



Competition
Rules and Bylaws
2009

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1. Definitions

1.1 The following words, where shown, are defined to mean -

Competition **	AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Competition
Board	The Board of the AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc
Regional Committee	The committee appointed by the Board to represent the nominated regional competitions
AFL	Australian Football League
AFL (NSW/ACT)	AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission Limited
HOST Club	First named Club or team in the fixture, usually the ground of the first named Club (i.e. the HOME Club). Where the match is being played on the ground of another Club, agreement on match day responsibilities is to be pre- agreed between each prior to the match. Where appropriate refer to Regional Variations (Appendix 5).
AFLGSJ	AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc
GSJ Administration	Administration coordinator / Administration Support for AFLGSJ
AFLGSJ Website	aflgsj.com.au
Footyweb	Competition Management System
Talented Pathway Player (TTP)	A TPP Player is one who is participating in the Starz, Pigeons, Pioneers, Heat or Western Sydney Talent Development Squads
Laws	Laws of Australian Football, as issued by the AFL
Rules	The Competition Rules and Bylaws of the AFLGSJ
Official	“Official” includes any person assuming a responsibility on behalf of, and with the consent (expressed or implied) on an affiliated member club of the controlling body, irrespective of whether or not that person was elected or appointed to a position by or on behalf of the club. For the avoidance of doubt, “Official” shall include any coach or assistant coach, team manager or assistant team manager, runner, trainer, interchange steward, “water boy”, ground manager, member of a Club’s committee or person officiating in any capacity on match day.

* * Note: Where applicable reference to NON COMPETITION is covered within Regional Variations (Appendix 5)

1.2 Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine and visa versa, and words importing the singular include the plural and visa versa.

1.3 References to matters described as being a Board responsibility may as appropriate, by agreement, be delegated by the Board to the Regional Committees.

2. Conduct

2.1 In the interest of the game of Australian Football, the Board requires all parties within the competition to treat Umpires, the opposing Club’s Officials, Players and supporters, and all related property, with respect.

Protocols

2.2 This can be achieved through engaging the following game day protocols:

- Setting a good example, including adherence to the various codes of conduct.
- Restraining Officials, Players and supporters who may be inclined to become over-excited, particularly if they use abusive, threatening or insulting language or physical action.
- Introducing Officials and Players to Umpires prior to the game, and encouraging those same Officials and Players to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires whatever the result.
- Welcoming Officials, Players and supporters of the opposition team on match day.
- Encouraging opposing teams to shake hands prior to commencement of the game and also at the end of the game.
- Presenting the ground and Clubroom environment in a professional and welcoming manner.
- Introducing awards for sportsmanship other than for best and fairest.
- Total abstinence from consuming alcohol at matches.
- Total abstinence from any form of drug use.

2.3 All parents, Players and coaches are required to sign specific conduct codes on either the registration form when first joining a Club or the separate coach's document. (Refer Appendix 1). Where Players are requested to sign, the commencement age is 13 and above. Current Players when they reach that age should sign a new Code of Conduct form.

Breaches

2.4 Penalties for breaches include

- Any Player guilty of offensive behaviour, fighting or causing others to fight on the field, should be subject to an immediate 15 minute send off by their coach, regardless of any action from the Umpires.
- Any Official, Player or supporter bringing their Club into disrepute, irrespective of the cause, shall be entitled to one warning. Further indiscretions may result in dismissal from participation in Competition/s. Sometimes however the nature of a code violation warrants a stronger response or remedy commensurate with the seriousness of the code breach.
- In certain cases the matter may be referred to a Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee.

2.5 The following is indicative of the form of response that may occur.

	Level	Remedy
1	Minor indiscretion	Individuals name recorded. Counseling or an apology if appropriate.
2	More serious infraction or repetition	In the case of an individual, the Club shall appoint a mentor for the individual for a period of time nominated by the Regional Committee. For a repeat violation, the Club will be contacted to discuss what executive action will be taken to avert future problems and/or the Club shall appoint a mentor.
3	Serious infraction	Suspension or removal of membership rights of an individual or for a team or Club plus potential loss of game wins and/or fines.

Code signoff

2.6 The registration form for AFLGSJ includes the following key statements regarding behaviour and expectations. Both Players and parents are expected to sign:

For Players

- I agree to abide by the Competition Rules and Bylaws of the AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc.
- I will observe and obey these Rules and Bylaws and be bound by all rulings made by, or with the authority of, the Region that relates or applies to me.
- I declare that the information supplied by me is true and correct.

For Parents & Caregivers

- I/We hereby consent to the registration of my/our son/daughter with AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc.
- I/We acknowledge that I/we have been provided with, and understand, the Code of Conduct of AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc.
- I/We hereby agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and agree to observe and obey this Code and all rulings made by the Region that relate to me/us, other family members and invited guests.
- I/We understand that the Region may withdraw or suspend my/our son(s)/daughter(s) registration to play in AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc. should I/we fail to comply with the Code and/or any rulings of the Region.

Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee

2.7 The Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee is an independent committee whose duties are to determine and adjudicate upon such matters that the Board or Regional Committee may from time to time refer.

- The Board or Regional Committee shall appoint a pool of the Sub Committee members. The Sub Committee shall consist of not less than three members when performing its functions.
- Proxy members may be appointed in the absence of any Sub Committee members.
- Wherever possible these members should be independent of the junior football structure or at the very least independent of the matter at hand.
- When a conflict of interest arises, that member shall abstain themselves from any deliberations.

2.8 Duties of the Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee

The Sub Committee shall:(i) inquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and determine any charge, dispute, complaint or such other matters that may be referred to it from time to time by the Board or Regional Committee, with the exception of matters which are to be dealt with by the Independent Tribunal.(ii) Impose such penalty or penalties as may be deemed appropriate, including any monetary penalty, suspension or reduction in match wins. If any penalty is imposed on the .Club by way of a fine it shall not exceed the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). (iii) report every adjudication, determination or decision, in writing, to the Board or Regional Committee. Subject to the overall supervision of the Board, such report shall be received without comment and every determination or decision of the Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee shall be final in all cases.

Role of the Coach

2.9 The coach is in a unique position wielding significant influence. The coach interfaces with all groups involved within a Club, and thus assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to protect the image and profile of the game, both today, and in particular with coaches of junior teams, in the future. It is essential that every coach be aware of this unique position and so conducts themselves in such a manner as to maintain the respect and dignity of the position

2.10 The standards required of a coach include:

Coach and the Players

- Set a good example and display utmost honesty and integrity in all dealings.
- Teach fair play and good sportsmanship.
- Never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest possible ideals and character.
- Be reasonable in setting demands, goals and expectations.
- Maintain a current knowledge of the Rules, of training methods, both theory and practical.
- Teach and interpret the Laws and Rules to the Players.
- Never ridicule Players for making mistakes or losing.
- Ensure each Player has the same opportunity to play equal game time as all other Players within the team.
- Encourage and create opportunities to develop individual as well as team skills.
- Ensure that all Players understand the importance of regular attendance and positive attitude at training.
- Ensure that injured Players are given prompt and competent medical attention, and that doctor's orders as relayed by parents, are strictly adhered to.

Coach and Administrators

- Remember the coach is a representative of the Club's administration and therefore it is important that coach's conducts themselves so as to maintain the principles, the integrity and dignity of the position.
- Support the administration in policies and regulations that may from time to time be initiated. Any differences should be conducted behind closed doors in a composed manner.
- Adhere to Club policy in both letter and spirit.
- Advise the administration of any deficiency in training aids or facilities to redress the situation.

Coach and Umpires

- Treat the Umpire with the utmost of good faith and respect.
- Introduce the umpire to the Players prior to the commencement of the game and encourage Players and Officials to courteously acknowledge the efforts of the Umpires.
- Instruct Officials, Players and supporters that there is an appropriate manner and time to address any problems that they have with an Umpire or with any decisions and that time is not during the game, nor the intervals within a game, and certainly not when tempers are a bit frayed.
- Restrain any Official, Player or supporter from any inappropriate action, verbal or physical, toward an Umpire.
- Back up/support an Umpire's disciplinary action should the need arise.
- Never publicly criticise the Umpire to Players or spectators.
- Never incite Players or spectators to act against the Umpire.

Coach and Supporters (Spectators)

- Encourage supporters to act in a sportsmanlike manner, congratulating either team for good, fair play.
- Ensure that supporters do not interfere with the game, nor encourage Players to act in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Quickly address any problems that may be brewing with supporter behaviour and request the Club administration to act in a manner to deflate any possible problems.

Coach and Parents

- At the commencement of the season, inform parents of the coach's plan for training of the Players, the social characteristics the coach expects Players to possess and to display and what disciplinary action he/she would administer should a Player step outside the coaches guidelines.
- Request parents support the coach in any disciplinary action the coach is forced to undertake.
- Request parents act in an honest and sportsmanlike manner in their dealings with the coach, the Club's Officials, the Umpires and the opposition Officials, Players and supporters.
- Request that if a parent has a problem with the coach, or in the treatment of their child, that they firstly raise that problem with the coach in question and then if dissatisfied by either the outcome of that meeting or subsequent actions taken/not taken, the matter be escalated to Club administration.

3. Competitions

Introduction

3.1 The football season will commence and conclude within the dates prescribed by the AFLGSJ for under age competition.

Age Groups

3.2 Play will be conducted between teams, comprising of Players who were, as of midnight on the 31st December prior to the season, under the ages as prescribed by the Regional Committee and agreed by the Board for underage competition.

Match wins

3.3 In minor round matches:

- Match ratio will be used as the sole method of determining ladder position.
- Match ratio is determined by dividing the number of wins by the number of games played.
- In the case of a draw, this is determined as half (0.5) of a win and this calculation is used when determining match ratio.
- If a scheduled round is not played, the team with the bye in that round does NOT receive a match win.

3.4 In the case of a forfeit win, or where ineligible Players have been played, the forfeiting or ineligible team will be awarded the lowest points for and the highest points against scored in the round in their age group (Mercy Rule to apply). The non-forfeiting or eligible team will be awarded the highest points for and the lowest points against scored in the round in their age group (Mercy Rule to apply). Ladders will be adjusted accordingly.

3.5 AFLGSJ website will display updated tables, showing match ratio and percentages to decide placing of teams on the tables, for each grade. All tables will include percentages calculated in accordance with the Mercy Rule.

4. Laws of the Game

4.1 As issued by the Australian Football League, the Laws will apply at all matches, except where special provisions are made in these Rules. Where these Rules are inconsistent with the Laws, the Rules will prevail.

4.2 Use of gloves by Players in competition is not allowed. This is to encourage the development of handling skills. Umpires have discretionary power to allow the use of a glove(s) in special circumstances such as injury. The Ground Manager must sight a medical certificate where injury exists and a copy must be sent to GSJ Administration.

4.3 Undergarments (lycra shorts) must be of neutral colour or the colour of the shorts. Full length undergarments (items other than the playing jumper or shorts) are not permitted.

5. Field Umpires

Appointment & Remuneration

5.1 Field Umpires will be appointed, as far as possible, to all matches by the Regional Umpires Coordinator.

5.2 The Umpires appointed to control finals matches shall be appointed by the Regional Umpires Coordinator and advised to the Regional Committee prior to the scheduled day. Grand Final appointments are to be submitted to and subsequently approved by the Regional Committee prior to the match

5.3 Should no appointed Field Umpire be present by the scheduled time of commencement of play, both team coaches are to decide upon an acceptable replacement/s who may share duty for the duration of the game. However, should the appointed Umpire or any other Umpire appointed for the day arrive during the course of the game, that Umpire may take control as soon as possible.

5.4 Rule 16.2 applies where any Field Umpire appointed by the Regional Committee, attends a match that has been forfeited or cancelled and who has not been advised in time to prevent the Umpire's attendance..

5.5 Fees to be paid to Field Umpires will be determined by the Regional Committee, from time to time (Refer Schedule 1). Payment of these fees is to be made by the HOST CLUB at the conclusion of the match. Regional Committees may vary this to allow the visiting team to share the costs on a match-by-match basis.

Powers & Duties

5.6 The powers and duties of Field Umpires will be in accordance with the Laws (other than reporting and send-off) and the Rules.

5.7 It is recommended that the age of a controlling Field Umpire of a match be a minimum of two (2) years older than the nominated age group when officiating. For example, the Umpire should be a minimum of thirteen (13) years of age for an Under 11 game.

6. Boundary Umpires and Goal Umpires

6.1 Each Club is to ensure the competency of any person who accepts responsibility as a Goal or Boundary Umpire. The Field Umpire has the power to order replacements for any Boundary or Goal Umpire. The Field Umpire has the power to consult with, and if necessary, overrule a Goal or Boundary Umpire where, in the Field Umpire's opinion, an obvious error has occurred. No third party is permitted to be involved in any such consultation (notwithstanding the Laws).

6.2 All Goal and Boundary Umpires should introduce themselves to the Field Umpire(s) prior to the commencement of the game.

Goal Umpires

6.3 A Goal Umpire must be provided by each competing team and is required to be dressed in something that is clearly identifiable. A white coat is recommended and they have a set of white flags and scorecard.

Boundary Umpires

6.4 Boundary Umpires are to be supplied for Under 12's to Under 16's age groups and are required to be dressed with a white top to assist in recognition by the Field Umpire(s) and use an audible whistle.

6.5 In the case that a team does not provide suitable Boundary Umpires, a member of that team will be responsible for throwing in the ball on the non-umpired side of the ground. In the case whether neither team provides a Boundary Umpire the attacking side will throw the ball in. Where a team has not provided a Boundary Umpire will be noted on the appropriate match day paperwork. Upon the third offence, a fifty dollars (\$50) fine will be issued to the Club.

7. Umpire Categories

7.1 In broad terms there are two (2) visible categories of Junior Umpires in AFLGSJ.

Green Shirt

7.2 'Green Shirt' umpires are typically new Umpires in training who are learning and developing their umpiring skills. The 'Green Shirt' Umpire will generally only umpire Under 9's to Under 12's, however they may umpire higher age groups should the Regional Umpire Coordinator believe they are competent to do so. Where possible a Mentor (allocated by the HOME Club or Regional Umpire Coordinator) shall be available either on or off field depending on the competency of the Umpire to assist with their own training and difficult decisions and situations. This Mentor must be approved by the Regional Umpire Coordinator.

7.3 Promotion to Orange Shirt is by agreement between the Regional Umpire Coordinator, the Umpire, and the Umpire's parents (if appropriate).

7.4 Where Mentors are appointed to an on-field role, the Umpire's payment structure assumes two (2) Umpires.

Orange Shirt

7.5 'Orange Shirt' Umpires can be appointed to umpire any official AFLGSJ game as determined by the Regional Umpire Coordinator.

7.6 'Orange Shirt' Umpires are encouraged to achieve Level 1 of the National Umpire Accreditation Scheme (NUAS).

7.7 The NUAS status should be displayed on the Umpires' uniform in the form of an official NUAS badge. This signifies that the Umpire has successfully achieved Level 1 status, and AFLGSJ recognises this by paying higher match payments.

8. Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures

8.1 The following is the procedure to be followed for ALL reports made by an Umpire on match days. This is only for actual reports and scope will still exist to comment on other issues (send offs, warnings etc) on the match report document. This Rule prescribes the procedures for the lodgement and notification of Notices of Report, pertaining to a Reportable Offence as identified under Law 19 of the Laws, as well as Prescribed Offences.

Prescribed Offences (Under 13-16)

8.2 For the following, the reporting Umpire may, using discretion, utilise the Prescribed Offences procedure. Alternatively, a Regional Committee may implement a process whereby Umpire match reports are first referred to a designated person who is empowered by the Regional Committee to offer Prescribed Penalties as appropriate. Where reference is made in Rule 8 (save for Rules 8.10 and 8.22) to the AFLGSJ or GSJ Administration, and the Regional Committee has implemented the process as described above, any reference to the AFLGSJ or GSJ Administration is deemed to be to the designated person. Any offer of a Prescribed Penalty is to be made by the AFLGSJ to the Player's Club President or delegate by 5.00pm Monday following the match or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practical. Where an offer of a Prescribed Penalty is made later than 5.00pm Monday following the match, the time to accept the offer as set out in Rule 8.3 is to be adjusted accordingly.

The following Prescribed Match suspensions are a guide only. In appropriate circumstances, a lesser or greater penalty may be offered.

Prescribed Match suspension – One Match

- Wilfully wasting time.
- Unduly interfering with a Player whilst such Player is kicking for goal.
- Disputing the decision of the Umpire.
- Using abusive, threatening or insulting language.
- Shaking a goal post.
- Throwing an opponent.
- Violently pushing an opponent.
- Attempting to trip by foot or leg or attempting to strike a Player
- Unduly rough play.
- Refusing to leave the ground after being warned for not wearing the proper uniform.
- Wearing unacceptable equipment.

Prescribed Match suspension – Two Matches

- Intentionally trip by foot or leg.
- Striking a Player.
- Charging an opponent.
- Failing to leave the ground when ordered off (misconduct).

8.3 The Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request that a Prescribed Offence report be dealt with by the Tribunal, rather than as a Prescribed Offence. Such request is to be received by the GSJ Administration by no later than 5pm on the Tuesday following the match. The GSJ Administration will inform the Regional Committee President and the Tribunal Chairperson of the request and the Tribunal will hear and determine the Report. Where a Player requests that a Prescribed Offence report be dealt with by the Tribunal, and the Tribunal is of the opinion that the Prescribed Penalty offer to the Player was reasonable in all the circumstances, the Tribunal may impose such additional penalty as in its absolute discretion it deems appropriate, in addition to the penalty it imposes for the Reportable Offence.

8.4 The AFLGSJ may, in its discretion, refer the Umpire's Prescribed Offence report to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President or delegate of the reported player, the Regional Committee President and the Tribunal Chairperson, by no later than 5pm on the Monday following the match or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practical. Where it so refers the Umpire's Prescribed Offence report to the Tribunal, it shall do so by informing the Club President or delegate of the reported player.

8.5 The AFLGSJ shall refer the Umpire's Prescribed Offence report to the Tribunal if the reported Player has at any time been previously found guilty by the Tribunal, or has had a match suspension by way of a Prescribed Offence imposed in either the current or preceding season. Where it so refers the Umpire's Prescribed Offence report to the Tribunal, it shall do so by informing the Club President or delegate of the reported Player.

8.6 In all cases the Tribunal will hear and determine the Notice of Report where a player:

- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire.

- Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire.
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards, or in relation to an Umpire.
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person.
- Commits an act of misconduct where the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.

Application of Penalty

8.7 For the purpose of these Rules, a "match" shall mean a competition match of the same age group as which the Player committed the offence, and shall also include as the one match, the matches in all grades in a particular round for which the Player would, but for the suspension be eligible, whether played on the one day or not. Any suspension shall take effect from and include the next competition match following the suspension for which the Player would, but for the suspension, be eligible.

8.8 A player is ineligible to play in any representative match whilst under suspension. In addition to this, the representative matches do not count towards part of the suspension,.

8.9 Competition games which are forfeited, washed out or for any other reason not played, shall not be counted for the purpose of reckoning a period of suspension.

8.10 In the event of a dispute as to the games covered by a suspension, the dispute is to be referred to AFLGSJ for determination.

Action during Match

8.11 Where an Umpire reports a player or Official during the course of a Match, the Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the player or official of the Report:

- (i) at the time of the incident;
- (ii) before the commencement of the next quarter; or,
- (iii) where the incident occurs in the final quarter, after the completion of the Match.

8.12 The Umpire shall use best endeavours to inform the player or official against whom a reportable offence has been committed of the Report.

8.13 An Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or an Official of a Team of the Report where it is impracticable to inform the Player or Official who has been reported.

8.14 Apart from informing a Player or Official of the Report, an Umpire shall not speak with the reported Player or Official or any other Player or Official about a Report which has been made.

8.15 The failure of an Umpire to inform a Player or Official of the Report does not invalidate the making of the Report.

Completing Notice of Report

8.16 As soon as practicable after the completion of the match, the reporting Umpire shall:

8.16.1 Complete a Notice of Report, in quadruplicate, using the current AFL NSW/ACT form as supplied by the Board, clearly indicating if a Prescribed Offence has been offered (where applicable).

8.16.2 Cause a copy of the Notice of Report, through the Ground Manager, to be given to an Official from each team. Each team shall be responsible for the attendance of an Official at the end of the match in question in order to receive such Notice and to be given an "all clear" from the Ground Manager. In the event of no such Official attending, the Reporting Umpire shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Rule.

8.16.3 Retain the quadruplicate copy of the Notice and give the original Notice of Report to the Ground Manager for action as set out elsewhere in this Rule.

8.16.4 Verbally advise the Regional Umpire Coordinator of the Report as soon as reasonably practical after the completion of the Match.

Lodgement of Notice of Report

8.17 Following receipt of a completed and submitted Notice of Report, the Ground Manager shall:

8.17.1 Forward an electronic copy of the original Notice by email as a scanned attachment, or via facsimile, to the Regional Committee nominee (refer separate advice) and the AFLGSJ Administration, by 1.00pm on the next working day following the Match in question.

8.17.2 Verbally advise the Regional Umpires Coordinator as soon as possible after the game of the receipt of a Notice of Report.

8.18 The reporting of other matters provided for on the reverse of the Match Report form (AFLGSJ12) is to be in accordance with AFLGSJ Regulations, issued by the Board from time to time, which refer to the processing of match-day paperwork.

Report where Notice of Report not completed

8.19 This Rule applies where a Player is sent off twice or more in a season, but the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report or utilized the Prescribed Offences procedure for the Player in each sending off. Following the Player being sent off for the second time, the Player will automatically receive a one match playing suspension. The AFLGSJ will inform the Club President or delegate of the Player, the Regional Committee President and the Tribunal Chairperson by no later than 5:00 pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match of the referral. Where a Player receives notice of an automatic playing suspension as provided by this Rule, the Player may, through the Club President or delegate, request the automatic suspension be referred to the Tribunal for hearing. The Tribunal may impose such conditions on the Player as it deems appropriate, pending the hearing. The Tribunal may, after the hearing, affirm or vary the suspension, (including increasing the suspension) or apply any other penalty as it deems appropriate. If the Player is sent off a third or further time during the season, the AFLGSJ will refer the Player to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President or delegate of the reported Player, the Regional Committee President and the Tribunal Chairperson, by no later than 5pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match of the referral. At such hearing the Tribunal may impose such penalty on the Player as it deems appropriate.

8.20 Where a Player is sent off and the Umpire has not completed a Notice of Report or utilized the Prescribed Offences procedure for the Player, the AFLGSJ may, at its discretion refer the Player to the Tribunal, by informing the Club President or delegate of the reported Player, the Regional Committee President and the Tribunal Chairperson, by no later than 5pm on the Monday or as soon as reasonably practical following the match.

Tribunal composition, procedures and guidelines

8.21 The Tribunal shall be comprised of such persons as may be appointed by the Board or Regional Committee and shall enquire into reports by Umpires of any Player or Official of any team participating in a match being conducted by or under the control of AFLGSJ.

8.22 Specific Disciplinary Procedures (Tribunal Rules) and Tribunal Guidelines (to assist in understanding rules and procedures) documents are available on the AFLGSJ website.

8.23 Legal representatives are permitted to attend Tribunal hearings, but are not permitted to act in the role of either Player or Umpire advocate.

Reports on Players (Modified Rules Grades)

8.24 Subject to Rule 8.24, Players reported in the Under 9's to Under 12's age groups will have the report adjudicated by a Code of Conduct Committee of their Club, comprising the Club President, Football Manager and Coach, plus the Regional Umpire Coordinator. The decision of the Committee is to be unanimous. The hearing is to be held within three (3) days of the report. The Player is ineligible to participate in any Competition games until the Committee has dealt with the report. Where the Committee agrees on a decision, the Club will provide to the Regional Committee and GSJ Administration a statement in writing (or electronically) of the outcome of the report and any action taken within five (5) days of the report.

8.25 If a decision is not agreed by the Committee, the report is to be referred to the Regional Committee for hearing. The Club will provide its referral to the Regional Committee in writing (or electronically) within two (2) days of the failure of the Committee to agree to a decision. The Regional Committee may hear the report itself, or refer the report to an Investigation Sub Committee for hearing. The Regional Committee or the Investigation Sub Committee, where the matter is so referred to it, must hear the report within three (3) days of receipt of the report by the Regional Committee. The Player is ineligible to participate in any Competition games until the Regional Committee or, where applicable, the Investigation Sub Committee, has heard the report. Following the hearing, the Regional Committee will provide to the Club and GSJ Administration a statement in writing (or electronically) of the outcome of the report and any action taken, within three (3) days of the referral.

8.26 Where it deems it appropriate, the Regional Committee may refer any Code of Conduct (Modified Rules Grades) hearing to a Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee and where it does so the hearing of any Report (Modified Rules Grade) will be heard by the Sub Committee and not by the Club of the Player concerned. In such circumstances, the Sub Committee will, so far as they are able, act in accordance with Rules 2.7 and 2.8

8.27 Where a Club fails to comply with the time limits imposed on it as set out in Rules 8.22 or 8.23, the Regional Committee may impose a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) on the Club.

8.28 Where the Regional Committee fails to comply with the time limits imposed on it as set out in Rule 8.23, the Board may impose a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) on the Regional Committee.

9. Send Off/Order Off

Where the Player is reported

9.1 A Player who is reported by an Umpire/s for a breach of the Laws shall be ordered from the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter or for the remainder of the game if the breach was committed in the last quarter. In this instance, the Umpire will hold up a yellow card.

9.2 A Player who is reported by an Umpire/s for a breach of the Laws twice in the same match for separate incidents, or who is reported for a serious breach (as listed in Rule 9.3) shall be ordered from the field for the remainder of the match. In this instance the Umpire will hold up a red card.

9.3 Serious breaches include where a Player or Official:

- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently makes contact with or strikes an Umpire.
- Attempts to make contact with or strike an Umpire.
- Behaves in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards, or in relation to an Umpire.
- Intentionally, recklessly or negligently kicks another person.
- Commits an act of misconduct; if the Umpire is of the opinion that the act constituting misconduct is serious in nature.

9.4 Rules 8.18 and 8.19 will also apply where a Player has been sent off /ordered off from the field of play.

Where Player is not reported

9.5 At the discretion of the Umpire, a Player may be ordered from the field for a period for a period of time equivalent to one quarter and not be reported. In this instance an Umpire will hold up a yellow card.

9.6 In all instances, a Player ordered off shall leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area and cannot be replaced. In the case of a yellow card send-off for a period of time equivalent to one quarter the timekeeper shall indicate when the Player is permitted to resume playing. In this case the Player must sit with the timekeeper.

9.7 For the purposes of this Rule any send-off will result in the Player concerned remaining off the field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter excluding breaks between quarters. For example, a Player sent off five (5) minutes before halftime in an Under 13 game would be permitted to resume playing ten (10) minutes after the third quarter commenced.

9.8 The ordered-off Player will be removed from the playing field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter for the first offence and for the remainder of the game for the second offence.

9.9 A Player sent from the field with a red card for the remainder of the game shall sit with the timekeeper for a period of time equivalent to one quarter and then must leave the field completely. The Player cannot re-enter the field or sit on the bench with the coaching staff.

9.10 Players who use audible obscenities regardless of to whom they are directed at will be removed from the playing field for a period of time equivalent to one quarter. If the obscenity is directed at the Umpire, or for a second offence, the Player shall be reported.

9.11 The Umpire will recommence the game once the Player has left the playing field.

9.12 In the event of a Player failing or refusing to leave the field when ordered off, the Player shall be reported for misconduct and the Player's team shall forfeit the match.

10. Teams

Numbers of Players in Teams

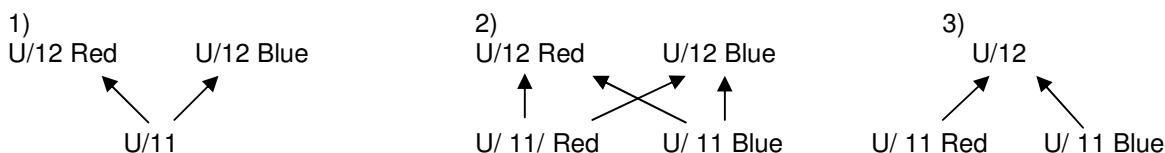
10.1 Player numbers are noted below under Rule 10.8 and included as part of Appendix 3. At all times other than for send – offs, Player numbers on the ground must be equal

Multiple teams

10.2 Should a Club field more than one (1) team in the same competition or division, after the initial 3 rounds no Player shall be permitted to play for more than one team (excluding younger players who play up), in the same competition or division, during the season.

10.3 Playing up an age level. The following examples are acceptable and relate to Players playing up an age group (from under 11's upwards).

Example – Playing up an age group during the regular season:



10.4 Splitting of Players in to teams of the same age group must be finalised after the initial 3 rounds and can not occur during the season. Division of Players in to two (2) teams is a Club responsibility. The Board can provide guidelines only.

Player Numbers

10.5 In all cases, teams must have the MINIMUM number of Players available at the scheduled commencement of a match to constitute an official match (Refer also Rule 11.2)

10.6 AFLGSJ strongly recommends that Clubs encourage the participation of Players in the game of AFL. To allow this, teams are encouraged to minimise reserves and to have the highest possible number of Players actually involved in the game on the day.

10.7 If during the course of a game a Player injured has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that team the Field Umpire and opposition coach are to be advised accordingly. The other side is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even (except for send offs). For a Player returning to the field the same process in reverse applies.

10.8 To encourage maximum participation and teams to stand alone in terms of Player numbers, the term Match # specifies the ideal number of on-field Players per team. Where a team has the number of Players shown as Match # (but the other team has more), then borrowing Players from the opposition team is not compulsory to balance overall numbers. Where a team does not have the number of Players shown as Match # (and the other team has more than the first team), then it is compulsory to borrow/loan available Players to balance on-field Player numbers as far as possible up to the number shown as Match #. The following table shows Minimum# and Match # by age group

Age Group	Minimum	Match Number
U9's – U10's	9	12
U11's – 12's	12	15
U13's to U16's	15	18

10.9 To provide an explanation refer to the following examples based on the above approach for the Under 12's.

Team A	Team B	Result
Has 12 Players	Has 21 Players	Team B provides 3 Players to Team A. Teams play 15/side
Has 12 Players	Has 14 Players	Even up Teams play 13/side
Has 13 Players	Has 17 Players	Team B provides 2 Players to Team A, Teams play 15 /side
Has 13 Players	Has 16 Players	Team B provides 1 Player to Team A. Teams play 14/side
Has 15 Players	Has 15 or more Players	No even up necessary play 15/side
Has 17 Players	Has 17 Players	Teams agree to play either 15/16/17/side

10.10 Regional variations on the above model to either utilise minimum & match #'s or minimum and maximum # or a combination of both need to be approved by the Board after receiving a recommendation from a Regional Committee. Refer Regional Variations Appendix 5

Team Nominations

10.11 Clubs nominating teams for entry into the Under 9's to Under 16's competition must have registered at least 75% of the minimum number of Players (as set out in these Rules) in that team by the date set down by the Regional Committee as the closing date for nomination of teams. This rule only applies to AFLGSJ competition grade fixtures.

These numbers must not include anticipated 'play up' Players.

Restricted Player List (Under 13's to Under 16's)

10.12 In the event that a Club has more than one team in an age group with a divisional structure, the restricted Player list is used to manage the movement of Players dropping from one (1) team in a division to a lower team in that division.

10.13 By 1 April, a minimum of eight (8) names is to be submitted. All recognised talent squad Players from the previous season must be included on this list. In the event of more than eight (8) talent squad Players belonging to one team, all names must be submitted. If all teams in the age group have two (2) teams the nominated number is increased from eight (8) to ten (10). Talent Squad Players are defined as TPP Players (as per definitions on page 4).

10.14 Restricted List Players cannot play down in their lower division team under any circumstances.

11. Match Conduct

Match times

11.1 Matches MUST finish on time. If a start is late, then the Ground Manager and Field Umpire will decide the duration of the breaks at quarter, half and three-quarter time and if necessary will also reduce the length of quarters.

11.2 If minimum Player numbers are not present fifteen (15) minutes (or at qtr time in the under 11's) after the scheduled time of commencement, then the offending team will forfeit the match. For such matches where teams do not have the minimum numbers at the scheduled start time but Players are still due to arrive, the game shall commence but with reduced Player numbers on each team. Teams must still have equal numbers on the field. After the required 15 minutes (or qtr time in the under 11's) if minimum #'s are not achieved the match becomes a scratch match

11.3 Starting times will be agreed between the HOST Club and Regional Committee and advised as follows:

- 2009 times as per the draw for all matches.
- Starting times are indicated for all age groups at all grounds.

11.4 The competing Clubs may vary the above times, but any alternative agreed to MUST be decided upon at least seven (7) days beforehand, and the Regional Umpire Coordinator must be advised of the variation. A shorter period of time may apply however a fee of \$50.00 may be payable as determined by the Regional Committee, by the Club requesting the change, and only if agreed upon by all parties including the Regional Umpire Coordinator.

11.5 Failure of a team to enter the playing field after receiving a second warning from the Umpire/s may incur a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00). At that point, at the Field Umpire's discretion, they may commence play.

11.6 The Regional Committee, as agreed by the Board, may advise alterations to the starting times from time to time.

11.7 When it is necessary for a Player to be taken from the playing field on a stretcher, the Field Umpire shall stop play at the first opportunity after they are advised that a stretcher is on the playing ground. Play shall not recommence until the stretcher has left the playing ground and is outside the boundary.

11.8 No time-on will be allowed for the MINOR round matches.

11.9 In the case of a significant loss of playing time the remaining time allocated for the match will be divided equitably by the Ground Manager and Umpire and the match will recommence and finish on schedule.

Match duration

11.10 By age group will be

- Under 9/10/11 4 x 10 minute quarters. (no time-on)
- Under 12/13/14 4 x 15 minute quarters. (no time-on)
- Under 15/16 4 x 20 minute quarters. (no time-on)

11.11 Breaks during the games will be: -

	<u>Under 9/10/11</u>	<u>Under 12/13/14</u>	<u>Under 15/16</u>
• 1/4 time	4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes
• 1/2 time	4 minutes	7 minutes	10 minutes
• 3/4 time	4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes

Timekeepers will sound a siren one (1) minute prior to the scheduled completion of each break. The HOST CLUB and umpires will ensure strict adherence to the quarter breaks.

12. Protests and Disputes

Other than Players or Officials

12.1 Protests and disputes arising from the conduct of games involving persons other than participating Players or Officials will be dealt with by an Investigation Sub Committee appointed by the Regional Committee with a quorum being at least three (3) members.

12.2 An email with details must be submitted by 5:00pm of the Tuesday following the incident with a hardcopy report (via Incident Referral Form) to be signed by the President of the reporting Club and forwarded to the Regional Committee President accompanied by one hundred dollars (\$100.00) refundable (at the Regional Committee's discretion) deposit to reach the GSJ Administration by 5:00pm of the Wednesday following the incident. A copy is also to be sent to the Secretary/President of the Club against whose member(s) or spectator(s) the report is made. The GSJ Administration will immediately arrange a meeting of the Regional Committee to consider the report.

12.3 Any person, Official or Club who feels aggrieved by any decision resulting from such hearing may appeal to the Board. Such appeals must be lodged within three (3) days in writing and accompanied by a refundable (at the Board's discretion) deposit of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and must set out the grounds of the appeal and include any evidence to substantiate that appeal.

12.4 The GSJAFL may, in its absolute discretion, and in appropriate circumstances, waive the failure to comply with the time requirements as set out in Rule 12.2. The Board may at its absolute discretion, and in appropriate circumstances, waive the failure to comply with the time requirements as set out in Rule 12.3. No reasons are required to be given by either the GSJAFL or the Board where they either waive or refuse to waive the failure to comply with the time requirements provided by this Rule.

Involving Players or Officials

12.5 Protests and disputes arising from the conduct of games involving Players or Officials are to be dealt with by the Regional Committee, a quorum of which is to be at least three (3) members or, where the Regional Committee so delegates, by the Regional Committee President..

12.6 A Player or Official may be cited by a Club for unacceptable behaviour in circumstances where the Umpire officiating at the game has not reported the Player or Official. A Player may also be cited by a Club when not participating in a game but still under the jurisdiction of the AFLGSJ while attending a competition game.

12.7 A written report naming the Player or Official and describing the incident as recounted by eye witnesses should be forwarded (via email or fax) to the Regional Chairperson and GSJ Administration by 5:00pm on the **Tuesday** following the weekend incident. The report should be sent and signed by the President of the citing Club. A one hundred dollars (\$100.00) refundable (at the Regional Committee's discretion) deposit should reach the GSJ Administration by 5:00pm of the Wednesday following the incident.

12.8 The matter will then proceed to the Regional Committee, or where so delegated pursuant to Rule 12.5, to the Regional Committee President to determine whether the incident should be referred to the Tribunal at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably prior to the next weekend's round of games, but in any event, within seven (7) days of the report being received.

12.9 If the matter is not referred to the Tribunal, the Regional Committee, or where delegated to the Regional Committee President, the Regional Committee President will furnish the citing Club with their reasons within seven (7) days of the report being received. Where the decision to not refer the matter to the Tribunal is made by the Regional Committee President as delegated by the Regional Committee, the Regional Committee President will also make their reasons available to the Regional Committee at the same time as furnishing their reasons to the Club.

12.10 If referred to the Tribunal, the matter will be treated according to the rules governing the Tribunal and be reported by the Tribunal to the Clubs and the Regional Committee.

12.11 The Regional Committee (or Regional Committee President where the Regional Committee delegates to the Regional Committee President) may waive the failure of any person or persons, in appropriate circumstances, to comply with the time requirements as provided in Rules 12.7 – 12.9. No reasons are required to be given by the Regional Committee (or Regional Committee President where the Regional Committee delegates to the Regional Committee President) where they either waive or refuse to waive the failure to comply with the time requirements provided by those Rules.

13. Postponements

Rescheduling

13.1 Under normal circumstances, postponed matches due to bad weather will be played, providing the duration of the competition will permit. Where appropriate, the Regional Committee may recommend cancellation of a complete round. Where the draw includes a wet weather make-up day and the washout occurs before that day the whole round will be transferred, as is, if ground availability provides. If a second washout occurs and the proximity of the final round does not permit all games to be easily rescheduled, the Regional Committee will make a decision.

13.2 The Regional Committee will make any decision on postponements, if possible by midday on the Friday, when Club Secretaries and the Regional Umpire Coordinator will be advised and the website updated.

13.3 For instances (other than a complete washout) where advice of grounds closures is received by a Club AFTER 8:00pm on the Friday evening, or 12.00pm for Friday night games, the HOST CLUB will be responsible for advising the Regional Committee, and with concurrence, advising match postponements to the Regional Umpire Coordinator and the Secretary of ALL Clubs scheduled to play at that ground.

13.4 Where a Local Government policy on ground usage requires the governing body/association and not an individual Club (HOST) to adjudicate on and to administer matters of grounds being suitable for play, the Regional Committee may recommend to the Board for its approval a supplementary process for dealing with the issue of postponements and cancellations.

Minor Rounds

13.5 Unless a decision on any postponements is made by 8:00pm Friday evening, or subsequently, as outlined above, then the decision on play will be made at the ovals by the competing coaches, and in the event of a dispute, the Ground Manager and Field Umpire will decide.

13.6 Where advice of a ground closure is received by 8:00 pm on the Thursday evening before the scheduled game(s), the Regional Committee will attempt to reschedule the game(s) to an alternate venue within the round. Clubs will be notified of the venue change and normal competition procedures shall apply. i.e. if one team does not arrive, then a forfeit win will be given.

13.7 Alternatively in considering such a decision the Regional Committee will take all circumstances into account and the propositions put forward by the Clubs concerned. If playing the postponed match is determined as impractical the Regional Committee shall have the right to consider distribution of the match wins.

Finals Matches

13.8 Decision on the postponement rests with the Regional Committee, or its delegated authority at the grounds. A notice of such postponement will be posted at the ground(s) concerned. If a Finals Match is postponed, it will be replayed, unless otherwise directed by the Regional Committee.

Washouts

13.9 In the event of a WASH OUT ROUND the calculation of match ratio will ensure teams are ranked fairly in the finals series. The match ratio is determined by dividing the number of games won by the number of games played. This figure is multiplied by 100 to calculate a match ratio percentage.

14. Allowed on the Field of Play

14.1 Only Players, Umpires, trainers, first aid attendants and runners are permitted on the field (except for those that are provided for under the Modified Rules).

Runners

14.2 In the Under 13's to Under 16's age groups two (2) runners are allowed but only one on the ground at a time. In all other age groups, only one (1) is allowed. The runner is to wear a clearly visible and identifiable coloured top as determined by the Regional Committee. Only runners are permitted to deliver messages to Players and are not to loiter after delivering such messages.

Water Carriers /Trainers

14.3 Each team is allowed four (4) water carriers/trainers (identified as a minimum by a plain coloured t-shirt, as determined by the Regional Committee.). They should only enter the playing field on the scoring of a goal or when play is at the opposite end of the field.

14.4 Minimum age of water carriers will be:

- For teams up to Under 11's – 11 years or older
- Under 12's – 12 years or older
- Under 13's - 16's – 13 years or older

Coaches

14.5 In Auskick, Under 9's and 10's, one coach from each team may advise the team from inside the field of play as per Appendix 3 of these Rules.

14.6 The Field Umpire shall have the power to move the coach back or to order from the field completely and to ask any non-Players to leave the field of play.

15. Interchange

15.1 No Player may take the field before the Player being replaced has left the field.

15.2 Interchanging of Players is permitted at any time throughout the match. However, interchange can only occur through an appropriately marked interchange area. It should be clearly understood by both teams prior to the commencement of the match where the defined interchange area is located. It is to be the only portion of the oval's perimeter through which Players may enter the field.

15.3 Placement of the interchange ground markings should be on one wing equal distance from the two (2) coaching groups. In the U9/U10/U11/U12 age groups both teams are allowed to set up interchange gates on the wing (marked by low level orange cones) to be used through the course of the game.

16. Forfeits

16.1 A forfeit WILL be claimed against any team that CANNOT field the MINIMUM NUMBER of Players for the relevant age group in accordance with rule 10.8 or regional variations (Refer Appendix 5) within fifteen (15) minutes after the agreed starting time. If both teams cannot field the minimum number, the result is a non-game. Forfeit details must be listed on the team sheets with the umpire's signature. The teams may play a social match within the remaining allotted time.

16.2 Any forfeit (if known in advance) must be advised to the GSJ Administration, the opposing Club's Secretary and the Regional Umpire Coordinator 36 hours prior to the scheduled time of the match. If an Umpire turns up to a game, because of late or non-notification of a forfeit, the forfeiting team is liable for the whole amount of the Umpire's fees (shared equally in the case of a double forfeit). If a scratch match/social match is played, the Umpire fees are paid as per normal Regional rules.

17. Finals Series

Times and Player Numbers

17.1 The intention of this Rule is during the finals series to have the maximum number of Players on the field in accordance with the numbers set out in the table to Rule 10.8, **or** in accordance with any Regional variation in Appendix 5. Where a team has less than the match numbers shown under that table, they must play all those Players on the field and are not permitted to run an interchange bench. Evening down of total on-field numbers during the finals series is compulsory.

17.2 Where a Regional variation decides that during the finals series the match number should be equal to the minimum number it is incumbent on a team to ensure that Player lists during the year are managed appropriately.

17.3 In the event of a draw, additional time to be played for all age groups is five (5) minutes each way. The coach will be allowed to address their team during a three (3) minute break after the final siren. The coach will not be able to address the team and sides will change ends at the conclusion of the first five (5) minute period.

If the game is still tied after additional time, teams do not change ends and the game restarts with a centre ball up. The coach will not be able to address the team. The team to score first will be declared the winner.

17.4 TIME-ON will be allowed for injury in the case of a stretcher being used on the field and also other incidents (e.g. a lost ball) at the Umpire's discretion. Timekeepers are to be notified if this is the case and must be able to record the time-on.

Format of Final Series

17.5 Where the number of teams in the competition is six (6) to eleven (11) teams, the top placed four (4) teams will participate. Where the number of teams in the competition exceeds eleven (11) teams then, the top placed six (6) teams will participate.

Format of the finals for four (4) teams:

Week 1	(A) 1v2 (B) 3v4	Week 2 (C) Loser A v Winner B	Week 3 Winner A v Winner C
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Format of the finals for six (6) teams:

Week 1	(A) 1v2	(B) 3v6	(C) 4v5
Week 2	(D) Winner A v lowest ranked winner of B and C (E) Loser A v highest ranked winner of B and C		
Week 3	Winner D v Winner E		

17.6 Mercy Rule does not apply during the finals series.

Eligibility

17.7 Any variation to the following is at the discretion of the GSJ Board and is only for extenuating circumstances (for example, injury to a Player or illness). Such applications must be supported by a doctor's certificate and must then be approved by the Board. Any dispensation for a non-qualified Player to participate in finals will have to be recorded in footyweb by the AFLGSJ Administration. Dispensation applications must be made to the AFLGSJ Administration at least seven (7) days before the finals begin.

17.8 To play in finals, Players' registrations must have been approved and they must have played at least four (4) games during that season within the **team** that they wish to play.

17.9 In respect to all competitions (excluding Under 18's competition) any Player who plays more games in an older age group or higher division is ineligible for finals in the younger age group or lower division.

17.10 In respect to Under 18's competitions any Player who plays five (5) or more games in the Under 18's must play at least 10 games in a lower age group to be eligible for the finals in the younger age group.

17.11 Presentations to be made on Grand Final day are determined by the Regional Committee and agreed to by the Board.

18. Team Sheets and Results

Completion

18.1 All teams must use the official team sheet as produced from FOOTYWEB. Separate instructions and training is provided on Team Sheet creation via FOOTYWEB.

18.2 Clubs are to produce Team sheets in triplicate:

- 1 handed to opposition Team Manager
 - 1 retained by Club Team Manager
 - 1 provided to Ground Manager
- Each Club to verify the 3 copies of each others list and to sign off all 3 copies.
 - Umpires sign Ground Manager copy after completing end of match duties.

18.3 Both Clubs are to retain their copies of the team sheets and scorecards for all games until after the end of the season or as stipulated by the Board and be able to present these within seven (7) days if requested.

18.4 All Players and interchange Players must be listed with the CORRECT jumper number. The Team Sheet must be signed by the Team Manager or Coach. If a Player plays in a higher age group, then the age group, in which the Player is registered, must be listed. (For example: SMITH, John Under 14 on Under 15 Team Sheet).

18.5 Any Club questioning an opposing Player's eligibility may ask the Player's Team Manager for identification of the Player in question. To facilitate administration of this provision or if unable to be satisfied by evidence on the day the following procedure should be followed:

- The Player in question shall sign the reverse side of the Club's Team Sheet.
- The Club requesting proof shall apply in writing to GSJ Administration.
- The Player's Club must produce satisfactory evidence within two (2) working days of receiving an official request from GSJ Administration otherwise all match wins gained in that grade in which the Player took part shall be forfeited to the opposing side.

18.6 At the conclusion of each game, team sheets must be signed by the Field Umpire. The Field Umpire will complete the Match Report and for the Under 13's – Under 16's age groups, the Umpire Voting form for Players in order of 1st, 2nd and 3rd should be placed in a separate envelope.

18.7 In the case of a Field Umpire reporting on a Player's on-field behaviour, or where an Umpire or Ground Manager is reporting on a violation of the Codes of Conduct, an Umpire Report(s) form is to be used (attached to the Match Report). The original is to be included in the game envelope, with copies given to Clubs (in cases involving Players and Officials) or spectator/s involved and a copy faxed to GSJ Administration by the next working day after the match. The Field Umpire is to verbally advise the Regional Umpire Coordinator of any Notice of report as soon as reasonably practical after the completion of the Match. 18.8 All reports, protests and disputes arising must be lodged in writing in accordance with the requirements of the Regional Committee or as agreed by the Board.

Submission (Documentation and Results)

18.8 The HOME CLUB shall be responsible for forwarding the Match Report and Umpires documentation (as described) from matches played to GSJ Administration to arrive NO LATER than the Wednesday following the matches. Clubs will be provided with pre-addressed post-paid envelopes

18.9 In addition to the above requirements the HOME CLUB, at which matches have been played, shall collate the results and arrange for entry into footyweb within 24 hours of the match being played. GSJ Administration will complete website uploads on Saturday/Sunday & Monday nights. Clubs must advise GSJ Administration of any games not played by midday on the first working day following the scheduled match.

18.10 Failure to meet with the requirements in Rule 18.10 may make the HOME CLUB liable to a fine (rule 27), provided that in the event of the maximum fine applying the Board shall also consider such other disciplinary action as may be appropriate.

18.11 At the completion of the MINOR round of matches, GSJ Administration will provide to the Regional Committee all Umpire best & fairest votes, by Player, by each age group.

18.12 If the Required Umpire votes are not received by the Friday following a scheduled match, AFLGSJ Administration will report to the Home Club. Clubs will be tracked and repeat non-provision of required paperwork submissions will attract a fine.

18.13 Team Sheets will be the ONLY acceptable record of the Players who have played. Both Teams retain copies of Team sheets and Goal Umpire Score Cards

18.14 Team Sheets MUST be in the hands of the Ground Manager by, at the very latest, the end of the FIRST QUARTER BREAK. Players arriving after the halftime break cannot be added to the Team Sheet. For finals matches, Clubs should provide Ground Managers with Team Sheets, at the latest, FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES prior to the match.

18.15 Any person wishing to query the validity of information contained on a team sheet must do so within 7 days of the day the match is played.

19. Club Game Responsibilities

HOME Club

19.1 The designated home Club is to provide:

Timekeeper	Drinks for the umpires
Marked interchange area	Scoreboard/Sounding siren
Padding for goal and behind posts	Ground Manager
A SAFETY check of the ground before the first match to remove any rocks, glass, needles or other debris from the playing surface	Padding or other protection around structures within three (3) metres of the playing area. For example: taps, concrete structures, seats etc

Ground Manager

19.2 Ground Manager's match day responsibilities:

- To ensure all equipment (including a stretcher) for conducting the game is available before the game.
- To ensure the ground is set-up through the movement and placement of goal posts and padding and the interchange area.
- Ensure a copy of the Rules and a copy of the Laws are available for all games
- Organise a timekeeper.
- To check the availability of Goal Umpires, Boundary Umpires, interchange officials and time-keeping officials.
- To receive any formally submitted objections, protests or complaints from Officials of Clubs.
- The Ground Manager is to wear a distinctive vest with the title 'Ground Manager' printed on the back so as to be easily identified.
- Provide water for the Field Umpires at each break.
- Where possible, provide the Field Umpires with reasonable refreshments after their game(s).
- To accompany the Umpires on and off the ground and to and from the Umpire's rooms at breaks.
- To collect all required paper work, including team sheets, scorecards, Umpire documentation.
- Ensure Umpires review both team sheets for inclusion of all jumper #'s and then sign the sheets.
- Both Club's are to retain both home and away teamsheets plus appropriate score cards.
- The Ground manager is to retain the umpire team sheets.
- To check completion of Umpire paperwork and ensure it is completed correctly.
- To organise payment to Field Umpires.
- To ensure that both teams are aware of where the interchange area is.
- If necessary, ensure that the Field Umpire is aware that a stretcher is needed on the field. The Umpire shall then stop play at the first opportunity. The Ground Manager should also ensure that a phone is available to call an ambulance if required.
- In the event of a possible serious injury (e.g. neck), the Ground Manager will dissuade any football Official from moving the injured Player and to wait for an ambulance. The game will not continue until qualified medical personnel have removed the Player from the field. If the playing time of the game is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled FINISH TIME. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the coaches cannot agree on final scores and a winner the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.
- In the event of dangerous weather (e.g. lightning or hail) or other life threatening events, the Ground Manager will terminate the game. If the playing time of the game is greater than two (2) quarters, then the final scores will be taken as that at the scheduled FINISH TIME. If the playing time is less than two (2) quarters and if the coaches cannot agree on a final scores and a winner the game will be postponed and rescheduled if possible.
- To receive any reports from the Field Umpires and notify the Regional Committee of the reported Players by no later than 6pm on game day.
- To keep a check on the behaviour of all Officials and supporters and to issue warnings for any misconduct or behaviour that is contrary to the spirit of the game. This process should be completed by Officials of the Club

involved after the Ground Manager has advised an Official of the offending Club. It is not the intent that a Ground Manager should be confrontational or assume direct responsibility for behaviour management. In the event that an offence is deemed reportable, the Ground Manager must obtain signed statements from witnesses and video footage if possible. Such reports must be substantiated in this manner.

- To provide a faxed or electronic report to GSJ Administration of any substantiated misconduct by supporters or Club Officials within twenty-four (24) hours of the game's completion.
- To enter scores through footyweb by no later than 6pm following match day.
- To mail relevant Umpire match day paperwork to GSJ Administration so as to be received no later than Wednesday following the match day.
- Repeat offences of failing to comply with the preceding requirement may result in an automatic fine of ten dollars (\$10) against the offending Club for each week of the breach up to a maximum of fifty dollars (\$50). In the event of the maximum fine being applicable, the Regional Committee will consider other disciplinary action as appropriate.
- In the event of a postponed game, the Ground Manager will inform the Regional Committee in writing of the specific reasons for abandonment of any games.

Team Manager

19.3 For each team, the Team Manager must provide/arrange the following:

- Goal Umpire (with white coat, flags and scorecard)
- Boundary Umpire (with white top and whistle)
- One football in suitable match condition
- Team sheets (Refer to rule 18)
- Spare whistle
- Official runner shirt that is clearly visible and identifiable as determined by the Regional Committee

Injury Treatment

19.4 All Clubs are to comply with the Infectious Diseases Policy as issued by Sports Medicine Australia, as issued from time to time and as adopted by the AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission. Additionally, it is strongly recommended that all Clubs have a copy of the Australian Dental Regions 'Dislodged Teeth' guidelines available at all games so that dislodged teeth can be best preserved.

First Aid

19.5 The HOST Club must use its best endeavours to ensure the attendance at all games of a First Aid Official with a current certification at least equal to:

- Nurse
- Sports Trainer
- St John Officer (plus Red Cross equivalent)
- St John Ambulance Certificate holder
- Ambulance Officer
- Sports Trainer Certificate holder
- Doctor
- Basic First Aid Certificate (minimum)

19.6 In the event that a First Aid Official is required on to the playing field, the Field Umpire shall stop play at the first opportunity after being so advised and invite the First Aid Official on to the field.

19.7 If first aid is needed and the advice is that the Player shall not continue playing, the Coach shall abide by the decision of the qualified First Aid Official.

Umpire Reviews

19.8 A process of review of umpires is contained in Appendix 2.

Duty of Care – Bad Weather

19.9 Umpires and Clubs (in particular Ground Managers) should be aware of the dangers of allowing play during thunder/electrical storms. Play should cease if lightning is seen in the vicinity of the playing field. No risks should be taken in this regard.

19.10 When a match is stopped due to these circumstances, the result of the match is to be governed by the Laws rule 10.6.2 Incomplete Match (page 35).

Match Day Checklist

19.11 Under the Australian Football National Risk Protection Program administered by JLT Sport, a Match Day Checklist must be completed prior to any football activity on match day. This is to be completed and signed by both HOME and away Clubs and shown to the Umpire prior to commencement of play in the first match of the day.

19.12 A copy of the completed checklist is to be filed and kept by the HOME team for each match conducted and be kept for a minimum of seven (7) years.

20. Player Registration

Forms

20.1 For new Players a registration form needs to be completed. For returning Players a registration form or an Online completion of a registration form is required. Details on the Online process are advised separately.

20.2 Every Player for each team must be registered using official registration forms, as approved by the Board.

20.3 Registration forms must be completed prior to a Player taking part in a competition activity.

20.4 New Player and correction to existing Player details are to be recorded in the footy web database.

20.5 Registration forms are retained by the Club. However on request from GSJ Administration the document along with proof of date of birth, if requested, must be provided within 3 working days.

20.6 Violation of Rule 20.5 may result in a Player being disqualified and any dispensations withdrawn.

20.7 If a Player wishes to play in a team two (2) or more age groups higher than the Player's qualified age group as recognised by their date of birth, then special dispensation must be obtained from the Regional Committee. As this will require consultation with Club Officials and the Player's parent/guardian, adequate prior notice is required. In such cases the parents are to complete AFLGSJ Form 16.

20.8 If a Player from a given Club wishes to also play with another Club within GSJ (at the same time)

- He/she will need to be registered with both Clubs - any such situations must be advised to GSJ Administration to system authorise.
- Such a situation can only occur if the participation is with a Club that has a different age structure and the original Club does not have a team in that age group. This only applies where the second chosen Club is where the Player plays up a level.
- The situation can only occur if both Clubs & Regional Committees agree. This includes any requirements set by the original Club /Regional Committee around such matters as Representative participation.

Transfers

20.9 A transfer is deemed to include inter and intra league Player movements as defined by the AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission.

20.10 Players are free to transfer between Clubs prior to the season provided they have not re-registered with their former Club and subject to the following restrictions:

- From the Under 9's to Under 16's Clubs are only permitted to gain a maximum of three (3) Players from one particular Club team to another unless the Club from which the Players are transferring from allows more than three (3).
- On a Club-to-Club basis that limit is five (5).
- Exception to this Rule would only occur where a Club does not field a team in this age group for whatever reason and an excess of five (5) Players may then sign up with another Club after said Club has made it clear they are not fielding a team.

20.11 The process of transfer requires the Player wishing to transfer to request such from the existing Club, including reasons for such a request. Once consent is provided the new Club will need to register the Player accordingly. If approval is not given the matter can be referred to the Regional Committee for determination.

20.12 A Player playing for a Club without approval will result in the loss of any competition match wins and percentages awarded while the infringement of this rule continues.

20.13 Transfers not officially approved by the Regional Committee will result in penalties to the teams and Clubs involved in accepting and playing a non-approved Player.

Proof of Age

20.14 The following documentary proof of age shall be acceptable to the AFLGSJ:

- Original Birth Certificate or Original Extract of Birth
- Passport
- Original Baptism or similar Certificate
- Any original legal document certifying proof of age of applicant, or
- Any other such document as acceptable by the AFLGSJ such as School ID card, Letter from School Principal etc.

20.15 Only those duly authorised by the Board shall be permitted to endorse such applications for sighting of proof of age.

Match Day Registrations

20.16 May be granted provided:

- Registration details are to be entered into Footyweb by 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the game.
- New Player(s) name, address, birth date are noted on the back of the Team Sheet.
- The opposing Team Manager is informed that a new Player is being registered.

20.17 Should the Player later be found to be ineligible, the Player's team will lose match wins and the Club will be subject to the Board's jurisdiction.

Board Jurisdiction

20.18 Clubs knowingly playing UNREGISTERED or INELIGIBLE Players or deliberately falsifying documents in any way will be liable to a fine, not exceeding five hundred (\$500) dollars for each breach, and/or suspension of Club Official(s) and/or the Club from Competition/s.

20.19 In the event of any questions arising that are not provided for in these Rules, the opinion of the Board shall be sought and acted upon and its decision will be final.

Female Participation

20.20 The AFL policy strongly recommends that youth girls aged 13 and 14 years participate in a structured youth girl's competitions. However, if there is no youth girl's competition available the following applies:

- In accordance with the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)¹, people aged under 12 years of age cannot be excluded on the basis of sex or gender identity from participating in a competitive sporting activity.
- Pursuant to section 42(1) of the Act, people of one gender aged 12 and over can be excluded from participating in competitive sporting activities in which the strength, stamina and physique of competitors is relevant.
- AFL members will exclude females who reach 14 years of age as at 1 January in the year of play from playing in any competition that is not a 'female competition'. **Definition** – A female competition is a competition in which the majority of the Players are female.

¹ *The provisions of section 42 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth) are essentially replicated in equivalent State legislation*
Note: Please see the AFL National Junior Policy for further details regarding this philosophy

21. Competition Trophies

21.1 These will be determined by the Board in liaison with the Regional Committees. On Grand Final day, at the completion of each match, awards will be made as determined.

22. Coaches

Accreditation

22.1 All coaches officiating at AFLGSJ games must be accredited with AFL coaching certificates and be registered with AFLGSJ. It is expected that non-accredited coaches will attend and complete courses provided by the AFL (NSW/ACT) Commission during the course of the year of registration. Non-accredited coaches may be unable to coach teams that participate in finals.

22.2 The coach's Code of Conduct form appears on the Coach Registration form and must be signed by the coach.

23. Uniforms

23.1 All Players must play in the Club uniform as registered on the Club's affiliation form. Players must wear different full numbers on the back of each jumper which are recognisable from one hundred (100) metres. Those numbers must correspond to those on the respective team sheet.

23.2 Where the Club colours as defined on the Club Affiliation form have been approved by the Board that Club will have the rights to that colour and design and no other AFLGSJ Club in that region may apply to register that colour or design. If a Club wishes to change its colours or designs, it must first obtain approval from the Board.

23.3 Any changes to a Regional Representative uniform must be approved by the Board.

24. Finance

Arrears

24.1 If any Club is in arrears to the AFLGSJ for a period of fourteen (14) days or more from the statement date, a fee of 10% of the amount owing may be charged for every fourteen (14) day period or part thereof that the amount is outstanding. Any such fee shall then become part of the amount outstanding.

24.2 If any Club is in arrears to AFLGSJ for a period of fourteen (14) days or more, that Club's representative(s) shall be ineligible to vote at any Regional Sub Committee meeting.

24.3 If any Club is in arrears to AFLGSJ or AFL (NSW/ACT) for a period of sixty (60) days or more, that Club shall be ineligible for any match wins earned by any team from that Club whilst that Club is in arrears. Where extenuating circumstances exist, the Board may at its discretion, place a Club on a financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any Club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered to be financial with the AFLGSJ provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

24.4 If any Club is in arrears at a time seven (7) days prior to the date of the finals series commencing, that Club shall be ineligible to compete in that finals match. In the event of this occurring, teams placed next on the premiership ladder at the completion of the HOME and away matches for the respective age groups shall fill the place of the ineligible team.

24.5 If an appeal is made to the Board about an imposed financial penalty, then the Board may, in its discretion, allow for required time frames to be held over until resolution of any appeal.

Funds Management

24.6 The management of funds through AFLGSJ will include the establishment of a central account in the name of AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Inc. As provided in the Regional constitution, the funds of the Region will be used only in pursuance of the objects of the Region.

24.7 Funds and financial transactions will be managed for each Regional Committee separately through the establishment of separate cost centres for each Region. In this way funds sourced and costs incurred will be quarantined and allocated accordingly. On a regular basis as agreed by the Board, GSJ Administration will provide the Regional Committees with transaction reports relative to each area.

25. Rule Amendments

25.1 Additional Rule amendments tabled by Regional Committees beyond Regional variations agreed by the Board before the season commences may be amended by simple majority at a Board meeting, provided that the Board is notified of proposed change(s) not later than fourteen (14) days prior to such meeting. Unless stated otherwise, changes to these Rules shall be deemed to commence on the next full season of football to follow the date of the change.

26. Press/Policy Statements

26.1 Any Officials, parents, Players, or Clubs making statements to the press, other Clubs or media that are considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of any other Official, parent, Player or the AFLGSJ shall be subject to a Code of Conduct Investigation Sub Committee hearing and shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions governing such a Code of Conduct Investigations Sub Committee). A maximum Club fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and/or loss of match wins may occur for any breaches of the above.

26.2 The only persons empowered to make a statement on policy or public related matters are members of the Board.

27. Fines

27.1 Where the Board or Regional Committee has fined a Club, Player or Official, any such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of receipt of an invoice from AFLGSJ. Failure to pay such money within the required time shall result in further action by the Board, including the loss of match wins.

Schedule - General

27.2 Failure by Clubs to lodge a signed Coaching Code of Conduct form for each coach appointed by the Club each season, prior to the first fixture match each season, or within seven (7) days of the appointment of any coach should the coach be appointed after the commencement of the season, may incur a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each week overdue.

27.3 Failure by a Club to ensure all coaches are accredited by 15 August of that season may incur a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each coach not so accredited, plus twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each match thereafter.

27.4 Coaches who are not accredited by the commencement of the finals series may render their team ineligible for finals series matches.

27.5 Any team forfeiting a match without having given prior notification to GSJ Administration by midday on the Friday prior to the match may incur a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

27.6 Each Player must have a number on their jersey and such number must be listed on the team sheet. Should more than one Player wear a jersey bearing the same number, or should more than one Player be listed on the team sheet as wearing the same number, the penalty may be a fine of twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each infringement.

27.7 Playing ineligible, suspended, unregistered and/or over-age Players may incur the following fines:

- Unregistered Player: one hundred dollars (\$100.00) plus the loss of match wins.
- Over-age Player, ineligible or suspended: one hundred dollars (\$100.00) plus the loss of match wins.
- Unregistered and over-age Player: one hundred dollars (\$100.00) plus the loss of match wins.
- Should a team be found guilty of three (3) of any of the above offences in any one season then a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) shall be incurred and the team withdrawn from the competition.
- Any Player playing under another name other than their own shall be deemed to be unregistered and the Club will incur a fine of Two hundred and Fifty dollars (\$250.00) plus the loss of match wins.

27.8 Any Club deliberately advertising Players from schools designated as a feeder school to another Club as defined by the Board or Regional Committee will be deemed poaching and the Club may incur a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).

27.9 Any Club wishing to interview or approach a Player from another Club, with a view to having that Player transfer to and play in one of its teams, must first advise the Club Secretary with which the Player is registered in writing and a copy must be sent to GSJ Administration at least seven (7) days prior to any interview or approach. Any Club found to be infringing this Rule may be liable to a maximum fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each offence.

27.10 Non-submission of properly completed Umpire Review forms for Under 9's to Under 12's inclusive (for the offending Club) may incur a fine of twenty dollars (\$20). If the forms are not submitted correctly (on time) a fine may be imposed on the HOST Club of twenty dollars (\$20) per envelope.

27.11 Runners, water carriers and trainers deemed to be contravening their duties will be sent from the field of play after receiving one (1) verbal warning from the Umpire. Failure to comply may incur a fine for the Club of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

27.12 Any Clubs changing official game times or dates without agreement from the opposing Club and having not advised the Regional Umpire Coordinator seven (7) days beforehand or as agreed may incur a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

Schedule - Match Day Documentation

27.13 Each team must provide Team Sheets on the day of the match in accordance with Rule 18 Team Sheets - Completion. Failure to complete the Team Sheet correctly may incur a fine of thirty dollars (\$30.00).

27.14 Late submission of match day documentation (Rule 18.9) by the HOST Club may incur a fine of fifty dollars (\$50).

27.15 Late submission of match day results (Rule 18.10) may incur fine of fifty dollars (\$50) for first offence and one hundred dollars (\$100) each time thereafter.

27.16 Submission of incomplete match day documentation by either HOST or visiting team may incur a fine of fifty dollars (\$50).

Schedule 1 – Umpires Fees 2008

As determined by the Regional Committee under the following structure:

Age Group	Umpires	Accredited	Non-Accredited
	One		
	Two		

Semi Finals

Fees will be as above with the exception of the following:

- Boundary Umpire if appointed \$
- Goal Umpire if appointed \$

		Preliminary Finals	Grand Finals
Under 10	1 Umpire	\$	\$
Under 10	2 Umpires	\$	\$
Under 11	1 Umpire	\$	\$
Under 11	2 Umpires	\$	\$
Under 12	2 Umpires	\$	\$
Under 12	2 Umpires	\$	\$
Under 13	2 Umpires	\$	\$
Under 14	2 Umpires	\$	\$
Under 15	2 Umpires	\$	\$
Under 16	2 Umpires	\$	\$
Boundary Umpire if appointed		\$	\$
Goal Umpire if appointed		\$	\$

The payment to Boundary and Goal Umpire is irrespective of age group officiated.

Late arrival of umpire

Should an Umpire arrive late to an appointed match then the level of payment will be made on a pro-rata basis.

The pro-rata calculation is to be on the basis of whole quarters officiated during the game.

Standby Appointment

Where an Umpire takes control of a game that is underway (due to another Umpires non-arrival) then the minimum fee payable will be pro-rata to the whole quarters officiated during the game.

Schedule 2 – Zoning: (Under 9/10)

This brief guide is for the benefit of parents and other spectators to help them understand what is happening on the field. Modified rules are used in these age groups to give participants the best opportunity to participate in the great game of AFL.

- The field is divided into three (3) zones: forwards, centres and backs. The Players are rotated through the zones in each game to ensure that all Players experience the different field positions. Four (4) distinguishable markers (low domes) are placed on the sideline to mark the zones.
- The forwards are the only Players that can kick a score. These Players are marked with a clearly identifiable armband indicating that they are the forwards. Should a centre-zone Player kick the ball through the goal posts, no score is recorded and it is treated like any other out of bounds.
- It is important to realise that the marking of zones is to help both the Players and the umpire understand where Players should be. It is not a 'taboo' marker but an indication that a Player is close to the end of the zone. In essence there is a little 'grey area' where a Player may dispose of a ball just over the zone line. The umpire will communicate with the Players and attempt to ensure that the use of the 'grey area' is kept to a minimum. The use of armbands by the forwards helps the umpire identify where a Player is intended to be.
- Players are unable to take full possession of the ball at the start of play (ball up/centre bounce) or the recommencement of play around the ground. In fact, the umpire will use different Players from the zone that play is in to contest the bounce.
- The interchange gate for these age groups is marked by smaller witch's hats and is the area that the team will use to move Players from and onto the ground.

Should you have any questions, ask the coach (after the game!) or the manager from your Club and I am sure that they will help.

Just remember, the Players are out there to have fun and the Umpire is a volunteer.

Schedule 3 – Age Group Rules

Schedule 3.1 Auskick

- This grade will not play for competition match wins.
- Auskick should remain as per the rules and regulations set out in the Auskick Handbook and Lesson Cards.
- The two (2) Clubs will play a game as a follow up to the Auskick program. The sides must be of equal size and played under the rules set out in the Aussie Footy Rules handbook. Children must be aged eight (8) and under. The size of the team should ideally be nine (9) a side (i.e. three (3) Players from each team in three (3) zones).
- The playing area shall be approximately half a standard size field. Standard field size is (ninety) 90 metres X sixty-five (65) metres.
- Players must be rotated at the start of each quarter allowing everyone to experience playing as a forward, centre and back.

Schedule 3.2 Modified Rules

Standard Greater Sydney Junior Modified Rules apply (refer Appendix 3).

Schedule 3.3 Youth Rules

Unless provided for elsewhere in these Rules, teams will play under the Laws of Australian Football (the exception being rule 13.3 – Kick into play after goal umpire signal).

At all times other than for send offs the numbers of Players on the ground must be equal for each team

Ball Sizes

- Under 13/14 Size 4
- Under 15 Full size
- Under 16 Full size

In the event of wet weather conditions, the umpire with the agreement of coaches has the discretion to allow the use of a wet weather (synthetic) football.

Spirit of the Game

At the end of a game all Players, coaches and umpires should gather in the centre of the ground and shake hands.

Tackling

Tackling is permitted as per the **Laws of Australian Football** however in Under 13's and Under 14's:

- No Player shall be deliberately slung, dumped or thrown to the ground via any tackle.

Mercy Rule

- The Goal Umpires are to inform the Field Umpire at half time or three quarter time, where the score differential between the teams equals or exceeds a set amount (i.e. ninety (90) points for youth ages and sixty (60) points for modified ages).
- The Field Umpire will instruct the Goal Umpires and any scoreboard attendants to cease further scoring for the remainder of the match.
- Where the Mercy Rule is applied, the match shall continue for the remainder of the allocated time of play, with the coaches encouraged to even-up the skill levels of the teams.
- The official recorded result for the match shall be:
- Losing team - the score of the losing team, at the time the Mercy Rule was applied; Winning Team - the score of the losing team, at the time the Mercy Rule was applied, plus a margin equal to the points' differential for that grade.

Appendix 1 – Codes of Conduct: Specific

Players *(part of registration form)*

- Play for the 'fun of it' and not just to please parents, coaches and teachers.
- Play by the Rules and within the 'spirit of the game'. Shake hands with your opponent after the game.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately fouling or provoking an opponent or throwing equipment is neither acceptable nor permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Admire all good passages of play whether they are by your team or the other team.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Cooperate with your coach, team mates, umpires and opponents. Without them there would be no game.

Parents Caregivers and Spectators *(part of registration form)*

Remember children play sport for their enjoyment not yours.

- Focus upon the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event. This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to their ability by reducing the emphasis on winning.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the Rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Remember children learn best by example.
- Applaud good play by all teams.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect official's decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation of volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them your child could not participate.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than question the official's judgement and honesty in public. Remember that most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement.
- Consumption of alcohol is inappropriate at all junior games.
- Whilst umpires receive a small amount for out-of-pocket expenses, don't adopt a 'you are paid not to make mistakes' attitude.

Administration and Officials

Ensure that equal opportunity for participation in sports is made available to all children, regardless of ability, size, shape, sex, age, disability or ethnic origin.

- Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules take into consideration the age, ability and maturity level of participating children.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials, capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
- Remember that children participate for enjoyment and play down the importance of rewards.
- Provide clinics aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with an emphasis on appropriate behaviour and skill technique.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, physicians and participants understand their responsibility regarding fair play.
- Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of children and their needs.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Publicly encourage rule changes that will reinforce the principles of participating for fun and enjoyment.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

Coaches (part of registration form)

I..... hereby commit, to the best of my ability, to uphold AFL Greater Sydney Juniors Coaches Code of Conduct.

I understand that as an integral part of my role, I must maintain a standard of behaviour and conduct in the best interests of the game and the players/staff in my care.

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

- I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all individuals within the context of my involvement in the AFL game, including refraining from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability.
- I will abide by and teach the AFL Laws of the Game and the rules of my Club and League/Region.
- 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 wellbeing.
- I will refrain from any form of personal abuse or unnecessary physical contact with the players in my care.
- I will have due consideration for varying maturity and ability levels of my players when designing practice schedules, practice activities and involvement in competition.
- Where I am responsible for players in the five (5) to twelve (12) year old age group, I will ensure that all players gain equal playing time, subject to their adherence to team/Club rules and the display of required levels of commitment and positive attitude/approach in keeping with the demands of a team sport. I will avoid overplaying the talented players, aiming to maximise participation and enjoyment for all players regardless of ability.
- I will stress and monitor safety always.
- In recognising the significance of injury and sickness, I will seek from the player concerned, or where deemed appropriate their parents or guardian, confirmation that a physician's advice concerning the return of seriously injured or ill players to training has been obtained and is being followed.
- I will endeavor to keep informed with regard to sound principles of coaching and skill development, and to factors relating to the welfare of my players.
- I will at all times display and teach appropriate sporting behaviour, ensuring that players understand and practice fair play.
- I will display and foster respect for umpires, opponents, coaches, administrators, other Officials, parents and spectators.
- I will ensure that players are involved in a positive environment where skill learning and development as priorities are not overshadowed by a desire to win.

I reject the use of illegal performance enhancing substances in sport and will abide by the guidelines set forth in the AFL DRUG POLICY.

I also attach a copy of the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation online Child Protection Quiz Certificate obtained from <http://www.playbytherules.net.au>, with an acceptable pass mark.

SIGNATURE OF COACH: _____ **DATE:** ___ / ___ / ___

CLUB: _____ **AGE GROUP:** _____

SIGNATURE OF PRESIDENT: _____ **PRINT NAME:** _____

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

Appendix 2 – Umpire Review Process

The key components are:

- Completion of the Umpires Review form for Under 9's to Under 12's inclusive, is compulsory with non-compliance of a correctly completed form incurring a fine (i.e. non-submission/umpire identification or completing person's identification not provided). With the Under 13's to Under 16's inclusive, it is encouraged but not compulsory.
- Submission of the form to the designated Regional Umpires Coordinator within the expected time.
- A review of forms and comments by Regional Umpires Coordinator and any necessary follow up actions.

The following sets out the process step by step:

- At the completion of a game the coach of a team or designated person fills out a review form, including all the necessary identifying details of the umpire(s) (available from the Ground Manager) and comments according to the coaches view of the umpire(s) performance.
- The correctly completed forms should be signed (name printed) and passed to the Ground Manager.
- It is **not** the responsibility of the Ground Manager to chase the completion of the forms. Logic would suggest that both Team Managers and Ground Managers should ensure enough blank copies are on hand.
- It **is** the responsibility of the Ground Manager to provide, as requested, names of the umpire(s) officiating and where necessary point out which is which if there are two (2).
- Ground Managers, as part of their duties, will ensure that the documents are despatched to the Regional Umpire Coordinator.
- These forms are expected to arrive at the Regional Umpire Coordinator postal address by Wednesday evening after the game. They are not to be bundled and sent to GSJ Administration with the match day documents. Non-delivery on time will incur the designated penalty to the HOST Club.
- The Regional Umpire Coordinator will firstly ensure they received what they expected and then review forms accordingly to complete the 'end to end' process. The Regional Umpire Coordinator will also assess the reviews and provide feedback to the umpires, Regional Committee and Club Umpire Coordinators as appropriate.
- By the end of the same week the Regional Umpire Coordinator will advise the Regional Committee of received reviews (timing and quality).
- In the event that the received documents have not been processed properly, the Club(s) concerned will be advised of the Regional Committees response.

Summary

The aim of this process is meaningful assessments of our junior umpires. AFLGSJ is taking all steps to deliver an acceptable level of competency for the junior age groups. This can only be achieved if Club coaches and management of junior teams are prepared to provide constructive comment in their assessment of an umpire's performance.

Appendix 3 - Standard Modified Rules 2008

	UNDER 9	UNDER 10	UNDER 11	UNDER 12
1. Playing Field (min.)	100 m x 65m (cones or lines to mark zones)	100m x 65m (cones or lines to mark zones) Increased by agreement.	110m x 80m Increased by agreement.	125 x 85m Increased by agreement.
2. Ball Size	Size 2 Ball (synthetic ball by agreement)		Size 3 Ball (synthetic ball by agreement)	
3. The Team	Unless mutually agreed upon by opposing coaches, 9 or 12 players with any number of reserves. Number of players on ground must be equal. Team consists of 3 or 4 equal numbers of forwards, backs and centres. Players remain in position for all of the quarter after which the players must change zone. Interchange of injured or reserve players can take place at any time. New player must play in that position for rest of quarter		12 to 15 players with any number of reserves. Number of players on ground must be equal.	12 to 15 players with any number of reserves. Number of players on ground must be equal. For Representative U12 Football <i>evening-down</i> to apply.
4. Playing Time	4 x 10 Minute Quarters		4 x 15 Minute Quarters	
5. Start of Play	Ball up between two centre zone players (no rucks). No full possession (defined as the player contesting the ball up gaining possession before another player touches the ball). Maximum of 3 players from each team closer than 10m to the ball.		Ball up between two centre players. No full possession (see U9/10 Rule 5). Maximum of 3 players from each team closer than 10m to ball.	
6. After a Goal	As in 5			
7. Scrimmage	Umpire stops play, sends players back to positions and ball up as per 5. Maximum of 3 players from each team closer than 10m to ball.			
8. Out of Bounds	From a kick – a free kick is awarded to the closest opponent. A player cannot kick for goal from this free kick. Off hands or body – ball up 5m in from the boundary. If in doubt – ball up 5m in from boundary. No Full possession.		From a kick – a free kick is awarded to the closest opponent. Off hands or body – ball up 5m in from the boundary. If in doubt – ball up 5m in from boundary. No full possession.	Free kick for a kick out on the full or deliberately playing the ball out of bounds. Other out of bounds – thrown in and player can take full possession (as per AFL rules).
9. Bouncing the Ball	May bounce once only . Player can run up to 10m before bouncing or disposing of ball. Players cannot dispose of the ball to themselves intentionally.		May bounce twice only . Player can run up to 10 m before bouncing or disposing of ball. Players cannot dispose of the ball to themselves intentionally.	
10. Gaining Possession	A player's prime objective should be to gain possession of the ball (eyes on the ball). Restrained side (shoulder to shoulder) contact is permitted when players are contesting a loose ball, provided that the ball is within five metres. 'Running with' the player rather than 'running at' the player must be the intention. Front on contact or contact from behind is strictly prohibited.			

	UNDER 9	UNDER 10	UNDER 11	UNDER 12
11. Tackling	<p>Players can “Hold and Release” an opposition player in possession of the ball by grabbing the jumper only with one or two hands. When in possession of the ball there is strictly no bumping, slinging or deliberately bringing the player in possession of the ball to the ground. Grabbing the arms or applying a wrap around tackle is not permitted.</p> <p>If a player in possession of the ball is “Held and Released” without a prior opportunity to dispose of the ball they have 3 seconds to dispose of or attempt to properly dispose of the ball by handballing or kicking. If a player in possession of the ball has had prior opportunity before being “Held and Released” a free kick is awarded against the player in possession.</p> <p>When the player is ‘Held and Released’ the umpire acknowledges that the hold has been applied and instructs the player in possession to dispose of the ball within 3, 2, 1 seconds (count). A player in possession cannot be Held and Released again within the 3 seconds.</p> <p>Players cannot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knock the ball out of an opponent’s hands • push the player in the side • steal the ball from another player 		<p>A player in possession of the ball may be tackled by an opponent wrapping both arms (the wrap around tackle) around the area below the top of the shoulders and on/above the knees.</p> <p>The tackle may be from either side or from behind providing the tackle from behind does not thrust forward the player with the ball. If a player in possession of the ball is brought to the ground deliberately then a penalty shall be awarded to the player</p> <p>Where such a penalty is awarded the umpire will use the sling signal.</p> <p>Knocking or stealing the ball from an opponent’s hands is permitted</p>	
12. Smothering	No smothering allowed		Smothering is allowed	
13. Barging	No Barging		If a player has an opportunity to dispose of the ball and chooses to barge opponents, a free kick will be awarded if a correct tackle is made.	
14. Shepherding	No Shepherding		Shepherding permitted .	
15. Mark	Catch ball directly from kick. Irrespective of distance. Good attempts paid.	Catch ball directly from kick. Irrespective of distance.		Catch ball directly from kick that travels at least 10 metres.
16. Kicking Off the Ground	Deliberate kick not permitted			
17. Send Off	As per Rule 9 of AFL GSJ By Laws			
18. Staying in Position	<p>Players must start in their zones.</p> <p>Umpire can send players back into position.</p> <p>Forwards can score, but they must be inside the forward zone. The minimum level of identifying positions is armbands that signifies the forward position.</p>		To stop congestion, umpire and coach to ensure players stay in position.	To stop congestion, umpire and coach to ensure players stay in position.
19. Spirit of the Game	<p>Players, Coaches and Officials and Umpires to shake hands before and after game.</p> <p>No scores or ladders to be kept.</p>		<p>Players, Coaches and Officials and Umpires to shake hands before and after game.</p> <p>10 goal mercy rule.</p> <p>Mercy Rule not to apply in Representative U12 Football.</p>	
20. Coaches	Coaches allowed on field to teach but no closer than 15m from play.		<p>Coaches are not allowed on the field.</p> <p>Messages delivered by a runner who must be an adult or a player that is mature enough to umpire the game...</p>	

Appendix 4 - Match Day Paperwork 2008

(This document provided to every Coach, Team Manager & Ground Manager)

Match day documents	Control Check	Outcome for non compliance
Team Sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs must use footy web – only record relied upon • 3 copies produced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 handed to <u>opposition</u> Team Manager ○ 1 retained by <u>Club</u> Team Manager ○ 1 provided to <u>Ground Manager</u> • Each Club to verify each others list and each to sign off each Clubs copies. Both Clubs to retain. • Umpires sign Ground Manager copy after completing end of match duties. • Clubs must retain for season and be able to present if required within 7 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No record on system (impacts career stats and finals eligibility) • Appropriate penalty (unless satisfactory explanation provided)
Goal Umpire Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club must enter results on footy web within 24 hrs of match played (uploads will take place Saturday/Sunday/Monday night) • Clubs must advise Admin Central of games not played by Monday midday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate penalty (unless satisfactory explanation provided)
Umpire Match report Now – “Match Report”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umpires to record match day presentation and record issues / incidents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate penalty (unless satisfactory explanation provided)
Umpire Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to Regional Umpires Coordinator direct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure of coach to support umpire development
Umpire Votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground Managers to ensure form completed properly and legible • Only required for Under 13 – Under 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not completed correctly votes not recorded • Referral to Umpire Coordinator re completion training
Umpire Disciplinary Report sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If used placed in Umpires envelope and submitted to GSJ administration • Verbal or email advice from Regional Umpire Coordinator by midday Monday of a report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral to Umpires Coordinator for adequate response

Other Match Day Paper work

Documentation	Requirements 2008
Match Day Checklist	Must be retained by Club -
Ground Managers Checklist	Helpful document for Ground Managers – <u>Do not send with paperwork</u>
Player Zoning rotation check	Helpful document for Coaches & Team Managers – <u>Do not send with paperwork</u>
<p><u>In the event of a forfeit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>No Umpire Votes should be taken</u> • <u>No goal umpires cards to be kept</u> • <u>Record result on Footy web noted as a forfeit</u> 	

Appendix 5 – Regional Rule Variations