

# WRFL & EDFL WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE

WESTERN REGION AND  
ESSENDON DISTRICT  
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE



## WREDWFL OPERATIONS MANUAL

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# LAWS OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL AND LEAGUE BY-LAWS

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This Operations Manual should be used in conjunction with WRFL and EDFL By-Laws and the Laws of Australian Football. For rules and regulations not listed in this manual, please refer to the official Host League By-Laws and accompanying schedules.

## 1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

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### 1.1 TEAM NUMBERS

<b>On-field</b>	18 Players
<b>Bench</b>	6 Players
<b>Total</b>	24 Players
<b>Evening-Up Rule</b>	Yes*
<b>Minimum #'s</b>	12 Players

\* Please refer to Section 2 'Competition Rules', Rule 2.3 'Evening-up Rule' for more information.

### 1.2 MATCH DURATION

<b>Quarter Length</b>	<b>Time On</b>	<b>1/4 Time Break</b>	<b>1/2 Time Break</b>	<b>3/4 Time Break</b>
20 Minutes	No	3 Minutes	15 Minutes	5 Minutes

### 1.3 STANDARD STARTING TIME

<b>Division 1</b>	Sunday 2.20pm
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Scheduled match starting time may be varied on agreement with the opposition club and host league.

### 1.4 MATCH BALL

<b>Division 1</b>	Size 4 Leather
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1.4.1 All footballs used must have the as per the approved sponsor's logo for the Host League.

1.4.2 Two footballs in reasonable condition must be supplied for all matches.

1.4.3 The away captain may select which ball to use in the match.

1.4.4 In the event of a dispute as to the selection of the ball or its general condition, the Field Umpire of the match shall have the right to select the match ball.

1.4.6 Yellow balls can be substituted for red balls but only if agreed to by an away club senior official. The colour selected shall be used throughout the match.

## 1.5 FINALS STRUCTURE

<b>Division 1</b>	Top 4 (3 Week)
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## 1.6 COMPETITION DATES

<b>Date</b>	<b>Division 1</b>
	<b>Round</b>
<b>23 April</b>	1
<b>30 April</b>	2
<b>7 May</b>	3
<b>14 May</b>	4
<b>21 May</b>	5
<b>28 May</b>	6
<b>4 June</b>	7
<b>11 June</b>	Queen's Birthday
<b>18 June</b>	8
<b>25 June</b>	9
<b>2 July</b>	10
<b>9 July</b>	11
<b>16 July</b>	12
<b>23 July</b>	13
<b>30 July</b>	14
<b>6 August</b>	Semi-finals
<b>13 August</b>	Preliminary Final
<b>20 August</b>	Grand Final

## 2. COMPETITION RULES

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### 2.1 COACHES BOXES

2.1.1 The only persons allowed in the Coaches' Box/bench are a maximum of five club officials, one of which is the runner and the interchange players.

### 2.2 MATCH DAY PAPERWORK AND LODGMENT OF SCORES

2.2.1 Match day paperwork is to be completed as per Host League requirements and delivered to the host league by 6pm Sunday.

2.2.2 All home clubs are required to lodge on-line the final scores, best players and goal kickers by no later than 5:30pm on the day of the match.

2.2.3 At the completion of the match the team managers will lodge with the field umpire(s) the goal umpires' score cards (where club appointed goal umpires have officiated) and the timekeeper's card as per Host League Requirements.

### 2.3 EVENING-UP RULE

2.3.1 Where one team has between 12 and 18 players and the second team has more players than the first team, the team with the greater numbers shall field no more than one (1) additional player on the field.

2.3.2 Team Managers, particularly from the team that requires the evening-up rule to apply, must ensure that the process is organised as early as possible and prior to the teams taking the field.

2.3.3 Should a player arrive late, that player may take the field at any time provided the following procedure is adhered to:

- i. The Team Manager shall inform the officials of the other team;
- ii. The addition to the playing numbers on the field can only be made providing the numbers on the field remain equal for both teams.

2.3.4 Where a head count is conducted and uneven playing numbers are evident, the scores at the time of the head count shall be noted and the matter referred to the Host League for determination of the result of the match.

2.3.5 Any dispute regarding the Evening-up Rule will be referred to the Host League who will determine penalties, if any, to be applied.

2.3.6 The Evening-Up Rule shall not be applied in finals.

2.3.7 Where a player is ordered off the field by the field umpire and there is no replacement available there is no requirement to even-up the playing numbers on the field.

## 2.4 FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- 2.4.1 Players must play at least three (3) matches with their Affiliated Club/respective team in the home and away matches to qualify to play in the finals series.
- 2.4.2 Where a club fields multiple teams (Division 1/Division 2/Division 3) in a finals series on the same day or weekend, a player must have played a combination of at least three (3) games for the competing teams to be eligible.
- 2.4.3 Any player who has played more than 50% of games in the VFL Women's team home and away matches is ineligible to play with that Club's HOST LEAGUE team in the finals series, with exception where a Club fields multiple teams (VFL Women's/Division 1/Division 2/Division 3) in a finals series on the same day or weekend.
- 2.4.4 Any player playing more than 50% of a Club's higher division team home and away matches is ineligible to play with that Club's lower division team in the finals series, with exception where a Club fields multiple teams (Division 1/Division 2/Division 3) in a finals series on the same day or weekend.

## 2.5 UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

- 2.5.1 Compression garments worn by players beneath the uniform on the upper and/or lower body must not extend beyond a player's football jumper and/or knees.
- 2.5.2 Compression garments worn by players beneath the uniform on the upper and/or lower body must be completely beige or black in colour.
- 2.5.3 All other garment types are not permitted to be worn in addition to a player's uniform unless prior approval is granted by the Host League.
- 2.5.4 A Player shall not wear during a match:
  - i. Any form of jewellery; the taping of piercings is prohibited unless prior approval is given by the Host League;
  - ii. Boot studs, plates/cleats or any protective equipment (other than protective equipment approved by the Host League) unless the field umpire is satisfied that the item does not constitute a danger or increase the risk of injury to other players competing in the match;
  - iii. Protective equipment which has been approved by the HOST LEAGUE, if the field umpire is satisfied that such equipment has, during the match, become dangerous or increased the risk of injury to other players;
  - iv. Gloves: unless they are first been granted to wear the gloves by the Host League (medical reasons) and the Host League has also inspected the gloves. The umpire will sight written approval from the Host League and also inspect the gloves prior to the commencement of the game.
- 2.5.5 At any time before or during a match, a field umpire may inspect a players boots or hands or any protective equipment that a player intends to wear or use during a match.

## 2.6 TEAM SHEETS

2.6.1 For all matches a team sheet shall:

- i. List the full names and jumper numbers of the players in the team;
- ii. Be signed by the players in the team;
- iii. Identify the interchange players;
- iv. Identify the captain;
- v. List the names of the coach, runner, trainer with accreditation number and any other official participating in the match;
- vi. Replicate the online version of the team sheet (SportsTG).

A copy of the team sheet must be provided to the umpires no later than 15 minutes before the game

## 2.7 UMPIRES

2.7.1 Subject to availability, Host League umpires will be supplied for home and away matches as follows:

Field	Goal	Boundary
2	Club	Club

2.7.2 Subject to availability the Host League may appoint Goal and/or Boundary Umpires for a home and away match. Where no Goal and/or Boundary Umpires are appointed each club shall supply such umpires. Where only one Goal and/or Boundary Umpire is appointed, the home club shall supply such additional umpire(s) as required.

2.7.4 Field, Goal and Boundary umpire fees shall be set annually by the Host League.

2.7.5 In the event of a match not taking place, other than where the Adverse Weather Committee has cancelled a match or round, or in the case of a forfeit, umpires shall receive half of their usual fees.

2.7.6 In the event of a match not taking place because of a forfeit, the Affiliated Club giving the forfeit must pay all of the umpire fees unless the umpires receive notice that the match will not take place at least twenty four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement time for the match.

2.7.7 Club goal umpires shall be attired in white goal umpire bibs, and have a minimum of 2 goal flags. Club boundary umpires shall as a minimum be attired in a white top and, as far as practicable, in white clothing. All apparel will be in line with host league requirements.

2.7.8 In all matches the home club shall be responsible for a scoreboard which shall be in operation throughout the whole game. The scoreboard must be clearly visible to the goal umpires who

shall check its accuracy at the conclusion of each quarter. Umpires shall report to the Host League, via the Umpires' Report, any occasion on which an Affiliated Club fails to operate a scoreboard.

- 2.7.9 The Host League appointed field umpire(s) have the power to veto a decision made by a club goal or boundary umpire and make an alternative decision if the field umpire(s) is of the opinion the club umpire has made an incorrect decision. The Host League appointed field umpire's decision shall be final.
- 2.7.10 Club boundary umpires are not permitted to pay a free kick for a breach of Australian Rules Football Law 11.3.4 (b): "No player (other than the 4 initial players) or team official shall enter the centre square from the time the field umpire commences his or her approach to the centre circle to bounce the football until the football touches the ground, in the act of bouncing, or leaves the field umpire's hand in the act of being thrown up.
- 2.7.11 Where a player and/or official is involved in an incident which may constitute a reportable offence, only the umpires appointed by the Host League shall report that person and the matter will be referred to the Tribunal for hearing and determination.
- 2.7.12 Where a Host League appointed umpire is verbally abused by officials, interchange players or supporters in the proximity of the coaches' box the following shall apply:
- i. In the first such instance of abuse one of the field umpires shall warn the officials located within the coaches' box area;
  - ii. If the abuse occurs again, the field umpire(s) shall stop the match and award a free kick to the opposing team.

## 2.8 ORDER-OFF RULE

- 2.8.1 The competition adopts the Laws of Australian Football in relation to the order-off rules.
- 2.8.2 The EDFL and WRFL have determined players may be replaced if sent off the field.

## 2.9 REPORTABLE OFFENCES

- 2.9.1 At the time of making any such report of any player or club official, the Host League appointed field umpire (including emergency umpire) and/or goal and boundary umpires shall take down the numbers of the player(s) reported and the victim (if any) of the incident.
- 2.9.2 The reporting umpire shall ensure all details of the incident are contained in the authorised report sheet. It is the responsibility of the reporting umpire to forward the report sheet to the League
- 2.9.3 Both club team managers shall attend the umpire's rooms five (5) minutes after the conclusion of the game to obtain the 'all clear'. At this time the umpire(s) will advise the club delegates of any report(s) that have been laid during the match. The field umpire(s) will then provide both delegates a copy of the report(s).



- 2.9.4 As per the Laws of Australian Football and league by-laws a reported player may be referred directly to a tribunal or be offered a prescribed penalty.
- 2.9.5 Where the player has the option of choosing to accept the prescribed penalty, the club delegates, after receiving a copy of the report will then have fifteen (15) minutes to consult with the reported member in which to decide whether the player/club will accept the prescribed penalty or wish the report to be heard by the Tribunal. At the end of the fifteen (15) minutes, both delegates will again attend the umpire's room. If the player/club accepts the prescribed penalty and the reporting umpire concurs, the delegates representing the reported player and the reporting umpire(s) will then sign the report form where indicated. If the player/club can't decide within the 15 minutes allocated after the match, the club then has until 12:00pm on the Monday following the game to advise the Host League office of their decision. It is the responsibility of the club to notify the Host League by 12:00pm Monday. Failure to do so and the set penalty shall apply.
- 2.9.6 Where a player is not offered or does not accept a prescribed penalty the report will be referred to the Independent Tribunal. The Tribunal has the unfettered discretion to impose a penalty in excess of the prescribed penalty.
- 2.9.7 The Host League or its appointee may refer any report to the Independent Tribunal.
- 2.9.8 Where a player/club is offered and accepts a prescribed penalty the suspension will commence immediately and will apply from the next official Host League match of that grade in which the club plays, unless notification is received by the club that the prescribed penalty has not been accepted and the report will be referred to the Independent Tribunal.
- 2.9.9 Where a player/club is reported and subsequently suspended by the Independent Tribunal, the suspension will commence immediately and will apply from the next official Host League match of that grade in which the player was reported and the club competes. Any guilty verdict delivered at tribunal will incur a fine, as per the by-laws of the league with which the club is affiliated.
- 2.9.10 The Tribunal hearing will be conducted by the tribunal of the league which hosted the match. All hearings shall proceed in accordance with the Independent Tribunal Procedure of that Host League.

## 2.10 INVESTIGATIONS

Clubs wishing to lodge a complaint, protest or charge or request an investigation shall act in line with their home league by-laws or statement of rules.

## 2.11 MELEE RULE

2.11.1 The occurrence of a melee is to be determined by the officiating umpires in line with the guidelines set out in the host league's By-Laws.

2.11.2 The field umpire(s) appointed by the Host League shall record on the umpires' match report at the conclusion of the game and incident where the melee has taken place. This will include the quarter and the position on the field where the melee took place.

2.11.3 Such form shall be signed by the umpire(s) and a copy of the umpire match report containing notification of the incident handed to each club as per normal match day procedure.

2.11.4 Penalties for a melee shall be applied as per the each club's home league by-laws.

## 2.12 ON-FIELD OFFICIALS

### 2.12.1 Trainers and Water Carriers

- i. Clubs are permitted up to four (4) trainers (inclusive of water persons). Each club's trainer shall be accredited as per the club's home league by-laws.
- ii. Trainers and water carriers must wear uniform/identification as per the club's home league By-Laws

### 2.12.2 Runner

- i. Each team is permitted to use one (1) runner.
- ii. The runner shall wear the uniform designated by the club's home league.

## 2.13 25 METRE PENALTY

A 25 metre penalty shall replace the 50 metre penalty.