

# CENTRAL MURRAY & GOLDEN RIVERS FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUES



CMFNL MAJOR SPONSOR



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GOLDEN RIVERS FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

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# CM & GR BY-LAWS

LAST REVIEWED: December 2022



**CENTRAL MURRAY & GOLDEN RIVERS FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUES**

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# PART 1 – MEMBER CLUBS & MEETINGS

## 1 DEFINITIONS

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**Affiliated Clubs or Member Clubs** shall be deemed to mean and relate to one or more of the clubs comprising or represented in these leagues.

**Board** means the Board of Management of the leagues.

**Clear days** shall be days calculated from one day to another with exclusion of both the first and the last day.

**CM & GR Leagues** means Central Murray and Golden Rivers Leagues. In these rules referred to as "the leagues".

**Commission** means the AFL Central Victoria Commission

**Laws of Australian Football** means the laws of the game of Australian Football adopted by the Australian Football League as modified by the leagues set out in these By-Laws.

**NV** means Netball Victoria.

**Player(s)** shall be deemed to mean football or netball player.

**RAC** is the Regional Administration Centre

**Tribunal** means the Independent Tribunal of the CM & GR Leagues as defined in these by-laws.

## 2 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

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### 2.1 Leagues Membership

Each club within the leagues during the previous season shall be deemed to be a member of the leagues for the following season unless a club fails to meet the viability criteria, Rule 6.4, or has an outstanding debt to the leagues.

### 2.2 One Organization - two Leagues

- a. Our 17 clubs form two independent football & netball leagues; Central Murray comprising 11 clubs and the Golden Rivers with 6 clubs.
- b. The Board is responsible for the governance, support and development of the leagues' clubs and monitoring the operations of the leagues.
- c. The AFL Central Victoria Regional Administration Centre (AFLCV RAC) is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CM & GR Leagues.

Central Murray Football & Netball League	Golden Rivers Football & Netball League
Bairanald Football Netball Club	Hay Football Netball Club
Tooleybuc-Manangatang Football Netball Club	Macorna Football Netball Club
Nyah Nyah-West United Football Netball Club	Moulamein Football Netball Club
Woorinen Football Netball Club	Murrabit Football Netball Club
Tyntynder Football Netball Club	Ultima Football Netball Club
Swan Hill Football Netball Club	Wandella Football Netball Club
Lake Boga Football Netball Club	
Mallee Eagles Football Netball Club	
Kerang Football Netball Club	
Koondrook Barham Football Netball Club	
Cohuna Kangas Football Netball Club	

## 3 CLUB COLOURS AND UNIFORMS

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- a. Each club shall register its football and netball team colours and playing apparel with the leagues, priority of registration to determine the exclusive right to wear such colours or designs.
- b. The Operations Manager will maintain a register of club playing apparel. Clubs must submit changes to playing apparel with the Operations Manager prior to 28th February. Clubs may submit application for special occasion apparel with the Board, providing no less than 28 calendar days'

notice.

- c. No player shall take part in any match with an affiliated club, unless wearing the registered playing apparel.

<b>Central Murray Football &amp; Netball League</b>	
Balranald Football Netball Club	Royal Blue, White
Tooleybuc-Manangatang Football Netball Club	Black, Red, White
Nyah Nyah-West United Football Netball Club	Blue, Red
Woorinen Football Netball Club	Black, Gold
Tyntynder Football Netball Club	Blue, Red, White,
Swan Hill Football Netball Club	Maroon, White
Lake Boga Football Netball Club	Black, White
Mallee Eagles Football Netball Club	Royal Blue, Gold
Kerang Football Netball Club	Navy Blue, White
Koondrook Barham Football Netball Club	Royal Blue, Red, Gold
Cohuna Kangas Football Netball Club	Purple, Green, White, Red,
<b>Golden Rivers Football &amp; Netball League</b>	
Hay Football Netball Club	Royal Blue, Gold, Red
Macorna Football Netball Club	Black, Gold
Moulamein Football Netball Club	Red, White
Murrabit Football Netball Club	Royal Blue, White
Ultima Football Netball Club	Royal Blue, White
Wandella Football Netball Club	Black, Red

## **4 LEAGUES' MEETINGS**

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### **4.1 Club Delegates**

- a. Each club must be represented by at least two delegates at any General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the leagues.
- b. Affiliated clubs with individual incorporated netball club and football club will be recognised as one club community and the definition of 'member club' in the rules applied. All member club rights and responsibilities will be applied to that club community.
- c. The Board has the right to split the general meeting into its two leagues, Central Murray and Golden Rivers, when a vote is to be taken on a matter which impacts only on a single constituency.
- d. All clubs must be represented when requested to attend at all official leagues meetings and functions. This includes meetings where coaches, club officials, umpires and others may be requested to attend.
- e. No club delegate shall represent more than one affiliated club, or be a member of any other club or league without written consent from the Board.

### **4.2 Notice of Leagues Meetings**

- a. Notice of a general meeting of the leagues shall be given to every member of the leagues at least 14 clear calendar days prior to the meeting, along with the agenda and any notice of motion from the Board or member clubs.
- b. Notices of motion are submitted in accordance with the leagues constitution.

### **4.3 General Meeting Standing Orders**

The meetings of the leagues shall be convened according to the Standing Orders detailed in the Appendices of these by-laws.

## **5 CLUB LEVIES & PAYMENT TERMS**

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### **5.1 Affiliation or Joining Fee**

The joining or affiliation fee is set annually by the Board.

### **5.2 Club Levies**

- a. The Board shall present to the Annual General Meeting an Annual Budget for the next financial year that includes the club levies to be paid and the instalment regime.
- b. Club levies will be invoiced directly to clubs and will be payable within the trading terms of the leagues.
- c. The Board may also at any time during the year, after consultation with its member clubs, call on each of the clubs comprising the leagues, to contribute an additional sum of money to its funds.

### 5.3 Club Levies, Fines and Payments

The trading terms between the Central Rivers Board, its member clubs and individuals are fourteen (14) calendar days of the invoice date for levies, and twenty-eight calendar days (28) for fines and other payments.

**Payment of Monetary Sanction:** Unless otherwise determined by a League Independent Tribunal, any monetary sanction imposed shall be paid to the CM & GR Leagues no later than 28 days after the decision of a League Independent Tribunal.

### 5.4 Clubs Defaulting on Payments

Where clubs fail to make payments by the due date, unless alternate arrangements are agreed to by the Operations Manager, clubs will be subjected to the leagues default payments procedure below:

- a. **Step 1:** As a reminder, the club President will be contacted by the Operations Manager on the day after payment falls due via email. The email will contain details of the relevant outstanding invoice/s.
- b. **Step 2:** Payment of any outstanding amount to be made within 7 calendar days of the reminder being issued.
- c. **Step 3:** For each period of 7 calendar days from the due date or part thereof that elapses until payment is made, an additional \$100 administration levy will be imposed with NO limit, and for each 7 calendar days, 4 premiership points may be deducted at the Board's discretion from the highest placed football or netball team. The deduction of premiership points will continue each 7 calendar days or part thereof until the outstanding amount is paid in full.
- d. **Step 4:** Clubs in financial default will not be permitted to participate in finals and have no voting rights at general meetings.
- e. **Step 5:** If a club is in financial default at the end of the leagues financial year, processing of player transfers into that club for the following season shall not commence until all payments are met or an alternative arrangement has been made with the Board.

### 5.5 Clubs Defaulting on Payments

Where an individual fails to make payment by the due date unless alternate arrangements are agreed to by the Operations Manager, the individual, at the Board's discretion, will be subjected to the following payments procedure below: a. The Club President will be notified of the outstanding invoice; and b. If the invoice is not paid within 7 days the individual may be suspended by the Leagues until the payment is made; and c. Any clearance applications will be denied.

## 6 CLUB SUSTAINABILITY & REPORTING

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### 6.1 Club Annual Meetings

Unless an extension of time is approved by the Board, all member clubs must hold their annual general meeting no later than 14 December.

### 6.2 Club Annual Reports

All clubs are required to lodge with the Operations Manager within 28 calendar days from the date of the Club's AGM and a statement from their accountant that the requirements under the Act relating to the financial statements of the Club are met.

### 6.3 Viability

- a. Clubs must report to the Board on all seven viability criteria.
- b. Clubs will be required to submit actual numbers to the Board against the criteria four weeks prior to the commencement of the season.
- c. The Operations Manager will validate actual numbers after three weeks of competition.
- d. The Board reserves the right to reject the affiliation of a club if they fail to meet any of the three main criteria - 1, 2 or 3.

CLUB CRITERIA / KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	MINIMUM STANDARD
<b>1. Junior numbers required to field all underage sides.</b>	<p>≥ <b>80 %</b> (based on minimum numbers)</p> <p><b>Football</b> (actuals)</p> <p><b>Central Murray: 29</b> - U17.5's, U14.5's, U12's</p> <p><b>Golden Rivers: 20</b> - U17.5's, U14.5's</p> <p><b>Netball</b> (actuals)</p> <p><b>Central Murray: 20</b> - 18 &amp; Under, 16 &amp; Under, 14 &amp; Under, 12 &amp; Under</p> <p><b>Golden Rivers: 8</b> - 17 &amp; Under and 14 &amp; Under</p>
<b>2. Senior numbers required to field all senior sides.</b>	<p>≥ <b>80 %</b> (based on minimum numbers)</p> <p><b>Football</b> (actuals)</p> <p><b>Central Murray: 20</b> - seniors &amp; reserves (Norm = 18 on field and 4 interchange)</p> <p><b>Golden Rivers: 20</b> - seniors &amp; reserves (Norm = 18 on field and 4 interchange, reserves 16 on field and 3 interchange)</p> <p><b>Netball</b> (actuals)</p> <p><b>Central Murray: 16</b> - A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade, B Reserve</p> <p><b>Golden Rivers: 12</b> - A Grade, B Grade, B Reserve</p>
<b>3. All Board/Committee portfolios filled.</b>	≥ <b>100 %</b>
4. Membership numbers (paid up members)	3 year rolling increase
5. Offering Auskick/Net Set Go Junior Development Programs	Ongoing program

## 7 NEW CLUBS

### 7.1 Application for membership

- a. Applications by new clubs for admission to the Central Murray or Golden Rivers leagues may be made in writing to the Operations Manager.
- b. The application will be reviewed by the Board to ensure all of the necessary information is included in the application and the application meets the membership criteria of the leagues.
- c. The Board will consult with the AFL CV Commission and the AFL Victoria Country Regional General Manager.
- d. After approval from the AFL CV Commission the application will be submitted to a Special General Meeting of the leagues within 28 days.
- e. Only member clubs in the relevant leagues constituency (Central Murray or Golden Rivers) have a vote on admission or rejection.

### 7.2 Application for transfer between Central Murray and Golden Rivers Leagues

- a. The Board will consult with the AFL CV Commission and the AFL Victoria Country Regional General Manager.
- b. The application will be submitted to a Special General Meeting of the leagues within 28 days.
- c. The application shall be approved by a 75% majority vote of all member clubs in the respective constituency to authorise the transfer out and 75% majority vote of all member clubs in the respective constituency to authorise the transfer in.

### **7.3 Member Clubs and their Teams**

- a. Each club in the Central Murray League shall field the following teams;
  - i. Football: Senior, Reserve, U17.5, U14.5 and U12 grade teams, and
  - ii. Netball: At least six netball teams; three being senior teams and three being junior teams, other than junior reserve teams. (A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade, B Reserve, 18 & Under, 16 & Under, 14 & Under and 12 & Under/unofficial team)
- b. Each club in the Golden Rivers League shall field the following teams;
  - i. Football: Senior, Reserve, U17.5, U14.5, and
  - ii. Netball: At least five netball teams; three being senior teams and two being junior teams. (A Grade, B Grade, B Reserve, 17 & Under, 14 & Under and 12 & Under/unofficial team)

### **7.4 Failure to Field a Team**

Where a club notifies the Board they are unable to field a football or netball team, a financial penalty will be incurred by the club.

- a. On each occasion a forfeit occurs the club will be fined according to the Penalty Framework.
- b. The penalty will be divided in half; half going to the club who receives the forfeit and half being accumulated by the Board to promote junior development programs.

## **8 MATCH DAY DOCUMENTATION**

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### **8.1 Match Day**

- a. The home club shall be responsible for the provision of all necessary match documentation, administration facilities, first aid facilities and other necessary materials.
- b. Prior to matches commencing, grounds, courts and equipment inspections must be completed and Match Day Checklists duly signed by representatives from each club.
- c. If an identified risk is recorded, a copy of the Match Day Checklist must be forward to the Operations Manager with match day results.
- d. The Home Club Secretary is responsible for ensuring official match day documents are accurately completed, signed and delivered to the Operations Manager via the Central Rivers Umpires following the match.
- e. Any objection to the condition of playing area and suitability for game day on the forthcoming weekend must be forwarded by the club concerned to the Operations Manager by 5:00pm Monday prior to the game. The objection will then be considered by the Board and both clubs advised of the outcome by 7:00pm the following Wednesday.

### **8.2 Club Excellence Award**

- a. The Club Excellence Award has been introduced to encourage Clubs to take pride in their on and off field administration and member behaviour. Clubs will be rewarded for meeting and surpassing expectations and will also be penalized where they regularly fail to meet the expectations of the leagues.
- b. Points will be awarded to clubs for the successful achievement of administrative tasks and behaviour of players, administrators and spectators during the season. The winners of the Club Excellence award for each league will be announced at the AGM.
- c. Rewards for compliance are documented in the Club Excellence Award Policy.

### **8.3 Penalty Value**

- a. The value of the penalty unit will be decided by the Board and announced at the AGM.
- b. The Board may at its discretion vary the penalty units that apply to a breach if circumstances require.
- c. Penalties for non-compliance are documented in the Penalty Framework.

### **8.4 Match day Administration Fines**



A club or player may appeal to the Board against application of any administrative penalty within seven (7) days of receipt of notice, providing the penalty had been paid.

## **PART 2 - BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

### **9 POWERS OF THE BOARD**

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- a. Solely for the purpose of furthering the objectives set out in the constitution:
  - i. The Board shall have powers to control and manage all football and netball matches arranged by the leagues, and shall also have the power to settle all disputes which may arise in connection with any of such matters or in connection with the matches played under its patronage, and may do all such acts and things it may consider conducive to the leagues' interests or the game of football and netball.
  - ii. For football the leagues shall be affiliated with AFL Central Murray and for netball with Netball Victoria.
- b. The Board reserves the right to bring; spectators or club members at a league's managed venue, a person acting in an official capacity for a club or player before it at any time for any purpose whatever.
- c. Any player, club official or club member summoned to attend a meeting of the Board or an official committee of the Board, and fails to attend shall be sanctioned as the Board sees fit.
- d. Any club failing to keep its engagements or appointments as arranged by the Board shall be dealt with as the Board sees fit.

### **10 LEAGUES FINANCES**

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- a. All financial transactions, including accounts for payment, will be reported to each Board meeting.
  - i. Accounts for payment up to the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) may be made without prior approval of the Board.
  - ii. Accounts for payment over ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) require prior approval of the Board.
  - iii. Statutory payments over ten thousand dollars may be made without prior approval of the Board.
- b. All accounts will be with the Bendigo & Adelaide Bank;
  - i. CM & GR Leagues main account, from which most transactions will occur,
  - ii. A credit card account, \$5000 daily limit, for exclusive use of the Operations Manager,
  - iii. A netball registrations account for the collection and payment of netball player registrations.
- c. The daily internet transaction limit for signatories to the CM & GR Leagues accounts will be \$50,000.
- d. All cheques and electronic banking arrangements are to be authorised by:
  - i. The Treasurer and the Operations Manager; or
  - ii. The Treasurer and the authorised board member'; or
  - iii. The Operations Manager and the authorised board member.

### **11 BY-LAW CONSISTENCY**

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- a. The Board shall interpret, make, vary or revoke by-laws as may be deemed necessary to ensure the integrity of the leagues is maintained and is in the best interests of the game. As far as is reasonably practicable, the Board will consult with clubs on all matters relating to changes to by-laws and policy.
- b. The Board shall rule on infringement(s) of any rule or by-law of the leagues where no penalty is provided.

- c. The policies of the leagues are documents that describe the principles and the procedures that govern and guide conduct and decision making in particular contexts within our leagues. These policies as implemented and amended from time to time will form part of these by-laws.
- d. Digital copies of these by-laws and all policies will be available on the leagues website and issued to clubs pre-season by the Operations Manager, or provided on request.

## **12 VENUES & ADMISSION CHARGES**

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- a. The Board shall have authority, and control all arrangements at all venues on which matches between affiliated clubs and interleague matches are played throughout the season.
- b. The monies paid at the gate for entry to home and away games shall be retained by the home club.
- c. The admission charges from the final series and interleague matches shall be retained by the Board.
- d. The entrance fees to all games, including finals, will be set by the Board and confirmed at the AGM.
  - i. Adults, refers to persons over the age of 18,
  - ii. Pensioner Concession cardholders; including Aged, Disability, Carer & Veteran Affairs,
  - iii. Students: young people still attending secondary school.

## **13 REGISTRATIONS, PERMITS & CLEARANCES**

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### **13.1 Delegations**

The Operations Manager has been empowered by the Board to:

- a. Approve all registrations, clearances and permits to play,
- b. Investigate infringements and irregularities arising from match reports, team sheets, match day reports and issue penalties and rewards in accordance with these by-laws,
- c. Retain a record of games played by players in all grades of all competitions and at the completion of each home series compile a record of votes in all leagues' awards,
- d. Regularly report accumulated club penalties to the Board.

## **14 BOARD COMMITTEES**

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- a. Committees shall deal with matters delegated by the Board and will have authority limited to the nature of the directive.
- b. Except for the Independent Tribunal, the Board chairman shall be ex-officio member of all committees.
- c. There must be at least one board member on any sub-committee.

# **PART 3 - DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

## **15 INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL**

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The Independent Tribunal by-laws should be read in conjunction with the AFL Victoria Country Handbook, the *CM & GR Leagues Tribunal Policy* and *Tribunal Procedures*.

### **15.1 Tribunal Scope**

- a. The Independent Tribunal will deal with players and officials reported in accordance with the Laws of the Game, Rules of the AFL Victoria Country and the CM & GR Leagues.
- b. They may also sit in judgment on any football or netball issues or matters relating to the rules of the leagues.
- c. Any complaints against any football or netball club official, club member, coach, player, spectator or umpire must be lodged in writing by 5.00pm on the first business day after the match.

### **15.2 Tribunal Costs**

- a. The tribunal is a user pays system and these costs have been documented in the Tribunal Policy.
- b. Where clubs, members or players appearing before the tribunal are found guilty, clubs will be invoiced for a Guilty Verdict Fee. This fee will be determined prior to the commencement of each season.

### 15.3 Composition

- a. An Independent Tribunal consisting of up to nine nominated persons not connected with any clubs of the leagues shall be appointed by the Board and the decision and penalties imposed by such Independent Tribunal shall be final.
- b. Five members is the maximum number for any hearing, and three members shall form a quorum.
- c. This Independent Tribunal will deal with football and netball players, officials, club members and spectators reported in accordance with the appropriate rules of the AFL Victoria Country, the CM & GR Leagues, including Code of Conduct breaches, and the Laws of Australian Football and the Rules of Netball. The Independent Tribunal may also hear any appeals or disputes that may arise from such rules. They may also sit in judgement on any dispute or matters at the direction of the Board or the Operations Manager.
- d. The Independent Tribunal shall also deal with charges against officials, players and club members, who may give unsatisfactory evidence or behave at the Tribunal hearing in a manner which may bring the leagues, the tribunal or its members into disrepute.
- e. The Reporting Officer or appointed substitute shall represent the leagues in presenting charges to the Independent Tribunal and may summon or arrange for any persons to appear to give evidence on the hearing of any charges brought against a player, official, club member or spectator.
- f. Any player, club official or member charged with an offence to appear before the Independent Tribunal, must be represented by an advocate appointed by their club.
- g. Any player or official failing to appear before the Tribunal when advised to do so without an acceptable reason shall be disqualified for a minimum period of two matches. This to be additional to any sanctions arising from the hearing at that time.

## 16 CODE OF CONDUCT BREACHES

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Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents/carers of players, coaches, officials, members and spectators. Clubs may be held vicariously liable by the Board for the behaviour of their players, officials, members and spectators. The Code of Conduct penalties will apply in addition to any penalties imposed by the Independent Tribunal.

The home club executive will assume responsibility for dealing with complaints received during the home and away season, while the Board and host club share responsibility for finals matches. The Board will assume responsibility for Interleague matches.

- a. It is the responsibility of the host club to be proactive and ensure that any breaches or potential breaches of the Code of Conduct are immediately addressed.
- b. If a breach of the Code of Conduct occurs after they have been warned, a Notice of Report must be completed.
- c. Person(s) attending a leagues sanctioned match, social event or meeting shall not:
  - i. Use offensive, abusive, intimidating, or obscene language to any player, coach, umpire, official or other spectator;
  - ii. Enter the playing surface during the course of a game without the prior approval of the home club and/or leagues;
  - iii. Dispute the decision of an umpire either during or after a game;
  - iv. Assault or act with aggression to any person(s);
  - v. Behave in a way contrary to this Code of Conduct and/or the spirit of the game;
  - vi. Behave in a way which disturbs the enjoyment of the match by any other person(s), or brings discredit to the home club and/or the leagues;
  - vii. Refuse to accept the reasonable direction of an official of the home club and/or

leagues, or official of the team/club which that person(s) is supporting.

- d. Players, coaches, club administrators and spectators attending a leagues' venue will abide by the rules and policies of the leagues.

### 16.1 Breaches Procedure

Any person(s) contravening the Codes of Conduct may be reported by any club official or Umpire to the Ground Manager or other official of the team which that person(s) is supporting.

- a. **Step 1:** A representative of the home club approaches the offending person(s) and explains they are in breach of the leagues' behavioural expectations. In the case of visiting officials or players, an official of the offending person's club should do the initial approach. In the case of an umpire or players being abused by a spectator(s), the umpire shall notify the interchange steward at the next quarter break. If the offence continues after the break then a Notice of Report shall be completed.
- b. **Step 2:** If the behaviour continues the Ground Manager/Home club official should warn the offending person(s) they will be asked to leave the ground and their club may be fined.
- c. **Step 3:** Local police called and the offending person(s) is escorted from the ground.
- d. The Ground Manager, club or leagues official or umpire must note the details on their report and where possible the name(s) of the offending person(s) to the Ground Manager on the Notice of Report Form. A photo of the offending people should be taken.
- e. Where it is not clear what club the offender(s) is supporting the person(s) shall be reported to the home club.
- f. Where an umpire is making a report; a request to the team's Interchange Steward shall be regarded as a direction to the Team Manager for the purposes of this rule/code.
- g. The matters shall be detailed on the *Code of Conduct Notice of Report Form* and the official/spectator(s) club (s) may be summoned before the Independent Tribunal to answer charges for breach of the leagues' Code of Conduct.
- h. In the event the person(s) refuses to obey the direction of the Ground Manager and/or Team Manager, the Ground Manager may direct the umpire to terminate the match and shall endorse this decision in writing on the *Notice of Report Form*. In the event that the match is so terminated, the Board at its absolute discretion may award the competition points to the non-offending team, or declare that neither side shall be awarded competition points or percentage for that match.
- i. If the club is unable to establish that it took reasonable precautions to prevent the individual/group from engaging in the prohibited conduct the club may be vicariously liable for failing to uphold the Code of Conduct.

### 16.2 Codes of Conduct Notice of Report Form

Breaches of the Codes of Conduct must be notified to clubs on the "*Notice of Report*" form and either included in the Match Day envelope or received by the Operations Manager by 5pm on the first business day after the match. Furthermore, the Operations Manager can issue a Notice of Report for breaches of the Code of Conduct because of an investigation or complaint from the Director of Umpires, the Netball Umpire Coach or report from the Match Review Panel.

### 16.3 Procedures for dealing with a Codes of Conduct Notice of Report

- a. Upon receiving the *Notice of Report* the Operations Manager will ask the offending club and any identifiable person(s) to explain why they shouldn't be charged under the Code of Conduct. The explanation provided by the club should also detail any steps the club has taken to reinforce the Code of Conduct or any other mitigating circumstances that may be relevant to this incident.
- b. The club or individual(s) response must be received by the Operations Manager no later than 3 business days after being initially contacted by the Operations Manager.
- c. The Operations Manager, in consultation with the Board, will decide, after studying the explanation provided and a club's history, an appropriate penalty for the breach of the Code of Conduct.
- d. The Operations Manager, in consultation with the Board, may offer an early guilty plea for an

offence to avoid a hearing at the Tribunal. This penalty can be the minimum set sanction or a variation depending on the mitigating circumstances offered by the club.

- e. If a club wishes to accept the early guilty plea the club secretary must contact the Operations Manager no later than 5.00 pm on the first business day immediately following the receipt of the Operations Manager's decision. Such requests shall be made in writing, delivered by post or email, to the Operations Manager.
- f. If the club or individual do not accept the proposed sanction the case must be heard by the Independent Tribunal.

#### 16.4 Early Guilty Plea and Set Penalty

- a. Where a reported player declines to take the set penalty described in the AFL Victoria Country Handbook, contests the report at the Tribunal and is found guilty, the prescribed set penalty will apply in addition to the penalty determined by the Tribunal.
- b. Where a club or person has the opportunity to take the early guilty plea and contests the charge at the Tribunal, and is subsequently found guilty, the maximum sanction for that level of the breach of the Code of Conduct will be automatically imposed, as well as, any other fines or sanctions imposed by the Tribunal.

#### 16.5 Code of Conduct Sanction Guidelines

The purpose of any sanctions is to protect the competition, the sports of netball and football, players, clubs, spectators and/or other relevant participants or stakeholders in accordance with the objects of the leagues.

- a. The Board may in its absolute discretion vary the sanction offered to clubs or individuals, as it sees fit.
- b. **First Offence:** A fine not less than \$300 and not exceeding \$600, and/or suspension of the player from playing, and/or suspension of the offender(s) from attending future matches.
- c. **Second Offence:** A fine not less than \$600 and not exceeding \$1500 and/or loss of competition points, and/or suspension of the player from playing, and/or suspension of the offender(s) from attending future matches.
- d. **Third Offence and subsequent fines:** A fine not less than \$1500 and not exceeding, \$2500 and/or loss of competition points, and/or suspension of the player from playing, and/or suspension of the offender(s) from attending future matches.
- e. Where a third or further offence occurs the Tribunal/board has the flexibility to assess the circumstances of the offence and where they believe the circumstances warrant a 50% loading may be added to the fines.
- f. The Code of Conduct penalties shall hold for a three year rolling period. That is, if a club breaches the Code of Conduct this year and there is one other previous offence four years ago this becomes the first offence.

#### 16.6 Sanction Imposed by a Club

- a. Any club sanctioning a player, official or member shall forward to the Board within one week of the sanction, the name of the person together with particulars of the offence, the sanction and the reason for the sanction.
- b. Any player knowing they are ineligible to play, and who does not notify the captain of his own team shall be liable to disqualification or otherwise as the Board or Tribunal may think fit.

## 17 PROTESTS

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- a. All clubs referring protests, complaints, charges or disputes in connection with any leagues' football or netball match, shall forward particulars of the matter to the Operations Manager no later than 5.00pm on the first business day after the match in respect of which such protest, complaint, charge or dispute is referred, together with a fee of \$500. Such fee is to be returned, less costs, if the protest,

charge or dispute is considered not to have been frivolous.

- b. The Operations Manager shall immediately on receiving such protest, complaint, charge or dispute being lodged, notify the secretary of the protested club, who shall furnish a reply within 72 hours of receipt of such notice. The Operations Manager after consultation with the chairman of the Board, proceed to convene a special meeting of the Board to deal with the protest, charge or dispute or call on the leagues' Investigation Officer to investigate the matter.

## **18 INVESTIGATIONS OFFICER**

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The Board will appoint one or more AFL Victoria Country accredited Investigation Officers to investigate any matter in accordance with AFL Victoria Country Rule for Unbecoming Conduct or for any other matters at the discretion of the Operations Manager or Board.

## **19 MATCH REVIEW PANEL**

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The Match Review Panel (MRP) is commissioned by the Board to review incidents in the official league video footage which may require further scrutiny. The MRP will only act on referrals from the Operations Manager, the Board or a member of the club executive.

- a. Panel Members for the MRP to be approved by the Board, quorum is 3 members.
- b. Referrals from a Club Executive will be submitted in writing to the Operations Manager, identifying the match, the quarter, the approximate time into the quarter, the area on the field and the players involved in the incident no later than 5pm on the first business day after the match.
- c. Role of the MRP (Read in conjunction with the MRP Charter);
  - i. Analyse available official video footage of all matches,
  - ii. Review reports or referrals lodged by the Operations Manager,
  - iii. Determine appropriate classification of Classifiable Offences, set out in the Tribunal Guidelines,
  - iv. Make recommendations to the Operations Manager on the outcome of their assessment,
  - v. Provide reasons in respect of any reports or referrals which are not progressed to a charge.

# **PART 4 - GENERAL BY-LAWS**

## **20 LIFE MEMBERS**

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Life Membership is the highest Award available in our leagues to recognise the exceptional contribution of individuals. The Central Rivers Board may at its discretion annually elect Life Members to the Central Murray FNL, the Golden Rivers FNL or the Central Rivers Umpires any person who has rendered outstanding service to any of these organisations, through involvement in football, netball or umpiring. The criteria and the procedure for the election of life members are described in the Life Membership Policy.

## **21 COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA STATEMENTS**

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### **21.1 Communications**

- a. Correspondence to the Board must be in writing on official club letterhead that includes the incorporation number and the ABN, from a club executive member, addressed to the Board chairperson and delivered to the Operations Manager.
- b. Correspondence from the Board will be addressed to the club secretary, or club nominated person, and delivered electronically to the notified address.

### **21.2 Public Criticism of Board Decisions**

The Board's policies and media statements are conveyed through the chairman and operational issues through the Operations Manager. If clubs have an issue with the actions and intent of the Board or any of its employees they must address their concerns through the Operations Manager or the Board chair.

- a. No person or club shall make any unfair, unreasonable or excessive public criticism of a Board decision or of any board member or any other matter touching or concerning the Board, or a determination made by it.
- b. The Board shall determine in its absolute discretion in any case, whether any public criticism is unfair, unreasonable or excessive.
- c. Breach of this by-law will be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct.
- d. Where a person contravenes this rule, the person's club may also be found vicariously liable.

## **22 SEASON FIXTURES**

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### **22.1 Draw Schedule**

The Board will arrange the program of matches for the season. Where possible, the Board will compile the competition draws so they are complementary and maximise the potential for attracting patrons to our sports. The timeline for agreeing on a season schedule:

- a. October – Draw compiled and draft circulated,
- b. November AGM – final draw ratified by the member clubs,
- c. December – draw released to public.

### **22.2 Variations**

Any variation from the normal Saturday fixtures and Saturday times is to be negotiated between the clubs and approval gained from the Board. If the clubs cannot reach agreement, a request can be submitted to the Board for consideration.

### **22.3 Match Conditions**

The Board shall have the power to change the venue of the day of any match if the assigned ground is considered unfit for play or facilities do not meet the minimum standards, as outlined in the *Risk Management Ground Audit*.

## **23 PRESENTATION NIGHT**

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The annual vote counts and presentation nights are the most prestigious event for each of our leagues where we bring together the key people in each club to celebrate and recognise the successes of our players, achievements of our clubs and recognise our sponsors.

- a. No Club shall conduct a function on the same date as an official league function. This shall include, but not be limited to, the Annual Presentation Night, and the leagues' Annual General Meeting.
- b. Clubs will be allocated places for the event and these places will be filled with club members. The expectation is all table places will be filled.
- c. The dress code is smart-casual, with no thongs. Club members are encouraged to wear their corporate uniform.
- d. Each Club is required to have its President, Secretary and senior football and netball coaches in attendance at the leagues Presentation Night.
- e. The Operations Manager will equitably distribute places at these events between the clubs. Clubs who fail to fill all of their allocated places at this event will be fined as well as paying for their allocated places.

## **24 FINALS VENUES**

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The control of all finals, including the allocation of grounds, shall be at the discretion of the Board.

### **24.1 Central Murray**

The allocation of finals shall be on a rotational basis, explained in the Finals Allocation Policy and published on our website.

## **24.2 Golden Rivers**

a. Minor Final venues:

The Semi-finals and Preliminary final shall be allocated by the Board on a rotating roster basis as per the Finals Schedule.

b. Grand Final venues:

- i. The Grand Final venue will be allocated by the Board on a roster basis as per the Finals Schedule,
- ii. Once a club has hosted a grand final, that club will not be eligible to host another until all clubs have had the opportunity,
- iii. Where a club does not wish to host the grand final in their rostered the year, they may arrange to swap their turn with a club rostered in the following years, subject to Board approval,
- iv. Where a club does not wish to host the grand final at their home ground, they may arrange to host at another ground within the GRFNL, subject to the approval of the Board.
- v. Once each club has had the opportunity to host a grand final, the roster will be recommenced.

c. One board member and one host club representative will complete the match day check list for finals matches.

## **25 GENERAL ITEMS**

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### **25.1 Identity of the Year Award**

The Identity of the Year may be given annually to one recipient in each league who is recognised by their peers for their contribution to either football or netball or both. The criteria and the procedures are contained in the Identity of the Year policy.



## 26 APPENDIX 1 – CM & GR LEAGUES' CODE OF CONDUCT

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### ADMINISTRATORS

1. Involve others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making in relation to their activity.
2. Create pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport not just as players but also as coaches, umpires and administrators.
3. Establish that qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and specific skill technique provide adequate supervision.
4. Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
5. Assist all participants in football and netball to know and understand the rules.
6. Set a conduct example for others to follow.
7. Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
8. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
9. Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
10. Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, official, umpire or supporter.
11. Ensure all parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials, medical staff and players, understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.
12. Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, players, or any policy decisions of the club, the leagues or the Board.
13. Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of the participants.
14. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
15. Abide by the Rules, By-Laws and Regulations of the leagues.

### PLAYERS

1. I will play by the rules – the rules of your club and the laws of the game.
2. I will never argue with an umpire or other official – if I disagree with a decision I will talk to my captain or coach.
3. I will control my temper. I understand verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players and deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
4. I will work equally hard for myself and/or my team.
5. I will treat all players as I would like to be treated.
6. I will be a good sport and applaud all good plays whether they are made by my team or the opposition.
7. I will co-operate with my coach, team-mates and opponents.
8. I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
9. I will thank the opposition and officials at the end of the game.
10. I will play for my own enjoyment and to improve my skills.

### COACHES

*In representing myself in an honest manner and without bringing the coaching profession or the game into disrepute, I will endeavour to uphold the following to the best of my ability:*

1. I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of my involvement in Australian Rules Football and Netball, including refraining from any discriminatory practices based on gender, religion, cultural background, or special ability/disability.
2. I will abide by and teach the AFL Laws of the Game, the Rules of Netball and the rules of my club and leagues.
3. I will be reasonable in the demands I make on the time commitments of the players in my care, having due consideration for their health and well-being.
4. I will refrain from any form of personal abuse or unnecessary physical contact with the players in my care.
5. I will not arrive at the venue intoxicated or drink alcohol at junior matches.
6. I will not allow the unlawful supply of alcohol at training, games or club functions.
7. I will avoid overplaying talented players, aiming to maximise participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability. Where I am responsible for players in the 5-12 year old age group, I will ensure that all players gain equal playing time.
8. I will stress and monitor player safety always, ensuring that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of players.
9. In recognising the significance of injury and sickness, I will seek and follow the physician's advice concerning the

- return of injured or ill players to training
10. I will endeavour to keep informed regarding sound principles of coaching and skill development, and of factors relating to the welfare of my players
  11. I will at all times display and teach appropriate sporting behaviour, ensuring that players understand and practise fair play.
  12. I will display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, other officials, parents and spectators.
  13. I will ensure that players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development are priorities not overshadowed by a desire to win.
  14. I reject the use of performance enhancing substances in sport and will abide by the guidelines set forth in the AFL/NV Drug Policy.
  15. I will ensure I am familiar with relevant policies and procedures relating to a child safe environment and member protection - this includes risk management, child safe policy and mandatory notification obligations and completion of relevant Child Safety training.

#### **OFFICIALS**

1. Display fairness and uniformity in applying the rules.
2. Be honest in your assessment of situations.
3. Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
4. Condemn deliberate unruly conduct as being unsporting and promote fair play and respectful sports behaviour.
5. The health and safety of the players must be the most important reason to be weighed in during the decision making process.
6. Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct toward any player, official, umpire or supporter.
7. Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.
8. Ensure you remain up to date with any rule changes and/or interpretation of rules as laid down by the AFL and NV.
9. Ensure you are familiar with relevant policies and procedures relating to a child safe environment and member protection - this includes risk management, child safe policy and mandatory notification obligations.
10. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural background.
11. Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.

#### **PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS**

1. Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
2. Encourage participation, but don't force it.
3. Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
4. Never ridicule mistakes or losses – supporters are there to support and build confidence.
5. Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires and spectators.
6. Recognise all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time.
7. Never publicly criticise umpires – raise personal concerns with club officials in private.
8. Lead the way in stamping out ugly remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability.

By registering your child with your club you agree to abide by these principles. You also support the Club in its undertakings and encourage the Club to take any necessary disciplinary actions including the suspension and banning where warranted of any players, parents and or spectators for repeated or serious breaches of these Codes of Conduct.

## 27 APPENDIX 2 – MEETING STANDING ORDERS

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- d. The order of Business, except at the discretion of the Chairman shall be as follows:
  - Apologies
  - Minutes of previous meeting
  - Business arising out of minutes
  - Confirmation of minutes
  - Correspondence
  - Treasurers report
  - Other reports
  - General Business
- e. No member shall speak to a motion more than once without the permission of the Chairman, except the mover of the motion who shall have the right to reply.
- f. No more than one amendment shall be accepted at one time, however, notices to future amendments may be given (foreshadowed).
- g. A motion "that the question be now put" cannot be debated, and if seconded, such a motion shall be submitted without delay.
- h. In dealing with correspondence, every letter after having been read or tabled, shall be taken as formally received unless a motion to the contrary be submitted and every letter be dealt with immediately after the contents have been made known.
- i. No discussion shall take place except on a motion or amendment moved, seconded or put into writing if so demanded by the Chairman.
- j. If the amendment is carried it shall become the substantive motion, the original motion lapsing, and there will be no necessity to put the original to the meeting. It will be competent, whether the amendment is carried or not, to receive other amendments one at a time to be decided in like manner until the subject before the Chair is finally disposed of.
- k. Amendments
  - No member shall propose more than one amendment. No member shall speak more than once upon the same question without the permission of the Chairman, except the mover of the amendment to the motion, thereupon all discussions shall cease and questions shall be put.
  - Any member seconding a motion or amendment without remark shall not be held to have spoken thereon.
  - In any case of amendments being lost, the Chairman shall put the original motion to the vote without further discussion.
- l. A motion or amendment having been moved and seconded, debate may ensue, but not more than two speakers shall follow successively on the same side of the question. If after two speakers have so spoken, there be no other speaker to take the opposite view, the question shall be put forthwith.
- m. Any member with consent of the Chairman may offer an explanation of any particular expression used by him, but must confine him strictly to such.
- n. No member shall enter or leave the meeting whilst a vote or division is being taken.
- o. In all cases where a point of order is raised, the member is speaking he shall cease until the point of order is decided, the Chairman to decide the matter and not to allow discussion.