shall be determined in accordance with AFL Laws of the Game rule 23.5
- 50.3 Red Carded** – Player is off for the remainder of the game but can be replaced by another player after twenty (20) minutes of playing time.
- 50.3.1** Red Card Offences shall be determined in accordance with AFL Laws of the Game rule 23.2

51.0 TREATMENT OF BLEEDING PLAYERS

- 51.1** Refer AFL Laws of the Game Rule 24.0

52.0 PRACTICE MATCHES

- 52.1** Pre-season practice matches MUST be officiated by an umpire from the Yarra Ranges Umpires Association or a registered umpire from any other umpiring Board. Both competing teams in all grades shall complete a team sheet signed by all competing players and include guernsey numbers.
- 52.2** The Team Manager of each team shall present the ORIGINAL copy of his team sheet to the field umpire/s and the DUPLICATE copy to the opposing Team Manager, no later than half time of the match.
- 52.3** In practice matches, umpires may report players as per the 'Laws of Australian Football.'
- 52.4** Clubs are responsible for arranging Outer East Football Netball umpires as required.
- 52.5** If a player is reported, the Hosting Board/Leagues Independent Tribunal will hold the Tribunal.

53.0 MATCH PAPERWORK

- 53.1** Match information and match results shall be communicated to Outer East Football Netball as directed by the CEO annually.
- 53.2** Match paperwork shall be forwarded to the League as directed by the CEO annually.
- 53.2.1** The home team must input onto the Website/Database the match results (final scores, best players, and goal kickers) by 6.00 pm on the day of the match. The suitable mechanism for entering scores will be determined and communicated each year.
- 53.2.2** All team sheets, scorecards and timekeeper cards must be handed to the field umpire within fifteen (15) minutes of the completion of the match.
- 53.2.3** Where matches are played at times other than Saturday afternoon, the home club shall make prior arrangements with the CEO or GM Operations for the transmission of scores.
- 53.4** For the purposes of promotion of the game, live scores will be used for all senior matches & A Grade Netball matches and MUST be entered/submitted by the home club, the suitable avenue for which will be determined and communicated each year.
- 53.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 53 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

54.0 COMPETITION SPECIFIC RULES

VETERANS

- 54.1** If any Veterans player takes part in one (1) Senior game, that player shall be ineligible to continue in the Veterans grade for the remainder of the season, including finals. A Veterans player may play unlimited Reserves games without affecting their eligibility to play in the Veterans competition.
- 54.2 Ball Ins**
If there is no boundary umpire, the field umpire/s would adjudge if it went out on the full or not. Where a throw in is required, the field umpire/s will throw up the ball fifteen (15) metres in from where the ball went out.
- 54.3 Marking**
The player in front of the pack competing for a mark is to be given every protection and opportunity to take the mark. Any unnecessary or deliberate interference by an opponent player/s in attempting to mark or prevent the player in front of the pack from taking the mark shall result in a free kick being awarded to the player in front of the pack. The interference could take the form of a knee or boot being put into a player's body.
- 54.4 Player Protection**
 - 54.4.1** All players making the ball their objective is to be given the utmost protection by the umpire. Any contact other than a legal tackle (between knee and shoulder) shall be deemed unduly rough play and a free kick awarded.
 - 54.4.2** Charges are banned irrespective of ball proximity. A charge means an act colliding with an opposition player where the amount of physical force used is unreasonable or unnecessary, irrespective of ball proximity.
 - 54.4.3** Sliding players to the ground, whether the player is in possession of the ball or not, is illegal and shall result in a free kick being awarded, or if it happens after the ball has been disposed of, a free kick shall be awarded down the field where the ball lands.
 - 54.4.4** Late contact in any form, when the ball has been disposed of, will result in a relayed free kick being paid down the field.

54.5 WOMENS AND U19 GIRLS - Last Possession – Out of Bounds

- 54.5.1 A Free Kick shall be awarded against a Player who:** Kicks or handballs the football over the boundary line without the football being touched by another Player.
- i) For the purposes of defining a kick, a kick shall be an intentional action, not accidental. When the ball comes off the foot or lower leg of a player without the intent of the player being to kick the ball, it will be deemed accidental contact and will not be determined as a kick by the umpire and therefore will result in a boundary throw in (or ball up 15 meters in from the boundary line if no boundary umpire is present).
- 54.5.2** Where a Player who does not have possession stops the football being touched by an opposition Player, by shepherding the ball across the boundary line where the ball could have otherwise been touched by the player being blocked, then the umpire will not award a free kick but will instead order a boundary throw in or ball up.

55.0 FINALS QUALIFICATIONS

- 55.1 SENIOR MENS:** In order to qualify for Senior Men's grade finals matches, a player must have played in at least four (4) matches with their club during the home and away series of matches.
- 55.1.1** VFL Players returning to their home club on permit can play senior or reserve grade football. However, for the purposes of qualifying for senior finals, only senior grade matches played will apply (*also refer to By-Law 55.8*). That means any reserve grade game played by a VFL player on permit will not be counted for finals qualification. A VFL player cannot play Reserve grade finals, or in the final three rounds of the Reserve grade competition.
- a) Further to this rule, if a VFL player represents the Outer East Football Netball in interleague, that interleague game will count towards senior finals qualification.
- 55.1.2** For purposes of finals eligibility within Outer East Football Netball competitions, a player who has played more than twelve (12) 1st team home and away games for a club affiliated with a senior state league competition in that season will not be eligible to play finals within Outer East Football Netball competitions. This includes but not limited to the VFL competitions.
- 55.2 RESERVE MENS:** In order to qualify for Reserves grade men's finals matches, a player must have played in at least four (4) matches with their club's Reserves grade, Veterans or Under 18's team, and not more than ten (10) matches with their club's Senior grade during the home and away series of matches.
- 55.3** Where a club has both its Senior and Reserves grade teams playing in the Final Series on either the Saturday or Sunday of the same weekend, the only qualification requirement to play in either the Senior grade or Reserves grade shall be that a player must have played at least four (4) matches with their club during the home and away series of matches. No player may play in two (2) finals matches on the same day, finals round or weekend, with the exception for Under 18 boys who may play two (2) games, one of which must be in their U18 team.
- 55.4 UNDER 18 BOYS:**
- 55.4.1** In order to qualify to play in the Under 18's grade finals matches, a player must be qualified under the age provisions as determined by the Outer East Football Netball Board, in the year of play, and have played at least four (4) matches with their clubs Under 18's team during the home and away series.
- 55.4.2** In order to qualify to play in the Under 19's Grade finals matches, a player must be qualified under the age provisions as determined by the Outer East Football Netball Board, in the year of play, and have played at least four (4) matches with their clubs Under 19's team during the home and away series.
- 55.4.3** In situations where a club fields two (2) teams in the U18's age group, the first team a player plays six (6) games in is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the final's series.
- 55.5 UNDER 19 Girls:** In order to qualify in the Under 19 Girls Grade finals matches, a player must have played a minimum of three (3) matches with their club in the Under 19's Grade.
- 55.6 VETERANS:** In order to qualify in the Veterans grade finals matches, a player must have played a minimum of three (3) matches with their club in the Veterans grade. If any Veterans player takes part in one (1) Senior game, that player shall be ineligible for the Veterans grade in finals. A Veterans player may play unlimited Reserves games without affecting their eligibility to play in the Veterans finals.

- 55.7 WOMEN'S:** In order to qualify in the Women's grade finals matches, a player must have played a minimum of three (3) matches with their club in the Women's or Under 19 Girls Grade.
- 55.7.1** In situations where there are Two teams in this age group, the first team a player plays 5 games in is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the final's series.
- 55.7.2** VFLW players returning to their home club on permit can play Senior Women's grade football. However, for the purposes of qualifying for finals, where a club has more than one Women's team, only the club's highest-grade matches played will apply (*also refer to By-Law 55.8*). That means any games played by a VFLW player on permit in a lower grade team will not be counted for finals qualification. A VFLW player cannot play finals in any club's 2nd or third grade teams, or in the final three rounds of the club's lower grade teams' competitions.
- 55.7.3** Further to this rule, if a VFLW player represents Outer East Football Netball in interleague, that interleague game will count towards the club's highest graded teams' finals qualification.
- 55.7.4** For purposes of finals eligibility within Outer East Football Netball competitions, a player who has played more than 50% of 1st team home and away games for a club affiliated with a senior state league competition in that season, will not be eligible to play finals within Outer East Football Netball competitions. This includes but not limited to the VFLW competitions.
- 55.8** For the purposes of eligibility, interchange players shall be deemed to have competed, whether they have taken the field during the match for which they were named as interchange. An interchange player must be in full football uniform and on the club's interchange bench during the match.
- 55.9 Under 18 Coates League players:** For the purpose of finals qualifications and player eligibility, the VFL, VFLW & Coates League competitions shall be considered the equal of Outer East Football Netball Senior competition (Men's or Women's) and the Coates League matches shall be considered matches of the player's Senior Outer East Football Netball team for the purpose of eligibility to play in finals (*Also subject to By-Law 11.4 – Match Permits*).
- 55.10** Any club found guilty of playing an ineligible player due to non-qualification shall be subject to fines according to Schedule 4, loss of match or other such penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 55.11** Variations to these rules may apply in exceptional circumstances and will be at the discretion of the CEO or their appointee.

56.0 DRAWN FINALS

- 56.1** In the event of a draw in any finals match, extra time shall be played.
- 56.2** Where extra time is to be played in a final, two (2) halves of three (3) minutes each, with time on added, shall be played.
- 56.2.1** At the completion of the fourth quarter if scores are tied, the following shall apply:
- a) The teams shall change ends to those used in the fourth quarter.
 - b) Goal umpires will confirm scores.
 - c) Coaches shall not be permitted to address players between the end of the fourth quarter and the start of extra time or at any change of ends during the playing of extra time.
- 56.2.2** In the event of scores being level after the two additional three (3) minute halves, the process shall continue until there is a result.

57.0 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES / PROVISION CLAUSE

- 57.1** Where these By-Laws are silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of Outer East Football Netball is maintained at all times.
- 57.2** Outer East Football Netball may, in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary, or waive the requirements set out in the By-Laws relating to Outer East Football Netball.

This page has deliberately been left blank.



OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL NETBALL COMPETITION BY-LAWS

58.0 OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL - NETBALL COMPETITION BY-LAWS

All Outer East Football Netball By-Laws from 58 to 80 relate specifically to the conduct of Netball Competitions including Premier and Division 1, A,B,C & D Grades and 13&U, 15&U, 17&U Junior Grade competitions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS - Netball

| | |
|---|----|
| 59. MATCH RULES – GENERAL | 48 |
| 59.9 Rolling Substitutions..... | 48 |
| 60. REGISTRATION | 48 |
| 61. PLAYERS | 49 |
| 61.1 Number of Players in a Team | 49 |
| 61.2 Age Requirements | 49 |
| 61.3 Gender Classifications of Competitions. | 50 |
| 61.4 Player movement between teams | 50 |
| 61.5 Two teams in an age group (Junior Netball) | 50 |
| 62. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM | 50 |
| 63. TIMEKEEPERS/SCORERS..... | 51 |
| 64. MATCH PAPERWORK..... | 52 |
| 65. EQUIPMENT (Balls, Horns, Scoreboards, Scoresheets, Goal Padding, etc.)..... | 52 |
| 66. UNIFORMS, JEWELLERY & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT | 53 |
| 67. STARTING TIMES | 53 |
| 68. TEAMSHEET/TEAMLISTS | 54 |
| 69. DELAYS / CANCELLATION OF MATCHES | 54 |
| 70. DELAY/CANCELLATION OF MATCH ONCE STARTED | 55 |
| 71. FORFEITS..... | 56 |
| 72. DRAWN GAME | 56 |
| 73. OFFICIALS | 56 |
| 74. UMPIRES | 56 |
| 74.17 NONATTENDANCE OF AN UMPIRE..... | 57 |
| 75. BEST & FAIREST VOTES | 58 |
| 76. REPORTS..... | 58 |
| 77. FINALS QUALIFICATIONS | 58 |
| 78. DRAWN FINALS..... | 59 |
| 79. RISK MANAGEMENT (Stoppages, Injuries etc.)..... | 59 |
| 80. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES/PROVISION CLAUSE | 61 |

59.0 MATCH RULES - GENERAL

- 59.1 All Outer East Netball matches shall be conducted according to World Netball Australia Rulings, unless otherwise stated in these bylaws.
- 59.2 Matches shall consist of four (4) quarters.
- 59.3 Alterations to By-Law 59.2 can only take place with approval of Outer East Football Netball or under the conditions listed in By-Laws 69 & 70. In these circumstances at least two (2) scheduled quarters are required to be completed to constitute a completed match.
- 59.3.1 Where a match has been delayed due to factors as in By-Laws 69 & 70, play may only continue until the scheduled start time of the match following.
- 59.3.2 In the case of an A Grade match only, a match may continue to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes past the scheduled finish time (A Grade matches are scheduled to run for 71 minutes). If an A Grade match is scheduled to be played prior to another grade, then the start time of the grades following the A Grade match may also be postponed to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes.
- 59.4 Any match that does not reach the minimum required two completed quarters will be deemed a Draw, with each team receiving two Premiership points, and each team will also receive the goals scored for and against at the time the match was abandoned. Individual player goals will also count toward a players total goals scored for that season.
- 59.5 If a match is deemed to be abandoned after the completion of two quarters of the match, the Premiership points shall be awarded to the team leading at the time of the abandonment of the game.
- 59.6 Notwithstanding, the Outer East Football Netball Board shall retain the right to over-rule, reverse or amend the result, following an investigation into the abandonment of the game.
- 59.7 Umpires shall award votes for the Best and Fairest Award where a game has been completed as per By-Law 59.3.
- 59.8 No votes shall be awarded where a game is abandoned prior to the completion of two quarters.
- 59.9 **Rolling Substitutions** - Rolling Substitutions replace Rule 10.2 Tactical Changes in the Rules of Netball in all Outer East Football Netball competitions.
- 59.9.1 Rolling Substitutions must be made next to the official score bench.
- 59.9.2 A designated X or rubber dot is to be placed between each team bench and the score bench to mark the point of where the substitution takes place.
- 59.9.3 The substitute player must safely move from their team bench and stand at the designated spot beside the score bench, careful not to obscure the official's view nor to interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.
- 59.9.4 The substitute player must remain at this spot until the on-court player leaves the court and tags the hand of the player coming on.
- 59.9.5 Only one (1) rolling substitution per team can be made at any one time.
- 59.9.6 Play is not to be delayed or held up for rolling substitutions.
- 59.9.7 Players must observe the offside rules as they enter or leave the court.
- 59.9.8 If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution and there is no substitute player in the designated area, the replacement player is treated as a late player and must wait until a break in play to enter the court.
- 59.9.9 Stoppages (Injury Time) under By-Law 79.1 still apply to all Outer East Football Netball competitions.
- 59.10 Failure to comply with By-Law 59 will result in a fine according Schedule 4, or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

60.0 REGISTRATION

- 60.1 All players must register themselves on Netball Connect to their club affiliated with Outer East Football Netball, which provides their Netball Victoria Membership registration number. An administration fee for each player registered may also be charged. The fee amount will be determined annually as will the membership fee by Netball Vic.

- 60.2** All players, coaches, umpires & other required persons stipulated by Netball Vic from time to time must register with their competing club prior to taking the court.
- 60.3** A player may choose to register with Netball Victoria via a single game voucher (SGV) if they don't have a full Netball Victoria Membership already. The voucher must be completed prior to the match via the Netball Connect system. A fee will be charged for a SGV & is to be paid by the participant upon completion of the voucher. Such fee will be determined annually.
- 60.4** Once a player has registered with a club in Netball Connect, they must then also register in their clubs PlayHQ system, and they are bound to that club for the remainder of the current season. If the player requires a clearance to change clubs, please refer to By-Law 11.3.
- 60.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 60 will result in a fine in accordance with Schedule 4, loss of match points and/or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

61.0 PLAYERS

61.1 NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN A TEAM

- 61.1.1** Any team may list up to twelve (12) players in any one game, with a maximum of seven (7) players allowed on the court at any time. There will be no limit on the number of substitutions that can be made.
- 61.1.2** At the beginning of and during a match, a minimum of five (5) players from a team must be on the court at any one time, one of whom must play as Centre.
- 61.1.3** If a team does not have five (5) players available within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled start time of the match, or within 30 seconds of the scheduled start time of a quarter, the umpires will award the match to the opposing team. The umpires will then record the scores, time (time of Day & Game) and quarter the match was cancelled and submit the reasonings for the cancellation to the Outer East Football Netball, who will determine the outcome of the match. If the match had commenced prior to being cancelled, the umpires will also submit the 3, 2 & 1 votes for determination of validity by the Outer East Football Netball.
- 61.1.4** All players must be listed on the team sheet prior to the start of the game. Players named on the team sheet must have had court time during the match to be registered as a game played. Players who have not had court time must be removed from the online team sheet by midnight the following Monday.

61.2 AGE REQUIREMENTS

- 61.2.1** To compete in any Open age team, players must be turning fourteen (14) years of age in the year of competition. Junior players must obtain the ages listed in By-Law 61.2.4 by the 31st of December in the year of play.
- 61.2.2** Junior teams will comprise: 15 & under and 17 & under. Age is determined as of 31st December in the year being played.
- 61.2.3** Documents verifying proof of age may be requested and shall include birth certificate, extract of birth entry, passport, or any other official document acceptable to the Outer East Football Netball.
- 61.2.4** Minimum age requirements are:
- A, B, C & D Grades - *must be turning 14 years of age in the year of competition.*
 - 17 & Under - 14 years, *in the year of competition*
 - 15 & Under - 12 years, *in the year of competition*
- 61.2.5** If a player is found to have played and is not turning the minimum age of that competition in the year of competition, the club will be fined \$50 and forfeit all match points for that game, unless special consideration was made prior to the commencement of the game by the Outer East Football Netball.

61.3 GENDER CLASSIFICATIONS OF COMPETITIONS – As per the table below:

| AGE GROUP | CLASSIFICATION |
|-----------|---|
| 15&U | 15&U Female (Males 13&U as at the first day of competition or season may participate) |
| 17&U | Female Only |
| D Grade | Female Only |
| C Grade | Female Only |
| B Grade | Female Only |
| A Grade | Female Only |

61.4 PLAYER MOVEMENT BETWEEN TEAMS

- 61.4.1** Open age players may fill-in for a higher/lower grade on any day, but not 2 Grades higher or 2 grades lower than the Grade that they last competed in. E.g., Player movement between grades must be consecutive from week to week, a player cannot jump two grades one week to the next. There is no restriction for 17&under or 15&Under division (Female) players who wish to also play in an Open age grade, subject to By-Laws 61.4.2 and 61.4.4.
- 61.4.2** A player is ineligible to play in a lower Open grade throughout the season once they have played eight (8) games in a higher grade.
- 61.4.3** In the event of two (2) or more teams from the one club competing on the same weekend, no more than two (2) players per team are eligible to play in a maximum of 2 games.
- 61.4.4** Players who are playing in the 17&U or 15&U competitions can play in a maximum of two (2) games on a match day/weekend. Either two Junior games, or one Junior game & one Open grade match if age eligible.

61.5 TWO TEAMS IN AN AGE GROUP – JUNIOR NETBALL

- 61.5.1** Where a club fields more than one team in the same Junior age competition, a player is permitted to move between teams. However:
- Once a player has played five (5) matches in one team, that player may not move to another team for the remainder of the season.
 - The first team a player plays five (5) games in is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the finals series.
 - Where a bye is fixtured for one team, no player is permitted to move to the other team during the week of the bye.
 - If a club with multiple teams in one age group forfeits a match, player movement to the non-forfeiting team will only be allowed upon application to Outer East Football Netball.
- 61.5.2** Where a club has two teams in an age group and any of its registered players also play at VNL level or higher, those players must only play in one team.
- 61.6** Exemptions/variations to By-Laws 61.4 and 61.5 may be granted in extreme circumstances upon application to the CEO or their appointee by 9am the Friday before a match. Variations to these rules may apply in special circumstances and will be at the discretion of the Outer East Football Netball.
- 61.7** Failure to comply with By-Law 61 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match points and/or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

62.0 PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM AND RESTRICTIONS:

- 62.1** Player point allocations limit will be set by the Outer East Football Netball Board by November 1st of the previous season. Point allocations for season 2025 will be: -
- All Divisions – 22 Points in A Grade.
- 62.2** Player Point Allocations must follow the rules provided in the Outer East Football Netball's Netball Points System Policy (Schedule 13), current for the year of play, which may be altered from time to time.

- 62.3** The club must submit the player points value of new players to the club and/or those who are playing at a higher level than community to Outer East Football Netball twenty eight (28) days prior to the commencement of Round 1 in each season.
- 62.4** Players who are Category 4, 5 or 6 within the Player Points System may only compete in a club's A Grade team.
- 62.5** Players who are a 19&U VNL (within Category 3) within the Player Points System may compete in a club's A or B Grade teams only. A maximum of (2) two players from this category shall be eligible to qualify for B Grade finals.
- 62.6** Once a Category 3 or 4 player exceeds sixty (60) minutes in a VNL division in the current season, their points category must be reassessed immediately by submission to Outer East Football Netball.
- 62.7** Variations to these rules may apply in special circumstances and will be at the discretion of Outer East Football Netball.
- 62.8** Failure to comply with By-Law 62 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match points and/or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

63.0 TIMEKEEPERS / SCORERS

63.1 GENERAL

- a) The home club will be responsible for providing two (2) score bench officials.
- b) The away club will be responsible for providing a timekeeper.
- c) Scorers and timekeepers must sit together for the duration of the match. They shall have the capacity to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously, and be not younger than fifteen (15) years of age. They must perform their duties together in order to verify scores.
- d) No person is permitted in the timekeeper/scorer's area unless performing one of the above duties. All timekeepers and scorers must be focused on the umpires at all times, including breaks in play.

63.2 SCORERS ROLE

- a) The Outer East Football Netball official scoresheet is to be used for every match.
- b) Ensure that the scoresheet is correct.
- c) Centre passes are recorded.
- d) Players are listed for both home & away sides (prior to the start of the game)
- e) Captains are identified on scoresheet.
- f) Ensure that the starting positions for each player are listed on the scoresheet prior to the start of each quarter.
- g) Scoresheet is signed by both scorer & timekeeper at conclusion of match.
- h) Scoresheet is signed by captains and umpires. (Fully signed Scoresheet indicates that the score/result is correct)
- i) Under no circumstances are scorers to correct an umpire on centre passes (Umpires may seek the assistance of the scorers if they are unsure of which team is to take the centre pass).

63.3 TIMEKEEPERS ROLE

- a) Responsible for all game time and injury time.
- b) Sound siren to indicate the end of each quarter in standalone matches.
- c) In matches that are not standalone, when there is ten (10) seconds to go in a quarter, MUST FOLLOW THE NEAREST UMPIRE and notify them when time is up.
- d) Must notify umpires when there is thirty (30) seconds and then ten (10) seconds remaining at end of each quarters break time or injury breaks.
- e) Must have three (3) time clocks (one for normal game time, one for injury time & one for break time)
- f) Update the scoreboard if it is located on the time bench. The home club may use an alternative public scoreboard system, which it must operate itself if this cannot be done from the score bench.

- 63.4** For the purposes of promotion of the game, Live Scores will be used for all A Grade Netball matches and MUST be entered/submitted by the home club. Either through an app or computer program. The suitable mechanism will be determined and communicated each year.

- 63.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 63 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match points and/or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

64.0 MATCH PAPERWORK

- 64.1** All teams of the upcoming weekends matches are to be entered into PlayHQ by midday Friday. A downloaded PlayHQ Scoresheet is to be used in conjunction with a Substitution Tracking Form for all Netball games.
- 64.2** The home team must input onto the Website/Database the match results (final scores, best players, and goal shooters) no later than 6.00pm on the day of the match.
- 64.3** It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that all netball paperwork is handed to the football field umpires within fifteen (15) minutes of the conclusion of the Senior Football match, for inclusion with the match day paperwork which will be delivered to Outer East Football Netball.
- 64.4** Where matches are played at times other than Saturday afternoon, the home club shall make prior arrangements with the GM Operations for the transmission of scores.
- 64.5** Clubs must provide correct team lists to Outer East Football Netball if requested and within the timeline of such request.
- 64.6** Failure to comply with By-Law 64 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match points and/or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

65.0 EQUIPMENT

- 65.1** Home listed teams are responsible for providing Ice &/or Ice packs.
- 65.1.1** Home listed clubs are responsible for providing a suitable table and three (3) chairs for the use of the scorer, positional tracker and timer.
- 65.2 MATCH BALLS**
- 65.2.1** All Netball Match balls are to comply with the Rules of Netball & Outer East Football Netball Logo requirements.
- 65.2.2** Outer East Football Netball will supply, at each club's cost, the required amount of game balls for each competition season.
- 65.2.3** The Home listed club is to supply a match ball (new or in good condition) and a spare ball for each match.
- 65.2.4** The same match ball is to be used throughout a match unless the umpires instruct that it is replaced. A spare ball must be at the official bench and the umpires may order its use.
- 65.3 SIRENS/AIR HORN**
- Host/Home clubs are to supply and use sirens/air horn for all standalone games.
- 65.4 PAPERWORK/SCORESHEETS**
- The Home listed club will supply all relevant scoresheets, position tracking form & voting cards prescribed by Outer East Football Netball.
- 65.5 SCOREBOARDS**
- The Home listed club shall provide a scoreboard, which shall be operational for each game with legible numbers for scores. If an electronic scoreboard is used, a functional manual scoreboard must also be available.
- 65.6 GOAL POST PADDING AND NETS**
- 65.6.1** All netball goal posts must be padded prior to the start of first match of the competition day.
- 65.6.2** All netball goal posts padding shall be a minimum of 3m high x 23cm wide.
- 65.6.3** All clubs must supply nets on their goal rings that are in good condition.
- 65.7 TIME CLOCKS**
- 65.7.1** The home listed club shall provide three (3) time clocks in working order.
- 65.8** Clubs that do not supply any item listed under By-Law 65 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or any other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

66.0 UNIFORMS, JEWELLERY & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 66.1** All players shall be responsible for providing their own uniform.
Long sleeve tops are appropriate as long as they are the same colour as the dominant colour of the team's uniform. Long bike shorts and gloves are only allowed in the event of a player's medical condition (medical certificate required as proof). If gloves are worn, they shall be cotton. Use of long bike shorts or gloves is only permitted upon approval from Outer East Football Netball.
- 66.2** All Netball players must wear Outer East Football Netball socks purchased from Outer East Football Netball unless in the event of a medical condition/Doctor's approval, and a submission of such is made to the CEO.
- 66.3 PROHIBITION OF ITEMS**
Players may not wear anything that could endanger themselves or other players, specifically:
- No body piercings including earrings may be worn.
 - No adornment that may endanger player safety may be worn.
 - Fingernails must be short and smooth.
 - Hair must be suitably tied back (for example in a ponytail, plait or braided) and free from any adornment.
- 66.4 Spectacles** – Players who wish to wear spectacles during matches and training sessions, should wear spectacles with plastic frames and plastic lenses. A band must also hold the spectacles on securely.
- 66.5** Umpires will inspect players' hands, guards, and surgical appliances prior to the commencement of play or at any time prior to the conclusion of the match. The umpires shall have the sole prerogative to determine whether apparel or protective equipment has the potential to cause injury and shall instruct the player to remove such apparel or protective equipment.
- 66.6** Any player refusing to follow the umpires' Instructions will be ineligible to play.
- 66.7** Any player incorrectly attired without prior league permission will be unable to take the court to play.
- 66.8** Failure to comply with by-law 66 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by the Outer East Football Netball.

67.0 STARTING TIMES

- 67.1 Start Times:** Will be decided each year prior to the first match of the season & may differ between divisions and include allowances for each club's court availability and travel factors.
- 67.2 Length of Matches:** All matches shall be conducted as follows:
- | Grade | Quarter Length | Qtr. Breaks |
|------------|----------------|-------------|
| A Grade | 4 x 15mins | 3,5,3 |
| B Grade | 4 x 15mins | 3,5,3 |
| C Grade | 4 x 12mins | 2,3,2 |
| D Grade | 4 x 10mins | 2,3,2 |
| 17 & Under | 4 x 10mins | 2,3,2 |
| 15 & Under | 4 x 10mins | 2,3,2 |
- 67.3** Finals commencement times may vary and will be decided by Outer East Football Netball each year.
- 67.4 Alterations to match start times.**
- 67.4.1** Outer East Football Netball reserve the right to change starting and match duration times from season to season. If a club wishes to alter the starting time of a match during the Home and Away season, then the club must notify the opposing Club's netball Coordinator and Secretary. If the opposing Club agrees to a re-schedule of starting time all changes must be put in writing by both clubs involved at that venue on that match day, to the GM Operations in accordance with By-Law 7.1.3, seeking approval. Submissions made after that time will not be considered.
- 67.4.2** The GM Operations or their appointee have the sole discretion on the approval process/form and approval or denial of a match start time submission.
- 67.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 67 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match points and/or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

68.0 TEAMSHEET/TEAMLISTS

- 68.1** The official team sheet shall include the full name of each participating player prior to the commencement of play. It shall also include players starting on the bench, scorers/timer, and umpire names in the appropriate sections.
- 68.1.1** Players must be listed under the same name they registered with Netball Victoria at the beginning of the season.
- 68.2** Any player who takes the court without having been named on the scoresheet must be removed from the court immediately and cannot participate in the rest of the match. Any goals scored by that player must also be removed. Scorers should note the quarter & match time when the player leaves the court on the back of the scoresheet. If this occurs during a match, the umpires shall also inform the GM Operations as soon as possible on the match day.
- 68.2.1** Failure to comply with By-Law 68.2 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4 and further action can be taken by Outer East Football Netball once the circumstances have been investigated.
- 68.3** The Outer East Football Netball official scoresheet must include all players' starting positions per quarter, goals scored, centre passes taken, and progressive team scores.
- 68.4** At the match conclusion, to indicate their satisfaction that the information on the official scoresheet is correct, it is to be signed by:
- a) In Open grade matches the captains of both competing teams, in Junior grade matches the Coaches of both competing teams,
 - b) the officiating umpires, and
 - c) the scorers/timekeeper.
- 68.5** The Home club is responsible for entering the match day results onto the internet program PlayHQ by 6pm on match day and is to include:
- a) ¼ by ¼ scores and Final scores.
 - b) Best players 3,2,1 (3 being the Best) as adjudged by each team.
 - c) Individual Player Goals scored.
- 68.6** Failure to comply with By-Law 68 will result a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match points and/or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

69.0 DELAYS CANCELLATION OF MATCHES PRIOR TO STARTING

- 69.1** If a team is not in attendance at the scheduled starting time, that team shall be penalised one (1) goal for every minute the team is late, up to a maximum of ten (10) minutes, after which the game will be forfeited by that side and all points awarded to the side in attendance. The forfeiting team shall be subject to a fine as per Schedule 4.
- 69.2 OTHER DELAYS TO MATCH STARTS**
- 69.3.1** The Outer East Football Netball CEO, GM Operations or Court Supervisor & Umpires (if the CEO & Ops Manager is uncontactable) will be the controlling body and will be responsible for all decisions regarding the delays to start times and continuation of play.
- 69.3.2** Factors which may delay the start of a scheduled match include:
- a) An invasion of the playing arena where the umpire/s consider it unsafe to continue and are not able to resume play after a reasonable time.
 - b) A player or umpire is so seriously injured in the match prior that it is deemed inappropriate to play on.
 - c) In a night match, the power supply fails.
 - d) Extreme weather conditions &/or including lightning.
 - e) Nonattendance of umpires (subject to By-Law 74.17).
- 69.3.3** In the event that a game is unable to begin at its scheduled start time, play may only continue until the scheduled start time of the match following.

- 69.3.4** In the case of an A Grade match only, a match may continue to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes past the scheduled finish time (A Grade Matches are scheduled to run for 71 minutes). If an A Grade match is scheduled to be played prior to another grade, then the start time of the grades following the A Grade match may also be postponed to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes.
- 69.4** During Finals matches, Outer East Football Netball shall determine the course of action to be taken in the instance where a delay occurs. The above rulings in By-Law 69 will be used as guiding principles.
- 69.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 69 will result a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match points and/or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

70.0 DELAY / CANCELLATION OF MATCH ONCE STARTED

- 70.1** If, in the opinion of the umpire/s, it is unsafe for play to continue, the Outer East Football Netball CEO, GM Operations or Court Supervisor & Umpires (if the CEO & Ops Manager is uncontactable) will be the controlling body and will be responsible for all decisions regarding continuation of play.
- 70.2** Factors which may delay or cancel play in a match once it has started including:
 - a)** An invasion of the playing arena where the umpire/s consider it unsafe to continue and are not able to resume play after a reasonable time.
 - b)** A player or umpire is so seriously injured in the match that it is deemed inappropriate to play on.
 - c)** In a night match, the power supply fails.
 - d)** Extreme weather conditions &/or including lightning.
- 70.3** If a match has commenced, but weather conditions then change, and the umpires are of the opinion that it would be unsafe for play to continue they can hold time to assess conditions and seek assistance from the Court Supervisor, to rectify the issue and contact the CEO or GM Operations for assistance.
 - a)** "Inclement weather" for the purposes of this By-Law includes, but is not limited to, conditions of extreme weather such as very heavy rain, hail, snow, sleet, and conditions of extreme heat. Refer to By-Law 7.3 for more information.
- 70.4** A court shall be deemed not fit for play in the event that lightning is visible at the venue of the court or its immediate vicinity. Play must be suspended in such circumstances. Umpires and Court Supervisor shall endeavour to resume play as soon as possible but no earlier than thirty (30) mins from the last visible strike of lightning.
- 70.5** Any match that does not reach the minimum required two completed quarters will be deemed a Draw, with each team receiving two Premiership points, and each team will also receive the goals scored for and against at the time the match was abandoned. Individual player goals will also count toward a players total goals scored for that season.
- 70.6** If a match is deemed to be abandoned after the completion of two quarters of the match, the Premiership points shall be awarded to the team leading at the time of the abandonment of the game. Each team will also receive the goals scored for and against at the time the match was abandoned. Individual player goals will also count toward a players total goals scored for that season.
- 70.7** Notwithstanding, the Outer East Football Netball shall retain the right to over-rule, reverse or amend the result, following an investigation into the abandonment of the game.
- 70.8** Umpires shall award votes for the Best and Fairest Award where a game has completed two quarters.
- 70.9** No votes shall be awarded where a game is abandoned prior to the completion of two quarters.
- 70.10** During Finals matches Outer East Football Netball shall determine the course of action to be taken in the instance where a delay occurs. The above rulings in By-Law 70 will be used as guiding principles.
- 70.11** Failure to comply with By-Law 70 will result in a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match points and/or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

71.0 FORFEITS

- 71.1 If a team wishes to forfeit, they must notify Outer East Football Netball at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled starting time. A fine as per Schedule 4 per team forfeiting will be imposed.
- 71.2 If a team wishes to forfeit, failure to notify the said authorities 24 hours prior shall result in a fine as per the Fine schedule 4, per team forfeiting, and payment of all pool umpire's costs associated with that match.
- 71.3 A team may submit a team sheet on the day of a scheduled game in the case where the opposing registered team forfeits.

72.0 DRAWN HOME AND AWAY MATCHES

- 72.1 In the event of a drawn home and away game, the premiership points shall be shared.
- 72.2 In the event of a drawn Finals game, refer to By-Law 78

73.0 OFFICIALS

- 73.1 The match officials shall consist of: Court Supervisor, Umpires, Scorer, Position Tracker and Timekeeper. The Team officials shall be the: Coach, Primary Carer, and up to three non-playing personnel.
- 73.2 All Court Supervisors, Coaches, Primary Carers, Team Managers, Umpires must have a current Netball Victoria Registration (VNA), be registered with Outer East Football Netball and hold a current Working with Children Check. Refer schedule 11.
- 73.3 In addition, the maximum of five (5) players not on court at start of play shall constitute the Team Bench.
- 73.4 Team Officials and Bench players must not engage in any inappropriate comments or any form of inappropriate behavior, including moving up and down the side lines or along the goal lines during play.
- 73.5 Club Coaches and Team Officials must stay in the designated bench area during all Home & Away and Finals matches.
- 73.6 The appointed specified Coach is the only member of the club that can Coach on Match Day.
- 73.7 **Primary Carer:** Each team must provide a suitably trained and competent Primary Carer who is identified by wearing the approved armband.
 - a) A Team Manager may be a Primary Carer.
 - b) Must be qualified to diagnose and treat injured or ill players.
 - c) Only Primary Carers are permitted on the court to treat an injured or ill player and/or assess the player's medical condition.
- 73.8 **Court Supervisor:** Home listed teams must supply a Court Supervisor who will act as the primary contact for umpires, Coaches and league officials for any match day issues regarding Officials, Supporters, or match conditions.
 - a) Court Supervisors will wear an identifiable league approved bib.
 - b) The Court Supervisor will also assist the umpires in ensuring that the match officials are completing their tasks as prescribed.
- 73.8.1 In Finals matches, Outer East Football Netball will allocate Court Supervisors to each match/venue.
- 73.9 Failure to comply with By-Law 73.2 will result in that person not being able to hold any of the mentioned positions at a club until the regulations in By-Law 73.2 are met.
- 73.10 Failure to comply with By-Law 73.0 will result in a fine according Schedule 4, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

74.0 UMPIRES

- 74.1 All panel umpires shall hold a C badge level certificate of Netball Umpiring as a minimum. Club umpires should have a sound knowledge of the Rules of Netball with a preference that they complete the Foundation Umpire Course throughout the season.
- 74.2 All club and panel umpires must hold a current working with children check and a copy of this must be supplied to clubs, and or in the case of pool umpires to Outer East Football Netball, prior to officiating in a match.

- 74.3** For any umpire that does not have a working with children check or has failed to supply the League with a copy, the club may incur a fine of \$100 and the umpire will not be able to umpire any Outer East Football Netball game until such time as a working with children check can be produced.
- 74.4** All club and panel umpires must have a current Netball Victoria membership.
- 74.5** Umpires are not permitted to coach the team for which they are umpiring.
- 74.6** Club umpires may only wear a white top (league approved) and white skirt/shorts. No other attire can be worn by the club umpires.
- 74.7** The Head of Umpiring and the Netball Operations Coordinator &/or their appointee shall appoint the Panel umpires.
- 74.8** Umpires must clearly sign the scoresheet and clearly initial any correction or alterations to it. Umpires must also complete the League B&F vote cards for the match they umpired or enter these votes into the electronic database as is required for the A & B Grade matches.
- 74.9** Panel umpires will be supplied for all A and B grade games where possible and lower grades at the discretion of Outer East Football Netball. Payment amounts will be set by Outer East Football Netball on a yearly basis and clubs will be invoiced for all panel umpires used.
- 74.10** The League shall supply the following to appointed panel umpires:
 - a)** A shirt which shall have the approved league logo's printed on them.
 - b)** Entry Passes - One home and away season pass only, excluding finals.
- 74.11** Club and Panel umpires must attend any rules discussion session and/or professional development sessions as nominated by Outer East Football Netball from time to time.
- 74.12** Any Umpire that does not comply with By-Law 74.11 as nominated by Outer East Football Netball may incur a fine of \$50.
- 74.13** All appointed umpires shall have the power to warn, suspend, order off and report players according to the Rules of Netball.
- 74.14** The home club shall be responsible for the provision of drinks to umpires at quarter time, half-time, three-quarter time and shall, where necessary, provide medical assistance.
- 74.15** Umpires are not permitted to umpire more than two (2) matches on one day unless prior approval has been granted by the CEO or their appointee.
- 74.16** Each participating club is to supply one umpire per game of C, D, and 17 & Under grades. Payment for C, D and 17 & under will be capped at \$40 per game per umpire.
- 74.16.1** Clubs who breach By-Law 74.16 and are found to be paying overinflated rates to its club umpires will be subject to a fine as determined by the Outer East Football Netball and may also lose match points from its A grade team for each week of the offence.

74.17 NONATTENDANCE OF AN UMPIRE

- 74.17.1** In the situation where a Panel umpire is late, or does not attend the game:
 - a)** A club umpire may fill in the position for either the full match or until a Panel umpire arrives. Any umpire changes should only take place during a stoppage of play once the Panel umpire has arrived. Clubs and umpires will have until the scheduled start time of the 3rd quarter to find a replacement (A Grade ONLY, will have 30 minutes longer).
 - b)** The home team has the opportunity to supply an umpire in a reasonable time, if not:
 - c)** The away team has the opportunity to supply an umpire in a reasonable time, if not:
 - d)** A pool umpire may decide at their discretion to umpire the match on their own if a fill in club umpire is not available and upon approval from the GM Operations or their appointee.
 - e)** Where no fill in umpires are available and the remaining panel umpire does not wish to umpire on their own, the match shall be deemed a draw.
- 74.17.2** In the situation where a club umpire is late, or does not attend the game:
 - a)** The home team has the opportunity to supply an umpire in a reasonable time, if not:
 - b)** The away team has the opportunity to supply an umpire in a reasonable time, if not:
 - c)** The team that fails to supply an umpire forfeit the match.

75.0 BEST AND FAIREST VOTES

- 75.1 Fairest and Best votes shall be awarded in each game, as 3-2-1 votes, jointly by both umpires after consultation with each other. Umpires are to print both the Firstname and Surname clearly on the Vote card, of the player receiving votes and the club they played for in the match.
- 75.1.1 Once completed the Vote card must be sealed in an envelope (One vote card per envelope) or enter these votes into the electronic database as is required for the A & B Grade matches.
- 75.2 Fairest and Best votes shall be forwarded immediately to the GM Operations via the match paperwork and kept in strict secrecy.
- 75.3 Penalty: A fine to either the umpires or clubs whose umpire does not comply, as set out in the Fine schedule 4.

76.0 REPORTS

- 76.1 Umpires can report a player or official of a team under the sanctions that can be applied under the Rules of Netball.
- 76.2 Umpires also can report a player or official of a team for unbecoming conduct outside of the sanctions that can be applied under the Rules of Netball.
- 76.3 An Umpire who makes a report of a player or official is to inform both clubs that a report has been laid at the conclusion of the match. The umpire must also contact the GM Operations and inform them of the report as soon as possible after the match.
- 76.4 The Reporting Umpire must then submit to the GM Operations a description of which Rule of Netball the player or official has been reported under or if the Report is for unbecoming conduct. Such submission must be made by 10am of the Monday after the match has been played.
- 76.5 The CEO or their appointee will consider any report and convene an Independent Tribunal, if necessary. This tribunal hearing will take place at a time and place as notified (a Tuesday evening where possible). Tribunal notices if required will be sent to each club and the Umpire on the first business day following the weekday/weekend when the match occurred and at least 24 hours prior to any Tribunal hearing.
- 76.6 Offenders may receive any or all of the following penalties as deemed suitable by Outer East Football Netball or its Tribunal. Fine up to \$100. Loss of Premiership Points for their team. Suspension from home and away games, finals and/or Interleague.
- 76.7 **Appeals** - Any appeal against a Tribunal decision can be made in writing and directed to the CEO. Hearing of such appeals will be decided by the CEO and heard by the Outer East Football Netball Appeals Board in accordance with Schedule 18.

77.0 FINALS QUALIFICATIONS

- 77.1 In order to qualify to play in Junior or Open Grade finals matches, a player must be qualified under the age provisions as determined by the Outer East Football Netball Board, in the year of play, and have played at least four (4) matches during the home and away series, in the grade they wish to qualify in.
- 77.2 Junior grade finals qualifications will also be subject to the provisions in By-Law 61.5.
- 77.3 Players cannot qualify for finals by having only played the last four (4) rounds of the home & away season. At least one match must have been played prior to the 4th last round.
- 77.4 A player is ineligible to play in a lower grade once they have played eight (8) games in a higher grade.
- 77.5 An Open player can play in two (2) netball finals on the same weekend, providing they have met the qualifying criteria set out in By-Law 77.1 while observing By-Law 77.4. Those finals can only be in progressive Grades. (E.g. D & C Grade or C & B Grade, not D & B Grade or C & A Grade).
- 77.5.1 A junior competition player can play in a maximum of two (2) finals games on the same weekend, one of those must be in their junior age group, subject to By-Laws 77.3 and 77.4.
- 77.5.2 Junior competition players who are age-eligible to play in Open grades may play up into any Open grade if they have played the required number of games in their age group team. These players will NOT be subject to By-Laws 77.6, 77.6.1 and 77.6.2.

- 77.6** In the instance where a club enters a final with only seven (7) or less qualified players in a particular grade, they may apply to have two (2) qualified players from the lower grade team named on the team sheet for a higher grade as Substitute players ONLY ("Sub" listed after their name on the team sheet and identified by wearing a yellow armband).
- 77.6.1** The application of By-Law 77.6 will only be applied to increase your team numbers to a maximum of nine (9).
- 77.6.2** A substitute player can only be used to replace an injured or ill player. The player they replace may NOT return to the court during that match or match day.
- 77.7** Category 4, 5 or 6 within the Player Points System may only qualify for A grade finals, subject to meeting the criteria set out in By-Laws 77.1 and 77.3.
- 77.7.1** Players classified as a VNL 19&U (within Category 3) within the Player Points System may qualify for either A or B Grade finals subject to the criteria set out in By-Laws 62.6, 77.1 and 77.3.
- 77.7.2** A maximum (2) two VNL 19&U (within Category 3) players only may qualify for B Grade finals for a club.
- 77.8** Variations to these rules may apply in special circumstances and will be at the discretion of Outer East Football Netball.
- 77.9** Failure to comply with By-Law 77 may be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, and/or loss of match points, and/or reversal of result, or other sanctions as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

78.0 DRAWN FINALS

78.1 Drawn matches in finals procedure:

- a) There is a (2) minute time allowance to enable teams to change ends and scores to be verified on the official score sheets.
- b) Positional changes and substitution may be made during change over time.
- c) 2 x 5-minute halves (A & B Grade) & 2x 3-minute halves (C, D Grade & all junior grades) will be played.
- e) At the end of the first half, teams change ends.
- f) Should there still be a draw at the end of the second half of extra time, a visual signal shall be used to indicate that play shall continue until one team has a two-goal advantage.
- g) In the event of stoppages during extra time, By-Law 79 will apply.

79.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

79.1 STOPPAGES

- a) The umpires hold time for injury/illness upon appeal from an on-court player or for blood and may hold time for an emergency or such other circumstances as they consider appropriate. During a stoppage:
- b) For injury/illness of a player or blood: all players not affected remain on the courts.
- c) In an emergency or other circumstance: the umpire decides whether the players leave the court or not.

79.1.1

- a) Play restarts from where the ball was when play was stopped:
- b) If the ball was out of court play restarts with a throw in.
- c) If an infringement was signalled before play was held, play restarts with a sanction awarded.
- d) If the ball was on the ground or the umpire is unable to say which team had possession of the ball, play restarts with the last team that had possession receiving the ball.
- e) In extreme circumstances and following consultation with the CEO or their appointee, the umpire may decide to abandon a match if the safety of players and/or officials is considered to be at risk.

79.2 INJURY/ILLNESS OR BLOOD

- a) The umpires hold time for blood when noticed or for injury/illness when requested by an on-court player (in extreme circumstances the umpires may hold time without a request being made).
- b) The player concerned must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court. The timekeepers advise the umpires when 10 secs remain.
- c) Only primary care person/s are permitted on the court to assess the player's medical condition and to assist the player from the court.

- d) In the event that the primary care person/s advise the umpires that the player concerned cannot be removed safely within 30 seconds, the umpires will extend the time for the player to leave the court. The time allocated for the match to be completed will not be extended, except A grade as per By-Law 69.3.4
 - e) The umpire may authorise other persons (including team officials) to assist the player to leave the court if needed.
 - f) Any blood on the ball or the court must be cleaned before play re starts and any blood-stained clothes replaced.
 - g) During the stoppage both teams may make substitutes and/or team changes, provided these are completed within the time allowed for the stoppage by the umpire.
 - h) If no substitution is made for the injured/ill player, or for a player who is bleeding, play may resume with the position left vacant. If the player is the Centre and no substitution is made, one player must move to play Centre to allow the match to continue.
 - i) If the position is left vacant the player concerned or a substitute may subsequently, after advising the umpire, take the court immediately after one of the following:
 - j) A goal has been scored (in this case the player or the substitute must play in the position left vacant)
Sanction: *Free pass where the ball was when play stopped – the player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry.*
 - k) A Stoppage for injury/illness or blood.
 - l) An Interval.
- 79.3 First Aid Kit**
- a) Each team shall provide a suitably stocked First Aid Kit.
 - b) The First Aid Kit will be stored in an easily accessible location and all appropriate personnel (court supervisors, primary carers, umpires, and coaches) will have access to it.
 - c) Each club shall nominate a person to be responsible for maintaining the first aid kit supplies. An inventory is to be completed on a weekly basis.
- 79.4 OTHER STOPPAGES:**
- 79.4.1** The umpires may hold time or extend an interval if considered appropriate. Examples for which time may be held include (but are not limited to):
- a) Emergencies such as serious injury/illness of an umpire or technical official/s, the equipment, the court, the weather or technical equipment.
 - b) Retrieving the ball.
 - c) Disciplining a player, team official or bench player.
- 79.4.2** The umpires decide the length of such a stoppage and ensure play restarts as soon as possible.
- 79.4.3** Team officials are not permitted on the court during a stoppage unless specified in By-Law 79.2.2 (c) & (e).
- 79.5 INJURY REPORTING**
- a) Clubs are to ensure that they comply with the injury reporting requirements of the Netball insurer.
- 79.5.1 Concussion:** Any player who is suspected of suffering from concussion must immediately cease playing or training and seek medical advice.
- 75.5.2** Players who have suffered a concussion must not return to training or playing for a minimum of twenty one (21) days and must also receive a Doctors clearance to do so.
- 79.6 Infectious Disease** – Outer East Football Netball adopts Netball Victoria guidelines relating to infectious diseases.
- 79.7 Pre-Match Checklist** – Netball Australia Match Day Checklist and Guidelines
- 79.7.1** A pre-match checklist will be completed prior to the first Netball match on each match day.
- 79.7.2** Any hazards identified will be:
- a) Documented
 - b) Rectified if possible.
 - c) Reported to the appropriate agency (local council, reserve committee) if major repair is required.
 - d) Any home club that fails to provide a Match Day Checklist and Guideline will be subject to a fine.

80.0 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES / PROVISION CLAUSE

- 80.1** Where these By-Laws are silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of the Outer East Football Netball is maintained at all times.
- The Outer East Football Netball Board, may, in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary, or waive the requirements set out in the By-Laws relating to the Outer East Football Netball, Netball competitions.

This page has deliberately been left blank.



OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

COMPETITION

BY-LAWS

81.0 OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL JUNIOR FOOTBALL COMPETITION BY-LAWS

All Outer East Football Netball Board by-laws from 81.0 to 102.0 relate specifically to the conduct of Junior Football Competitions including, U9 to U16 Boys Sunday Competitions and U10 to U18 Girls Competitions.

Amended March 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS – Junior Football

| | | |
|--------|--|----|
| 82. | COMPOSITION OF TEAMS | 65 |
| 82.4 | MATCHING OPPOSITION PLAYING NUMBERS ON FIELD | 65 |
| 82.5 | MATCHES FOR PREMIERSHIP POINTS | 65 |
| 82.6 | MATCHES FOR NO PREMIERSHIP POINTS | 65 |
| 82.7 | TWO TEAMS IN AN AGE GROUP | 66 |
| 83. | REGISTRATION..... | 66 |
| 84. | PLAYERS AGE REQUIREMENTS..... | 66 |
| 85. | FIXTURES AND LADDERS | 67 |
| 85.2 | FINALS SERIES..... | 67 |
| 85.3 | LADDER TIE BREAKERS (NO PERCENTAGE) | 67 |
| 86. | PLAYING ARENA/GROUND FACILITIES | 67 |
| 87. | PLAYERS BOOTS, JEWELLERY & PROTECTIVE EQUIPEMENT | 68 |
| 88. | MATCH TIMES..... | 69 |
| 88.3 | STARTING TIMES | 69 |
| 88.4 | LENGTH OF QUARTERS | 69 |
| 89. | DELAYS AND CANCELLATION OF MATCHES | 70 |
| 89.2 | DELAYS TO THE START OF MATCHES..... | 70 |
| 89.3 | DELAYS ONCE A MATCH HAS STARTED | 71 |
| 89.4 | INCOMPLETE MATCH..... | 71 |
| 90. | TEAM SHEET / TEAM LISTS/FOOTBALL RECORD | 72 |
| 91. | FOOTBALLS..... | 72 |
| 92. | MATCH DAY PROCEDURES/OFFICIALS | 73 |
| 92.1 | MATCH OFFICIALS | 73 |
| 92.1.3 | 25-METER PENALTY | 73 |
| 92.2 | MODIFIED PLAYING RULES (INCLUDING LAST POSSESSION) | 73 |
| 92.3 | CLUB AND TEAM OFFICIALS – GENERAL | 73 |
| 92.4 | RUNNER..... | 73 |
| 92.5 | TRAINERS AND WATER CARRIERS..... | 74 |
| 92.6 | TIMEKEEPERS..... | 74 |
| 92.7 | SCOREBOARD ATTENDANT | 75 |
| 92.8 | UMPIRE ESCORT | 75 |
| 92.9 | PROFICIENCY OF OFFICIALS..... | 75 |
| 93. | UMPIRES | 76 |
| 93.1 | APPOINTMENT OF UMPIRES..... | 76 |
| 93.2 | APPROACHES TO UMPIRES..... | 76 |
| 93.3 | PROFICIENCY OF UMPIRES..... | 76 |
| 93.4 | NON-ATTENANCE OF UMPIRE..... | 76 |
| 94. | COUNTING OF PLAYERS..... | 77 |
| 95. | TREATMENT OF BLEEDING PLAYERS..... | 78 |
| 96. | ORDER OFF RULE..... | 78 |
| 97. | RED/YELLOW | 78 |
| 98. | PRACTICE MATCHES..... | 78 |
| 99. | MATCH PAPERWORK | 78 |
| 100. | FINALS QUALIFICATIONS | 79 |
| 101. | DRAWN FINALS..... | 79 |
| 102. | SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES / PROVISION CLAUSE..... | 79 |

82.0 COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

In each competition season, Outer East Football Netball will provide its clubs with a Rules Matrix which will also be listed as Schedule eight (8).

- 82.1** The minimum number of players in Under 11 Girls and Under 13 Girls will be twelve (12) to constitute a match. The minimum number of players in all other competitive age grades shall be fourteen (14) to constitute a match. These age grades include: U11 mixed, U12 Mixed, U13 mixed, U14 mixed, U15 boys/girls, U16 Boys, and U17 Girls.
- 82.2** The minimum required players for non-competitive competitions (U9's & U10's) will be nine (9) to constitute a match.
- 82.3** The maximum number of players in Under 11 Girls and Under 13 Girls team will be twenty-four (24). The maximum number of players in all other competitive grade teams can consist of a maximum of twenty-eight (28) players, not more than eighteen (18) of whom shall take part on the field in a match at any one time.
- 82.3.1** The maximum number of players on the field in the non-competitive age groups will be twelve (12) with the maximum allowed in the team each week being eighteen (18).
- 82.3.2** Where a team has less than eighteen (18) players on the field, the opposition can offer players to even up the numbers on the field.
- 82.3.3** Where this offer is made, it cannot be refused by the team with less numbers.
- 82.3.4** Team Managers shall notify the opposing team and umpires if they intend to play with less than the maximum number of players at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of play.
- 82.4 MATCHING OPPOSITION PLAYERS ON FIELD (EVENING UP)**
No team shall have more players on the field than their opposition. Should the team with lesser numbers lose a player, through injury alone (*not penalties through yellow and red cards*), the opposition is to even-up at the next possible opportunity.
- 82.5 MATCHES FOR PREMIERSHIP POINTS**
To constitute a match, the minimum number of registered players in any grade is required.
- 82.5.1** Any team with less than the required registered players at the official starting time of the match shall forfeit the game unless:
- An agreement is reached, between the Coach and Team Manager of each team, that the match will be played for premiership points; and
 - Registered player(s) are loaned on the day by the opposing club to enable each team to field the minimum number of players required at the official starting time of the match; and
 - Registered player(s) loaned are named on the official Team Sheet. All loaned registered players must be identified by the letter (L) next to their name.
- 82.5.2** An Agreement Form to play the match for premiership points must be signed by the Team Manager and Coach of each team prior to the commencement of the match (see Schedule Five 5).
- 82.5.3** The Field Umpire(s) must be notified by the Team Manager of each team that a match will be played for premiership points, and the signed agreement form is to be lodged with the Field Umpire(s), who will also sign the agreement form, for return to the League Office with the match documents.
- 82.5.4** Loaned registered players shall remain as a player(s) for that team for the duration of the match or as determined by the coaches.
- 82.5.5** Prior to the start of the 3rd quarter, if registered players become available during the match for the team without minimum numbers, then these registered players can replace loaned registered players, who then return to their team and can take the field to play for their home club.
- 82.5.6** If a match is played for premiership points, umpires will award and record "Best on Ground Votes" for the Outer East Football & Netball Best and Fairest Awards.
- 82.6 MATCHES FOR NO PREMIERSHIP POINTS**
- 82.6.1** If an agreement is not reached to play for Premiership points, then a match may be arranged and played for no premiership points.

82.6.2 The Field Umpire(s) must be notified by each team manager of the competing teams that a match will be played for no premiership points, and must agree to umpire the match if the clubs request the Field Umpire(s) to do so.

82.6.3 An Agreement Form must be signed by the Team Manager and Coach of each team and the participating field umpire(s) to play a match for no premiership points, and the signed Agreement Form is to be lodged with the field umpire(s) and is to be returned with the match documents (see Schedule 6).

82.7 TWO TEAMS IN AN AGE GROUP

82.7.1 Where a club fields more than one (1) team in the same age grade, a player is permitted to move between teams. However:

- a) Once a player has played six (6) matches in one team, that player may not move to the other team for the remainder of the season.
- b) The first team a player plays six (6) games in is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the finals series.
- c) Where a bye is fixtured for one team, no player is permitted to move to the other team during the week of the bye.
- d) If a club with multiple teams in a competition that is graded and one age group forfeits a match, the forfeit can only occur in the Lower graded team.
- e) If a club with multiple teams in an age group that isn't graded forfeits a match, player movement to the non-forfeiting team will only be allowed upon application to Outer East Football Netball.

82.7.2 Variations to these rules may apply in special circumstances and will be at the discretion of the CEO or their appointee.

82.8 Failure by a club to comply with By-Law 82 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, a loss of match points, reversal of match result or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

83.0 REGISTRATION

83.1 Any club, player, coach, or team official desiring registration with Outer East Football Netball shall complete the Registration themselves & pay any fees due, prior to playing, coaching, or officiating in any match.

83.2 Refer to By Law 11 for further Registration requirements and rules.

83.3 Failure to comply with By Law 11 will be subject to a loss of match points, reversal of result, a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

84.0 PLAYER AGE REQUIREMENTS

Outer East Football Netball Player Age group eligibility will be in accordance with the National Community Football Policy Handbook section 3.1 (b) and (c).

84.1 A player must be seven (7) years of age as of 30th April in the year of play before they can be registered to play junior football with any Outer East Football Netball clubs.

84.2 Grades/age groups shall be confirmed by Outer East Football Netball annually for all age groups.

84.3 An Over Age Permit will be determined using The Age Dispensation Policy Section 4 of the NCFPH.

84.4 Documentary proof of age must be made available to the CEO or their appointee upon request.

84.5 Proof of age shall be deemed to be copies of any document that verifies a player's date of birth. Such documents shall include: -

- Birth Certificate
- Extract of Birth Entry
- Drivers Licence
- Passport
- Any other 'official document' acceptable to the CEO

84.6 A Statutory Declaration shall not be acceptable as proof of age.

84.7 Within seven (7) days of a written request from the CEO or their appointee, a player shall present proof of age to be sighted by the CEO or their appointee.

- 84.8** In the event that the player cannot present their proof of age as in By-Law 84.5, the player shall not be permitted to play until such time as it has been presented to the CEO or their appointee.
- 84.9** Junior competition players are able to play up age groups, to a maximum of two (2) years above their age in the year of play. For clarity, refer to the National Community Football Policy Handbook section 3.1 (b) and (c).
- 84.10** Junior competition players may obtain a permit to play with a senior club in Outer East Football Netball competitions. Permit players are also available for selection to play in Outer East Football Netball Senior competition football interleague matches.
- 84.11** A Junior competition player can play in a senior football competition subject to the following conditions:
- Signed parental permission is submitted and approved by Outer East Football Netball.
 - Comply with the minimum age requirements for the Senior football competitions.
 - Commitment from the senior club that the junior players' development is the priority when permission is sought to play in senior football competitions.
 - All relevant permits are lodged and approved in the timeframes required.
- 84.12** Any club found guilty of playing a player who is ineligible due to age shall automatically forfeit all matches in which the player competed and shall be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

85.0 FIXTURES AND LADDERS

- 85.1** The CEO or their appointee will determine the fixture/s annually.
- 85.1.1** The competitions that shall not be played for a Premiership as stated in By-Law 7.1.2 will be the U9, U10 girls/mixed.
- 85.1.2** Ladders will be determined as per By-Law 7 and By-Law 85.2.

85.2 FINALS SERIES

- 85.2.1** The finals series system to be used in each competition will be determined by Round 5 of each season unless otherwise notified by Outer East Football Netball.
- 85.2.2** Where teams are equal on premiership points at the end of any round of home and away matches their position on the premiership ladder will be determined by the tie-breaker process.

85.3 TIE-BREAKER PROCESS

Finishing positions will be deemed a tie where two or more sides finish on the same amount of match points; or, where two or more sides finish on the same match ratio (games won or drawn, divide games Played x100), whichever is applicable.

85.3.1 TWO-TEAM TIE

The below procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:

- a) Win-Loss record of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
- b) Greatest winning margin in games played between two teams
- c) Most goals in games played between two teams
- d) Win-loss record vs. highest ranked common opponent (proceeding downwards if necessary)
- e) Aggregate margin vs. highest ranked common opponent

85.3.2 THREE-TEAM TIE (or more)

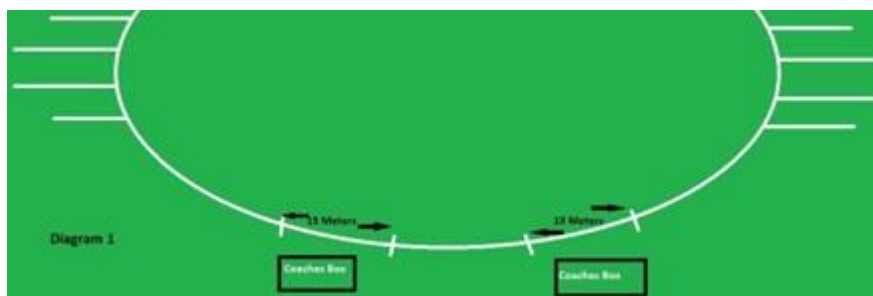
The below procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:

- a) Best winning percentage of games played among the tied teams
- b) Greatest winning margin in games played between teams
- c) Win-loss record vs. highest ranked common opponent (proceeding downwards if necessary).
- d) Aggregate margin vs. Highest ranked common opponent.

86.0 PLAYING ARENA/GROUND FACILITIES

- 86.1** As per AFL guidelines, each club shall provide the following playing facilities as a minimum standard, which shall be approved by the Board and comply with the JLT/Marsh Sport AFL Match Day Checklist to be completed by a representative from each competing club, prior to the first match of the day:

- 86.1.1** Two goal posts 6.4 metres apart and not less than 6 metres in height shall be placed at each end of the playing ground.
- 86.1.2** Two behind posts shall be placed at a distance of 6.4 metres apart from each goal post and in a straight line with them. The minimum height of the behind posts shall be 3 metres.
- 86.1.3** Between ground level and 2.5 metres, the goal and point posts shall be suitably padded.
- 86.1.4** Clubs shall provide three (3) flag holders on the right-hand goal post and two (2) flag holders on the left-hand goal post.
- 86.1.5** All areas behind the goal and behind posts, plus fifteen (15) metres in each direction shall be fenced.
- 86.1.6** A scoreboard, which shall be operational for each game, with legible numbers for scores. If an electronic scoreboard is used, a usable manual scoreboard must also be available for use.
- 86.1.7** Changing rooms for home and visiting teams, plus hot and cold water for showers.
- 86.1.8** Umpire's changing rooms containing a shower area separate from the players' area.
- 86.1.9** A suitable stretcher on the boundary at the interchange area at all times during the matches being played.
- 86.1.10** A properly marked playing arena in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, which shall not be marked with lime or lime product.
 - a)** Refer to Schedule 14 for age groups with modified playing areas.
- 86.1.11** The boundary line markings shall be no less than 3 metres from the boundary fence or other obstacles.
- 86.1.12** Two interchange lines, fifteen (15) metres apart marked across the boundary line, through which players can be interchanged. There shall be two (2) interchange gates which shall be placed in front of each coach's box. The line furthest from the centre of the ground must align with the edge of the coach's box and extend fifteen (15) metres along the boundary line towards the centre of the ground.



- 86.1.13** A Timekeepers' box, complete with efficient siren and back-up siren, bell, or gong, located so that the timekeepers have access to an uninterrupted view of the entire playing arena.
- 86.1.14** Adequately covered concrete cricket pitches in accordance with local Council guidelines.
- 86.1.15** Adequately covered stopcocks, valves, or sprinkler heads where underground water reticulation is provided.
- 86.1.16** A suitable coaches box with seats for the home and visiting teams.
- 86.1.17** Suitable fencing around playing arena.
- 86.1.18** A restriction line in front of the coach's box, halfway between the boundary line and the fence.
- 86.1.19** Surfaces and surrounds, such as gates, fences, and advertising signs, must be in safe condition, well secured with no obstruction protruding.
- 86.1.20** A dot or line must be placed fifteen (15) metres from the centre of the kick-off line towards the centre of the playing surface. This is where the mark is to be set for a kick-in.
- 86.1.21** Failure to comply with By-Law 86 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

87.0 PLAYERS BOOTS, JEWELLERY & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Outer East Football Netball adheres to the Protective Equipment rules pertained in National Community Football Policy Handbook section 16.

87.1 PROHIBITION OF ITEMS

A Player shall not wear during a Match:

- (a) any form of jewellery;
 - (b) boot studs, plates/cleats or any Protective Equipment (other than Protective Equipment approved by the Controlling Body) unless the field Umpire is satisfied that the item does not constitute a danger or increase the risk of injury to other Players competing in the Match; or
 - (c) Protective Equipment which has been approved by the relevant Controlling Body, if the field Umpire is satisfied that such equipment has, during the Match, become dangerous or increased the risk of injury to other Players.
- 87.1.1 Spectacles** – Players who wish to wear spectacles during matches and training sessions should wear spectacles with plastic frames and plastic lenses. A band must also hold the spectacles on securely.
- 87.2** A field umpire may inspect players' boots, hands, guards, and surgical appliances prior to the commencement of play or at any time prior to the conclusion of the match. The field umpire shall have the sole prerogative to determine whether apparel or protective equipment has the potential to cause injury and shall instruct the player to remove such apparel or protective equipment.
- 87.3** Any player refusing to follow the field umpire's instructions will be ineligible to play.
- 87.4** Gloves are permitted to be worn by junior registered players in competition matches. All gloves must be approved by the CEO or their appointee.
- 87.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 87 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

88.0 MATCH TIMES.

- 88.1** Playing times of a match shall be determined by the CEO or their appointee annually. Starting times may be changed upon application in writing by the clubs and received and agreed to by the CEO or their appointee.
- 88.2 TIME ON** is not utilised in any Outer East Football Netball Junior football home and away match.
- 88.2.1** During Finals matches, the Match Manager will determine if any Time on is to be utilised.
- 88.3 STARTING TIMES**
- 88.3.1** Starting times of games shall be determined by Outer East Football Netball each season and communicated to clubs via the Fixture.
- 88.3.2** Start times are subject to change and can be adjusted by Outer East Football Netball in consultation with clubs.
- 88.3.3** Finals match times to be decided on a yearly basis by Outer East Football Netball.
- 88.3.4** Games will commence promptly at the times determined by Outer East Football Netball. Any teams not ready to commence the allocated game time shall be fined according to Schedule 4.
- 88.3.5** Any team not ready to commence a match within twenty (20) minutes after the allocated game time shall forfeit the match, and shall also be subject to By-Law 7.5.

88.4 LENGTH OF QUARTERS

Length of quarters shall be as follows:

- Under 16 Boys - 18 mins, intervals of 5, 7 & 5 mins
- Under 15 Boys - 15 mins, intervals of 4, 7 & 4 mins
- Under 14 Boys - 14 mins, intervals of 3, 5 & 3 mins
- Under 13 Boys - 12 mins, intervals of 3, 5 & 3 mins
- Under 12 Boys - 12 mins, intervals of 3, 5 & 3 mins
- Under 11 Boys - 10 mins, intervals of 3, 3 & 3 mins
- Under 10's - 10 mins, intervals of 3, 3 & 3 mins
- Under 9's - 10 mins, intervals of 3, 3 & 3 mins
- Under 10 Girls - 10 mins, intervals of 3, 3 & 3 mins
- Under 11 Girls - 10 mins, intervals of 3, 3 & 3 mins
- Under 13 Girls - 12 mins, intervals of 3, 5 & 3 mins
- Under 15 Girls - 15 mins, intervals of 3, 5 & 3 mins
- Under 17 Girls - 17 mins, intervals of 4, 7 & 4 mins

- 88.4.1** Teams may leave the ground during the half-time interval in the case of inclement weather but must return and be ready to play at the starting time of the third quarter.
- 88.5** In the case of an interruption of a match due to extenuating circumstances, remaining time to be played is determined as per Outer East Football Netball By-Law 89 - Delays/Cancellations
- 88.6** Failure by a club to comply with By-Law 88 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

89.0 DELAYS / CANCELLATION OF MATCHES

Background

This procedure will enhance processes associated with junior football matches Outer East Football Netball competitions which may be interrupted or delayed from time to time. In the past, incidents of this nature have typically resulted in games not being completed. The objective of these By-Laws is to allow for the completion of Outer East Football Netball matches as often as possible.

- 89.1** A game may not start or reach its conclusion for the following reasons: -
- 89.1.1** An invasion of the playing arena where the umpire(s) consider it unsafe to continue and are not able to resume play after a reasonable time.
- 89.1.2** A player or umpire is so seriously injured that it is deemed inappropriate to move them until medical assistance arrives.
- 89.1.3** In the opinion of the umpire(s), the playing conditions deteriorate to a level that makes it unsafe to start or continue.
- 89.1.4** In the course of a night match, the power supply fails.
- 89.1.5** Thick fog, lightning, or any other extreme weather condition as part of the AFL Extreme Weather Policy.

89.2 DELAYS TO THE START OF MATCHES

- 89.2.1** If a match is unable to commence at the time scheduled for the match for reasons beyond the control of either team (including the circumstances where it is unsafe for the match to proceed), the following shall apply. The latest a match can commence is:
- Under 16 Boys - 48 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 15 Boys - 42 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 14 Boys - 36 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 13 Boys - 32 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 12 Boys - 32 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 11 Boys - 26 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 10'S - 26 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 9'S - 26 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 10 Girls - 26 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 11 Girls - 26 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 13 Girls - 32 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 15 Girls - 42 mins after the scheduled start time.
 - Under 17 Girls - 46 mins after the scheduled start time.
- 89.2.2** In the event of a delay to the start of a match, the timekeepers must continue the time clock as if the match were still in progress, and blow the sirens to signal the Start & Finish of each quarter or match. Contact should be made with the CEO, Junior Operations Coordinator or GM Operations for direction/confirmation as required.
- 89.2.3** Players must not leave the venue until the match has been officially called off.
- 89.2.4** For the purposes of this rule, games scheduled outside of the normal start times will be subject to discussions with the CEO, Junior Operations Coordinator or GM Operations.
- 89.2.5** Where a Team is directed to commence play by a field umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to commence play, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match, in which case By-Law 7.5 shall apply.

89.3 DELAYS ONCE A MATCH HAS STARTED

- 89.3.1** In the event of loss of time once a match has begun, the timekeepers must continue the time clock as if the match were still in progress and blow the sirens to signal the Start & Finish of each quarter or match. Contact should be made with the CEO, Junior Operations Coordinator or GM Operations for direction/confirmation as required.
- 89.3.2** Where a Team is directed to commence play by a field umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects too, the Team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match, in which case By-Law 7.5 shall apply.
- 89.3.3** No match may continue past its scheduled finishing time. Once the siren has sounded for the completion of the game, the game shall finish whether there was any actual play or not.
- 89.3.4** Players must not leave the venue until the match has been officially called off.

89.4 INCOMPLETE MATCH

If a match is unable to continue within the time scheduled for the match for reasons beyond the control of either Team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the match to proceed) the following shall apply:

- (a) **Prior to Half Time:** If a Match has commenced but is not able to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall depart from the Arena. Immediate consultation with the Junior Operations Coordinator &/or CEO shall be sought by the umpires to determine if a resumption of play is achievable. The CEO or Junior Operations Coordinator may in their discretion vary the length and scheduling of the intervals, to suit circumstances. If the Match is unable to recommence after consultation with the Junior Operations Coordinator or CEO, the Match shall be deemed to be drawn if two even halves of football are unable to be completed. The scores of the Teams at the time the Match was interrupted shall be used in ladder calculations for each Team.
 - (b) **Half Time & Beyond:** If the half time interval has been reached and the match is unable to proceed at any time within the time scheduled for the Match, the Teams shall leave the arena, or in the case of Half Time, not return to the Arena. Immediate consultation with the Junior Operations Coordinator &/or CEO shall be sought by the umpires to determine if a resumption of play is achievable. The CEO or Junior Operations Coordinator may in their discretion vary the length and scheduling of the intervals, to suit circumstances. In the case where the match is unable to be completed the Team with the highest score shall be deemed the winner of the match and the scores shall be used in ladder calculations for each Team.
 - (c) **Match Not Able to Proceed:** Immediate contact with the CEO or Junior Operations Coordinator must be made and a field umpire shall, having regard to the health and safety of the players and any other relevant circumstances, determine whether a Match is unable to commence or proceed. A field umpire must determine that a match is unable to commence or proceed for such time as lightning is present at or within the Immediate Proximity of the arena where the match is being conducted, in line with the AFL Extreme Weather Policy outlined in the Member Protection Policy. The CEO or Junior Operations Coordinator may in their discretion vary the length and scheduling of the intervals, to suit circumstances, when Lightning is present.
 - (d) **Recommencing of Play:** Where a team is directed to recommence play by a field Umpire and the Team fails, refuses or neglects to recommence play, the team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match, in which case By-Law 7.5 shall apply.
 - (e) The CEO or Junior Operations Coordinator may vary the length and scheduling of the intervals, to suit practical circumstances.
- 89.4.2** Players must not leave the venue until the match has been officially called off.
- Summary:**
- Completion of one half constitutes a game of football in any grade.
 - Contact should be made with the CEO or Junior Operations Coordinator for direction/confirmation as required.
 - Games played outside of normal playing times will require confirmation with the CEO or Junior Operations Coordinator if any delay, change or abandonment to a game is required.
- 89.5** Failure by a club to comply with By-Law 89 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

90.0 TEAM SHEET/TEAM LIST

- 90.1 The Official Team Sheet shall include the jumper number, name in block letters in number order of each player, trainer, water carrier, runner, team manager, coach, and the identity of the team captain.
- 90.2 Team managers should ensure all participating players are acknowledged with a tick and players not participating are crossed out. Players added manually must be added on the submitted original copy to the umpires.
- 90.3 The Team Manager of each team shall present the original copy of the team sheet to the field umpire(s) room no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the match. A duplicate copy is to be handed to the opposing Team Manager at the conclusion of the game (with Goal Kickers & Best players noted). It is not necessary for the duplicate copy to be signed.
- 90.4 Home listed teams are responsible for entering all the match results of games played onto the database website by 7:00pm each Sunday, or two (2) hours after the last match if the games are not played on a Sunday.
- 90.5 Goal cards and team sheets must be given to the umpires within fifteen (15) minutes of the end of each match. Timecards must be handed into the umpires after every 4th match at the venue on match day and within fifteen (15) minutes of that 4th match concluding.
- 90.5.1 The host club is to deliver all paperwork set out in By-Law 90 to the Outer East Football Netball Office by midday on the Tuesday following the match.
- 90.6 Failure to comply with By-Law 90 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

91.0 FOOTBALLS

- 91.1 The Board shall specify the brand of footballs and netballs to be used in Outer East Football Netball Junior Football matches.
- 91.2 The first listed team on the fixture must supply Outer East Football Netball approved footballs even if that Home listed club is not Hosting the match.
- 91.3 In all grades up to & including U12 boys and Girls, the home listed team shall present one (1) synthetic football of the appropriate size.
- 91.3.1 In all grades including & above U14 boys and girls the home listed team shall present two (2) leather footballs of the appropriate size.
- 91.4 Prior to the commencement of each football match the home club will provide the field umpires with Outer East Football Netball approved size footballs, as follows:
 - Size 2 Synthetic** - Under 9's, 10's and Under 10 Girls.
 - Size 3 Synthetic** – Under 11's boys, Under 12 mixed, Under 12 Girls competitions.
 - Size Four (4) Leather** – Under 13 mixed and Under 14 Boys, as well as U14, U16 and U18 Girls competitions.
 - Size Five (5) Leather** - Under 15 and 16 Boys competitions.
- 91.5 The Field Umpire must approve all balls. A spare ball of the same size and colour as that chosen for the match shall be placed in the care of the timekeepers.
- 91.6 Whenever night matches have been approved in accordance with these By-Laws, yellow footballs must be used in all grades playing after dusk.
- 91.7 Subject to the agreement of the coaches prior to the match, footballs of the same colour may be alternated during the match due to wet or muddy conditions as required.
- 91.8 All match balls must feature the following logos:
 - Bendigo Bank or Karcher.
 - Outer East Football Netball
- 91.9 Failure to comply with By-Law 91 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

92.0 MATCH DAY PROCEDURES / OFFICIALS

92.1 MATCH OFFICIALS - GROUND MANAGER

- 92.1.1** The Secretary (or an approved representative) of the first named Club in any match arranged by Outer East Football Netball, or alternatively a person so appointed by the Outer East Football Netball, shall be regarded as Ground Manager. The Ground Manager's duties shall include the supervision of arrangements for the proper conduct of such matches, and they shall attend to the duties as determined by the Outer East Football Netball and to any other special instructions that may be issued from time to time by the CEO or their appointee.
- 92.1.2** Ground/Match Managers shall be appointed to control all Finals Matches under the control of Outer East Football Netball.
- 92.1.3** **25 Metre penalty** - In all Outer East Football Competition matches a 25-metre penalty shall be paid in place of a 50-metre penalty. This distance may be altered in accordance with the Outer East Football Netball Junior Rule Matrix, found in Schedule 14 of these By-Laws.

92.2 MODIFIED PLAYING RULES

- 92.2.1** The AFL issues modified rules for Junior Football in the Outer East Football Netball Junior Rule Matrix from time to time. Outer East Football Netball will adopt these rules in any given season unless Outer East Football Netball advises otherwise.
- 92.2.2** Outer East Football Netball shall provide each club with a copy of the Outer East Football Netball Junior Rule Matrix once it is released and include a summary of the rule adjustments in Schedule 14 of these By-Laws.
- 92.2.3** All clubs, coaches, umpires, and team managers shall make themselves aware of these rules before each competition season.
- 92.2.4** **Last Possession – Out of Bounds**
- a) A Free Kick shall be awarded against a Player who kicks or handballs the football over the boundary line without the football being touched by another Player.
 - i) For the purposes of defining a kick, a kick shall be an intentional action, not accidental. When the ball comes off the foot or lower leg of a player without the intent of the player being to kick the ball, it will be deemed accidental contact and will not be determined as a kick by the umpire and therefore will result in a boundary throw in or, a ball up 15 metres in from the boundary line if no boundary umpire is present.
 - b) Where a Player who does not have possession, stops the football being touched by an Opposition Player by Shepherding the ball across the Boundary Line, where the ball could have otherwise been touched by the player being blocked, then the umpire will not award a free kick but will instead order a boundary throw in or ball up.
- 92.2.5** Failure to comply with the any adopted modified rules may result in a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match points, or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

92.3 CLUB AND TEAM OFFICIALS – GENERAL

- 92.3.1** Only the Coach, Trainer, Runner and two other Officials and interchange players shall be allowed inside the fence of the playing arena.
- 92.3.2** All officials, coach, runner plus interchange players listed in By-Law 92.2.1 must remain behind the white line (refer By-Law 86.1.18) at all times during the course of play, except when legitimately entering the playing arena (as in the case of a runner or interchange player).

92.4 RUNNER

- 92.4.1** Each club shall have only one runner.
- 92.4.2** The sole duty of the runner shall be to confer with the player or players of their club.
- 92.4.3** A club runner may enter the playing arena during any football match, provided that the runner: -
- a) Wears an approved Outer East Football Netball runner's uniform.
 - b) Enters the playing arena for the purpose of delivering a message or instruction of a coach to a player of the Club.
 - c) Exits the playing arena immediately upon fulfilling their task.
 - d) Does not cajole, or in any way attempt to influence the conduct or performance of any player or players present on the playing arena.

- e) Does not communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with any umpire or any player from the opposing club during any match.
- 92.4.4** The officiating Field Umpire may, upon any infringement of By-Law 92.4, order the offending runner from the playing arena for a period of fifteen (15) minutes playing time.
- 92.4.5** Any infringement of By-Law 92.4, or other infringement reported by an officiating umpire (including field, boundary, goal and emergency umpires), shall be referred to the Outer East Football Netball Independent Tribunal to determine the penalty.
- 92.5 TRAINERS AND WATER CARRIERS**
- 92.5.1** The sole duty of a trainer shall be to render medical assistance.
- 92.5.2** Each club must have a minimum of one accredited trainer in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook section 15 (including Defibrillator training) present during the entire match in which the club fields a team. All trainers must be registered with their club as a Medical Officer.
- 92.5.3** All on-ground trainers shall as a minimum, be a qualified AFL First Aider in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook section 15.
- 92.5.4** All water carriers must be under the age of eighteen (18) years.
- 92.5.5** There shall be a maximum number of four (4) trainers/water carriers to be registered for each team and permitted to participate in a match.
- 92.5.6** A Trainer may enter the playing arena during a match, provided that the trainer:
- Is providing medical assistance and/or water to a player.
 - Wears an approved Outer East Football Netball bib/polo (club polo under a bib), plain black pants or club shorts clearly identifying the club to which they belong.
 - Does not communicate, provoke or in any way interfere with the umpire or any player from the opposing club during any match. Nothing in this clause shall be construed to prevent a trainer attending to assist an injured umpire/officials and players of the opposing team, where appropriate and without restriction, in the interest of that individual's personal health and well-being.
- 92.5.6** Water Carriers may only enter the field once a goal has been kicked and must be off the ground before play has resumed. Water Carriers are to be stationed at the 50 Metre Line around the playing arena between the boundary and the fence. Trainers may be stationed in the coaches' boxes.
- 92.5.7** Water Carriers shall wear an approved Outer East Football Netball bib/polo (club polo under a Bib), club shorts clearly identifying the club to which they belong.
- 92.5.8** Trainers shall be of a minimum age of fourteen (14) years to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously.
- 92.5.9** Water carriers must be a minimum of twelve (12) years old to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously.
- 92.5.10** The officiating field umpire may, upon infringement of By-Law 92.5, order the trainer or water carrier of the offending club from the playing arena for a period of fifteen (15) minutes of playing time.
- 92.5.11 Concussion:** Any player who is suspected of suffering from concussion must immediately cease playing or training and seek medical advice.
- 92.5.12** Players who have suffered a concussion must not return to playing for a minimum of twenty-one (21) days and must also receive a doctor's clearance to do so.
- 92.5.13** Any player who suffers a concussion must follow the process in the AFL's MANAGEMENT OF SPORT-RELATED CONCUSSION IN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL policy.
- 92.5.14** Any infringement of By-Law 92.5, or other infringement reported by an officiating umpire (including field, boundary, goal and emergency umpires), shall be referred to the Outer East Football Netball Independent Tribunal to determine the penalty.
- 92.6 TIMEKEEPERS**
- 92.6.1** A club shall provide a timekeeper for all matches. The home club will be responsible for the provision and location of an audible signaling device for the use of timekeepers. One timekeeper at all matches shall be required to keep the scores the other timekeeper shall be required to keep the time and operate the siren. The goal umpires' scorecards are to be used on the day, but in case of a dispute, the timekeepers' scores will be forwarded as evidence to Outer East Football Netball.

- 92.6.2** During the home and away and finals series (except the grand final) one responsible timekeeper is to be provided by each club. The home club shall be responsible for the provision of time clocks. In all finals matches the Hosting club shall be responsible for the provision of time clocks.
- 92.6.3** For Grand Finals, the CEO or their appointee will appoint timekeepers.
- 92.6.4** The matches shall be played in accordance with the starting times and intervals set out in By-Law 88.
- 92.6.5** A siren, capable of being heard across the ground at its most distant point, shall be sounded prior to the start of each quarter and at the conclusion of each quarter. A back-up or emergency siren, bell or gong shall be provided for all matches by the Home or Hosting club.
- 92.6.7** Timekeepers shall complete the required details on the official Outer East Football Netball Timekeeper's card. Timekeepers shall be the only people to be located in the timekeeper's box or area designated for timekeeping during matches.
- 92.6.8** Timekeepers shall have sole control of match time and no person (other than the match manager in finals) shall interfere with the timing of a match.
- 92.6.9** The minimum age for Timekeepers shall be fifteen (15) years old.
- 92.6.10** Timekeepers are to keep record of any Yellow or Red Card incidents and be responsible for advising when players can recommence play by waving the appropriate flag provided by the Home or Hosting club.
- 92.6.11** Timekeepers are also required to record any major stoppages (stretchers etc) in play on the time sheets in the space required.
- a) **TIME ON:** Time on is not to be played in any Outer East Football Netball Junior football home and away matches.
 - b) During Finals matches the Match Manager will determine if any Time on is to be played.
- 92.6.12** Failure by a club to comply with By-Law 92.6 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.
- 92.7 SCOREBOARD ATTENDANT**
- 92.7.1** Scoreboard attendant shall be appointed by the home team to accurately record the scores during the playing of a match.
- a) During the final's series, the hosting club shall appoint a scoreboard attendant to accurately record the scores during the playing of a match.
- 92.7.2** Scoreboard attendant shall be responsible for adjusting the score, if required, by the goal umpires.
- 92.7.3** Scoreboard attendants shall be of an age to carry out their duties effectively and conscientiously.
- 92.8 UMPIRES ESCORT/PROTECTION**
- 92.8.1** Clubs shall be responsible to take reasonable care to protect umpires from abuse and violence on and off the playing arena.
- 92.8.2** Each club participating in a match, including finals, must supply one Umpire Escort, who is to be named as such on the team sheet for that match. The delegated persons from both clubs are to escort the umpires on and off the playing arena and meet the umpires in the centre of the ground at the quarter time breaks, and when leaving the ground at half time and after the match in all grades, shall escort umpires from the field to their dressing room.
- 92.8.3** The Home club shall be responsible for the provision of drinks to umpires at quarter time, half-time, three-quarter time and shall, where necessary, provide medical assistance.
- 92.9 PROFICIENCY OF OFFICIALS**
- 92.9.1** All runners, timekeepers, trainers, water carriers and other match officials supplied by a club shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their respective duties as required under these By-Laws and the Laws of Australian Football.
- 92.10** Failure to comply with By-Law 92 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

93.0 UMPIRES

93.1 APPOINTMENT OF UMPIRES

- 93.1.1** The Outer East Football Netball Head of Umpiring is responsible for the appointment of official umpires. Where necessary, Outer East Football Netball may sanction the use of club umpires in any Umpiring role.
- 93.1.2** All Outer East Football Netball appointed umpires shall have the power to report players according to the Laws of Australian Football (refer AFL Laws of the Game Rule 22.0).
- 93.1.3** No match involving a club affiliated with Outer East Football Netball shall proceed without at least one Field Umpire.
- 93.1.4** All league appointed umpires must be eligible and accredited in accordance with National Community Football Policy Handbook Section 6 and wear Outer East Football Netball approved uniform. This includes colours and sponsors logos.
- 93.1.5** All clubs are liable for the umpire's fees during the home and away series, payable by cheque or other agreed arrangements upon receipt of an Invoice from Outer East Football Netball. Payments of umpire's fees are the hosting club's responsibility and should include all fees for all matches (Refer to Umpire's Fees contained in the Style/Fee guide provided to clubs prior to each season), unless otherwise stipulated by Outer East Football Netball.
- 93.1.6** If club umpires are required to fulfil any Umpiring role, they must wear Outer East Football Netball approved uniform. This includes colours and sponsors logos.

93.2 APPROACHES TO UMPIRES

- 93.2.1** Only the Umpire Escort shall be permitted to speak to Field Umpire/s during the progress of a match and only at intervals (ie, at Qtr time). The only exception to this rule is during a head count request (refer to By-Law 94). Any player or official in breach of this rule may be reported and/or a fine issued to their club in accordance with Schedule 4.

93.3 PROFICIENCY OF UMPIRES

- 93.3.1** All field umpires, goal umpires, boundary umpires, and other match officials, whether supplied by a club or the League, shall make themselves thoroughly familiar with and become proficient in their respective duties as required under these By-Laws and the Laws of Australian Football.

93.4 NON-ATTENDANCE OF UMPIRE

- 93.4.1** In the event of the non-attendance or incapacitation of any Field Umpire appointed, the remaining appointed umpires shall determine who shall replace the absent or incapacitated field umpire. Where two (2) Field umpires have been appointed, it shall be appropriate for the remaining umpire to continue the game on their own.
- 93.4.2** Where an appointed Boundary Umpire or Goal Umpire fails to attend or is incapacitated, the home side shall provide a replacement. If the Home side is unable to field a replacement Umpire, the Away side will be given to option to provide one.
- 93.4.3** Where no replacement Umpire can be provided after following the steps in By-Laws 93.4.1 or 93.4.2, the Field Umpire may instruct a Boundary Umpire to fulfill a Goal Umpire position. Boundary Umpire positions may be left unfulfilled, if they are, the Field Umpire/s will assume the Boundary Umpire roles. In extreme cases where the Goal Umpire position is not filled the Field Umpire/s may also assume the Goal Umpire roles.
- 93.4.4** In the event that no Field Umpire positions can be fulfilled the Home listed club should contact the CEO, Junior GM Operations for direction/confirmation as required.
- 93.4.5** Where no league appointed Field Umpire/s attend/complete the match and a substitute umpire is chosen, then that substitute field umpire shall submit a 3 - 2 - 1, Best and Fairest Vote Card to the CEO or their appointee.
- 93.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 93.4 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

94.0 COUNTING OF PLAYERS

94.1 Refer to Laws of Australian Football (Rule 5.5) (a copy of the current version of these rules at the time of this by-law modification is below):

5.5.1 Request by Captain.

The captain or vice-captain of a Team or Team Runner(s) may at any time during a match request that the field Umpire count the number of Players of the opposing Team who are on the Playing Surface.

5.5.2 Procedure

(a) *Where a request is made under Law 5.5.1, the field Umpire shall:*

(i) *stop play at the first available opportunity.*

(ii) *call into line within the Centre Square the Players of both Teams who are at the time on the Playing Surface and count the number of Players.*

(iii) *upon completing the count, ensure that each Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface and then recommence play at the position on the Playing Surface where the field Umpire stopped play; and*

(iv) *as soon as practicable after the match, report to the Controlling Body that a request has been made to count the number of Players in a Team and the number of Players actually counted.*

(b) *The maximum number of Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is 18 per Team or, in circumstances where a Player(s) has been ordered from the Playing Surface under Law 23, 18 less the Player(s) ordered from the Playing Surface.*

5.5.3 Players Exceeding Permitted Number Where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

(a) *a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team.*

(b) *a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded.*

(c) *the Team shall lose all points which it has scored in that quarter up to the time of the count; and*

(d) *the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate, including overturning the loss of points prescribed by-law 5.5.3(c).*

5.5.4 Correct Number and Request Without Merit Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

(a) *a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team.*

(b) *a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded.*

(c) *if a field Umpire is of the opinion that a request was made under Law 5.5.1 primarily to delay play or such request did not have sufficient merit, the field Umpire shall report the Player who requested the count for Time Wasting under Law 22.2.2; and*

(d) *if Law 5.5.4(c) applies, the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate.*

5.5.5 Post-Match Review

(a) *A club or other person may request post-match review by the relevant Controlling Body of a Team exceeding the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface where a request under Law 5.5.1 did not occur during a match.*

(b) *Notification of the request and lodgement of relevant evidence must occur within 24 hours of the completion of the relevant match in a form prescribed by the Controlling Body.*

(c) *The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate.*

95.0 TREATMENT OF BLEEDING PLAYERS

95.1 Refer AFL Laws of the Game Rule 24.0

96.0 ORDER-OFF RULE

96.1 Refer to AFL Laws of the Game Rule 23.0

Implementation: Only field umpires and emergency field umpires have the power to send players from the ground. When ordering a player off, an umpire shall signal his intention by pointing to the interchange area with an outstretched arm and holding a colored card above his head with the other.

97.0 RED/YELLOW CARD RULE

97.1 **Yellow Card** – Player is off for the match time indicated in By-Law 97.3. The Yellow carded Player can be replaced by another player during this time.

97.1.1 Yellow Card Offences shall be determined in accordance with AFL Laws of the Game rule 23.5

97.2 **Red Card** – Player is off for the remainder of the game but can be replaced by another player after twenty (20) minutes of playing time.

97.2.1 Red Card Offences shall be determined in accordance with AFL Laws of the Game rule 23.2

97.3 **Time periods a Yellow carded player is ineligible to play for each age group:**

Under 9's – ten (10) minutes,
Under 10's - ten (10) minutes,
Under 11's - ten (10) minutes,
Under 12's - twelve (12) minutes,
Under 13's - twelve (12) minutes,
Under 14's - fourteen (14) minutes,
Under 15's - fifteen (15) minutes,
Under 15 Girls - fifteen (15) minutes,
Under 17 Girls - seventeen (15) minutes,
Under 16 Boys - eighteen (18) minutes.

98.0 PRACTICE MATCHES

98.1 Pre-season practice matches MUST be officiated by an Umpire from the Yarra Ranges Umpire Association or a registered Umpire from any other Board or League. Both competing teams in all grades shall complete a team sheet signed by all competing players and include guernsey numbers.

98.2 The Team Manager of each team shall present the original copy of his team sheet to the field umpire/s and the duplicate copy to the opposing Team Manager, no later than half time of the match.

98.3 In practice matches, umpires may report players as per the 'Laws of Australian Football.'

98.4 Clubs are responsible for arranging umpires as required.

98.5 If a player is reported the Tribunal will be held by the Hosting Board/Leagues Independent Tribunal.

99.0 MATCH PAPERWORK

99.1 Match information and match results shall be communicated to Outer East Football Netball as directed by the CEO or their appointee annually.

99.2 Match paperwork shall be forwarded to the League as directed by the CEO annually.

99.2.1 The home team must input the match results onto the Website/Database, including final scores and best players (where applicable), by 7.00 pm on the day of the match (Sunday). Entering the Goal kickers is optional.

99.2.2 All team sheets must be placed in the umpire's room no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the match and all scorecards and timekeeper card (after 4th match) must be handed to the field umpire within fifteen (15) minutes of the completion of the match for verification (All Clear).

99.2.3 Where matches are played at times other than Sunday, the home club shall enter the scores within 2 hours of the completion of the last match.

- 99.3** The Host club is to collect all match paperwork from the umpires at the completion of the days matches and seal it in an envelope to be returned to the Outer East Football Netball office by no later than noon on the Tuesday following the rounds matches.
- 99.4** Failure to comply with By-Law 99 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4 or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

100.0 FINALS QUALIFICATIONS

- 100.1** Players must play in at least one (1) fixtured games during the season with the Team playing in the Finals to be eligible to play for that Team in the Finals.
- 100.2** Where a club has two teams in an age group, finals qualification will also be subject to By-Law 82.7.
- 100.2.1** Where a club has two teams in an age group, the first team a player plays for in finals is the only team that player can play with for the remainder of the final's series.
- 100.2.2** No player may participate in two games in the same age group in the same finals round, even if the two games are in different divisions of the age group or are played on separate days.
- 100.3** Players can play in a higher age group as long as they have complied with By-Laws 100.1 and 84.9.
- 100.3.1** Players are restricted to playing in a maximum of two finals per weekend of matches.
- 100.4** Variations to these rules may apply in exceptional circumstances and will be at the discretion of the CEO or their appointee.
- 100.5** Failure to comply with By-Law 100 will be subject to a fine according to Schedule 4, loss of match, reversal of result or such other penalty as determined by Outer East Football Netball.

101.0 DRAWN FINALS

- 101.1** In the event of a draw in any finals match, extra time shall be played.
- 101.2** If any final, including the Grand Final, at its conclusion is a draw, the Umpire shall instruct the teams to change ends and two (2) five-minute periods of extra time shall be played. The teams are to change ends at the end of the first five minutes.
- a) Procedure**
At the completion of the fourth quarter if scores are tied, the following shall apply:
- The teams shall change ends to those used in the fourth quarter.
 - Goal umpires will confirm scores.
 - Coaches shall not be permitted to address players between the end of the fourth quarter and the start of extra time or at any change of ends during the playing of extra time.
- 101.3** In all finals other than the Grand Final, if at the conclusion of the extra periods the result is a draw, then the team that is the first listed team (Higher ranked team for that match) shall be declared the winner.
- 101.4** If in the Grand Final the score is still tied at the conclusion of extra time, both teams are to be declared winners, and dual Premierships are to be awarded.

102.0 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES / PROVISION CLAUSE

- 102.1** Where these By-Laws are silent, a decision can be made that ensures the integrity of Outer East Football Netball is maintained at all times. Outer East Football Netball may, in using its reasonable discretion, in exceptional or extenuating circumstances, alter, vary, or waive the requirements set out in the By-Laws relating to Outer East Football Netball.