

ADELAIDE  
FOOTBALL  
BY-LAWS



PLAINS  
LEAGUE INC

Last updated and approved by APFL Board of Directors: 23/06/2025

Contents

Definitions .....	2
1. Committees and Coordinators .....	3
2. Umpires Co-ordinator.....	3
3. Field Umpires.....	3
4. Goal Umpires, Timekeepers , Boundary Umpires and Interchange Stewards.....	4
5. Inter League and Senior Selection Committee .....	4
6. Junior Football Panel.....	5
7. Colts Football Competition .....	5
8. Senior Playing Numbers.....	5
10. Registration of Players .....	6
11. Qualification of Players.....	6
12. Qualification for Major Round.....	7
13. Suspended Players.....	7
14. Playing Disqualified or Deregistered Players.....	7
15. Reporting Offences.....	7
16. Reporting of Players and Officials of Clubs or the League.....	8
17. Report of Club.....	9
18. Reports of Players by Clubs .....	10
19. Disputes and Protests.....	10
20. Send-Off Rule.....	10
21. Send-Off Rule for Under 14's & Under 17's.....	12
22. Club Colours.....	13
23. Matches .....	13
24. Matches other than League Matches .....	15
25. Trial Matches.....	15
26. Match Day Balls.....	15
27. Premiership Conditions .....	15
28. Major Round.....	16
29. Payment of Fines .....	16

ADELAIDE  
FOOTBALL  
BY-LAWS



PLAINS  
LEAGUE INC

31. Permit to play in Finals .....	17
32. Affiliation .....	17
33. Disbursement of the League.....	17
34. APFL Changes to AFL Rules.....	17
35. APPS Points System.....	17
36. Season Passes .....	18
37. APNA – Share of Finals Gate Takings .....	18
38. SACFL – Deregistration Policy.....	18
39. Representative Teams – Sports Trainer/s.....	19
40. Rotation of Finals:.....	19
41. Gate Takings.....	20
42. Crowd Behaviour and Pink Vests .....	20
43. Fixturing.....	20
44. Communication Devices .....	20
45. Penalty Points.....	20
46. Videoing and/or filming of games.....	21
47. Melee Rule .....	21
48. Fines also associated with APFL .....	224

Definitions

- AFL means the Australian Football League
- AGM means the Annual General Meeting of the APFL
- APFL means the Adelaide Plains Football League
- APNA means the Adelaide Plains Netball Association
- APPS means the Approved Player Points System
- FOC means the Football Operations Coordinator appointed by the SANFL to cover, but not limited to, the APFL.
- GATE TAKINGS means the total sum of money received at a Venue for payment by any Person or Persons to enter the Venue.



- MRO means the Match Review Officer, a position held by the FOC.
- SACFL means the South Australian Community Football League
- SANFL means the South Australian National Football League
- Team Official includes but is not limited to an officer, coach, assistant coach, trainer, runner, employee or any person performing any duties (paid or unpaid) for or on behalf of a Club or Team

### 1. Committees and Coordinators

The following Committees and Co-ordinators shall be established each year by the Board of Directors:

- Umpire's Co-ordinator
- Chairman of Selectors, Head Coach and Selectors - Senior Association Football
- Junior Panel Chairperson
- Tribunal Panel – Set by APFL MRO in accordance with agreement
- Female Football Co-ordinator – Set by Junior Panel

### 2. Umpires Co-ordinator

- a) The Umpire's Co-ordinator shall make appointments for Field Umpires in the Major and Minor Rounds for all U14, U17, Reserves & A Grade.
- b) All Field Umpires shall be answerable to and under the control of the Umpire's Co-ordinator and the APFL Board of Directors.
- c) Complaints against field umpires must be forwarded in writing to the League Secretary by 5pm the following day after the conclusion of the game. They must be signed by the President and Secretary of the Club making the complaint and will be dealt with by the Board of Directors.
- d) The Umpires Co-ordinator will receive an honorarium as set by the APFL Board of Directors at the first Board meeting following the AGM.
- e) Umpires Co-ordinator to administer travel monies for umpires who officiate outside League matches, on behalf of the League, at \$100.00 per umpire. (A Grade & U17, U15, U13 & Female Association Carnivals)

### 3. Field Umpires

- a) Where possible the Umpires Co-ordinator shall arrange appointment for Boundary Umpires for every match in the Major Round and for the A Grade matches in the Minor Round.
- b) Field Umpires shall check goal umpire scores and the Goal Umpires shall initial the scorecards at the end of each quarter when agreed. At the end of each game the Field Umpire must check that all details on the scorecards are completed and correct. If there is any discrepancy, then Timekeeper score cards are to be accepted as correct.



- c) After each match, names of players taking part as recorded on the team sheets, Goal Umpires Score Cards, to be given to Home Club Secretary.
- d) The League Secretary will invoice each home club for Umpire payments which are to be paid by that Club. Any Umpires payments not received within fourteen (14) days will incur a fine of \$200.00.
- e) Voting & Reports are to be lodged by the Umpires, as soon as practicable, upon the completion of the match.

#### 4. Goal Umpires, Timekeepers, Boundary Umpires and Interchange Stewards

- a) Each Club competing shall provide one Goal Umpire, one Timekeeper and two Boundary Umpires for U14, U17, & Reserves Grades; and supply one or more Boundary umpires for the A Grade if requested by the Umpire's Co-ordinator. The Home Club shall provide the Interchange Steward for A Grade and Reserves.
- b) In the Major Round the appointment of Goal Umpires shall be arranged by the League. Each Club shall provide one Timekeeper for each U14 & U17 game of the Major Round that they are competing in.
- c) Goal Umpires to wear white coats/polo tops at all times. Goal Umpires shall keep records of all goals and behinds kicked in each game, and check scores at the end of each quarter. If the scores are not agreed between the goal umpires, they should check with the timekeepers to determine the correct score.
- d) Boundary Umpires for 'A' Grade will be allocated by Umpire's Co-ordinator where possible. Clubs to supply boundary umpire(s) if they have not been allocated by Umpire's Coordinator. Boundary Umpires for A Grade & Reserves must be fifteen (15) years of age and over, for U17 must be 13 & over, and for U14 must be 10 & over, unless appointed by the Umpire's Co-ordinator. (Age is to be taken as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the season). They must be dressed in Fluro yellow tops and must wear appropriate closed footwear (e.g. Football boots or sneakers). Boundary Umpires must be appropriately dressed and ready at the commencement of the game. If a Field Umpire determines that they are not acceptable, or are unable to carry out their duties, the Field Umpire may reject the Boundary Umpire. If the offending Club does not rectify the situation promptly, the Field Umpire shall make a report to the League and the Club may be fined an amount of \$50.00.
- e) Interchange Stewards for A & Reserve Grades must be 18 years of age and over. They must be located within the defined interchange area. If an Interchange Steward is not provided when requested by the Field Umpire the offending club may be reported by the Field Umpire and the Club may be fined an amount of \$50.00. The Interchange Steward shall be responsible for recording all player interchanges and Umpire player send-offs and timing for send-offs.

#### 5. Inter League and Senior Selection Committee

Refer to Management Guidelines for Senior Association Team.



## 6. Junior Football Panel

- a) The Board shall appoint a Junior Panel Chairperson & Secretary.
- b) The appointed representative from the League Board of Directors, to sit on the Junior Panel, whose role will be to advise the Board of any recommendations, regarding the administration of Junior Football.
- c) The Junior Advisory Panel shall consist of eight (8) Club Delegates (i.e., one delegate from each club).
- d) Any Club who doesn't provide a delegate for two (2) consecutive meetings of Junior Advisory Panel shall be fined \$100.00.
- e) The Junior Panel shall recommend Coaches and a Selection Committee to Board of Directors for matches in which League representative teams play at the Junior level for confirmation. The approval of such is the responsibility of the APFL Board of Directors.
- f) The Junior Selection Committee & Coaches shall select representative League teams when so required and submit the names of the selected players to the League Secretary, who shall notify the respective Club Secretaries the names of the selected players.
- g) The Junior Selection Committee & Coaches shall appoint the Captain and Vice-Captain and arrange the training times and venues for such teams.
- h) The Junior Panel shall encourage all players selected to attend training and to represent the League.

## 7. Colts Football Competition

- a) Junior Colts (U14) Teams
  - Twenty-four (24) players are allowed – this includes all Finals.
- b) Senior Colts (U17) Teams
  - Twenty-one (21) players are allowed – this includes all Finals
- c) By mutual agreement between respective Coaches in Colts Grades, both sides to have equal numbers in Minor Round only.
- d) Mini Colts – The Mini Colts be recognized as Under 8 and Under 11 modified rules sides, with no points allotted and no finals played. Their scheduled games will be included on program.

## 8. Senior Playing Numbers

- a) A Grade and Reserves teams are allowed twenty-one (21) players in both minor and major rounds.

## 9. Clearances

- a) Clearances are approved as per Community Football regulations.



## 10. Registration of Players

- a) Players must register via the approved Competition Management Platform online registration system. However, the onus of proof as to the eligibility of all players must rest upon the Club registering that player.
- b) Improper Registrations – If the League believes that any club has obtained registration of any player by means of false statement, the League Secretary shall refer the matter for determination, to the FOC, and the Club shall have the right of appearance before the FOC to present their case.
- c.) Any Player seeking approval for transfer into the League who has been Deregistered from playing in another League(s) or has been suspended for a total of 12 or more games will be automatically denied transfer into the APFL. Such players wishing to appeal the denied transfer will need to apply in writing to the APFL Board of Directors.

## 11. Qualification of Players

- a) U17 Players qualify being under 17, and over 13, as at 1<sup>st</sup> January that year,
- b) U14 Players qualify being under 14, and over 10, as at 1<sup>st</sup> January that year,
- c) In exceptional circumstances, Individual Permits may be granted by the Junior Panel for a Player who is up to twelve (12) months over the age limit.
- d) Any player under fifteen (15) years of age as at 1<sup>st</sup> January that year, can only be registered within one League. A permit can be granted if requested.
- e) The onus will be on the Club to see that their players are qualified to play.
- f) Any Club who plays a Player who is not eligible due to being registered in another league, or who is played outside of the age limit, and/or without a permit will be fined \$200.00.
- g) All players named on the Team Sheet on game day must attend the ground prior to Half Time of their nominated game.
- h) No Club shall play a player who is unregistered or unqualified and the League FOC on discovering such a person, shall advise the APFL Board and Club of the breach of rules. If a breach of rules is proven by the FOC, a penalty of loss of the two (2) premiership points and the match may be applied under such circumstances, with the two (2) points and the game awarded to the opposing team. No score to be recorded for the Club found guilty of a breach of the rule, but points against to be recorded and not recorded against the Club that the breach was committed against, as well as a penalty of \$200.00 per match, shall be imposed for each breach of the rule on any affiliated Clubs found guilty by the FOC. Clubs wishing to appeal will need to apply in writing to the APFL Board of Directors, by no later than 5 pm the day after the match.
- i) The APFL Board of Directors shall have the authority to instigate an investigation to determine proof of age of any person playing in the underage competition upon request from any Affiliated Club within the League. The APFL Board of Directors shall be empowered to dismiss such request or conversely act upon the request, such decision to be made upon the evidence provided by the initiating Club for the enquiry. If it is proven that a player is over age and thus ineligible, then Clause 10 b.) shall be acted upon by the League Secretary.



## 12. Qualification for Major Round

- a) The APFL Clubs shall name their top fifteen (15) 'A' Grade players at the end of the Minor Round who cannot participate in Reserves Grade Finals unless Clause 12 c.) applies.
- b) 'A' Grade players must play three (3) Club games to qualify for the Major Round. Three (3) Reserve games shall be the qualifying period for Reserve Finals for any player who has only played Reserve grade and five (5) Reserve games for any player who has played any 'A' Grade games during the current season, unless Clause 12 c.) applies.
- c) That when a Club is fielding 'A' and Reserve grade on any one day of a final, a player not playing in the 'A' Grade is eligible for Reserves grade providing the player has played three (3) Club games.
- d) That Senior and Junior Colts be qualified by playing three (3) games in their respective grade for Finals.
- e) Qualifying for Finals in 'A' and Reserves grade can only be credited with the most senior game played on the day and in U14 & U17 grade in the most junior game played on that day/round.
- f) Top 15 nominations; are to be in NO later than 5pm on the Monday following the minor round. Clubs failing to submit on time will be fined \$100.00, and will not be eligible to play the Finals Match until submitted.
- g) Where a team has forfeited all games for the season prior to the commencement of Round 1, then any allocated games against that team will not count as games for players for any purpose, including Qualification for Major Round.

## 13. Suspended Players

Any player found guilty, who receives match suspensions as result of any offence, shall be ineligible for any League Best and Fairest Awards.

## 14. Playing Disqualified or Deregistered Players

No Club shall play any player who is under disqualification by any Australian Football Authority, whether such authority is affiliated with the SACFL Inc. or not, and any Club having received a written notice from the League MRO that a player has been disqualified or fined and shall play such a player or players whose fine or fines has not been paid shall forfeit the match, and the opposing team shall receive the two premiership points and the match, and the offending team will be fined \$500.00 and the penalized Club shall not be allowed to compete until such fines have been paid.

## 15. Reporting Offences

- a) No Official or servant of the League or of a League Club or any player shall on or about the vicinity of the playing arena:
  - i) Use abusive, threatening, or insulting language towards a League Board Director, Delegate, Umpire or other Officials (servants of the league), or to players or to Gatekeepers of any such oval.
  - ii) Be guilty of any other conduct which is detrimental to the best interests of our



League

- iii) Interfere with or assault any League Board Director, Delegate, Umpire, playing member, Gatekeeper or other Official or servant of the League.
- b) Any breach of the above can be reported by the Club and/or League official and the statement signed by the President and Secretary of the Club and/or League Officials by 5pm on the following day and heard by the League Independent Tribunal.
- c) When a member or members of an associated Club or the League have been reported to the League, it is imperative that Club notify that person or persons and produce them when due notice has been given. If they fail to appear at the Tribunal without an accepted excuse, the decision of the League shall be arrived at in their absence.

16. Reporting of Players and Officials of Clubs or the League

- a) Players guilty of breaches of the laws of the game may be reported by any officiating Field Umpire.
- b) Members of the APFL Umpires Panel who are officiating as boundary umpires also have the power to report.
- c) In the event of an Umpire laying a charge against player(s) the Umpire shall be required to notify the player if practical to do so and also complete a Report.
- d) At the termination of each game, the Umpires must lodge any Reports via the appointed electronic means.
- e) The MRO can set a Prescribed Penalty that will apply for certain offences under the Laws of Australian Football. This list will be published in the National Tribunal Guidelines. Any player or Official on being reported by an Umpire under the Laws of Australian Football in any League or League Club match may choose to accept a Prescribed Penalty, if available.
- f) Any player or Official on being reported by an Umpire under the Laws of Australian Football in any League or League Club match that does not wish to accept a Prescribed Penalty must notify the MRO in writing by 5pm on the day after the game was played. All cases to be heard on Wednesday evening following the match, or at a date convenient to the Commissioners, and at a venue decided by the League MRO. If the player is found guilty by the Tribunal the player will be disqualified for such length of time as a majority of the Commissioners think fit.
- g) A suspended player or Official cannot take part in a match or enter the field of play while under suspension. A suspended player or Official cannot participate in any official capacity including Timekeeper, Boundary or Goal Umpire.
- h) The Club of any player found guilty of a report that is heard by the MRO/Tribunal will pay a fine of \$300.00 to the League, except in any instance where the player has been referred to the Tribunal by the League without a charge having been offered to said player (and club) and without said player (and club) having the opportunity to enter a plea.. The \$300.00 will be invoiced to the Club and is to be paid up within seven (7) days of the hearing. Failure to comply within the period will incur a further penalty of \$25.00. In the event of a Club allowing the penalised player to play prior to payment of fine, a further \$50.00 penalty will be incurred.



- i) The FOC to keep records of all players reprimanded, fined, suspended or disqualified and records to be added to clearance, when and if clearance is requested.
- j) Any player reported in a game and in the event that a Tribunal has to be adjourned to another week, due to persons specific to the Tribunal being unavailable, the reported player is permitted to play until that report is heard by the Tribunal.

### 17. Report of Club

- a) Any officiating Field Umpire may report Clubs guilty of breaches of the Rules and any other infringements
- b) Reports are to be sent to the League Secretary & MRO before 5pm on the day immediately following the Game.



- c) On receipt of the Report, the MRO will contact and discuss the report with the President of the League.
- d) If a minor infringement, the President will contact that Club and discuss. The MRO will send out an outcome letter.
- e) Serious Breaches will be taken to the APFL Board of Directors and a meeting held with the Club concerned.
- f) The APFL Board of Directors and/or President of the League will decide the penalties for any breach or infringements.

### 18. Reports of Players by Clubs

- a) Any Affiliated Club may report a player from an opposing Club for a breach under the Rules of Australian Football.
- b) Reports must provide details of the allegations against the opposition player and be signed by both the President and Secretary of the Club on a Club Letterhead making the complaint. The Report by the Club must be sent to the League Secretary & MRO before 5pm on the day after the Game with a copy also provided to the Club of the opposition player. At the same time a bond of \$700.00 is to be paid to the League which will only be refunded if the reported player is found guilty by the MRO/Tribunal. If one or more of these conditions are not met, the report will be deemed invalid.
- c) On receipt of the Report, the Tribunal Secretary will contact and discuss the report with the President of the League.
- d) If a minor infringement, the President will contact that Club and discuss. The League Secretary will send out an outcome letter.
- e) Serious Breaches will be heard by the MRO and/or Independent Tribunal.

### 19. Disputes and Protests

- a) All disputes or protests arising from any Game must be sent to the League Secretary before 5pm on the day after the Game, together with a bond of \$250.00, which will be forfeited if dispute or protest is not upheld.
- b) All disputes and protests shall be heard by the League MRO and or Tribunal, with the exception of the 'Proof of Age' provision in Clause 10b.

### 20. Send-Off Rule

- a.) The League has adopted a Red & Yellow card system whereby an Umpire may send-off a player for any indiscretion (outside the spirit of the rules) where the Umpire deems that it is inappropriate for the player to remain in the playing arena.
- b.) All players sent off will be recorded on Umpires Match Report by the Umpire.



- c.) At the time of the Send-Off, the Umpire shall escort the player to the interchange area showing either one of these cards:
- Yellow Card – The player can be reported and must serve his 10 minutes ‘on the bench’ for 10 minutes of playing time and can continue playing the game after the penalty has been served.
  - Red Card – The player is reported and is not allowed back on the playing field for the remainder of the match.
- d.) Yellow card is shown, and the yellow carded player is sent off for ten minutes.
- i. During this time the player can be replaced regardless of the offence.
  - ii. A team must not ask the Umpire during the playing time whether that player can come back on or be replaced.
  - iii. The Interchange Steward or Timekeeper will monitor the time off field.
  - iv. Umpires are not expected to monitor the time.
  - v. Umpires will record the player’s details on their Umpires Report.
  - vi. The yellow carded player may come back on when the ten minutes of playing time has elapsed.
  - vii. Umpires may upgrade a yellow card to a red card and report if they deem appropriate prior to the prescribed 10 minutes being served. Umpires must inform the Team Manager of the card upgrade as soon as applicable.
- e.) Red card is shown, and the red carded player cannot come back on for the rest of the match.
- i. The player can be replaced after Ten (10) minutes of game time has elapsed
  - ii. At the end of the game the umpire will fill out the Report advising the player that he has been reported. The MRO will officiate subsequent proceedings.
- f.) Player Sent Off
- i. Play shall stop.
  - ii. The umpire will escort the player from the ground and advise the player.
  - iii. The umpire will display the correct coloured card to the interchange steward at the time of the Send Off.
  - iv. The umpire can display card from 30m from the interchange to save time.
  - v. The interchange steward will display the same card back to the umpire to show that they have understood which card he or she has seen.
  - vi. A player that has been reported under the RED CARD shall not return to the field for the remainder of the match.
  - vii. Play shall recommence when the Umpire returns to his position and a 50m penalty is applied to the free kick.
- g.) Send off period completed
- i. The send-off period is completed after ten minutes of playing time.
  - ii. A yellow carded player may return to the field at the completion of their sendoff period.
  - iii. If that player does not return at that time (due to injury or coaches’ discretion) then another player from the team can replace them



- iv. The sent-off player at this time can return to the field through the normal interchange procedure.
- v. A red carded player may not return to the field during this match.
- vi. The player can be replaced after Ten (10) minutes of game time has elapsed
- vii. The Field Umpire need not be told when a player returns to the field.

h.) Player sent off and reported –Red Card

- i. The player shall be informed that they have been reported by the umpire.
- ii. They cannot return to the field for the remainder of the game.
- iii. They can be replaced by another player after Ten (10) minutes of game time has elapsed
- iv. They can choose to accept a Prescribed Penalty or appeal the Report and be heard by the Tribunal.

i.) Yellow Card summary

- i. Ten (10) minutes off
- ii. Can be replaced
- iii. Can be reported and continue playing after 10 minutes sent off. (Prescribed penalty for minor infringements)
- iv. A player shall receive an automatic 1 game suspension for their third and subsequent yellow card in the one season.

j.) Red Card summary

- i. Player is reported.
- ii. Off for the rest of the game.
- iii. Can be replaced after Ten (10) minutes of game time has elapsed.
- iv. Tribunal or Prescribed Penalty.

## 21. Send-Off Rule for Under 14's & Under 17's

There are two categories which are variations to By-Law 20 above.

a.) Yellow Card (off for Ten (10) minutes) and cannot be replaced.

- i. If a player is sent off the Umpire will record this on the day's official team sheet.
- ii. Team managers should check to make sure this occurs.
- iii. A player shall receive an automatic 1 game suspension for their second and subsequent yellow cards received in the one season.

b.) Red Card (off for the rest of the game) and can be replaced after Ten (10) minutes of game time has elapsed.



- c.) Any red or yellow card indiscretion must be recorded by both timekeepers each stating player number, club and card colour, and the ten minutes recorded. The carded player's club is responsible for checking with timekeepers for elapsed time.
- d.) The umpire will indicate the card colour to both the team managers and the club bench.

## 22. Club Colours

- a) Each Affiliated Club shall notify the Board of Directors, if it wishes to change its colours & designs. Only approved colours and designs shall be worn by the respective Club players in the matches under the control of the Board of Directors.
- b) In the event of an emergency and the right colours and designs not being available, the colours to be worn by any player shall be to the satisfaction of both Captains.
- c) All players must wear a distinguishing number for each match.

## 23. Matches

- a) The football season shall commence on the date to be fixed by the League.
- b) All 'A' Grade matches shall commence at 2.45pm in the Minor Rounds. Any Club not ready to start at the appointed time may be fined or otherwise dealt with as the League may think fit and in addition, if not ready to start by 3.10pm shall forfeit the match to the opposing team. The field Umpire shall notify the Secretary of the League of the details of any default and his decision as to time shall be final. All matches shall be of four quarters each of twenty (20) minutes playing time plus time on. The commencement of matches during the Major Round, are to be determined by the League.
- c) A programme of matches shall be approved by the Board of Directors and the matches shall be played on the grounds of the first named Club unless otherwise stated.
- d) All gates shall open at least forty-five (45) minutes before the commencement of the first match in the Minor Round and as decided by the Board of Directors in the Major Round.
- e) Minor Round starting times and game length:

Grade	Start	Finish	Playing time	Time On
Mini colts	9.15am	10.05am	4 x 10	No
Junior Colts (U14)	10.10am	11.17am	4 x 15	No
Senior Colts (U17)	11.25am	12.47pm	4 x 18	No
Reserves	1.00pm	2.35pm	4 x 20	No
A Grade	2.45pm		4 x 20	On score & out of bounds

ADELAIDE  
FOOTBALL  
BY-LAWS



PLAINS  
LEAGUE INC

\*Where there is 'No Game' or a Forfeit, then the start times for the preceding games are to be moved back into the next latest timeslot. E.g., if there is no U17 match, then the U14 match will commence at the scheduled U17 start time (11:25 am) and the Mini Colts will commence at the scheduled U14 start time (10.20 am).

f) Semi Finals and Preliminary Final starting times and game length:

Grade	Start	Playing time	Time On
Junior Colts (U14)	9.45am	4 x 12	On score
Senior Colts (U17)	10.50am	4 x 15	On score
Reserves	12:30pm	4 x 18	On score
A Grade	2:30pm	4 x 20	On score & out of bounds

g) Grand Final starting times and game lengths:

Grade	Start	Playing time	Time On
Junior Colts (U14)	9.30am	4 x 12	On score
Senior Colts (U17)	10.40am	4 x 15	On score
Reserves	12.30pm	4 x 18	On score
A Grade	2.45pm	4 x 20	On score & out of bounds



## 24. Matches other than League Matches

- a.) No Clubs shall play any match other than a League match, after the commencement of the League playing season, without first obtaining the approval of the Board of Directors.
- b.) The Board of Directors have the discretion, if any Club is found guilty of breach of rule (24 a.), to fine, suspend or disqualify the offending club.

## 25. Trial Matches

In trial matches arranged between Clubs, prior to the commencement of the home and away games of the Adelaide Plains Football League, the following conditions are to be observed:

- a.) Team sheets are to be filled out naming ALL players in each side.
- b.) Umpires shall have the power to report players in trial games and the League Independent Tribunal will deal with any offence.
- c.) If an unregistered player of an Affiliated Club is found guilty of an offence, the League Independent Tribunal has the power to fine the Club.

## 26. Match Day Balls

- a.) All Clubs within the League must play exclusively with Board Approved Footballs on official match days.
- b.) A Grade games will use a new Board Approved Football, that features the approved sponsors, in every game.

## 27. Premiership Conditions

- a) In all matches two points to be counted for a win and one for a draw.
- b) If, at the conclusion of the Minor Round, any two or more Clubs have obtained an equal number of points, the position of such Clubs shall be determined by the percentage arrived at using the formula - TOTAL OF POINTS FOR, DIVIDED BY THE SUM OF THE POINTS FOR AND AGAINST AND THEN MULTIPLIED BY 100.
- c) In the case of an A Grade or Reserves game being forfeited, the Club receiving the forfeit shall in addition to the two premiership points for a win, receive the average winning margin of points scored in ALL games on that day as their FOR points and zero AGAINST points. The Club giving the forfeit will have the average winning margin in all games scored on that day recorded as their AGAINST points and zero as their FOR points
- d) In the case of an U14 or U17 game being forfeited, the Club receiving the forfeit shall in addition to the two premiership points for a win, receive 60 points as their FOR points and zero AGAINST. The Club giving the forfeit will receive 0 points as their FOR points and 60 points as their AGAINST.
- e) If a Club forfeits 'A' or Reserves Grade three times throughout the season, then that Grade are disqualified for the remainder of the season, Finals included.



- f) In the event of a team forfeiting to another, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, the League may fine the forfeiting club any umpires fees or other expenditure incurred as a result of the match being cancelled. This may include when next opposed during the season (other than finals) the match being played on the ground of the team who received the forfeit.
- g) The Board of Directors to check out team percentages at the end of the Minor Round.
- h) Any club who chooses to forfeit a senior grade must field their A grade side first.

## 28. Major Round

- a) The Rights to Host Finals are set by rotation and approved by the board of Directors.
- b) All Grounds for Finals to be selected & approved by the Directors at the start of the season and named on the program.
- c) For all Grades, if scores at the conclusion of the match on the scoreboard are level, then the following applies:
  - i. Both teams remain in the positions they were when the siren sounded.
  - ii. Goal umpires to confirm final score.
- d) In the event of a draw, extra time to be played is five (5) minutes each way.
  - i. The procedure for extra time in a final is as follows:
    1. A three (3) minute break will follow the final siren.
    2. Coaches will be allowed to address their team during the three (3) minute break.
    3. Teams will kick in the opposite direction as they were at the conclusion of the final quarter.
    4. Two halves each of five (5) minutes with time-on as prescribed in 23(f)(g).
    5. Coaches will not be able to address the team and sides will change ends at the conclusion of the first five (5) minute period.
    6. Teams will switch ends at the conclusion of the first five (5) minute period. e)  
Golden Point Rule
  - ii. If scores are still level following extra time, the Golden Point Rule will apply.
  - iii. Goal Umpires to confirm scores.
  - iii. Both teams to swap ends and kick in the opposite direction to when the last period of extra time finished.
  - iv. Coaches will not be able to address the team during the goal umpire consultation period.
  - v. Play will be recommenced with a centre bounce and will play to continue until the next score or five (5) minutes with time-on, as prescribed in 23(f)(g) has elapsed, the sooner of which is when they will sound the siren.
  - vi. If no team scores during the period of five (5) minutes of play with Golden Point Rule, then steps 28.e.iii to vi will continue to take place.
  - vii. The team that scores first is the winner.

## 29. Payment of Fines

- a) Whenever a fine has been imposed by the Board of Directors or the MRO/Tribunal, on a League Club, a Delegate Member, a Proxy Delegate, or a playing member, such fine shall be paid within seven (7) days from the date of invoice.



b) Each League Club shall be responsible for the payment of all fines imposed by the Board of Directors or the MRO/Tribunal on the Club, Delegate Members, Proxy Delegates or playing members.

c) In the event of any such fine not being duly paid, the League Club in default may be disqualified by the Board of Directors from playing any of the other League Clubs for the remainder of the season, or the Board of Directors may suspend, for such period as it thinks fit, the right of the Delegate Member and Proxy Delegates of such League Club to vote at meetings of the Board of Directors or any other Committee of the League.

### 30. Enforcement of Decisions and Directions of the League

In the event of the refusal or failure of a League Club to comply with this League's Constitution such League Clubs may be fined, or may be disqualified by the Board of Directors from playing any other League Clubs for the remainder of the season, or the Board of Directors may suspend, for such period as it thinks fit, the right of Delegates Members or Proxy Delegate of such League Club to vote at meetings of the League or any other Committee of the League.

### 31. Permit to play in Finals

a) The Independent Tribunal shall have the power to grant a permit to any player who through misfortune has not played sufficient matches to qualify for Finals.

b) There will be a fee, per player, for the convening of the Tribunal – all costs will be charged to the club applying.

### 32. Affiliation

The League may affiliate with any organisation existing for the benefit of football generally or of the League in particular, as shall be decided from year to year by the Delegates at the Annual General Meeting.

### 33. Disbursement of the League

At the Annual General Meeting any surplus monies may, at the League's discretion, be disbursed to all Affiliated Clubs, which are non-profit organisations.

### 34. APFL Changes to AFL Rules

The League will notify each year at the delegates meeting prior to season commencement of any changes or variations to the Laws of Australian Football as published by the AFL.

### 35. APPS Points System

Refer to SANFL Community Football Rules and Regulations on the SANFL website. The APFL formula used to determine the 'Total Points Rating' for clubs is provided in the current APFL Procedure Manual.



### 36. Season Passes

The APFL Board of Directors shall decide who will be provided with Season Passes.

### 37. APNA – Share of Finals Gate Takings

- a) Adelaide Plains Netball Association (APNA) to receive 25% of Finals Gate Takings after deducting the joint costs. For the avoidance of doubt the net proceeds on which to base APNA's share is as follows: Gross proceeds received from admission charges at all finals. Less: Gate costs (Informers, gate personnel, EFTPOS machines, bank charges), Security cost to APFL (ie net cost to APFL after host clubs 50% contribution), St. John's Ambulance attendance fees, other general costs that relate to both APFL and APNA (eg Welcome to country, National anthem singer etc) equals Net proceeds. APNA is to be provided with the detailed calculation and paid 25% of the net proceeds
- b) APNA Officials and Umpires to have free entry to finals.
- c) To be reviewed bi-annually at the APFL Annual General Meeting commencing 2012.

### 38. SACFL – Deregistration Policy

Australian Football Player and Official National Deregistration Policy adopted by the SANFL Community Football will be enforced in the APFL.



**39. Representative Teams – Sports Trainer/s**

APFL member Clubs to provide a qualified sports trainer/s at each and every APFL representative competition and all training sessions leading up to the related competition.

Includes U13, U15, and U17 & A Grade and Female Football. This is to be on an annual roster system as per table below.

Roster for A Grade is defined in the Management Guidelines for Senior Association Team.

CLUB	SEASON			
	2025	2026	2027	2028
AVFC		A Grade & U17		U15
BFNC	Female		A Grade & U17	
HBFC		Female		A Grade & U17
HWEFC	U13		Female	
MFC		U13		Female
TWFNSC	U15		U13	
UFC		U15		U13
VFNC	A Grade & U17		U15	

**40. Rotation**

**of Finals:**

SEASON	1 <sup>st</sup> SEMI	2 <sup>nd</sup> SEMI	PRELIM	GRAND
2025	UFC	HBFC	BFNC	MFC
2026	TWFNSC	VFC	HWEFC	UFC
2027	BFNC	MFC	HBFC	TWFNSC
2028	HWEFC	UFC	VFNC	BFNC
2029	HBFC	TWFNSC	MFC	HWEFC

\*Due to weather conditions Virginia & Hamley Bridge swapped Finals Locations.  
(HBFC was originally in 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Semi & 2023 GF, and Virginia 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Semi & 2024 GF)



#### 41. Gate Takings

- a) Clubs are responsible for organising the collection of Gate Takings during the Minor Round and will be the beneficiary of the proceeds.
- b) The APFL Board of Directors are responsible for the collection of Gate Takings during the Major Round, and the APFL will be the beneficiary of the proceeds.
- c) APFL Board of Directors may appoint an organisation to assist with collecting Gate Takings during the Major Round, and may compensate the organisation for this assistance. Consideration will be given to Volunteer Organisations with links to the Hosting Club and/or Region.

#### 42. Crowd Behaviour and Pink Vests

- a) Every Club must have an appointed Match Day Official on a Game Day, who is to wear a "PINK" Match Day Official vest.
- b) A Club may replace a Match Day Official during the day, so long as there is always a person appointed.
- c) Failure to comply with Clause 42a will incur a fine of \$100.00.

#### 43. Fixturing-

The Minor Round fixture of 16 rounds is to be based on all teams playing each other twice (Rounds 1-14), with the final two rounds (Rounds 15 and 16) programmed based on the A Grade ladder positions after the previous year's minor round, using the following combinations:

Round 15: 1v2, 4v3, 5v7 & 8v6 Round

16: 3v1, 2v4, 6v5 & 7v8

#### 44. Communication Devices

Team officials must not use any Communication Device when on the field of play.

#### 45. Penalty Points.

Penalty points will be accrued by clubs for the following breaches of the laws of the game:

- Yellow and red cards = 3 points
- Guilty verdicts resulting in reprimands from the match review officer = 5 points
- Guilty verdicts resulting in suspensions from the MRO or the tribunal = 10 points per game (e.g., a four-match suspension = 40 points).
- Club reported for being involved in a melee =20 points for each melee

Fines are levied on clubs at the end of the season based on the following levels;

- 40 points = \$500
- 70 points = \$1000
- 100 points = \$1500



Every 30 points above 100 points, an additional \$500.

#### 46. Videoing and/or Filming of games

In any and all Adelaide Plains Football League (APFL) game, including official programmed games and/or trial games that an APFL Affiliate Club is participating in, where one or both teams are videoing/filming the game in any form or for any period or term and there is an Umpire Report and/or Club Report the subject footage must be made available to the Match Review Officer (MRO) (or delegated person) upon request by the MRO or delegated person, by no later than 12 noon on the Monday following the completion of the nominated game. Failure to provide the subject footage upon request may result in the charge or complaint being dismissed. Clubs videoing games are also required to advise the opposition Club and the APFL that videoing/filming is to be conducted and occurring. Still shot photographing is not admissible as evidence in Umpire Reports and/or Club Reports as per the State and Territory Tribunal guidelines

#### 47. Melee Rule

A melee is a group of six (6) or more players and/or Club Officials who are grappling or otherwise struggling with one another and which, in the opinion of the Field Umpire, is likely to bring the game into disrepute or prejudice the interests and/or reputation of The League.

Where a melee occurs:

- a) Field umpires will attempt to diffuse the situation without entering the immediate area of conflict and declare by yelling out that this is a Melee.
- b) Players and Club Officials who do not comply with a field umpire's direction to disperse may be issued with a yellow card.
- c) The instigating players involved in the melee may be issued with a yellow or red card.
- d) A player who moves from any part of the playing surface to join the melee may be issued with a yellow card.
- e) Field Umpires will report the teams for 'Engaging in a Melee'.
- f) It is not the responsibility of umpires to individually notify those involved in the melee, however if a report is made against the teams for 'engaging in a melee', the Field Umpire is to notify the Team Manager.
- g) Umpires observing specific incidents within the melee (ie; striking, kicking, etc.), shall report the offenders and issue an appropriate card.

If an umpire's safety is at risk, the Field Umpires shall come together and agree to terminate the match. All umpires will group together and leave the ground.

Where a match is terminated before the scheduled end, the result will be as per the laws of the game.

#### 48. Fines also associated with APFL

ADELAIDE  
FOOTBALL  
BY-LAWS



PLAINS  
LEAGUE INC

1	Results and goals scored not correct on Results Sheets. Results Sheet not tallying with score cards. Scored cards and sheets not completed correctly or signed	\$20	
2	Original Team Sheets not submitted to FOC or not completed correctly (e.g., Not signed, import players, permit players are not identified etc.)	\$20	
3	Late lodgement of Team Sheets, Score Cards to FOC. (Not received by 1pm Monday following Game Day).	\$20	
4	Results Sheet (with Scores, Goal Kickers and Best Players) not emailed to FOC by 1pm on Monday following Match Day.	\$200	
5	All Umpires Payments not paid to APFL Treasurer within 14 days after receiving the invoice.	\$200	3d
6	Club Delegates failure to attend AGM or General Meetings	\$200	
7	Failure to supply Inter-Change Steward on match day	\$50	4e
8	Club Affiliation Fees not paid before clubs play their 1 <sup>st</sup> game.	\$200	
9	Any Information requested by League Secretary and or the APFL Board not received by due date.	\$200	
10	Club failure to abide by all "Game Day Responsibilities"	\$100	
11	Unacceptable Boundary Umpires	\$50	4d
12	Late submission of Top 15 Players	\$100	12g
13	Player Found Guilty by MRO	\$300	16h
14	Failure to Pay MRO Fine within 7 days	\$50	16h
15	Playing player without paying MRO Fine	\$25	16h
16	Failure to have Pink Vest Marshall	\$100	42b
17	Non-attendance by Club to 2 consecutive Junior Panel Meetings.	\$100	6d
18	Playing a disqualified or deregistered player	\$500	14