



2024

RULES & REGULATIONS

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1. General

1.1. Introduction

These Rules & Regulations form part of AFL Europe's governance structure. They are implemented, operate and are to be read in conjunction with AFL Europe's Articles of Association, AFL Europe's Bylaws, and AFL National Policy, including:

- (a) The AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook and all policies contained therein; and
- (b) The Laws of Australian Football (2023 Edition).

These Rules & Regulations intend to:

- (a) Provide regulation or variation of matters at AFL Europe Tournaments not otherwise covered by AFL National Policy.
- (b) Provide clarity around variations to the Laws of Australian Football where there are existing provisions within these laws to do so, or where those Laws are not applicable to the AFL Europe 9-a-Side format; and
- (c) Outline the administrative and procedural requirements for AFL Europe and participating Teams to adhere to, ensuring that AFL Europe Tournaments are delivered in a safe, fair, and transparent manner.

1.2. Application

- (a) These Rules & Regulations shall govern 9-a-side Tournaments conducted by AFL Europe only. They are not applicable to Tournaments or Competitions conducted by AFL Europe Members who are to develop and adopt their own Rules & Regulations
 - (i) for the avoidance of doubt these Rules and Regulations are not applicable to the AFL Europe European Championships, which will be conducted under separate Rules and Regulations.
- (b) These Rules & Regulations may be amended by AFL Europe at its absolute discretion, where acting in the best interest of the Tournament and/or Players, Coaches and Volunteers involved in the Tournament.
- (c) Any matter of any kind not dealt with or provided for in these Rules & Regulations may be dealt with by AFL Europe at their absolute discretion.

1.3. Amendments

- (a) These Rules and Regulations shall be reviewed on an annual basis by AFL Europe and / or designated Special Committee(s).
- (b) AFL Europe Members may request an amendment to these Rules and Regulations in the form prescribed by no later than September 30 for review and if approved, adoption in the following years Rules and Regulations.

1.4. Definitions

- (a) Definitions relevant to the AFL Europe Rules and Regulations are in Table 1.
- (b) Unless otherwise defined in Table 1 or elsewhere in these Rules and Regulations words have the same meaning as defined in the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook or Laws of Australian Football (whichever is relevant).

Table 1 – Definitions	
Term	Means
AFL Europe	AFL Europe Limited (Company No. 07277147)
Affiliated League	A League that is operated by an AFL Europe Member Country.
Appellant	The Person or party seeking to appeal a decision and where applicable, includes an Appellant's representative.
Appendix	An appendix to these Rules & Regulations.
Articles of Association	The most current edition of the AFL Europe Articles of Association.
Bylaws	The most current edition of the AFL Europe Bylaws.
Child	All children and young people under the age of eighteen (18).
Code of Conduct	Refers to the AFL Europe Code of Conduct available on the AFL Europe website or as issued from time to time.
Fixture	A schedule of Matches to be played in a specific Tournament.
Match	A match in a Tournament conducted by AFL Europe.
Member / AFL Europe Member / Member Country	Any Full, Affiliate or Developing Member Country who is affiliated to AFL Europe as ratified at the AFL Europe General Assembly Meeting. Where it mentions affiliated Member, this means all members regardless of their status.
Member Club	A Club who is formally affiliated to any Full, Affiliate or Developing Member Country.
MRO	Match Review Officer
MRP	Match Review Panel

Team	A team representing either a Member Country or Member Club in an AFL Europe Tournament.
Team List	An official document listing Players and Officials participating in a Tournament lodged to AFL Europe prior to the commencement of a Tournament in accordance with Rule 4.7.3 .
Tournament	A competition organised and operated by AFL Europe.
Tournament Director	A person appointed by AFL Europe to organise and operate a Tournament.

1.5. Interpretation

In the interpretation of these Rules and Regulations, unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith:

- (a) words importing the singular will be deemed to include the plural and vice versa;
- (b) words importing persons will be deemed to include all bodies and associations,
- (c) incorporated or unincorporated and vice versa;
- (d) headings are included for convenience only and will not affect the interpretation of these Rules and Regulations;
- (e) “including” and similar words are not words of limitation;
- (f) a reference to a business day means any day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, or a bank holiday. Note that a business day ends at 5:00pm (GMT/BST);
- (g) words, terms, and phrases not otherwise defined in these Rules and Regulations will be given their ordinary meaning;
- (h) the Rules & Regulations includes the Rule & Regulations as amended, varied, supplemented, or replaced from time to time and any Appendix, schedule, attachment, annexure or exhibit to the Rules & Regulations or that document.

2. Player Registration & Eligibility

2.1. General

All Rules in Section 2 relating to Player registration and eligibility are applicable to both Players in the Men's and Women's Tournaments unless specified otherwise.

2.2. Player Eligibility – General

To be eligible to compete in any AFL Europe Tournament, a Player must:

- (a) be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time the Tournament commences; and
- (b) not currently be under suspension by an AFL Europe Member Country or affiliated League or ineligible under any other AFL Europe bylaw; and
- (c) be duly registered with an AFL Europe Member Country as playing for the Team concerned in accordance with the Members own rules and regulations; and
- (d) have signed an AFL Europe Medical Waiver and Release form prior to the requested deadline; and
- (e) have signed and agreed to abide by the AFL Europe Players Code of Conduct prior to the requested deadline.

2.3. Player Eligibility – Tournament Specific

2.3.1. Fitzpatrick Cup

In addition to the criteria outlined in [Rule 2.2](#) a Player wishing to participate in the Fitzpatrick Cup Tournament must also:

- (a) Meet all the criteria as outlined in [Appendix 1 – Fitzpatrick Cup Player & Club Eligibility](#)

2.3.2. Champions League

In addition to the criteria outlined in [Rule 2.2](#) a Player wishing to participate in the Fitzpatrick Cup Tournament must also:

- (a) Meet all the criteria as outlined in [Appendix 2 – Champions League Player & Club Eligibility](#)

2.3.3. Euro Cup

In addition to the criteria outlined in [Rule 2.2](#) a Player wishing to participate in the Fitzpatrick Cup Tournament must also:

- (a) Meet all the criteria as outlined in [Appendix 3 – Euro Cup Player & Club Eligibility](#)

2.4. Proof of Eligibility

- (a) AFL Europe or delegated Special Committee can at their absolute discretion, request proof of eligibility of any Player on a submitted Team List at any time. This may include:
 - (i) birth certificate;
 - (ii) drivers' licence (with photo);

- (iii) passport;
 - (iv) student identification / enrolment status;
 - (v) documentation that provides proof of citizenship or residential status;
 - (vi) any other document that provides legal proof of identity and / or age.
- (b) Where a written request has been made in accordance with [Rule 2.4\(a\)](#), the Player or the Player's Club or the Player's affiliated Member must produce the requested documentation by no later than 5:00pm (GMT/BST) on the third (3rd) business day following the request.

2.5. Failure to Comply / Assist with Investigation

Where a Player or the Player's Club or the Player's affiliated Member fails to provide documentation as requested under [Rule 2.4\(a\)](#) before the requested deadline, AFL Europe may declare the Player ineligible under [Rule 2.8\(e\)](#) and follow all procedures and disciplinary actions outlined within these Rules & Regulations applicable to where a Team has played an ineligible Player.

2.6. False or Misleading Information

If a Player submits false or misleading information or intentionally fails to disclose information under [Sections 2.2, 2.3](#) or [2.4](#) that Player:

- (a) Will be deemed to have also breached the AFL Europe Code of Conduct; and
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules & Regulations, may be dealt with in such manner as AFL Europe or delegated Special Committee determines including a retrospective determination that the Player was ineligible for Matches in which they participated; and
- (c) In addition to any sanction imposed or determination made by AFL Europe in respect of a Player under [Rule 2.6\(b\)](#) AFL Europe may impose a sanction on that Player's Club or Member Country except where the Club or Member Country satisfies AFL Europe that the Player engaged in the relevant conduct without the knowledge of the Club or Member Country.

2.7. Exemptions

- (a) Where a Player is deemed ineligible under any of the Rules listed in [Sections 2.2](#) or [2.3](#) relating to Tournament eligibility, then a Player may submit a **Form 1 Eligibility Exemption Form** to AFL Europe or delegated Special Committee for consideration no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the Tournament commencing where a Player or Club believe there are exceptional circumstances to do so.
- (b) AFL Europe or delegated Special Committee(s) will evaluate all applications for exemption on a case-by-case basis and at their absolute discretion waive the eligibility requirements for a Player where there are exceptional circumstances to do so.
- (c) Where an exemption request relates to a Player's eligibility as an Australian Player, AFL Europe or delegated Special Committee will consider:

- (i) whether the inclusion of the Player is in the best interests of the Tournament and the progression of the sport in Europe;
 - (ii) the Player's residential history in Australia;
 - (iii) the Player's football development / playing history in Australia;
 - (iv) the Player's football development / playing history outside of Australia; and
 - (v) the Player's contribution to the growth and development of AFL in Europe
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt, where the AFL Europe Competition Special Committee grants an exemption, then the Player will be deemed eligible to participate in the relevant Tournament only.

2.8. Playing an Ineligible Player

- (a) Where a Club or Member Country has genuine doubt over the validity of an opposition Players eligibility due any breach of eligibility rules or omission from the official Team List, they have forty-eight (48) hours from the end of the Match to lodge an official complaint with AFL Europe.
- (b) To avoid frivolous complaints, the complainant must submit a fee of £200 along with the official complaint that will be held for the duration of the investigation. If the claim is found to be untrue, then the Club or Member will forfeit this amount by way of a fine.
- (c) Once an official complaint is received, AFL Europe shall notify the Club or Member Country in question and require that they produce evidence to substantiate the players inclusion on the Team List under the category stated and / or provide proof of identity as per [Rule 2.4\(a\)](#).
- (d) In the event of an unsatisfactory response from the Club or Member, AFL Europe or its delegated representative or delegated Special Committee(s) shall commence a formal investigation.
- (e) Where it is proven a Player has participated in a Match whilst ineligible then:
 - (i) the Match result(s) will be declared a forfeit and awarded to the opposition Team in accordance with [Rule 5.5.3\(d\)](#); and
 - (ii) the Club or Member will be fined £200, increasing for any subsequent offences within a period of twelve (12) months.
 - (iii) notwithstanding [Rules 2.8\(e\)\(i\)-\(ii\)](#), the Club may be subject to a further penalty as determined by AFL Europe.

2.9. Pregnant Players

- (a) The AFL and AFL Europe respects the rights of women who are pregnant and is committed to providing support to assist them to do so. **Part D, Section 20 of The AFL National**

Community Football Policy Handbook (as amended from time to time) set guidelines for Players' continued participation in Australian Football during pregnancy.

3. Team Registration & Eligibility

3.1. Team Eligibility – General

- (a) To be eligible to compete in any AFL Europe Tournament a Club or National Team must:
 - (i) Be a recognised AFL Europe Member Country or a Club affiliated with a recognised AFL Europe Member; and
 - (ii) Be in good financial standing with AFL Europe having no outstanding fines, entry fees, or any other financial obligations or payments owing; and
 - (iii) Have relevant medical insurance coverage either as a Club or Member Country; and
 - (iv) Not be currently under suspension (either as a Club or Member Country).

3.2. Team Eligibility – Tournament Specific

3.2.1. Fitzpatrick Cup

In addition to the criteria outlined in [Rule 3.1](#) a Team wishing to participate in the Fitzpatrick Cup Tournament must also:

- (a) Meet all the criteria as outlined in [Appendix 1 – Fitzpatrick Cup Player & Club Eligibility](#)

3.2.2. Champions League

In addition to the criteria outlined in [Rule 3.1](#) a Team wishing to participate in the Champions League Tournament must also:

- (a) Meet all the criteria as outlined in [Appendix 2 – Champions League Player & Club Eligibility](#)

3.2.3. Euro Cup

In addition to the criteria outlined in [Rule 3.1](#) a Team wishing to participate in the Euro Cup Tournament must also:

- (a) Meet all the criteria as outlined in [Appendix 3 – Euro Cup Player & Club Eligibility](#)

3.3. Team Nominations

AFL Europe shall:

- (a) Determine at its absolute discretion the nomination process, terms, and conditions for a Club or Member Country to enter a Team in any AFL Europe Tournament; and
- (b) Impose sanctions on Clubs or Member Countries for late submissions of a Team nomination or a withdrawal of a Team nomination past a predetermined date, including but not limited to suspension from participation.

3.4. Entry Fees

AFL Europe:

- (a) Shall determine any entry fees for a Club or Member Country to enter a Team in any AFL Europe Tournament at its absolute discretion;
- (b) Must communicate any entry fee to Clubs or Member Countries as part of the nomination process; and
- (c) May impose sanctions on Clubs or Member Countries for non-payment of entry fees prior to a predetermined date, including but not limited to suspension from participation.

3.5. Team Name & Logo

- (a) Each Team competing in an AFL Europe Tournament must submit their Team name and Team Logo to AFL Europe for approval as part of the nomination process. Approval to be determined at the absolute discretion of AFL Europe or delegated Special Committee(s).

3.6. Combined Teams

At their absolute discretion, AFL Europe may allow the formation of a combined Team(s) to maximise opportunity for Players to play in a Fitzpatrick Cup or Euro Cup Tournament, while also considering:

- (a) That a combined Team will only be allowed where it is in the best interest of the Tournament.
- (b) Where ranking points are allocated as a result of final placings within a Tournament, a combined Team will be awarded last place (regardless of their final position) and will not receive any points. Other Teams in the Tournament will move up one place accordingly in the final standings.
- (c) That a combined Team will only be allowed to wear a match uniform as approved by AFL Europe.
- (d) That Players on a combined Team will be eligible for individual awards.
- (e) That a combined Team will operate as any other Club or Member participating in the Tournament as outlined in these rules & regulations.
- (f) Additional Rules relating to combined teams competing in specific Tournaments will be outlined in the Tournament Specific Eligibility policies attached as an appendix to these Rules and Regulations.

4. AFL Europe Pre-Match Provisions

This section outlines the variations to the *AFL Laws of the Game (2023 Edition) PART C* that have been made by AFL Europe in its power as a Controlling Body under AFL Law 2.2.

These variations are applicable to AFL Europe Tournaments in the 9-a-Side format only and where applicable, override the original AFL Law which is included in the bracket. AFL Europe acknowledges that due to local circumstances there may need to be additional variations to the Rules & Regulations in Section 4 to ensure that Tournaments can be delivered. AFL Europe will endeavour to provide a minimum of twenty-one (21) days' notice where any such variation occurs.

The following *AFL Laws of the Game (2023 Edition) PART C* have not been altered and are applicable to AFL Europe Tournaments as originally written:

Law 3.4, Law 3.6, Law 3.7, Law 5.4, Law 6.1, Law 6.2, Law 10.4, Law 10.5

4.1. Playing Surface (Variation to AFL Law 3.2)

The preferred dimensions and markings of the Playing Surface are contained in this [Section 4.1](#) and illustrated in [Diagram 1 in Appendix 6 - Diagrams](#).

- (a) The Playing Surface for a 9-a-Side match shall be:
 - (i) rectangle in shape with corners rounded off;
 - (ii) between 90 metres and 120 metres in length; and
 - (iii) between 70 metres and 90 metres in width.
- (b) A white line shall be marked on the ground to identify the Playing Surface. This white line shall be drawn in accordance with [Diagram 1 in Appendix X - Diagrams](#). The white lines which are drawn are called the Boundary Line.
- (c) Where a Match is played on an artificial surface and line marking is not possible, then AFL Europe will identify the Playing Surface as per [Rule 4.5](#).

4.2. Goal Posts

- (a) Two posts, to be called goal posts, shall be a minimum height of 4 metres and be placed at each end of the playing surface, noting that:
 - (i) if the Playing Surface is on an open field and portable / removable goal posts are being used, then the goal posts shall be placed 6.4 metres apart as per AFL regulations.
 - (ii) if the Playing Surface utilises existing rugby goals, then the goal posts shall be a minimum of 5.6 metres apart.
 - (iii) if the playing surface utilises existing soccer (football) goals, then the goal posts shall be a maximum of 7.3m apart.

- (b) A further two posts, to be called behind posts, shall be a minimum height of 3 metres and be placed at a distance of 6.4 metres on each side of the goal posts regardless of the width of goal posts.

4.3. Padding

- (a) For permanent goal posts, padding is required to be attached around each goal and behind post as follows:
 - (i) a minimum of 35mm thick foam padding, covered in canvas or painted;
 - (ii) a minimum height of 2.0 metres from the bottom of each goal and behind post;
 - (iii) a suitable width to allow the padding to be fixed around each goal and behind post; and
 - (iv) the padding must be securely attached around each goal and behind post.

4.4. Identifying Areas of the Playing Surface (variation to AFL Law 3.5)

Pursuant to these Rules and Regulations, the preferred Playing Surface will include:

- (a) a square, to be called the Centre Square, which shall:
 - (i) be located in the centre of the Playing Surface; and
 - (ii) be 25 metres long and 25 metres wide;
- (b) a Centre Circle three metres in diameter and an outer circle 10 metres in diameter (Ten Metre Circle) which shall:
 - (i) be located in the middle of the Centre Square; and
 - (ii) both be divided into two semi-circles, by drawing a straight line parallel to each Goal Line.
- (c) An interchange area, which shall be 10 metres wide;
- (d) A Goal Square at each end of the Playing Surface;
- (e) The Goal Line and Behind Line; and
- (f) A thirty-metre arc at each end of the Playing Surface.

4.5. Variation to Local Conditions

- (a) AFL Europe may at its absolute discretion alter [Rules 4.1](#), [4.2](#), [4.3](#) or [4.4](#) where it is impractical to apply these rules due to unavoidable local conditions for a specific Tournament.
- (b) Any alteration must be communicated to all participating Teams no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the Tournament commencing.

4.6. The Football (variation to AFL Law 4.1)

- (a) All men's Matches will be played with an official size 5 football provided by official supplier Sherrin inflated to a pressure of 69kpa (unless specified differently by the manufacturer).
- (b) All women's Matches will be played with an official size 4 football provided by official supplier Sherrin inflated to a pressure of 69kpa (unless specified differently by the manufacturer).
- (c) A Red or Yellow football can be used for any Match that commences prior to 5.00pm.
- (d) Yellow footballs will be used for any Match that commences on or after 5.00pm or as deemed necessary by the field Umpire in relation to local conditions.

4.6.2. Supply & Selection of Footballs (variation to AFL Law 4.2)

- (a) AFL Europe shall supply a minimum of one (1) football to field Umpires prior to the commencement of the Match.
- (b) The field Umpire shall inspect and ensure that the football(s) are suitable to be used during the Match.
- (c) The field Umpire only may request a different football for use during the Match if deemed unsuitable.
- (d) The football shall be used for the duration of the Match unless damaged or lost during the Match being completed.

4.7. Teams & Players

4.7.1. Number of Players in a Team

- (a) All Teams must meet the minimum and maximum number of Players listed in Table 2 relevant to the Tournament in which the Team is competing:

Table 2	Players in Team		
	Minimum	Maximum	Maximum Australians
Fitzpatrick Cup	12	16	N/A
Champions League (Men's)	12	16	8
Champions League (Women's)	12	16	10
Euro Cup	12	16	Appendix 3

4.7.2. Number of Players on the Playing Surface (variation to AFL Law 5.1)

Table 3 outlines the minimum and maximum number of Players (including Australian Players) allowed on the field for AFL Europe Tournaments.

Table 3	On Field			Bench
Tournament	Minimum – On Field	Maximum – On Field	Maximum Australians – On Field	Maximum Bench
Fitzpatrick Cup	7	9	N/A	7
Champions League (Men’s)	7	9	4	7
Champions League (Women’s)	7	9	5	7
Euro Cup	7	9	Appendix 3	7

- (a) In consultation with the Field Umpires, opposing Teams may alter the number of players starting on the pitch by mutual consent, provided the number falls within the range outlined in [Table 3](#). If mutual consent is not agreed, then the Match shall play to the number outlined as the maximum in the table below:
- (b) If a Team has less than the minimum number of Players required at the commencement of the Match, that Team will be deemed to have forfeited the Match with points and percentage allocated as per [Rule 5.5.3\(d\)](#).
- (c) If a Team forfeits under [Rule 4.7.2\(b\)](#), the non-forfeiting team may “lend” players to the forfeiting Team at their discretion if they wish to play the Match. The Match result will already be determined as per [Rule 5.5.3\(d\)](#), and no score shall be kept in the event of a Match played under these circumstances.

4.7.3. Team List Submission (variation to AFL Law 5.3)

- (a) All Clubs or Members must submit their Team List in a format requested by AFL Europe or delegated Special Committee(s) before a predetermined date. The Team List is to include:
 - (i) the the full name of each Player, Coach and Team Manager;
 - (ii) the date of birth of each Player;
 - (iii) an email address for each Player, Coach and Team Manager;
 - (iv) the designated playing number for each Player;
 - (v) the identity the captain and vice-captain of the Team;
 - (vi) the student number for each Player (where applicable);

- (vii) the nationality of each Player as determined by the eligibility criteria for that Tournament; and
 - (viii) whether a Player is participating under an AFL Europe exemption.
- (b) Submitted Team Lists are final, and Players are not interchangeable throughout the Tournament (i.e., no emergency players allowed). Teams found to have played a Player not listed on the submitted Team List will be deemed to have played an ineligible Player under [Rule 2.8\(e\)](#).
 - (c) Where a Tournament allows for a Club or Member country to enter more than one Team into the Tournament, Players must be allocated to one Team prior to the Tournament commencing and cannot move between Teams for the duration of the Tournament.
 - (d) AFL Europe may impose sanctions on Clubs or Member countries for late submissions of a Team Lists past a predetermined date, including but not limited to suspension from participation.
 - (e) It is the responsibility of the Club or Member country to ensure that all information provided in [Rule 4.7.3\(a\)](#) is accurate and submitted in accordance with all conditions and timelines.

4.7.4. Team List – Injury / Illness Replacements

- (a) A Player may be replaced on a submitted Team Sheet **no later** than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the Tournament commencing in the event of serious injury or illness only. A Club or Member country is to complete a **Form 4 – Injury/Illness Replacement Request** and submit along with a letter / certificate from a qualified medical professional confirming the injury / illness to AFL Europe or delegated Special Committee who will confirm in writing if the request is approved or denied.
- (b) Injury / illness replacement requests within seventy-two (72) hours of the Tournament commencing will not be considered.
- (c) Any Player who replaces an injured Player under [Rule 4.7.4\(a\)](#) must meet all eligibility criteria as per any other Player participating at the Tournament.

4.7.5. Identifying Australian Players

- (a) Where Tournament specific eligibility requirements limit the number of Australian players eligible to be on the Playing Surface at any given time, then an Australian player must at all times wear and green and yellow armband (or other identifiable item) as sanctioned by AFL Europe for the duration of all Matches they are involved in.
- (b) Where an Australian player is found to be involved in a Match without the correct identification then:
 - (i) Unless there are extenuating circumstances, the controlling field Umpire shall present the Player with a Red Card under [Rule 9.1.2](#).

4.7.6. Head Count Request (variation to AFL Law 5.5)

- (a) A head count can be requested by a Team Captain or Vice-Captain (only) through the controlling field Umpire if they believe:
 - (i) the opposing Team has too many Players on the Playing Surface; or
 - (ii) the opposing Team has too many Australian Players on the Playing Surface.

4.7.7. Head Count Procedure (variation to AFL Law 5.5.2)

- (a) Where a request is made under [Rule 4.7.6](#), 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 (or no more than the permitted number of Australian 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 AFL Europe that a request has been made to count the number of Players in a Team (or number of Australian Players) and the number of Players counted.
- (b) The maximum number of Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is 9 per Team or, in circumstances where a Player(s) has been ordered from the Playing Surface under [Rule 9.1.2](#), 9 less the Player(s) ordered from the Playing Surface.
- (c) The maximum number of Australian Players permitted on the Playing Surface at the same time is outlined in Table 2 under [Rule 4.7.2](#).

4.7.8. Players Exceeding Permitted Number (variation to AFL Law 5.5.3)

- (a) Where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface (either total or Australian Players), the following shall apply:
 - (i) 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;
 - (ii) a Twenty-Five Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded;
 - (iii) the Team shall lose all points which it has scored in that half up to the time of the count; and
 - (iv) the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to AFL Europe, including the scores at the time. AFL Europe 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 [Rule 4.7.8 \(a\)\(iii\)](#).

4.7.9. Correct Number & Request without Merit (variation to AFL Law 5.5.4)

- (a) Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has the permitted number of Players (or Australian Players) on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:
 - (i) 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;
 - (ii) a Twenty-Five Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded;
 - (iii) if a field Umpire is of the opinion that a request was made under [Rule 4.7.6](#) 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 [Rule 9.5.2\(a\)\(x\)](#); and
 - (iv) if [Rule 4.7.9\(a\)\(iii\)](#) applies, the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to AFL Europe, including the scores at the time. AFL Europe may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate.

4.7.10. Post-Match Review (variation to AFL Law 5.5.5)

- (a) A Club or Member cannot request post-Match review by AFL Europe of a Team exceeding the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface where a request under [Rule 4.7.6](#) did not occur during a Match.

4.8. Team Officials

Team Officials who are not listed below are not permitted on the Playing Surface at any time during the Match.

4.8.1. Team Runners

- (a) A Team is permitted one (1) Team Runner per Match.
- (b) The minimum age of a Team Runner at all AFL Europe Tournaments is sixteen (16).
- (c) Team Runners must be clearly distinguishable and identified by wearing a high visibility top or vest.
- (d) Team Runners must also be wearing appropriate footwear for the duration of the Match.
- (e) Suspended Players or Officials are not permitted to act as a Runner.
- (f) Team Runners may only remain on the Playing Surface for such time as necessary to deliver a message.

- (g) A field Umpire can ask a Team Runner to leave the Playing Surface if they deem the Runner has been on the Playing Surface for an unnecessary period of time. If a Runner fails to obey the request, then they field Umpire shall pay a free kick against the offending team.
- (h) Other than when assisting or attending an injured Player, a Team Runner is not allowed inside the centre square for centre bounces or inside the 30m arc when a Player is preparing to bring or bringing the football back into play after a behind has been scored.
- (i) Where a Runner has breached [Rule 4.8.1\(h\)](#) then the field Umpire shall pay a free kick against the offending Team.

4.8.2. Water Carriers

- (a) A Team is permitted one (1) Water Carrier per Match, unless advised by AFL Europe in the event of extreme heat and activation of the Adverse Weather Policy.
- (b) The minimum age of a Water Carrier at all AFL Europe Tournaments is sixteen (16).
- (c) Water Carriers must be clearly distinguishable and identified by wearing a high visibility top or vest.
- (d) Suspended Players or Officials are not permitted to act as a Water Carrier.
- (e) Water Carriers must also be wearing appropriate footwear for the duration of the Match.
- (f) Water Carriers are permitted on the Playing Surface at any time when delivering water to Players or Umpires.
- (g) Water Carriers shall not remain on the Playing Surface when not delivering water to Players nor shall they offer advice or deliver messages to Players.
- (h) A field Umpire can ask a Water Carrier to leave the Playing Surface if they deem the Water Carrier has been on the Playing Surface for an unnecessary period of time. If a Water Carrier fails to obey the request, then they field Umpire shall pay a free kick against the offending team.
- (i) Other than when assisting or attending an injured Player, a Water Carrier is not allowed inside the centre square for centre bounces or inside the 30m arc when a Player is preparing to bring or bringing the football back into play after a behind has been scored.
 - (i) Where a Water Carrier has breached [Rule 4.8.2\(i\)](#) then the field Umpire shall pay a free kick against the offending Team.

4.8.3. Physiotherapist / Doctor / Other Qualified Medical Practitioners (QMP)

- (a) A Team Physiotherapists, Doctors, or other QMP are allowed on the field at any time as reasonably required to provide medical assistance to Players.
- (b) Physiotherapists, Doctors, or other QMP must be clearly distinguishable and identified by wearing a high visibility top or vest.

4.9. Interchange

4.9.1. Interchange Steward (variation to AFL Law 7.1)

- (a) The duties of the interchange steward will be allocated to a Pitch Manager for AFL Europe Tournaments.

4.9.2. Procedure for Interchange

The following procedure shall apply to the interchange of Players during a Match who are listed on the Team Sheet:

- (a) Unless [Rule 4.9.2\(b\)](#) or [Rule 4.10](#) (Use of Stretcher) applies, the Players intending to interchange shall leave and enter the Playing Surface through the allocated Interchange Area;
- (b) Where a Player is injured and can walk from the field, if assisted by a trainer or medical team, they may leave the Playing Surface at the nearest point. Any interchanged Player (including the injured Player upon his/her return to the Playing Surface) may only enter the Playing Surface via the allocated Interchange Area.
- (c) Where a Player does not leave or enter the Playing Surface as specified under [Rule 4.9.2\(a\)](#) the Pitch Manager shall report the breach to a field Umpire and the following shall apply:
 - (i) the field Umpire shall stop play at the first available opportunity;
 - (ii) a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the nearest Player of the opposing Team; and
 - (iii) a Twenty-Five Metre penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded.
 - (iv) For the avoidance of doubt, [Rule 4.9.2](#) operates in conjunction with [Rule 4.7.6](#) where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface.

4.10. Use of Stretcher

Any player who is injured during a Match and who, in the opinion of a doctor, paramedic or other trained medical professional requires the assistance of a stretcher, shall be attended by the Team's medical staff and a stretcher as soon as possible to ensure the health and safety of the Player.

4.10.1. Procedure

Where a stretcher is required, the following procedure shall apply:

- (a) Upon being advised or noticing that a Player requires a stretcher, the field Umpire shall stop play at the earliest opportunity and unless a doctor considers or it is apparent that it is unsafe to do so, the Player should be removed from the Playing Surface on the stretcher by the shortest possible route and taken directly to their Team's change rooms;
- (b) A Team may replace the injured Player with a Player listed on its Team Sheet, who must enter the Playing Surface via the Interchange Area;

- (c) The Interchange Steward may allow the Player who is replacing the injured Player to enter the Playing Surface before the injured Player is removed from the Playing Surface;
- (d) Once the injured Player has been removed from the Playing Surface, the field Umpire shall recommence play as follows depending on the circumstances: where the football was in dispute at the time play was stopped –
 - (i) by throwing up the football where the football was Out of Bounds at the time play was stopped, by directing the boundary Umpire to throw the football in; or in the absence of Boundary Umpires, throwing up the football.
 - (ii) where a Player had possession of the football at the time play was stopped, by awarding a Free Kick to the Player; and
 - (iii) where a Player had been awarded a Free Kick or a Mark at the time play was stopped, by allowing the Player to dispose of the football;
- (e) A Player for whom a stretcher was called shall not resume playing for a period of 20 minutes (excluding intervals between halves) from the time when the Player left the Playing Surface. After the 20-minute period has expired, the Player may be interchanged in accordance with the procedure set out under [Rule 4.9.2](#) provided the Player is able, having due regard to their health and safety, to resume playing in the Match; and
- (f) Where a stretcher enters the Playing Surface but the Player elects to walk off, all provisions of [Rule 4.10.1\(e\)](#) apply but the Player may go to the Interchange Bench.

4.11. Umpires

4.11.1. Accreditation

- (a) All field Umpires must be accredited by either the AFL or AFL Europe Umpire development programs.

4.11.2. Minimum Age

- (a) The minimum age of a field, boundary or goal Umpire for all AFL Europe Tournaments is sixteen (16).

4.11.3. Appointment

- (a) AFL Europe shall appoint at least one (1) person as Head of Umpiring for each Tournament.
- (b) The Head of Umpiring shall be responsible for organising the recruitment and appointment of official field, boundary, and goal Umpires for the duration of the Tournament and ensuring that all Umpires are aware of their on and off-field duties, these Rules and Regulations as well as the AFL Laws of the Game.

4.11.4. Number of Field Umpires for a Match (variation to AFL Law 8.1)

- (a) Each Match shall have two field Umpires allocated prior to the commencement of a Match.

- (i) Should two (2) field Umpires not be available, the Match must not commence until suitable replacements are appointed or approval has been provided by the Tournament Director under [Rule 4.11.4\(a\)\(ii\)](#).
 - (ii) In circumstances where a suitable second field Umpire isn't available, at the discretion of the Tournament Director the Match may commence with one (1) field Umpire.
- (b) Where two (2) Field Umpires commence a Match and for any reason one (1) of the field Umpires is unable to complete the Match, the remaining field Umpire may continue to control the Match as a single Umpire in the event that a suitable replacement cannot be appointed.
 - (c) If for any reason, none of the appointed field Umpires who commenced the Match are able to complete the Match, and there are no other accredited field Umpires available:
 - (i) the Match will be stopped, and the result determined in accordance with [Rule 5.5.4\(c\)](#) or [Rule 5.5.4\(d\)](#), dependent on the situation where the Match is stopped.

4.11.5. *Number of Goal Umpires for a Match*

- (a) Each Match shall have two (2) goal Umpires allocated prior to the commencement of a Match.
- (b) Should two (2) goal Umpires not be available, the Match must not commence until suitable replacements are appointed.

4.11.6. *Number of Boundary Umpires for a Match*

- (a) There is no minimum requirement for boundary Umpires to be allocated prior to the commencement of a Match.
- (b) AFL Europe may decide at its absolute discretion if it allocates boundary Umpires for any 9-a-Side Matches.

4.11.7. *Club Supplied Umpires*

- (a) When no boundary or goal Umpires have been appointed under [Rule 4.11.3\(b\)](#), Teams may be requested to supply goal or boundary Umpires for Matches in which their Team is not involved as advised by AFL Europe.
- (b) It is the Teams responsibility to ensure that these persons are competent and have been provided with the relevant AFL Europe goal / boundary Umpiring manual prior to the Tournament commencing.
- (c) Where possible, AFL Europe will endeavour to allocate Umpire responsibility to teams who are not involved in the same group as the Teams contesting the Match.
- (d) It is the Teams responsibility to ensure that where they are allocated Matches to provide Umpires, those Umpires is in place for the start of the Match. Failure to do so will result in a fine being issued as per [Appendix 4 – Club Fixed Financial Sanctions](#).

- (e) The controlling Field Umpire has the power to remove any Club supplied Umpire if they deem that they are not competent or able to carry out the required duties.

4.11.8. *Umpire Duties – Boundary (variation to AFL Law 8.1.2(c) & 8.2.2)*

- (a) Where boundary Umpires are not appointed, the duties normally undertaken by a boundary Umpire shall be undertaken by the Field Umpire.
- (b) When the ball crosses the boundary line, instead of a Boundary Throw In, the field Umpire shall call for a ball up, 5 metres in from the point where the ball crossed the boundary line.
- (c) As per AFL Law 8.1.2(b) the Field Umpire may overrule any decision by a boundary or goal Umpire.

4.11.9. *Umpire Duties – Official Goal Umpires*

- (a) Where Goal Umpires are appointed by the AFL Europe Head of Umpiring and are official Umpires, then AFL Law 8.2.4 shall be applied in full.

4.11.10. *Umpire Duties – Club Goal Umpires (variation to AFL Law 8.1.2 (c) and 8.2.4)*

- (a) Where Goal Umpires are appointed by AFL Europe and are not official Umpires (i.e., representatives from Clubs / Volunteers) then the duties of a goal Umpire shall be limited to include:
 - (i) judging whether a Goal or Behind has been scored;
 - (ii) signalling that a Goal or Behind has been scored upon being given the ‘All Clear’ or ‘Touched All Clear’ by a field Umpire;
 - (iii) recording the Goals and Behinds scored by each Team during a Match;
 - (iv) assisting field or boundary Umpires to determine if the football is Out of Bounds.
- (b) Where a Goal Umpire considers that a Behind has been scored and a field Umpire considers the football has gone Out of Bounds, or Out of Bounds On the Full, the decision of the field Umpire shall prevail.
- (c) If a goal Umpire is unsure whether a Goal, Behind or no score shall be recorded, the goal Umpire may consult with the field Umpire/s to determine the outcome.
 - (i) If a decision cannot be determined following consultation, the goal Umpire shall give the lesser outcome. If the outcome is no score and the football remained in play, the field Umpire shall throw the football up at the centre of the Kick-Off Line.
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt, it is the responsibility of the Pitch Manager to keep the score for the Match and their determination of the score shall be recorded as the Match result.

4.11.11. *Umpire Uniform*

- (a) Field Umpires shall wear an official shirt, shorts, and socks as directed by AFL Europe prior to the Tournament commencing.

- (b) At all times boundary and goal Umpires shall wear a relevant high visible top or vest as provided by AFL Europe.

4.12. Using Protective Equipment

4.12.1. Interpretation (variation to AFL Law 9)

[Section 4.12](#) is supplementary to Law 9 of the AFL Laws of the Game and aims to assist AFL Europe, participating Teams, and Players to regulate the use of Protective Equipment during Matches.

4.12.2. Using Protective Equipment

- (a) Protective Equipment will be categorised into three categories:
 - (i) Category 1 – no prior notification, approval or inspection is required.
 - (ii) Category 2 – inspection of Category 2 Protective Equipment by AFL Europe or field Umpire required prior to the relevant Match.
 - (iii) Category 3 – prior written approval from AFL Europe in accordance with [Rule 4.12.2\(b\)](#).

For further clarification and examples, please refer to [Appendix 5 of the AFL National Community Football policy handbook](#) which are applicable and adopted as part of these Rules and Regulations.

- (b) AFL Europe may only grant approval under [Rule 4.12.2\(a\)\(iii\)](#) following a physical inspection of the Category 3 Protective Equipment. To assist, a Player must provide medical certification from a Qualified Medical Practitioner which outlines the clinical need for the Class 3 protective Equipment and confirms that it does not pose any unreasonable safety risk to the Player or others.
- (c) Any approval granted in respect of Category 3 Protective Equipment may be withdrawn by AFL Europe at any time.

4.12.3. Prohibited Items (variation to AFL Law 9.2)

A Player shall not wear during a Match:

- (a) any form of jewellery
- (b) full metal boot studs
- (c) equipment made with metal
- (d) equipment with an exposed hinge
- (e) equipment with an exposed point, strap or edge;
- (f) equipment with sharp edges;

- (g) equipment made with hard plastic (other than Thermoplastic where there is sufficient exterior padding)
- (h) Category 2 or 3 protective equipment that has not been approved by AFL Europe
- (i) protective equipment that has been approved by AFL Europe, however the field Umpire deems that such equipment has, during the Match become dangerous or increased the risk of injury to other Players.
- (j) gloves that do not comply with [Rule 4.12.4](#)

4.12.4. Gloves

- (a) Players are permitted to wear gloves provided that they are compliant with any guidelines and/or register of approved gloves provided by AFL Europe (refer [Appendix 7 – Approved Glove Register](#)).
- (b) A Player who is found to be wearing non-compliant gloves in any Match will be asked to remove them by the controlling Field Umpire under [Rule 4.12.8](#). Failure to do so, will result in the Player being ordered off under [Rule 4.12.9](#).

4.12.5. Spectacles

- (a) 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.

4.12.6. Fingernails

- (a) For the safety of other Players, all Players are required to maintain short fingernails when playing in Matches conducted by AFL Europe.
- (b) Upon inspection and where it is deemed to be a risk to other Players, a field Umpire may request that a Player leaves the Playing Surface under [Rule 4.12.8](#) and may not return to the Playing Surface until their fingernails are trimmed to a safe length.

4.12.7. Inspection

- (a) At any time before or during a Match, a field Umpire may inspect a Player's boots or hands or any Protective Equipment that a Player intends to wear or use during the Match.

4.12.8. Power to Order Off

- (a) A Field Umpire may order from the Playing Surface a Player who is wearing or using an item prohibited under [Rules 4.12.3](#), [4.12.4](#) or [4.12.6](#).
- (b) Where a Player is ordered from the Playing Surface under this Rule:
 - (i) an Interchange Player may replace the Player ordered from the Playing Surface;
and
- (c) the Player ordered from the Playing Surface may only re-enter the Playing Surface once the Player has removed the prohibited item.

4.12.9. Refusal to Leave Playing Surface

Where a Player refuses to or does not immediately leave the Playing Surface when ordered to do so by a field Umpire, the following shall apply:

- (a) the field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the Player of the opposing Team who is nearest to where play was stopped, or the location of the football, whichever is the greater penalty; and
- (b) if the Player still refuses to leave the Playing Surface:
 - (i) the field Umpire shall report the Player for misconduct in failing to follow a direction of an Umpire;
 - (ii) the Match shall immediately end, and the reported Player's Team shall forfeit the Match; and
 - (iii) [Rule 5.5.3\(d\)](#) shall apply to any Match which is forfeited.

4.13. Match Timing

4.13.1. Duration of Match & Intervals (variation to AFL Law 10.1.1 and 10.1.2)

- (a) Where practical, AFL Europe Tournament Matches shall be played for a period of no less than 20 minutes, divided into two halves, each of 10 minutes duration.
- (b) The minimum duration of Matches and the interval between halves are outlined in the Table 4.
- (c) AFL Europe may at their absolute discretion alter and overrule the duration of Matches outlined in [Rule 4.13.1\(b\)](#) to ensure all scheduled matches in a Tournament are able to be played within the allocated time available.
- (d) AFL Europe may at their absolute discretion alter and overrule the duration of Matches outlined in [Rule 4.13.1\(b\)](#) in the event of Adverse Weather or Extreme Heat in accordance with [Rule 5.5.6](#).

Match	Half Length	Half Time	Extra Time
Group Stage	2 x 10 mins	3 mins	N/A
Final (excl. Grand Final)	2 x 12 mins	3 mins	Golden Goal
Grand Final	2 x 12 mins	3 mins	2 x 5 mins / Golden Goal

4.14. Drawn Matches

4.14.1. Group Matches

- (a) If scores are equal at the completion of regular time, then the Match will be declared a draw and teams will be awarded two (2) points each with percentage calculated according to final scores.

4.14.2. Finals (excluding Grand Final)

- (a) If scores are equal at the completion of a finals Match (excluding a Grand Final), then the following procedures will apply:
 - (i) Pitch Manager to signal the end of regular time (via siren/horn or other predetermined method);
 - (ii) Pitch Manager to inform Umpires and opposing Coaches that scores are level;
 - (iii) Umpire to signal for Players to reset positions and return the ball to the centre of the ground where they shall recommence play via a centre bounce / ball up;
 - (iv) there will be no break between the end of regular time and commencement of Golden Goal. Play will recommence as soon as the controlling field Umpire is ready; and
 - (v) for the avoidance of doubt, Teams will kick to the same end of the ground they were kicking towards at the end of regular time.
- (b) Play will continue until a goal is scored by either Team and the controlling field Umpire signals the end of the Match.

4.14.3. Grand Finals

- (a) If scores are equal at the completion of regular time of a Grand Final, then the procedures below for extra time will apply:
 - (i) Pitch Manager to signal the end of regular time (via siren/horn or other predetermined method);
 - (ii) Pitch Manager to inform Umpires and opposing Coaches that scores are level;
 - (iii) there will be a break equal to the time allocated for half time prior to Play recommencing;
 - (iv) Umpire to signal for Players to reset positions and return the ball to the centre of the ground where they shall recommence play via a centre bounce / ball up;
 - (v) two (2) 5-minute halves will be played of extra time with a 2-minute break at halftime; and

- (vi) for the avoidance of doubt, Teams will swap ends that they were kicking towards at the end of regular time and the start of extra time, and again at half time of extra time.
- (b) If scores are equal at the completion of extra time, then the Golden Goal rules outlined in [Rule 4.14.2](#) will apply until there is a winner.

4.15. Timekeepers

4.15.1. Timekeeper Duties

- (a) AFL Europe or a delegated body shall appoint a person or persons to act as the Timekeeper/s for a match. Note that this role could be incorporated into the responsibilities of the Pitch Manager.
- (b) The appointed Timekeeper shall:
 - (i) keep time for each half of the Match;
 - (ii) sound the siren in accordance with the procedures contained in these Rules & Regulations until acknowledged by any field Umpire;
 - (iii) stop the clock which is used for timing of each half as required under [Rule 4.15.3](#) for a stoppage in play as directed by a field Umpire only;
 - (iv) record the Goals and Behinds scored by each Team during a Match
 - (v) upload final match results as directed by AFL Europe.

4.15.2. Procedure for Sounding Siren

- (a) The Timekeeper/s shall sound the siren at the times and on the number of occasions as set out in Table 5:

TABLE 5	
Start of Match	Number of Occasions
Two minutes prior to scheduled start time	Twice
Scheduled starting time (start of match)	Once
End of first half	Once
Start of Second Half	Number of Occasions
One minute prior to scheduled start time	Once
Scheduled starting time (start of half)	Once
End of Match	Once

4.15.3. Stoppage Time & Time On/Off

- (a) There shall be no stoppage time in any AFL Europe Matches (including Finals and Grand Finals) unless a timekeeper is directed to do so at the absolute discretion of the controlling field Umpire in the event of serious injury or a head count.
- (b) A field Umpire shall signal to the Timekeeper / Pitch Manager to stop the clock or re-start the clock used for timing of the Match by blowing a whistle and raising one arm above their head towards the direction of the Timekeeper / Pitch Manager.

4.16. Uniform

4.16.1. Match Uniform

- (a) Each Team competing in an AFL Europe Competition may be requested to submit their Match Uniform (playing jumper, shorts, and socks) to AFL Europe for approval prior to a predetermined date.
- (b) AFL Europe may request where reasonably possible that a Team alters their Match Uniform to avoid any possible clash of uniforms with an opposing Team.
- (c) A playing jumper shall be AFL style (either sleeveless or long sleeves). T-Shirt style sleeves are not permitted.
- (d) A playing jumper shall have a number on the back, and it must:
 - (i) be a whole number between one (1) and ninety-nine (99) inclusive.
 - (ii) be a plain font in a colour that contrasts with the primary jumper colour.
 - (iii) be between 20cm and 28cm in height and recognisable at a distance of one hundred (100) metres.
- (e) Playing shorts shall be AFL style shorts with no pockets.
- (f) Playing socks shall be AFL style socks.
- (g) A Team must have spare match uniforms available in the event of damage to or blood on a Players match uniform in the duration of a Match.
- (h) All Players participating in a Match must play in the Team's match uniform as approved in [Rule 4.15.1\(a\)](#). Failure to do so will result in a fine being issued per Player as per [Appendix 4 – Club Fixed Financial Sanctions](#).

4.16.2. Undergarments

- (a) A player is permitted to wear undergarments such as lycra shorts or compression garments under their Match Uniform provided that:
 - (i) when worn under shorts, they are skin tone, black or the same colour as match shorts and must not be longer than the top of the knee.

- (ii) when worn under jumpers, they must be sleeveless or the same colour as the match jumper and not of a t-shirt style.
 - (iii) long pants are not permitted to be worn underneath the match uniform. For the avoidance of confusion, this includes leggings, tights, full length compression garments and tracksuit pants.
- (b) Exemptions may occur under the AFL Europe Adverse Weather Policy. In these situations long sleeve tops and pants must be the same colour as the playing jumper and/or shorts.
- (c) Exemptions to the length, style or colour of undergarments may be sought from AFL Europe for medical, religious, or other reasons.
- (d) A Player wearing incorrect undergarments will result in a fine being issued per Player as per [Appendix 4 – Club Fixed Financial Sanctions](#).

5. Tournament Management

5.1. Tournament Director

- (a) AFL Europe will appoint a Tournament Director for each Tournament who will be responsible for administering all Tournament Management Rules outlined in Section 5.

5.2. Tournament Structure & Progression

- (a) AFL Europe and/or Tournament Director will determine the structure of any AFL Europe Tournament once all Team nominations have been received and will be communicated to all Teams no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the Tournament commencing.
- (b) Where possible, the Tournament will consist of a:
 - (i) Group Stage and;
 - (ii) Finals Series.
- (c) AFL Europe and/or Tournament Director shall determine how many Teams will progress from the Group Stage into the Finals Series based on the number of Teams participating and the pitch availability at the host venue.

5.3. Tournament Seeding

- (a) At their absolute discretion, AFL Europe may decide to seed Teams for the group stage of a Tournament, in accordance with the Team Rankings established at the beginning of the Tournament (refer [Appendix 9 – Tournament Seeding & Rankings](#)).

5.4. Tournament Draw / Fixtures

- (a) The Tournament draw shall be conducted by AFL Europe based on the following procedures to ensure fairness and transparency of all Tournament Matches.
 - (i) The draw shall be conducted by either the AFL Europe General Manager, Tournament Director or member of the AFL Europe Commission / Board.
 - (ii) Prior to the draw, the number of Groups and Finals Bracket will be confirmed based on [Rule 5.2\(a\)](#)
 - (iii) Prior to the draw, the seeding of teams will be confirmed based on the established seeding criteria outlined in [Rule 5.3](#)
 - (iv) The draw shall be either be conducted live or recorded and made available on request.
- (b) Once the draw has been conducted, AFL Europe shall develop a Fixture to include all Matches for the Tournament based on the outcome of the draw.
- (c) The Fixture shall be communicated to participating Teams no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Tournament commencing.

- (d) Other than in exceptional circumstances, as determined by AFL Europe, the Fixture will not be varied once a Tournament has commenced.

5.5. Tournament Progression

5.5.1. Awarding Points & Percentage

- (a) For all Group Matches, Teams will be awarded 4 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and 0 points for a loss.
- (b) A percentage will be obtained for each Team by dividing the total Tournament score for, by the total Tournament score against, and multiplying by 100.

5.5.2. Equal Points (Group Stage)

- (a) If two or more teams are equal on points at the completion of the Group Stage, then the following criteria will be applied (in order) to determine which Team progresses to the next stage of the Tournament.
 - (i) the Team with the higher percentage across the group stage as determined by [Rule 5.5.1](#)
 - (ii) the Team with the highest total points scored for throughout the group stage.
 - (iii) the Team with the highest total goals scored throughout the group stage.
- (b) If after applying criteria outlined in [Rule 5.5.2\(a\)\(i\)-\(iii\)](#) the Teams still cannot be separated, then the following criteria will be applied to determine which Team progresses to the next stage of the Tournament.
 - (i) Where the Teams in question played against each other during the Group Stage, then the result of that head-to-head match, with the winner progressing; or
 - (ii) If the Teams didn't play during the Group Stage, then the Team with the higher ranking, as provided by AFL Europe at the commencement of the Tournament (refer [Appendix 9 – Tournament Seeding & Rankings](#)).

5.5.3. Forfeits (variation to AFL Law 11.2)

A Team will forfeit a Match if they:

- (a) Do not have the minimum number of Players available at the scheduled starting time of their Match.
- (b) Fall below the minimum number of Players throughout a scheduled Match.
- (c) Are not in position to commence play five (5) minutes after the scheduled starting time of their Match, where both field Umpires and opposition Team are in position to play.
- (d) If a Match is deemed to be forfeited by one Team, the Match will have deemed to have been won by a pre-determined margin and the non-forfeiting Team will receive 4 points and percentage based on a score of 50-0.

- (e) If a Match is deemed to be forfeited by both Teams, then the Match will be deemed to be a draw with the score 0-0 used, however neither Team shall receive points as a result of the drawn Match.
- (f) A Team that forfeits as a result of [Rule 5.5.3\(a\)](#) or [5.5.3\(c\)](#) has twenty-four (24) hours from the start of the scheduled Match time to provide a written explanation to AFL Europe as to why the Team was unable to commence the Match as scheduled.
- (g) A Team may be fined under the Club Fixed Financial Sanctions outlined in [Appendix 4 – Fixed Financial Sanctions \(Club/Member\)](#) - at the absolute discretion of AFL Europe in the event of a forfeit.

5.5.4. Match Unable to Commence / Significant Match Delays (variation to AFL Law 11.1.2)

- (a) Where a Match fails to commence or has a significant delay during the scheduled Match time that is outside of either Teams control (such as an injury requiring an ambulance, adverse weather or any other circumstance where it is unsafe for the Match to proceed) then the Tournament Director in consultation with the field Umpire/s will determine if, and under what conditions, the remainder of the Match will be played.
- (b) In making a determination under [Rule 5.5.4\(a\)](#), the Tournament Director and field Umpire/s will consider:
 - (i) the health and safety of Players and Officials;
 - (ii) the length or expected length of the delay;
 - (iii) the amount of time left before the scheduled finish time of the Match;
 - (iv) what adjustments to the Match can fairly and practicably be made without impacting on other scheduled Matches; and
 - (v) the circumstances and timing of the delay.
- (c) Where the delay has occurred prior to the Match commencing, or during the first half of a Match then:
 - (i) In order to proceed with the Match, the Tournament Director and field Umpire/s must ensure that at least one half of match time as outlined in [Table 4](#) (including what has already been played) is able to be completed within the scheduled Match time;
 - (ii) If the Match is able to resume after significant delay, the final result will be based on the final score of the Match at the conclusion of Play;
 - (iii) If it is deemed that at least one half of Match time is unable to be completed, the Match is not to start (or recommence if it has already started) and the Match shall be deemed to be drawn with both teams being awarded 2 points as per [Rule 5.5.1](#) and the scores of the Teams at the time the Match was delayed shall be used in the calculation of percentage.

- (d) Where the delay has occurred at, or after half time of the Match, then:
- (i) In order to proceed with the Match, the field Umpire and Tournament Director must ensure that at least one quarter of Match Time, as outlined in [Table 4](#) (not including what has already been played) is able to be completed within the scheduled Match time.
 - (ii) If the Match is able to be resumed after significant delay, the final result will be based on the final score of the Match at the conclusion of Play.
 - (iii) If it is deemed that at least one quarter of additional Match time is unable to be completed, the Match is not to recommence and the score at the time the Match was interrupted shall be deemed the final score and Match results and percentage based on this.

5.5.5. Finals Matches Unable to be Played

- (a) Where a Finals series is yet to commence but it is apparent that it cannot be completed within the allocated timeframe, then the Tournament Director may alter the Finals structure and/or fixture; including but not limited to:
- (i) reducing the number of teams participating in the Finals series.
 - (ii) cancelling the Finals series.
- (b) Where a finals series has commenced and where a scheduled finals match (excluding the Grand Final) is unable to be played for any reason other than a forfeit and it is not practicable or possible to reschedule, then the Match will be awarded to the Team who was ranked highest in the Group Stage of the Tournament.
- (i) in determining who is ranked higher, the Tournament Director will use the total number of points awarded during the Group Stage to determine who was ranked highest. If this number is equal, then the Tournament Director shall use the same guidelines as per [Rule 5.5.2 \(a\)-\(b\)](#) until there is a higher ranking Team.
- (c) Where a Grand Final match is unable to be played for any reason, and it is not practicable or possible to reschedule, then the Match will be recorded as having no result and there will not be a Tournament winner declared.

5.5.6. Adverse Weather

- (a) Environmental factors regularly affect the playing of Australian Football. While environmental factors will not usually influence whether a Match should commence or continue, occasionally extremely adverse weather conditions may give rise to the need to assess whether Players and/or Officials are in danger. The AFL Europe Adverse Weather Policy outlined in [Appendix 8 – Adverse Weather Policy](#) sets out the approach that AFL Europe will adopt when assessing extreme weather conditions.

6. AFL Europe Match Provisions

Explanatory Note:

This section outlines the variations to the AFL Laws of the Game (2023 Edition) Part D that have been made by AFL Europe in its power as a Controlling Body under AFL Law 2.2. These variations are applicable to AFL Europe Tournaments in the 9-a-Side format only and where applicable, override the original AFL Law which is included in the bracket.

The following AFL Laws of the Game (2023 Edition) Part D have not been altered and are applicable to AFL Europe 9-a-side games as originally written.

Law 12.1, Law 12.2, Law 13.2, Law 13.3, Law 14, Law 15.1, Law 15.2, Law 15.3, Law 15.4, Law 15.5, Law 15.6, Law 16.2, Law 16.3, Law 16.4, Law 16.5, Law 16.6, Law 16.7, Law 17.2, Law 18.1, Law 18.2, Law 18.3, Law 18.4, Law 18.5, Law 18.6, Law 18.7, Law 18.8, Law 18.9, Law 18.11, Law 18.12, Law 18.13, Law 18.14, Law 19.1, Law 19.2, Law 19.3, Law 20.2, Law 20.3, Law 20.4, Law 20.5, Law 20.6, Law 21.1, Law 21.2, Law 24

6.1. Starting Positions (variation to AFL Law 13.1)

The following starting positions must be met within a reasonable time before the field Umpire commences their approach to the Centre Circle to bounce or throw up the football to start a half or recommence play after a Goal has been scored:

- (a) Three Players from each Team are permitted in each area defined by the Boundary Line and the Thirty Metre Arcs;
- (b) Three Players from each Team are permitted in the Centre Square;
 - (i) of these three Players referenced in [Rule 6.1\(b\)](#), one Player from each Team will be the Ruck and is positioned within the Ten Metre Circle in their defensive half;
- (c) If a Team is unable to or elects not to have 9 Players on the Playing Surface, the requirements stated in [Rules 6.1\(a\)\(b\)](#) are modified such that the number of relevant Players for each starting position can be reduced but not exceeded.
- (d) After a Goal has been scored, if a Player is injured and making their way from the Playing Surface with the assistance of doctor, trainer or any other person treating Players of a Team, the field Umpire may wait a reasonable period to allow the replacement Player to take up position before recommencing play. A replacement Player may enter the Playing Surface while the Player that they are replacing is leaving the Playing Surface.

6.2. Scoring a Goal (variation to AFL Law 16.1)

- (a) A goal is scored when the football is Kicked completely over the Goal Line by a Player of the Attacking Team without being touched by any other Player, even if the football first touches the ground.
- (b) In circumstances where rugby or soccer goals are used for AFL Europe Matches and the football hits the crossbar (the horizontal post between the two vertical posts) in the action of kicking for goal and it is deemed that it would have been a Goal under [Rule 6.2\(a\)](#), then the goal Umpire shall signal a goal.

- (c) If the football contacts the intersection where the crossbar (horizontal post) joins with the vertical post, then the goal Umpire shall signal a Behind.

6.3. Bringing the Football Back into Play (variation to AFL Law 17.1)

After a goal Umpire has signalled a Behind:

- (a) The same football used to score the behind must be used for the resultant Kick In, unless otherwise instructed by the field Umpire;
- (b) Any player of the Defending Team may elect to Kick the football from within the Goal Square or play on by exiting the Goal Square within a reasonable time;
- (c) If the Player has not elected to Kick the football or exit the Goal Square within a reasonable time, a field Umpire will call 'Play On';
- (d) A Player may not handball the football from within the Goal Square unless the field Umpire has called 'Play On' pursuant to [Rule 6.3\(c\)](#);
- (e) The Mark shall be set at 5 metres from the centre of the Kick-Off Line towards the centre of the Playing Surface, as shown in [Diagram 6 – Appendix 6 - Diagrams](#) .

6.4. Protected Area (variation to AFL Law 17.3)

- (a) Other than the Player bringing the football into play, all Players must make every endeavour to immediately vacate the Protected area as shown in [Diagram 8 – Appendix 6 - Diagrams](#).

6.5. Deliberate Out of Bounds (variation to AFL Law 18.10)

- (a) As per AFL Law 18.10.1, the Spirit and Intention of this rule is that Players shall be encouraged to keep the football in play. AFL Europe however understands that many Players are new to the game and that unintentional skill errors will occur throughout a game resulting in the football going over the boundary line.
- (b) As such, a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick against a Player who:
 - (i) Kicks the football Out of Bounds on the Full;
 - (ii) Kicks, Handballs, or forces the football over the Boundary Line and in the opinion of the field Umpire has not demonstrated sufficient intent to keep the football in play or their primary purpose of disposing of the football was for it to go Out of Bounds; or
 - (a) Where a field Umpire deems that the ball has gone Out of Bounds because of a genuine skill error then they shall call for a Ball Up.
 - (iii) fails to immediately hand the football to the boundary or field Umpire or drop the football directly to the ground once the football is Out of Bounds.

6.6. Deliberate Rushed Behinds (variation to AFL Law 18.11)

- (a) As per AFL Law 18.11.1, the Spirit and Intention of this rule is that Players shall be encouraged to keep the football in play. AFL Europe however understands that many

Players are new to the game and that unintentional skill errors will occur throughout a game resulting in the football unintentionally going over the Attacking Teams Goal Line or Behind Line.

- (b) As such, a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick against a Player from the Defending Team who intentionally Kicks, Handballs or forces the football over the Attacking Team's Goal Line or Behind Line or onto one of the Attacking Team's Goal Posts and the Player :
 - (i) is greater than nine (9) metres from the Goal Line or Behind Line;
 - (ii) is not under immediate physical pressure;
 - (iii) has had time and space to dispose of the football;
 - (iv) in the opinion of the field Umpire, hasn't made a genuine skill error in the act of disposing of the football; or
 - (v) from a Ruck contest, hits the football over the Goal Line or Behind Line on the full.

6.7. 25 Metre Penalty (variation to AFL Law 19)

- (a) As per AFL Law 19.5, AFL Europe has reduced the distance of a 50-metre penalty to 25 metres for all AFL Europe Matches. AFL Laws 19.1, 19.2 and 19.3 are all implemented as written with the reduction of penalty to 25-metres.
- (b) Any other AFL Law that has a prescribed penalty of 50-metres will be reduced to 25-metres in accordance with [Rule 6.7\(a\)](#).

6.7.2. Imposing a 25 Metre Penalty (variation to AFL Law 19.4)

- (a) When a field Umpire imposes a 25-metre penalty, the following procedure shall apply:
 - (i) the field Umpire shall advance The Mark by 25 metres in a direct line with the centre of the Goal Line of the Team awarded the 25-metre Penalty;
 - (ii) if the Player who received the 25 metre Penalty is less than 25 metres from the Goal Line, The Mark shall become the centre of the Goal Line;
 - (iii) if any Player from the opposing Team impedes or delays the Player with the football whilst The Mark is being advanced, a second 25-metre Penalty shall be imposed by the field Umpire after the initial 25-metre advancement; and
 - (iv) the Player who is awarded the 25-Metre Penalty **may not Play On** at any stage whilst The Mark is being advanced and must wait until the field Umpire signals.

6.8. Standing the Mark and the Protected Area (variation to AFL Law 20.1)

6.8.1. Standing the Mark

- (a) When a Player is awarded a Mark or Free Kick, one Player from the opposing Team may:
 - (i) Stand on The Mark; or

- (ii) Otherwise be directed by a field Umpire.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, all other Players from the opposing Team must be positioned behind The Mark or otherwise outside the Protected Area defined in [Rule 6.8.2](#).
- (c) Where a field Umpire verbally instructs the Player who is Standing the Mark to “Stand”, then that Player cannot move until the field Umpire has signalled “Play On”
 - (i) Where a Player violates [Rule 6.8.1\(c\)](#) then the Umpire shall award a 25-metre penalty to the attacking team.

6.8.2. Protected Area

- (a) The Protected Area after a Player is awarded a Mark or Free Kick is a corridor which extends from five (5) metres either side of The Mark and five (5) metres behind, to either side of and an arc behind, the Player with the football, as illustrated in [Diagram 7 – Appendix 6 - Diagrams](#)
- (b) No Player shall enter and remain in the Protected Area unless the field Umpire calls ‘Play On’ or the Player from the opposing Team is accompanying or following within two (2) metres of their opponent. Any Player caught in the Protected Area must make every endeavour to immediately vacate the Protected Area.

6.9. Active Bleeding (AFL Law 24)

- (a) Law 24 of the AFL Laws of the Game regulates the management of active bleeding in Australian Football and is adopted as part of these Rules and Regulations.

7. AFL Europe Post Match Provisions

7.1. Awards

7.1.1. Team of the Tournament

- (a) Each Team is responsible for nominating one (1) Player deemed to be their best performing player throughout the duration of the tournament who will represent their Team in the Team of the Tournament.
- (b) It is at each Team's discretion how they vote and/or award selection to the Team of the Tournament.
- (c) Dependent on the number of Teams competing in a Tournament, AFL Europe may at its absolute discretion determine if Teams can nominate more than one (1) Player to be included in the Team of the Tournament.

7.1.2. Medals

- (a) Medals will be provided to Teams who finish first (1st) or second (2nd) in each Division only.
- (b) A maximum of sixteen (16) Players, one (1) Coach and one (1) Team Manager from Teams who finish first (1st) or second (2nd) during a Tournament shall be provided with a medal at the conclusion of the Tournament.
- (c) If there are more Players, Coaches or Team Managers from a Team that is being awarded a competition medal, it is at the Teams absolute discretion who is awarded a medal.

7.1.3. Golden Whistle & Umpire Medals

- (a) The AFL Europe Head of Umpiring or nominated delegate shall nominate one (1) umpire whom they believe is the best performing or most improved umpire throughout the duration of the Tournament to receive the Golden Whistle.
- (b) It is at the Head of Umpiring or nominated delegate's discretion how they vote and/or award selection of the Golden Whistle.
- (c) All field Umpires shall be awarded a medal in appreciation for their service at the conclusion of the Tournament.

8. Member Protection & Integrity

8.1. Member Protection Statement

AFL Europe regards violence, discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying and abuse in any form, including online, as unacceptable. AFL Europe believes that all people have the right to work, play and socialise in an environment which is safe and inclusive. In other words, our members (i.e. participants in Australian Football) have the right to be protected from unacceptable conduct whilst participating in our sport.

As such Part C – Member Protection & Integrity of the AFL National Community Football Policy is adopted as part of these Rules and Regulations and its terms are deemed terms of these Rules and Regulations.

Any complaints of inappropriate behaviour will be treated seriously and sensitively and, if required under these Rules and Regulations, investigated thoroughly. Best endeavours will be used to ensure that persons affected by a complaint are not victimised in any way.

8.2. Respect & Responsibility

The AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy (as amended from time to time) is adopted as part of these Rules and Regulations and its terms are deemed terms of these Rules and Regulations.

8.3. Anti-Doping

The Australian Football Anti-Doping Code (as amended from time to time) is adopted as part of these Rules and Regulations and its terms are deemed terms of these Rules and Regulations.

8.4. Concussion

The Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football (as amended from time to time) is adopted as part of these Rules and Regulations and its terms are deemed terms of these Rules and Regulations.

9. Disciplinary & Appeals

Explanatory Note:

This section is based on [Part E of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook](#) and sets out how alleged Reportable Offences and Policy Breaches are dealt with.

9.1. Sending-off Rule

A field Umpire can issue two types of cards throughout a Match to any Player deemed to be acting outside the Laws and/or spirit of the game.

9.1.1. Yellow card

- (a) An Umpire may issue a yellow card where they believe a Player should be temporarily suspended because:
 - (i) any Rules of the game as prescribed by these Rules and Regulations, or the Laws of Australian Football are contravened; or
 - (ii) a Player commits a Low-Level Reportable Offence; or
 - (iii) any other act of a Player that, at the field Umpire's discretion, is deemed to be otherwise acting outside the spirit of the game.
- (b) Subject to [Rule 9.1.1\(a\)](#), when a Player is issued with a yellow card:
 - (i) they must immediately leave the Playing Surface for a period of ten (10) minutes of playing time, to be confirmed by the appointed timekeeper.
 - (ii) they can be replaced immediately by a teammate.
 - (iii) they can return to the Playing Surface following their ten (10) minutes suspension from play to be confirmed and approved by the appointed timekeeper or pitch manager.
 - (iv) the field Umpire who issued the yellow card may also report a Player if they deem the offence committed constitutes a Reportable Offence under [Section 9.3](#).
- (c) If a Player returns to the Playing Surface and receives a second yellow card within the same Match, the field umpire shall then also show the Player an automatic Red Card and they will be subject to [Rule 9.1.2 \(a\)\(i\)](#).
- (d) A Player that receives three (3) yellow cards within a Tournament:
 - (i) is prohibited from participating in any Matches for the remainder of that specific Tournament; and
 - (ii) may be referred to the Tribunal by the Tournament Director to determine the appropriate sanction in its absolute discretion.

9.1.2. Red Card

- (a) An Umpire may issue a red card to a Player where they have deemed that a Player has
 - (i) committed two yellow card offences in the same Match under [Rule 9.1.1](#); or
 - (ii) committed a single Reportable Offence that is considered a serious breach of the AFL Europe Rules or Laws of Australian Football.
- (b) Subject to [Rule 9.1.2\(a\)](#), when a Player is issued with a red card:
 - (i) they must immediately leave the Playing Surface for the remainder of the Match in which they received the card; and
 - (ii) they cannot be replaced for the remainder of the Match; and
 - (iii) they are not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the Playing Surface (including breaks) for the remainder of the Match.
- (c) The Player issued with a red card must be also reported by the field Umpire pursuant to [Rule 9.3](#) where the card was received for a Reportable Offence.
- (d) Where a field Umpire deems or grades that the offence resulting in a Red Card is a Direct to Tribunal Offence under either [Rule 9.5.4](#) or [Appendix 5](#), then they shall immediately notify the Tournament Director at the conclusion of the match who at their absolute discretion can determine that the offending Player shall be ineligible to participate in any Matches for the remainder of that specific Tournament based on the circumstances of the offence.
- (e) Notwithstanding [Rule 9.1.2\(d\)](#) any Player that receives two (2) red cards within a Tournament:
 - (i) is prohibited from participating in any Matches for the remainder of that specific Tournament; and
 - (ii) will be referred to the Tribunal by the Tournament Director to determine the appropriate sanction in its absolute discretion.

9.2. Melees

- (a) A melee is defined in Law 1.1 of the Laws of Australian Football.
- (b) Individual Players engaging in a melee may be issued with a card and/or reported by a field Umpire under these Rules and Regulations.
- (c) A Team whose Players or Officials engage in a melee will be subject to fixed financial sanctions outlined in [Appendix 5 – Grading Classifiable Offences](#).
 - (i) a field Umpire may report a Player for a separate Reportable Offence where a Player participates in a melee and performs any action that is deemed a Reportable Offence.

- (d) Any official who engages in a melee will be referred directly to the Tribunal.
- (e) A field Umpire shall record the details of a melee in the Umpires Match Report.

9.3. Reporting Procedures

9.3.1. Obligation to report

- (a) An Umpire or other person or persons as authorised by AFL Europe are obligated to report to AFL Europe any Player or Official who commits or engages in conduct which may constitute a Reportable Offence.
 - (i) during a Match; or
 - (ii) on the day of the Match and within the immediate proximity of the venue where the Match is conducted.

9.3.2. Methods of Making a Report

- (a) A Player or Official who is alleged to have committed a Reportable Offence may be reported by:
 - (i) an Umpire as per [Rule 9.3.3](#)
 - (ii) a Club citing or review of footage as per [Rule 9.3.4](#)
 - (iii) an Executive Officer as per [Rule 9.3.5](#)

9.3.3. Umpire Report During Match (Notice of Charge) or Post Match (Incident Referral Form)

- (a) Subject to [Rule 9.3.3\(c\)](#), if an Umpire reports a Player or Official during a Match for a Reportable offence, the Umpire will use their best endeavours to inform the Person that they have been reported either:
 - (i) immediately following the incident
 - (ii) before the commencement of the half following the incident; or
 - (iii) if the relevant incident occurs in the final half, as soon as reasonably practicable after the completion of the Match.
- (b) A field Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or Team Manager of a report where it is impractical to inform the Person who has been reported.
- (c) As soon as practicable after the completion of the Match, the field Umpire must:
 - (i) complete a Notice of Charge in the manner prescribed; and
 - (ii) lodge the Notice of Charge together with the Match Paperwork to AFL Europe

- (d) If an Umpire considers that a Player may have committed a Reportable Offence during a Match but did not report that Player during the Match under [Rule 9.3.3\(a\)](#), then as soon as practicable after the completion of that Match, the Umpire must:
 - (i) complete an Incident Referral Form; and
 - (ii) lodge the Incident Referral Form to AFL Europe no later than 5:00pm of the next business day after the relevant Match.
 - (iii) Once lodged with AFL Europe an Incident Referral Form may not be withdrawn by the Umpire.
- (e) Unregistered Club field, Club boundary or Club goal Umpires are not permitted to report a Player or Official.

9.3.4. Club Citing (Incident Referral Form)

- (a) If a Club considers that a Person has committed a Reportable Offence during a Match, the Club may:
 - (i) complete an Incident Referral Form; and
 - (ii) lodge the Incident Referral Form to AFL Europe no later than 5:00pm (GMT/BST) of the next business day after the relevant Match. A Club can request an extension prior to this deadline under exceptional circumstances only.
- (b) All evidence that a Club relies upon to support the citing (including video footage) must be lodged at the time of lodging the Incident Referral Form.
- (c) A fee of £150 is payable by the Club to AFL Europe for each Incident Referral Form lodged and evidence of payment must be attached to the Form.
 - (i) AFL Europe will refund the fee outlined in [Rule 9.3.4\(c\)](#) if it determines that the Person who is the subject of an Incident Referral Form has committed a Reportable Offence.
- (d) Once lodged with AFL Europe an Incident Referral Form may not be withdrawn by the Club.
- (e) As soon as practicable, AFL Europe shall notify the reported Player or Official's Club of receiving an Incident Referral Form.

9.3.5. Notice of Charge – Power of Executive Officer

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules and Regulations, if an AFL Europe Executive Officer or any authorised nominee considers that a Player or Official has committed a Reportable Offence during a Match, the AFL Europe Executive Officer may report that Player by completing a Notice of Charge.

9.4. Investigating a Report

9.4.1. Initial Assessment

- (a) As soon as practicable, after AFL Europe receives a Notice of Charge under [Rule 9.3.3\(a\)](#) or [Rule 9.3.5](#) or an Incident Referral Form under [Rule 9.3.3\(d\)](#) or [Rule 9.3.4](#) it shall undertake an assessment of the alleged Reportable Offence set out in the Incident Referral Form to determine if:
 - (i) it is satisfied that a Reportable Offence has been committed and issues a Notice of Charge to the Player or Official's Club
 - (ii) further investigation of the Reportable Offence is required under [Rule 9.4.3](#); or
 - (iii) the Reportable Offence is to be dismissed as per [Rule 9.4.4](#)

9.4.2. Match Review Panel / Officer

- (a) AFL Europe may appoint a Match Review Panel ('MRP') made up of no less than three (3) suitably qualified persons, or a Match Review Officer ('MRO') comprising of only one (1) suitably qualified person to conduct or assist with an assessment under [Rule 9.4.1](#).

9.4.3. Further Investigation

- (a) AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO may review match footage and/or investigate any incident which occurred during a Match using reasonable measures (including by interviewing any relevant Person, collecting medical reports and taking witness statements) to assess whether a Reportable Offence has been committed.
- (b) AFL Europe expects that all Players, Officials and Clubs cooperate fully with any investigation under [Rule 9.4.3\(a\)](#).
- (c) If, after an assessment under [Rule 9.4.3\(a\)](#), AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO considers that a Person has committed a Reportable Offence, then AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO must complete a Notice of Charge.
- (d) If, after an assessment under [Rule 9.4.3\(a\)](#), AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO considers that a Person hasn't committed a Reportable Offence then the incident shall be dismissed under [Rule 9.4.4\(a\)](#).

9.4.4. Dismissal of a Report

- (a) AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO may dismiss a Report or Incident Referral if it considers there to be no or insufficient evidence of a Reportable Offence occurring.
- (b) Where a Report or Incident Referral is dismissed under [Rule 9.4.4\(a\)](#), AFL Europe shall notify the reported Person's Club as soon as practicable after the decision has been made.

9.5. Classification & Grading of Reportable Offences

9.5.1. Classification of a Reportable Offence

- (a) Where AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO is satisfied that a Reportable Offence has been committed, they shall classify whether the offence is:

- (i) a Low-Level Offence (one that does not require grading); or
- (ii) a Classifiable Offence (one that requires grading); or
- (iii) a Direct Tribunal Offence (one that is referred directly to the Tribunal for a hearing).

9.5.2. Low Level Offences

- (a) Any of the following types of conduct constitute a Low-Level Offence:
 - (i) carelessly making contact with an umpire;
 - (ii) disputing a decision of an umpire;
 - (iii) attempting to strike another person;
 - (iv) attempting to kick another person;
 - (v) attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot, or leg;
 - (vi) engaging in a Melee
 - (vii) instigating a Melee;
 - (viii) wrestling another person;
 - (ix) engaging in an act of staging
 - (x) engaging in Time Wasting;
 - (xi) interfering with a Player Kicking for Goal;
 - (xii) intentionally shaking, climbing, or otherwise interfering with a goal or behind post;
 - (xiii) failing to leave the Playing Surface when directed to do so by an Umpire;
 - (xiv) wearing boots, jewellery and equipment prohibited under [Rule 4.12.3](#);
 - (xv) pinching;
 - (xvi) scratching; or
 - (xvii) engaging in any other act of misconduct.
- (b) Where a Reportable Offence is deemed under [Rule 9.5.1](#) to be a Low-Level Offence, no grading of the offence is applicable, and the sanction shall be a fixed financial sanction or a reprimand in accordance with [Table 1 in Appendix 5 – Grading Classifiable Offences](#)

9.5.3. Classifiable Offences

- (a) Any of the following types of conduct may constitute a Classifiable Offence:
 - (i) striking another person;
 - (ii) kicking another person;
 - (iii) kneeing another person;
 - (iv) charging an opponent;
 - (v) engaging in Rough Conduct against an opponent;
 - (vi) bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from a front-on position when that victim-Player has their head down over the ball;
 - (vii) head-butting or making unnecessary or unreasonable contact to another person using the head;
 - (viii) making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face region of another person;
 - (ix) making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the eye region of another person; or
 - (x) tripping.
- (b) If a Player is determined to have engaged in one of the Classifiable Offences listed in [Rule 9.5.3\(a\)](#), the conduct is to be graded by AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO pursuant to [Table 1 in Appendix 5 – Grading Classifiable Offences](#) for that offence; and
- (c) The determination of the appropriate sanction will be made based on an assessment by either AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO completing the Notice of Charge under [Rule 9.5.3\(b\)](#) of whether:
 - (i) the Conduct is Intentional or Careless;
 - (ii) the Impact is Severe, High, Medium, or Low; and
 - (iii) the Contact with the other Player/person is High/Groin or to the Body.
- (d) Following the grading of the Classifiable Offence, a Notice of Charge will be issued by AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO in accordance with [Rule 9.6.1](#).
- (e) AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO may refer a Classifiable Offence directly to the Tribunal where a Classifiable Offence:
 - (i) has been graded as severe impact; or

- (ii) it attracts a base sanction that AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO deems inappropriate; or
- (iii) the Player or Official who has been reported has a poor behaviour record and it is deemed suitable that it is sent to the Tribunal who will not be bound by the Classifiable Offence Grading Table as per [Table 1 in Appendix 5 – Grading Classifiable Offences](#)

9.5.4. Direct Tribunal Offences

- (a) Any of the following types of conduct constitute a Direct Tribunal Offence:
 - (i) eye-gouging another person;
 - (ii) stomping on another person;
 - (iii) intentionally making contact with, or striking, an umpire;
 - (iv) attempting to strike an umpire; spitting on or at an umpire;
 - (v) behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire;
 - (vi) using abusive, insulting, or obscene language towards or in relation to an umpire;
 - (vii) spitting on another person;
 - (viii) making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with an injured Player;
 - (ix) engaging in any other act of serious misconduct.
- (b) If a Player is determined to have engaged in one or more of the Direct Tribunal Offences listed in [Rule 9.5.4\(a\)](#), the Player is to be directly referred to the Tribunal for determination without grading.
- (c) The Tribunal will determine the sanction for a Direct Tribunal Offence in accordance with [Section 11](#).

9.6. Notice of Charge

9.6.1. Issuing Notice of Charge

- (a) When:
 - (i) AFL Europe receives a Notice of Charge completed by an Umpire under [Rule 9.3.3](#); or
 - (ii) an Executive Officer or authorised nominee completes a Notice of Charge under [Rule 9.3.5](#); or
 - (iii) AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO completes a Notice of Charge under [Rule 9.4.3\(c\)](#).

- (b) then the AFL Europe must, as soon as practicable, issue the Notice of Charge to the charged Person and that Person's Club.
- (c) The Notice of Charge must be in the manner prescribed by [Rule 9.6.2](#).

9.6.2. Content of Notice of Charge

- (a) A Notice of Charge must categorise and grade (if applicable) the alleged Reportable Offence based on the categories and gradings of Reportable Offences specified in [Table 1 in Appendix 5 – Grading Classifiable Offences](#)
- (b) A Notice of Charge must include the following details:
 - (i) location, date and time of the offence;
 - (ii) a description of the offence including the Playing number (if applicable) of the Person/s involved in the offence and the victim of the offence;
 - (iii) specification of offence, and the Rule it is contrary to;
 - (iv) where applicable, the grading of the offence;
 - (v) the sanctions applicable including financial sanction, early guilty plea offer or direct Tribunal referral; and
 - (vi) the reported Player or Official or Club's rights and options to respond to the Notice of Charge.

9.6.3. Validity of Notice of Charge

- (a) Notwithstanding anything else in these Rules and Regulations, a Notice of Charge issued to a Player who has committed a Reportable Offence is a valid and binding charge of their conduct which has been deemed to be acting outside the Laws and/or the spirit of the game.

9.6.4. Withdrawal of Notice of Charge

- (a) AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO may withdraw a Notice of Charge at any time prior to a Tribunal hearing.
- (b) Where a Notice of Charge is withdrawn under this Rule, AFL Europe is to notify the Reported Player or Official and their Club as soon as practicable.

9.7. Options available to a Player or Official charged with a Reportable Offence

9.7.1. Early Guilty Plea

- (a) Subject to [Rule 9.6.1](#), where a Player or Official has been issued a Notice of Charge, that Player or Official may enter an Early Guilty Plea in relation to the Reportable Offence set out in the Notice of Charge within the specified timeframe and accept the Early Guilty Plea penalty prescribed by AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO in accordance with [Table 1 in Appendix 5 – Grading Classifiable Offences](#)

- (b) Where a Player or Official accepts the Early Guilty Plea offer, then there will be no need for a Tribunal hearing.
- (c) If a Player or Official fails to respond to a Notice of Charge issued under [Rule 9.7.1\(a\)](#) within the specified timeframe, then AFL Europe may:
 - (i) deem the lack of response as acceptance of the penalty offered and record that the Player or Official has accepted the penalty offered; or
 - (ii) refer the Player or Official to the Tribunal

9.7.2. Early Plea not available

- (a) On issuing a Notice of Charge under [Rule 9.6.1](#), AFL Europe, the MRP or MRO may refer the Notice of Charge directly to the Tribunal with the penalty to be determined under [Section 11](#).
- (b) If a Notice of Charge is referred directly to the Tribunal, the charged Person may not enter an Early Guilty Plea.

9.7.3. Proceed to Tribunal

- (a) A Player or Official may elect to contest the Notice of Charge or plead guilty to a lesser charge by no later than 5:00pm on the next business day after receipt of the Notice of Charge, or such other time as AFL Europe determines.
- (b) If a Player or Official elects to contest a Notice of Charge issued under [Rule 9.6.1](#), then AFL Europe must refer the matter to the Tribunal and the Player or Official will not be entitled to any reduction to the sanction applicable to the Reportable Offence.

10. Policy Breaches

10.1. What is a Policy Breach?

- (a) A policy breach may occur when a Person or Club fails to follow a policy requirement under either the AFL or AFL Europe's policy structure including:
 - (i) the AFL National Community Football Policy handbook
 - (ii) AFL Europe Rules and Regulations
 - (iii) AFL Europe Code of Conduct
 - (iv) AFL Europe Coaches Code of Conduct
 - (v) the Australian Football Match Policy
 - (vi) the Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football
 - (vii) the AFL Respect and Responsibility Policy
 - (viii) the AFL Gender Diversity Policy Community Football
 - (ix) the Australian Football Anti-Doping Code
 - (x) the AFL Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

10.2. Making a Complaint

10.2.1. *Written complaint by Person*

- (a) Subject to [Rule 10.2.2](#), if a Person considers that another Person has committed a Policy Breach during an AFL Europe Tournament, the first Person may submit a written complaint to AFL Europe by submitting a Complaint Submission Form or in any other manner specified by AFL Europe from time to time.

10.2.2. *Time limitation*

- (a) A written complaint under rule [10.2.1\(a\)](#) must be submitted by no later than 5:00pm on the third (3rd) calendar day after the alleged breach is deemed to have occurred.
- (b) AFL Europe may allow for a complaint outside of specified timeframe outlined in [Rule 10.2.2\(a\)](#) where there is evidence of exceptional circumstances as to why a complaint couldn't be submitted within the specified timeframe.
- (c) Where there is an alleged breach relating to Safeguarding Children and Young People, then the time limitations in [Rule 10.2.2\(a\)](#) and [Rule 10.2.2\(b\)](#) are not applicable and a complaint may be submitted at any time after the alleged incident.

10.2.3. Levy of fee

- (a) AFL Europe will levy a fee of £150 for the administration of a written complaint which will be refunded if the AFL Europe determines that the Person who is the subject of the written complaint has committed a Policy Breach.

10.2.4. Withdrawal of complaint

- (a) A complaint submitted in accordance with [Rule 10.2.1](#) cannot be withdrawn by the submitting party after it has been submitted, unless otherwise approved by AFL Europe.

10.3. Assessing and investigating a complaint

10.3.1. AFL Europe assessment following receipt of complaint

- (a) As soon as practicable after AFL Europe receives a written complaint under [Rule 10.2.1](#), AFL Europe must undertake an assessment of the alleged Policy Breach set out in the written complaint and following its assessment, AFL Europe may:
 - (i) investigate the matter in accordance with [Rule 10.3.2](#); or
 - (ii) refer the matter to the MRP or MRO to be assessed as an alleged Reportable Offence in accordance with [Rule 9.4.2](#); or
 - (iii) refer the matter to a government authority (including the police).
- (b) As soon as practicable after AFL Europe receives a written complaint under Rule 10.2.1 which relates to (Vilification or Discrimination – Prohibited Conduct), AFL Europe will undertake an assessment of the alleged breach and either:
 - (i) undertake the preliminary resolution process set out in Section 10.3 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook; or
 - (ii) escalate the written complaint to the AFL and notify the person(s) of that escalation.

10.3.2. AFL Europe investigation

- (a) Except where prohibited by law, AFL Europe may investigate and deal with any matter in connection with these Rules and Regulations including to:
 - (i) use reasonable measures to establish the facts of the alleged Policy Breach (including by interviewing any relevant Person and taking witness statements);
 - (ii) determine all questions arising or objections made in relation to an alleged Policy Breach;
 - (iii) engage a third party or appropriately qualified investigator to assist with an investigation.
 - (iv) refer any matter concerning an alleged Policy Breach for hearing and determination, in whole or in part, by a body or person appointed by AFL Europe

including the AFL Europe Commission, AFL Europe Disciplinary Committee, AFL Europe Tribunal or any other officially appointed body ;

- (v) stand down any Person subject to any action specified under [Rule 10.3.2](#) (including any investigation or associated Tribunal or Appeal Board hearing) from participating in or in connection with a Tournament or Competition conducted by AFL Europe or any of its Affiliated Members;
 - (vi) consider external expert advice regarding cultural or religious matters or other relevant lived experience;
 - (vii) exercise any other powers conferred by these Rules and Regulations; and
 - (viii) delegate any of its powers under these Rules and Regulations.
- (b) If AFL Europe elects to investigate a matter under these Rules and Regulations, AFL Europe must give written notice to the Person(s) which are the subject of the investigation.
- (c) On completion of an investigation under [Rule 10.3.2](#), AFL Europe must proceed with the matter in accordance with [Rule 10.4](#).

10.3.3. Vexatious complaints

- (a) A Person (including a Disciplinary Officer or Club) must not knowingly submit a complaint that is untrue, vexatious or malicious.

10.3.4. Cooperation with investigation

- (a) A Person who is the subject of an investigation under [Rule 10.3.2](#) and other Persons relevant to an investigation must:
- (i) Co-operate with the investigation;
 - (ii) Answer questions and provide statements truthfully during the investigation;
 - (iii) Not make any false or misleading statements or act in a manner calculated to or which is likely to mislead.

10.3.5. Investigations involving minors

- (a) Where a Person involved in an investigation under [Rule 10.3.2](#) is under the age of eighteen (18) years then during the investigation that Person must always be supported by:
- (i) A parent or guardian of the Person; and
 - (ii) Where possible, a Club officer.

10.3.6. Confidentiality

- (a) Subject to [Rule 10.3.2\(b\)](#), AFL Europe must use reasonable endeavours to keep confidential any information obtained under [Rule 10.3.2](#).
- (b) Information obtained under [Rule 10.3.2](#) may be used or disclosed by AFL Europe in connection with investigations under these Rules and Regulations and in reporting any

reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct to relevant authorities. Without limiting the foregoing, AFL Europe may disclose such information to the public where it is reasonable to do so in the interests of the open administration of AFL Europe disciplinary processes provided that no information that identifies a person will be disclosed other than a person's name and information about their participation in a Tournament or AFL Europe Affiliated Member Competition.

10.4. Decision following investigation

10.4.1. AFL Europe decision following investigation

- (a) On completing of an investigation under [Rule 10.3.2](#), AFL Europe may:
 - (i) impose a sanction on any Person who has committed a Policy Breach on any terms and conditions, including to reprimand, suspend or deregister a Person; or
 - (ii) deal with the matter in such other manner as AFL Europe sees fit which may include AFL Europe attempting to conciliate or mediate the matter or issuing a warning letter or dismissing altogether; or
 - (iii) complete a Notice of Breach.
 - (a) AFL Europe may elect to refer the Notice of Breach directly to the Tribunal without prescribing a sanction.
- (b) All decisions of AFL Europe under [Rule 10.4.1\(a\)\(i\)](#) or [Rule 10.4.1\(a\)\(iii\)](#), including in connection with an alleged Policy Breach, are final and subject only to any rights of appeal provided by law.

10.5. Issuing or withdrawing Notice of Breach

10.5.1. Issuing Notice of Breach

If AFL Europe completes a Notice of Breach under [Rule 10.4.1\(a\)\(iii\)](#), then AFL Europe must:

- (a) Issue the Notice of Breach to the charged Person and that Person's Club (if applicable); and
- (b) Provide the other Person and that Person's Club (if applicable) with a copy of the Notice of Breach.

10.5.2. Completing a Notice of Breach

A Notice of Breach must:

- (a) Categorise the alleged Policy Breach;
- (b) Set out the sanction prescribed by AFL Europe unless the matter is directly referred to the Tribunal in which case no prescribed sanction is required; and
- (c) Include the details set out in the form of the Notice of Breach set out in [Appendix 6 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook](#).

10.5.3. *Withdrawal of Notice of Breach*

AFL Europe may withdraw a Notice of Breach completed under [Rule 10.5.2](#) at any time prior to a Tribunal hearing.

10.6. Early Guilty Plea – Policy Breach

10.6.1. *Person may enter Early Guilty Plea*

- (a) Subject to [Rule 10.6.3](#), where a Person has been issued a Notice of Breach, that Person may enter an Early Guilty Plea in relation to the Policy Breach and accept the Early Guilty Plea penalty prescribed by AFL Europe in the Notice of Breach, by no later than forty-eight (48) hours after receipt of the Notice of Breach.

10.6.2. *Proceed to Tribunal hearing*

- (a) If a Person elects to contest a Notice of Breach issued under [Rule 10.5.2](#), then AFL Europe must refer the matter to the Tribunal and that Person will not be entitled to any reduction to the sanction available with the Early Guilty Plea penalty.
- (b) If a Person fails to respond to a Notice of Breach issued under [Rule 10.6.1](#), then AFL Europe may :
 - (i) refer the matter to the Tribunal to be dealt with in accordance with [Section 11](#) and that Person will not be entitled to any reduction to the sanction available with the Early Guilty Plea penalty; or
 - (ii) apply the Early Guilty Plea penalty without referring the matter to the Tribunal.

10.6.3. *Early Plea Not Available*

- (a) If a Notice of Breach is referred directly to the Tribunal in accordance with [Rule 10.4.1\(a\)\(iii\)\(A\)](#), the relevant Person may not enter an Early Guilty Plea.

10.7. Disciplinary Officer

- (a) AFL Europe may, from time to time, appoint one or more Disciplinary Officers who may:
 - (i) assist with the assessment of an alleged Policy Breach under [Rule 10.3.2](#)
 - (ii) advise the Tribunal of the particulars of a Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach;
 - (iii) advise the Appeal Board of the particulars of a Notice of Appeal;
 - (iv) make submissions in relation to a Notice of Charge, Notice of Breach or Notice of Appeal;
 - (v) respond to any matters put in defence in relation to a Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach;
 - (vi) ask questions of any Person appearing before the Tribunal or Appeal Board;
 - (vii) where necessary or desirable in the interests of general justice and fairness, call any Person to give evidence before the Tribunal; and

- (viii) address the Tribunal or Appeal Board prior to the final submissions of any Person.
- (b) A Disciplinary Officer may, with leave of the Tribunal, amend any Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach to be determined by the Tribunal prior to or at any time during a Tribunal hearing.

11. Tribunal

11.1. Function

- (a) The function of the Tribunal is to deal with any Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach referred to under these Rules and Regulations.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, [Section 11](#) only applies to a Notice of Charge, or a Notice of breach referred to the Tribunal under these Rules and Regulations.

11.2. Establishment

11.2.1. *Appoint a Tribunal*

- (a) AFL Europe may, from time to time, appoint persons to the Tribunal.

11.2.2. *Tribunal members*

The Tribunal must consist of:

- (a) a Person who in the opinion of AFL Europe has sufficient knowledge of Australian Football and the modified European rules outlined within these Rules and Regulations and is sufficiently qualified to competently perform the role of chairperson (Chairperson); and
- (b) a Panel of Persons (minimum two) who in the opinion of AFL Europe possess sufficient knowledge of Australian Football the modified European rules outlined within these Rules and Regulations and are sufficiently qualified to competently perform the role of Tribunal panel member (Tribunal Panel).

11.2.3. *Qualification of Tribunal members*

Except where AFL Europe determines otherwise, a Person must not be appointed to the Tribunal if:

- (a) In the twelve (12) months preceding the relevant appointment date, that Person:
 - (i) has been a member of a board of directors of a Member or Club affiliated with AFL Europe; or
 - (ii) has been a coach or assistant or specialty coach of a Member or Club affiliated with AFL Europe; or
 - (iii) has been a Player; or
 - (iv) has been an employee of a Member of Club affiliated with AFL Europe; or
 - (v) that person has failed to meet any Tribunal-specific training or education requirements specified by AFL Europe from time to time.

11.2.4. *Resignation and removal of Tribunal members*

- (a) A member of the Tribunal may resign by providing written notice to AFL Europe.
- (b) AFL Europe may remove a member of the Tribunal at any time at its absolute discretion.

11.3. Procedure and evidence

11.3.1. Composition of Tribunal for hearing

- (a) Except where AFL Europe determines otherwise, at any Tribunal hearing, the Tribunal must comprise:
 - (i) The Chairperson or, in the Chairperson's absence, a member of the Tribunal Panel who will act as Chairperson; and
 - (ii) A minimum of two (2) and maximum of four (4) Tribunal Panel members.
- (b) Persons appointed as Chairperson and to the Tribunal Panel may be rotated from time to time as determined by AFL Europe.

11.3.2. Representation

- (a) At any Tribunal hearing a Person issued with a Notice, the Charged Person must:
 - (i) Appear in person (either physically or via video link); and/or
 - (ii) Be represented by:
 - (a) a Club Officer.
 - (iii) No Person shall be represented by an advocate who is a barrister or solicitor or qualified to practice as a barrister or solicitor.
- (b) If a Charged Person appears in person and is not represented in accordance with [Rule 11.3.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#), then the Charged Person may act as their own advocate.
- (c) Where a Person issued with a Notice of Charge, or a Notice of Breach is under the age of eighteen (18) years at the time of the Tribunal hearing:
 - (i) the Person must be represented under [Rule 11.3.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) and such a representative must not be a parent or guardian of the Charged Person; and
 - (ii) A parent or guardian of the Charged Person may attend any Tribunal hearing in person or in support of the Charged Person.
- (d) Where the Chairperson is of the opinion that a Person or representative of a Person appearing before the Tribunal has failed to observe directions of the Tribunal or otherwise acted in a contemptuous, irresponsible, or discourteous manner, the Chairperson may dismiss the Person or Person's representative and, if appropriate, adjourn the proceedings to enable the Person to obtain fresh representation.

11.3.3. Attendance at Tribunal hearing

- (a) Subject to [Rule 11.3.2](#), a Charged Person and their representative must attend a Tribunal hearing at the date, time, and place/forum (including by video or telephone conferencing) as notified by AFL Europe.

- (b) Any Football Official, Player, parent or guardian of a Player must also appear before the Tribunal if requested to do so by AFL Europe or the Tribunal.
- (c) In respect of a Tribunal hearing:
 - (i) The Chairperson may excuse a Person from appearing at a Tribunal hearing where the Chairperson is satisfied that the Person is suffering from an injury or medical condition that will reasonably prevent that Person's attendance;
 - (ii) Any person, including a Charged Person's representative, who wishes to attend a Tribunal hearing via video or telephone must first seek the prior approval of AFL Europe;
 - (iii) AFL Europe or the Tribunal may, at any time prior to the Tribunal hearing, vary the date, time and place/forum of the Tribunal hearing and upon doing so, must advise all directly interest parties of such variation; and
 - (iv) If a Person issued with a Notice of Charge or a Notice of Breach, or if that Person's representative fails to appear at a Tribunal hearing at the notified date, time and place/forum, the Tribunal may proceed to hear and determine the matter and impose any sanction in the absence of that Person or that Person's representative or postpone the Tribunal hearing provided that a Person will be deemed as being suspended for the period of any postponement.

11.3.4. General conduct of Tribunal hearing

- (a) A Tribunal hearing:
 - (i) Will be held in London, England, unless otherwise notified or approved by AFL Europe; and
 - (ii) Will be conducted by the Tribunal with as little formality and technicality and as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matter permits.
 - (iii) The Tribunal is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to a court of law and may inform itself as to any matter in such a manner as it determines.
 - (iv) AFL Europe may establish and apply guidelines for the practice and procedure of a Tribunal hearing provided that such guidelines are not inconsistent with these Rules and Regulations. Any such guidelines must be directory in nature and no decision of the Tribunal will be invalidated by reason of a guideline not being followed.
- (b) The Tribunal must:
 - (i) Subject to [Rule 11.3.4\(e\)](#), provide any Person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision, a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
 - (ii) Hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and

- (iii) Make a decision that a reasonable Tribunal could honestly arrive at.
- (c) The Tribunal will use reasonable endeavours to hear and determine any Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach referred to within fourteen (14) days of the Player's election to contest but to the extent that natural justice principles require that:
- (d) A Person be given adequate notice of or sufficient time to prepare for a hearing; or
- (e) A Tribunal hearing be scheduled at the time which does not affect the preparation of the Person(s) or the Club of the Person(s) for the next scheduled Match.

11.3.5. Evidence

- (a) A Charged Person may, subject to the following provisions, request to adduce witness evidence at the Tribunal hearing:
 - (i) Any such request must be submitted to AFL Europe in writing by not later than 5:00pm on the day after the Notice is issued (or other such time as determined by AFL Europe);
 - (ii) The request must contain:
 - (a) The name and address of the witness, and, in the case of any expert witness, evidence proposed to be adduced, their qualifications and experience;
 - (b) A summary of the substance of the evidence the Charged Person proposes to adduce from the witness;
- (b) In this section, the word witness includes the Charged Person, where the Charged Person intends to, or does give evidence at the Tribunal hearing.
- (c) Unless permission is granted by the Chairperson, a Person shall not adduce the evidence of a witness unless that Person complies with [Rule 11.3.5\(a\)](#).
- (d) After receiving a request in accordance with this rule, the Chairperson may permit a Person to adduce the evidence of a witness.
- (e) Where expert evidence from a witness is adduced, or any other occasion, the Tribunal, at the direction of the Chairperson, may hear any other expert evidence in relation to the matters requiring its determination.
- (f) In relation to a Notice of Charge only:
 - (i) Only in exceptional and compelling circumstances, as determined by AFL Europe in its absolute discretion, will the Tribunal receive evidence from a Person who is not an Umpire or recorded on the squad list for a relevant Match; and

- (ii) Any video or medical evidence which is not already in the possession of AFL Europe must be submitted by a Club to AFL Europe if requested by AFL Europe.
- (g) At a Tribunal hearing, a Person may rely on any incident contained in the prescribed video examples set out in **Appendix 2 – Example Reportable Offences in the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook** as evidence of an incident comparable to the incident in respect of which the Person is charged, subject to the following provisions:
 - (i) The prescribed video examples are not used to supplement evidence of the incident in respect of which the Person is charged where Match footage of the incident in question does not exist*;
 - (ii) It will not be necessary to obtain the leave of the Chairperson to adduce such evidence;
 - (iii) The Chairperson may give some directions to the Tribunal as to the use of such evidence;
 - (iv) Subject to the Chairperson's directions, it will be a matter for the Tribunal to determine the assistance such evidence provides, and the weight given to it;
 - (v) Adequate notice must be given by the Person to AFL Europe of any prescribed video example sought to be relied upon; and
 - (vi) The Tribunal will not consider video evidence of any other incidents that are not on the prescribed list.

*Guidance Note * - video examples can only be used comparatively and not as an example of what happened where there isn't video evidence of the actual incident.*

11.3.6. Matters referred under Anti-Doping Code

Where a Notice of Breach is referred to the Tribunal relates to an alleged breach of the Anti-Doping Code, [Section 11](#) of these Rules and Regulations must be read in conjunction with the provisions of the Anti-Doping Code, provided that to the extent of any inconsistency, the provision of the Anti-Doping Code will prevail.

11.3.7. Challenges

- (a) If a Person intends to:
 - (i) challenge the jurisdiction of the Tribunal to deal with a matter;
 - (ii) challenge the constitution of the Tribunal;
 - (iii) challenge the formalities relating to a Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach; or
 - (iv) raise any other matter requiring a legal or technical interpretation,
- (b) that Person must provide full written particulars of all relevant matters and forward a copy of those particulars to AFL Europe and any other Person who has a direct interest in the

proceedings (including, if applicable, the Disciplinary Officer) by midday on the day after the issue of the Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach.

11.3.8. Standard of proof

- (a) In relation to a Notice of Charge, the Tribunal will decide whether a Reportable Offence against a Person has been committed on the balance of probabilities.
- (b) In relation to a Notice of Breach, the Tribunal will decide whether a Policy Breach has been committed to its comfortable satisfaction.

11.3.9. Onus of proof

- (a) No Person appearing before the Tribunal shall bear an onus of establishing that an alleged Reportable Offence or Policy Breach has been committed.

11.3.10. Cooperation with Tribunal

- (a) If, in the opinion of the Tribunal, a Person who appears before the Tribunal:
 - (i) fails to fully cooperate with the Tribunal;
 - (ii) fails to truthfully answer any questions asked by a Disciplinary Officer or Tribunal Panel;
 - (iii) fails to provide any document in that Person's possession or control relevant to the Tribunal hearing following a request by a Disciplinary Officer or Tribunal; or
 - (iv) makes any false or misleading statement or make a statement or acts in a manner which may mislead a Disciplinary Officer or Tribunal;
- (b) That Person may be dealt with in such a manner as the Tribunal determines, including, where relevant, factoring in that Person's conduct in imposing a sanction under [Rule 11.4.1\(a\)](#)

11.3.11. Prohibited Conduct

- (a) A Charged Person, that Person's representative or any Person acting in concert with a Charged Person, must not contact, or procure another Person to contact a Person who may be required to give evidence before the Tribunal, where that contact is intended to or may otherwise mislead the Tribunal or unfairly affect the conduct of the Tribunal hearing.
- (b) A Person must not comment publicly on:
 - (i) the contents of a Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach prior to the conclusion of any Tribunal hearing and/or completing of a matter; or
 - (ii) any matter relating to an investigation under these Rules and Regulations, until completion of such investigation and/or relevant determination by the Tribunal,
- (c) Unless the Person establishes, to the reasonable satisfaction of AFL Europe that such public comment was not intended to influence or affect the conduct of a Tribunal hearing or the process of an investigation.

- (d) If AFL Europe determines that a Person has breached [Rule 11.3.11](#), that Person:
 - (i) Will be deemed to have also breached the AFL Europe Code of Conduct by engaging in conduct which brings, or is likely to bring, the interests of Australian Football or AFL Europe into disrepute; and
 - (ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules and Regulations, may be dealt with in such manner as AFL Europe determines including referral of such breach to the Tribunal.

11.3.12. Sanction on Player's Club

- (a) In addition to any sanction imposed or determination made under [Rule 11.3.11\(c\)](#), AFL Europe may impose a sanction on that Person's Club:
 - (i) where the Person was a Football Official of the Club; and
 - (ii) where the Person was not a Football Official of the Club, unless the Club satisfies AFL Europe that the Person engaged in the relevant conduct without the knowledge of the Club.

11.3.13. Costs

- (a) Each party to a Tribunal hearing will bear their own costs in relation to the Tribunal process.

11.4. Outcomes

11.4.1. Tribunal Decisions

- (a) A decision of the Tribunal must be determined according to the opinion of a majority of the sitting Tribunal.
- (b) Subject to [Rule 11.4.1\(d\)](#), if:
 - (i) in relation to a Notice of Charge, the Tribunal determines that a Reportable Offence has been committed by a Person, the Tribunal must impose the sanction applicable to the Reportable Offence in accordance with [Table 1 in Appendix 5 – Grading Classifiable Offences](#); or
 - (ii) in relation to a Notice of Breach, the Tribunal determines that a Policy Breach has been committed by a Person, the Tribunal may impose a sanction on that Person, on any terms and conditions, including to reprimand or suspend that Person provided that the Tribunal may not deregister that Person.
 - (iii) In determining a sanction under [Rule 11.4.1\(b\)\(ii\)](#) the Tribunal may be guided, to the extent applicable and relevant, by the sanctions applicable to Reportable Offences in accordance with [Appendix 5 – Grading Classifiable Offences](#). A 'suspended' match suspension is not a sanction available to the Tribunal.
- (c) The Tribunal may determine that a reduced sanction is applicable in exceptional and compelling circumstances, including where:
 - (i) a Person has a verifiable exemplary Disciplinary History;

- (ii) a Reportable Offence or Policy Breach was committed in response to provocation;
 - (iii) a Reportable Offence or Policy Breach was committed in self-defence; or
 - (iv) there are multiple Reportable Offences and/or Policy Breaches arising from the same incident or course of conduct,

and it is appropriate in such exceptional and compelling circumstances to reduce the sanction.
- (d) In determining any sanction, the Tribunal will have no regard to the effect of the sanction on deregistration.
 - (e) Should a Person plead guilty to a Reportable Offence subject to an alternative classification, and successfully contest the Notice of Charge at the Tribunal (such that the Tribunal determines to downgrade the charge), the Person will be entitled to receive a reduction in the sanction equivalent to the reduction obtained had the Player submitted an Early Guilty Plea for that lesser offence.
 - (f) The Tribunal is not obliged to give reasons for any decision it makes under these Rules and Regulations.
 - (g) If the Tribunal makes a decision under [Rule 11.4.1\(a\)](#) in relation to a Person who was under the age of eighteen (18) years at the time the Reportable Offence or Policy Breach occurred, AFL Europe must not publish the decision of the Tribunal insofar that it is viewable by the general public without the express permission of the relevant Person and their parent/guardian except that, to ensure effective administration of Competitions, access to such decisions and related sanctions will be available to AFL Europe and any Club Officer who has access to Competition records.

11.4.2. *Validity of charge and hearings*

- (a) Where there is any procedural irregularity in relation to a Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach or any other relevant matter, the Tribunal must still hear and determine the relevant matter unless the Tribunal is satisfied that the irregularity has caused or may cause injustice.
- (b) The Chairperson may direct that a Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach be amended to ensure that the Notice of Charge or Notice of Breach is heard and determined according to its merits. For the avoidance of doubt, the power to amend includes the power to substitute a charge.
- (c) A decision of the Tribunal is not invalid because of a defect or irregularity in, or in connection with, the appointment of a Tribunal member.
- (d) Subject to [Rules 11.3.4\(e\)](#), [11.3.8](#) and [11.3.9](#) any procedure or requirement regulating the function of the Tribunal is directory in nature and a decision of the Tribunal will not be invalid by reason of that procedure or requirement not being fulfilled.

11.4.3. Suspension of Person

- (a) Due to the nature of AFL Europe Tournaments being played over the course of one day, it isn't practicable for a Tribunal to sit between a Match in which a Person has been issued with a Notice of Charge and their next Match. As such, a Person suspended by the Tribunal may be required to serve their suspension at Club and/or Country level and/or be suspended from participating in a future AFL Europe Tournament Matches or and future AFL Europe Tournament(s).
 - (i) for the avoidance of doubt, the Tribunal can issue a suspension for Matches being played at International Level, Country level, Club level, future AFL Europe Tournament Matches or entire future AFL Europe Tournaments, or a combination of any available options.
- (b) A Member country that doesn't enforce a suspension of a Person as a result of a Tribunal decision as required will be deemed to have breached the AFL Europe Bylaws and dealt with in accordance with those byelaws.
- (c) Where a sanction imposed under [Rule 11.4.1](#) is a suspension that suspension must be expressed as a number of Matches and/or Tournaments.
- (d) A Person suspended:
 - (i) must serve such suspension in the grade in which the Person played or participated immediately prior to such suspension;
 - (ii) may not serve the suspension in any pre-season or off-season Matches but may participate in such Matches unless otherwise determined by AFL Europe;
 - (iii) may not serve the suspension in any practice or trial matches;
 - (iv) may participate in practice or trial matches unless otherwise determined by AFL Europe;
 - (v) may not serve the suspension in any Competition bye round or where the relevant Person's team has a bye;
 - (vi) may not serve the suspension in any cancelled or forfeited Matches unless otherwise determined by AFL Europe;
 - (vii) who is transferring from one Competition to another Competition will carry over any suspensions to the new Competition;
 - (viii) during a split round may not serve the suspension in that same round in another grade (including representative football);
 - (ix) who is seeking to appeal the suspension is subject to [Rule 12.4.2](#).

- (x) who receives more than one suspension in respect of the same Match or incident is subject will have those individual sanctions added together to form the final sanction applicable to the Person.
 - (xi) (other than a Player suspended for a Reportable Offence) may not communicate with any Football Official on Match Day for the duration of their suspension;
 - (xii) (other than a Player suspended for a Reportable Offence), may not enter the playing area or Club change rooms at any Match Day for the duration of their suspension;
 - (xiii) may not perform any Football Official duties on Match Day for the duration of their suspension, including any role that would require that Person to be entered on a team sheet.
- (e) Unless otherwise specified by AFL Europe in exceptional and compelling circumstances, a suspended Person will not be eligible to play, coach or otherwise be involved in representative football if the representative fixture occurs while the Person is serving the suspension. The representative fixture will not count as part of the suspension.
- (f) Where a Person is suspended, and a scenario arises with respect to the application of that suspension that is not specifically dealt with in [Rule 11.4.3\(b\)\(i\)-\(xiv\)](#) and [Rule 11.4.3\(c\)](#), then AFL Europe may apply the suspension at their discretion (acting reasonably and having regard to the principles set out in [Rule 11.4.3\(b\)\(i\)-\(xiv\)](#) and [Rule 11.4.3\(c\)](#). If two Controlling Bodies are involved, both Controlling Bodies must agree on the application of the suspension under this [Rule 11.4.3\(d\)](#).
- (g) Law 22.4 of the Laws of the Game will apply in conjunction with [Rule 11.4.3](#) in relation to all Persons suspended by the Tribunal.

11.4.4. Criticism of decision

- (a) A Person must not make any unfair, unreasonable, or excessive public criticism of a Tribunal decision or of any Tribunal member or any other matter touching or concerning the Tribunal, or a determination made by it.
- (b) If a Person breaches [Rule 11.4.4\(a\)](#) that Person and that Person's Club may be dealt with in such manner as AFL Europe sees fit including referral of such breach to the Tribunal.

12. Appeals Board

12.1. General

12.1.1. *Function*

- (a) The function of the Appeal Board is to deal with any appeal commenced by AFL Europe or Person in respect of:
 - (i) a decision made by the Tribunal under [Section 11](#); or
 - (ii) a decision made by AFL Europe Competition Committee under [Rule 2.7\(b\)](#).

12.1.2. *Grounds for appeal*

- (a) Except where AFL Europe determines otherwise, a Person or Affiliate Member or Club affected by a decision made by AFL Europe Competition Committee under [Rule 2.7\(b\)](#) or the Tribunal under [Section 11](#) (Appellant) may appeal to the Appeal Board in respect of such decision on one or more of the following grounds:
 - (i) the decision involved an error of law that had a material impact on the Tribunal's decision;
 - (ii) the decision was so unreasonable that no Controlling Body or Tribunal acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it;
 - (iii) the classification of the Reportable Offence or Policy Breach or other conduct (as applicable) was manifestly excessive or inadequate; or
 - (iv) that the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate,

(each, an **Appeal Ground**).
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, only the Appeals Grounds in [12.1.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) apply in respect of an appeal brought under [Rule 2.7\(b\)](#).
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, an Appellant may not appeal any decision of AFL Europe to the Appeal Board.

12.1.3. *Notice of appeal*

- (a) An appeal must be submitted to AFL Europe, by no later than 5:00pm on the day following the relevant decision of AFL Europe or the Tribunal and include the following:
 - (i) a duly completed Notice of Appeal which must specify the Appeal Ground(s) relied upon by the Appellant and supporting submissions in respect of the Appeal Ground(s); and
 - (ii) payment of a fixed fee of £150 payable to AFL Europe on lodgement of the appeal.

- (iii) 50% of the appeal fee listed in [Rule 12.1.3\(a\)\(ii\)](#) is non-refundable, with 50% being refundable where an appeal is successful or abandoned for any reason.
- (iv) AFL Europe will arrange a date, time, and place/forum (including by video or telephone conferencing) for the Appeal Board hearing as soon as practicable after the lodgement of a Notice of Appeal and payment in accordance with [Rule 12.1.3\(a\)\(i\)-\(ii\)](#) and must advise all interested parties of those particulars.

12.2. Establishment

12.2.1. Appointment

- (a) AFL Europe may, from time to time, appoint persons to the Appeal Board.

12.2.2. Appeal Board Members

- (a) The Appeal Board must consist of:
 - (i) a person who in the opinion of AFL Europe possesses sufficient knowledge of Australian Football and the law to competently perform the role of chairperson of the Appeal Board (Chairperson of the Appeal Board); and
 - (ii) a panel of persons who in the opinion of AFL Europe possess sufficient knowledge of Australian Football and the law to competently perform the role of Appeal Board panel member (Appeal Board Panel).

12.2.3. Qualifications of Appeal Board members

- (a) Except where AFL Europe determines otherwise, a person must not be appointed to the Appeal Board if:
 - (i) in the twelve (12) months preceding the relevant appointment date, that person:
 - (a) has been a member of a board of directors of a Member or Club affiliated with the AFL Europe; or
 - (b) has been a coach or assistant or specialty coach of a Member or Club affiliated with AFL Europe; or
 - (c) has been a Player; or
 - (d) has been an employee of a Member or Club affiliated with AFL Europe; or
 - (e) that person has failed to meet the tribunal training or education requirements set out by the AFL Europe from time to time.

12.2.4. Resignation and removal of Appeal Board members

- (a) A member of the Appeal Board may resign by providing written notice to AFL Europe.
- (b) AFL Europe may remove a member of the Appeal Board at any time at their absolute discretion.

12.3. Procedure and Evidence

12.3.1. *Composition of Appeal Board*

- (a) Except where AFL Europe determines otherwise, at any Appeal Board hearing, the Appeal Board must comprise:
 - (i) the Chairperson of the Appeal Board or, in their absence, a member of the Appeal Board Panel who will act as Chairperson of the Appeal Board; and
 - (ii) a minimum of one (1) and maximum of two (2) Appeal Board Panel members.
- (b) Any Chairperson of the Appeal Board or Appeal Board Panel member who:
 - (i) has also been appointed as Chairperson or Tribunal Panel member; and
 - (ii) sat on the Tribunal for the matter that is the subject of any Appeal Board hearing, must not sit on the Appeal Board for the Appeal Board hearing.
- (c) Persons appointed as Chairperson of the Appeal Board and to the Appeal Board Panel may be rotated from time to time as determined by AFL Europe.

12.3.2. *Representation*

- (a) Subject to [Rule 12.3.2\(b\)](#) at any Appeal Board hearing an Appellant must:
 - (i) appear in person; and/or
 - (ii) be represented by:
 - (a) a Club Officer.
 - (b) No Person shall be represented by an advocate who is a barrister or solicitor or qualified to practice as a barrister or solicitor.
- (b) If an Appellant appears in person and is not represented in accordance with [Rule 12.3.2 \(a\)\(ii\)\(A\)](#) then the Appellant may act as their own advocate.
- (c) Where an Appellant is under the age of eighteen (18) years at the time of the Appeal Board hearing:
 - (i) the Appellant must be represented under [Rule 12.3.2 \(a\)\(ii\)\(A\)](#) (and such representative must not be a parent or guardian of the Appellant); and
 - (ii) a parent or guardian of the Appellant may attend any Appeal Board hearing in place of or in support of the Appellant.
- (d) Where the Chairperson of the Appeal Board is of the opinion that an Appellant or representative of an Appellant appearing before the Appeal Board has failed to observe directions of the Appeal Board or otherwise acted in a contemptuous, irresponsible or discourteous manner, the Chairperson of the Appeal Board may dismiss the Appellant or

representative and if appropriate, adjourn the proceedings to enable the Appellant to obtain fresh representation.

12.3.3. Attendance at Appeal Board hearing

- (a) Subject to [Rule 12.3.2](#) an Appellant and their personal representative, must attend an Appeal Board hearing at the date, time and place/forum (including by video or telephone conferencing) fixed by AFL Europe.
- (b) Any Football Official, Player, parent or guardian of a Player must appear before the Appeal Board if requested to do so by AFL Europe or Appeal Board.
- (c) In respect of an Appeal Board hearing:
 - (i) the Chairperson of the Appeal Board may excuse an Appellant from appearing at an Appeal Board hearing if the Chairperson of the Appeal Board is satisfied that the Appellant is suffering from an injury or medical condition that will reasonably prevent that Appellant's attendance;
 - (ii) any Appellant, including the Appellant's representative, who wishes to attend an Appeal Board hearing via video or telephone must first seek the prior approval of AFL Europe (except where video or telephone conferencing is the forum fixed by AFL Europe);
 - (iii) AFL Europe or Appeal Board may, at any time prior to the Appeal Board hearing, vary the date, time or place/forum of the Appeal Board hearing and upon doing so, must advise all interested parties of such variation; and
 - (iv) if an Appellant, or that Appellant's representative, fails to appear at an Appeal Board hearing at the notified date, time and place/forum, the Appeal Board may proceed to hear and determine the matter and impose any sanction in the absence of that Appellant, or that Appellant's representative.

12.3.4. General Conduct of Appeal Board hearing

- (a) The Appeal Board:
 - (i) may regulate any proceedings brought before it in such manner as the Chairperson of the Appeal Board determines; and
 - (ii) is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to a court of law and may inform itself as to any matter in such manner as it determines.
- (b) The Appeal Board must:
 - (i) subject to [Rule 12.3.4\(c\)](#) provide any Person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision, a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
 - (ii) hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and

- (iii) make a decision that a reasonable Tribunal could honestly arrive at.
- (c) The Appeal Board will use reasonable endeavours to hear and determine any appeal before the Club of the Appellant is next scheduled to compete but to the extent that natural justice principles require that:
 - (i) the Appellant be given adequate notice of or sufficient time to prepare for a hearing; or
 - (ii) an Appeal Board hearing be scheduled at a time which does not affect the preparation of the Appellant or the Club of the Appellant for the next scheduled Match,

those requirements are expressly excluded from these Rules and Regulations.

12.3.5. *Review of evidence by Appeal Board*

- (a) The Appeal Board must hear an appeal by way of a review of the evidence presented before the Tribunal or AFL Europe (as applicable) and will determine whether the Appeal Ground(s) nominated by the Appellant has been established.
- (b) An Appellant may not produce fresh evidence at an Appeal Board hearing without leave of the Appeal Board.
- (c) If an Appellant seeks leave to produce fresh evidence, the Appeal Board will not grant such leave unless the Appeal Board is satisfied that:
 - (i) the evidence could not by reasonable diligence have been obtained by the Person prior to the conclusion of the Tribunal hearing or AFL Europe investigation (as applicable); and
 - (ii) the evidence is of sufficient probative value such that, considered with other evidence which was before the Tribunal or AFL Europe (as applicable), the Tribunal or AFL Europe would have reached a different decision.

12.3.6. *Onus and standard of proof on appeal*

- (a) At an Appeal Board hearing, the Appellant will bear the onus of establishing, on the balance of probabilities, one or more Appeal Grounds.

12.3.7. *Prohibited conduct*

- (a) A Person must not comment publicly on the contents of a Notice of Appeal prior to a determination by the Appeal Board or conclusion of the matter unless the Person establishes, to the reasonable satisfaction of AFL Europe, that such public comment was not intended to influence or affect the conduct of an Appeal Board hearing.
- (b) If a Person breaches [Rule 12.3.7\(a\)](#) that Person:
 - (i) will be deemed to have also breached the AFL Europe Code of Conduct; and

- (ii) notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules and Regulations, may be dealt with in such manner as the Tribunal or AFL Europe determines.

12.3.8. Sanction on Person's Club

- (a) In addition to any sanction imposed or determination made under [Rule 12.3.7\(b\)](#) AFL Europe may impose a sanction on that Person's Club:
 - (i) where the Person was a Football Official of the Club; and
 - (ii) where the Person was not a Football Official of the Club, unless the Club satisfies the AFL Europe that the Person engaged in the relevant conduct without the knowledge of the Club.

12.3.9. Costs

- (a) Notwithstanding [Rule 12.1.3\(a\)\(ii\)](#), each party to an appeal will bear their own costs in relation to the appeal process.

12.4. Outcomes

12.4.1. Decision of Appeal Board

- (a) A decision of the Appeal Board must be determined according to the opinion of a majority of the sitting Appeal Board. Where no majority is reached, the decision of the Appeal Board must be determined according to the opinion of the Chairperson.
- (b) Where the Appeal Board determines that one or more Appeal Grounds has been established, the Appeal Board may confirm, reverse or modify the decision of the Tribunal or AFL Europe (as applicable) and make such orders and give such directions in such manner as it determines provided that any suspension imposed must be expressed in Matches.
- (c) The Appeal Board is not obliged to give reasons for any decision it makes under these Rules and Regulations.
- (d) If the Appeal Board makes a decision under [Rule 12.4.1\(a\)](#) in relation to a Person who was under the age of eighteen (18) years at the time the Reportable Offence or Policy Breach occurred, AFL Europe must not publish the decision of the Appeal Board such that it is viewable by the general public without the express permission of the relevant Person and their parent/guardian except that, to ensure effective administration of Competitions, access to such decisions and related sanctions may be available to AFL Europe and any Club Official who has access to Competition records

12.4.2. Person to serve sanction

Subject to [Rule 12.4.3](#) where the Tribunal or AFL Europe imposes a sanction on a Person that prevents the Person from participating in a Match, [Rule 11.4.3](#) will apply, and the Person must serve that sanction pending the determination of any appeal.

12.4.3. Power to adjourn

- (a) Subject to [Rule 12.4.3\(b\)](#) the Appeal Board may, of its own motion or upon application of any party to the appeal, order:

- (i) that an appeal be adjourned; and/or
 - (ii) a stay of the execution of the sanction imposed by the Tribunal or AFL Europe pending the determination of the appeal, if the Appeal Board is satisfied that exceptional and compelling circumstances apply such that it would be harsh and unreasonable if such an order was not made.
- (b) In making an order under [Rule 12.4.3\(a\)](#) the Appeal Board must have regard to:
- (i) the merits of the appeal and the Appellant's prospects of success;
 - (ii) the interests of other Clubs and Persons;
 - (iii) the effect on the results of the relevant Competition; and
 - (iv) the need to permit the due and proper administration of Australian Football.

12.4.4. Success of appeal and refund of fixed fee

- (a) For the purposes of [Rule 12.4.4](#) an appeal is:
- (i) successful if the Appeal Board determines that one or more Appeal Grounds has been established; and
 - (ii) unsuccessful if the Appeal Board determines that no Appeal Ground has been established.
- (b) Where an appeal is successful, 50% of the fixed fee paid by the Appellant under [Rule 12.1.3\(a\)\(ii\)](#) must be refunded to the Appellant on receipt by AFL Europe of a refund request or appropriate tax invoice. For the avoidance of doubt, the remaining balance of the fixed fee paid by the Appellant under [Rule 12.1.3\(a\)\(ii\)](#) will not be refunded.
- (c) Where an appeal is unsuccessful, the fixed fee paid by the Appellant under [Rule 12.1.3\(a\)\(ii\)](#) will not be refunded and will be retained by AFL Europe, unless the matter involves a monetary sanction and/or the Appeal Board determines that it would be manifestly unjust and unfair not to refund part of the fixed fee in which case, part of the fixed fee may be refunded.

12.4.5. Abandon appeal and refund of fixed fee

- (a) An Appellant may abandon an appeal prior to any Appeal Board hearing by giving written notice to the Controlling Body in which case 75% of the fixed fee paid by the Appellant under [Rule 12.1.3\(a\)\(ii\)](#) must be refunded to the Appellant on receipt by AFL Europe of a written refund request or appropriate tax invoice. For the avoidance of doubt, the remaining balance of the fixed fee paid by the Appellant under [Rule 12.1.3\(a\)\(ii\)](#) will not be refunded.
- (b) If an Appellant abandons an appeal during the conduct of the Appeal Board hearing, the fixed fee paid by the Appellant under [Rule 12.1.3\(a\)\(ii\)](#) will not be refunded and will be retained by AFL Europe.

12.4.6. *Validity of appeal and hearing*

- (a) Where there is any procedural irregularity in relation to an Appeal Board hearing, the Appeal Board must still hear and determine the appeal unless the Appeal Board is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused or will cause injustice.
- (b) A decision of the Appeal Board is not invalid because of a defect or irregularity in, or in connection with, the appointment of an Appeal Board member.
- (c) Subject to [Rule 12.3.4](#) and [Rule 12.3.5](#) any procedure or requirement regulating the function of the Appeal Board is directory in nature and a decision of the Appeal Board is not invalid by reason of that procedure or requirement not being fulfilled.

12.4.7. *Criticism of Appeal Board decision*

- (a) A Person must not make any unfair, unreasonable or excessive public criticism of an Appeal Board decision or of any Appeal Board member or any other matter relevant to the Appeal Board or a determination made by it.
- (b) If a Person breaches [Rule 12.4.7\(a\)](#) that Person and that Person's Club may be dealt with in such manner as the Appeal Board or AFL Europe sees fit including referral of such breach to the Tribunal.

12.4.8. *Exhaust appeal rights*

- (a) A Person must exercise their right of appeal under these Rules and Regulations and have any appeal heard and determined by the Appeal Board before commencing any relevant proceedings or becoming a party to any relevant proceedings in a court of law.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 – Fitzpatrick Cup Player & Club Eligibility Policy

1.1.1. Policy Coverage

This policy sets out the eligibility and selection criteria for teams and players invited to participate in the annual AFL Europe Fitzpatrick Cup Tournament (Tournament) only.

It operates in addition to all applicable Rules and Regulations outlined in [Section 2](#) of these AFL Europe Rules & Regulations.

1.1.2. Fitzpatrick Cup - Player Eligibility – Additional Requirements

In addition to the Player General Eligibility requirements in [AFL Europe Rules & Regulations: Rule 2.2](#). For a Player to be eligible to compete in the AFL Europe Fitzpatrick Cup Tournament a Player must:

- (a) Be a currently enrolled and active student at the University or College that they are representing.

1.1.3. Fitzpatrick Cup - Team Eligibility – Additional Requirements

In addition to the Team General Eligibility requirements in [AFL Europe Rules & Regulations: Rule 3.1](#). For a team to be eligible to compete in the AFL Europe Fitzpatrick Cup they must:

- (a) Be affiliated to, and represent a University or College in the UK, Ireland, or Europe only.
- (b) Note that in the Fitzpatrick Cup, a University or College may nominate more than one Team to participate in the Tournament.
 - (i) Where a team has more than one Team competing, Players cannot move between Teams that represent the same University or College during the Tournament.

1.1.4. Fitzpatrick Cup - Combined Teams

- (a) At their absolute discretion, AFL Europe may allow the formation of a combined Team(s) to maximise opportunity for Players to play in the Fitzpatrick Cup Tournament.
 - (i) A combined Team will only be allowed where it is in the best interest of the Tournament and does not cause an uneven number of Teams within the Tournament.
 - (ii) A combined Team will only be allowed to wear a match uniform that is pre-approved by AFL Europe.
 - (iii) Players on a combined Team will be eligible for individual awards.
 - (iv) A combined Team will operate as any other Club or Member participating in the Tournament as outlined in this Policy and AFL Europe Codes of Conduct and AFL Europe Rules & Regulations.

2. Appendix 2 – Champions League Player & Club Eligibility Policy

2.1.1. Policy Coverage

This policy sets out the eligibility and selection criteria for teams and players invited to participate in the annual AFL Europe Champions League Tournament (Tournament) only.

In operates in addition to all applicable Rules and Regulations outlined in [AFL Europe Rules & Regulations: Section 2](#)

2.1.2. Champions League - Player Eligibility – Additional Requirements

In addition to the Player General Eligibility requirements in [AFL Europe Rules & Regulations: Rule 2.2](#). For a Player to be eligible to compete in the AFL Europe Fitzpatrick Cup Tournament a Player must:

- (a) Have played at least one (1) match for the Club they have chosen to represent at the Tournament during the season in which the Club qualified to attend the Tournament; or be registered by the Member to play for the Club in the year that the Tournament will be held on an appropriate registration platform such as PlayHQ or other registration platform used by the Member.
- (b) Not be “Cup Tied” to another Club under [Section 2.1.3](#) of this Policy; and
- (c) If applicable, meet the Australian Player eligibility criteria under [Section 2.1.4](#) of this Policy.

2.1.3. Champions League – Cup Tied

- (a) Where a Player has represented multiple Clubs that have achieved qualification for the Champions League Tournament during a calendar year and meets all eligibility criteria outlined in [AFL Europe Rules & Regulations: Rule 2.2](#) and [Section 2.1.2](#) of this Policy then it is at that Player’s absolute discretion which Club they choose to represent at the Tournament unless they are Cup Tied under [Section 2.1.3\(b\)](#) of this Policy.
- (b) Once a Player has represented a Club at a Champions League Tournament they are deemed “Cup Tied” to that Club and cannot represent another Club at the Champions League Tournament within two (2) years of that Tournament unless granted an exemption under Rule 5.11.1.
- (c) [Section 2.1.3](#) of this Policy will come into effect from **2025 onwards**, however Players will become “Cup Tied” based on their participation in the 2024 Tournament. It is each Club’s responsibility to ensure that this information is provided to Players prior to participation in the 2024 Tournament.

2.1.4. Champions League – Australian Player Definition & Additional Eligibility Requirements

- (a) To qualify as a non-Australian Player at the Champions League Tournament, a Player must (referring to the Nationality they wish to play as):
 - (i) be a citizen of a Country other than Australia; and

- (ii) have been predominantly a resident in that country between the ages of ten (10) and sixteen (16).
- (b) In addition to the eligibility requirements outlined in under [AFL Europe Rules & Regulations: Rule 2.2, Section 2.1.2](#) of this Policy or [Section 2.1.3](#) of this Policy, an Australian Player wishing to participate in the Champions League Tournament must also:
- (i) have a Visa and right to work in the country of the Club who they wish to represent.
- (c) A Player who is ineligible under [AFL Europe Rules & Regulations: Rule 2.2, Section 2.1.2](#) of this Policy, [Section 2.1.3](#) of this Policy or [Section 2.1.4](#) of this Policy may request an exemption under [AFL Europe Rules and Regulations: Rule 2.7](#) by submitting a *Form 1 – Eligibility Exemption Request* form to AFL Europe or delegated Special Committee for consideration no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the Tournament commencing. In relation to Australian Player eligibility, they will also consider:
- (i) The Players residential history in Australia
 - (ii) Their football development / playing history in Australia
 - (iii) Their football development / playing history outside Australia
 - (iv) Their contribution to the growth and development of AFL in Europe
 - (v) Whether the inclusion of the Player is in the best interests of the Tournament and the progression of the sport in Europe

2.1.5. Champions League - Team Eligibility – Additional Requirements

In addition to the Team General Eligibility requirements in [AFL Europe Rules & Regulations: Rule 3.1](#). For a team to be eligible to compete in the AFL Europe Fitzpatrick Cup they must:

- (a) Be recognised as the Premiers of an official League that is conducted by an AFL Europe Member and qualifies for automatic qualification under [Section 2.1.6](#) of this Policy.
 - (i) if a Club competes in multiple Leagues and qualifies on more than one occasion due to winning multiple eligible Leagues as outlined in Section 2.1.5, then that Club shall send one Team only to represent all applicable Leagues in the Tournament. No provision will be made for a Club that did not win an eligible League to attend the Tournament or for a Club to send multiple Teams to attend the Tournament.
 - (ii) for the avoidance of doubt, where an eligible Club chooses not to attend the Tournament, then there will be no Club from that League invited to attend the Tournament.

2.1.6. Champions League – Automatic League Qualification

- (a) To receive an automatic qualification spot into the Champion’s League Tournament a League must:

- (i) be considered a National League of a Member Country as recognised by AFL Europe (refer to Table 1 of this Policy for recognised Leagues) and;
 - (a) for the Men’s competition - have at least three (3) Clubs taking part in the League, playing more than 3 games (including a Grand Final).
 - (b) for the Women’s competition - have at least two (2) Clubs taking part in the League, playing more than 2 games.

2.1.7. Champions League – New Leagues

- (a) Where a Member Country wishes to establish a second League within their country, they must submit a formal application to AFL Europe requesting that the new League be granted automatic qualification. It is at AFL Europe’s absolute discretion if to award a new League automatic qualification into the Champion’s League Tournament.

2.1.8. Champions League - Defending Champions

- (a) Defending Tournament champions are not automatically eligible to attend the following Tournament and must qualify under [Section 2.1.5\(a\)](#) to participate.

2.1.9. Champions League – Wildcard / Invitational Entries

- (a) In addition to the automatic qualifying teams listed in [Section 2.1.6](#) of this Policy, AFL Europe or delegated Special Committee may at their absolute discretion invite teams as wildcard / invitational entries into the Tournament:
 - (i) as a wildcard entry where the Club represents the only active men’s or women’s Club in their country and does not have a League to participate in.
 - (ii) Invitational Teams can, at AFL Europe’s absolute discretion, be extended to include a local team (Men’s & Women’s host) to even Team numbers and groups.

Table 1 – Provided they meet the criteria under Section 2.1.6 of this Policy, the following Leagues will receive automatic qualification into the Champions League Tournament.	
Austria	Austria AFL Austria Premiership (Men’s)
Croatia	Croatia AFL Croatia Premiership (Men’s)
Denmark	AFL Denmark Premiership (Men’s)
England	England AFL London Premiership (Men’s) AFL London Premiership (Women’s) Central & North-eastern (Men’s) Women’s Wales and England (WWE) (Women’s)
France	AFL France Championnat Masculin (Men’s) AFL France Championnat Féminines (Women’s)
Germany	AFL Germany Premiership (Men’s) AFL Germany Women’s (Women’s)
Ireland	AFL Ireland Premiership (Men’s) AFL Ireland Premiership (Women’s)
Netherlands	AFL Netherlands Premiership (Men’s)
Northern Ireland	AFL Northern Ireland Premiership (Men’s) AFL Northern Ireland Premiership (Women’s)

Poland	AFL Liga Polska (Men's) AFL Liga Polska (Women's)
Scotland	Scottish Australian Rules Football League (SARFL) (Men's) Scottish Australian Rules Football League (SARFL) (Women's)
Sweden	AFL Sweden Premiership (Men's) AFL Sweden Premiership (Women's)
Switzerland	AFL Switzerland Premiership (Men's)
Wales	Welsh Australian Rules Football League (WARFL)

3. Appendix 3 – Euro Cup Player & Club Eligibility

To be completed and updated prior to the 2024 AFL Europe Euro Cup.

4. Appendix 4 – Fixed Financial Sanctions (Club & Member)

Offence	Rule	Fine Amount (1 st Offence)	Fine Amount (2 nd Offence)	Fine Amount (3 rd + Offence)
Late Submission / Incomplete Team List		£100	£150	£200
Playing an Ineligible Player *		£200	£300	£500
Team Withdrawal (past predetermined date)		Loss of Entry Fees Paid / £200 Fine		
Incorrect Uniform (Runner / Water Carrier / QMP)		£50	£100	£150
Incorrect Match Uniform (per Player)		£50	£100	£150
Incorrect Undergarments (per Player)		£50	£100	£150
Failure to Supply a Goal Umpire		£100	£150	£200
Match Forfeit		£150	£200	£250
* in addition to match results being overturned and any other penalties applied.				

5. Appendix 5 – Grading Classifiable Offences

Table 1 – Classification Table				
Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	High / Groin / Chest **	5+ Matches (Tribunal*)	N/A
		Body	4+ Matches (Tribunal*)	N/A
	High	High / Groin / Chest	4 Matches	3 Matches
		Body	3 Matches	2 Matches
	Medium	High / Groin / Chest	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Low	High / Groin / Chest	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	£100 fine and or Reprimand
Careless	Severe	High / Groin / Chest	4+ Matches (Tribunal*)	N/A
		Body	3+ Matches (Tribunal*)	N/A
	High	High / Groin / Chest	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Medium	High / Groin / Chest	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	£100 fine
	Low	High / Groin / Chest	1 Match	£50 fine and/or Reprimand
		Body	1 Match	£50 fine and/or Reprimand
<p>* where “Tribunal” is referenced above, the matter will be referred directly to the Tribunal</p> <p>** References to the “Chest” apply to Persons participating in female Tournaments only</p>				

5.1.1. Determining the grading of Classifiable Offences

- (a) The following is based on Section 3, Appendix 1 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook.

5.1.2. Grading Conduct

- (a) The Conduct will be graded as Intentional or Careless.

5.1.3. Intentional Conduct

- (a) a Person intentionally commits a Classifiable Offence if the Person engages in the conduct constituting the Reportable Offence with the intention of committing that Reportable Offence.
- (b) an intention is a state of mind and may be formed on the spur of the moment.
- (c) whether or not a Person intentionally commits a Reportable Offence depends upon the state of mind of the Person when the Person engages in the conduct with which they are charged. What the Person did is often the best evidence of their intention. In some cases, the evidence that the conduct itself provides may be so strong as to compel an inference of what the Person's intent was, no matter what they may say about it afterwards. If the immediate consequence of conduct is obvious and inevitable, the deliberate engaging of the conduct carries with it evidence of an intention to produce the consequence.
- (d) as an example, a strike will be regarded as Intentional where a Person delivers a blow to another Person with the intention of striking them.
- (e) the state of a Person's mind is an objective fact and has to be proved in the same way as other objective facts. The whole of the relevant evidence has to be considered. It is necessary to weigh the evidence of the Person as to what their intentions were along with whatever inference as to their intentions can be drawn from their conduct and/or other relevant facts. The Person may or may not be believed. Notwithstanding what the Person says, it may be able to be concluded from all the material that the Person intentionally engaged in the conduct constituting the Reportable Offence.

5.1.4. Careless Conduct

- (a) A Person's conduct will be regarded as Careless where it constitutes a breach of the duty of care owed by the Person. Each Person owes a duty of care to other Persons not to engage in conduct which will constitute a Reportable Offence being committed against those Persons.
- (b) To constitute a breach of that duty of care, the conduct must be such that a reasonable Player would not regard it as prudent in all the circumstances.
- (c) Further, a Person will be careless if they breach their duty to take reasonable care to avoid conduct which can be reasonably foreseen to result in a Reportable Offence.

5.1.5. Grading Impact

- (a) The Impact will be graded as Low, Medium, High or Severe. In an assessment as to the level of Impact, the following factors will be considered:
 - (i) the extent of force and, in particular, any injury sustained by the Person who was offended against (as set out in the relevant Medical Report).

- (ii) the absence of injury does not preclude the classification of Impact as Low, Medium, High or Severe;
- (iii) the potential to cause injury must be factored into the potential to cause injury, particularly in relation to the following conduct:
 - (a) intentional strikes, such as those with a swinging clenched fist, raised forearm or elbow;
 - (b) high bumps, particularly with significant head contact and/or momentum;
 - (c) any head-high contact with a Player who has their head over the ball, particularly when contact is made from an opponent approaching from a front-on position;
 - (d) forceful round-arm swings that make head-high contact to a Player in a marking contest, ruck contest or when tackling;
 - (e) any contact that occurs when the other Person should not reasonably be expecting or is not reasonably prepared for contact (i.e. contact off the ball);
 - (f) any dangerous tackle.
- (iv) Low Impact is the minimum impact required for a Classifiable Offence which requires more than just negligible impact. However, the potential to cause injury may result in an upgrade to the level of Impact, including from negligible to a higher level of Impact;
- (v) strong consideration will be given to the distance the incident occurs from the ball and the expectation of contact of the other Person (especially in the case of intentional strikes);
- (vi) consideration will be given not only to the impact between the offending Person and the other Person, but also any other impact to the other Person as a result of that impact;
- (vii) the body language of the offending Person in terms of flexing, turning, raising or positioning the body to either increase or reduce the force of impact; and
- (viii) the following Table sets out base level Impact guidelines and provides a summary of applicable base level Impact guidelines for Low, Medium, High and Severe Impact incidents:

TABLE 2 – Impact Guidelines	
Low	<p>Player: Minimal or no impact on the Match - the Player continued to play the majority of the Match and suffered no or minimal ongoing issues.</p> <p>Person (other than Player): Person continued in their relevant capacity in relation to the Match for the majority of the Match and suffered no or minimal ongoing issues.</p> <p>The Impact grading may be raised under the potential to cause injury provisions in this Appendix.</p>
Medium	<p>Player: Clearly some impact on the Player, and/or the Player left the field for a lengthy period of time, and/or some possible lower-level ongoing treatment(s) required.</p> <p>Person (other than Player): Clearly some impact on the Person, and/or the Person was prevented from continuing in their official capacity in relation to the Match for a lengthy period of time, and/or some possible lower-level ongoing treatment(s) required.</p> <p>The Impact grading may be raised under the potential to cause injury provisions in this Appendix.</p>
High	<p>Player: Major impact on the Player, and/or the Player was unable to participate in the remainder of the Match, and/or major ongoing issues that require medical intervention and/or may miss some Matches.</p> <p>Person (other than Player): Major impact on the Person, and/or the Person was unable to continue in their official capacity in relation to the Match for the remainder of the Match, and/or major ongoing issues that require medical intervention and/or may miss some Matches.</p> <p>The Impact grading may be raised under the potential to cause injury provisions in this Appendix.</p>
Severe	<p>Person (including Player): Major impact and serious injury to the Person, and/or likely to miss a significant number of Matches.</p>

5.1.6. Grading Contact (High / Groin / Chest / Body)

- (a) High Contact is not limited to contact to the head and includes contact above the shoulders.
- (b) A classification of High Contact may apply to a Careless or Intentional Dangerous Tackle which has the potential for injury to be caused through dangerous high contact with the ground and where high contact does not actually occur.
- (c) Contact to the Groin includes contact to the crease or hollow at the junction of the inner part of each thigh with the trunk together with the adjacent region, including the testicles and vulva.
- (d) Contact to the Chest means contact to the breast(s) of the other Person (females only).
- (e) Where contact is both High and to the Body, it will usually be classified as High Contact.
- (f) Where contact is both to the Chest and to the Body, it will be classified as Contact to the Chest (females only).
- (g) Contact will be classified as High, to the Groin or, in the case of females only, to the Chest, where a Person's head, groin or chest makes contact with another Person or object such as the fence or the ground as a result of the actions of the offending Person. By way of example, should a Person tackle another Person around the waist and as a result of the tackle, the tackled Person's head makes forceful contact with the fence or

the ground the Contact in these circumstances would be classified as High, even though the tackle was to the body.

- (h) AFL Europe, the MRO, MRP or other appointed Person has the discretion to grade contact as Body contact rather than High contact where the Body impact would result in a more significant sanction.

5.1.7. Impact of a bad record on Classifiable Offences

- (a) The sanctions for Classifiable Offences may be increased where a Person has a bad Disciplinary History.
- (b) AFL Europe has to the power to directly refer a Person to the Tribunal as a result of the Person's bad Disciplinary History. In this instance, the Tribunal will not be bound to Table 1. Evidence in relation to the record of a Person may be tendered to the Tribunal without the leave of the Chairperson.

5.1.8. No Automatic Reduction for exemplary record

- (a) A Person will not receive an automatic reduced base sanction for their exemplary Disciplinary History.

5.1.9. Multiple Offences in a single Match

- (a) Where a Person is found guilty of multiple Reportable Offences from a single match, the individual sanctions must be added together to form the final sanction applicable to the Person.

5.1.10. Injury

- (a) AFL Europe and the Tribunal can inquire and receive information as to the nature and extent of any injury suffered by a Person in relation to a Reportable Offence. The nature and extent of injury may be a relevant factor in determining the level of Impact, Contact and in some instances, the nature of the Conduct. A Club must provide a Medical Report upon request of AFL Europe or Tribunal.

5.1.11. Reportable Offences in a Grand Final

- (a) AFL Europe and the Tribunal may apply (at its absolute discretion) a loading of up to 100% in relation to the base sanction for any Reportable Offence committed during a Grand Final.

5.1.12. Other Factors regarding certain Reportable Offences

- (a) General
 - (i) The Laws of the Game sets out a non-exhaustive list of specific Reportable Offences in Law 22.2.2 as well as providing for various categories of permitted contact which will not constitute a Reportable Offence (for example, legally using a hip, shoulder, chest, arms or open arms, providing the football is no more than five metres away, and contact which is incidental to a marking contest where a Player is legitimately marking or spoiling or attempting to mark or spoil the football).

- (ii) The Laws of the Game define certain Reportable Offences, but provide that in interpreting/classifying Reportable Offences, words, terms or phrases which are not defined in the Laws of the Game will be given their ordinary meaning.
- (iii) This section Appendix 5 provides guidance in relation to the characteristics of particular Reportable Offences and other relevant factors.

5.1.13. Striking / Kicking

- (a) Striking and kicking are interpreted in accordance with their ordinary meaning. A strike would usually be by hand, arm or elbow and would generally not apply to other contact using the body. A strike can also occur with an open hand. A kick is generally applied to contact by foot or leg.
- (b) A strike or kick requires more than negligible impact to be a Classifiable Offence.
- (c) Where a strike or kick does not have more than negligible impact, AFL Europe may charge a Person with Striking or Kicking where it is satisfied that notwithstanding the result, the intention of the Person was to commit a Reportable Offence. Where no contact is made, a AFL Europe may charge a Person with an Attempt to Strike or Kick, which are both Low-level Offences.
- (d) Classification of certain strikes

The following factors will be considered when determining the classification of the Reportable Offence of Striking:

- (i) Intent: Notwithstanding any other part of this Policy Handbook, the fact that an act of striking occurred behind the play or off the ball or during a break in play or with a raised forearm or elbow is usually consistent with the strike being intentional.
- (ii) Impact: Notwithstanding any other part of this Policy Handbook, any Careless or Intentional strike which is of an inherently dangerous kind and/or where there is a potential to cause serious injury (such as a strike with a raised elbow or forearm) will usually not be classified as Low Impact even though the extent of the actual physical impact may be low. Such strikes will usually be classified at a higher level commensurate with the nature and extent of the risk of serious injury involved. Strong consideration will also be given to the distance the incident occurs from the ball and the expectation of contact of the other Player.

5.1.14. Misconduct

- (a) Misconduct has a wide meaning and generally is any conduct which would be reasonably regarded as unacceptable or unsportsmanlike or where it has the effect or potential to prejudice the reputation of any Person, Club or Controlling Body or to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute.
- (b) Acts of Serious Misconduct will be referred directly to the Tribunal.

- (c) Any other act of Misconduct will be a Low-level Offence unless AFL Europe determines that:
 - (i) the Low-level Offence sanction is inappropriate; and
 - (ii) the act of Misconduct is not Serious Misconduct,

in which case the AFL Europe Tribunal may impose a sanction of either a 2 Match or 3 Match suspension, with the relevant Person entitled to receive a reduction in the sanction equivalent to the reduction applicable in Table 1 with an Early Guilty Plea (i.e. a 2 Match suspension reduced to a 1 Match suspension with an Early Guilty Plea).

5.1.15. Forceful Front-On Contact

- (a) Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when that opponent has their head over the ball is a Reportable Offence. Unless Intentional, such conduct will be deemed Careless except where:
 - (i) the Player was contesting the ball and it was reasonable for the Player to contest the ball in that way; or
 - (ii) the bump or forceful contact was caused by circumstances outside the control of the Player which could not reasonably be foreseen,

in which case such conduct will not constitute a Reportable Offence.

- (b) Any Careless or Intentional Forceful Front-On Conduct where High Contact has been made and that has the potential to cause injury will usually be graded at a minimum as Medium Impact, even though the extent of the actual physical impact may be low.
- (c) A Player may bump another Player's body from side-on but any contact forward of side-on will be deemed to be front-on. A Player with their head down in anticipation of winning possession of the ball or after contesting the ball will be deemed to have their head over the ball for the purposes of this Clause 1.3(e)

5.1.16. Rough Conduct

- (a) Rough Conduct is interpreted widely and may be any contact which is unreasonable in the circumstances.

It is a Reportable Offence for a Person to intentionally or carelessly engage in Rough Conduct against another Person which is unreasonable in the circumstances. Without limiting the wide interpretation of Rough Conduct, regard will be had to the following recognised forms of Rough Conduct:

- (b) Rough Conduct (High Bumps)

A Person will be guilty of Rough Conduct where in the bumping of another Person (whether reasonably or unreasonably) the Person causes forceful contact to be made with any part

of their body to that Person's head or neck. Unless Intentional, such conduct will be deemed to be Careless, except where:

- (i) the Person was contesting the ball, and it was reasonable for the Person to contest the ball in that way; or
- (ii) the forceful contact to the other Person's head or neck was caused by circumstances outside the control of the Person which could not be reasonably foreseen,

in which case such conduct will not constitute a Reportable Offence.

Any high bump which constitutes Rough Conduct that has the potential to cause injury will usually be graded at a minimum as Medium Impact, even though the extent of the actual physical impact may be low.

The purpose of this Clause is to, as far as practicable, minimise the risk of head injuries to Persons and this purpose must be front of mind for all Persons and will guide the application of the Clause.

For the purposes of these Rules and Regulations, head clashes that occur when a Person has elected to bump are circumstances that can reasonably be foreseen. Players will ordinarily be liable if they elect to bump if not contesting the ball.

(c) Rough Conduct (Bumps to the Body)

- (i) If [Rule 5.1.16\(b\)](#) does not apply (for example, in the case of a bump to the body), a Person may still be guilty of Rough Conduct if the Person's conduct was unreasonable in the circumstances. In determining whether a bump was unreasonable in the circumstances the following factors will be considered (without limitation):
 - (a) whether the degree of force applied by the Person bumping was excessive for the circumstances;
 - (b) whether the Person being bumped was in a vulnerable position; and
 - (c) whether the Person could reasonably expect the contact having regard to the Person's involvement in play or ability to influence the contest.

(d) Rough Conduct (Dangerous Tackles)

- (i) The application of a tackle may be considered Rough Conduct where the tackle is unreasonable in the circumstances. In determining whether the application of a tackle constitutes a Reportable Offence and whether the tackle is Careless or Intentional, the following factors will be considered (without limitation):

- (a) whether the tackle consists of more than one action, regardless of whether the Person being tackled is in possession of the ball;
- (b) whether the tackle is of an inherently dangerous kind, such as a spear tackle or a tackle where a Player is lifted off the ground;
- (c) whether the Person being tackled is in a vulnerable position (for example, arm(s) pinned) with little opportunity to protect themselves; and
- (d) whether the Person being tackled is slung, driven or rotated into the ground with excessive force.

(e) **Rough Conduct (Contact below the Knees)**

Under the Laws of the Game, making contact with an opponent below the knees is prohibited. A Person who keeps their feet is vulnerable to serious injury from other Persons who lunge, dive or slide toward them and make contact below the knees. This Rule 5.9.5(e) aims to protect such Persons from the risk of foreseeable injury. A Person may be guilty of Rough Conduct if the Person makes contact below the knees of another Person and does so in a manner which is unreasonable in the circumstances. It is not a defence that the Person who made contact below the knees was contesting the ball or was first to the ball. The primary responsibility of Persons with respect to contact below the knees is to avoid the risk of foreseeable injury. In determining whether contact below the knees is unreasonable in the circumstances, the following factors will be considered:

- (i) the degree of momentum and/or force involved in the contact;
- (ii) whether the Person causes contact below the knees by sliding with their foot, feet, knee or knees in front of them;
- (iii) whether the other Person was in a position that was vulnerable to contact below the knees (for example, standing over the ball or approaching from the opposite direction); and
- (iv) whether the Person making contact had any realistic alternative ways of approaching the contest or situation.
- (v) Where contact is not made below the knees of the other Person but to another part of that Person's body, a Person may still be guilty under the general definition of Rough Conduct for making unreasonable contact by sliding or dropping into another Person with their knees or feet first.

5.1.17. Contact with an Umpire

- (a) **Intentional Contact with an Umpire**
 - (i) Contact with an Umpire that is aggressive, forceful, demonstrative, or disrespectful will be deemed intentional and the Person will be referred directly to the Tribunal. In determining the sanction for Intentional Contact with an

Umpire, the Tribunal must have regard to the number of elements of the offence (aggressive, forceful, demonstrative and/or disrespectful) which are established.

- (ii) A Player may also be charged with the offence of Intentional Contact with an Umpire by pushing or holding an opponent into an Umpire or their direct path.
 - (iii) Where contact with an umpire is forceful but only incidental (i.e. it is not otherwise aggressive, demonstrative or disrespectful), AFL Europe has the discretion to not charge the Player with Intentional Contact with an Umpire (resulting in a direct referral to the Tribunal) and instead charge the Player with Careless Contact with an Umpire (but provided such Contact is not otherwise disrespectful, demonstrative or aggressive).
- (b) Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire
- (i) Where contact with an Umpire is not aggressive, forceful, demonstrative or disrespectful but could otherwise be regarded as intentional, it will be classified as Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire which is a Low-level Offence.
- (c) Careless Contact with an Umpire

A charge of Careless Contact with an Umpire is a Low-level Offence. In determining whether the contact was careless, the following factors will be considered:

- (i) whether contact occurs at a centre bounce or ball up;
- (ii) whether the Person has set up behind the Umpire;
- (iii) whether the Person has taken a path that intersects the Umpire's exit line from a stoppage;
- (iv) the force of the contact;
- (v) whether the Umpire's decision making is impeded;
- (vi) whether the Umpire goes to ground as a result of the contact;
- (vii) any mitigating factors (for example, effort to avoid contact, offline bounce or throw, pushed by opponent into Umpire's path).
- (viii) a Player may also be charged with the offence of Careless Contact with an Umpire by pushing or holding another Person into an Umpire or their direct path.

5.1.18. Umpire Abuse

- (a) Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language Towards or in relation to an Umpire will be a Low-level Offence unless AFL Europe determines that:

- (i) the Low-level Offence sanction is inappropriate; and
- (ii) the conduct does not constitute the Direct Tribunal Offence of Behaving in an Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene Manner Towards or in Relation to an Umpire,
- (iii) in which case AFL Europe may impose a sanction of either a 2 Match, 3 Match or 4 Match suspension, with the relevant Person entitled to receive a reduction in the sanction equivalent to the reduction applicable in Table 2 with an Early Guilty Plea (i.e. a 2 Match suspension reduced to a 1 Match suspension with an Early Guilty Plea).

5.1.19. *Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language*

- (a) Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language will be a Low-level Offence unless AFL Europe determines that:
 - (i) the Low-level Offence sanction is inappropriate; and
 - (ii) the conduct does not constitute the Direct Tribunal Offence of Serious Misconduct,
 - (iii) in which case AFL Europe may impose a sanction of either a 2 Match or 3 Match suspension, with the relevant Person entitled to receive a reduction in the sanction equivalent to the reduction applicable in Table 2 with an Early Guilty Plea (i.e. a 2 Match suspension reduced to a 1 Match suspension with an Early Guilty Plea).

5.1.20. *Melee*

- (a) 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 AFL Europe. In determining if a Person's conduct constitutes Engaging in a Melee/Wrestle, the following factors will be considered:
 - (i) the duration the Person is involved in the Melee/Wrestle;
 - (ii) the vigour applied by the Person;
 - (iii) whether the Melee/Wrestle occurs at a break in play, particularly at quarter breaks and half time;
 - (iv) whether the Person contributed to an escalation of the Melee/Wrestle; and
 - (v) the role of the Person (for example, Player or Football Official).
 - (vi) Table 3 outlines the fixed financial sanctions for a melee where a Player isn't reported for their involvement in a melee.

(b) Instigator of a Melee/Wrestle

- (i) Where a Person's conduct results in retaliatory action which leads to a Melee/Wrestle, that Person's conduct may constitute a Reportable Offence of Instigator of a Melee/Wrestle. The Reportable Offence of Instigator of Melee/Wrestle is separate to the Reportable Offence of Engaging in a Melee/Wrestle and a Person may be found guilty of both Reportable Offences.

Table 3: Melee Fixed Financial Sanctions		
Melee Details		Fine Amount (£GBP)
Players Actively Involved from ONE team	3 or less Players	£25
	4 + Players	£50
Duration of Melee	0-30 seconds	£25
	30-60 seconds	£50
	60+ seconds	£100
Level of Aggression	Low (minor wrestling, push and shove)	£50
	Medium (wrestling, jumper punches, headlocks)	£100
	High (striking and/or reports)	£150
Officials Involved	Any official involved manhandling opposition players	£200 + Report
The amounts in this table are added depending on the melee. For example, a melee between 3 players lasting 45 seconds that was of deemed to be a medium level of aggression would result in a Club fine of £175 (£25+£50+100). This fine does not override the ability of any Player to be reported in addition as a result of their involvement in the melee.		

5.1.21. Staging

- (a) Staging includes excessive exaggeration of contact in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- (i) In determining whether a Person's conduct constitutes the Reportable Offence of Staging, the following factors will be considered:
- (a) whether the conduct affected, or was likely to affect, the Umpire decision-making;
 - (b) whether the conduct incited a melee; and/or
 - (c) whether the conduct was in the spirit of the game.

5.1.22. Tripping

- (a) Tripping is interpreted in accordance with its ordinary meaning. In determining whether a Person's conduct constitutes the Reportable Offence of Tripping, the following factors will be considered:
- (i) how fast the opponent was moving;
 - (ii) whether the trip was by hand or by foot/leg; and
 - (iii) whether contact was made with a swinging motion.
 - (iv) To constitute a Classifiable Offence, Tripping requires more than negligible impact. Where a trip does not have more than negligible impact, it is still open to AFL Europe or Tribunal to charge a Person with Tripping where it is satisfied that notwithstanding the result, a Reportable Offence was committed. Where no contact or minor contact is made, the Panel can charge a Person with an Attempt to Trip, which is a Low-level Offence.

6. Appendix 6 – Diagrams

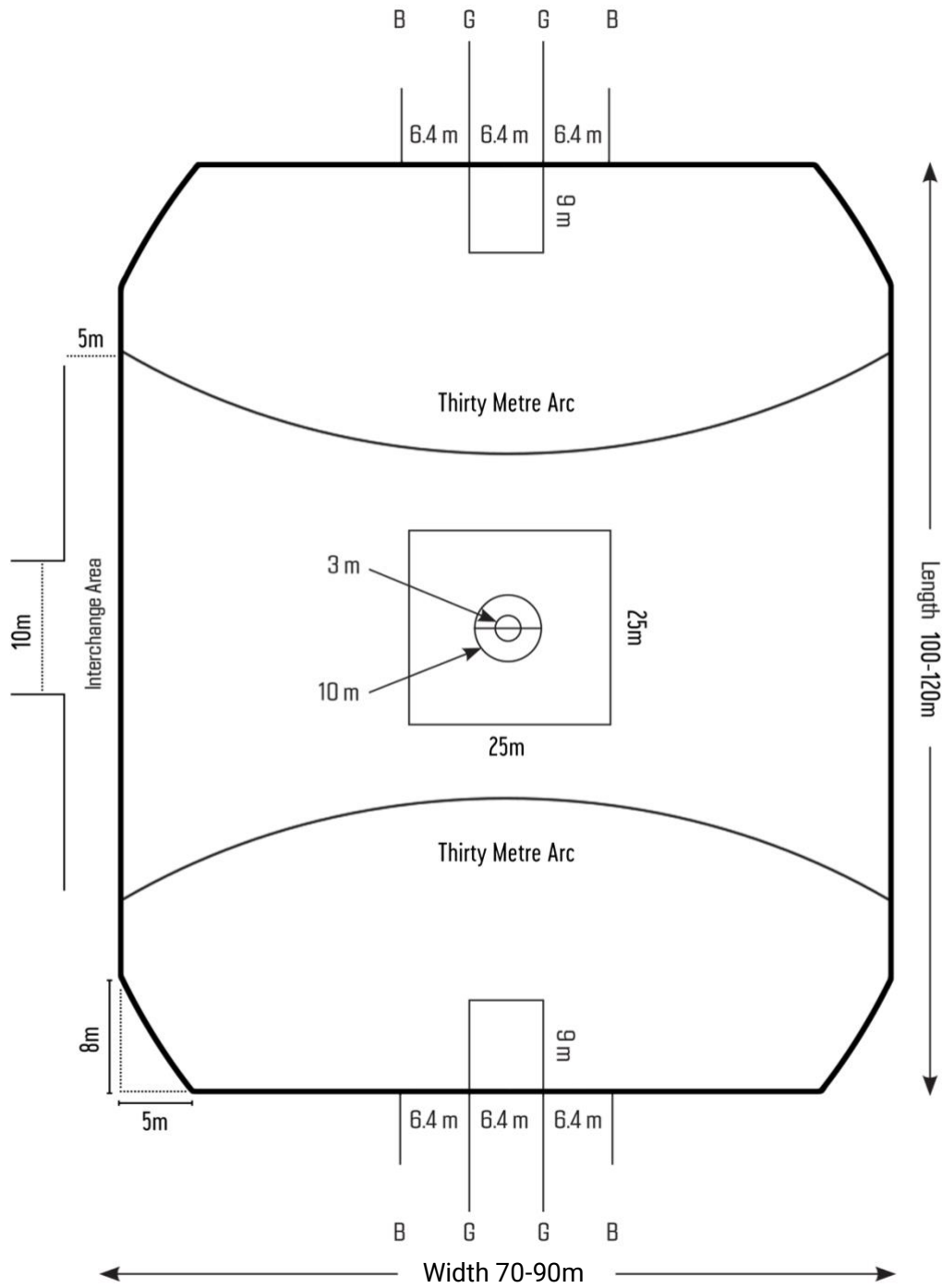


Diagram 1

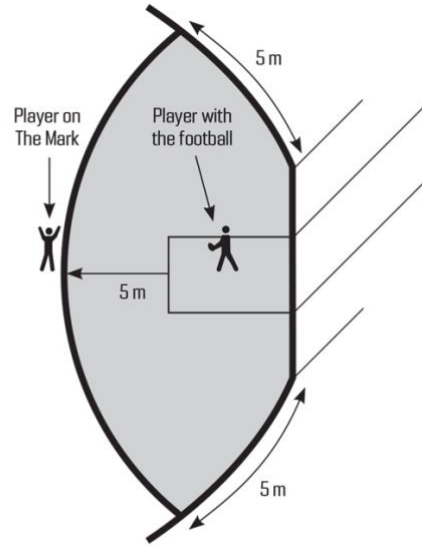
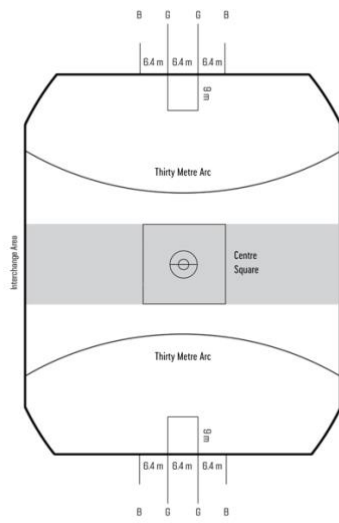


DIAGRAM 6

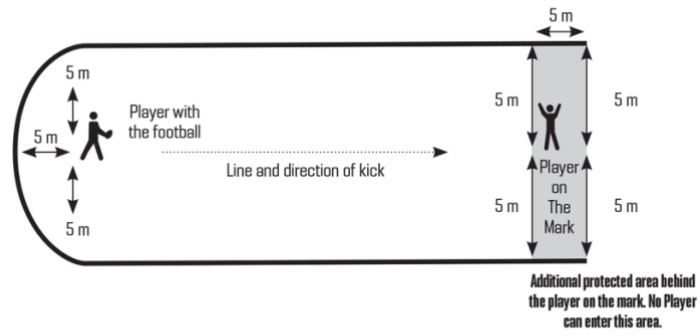


DIAGRAM 7

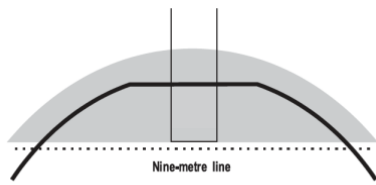


DIAGRAM 8

7. Appendix 7 – Approved Glove Register

The following gloves are currently the only gloves approved for use in AFL Europe tournaments.

Brand / Model	Link	Image
Gilbert	https://www.gilbertrugby.com/collections/gloves/products/atomic-training-gloves	
Gilbert	https://www.gilbertrugby.com/products/international-gloves	
Gilbert	https://www.rebelsport.com.au/p/gilbert--pro-netball-glove-M57409401.html	
Grays	https://www.grays-hockey.com/products/skinful-pro-gloves	
Rawlings	https://www.rawlings.com/product/5150IBG.html	

Nike

<https://www.baseballoutlet.co.uk/nike-alpha-huarache-elite-batting-gloves.html>



8. Appendix 8 – AFL Europe Adverse Weather Policy

8.1.1. Application

This policy applied to all Members of AFL Europe and any game that is conducted at an AFL Europe Tournament.

A Member that must comply with this Policy includes: Players, Coaches, Officials, Spectators, Administrators, Volunteers and Sponsors.

8.1.2. Policy Statement

- (a) Environmental factors regularly affect the playing of Australian Football. While environmental factors will not usually influence whether an Australian Football Match should commence or continue to be played, occasionally extremely adverse weather conditions may give rise to a need to assess whether players and/or officials are in environmental danger. This policy sets out the approach that AFL Europe will adopt when assessing extreme weather conditions at its Tournaments.

8.1.3. Extreme Heat

Heat-related stress can lead to impaired player performance (e.g. dizziness, headaches, collapse, and illness). In its extreme form, heat can be life threatening. Preventing heat stress and injury maintains optimum performance and improves recovery. To prevent heat stress, careful planning and preparation is required in accordance with this Section 8.1.3.

- (a) Preliminary Assessment
 - (i) AFL Europe will assess the heat stress risk by reviewing information provided by the official Meteorology site in the host country (for example the Met Office in the United Kingdom).
- (b) If the temperature is between 26-31.9 degrees Celsius then AFL Europe shall implement its heat policy and the following provisions will be implemented by the Tournament Director.
 - (i) Teams will be permitted and additional two (2) water carriers (to a maximum of three (3) provided that they wear a uniform to make them stand out.
 - (ii) At their absolute discretion, the Tournament Director may shorten the halves of Matches; and
 - (iii) At their absolute discretion, the Tournament Director may extend the length of half time and/or breaks between Matches.
- (c) If the temperature is above 32 degrees, then this will be considered Extreme Heat and play will be suspended for 60 minutes, if in which the temperature does not drop below 32 degrees, then play may be abandoned upon approval by the Tournament Director.
 - (i) The Tournament Director may decide to extend the period of time that play will be suspended if they believe reasonable adjustments can be made for the Tournament to recommence and be completed within the Tournament timeframe.

(d) Onus on Player

Players have a responsibility to ensure that the impact of environmental factors such as extreme heat is not exacerbated by their own conduct. Accordingly, the following general guidelines should be followed.

Players should:

- (i) ensure adequate fluid intake prior to game and during game (500-700mls per quarter);
- (ii) monitor hydration;
- (iii) notify medical and coaching staffs when effected by heat or when performance is noticeably effected;
- (iv) use water and electrolyte drinks;
- (v) use pre-game, game and post-game cooling strategies;
- (vi) do not play in the heat with an illness; and apply sun protection factor 30+ sunscreen in sunny conditions.

(e) Team Responsibility

All Teams competing at an AFL Europe Tournament should monitor environmental factors such as extreme heat both in Matches and at any Australian Football training session administered by the Team. The Team should assess the heat stress risk by reviewing information provided by the relevant official government Meteorology body in the country hosting the Tournament. Heat stress management strategies should also be applied at all training sessions administered by the Team.

The following general guidelines should be followed:

(f) Clubs should:

- (i) use cooling aids if available – ice vests, spray bottles, sponges, fans (in rooms and on interchange bench) and shade;
- (ii) choose heat permeable jumpers and socks;
- (iii) report incidents of heat stress illness in all players to AFL Europe;
- (iv) use a Club official to be delegated the primary responsibility of monitoring and manage players for heat stress issues as they arise during a Match;
- (v) provide adequate fluids in appropriate bottles;
- (vi) ensure trainers are fit enough to access as many players as possible during the game;

- (vii) coordinate training times outside extreme conditions; and
- (viii) provide facilities for player cooling – shade, air conditioning, sprays and fans whether training or playing.

8.1.4. Lightning – BS EN/IEC 62305

- (a) AFL Europe will comply with BS EN/IEC 62305 entitled Lightning Protection Standard. While the Lightning Standard will not necessarily prevent damage or personal injury due to lightning, it will reduce the probability of such damage or injury occurring.

8.1.5. 30/30 Safety Guideline

- (a) In the absence of specific information from weather radar, a lightning location system, or a specialised warning device then the 30/30 Safety Guideline should be used. Per the 30/30 Safety Guideline, when lightning is a possible or actual threat to an AFL Europe match the following procedures are applicable:
 - (i) The observation of approaching storm clouds, the first flash of lightning or clap of thunder, no matter how far away should heighten lightning awareness. The level of risk depends on one's location (direction and distance) relative to the storm cell and the direction in which the storm system is traveling.
 - (ii) A simple method of determining the distance to the storm cell is to measure the time elapsed from when the lightning flash is observed and when the associated clap of thunder is heard.
 - (iii) Light travels faster than sound. If the light from the flash reaches the observer instantaneously, and knowing that sound takes approximately three (3) seconds to travel one (1) kilometre, the distance can be determined by using the following rule:
 - (a) $\text{Distance (in Km)} = \text{Time from observing the flash to hearing thunder (in 3 seconds)}$
 - (iv) It is important to remember that lightning may be obscured by clouds so it must be assumed that when thunder is heard, lightning is in the vicinity. In such cases, careful judgment must be used to determine whether a threat exists.
 - (v) The first part of the "30/30" rule is a guide to the postponement or suspension of activities. Most experts agree that the accepted "safe" distance from lightning is greater than 10km. This means that as the time interval between observing the flash and hearing the thunder approaches 30 seconds, all those in exposed areas should be seeking or already inside safe shelters. A storm cell with lightning activity within 10km constitutes a threat.
 - (vi) The second part of the 30/30 rule provides the criteria for the resumption of activity which is applicable to decisions made with relevant official government Meteorology body access as well. Here, it is recommended that people wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder. This figure is based on the observation that the typical storm moves at about

40km/h. Thus, waiting 30 minutes allows the thunderstorm to be about 20km away, minimising the likelihood of a nearby lightning strike.

- (vii) It is important to emphasise that blue skies and lack of rainfall are not adequate reasons to breach the 30 minute minimum return-to-activity rule.

8.1.6. General Lightning Safety Guideline

Prior to Match Day

- (a) Where weather forecasts provide important warning of possible thunderstorm activity then AFL Europe should monitor weather forecasts commencing Tuesday prior to scheduled Matches using the relevant official government Meteorology body website. Note should be taken off any warnings posted;
- (b) AFL Europe should continue to monitor the Met Office site in the days leading up to the match.

Match Day

- (c) Increased awareness of lightning risk should continue the Match day until the activity has finished.
- (d) Teams and officials should proceed to the venue unless otherwise directed.
- (e) If lightning is predicted within no less than 10km of the match venue at the scheduled starting time the game commencement time may be delayed by up to 60 minutes.
- (f) This decision to delay or suspend play as well as resume play will be made by the Tournament Director based on information obtained from the relevant official government Meteorology body and discussions with the Teams.

8.1.7. Team Responsibility

- (a) All Teams competing in a competition administered by the Association should monitor environmental factors such as lightning both in Matches and at any Australian Football training session administered by the Team. The Club should assess the lightning risk by reviewing information provided by the relevant official government Meteorology body.
- (b) The following general guidelines should also be followed:
 - (i) If a lightning threat emerges, the nominated Club Official must contact all relevant coaching, rehabilitation and training staff and provide updates on a regular basis.
 - (ii) A decision to delay, suspend or resume training should be made in consultation with relevant coaching and administration staff.
 - (iii) If players are training when the lightning threat becomes real, then they should leave the training venue immediately and take shelter inside a building or metal framed car. They should not shelter under or near trees.

- (iv) Once the storm's path has been reassessed, there must be a minimum of 30 minutes elapsed before returning to training. When there is no access to the relevant official government Meteorology body, the "30/30" rule serves as a guide for the suspension and subsequent resumption of activities.

8.1.8. Extreme Cold

- (a) Exposure

Cold exposure can be uncomfortable, impair performance and even pose a serious threat to injury and life. Conditions created by cold exposure include frostbite and hypothermia. Wind chill can make the temperature feel much lower than they may be recorded by the relevant official government Meteorology body.

- (b) Frostbite

Frostbite is the freezing of superficial tissues, usually of the face, ears, fingers and toes.

- (c) Hyperthermia

Hypothermia, a significant drop in body temperature, occurs with rapid cooling, exhaustion, and energy depletion. The resulting failure to the temperature-regulating mechanisms constitutes a medical emergency. Hypothermia frequently occurs at temperatures above freezing. A wet and windy 0-10 degrees' Celsius exposure may be as serious as a sub-zero exposure.

8.1.9. Extreme Cold – Action

- (a) On the day of the Tournament, if the temperature is below 10 degrees Celsius, the Tournament Director will make the decision if the Tournament is to proceed.
 - (i) The Tournament Director may make allowances to the undergarments allowed to be worn by Players where the temperature is below 10 degrees Celsius, and the decision has been made for play to continue.
 - (ii) The Tournament Director will consider the options available at the venue to provide an adequate source of shelter for Players and Officials when they are not participating in Matches when deciding if the Tournament proceeds.
 - (iii) If pitches are frozen due to the extreme cold, then the Match(es) will not commence until it is safe to do so.
- (b) If the temperature is below 0 degrees Celsius, then all Matches will be abandoned.

8.1.10. Wet Weather

- (a) A field Umpire or Tournament Director can suspend a Match due to wet weather where they deem that poor visibility is posing a danger to Players and/or Officials.
- (b) A field Umpire or Tournament Director can suspend a Match where wet weather has made the Playing Surface dangerous due to standing water, deep mud or any other factor that places Players and/or Officials at undue risk.

9. Appendix 9 – Tournament Seeding & Rankings

AFL Europe will utilise a ranking and seeding system based on the three (3) previous Tournament results.

- (a) In the Euro Cup, ranking points will be awarded to Countries based on their finishing position at the Tournament.
- (b) In the Champions League, ranking points will be awarded to Leagues based on their representative Clubs finishing position at the Tournament.
 - a. In Tournaments where there have been two representatives from the same League (host country teams / previous winners), then the highest ranked team at the end of the Tournament will have their points allocated to the League tally only. Points will be awarded to the second team based on their finishing position however they will not count toward the League tally.
- (c) Where two or more Teams / Leagues are on equal ranking points, then the Team / League that finished highest at the most recent Tournament shall be ranked highest and so on for the upcoming Tournament.
- (d) In Champions League Tournaments where two Teams (by the way of an invitation) from the same League are participating, then both Teams will be ranked based on the League ranking.
- (e) Where a combined / Crusader team participates, no points will be awarded to that Team and all Teams would move up 1 place accordingly in the final rankings if that Team finished higher than them in the final standings.

Points will be awarded as follows:

Finishing Position	Points Awarded
Winner	25
Runner-Up	18
Third	15
Fourth	12
Fifth	10
Sixth	8
Seventh	6
Eighth	4
Ninth	3
Tenth	2
Eleventh – onwards	1

As of January 1, 2024, the Ranking Points to be used for any Tournament seeding in the Euro Cup Tournament during 2024 (based on results from 2019, 2022 & 2023) are:

Rank	Men's		Women's	
	Country	Points	Country	Points
1	England	65	Ireland	75
2	Ireland	58	England	51
3	Germany	41	Scotland	33
4	Wales	34	Germany	31
5	Croatia	30	Sweden	28
6	France	24	France	24
7	Sweden	17	Wales	20
8	Denmark	12	Switzerland	11
9	Scotland	12	Northern Ireland	10
10	Israel	8	Netherlands	8
11	Netherlands	7	Poland	7
12	Austria	4	Croatia	4
13	Switzerland	3		
14	Poland	3		
15	Russia	2		
16	Northern Ireland	1		
17	Finland	1		
18	Czech Republic	1		

As of January 1, 2024, the Ranking Points to be used for any Tournament seeding in the Champions League Tournament during 2024 are:

Rank	Men's		Women's	
	League	Points	League	Points
1	AFL Ireland (IRE)	53	AFL Ireland (IRE)	75
2	AFL Netherlands (NED)	53	AFL London (ENG)	45
3	AFL London (ENG)	51	WWE / AFL CNE (WAL/ENG)	33
4	AFL France (FRA)	34	AFL Scotland (SCO)	30
5	AFL Germany (GER)	26	AFL Northern Ireland (NI)	28
6	AFL Northern Ireland (NI)	20	AFL Sweden (SWE)	28
7	AFL Scotland (SCO)	15	AFL Germany (GER)	20
8	AFL Croatia (CRO)	11	AFL France (FRA)	20
9	AFL Denmark (DEN)	11	AFL Croatia (CRO)	14
10	AFL Central North (ENG)	8	AFL Netherlands (NED)	6
11	AFL Wales (WAL)	7		
12	AFL Sweden (SWE)	7		
13	AFL Switzerland (SWI)	5		
14	AFL Czech Republic (CZE)	3		
15	AFL Norway (NOR)	2		
16	AFL Austria (AUS)	1		