

BJFL

Bendigo Junior Football League Ltd

ACN 646981268

By Laws



2025

As amended November, 2024

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Season 2025 Clarification and Amendment Summary

➤ **Match day Balls:**

Size 5 Leather: Under 16 Boys

Size 4 Leather: Under 14 Senior (after grading)

Size 4 Synthetic: Under 15 Girls, Under 14 Mixed

Size 3 Synthetic: Under 12 Mixed & Girls

Size 2 Synthetic: Under 9 & Under 10 Mixed

Red or Yellow Footballs are able to be used.

➤ **2025 Age Groups:**

Under 9 Mixed, Under 10 Mixed, Under 12 Girls, Under 12 Mixed, Under 14 Mixed, Under 15 Girls and Under 16 Boys.

PART A - DEFINITIONS & INTERPRETATION

1.1 These are the By-Laws of the Bendigo Junior Football League Ltd. These By-Laws apply to and bind all Clubs affiliated with the BJFL.

1.2 In these By-Laws the following terms have the following meanings.

- Advisory Committee - the BJFL Advisory Committee Members as appointed by the directors.
- AFLCV - AFL Central Vic., Controlled by Regional Council
- AFLVC - AFL Victorian Country, controlling body of the Regional Council
- AFLVC Rule - Any current AFL Victoria Country Rule, Regulation, Procedure or Policy
- AGM - The BJFL General Meeting
- BJFL - The Bendigo Junior Football League Ltd.
- BJFL Rules - The Statement of Purposes and Rules of the BJFL
- BJFL Vests - Either the appropriately coloured Bib or Vest as generally designated by the Advisory Committee OR any article of clothing specifically approved by the Advisory Committee for the purposes of these By-Laws for any Season.
- BFNL - The Bendigo Football Netball League
- BUA / BJFLUG - Bendigo Umpires Association or its successor
- Club - A Club affiliated with the BJFL and AFL Central Victoria
- Club Official - Any person occupying any official position with a Club, and any person being a Match Official for any Team of that Club
- CVFL - The Central Victoria Football League
- Delegate - A Club representative at a General Meeting
- Directors - Responsible for overseeing the affairs of the company.
- Fees - Any amount payable by a Club to the BJFL for any purpose
- Fixture - The BJFL Draw for each season
- GM - A BJFL General Meeting
- HDFNL - Heathcote & District Football Netball League Inc.
- Home Team - Team first named in the Fixture
- HUB - BJFL's administration centre – Managed by AFLCV
- Investigator - The Independent Investigator appointed by the BJFL
- JOM - Junior Operations Manager or Administrator Appointed by the League
- Laws of the Game - Laws of Australian Football as promulgated by the AFL
- LVFNL - Loddon Valley Football Netball League Inc.
- Match Fees - Fees payable by each Team each Match as set by the BJFL
- Match Slips - Team Sheets, Result Sheets, Umpires Best & Fairest Envelopes, Reports, Goal Umpires Cards and other Match paperwork as prescribed by the JOM.
- Minimum Age - Must be 7 years old as at April 30 in each year.
- Minimum Age - Must turn 8 in calendar year for Under 10 modified rules
- Minimum Age - 9 Years old for Under 12, 11 years old for Under 14, 13 years old for Under 16.
- National Handbook – the National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH)
- Player - A player registered in accordance with AFLVC requirements
- Prescribed - As determined by the Advisory Committee
- President - The BJFL President / AFLCV Junior Operations Manager
- Registrar - The BJFL Registrar
- Reports and Reportable Offences – the meanings used in the Laws of the Game
- Round - Round of Season Games
- Season - The current BJFL season including Finals unless otherwise stated
- Season Game - A Home & Away Game in the BJFL season (not a Finals Game)
- Tribunal - The Independent Tribunal of the BJFL
- Umpire - Any Central Umpire officiating in any BJFL Game, and any Boundary or Goal Umpire appointed by the BUA to officiate BJFL Games (not a Club appointed Boundary or Goal Umpire)

1.3 In these By-Laws, unless the context otherwise requires –

1.3.1 Words importing any gender shall include all genders.

1.3.2 Words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

1.3.3 Terms used or defined in the Laws of the Game have the same meaning herein.

1.4 The Laws of the Game, National Handbook and AFL Victoria Country Rules apply to the BJFL.

1.5 Any notice to be given to the JOM under these By-Laws must be in writing and delivered by mail, email or hand delivery within the designated time limit. If the notice is on behalf of a Club it must be on, or accompanied by, the official letterhead of the Club and signed by the Club President and Secretary or by Club Officials acting on their behalf. Any notice failing to comply with this By-Law shall be invalid.

PART B - ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

CONTROLLING BODY

2.1 The BJFL is the Controlling Body for all matters herein. The Advisory Committee may, subject to the BJFL Rules and these By-Laws, exercise all the powers and functions of the BJFL for the purposes of these By-Laws except where such are required to be exercised by a GM.

2.2 Clubs are required to supply BJFL a copy of their Annual Report at seasons end.

2.3 The Advisory Committee shall appoint a Tribunal.

2.4 The Advisory Committee shall appoint an Investigator as and when required.

AGE GROUPS

3.1 The Age Groups are determined by the BJFL in consultation with clubs and must abide by the AFLVC rules regarding Transfer of Clubs and Teams / Establishment of New Clubs and Teams / Amend or Introduce Age Group to a Competition. Under 9 and Under 10 Mixed divisions to operate with modified rules as amended by the BJFL.

3.2 Each age division is open to all players who are under the relevant age for that division at the date as determined by the AFLVC.

3.3 A person cannot play in the BJFL until he or she has attained the minimum age as per AFLVC requirements.

3.4 A BJFL registered player cannot play Senior or Reserve Grade Football in any league and still be eligible to play in the BJFL, unless an exemption is granted by the BJFL.

TEAM NOMINATIONS

4.1 Nomination of a team to play in any season shall only be accepted if made by an affiliated Club on the prescribed BJFL nomination form. Any Team that has not been so nominated by the closing time for Nominations shall not be included in that season's Fixture. Team Age Group Nominations shall close on **March 1** each year unless the Advisory Committee declares a later closing date. Team Nominations must be accompanied by an allocation of Registered Players for that Team and shall not be accepted for a Team with such a List having less than 14 Players. A fee per Team must also accompany team Nominations (fees determined by the BJFL at the start of the season).

The divisional split for all Team age group nominations shall close no more than 2 weeks prior to the start of the season or informed at the individual club / league meeting.

4.2 Any Club withdrawing a Team from the competition after nominations close shall forfeit all fees paid to the BJFL for the Team and must also pay all fees due to be paid for that Team up until the time the Team is withdrawn.

4.3 The Advisory Committee shall have the right to accept, refuse or review any Team Nomination and may impose any condition it deems necessary before accepting any Nomination, this includes any maximum number of teams per club per age group.

4.4 If 2 or more Clubs wish to field a merged team in any season, they shall consult the Advisory Committee prior to the close of nominations.

4.5 Any non-affiliated Club applying for affiliation with the BJFL must abide by the AFLVC rules regarding Transfer of Clubs and Teams / Establishment of New Clubs and Teams / Amend or Introduce Age Group to a Competition .

- 4.6** Each Club shall, when nominating any team, register its Team Jumper (Colours, Design and Emblems), and its Team Name. The Advisory Committee may refuse to register any new or changed Team Jumper or Name if it is of the opinion that any such Jumper or Name is too similar to, or conflicts with, any Jumper or Name already registered. Further the Advisory Committee may, at its reasonable discretion, refuse to register any Jumper or Name that contains Advertising or a Sponsor's Name, or it may place such restrictions in relation thereto that it considers reasonably appropriate. (e.g. alcohol, tobacco, gambling sponsors)
- 4.7** Variations to team lists: Following initial nomination of teams, any variations must be advised to the BJFL and include an updated list. Should a team have a full complement of players as per by-law 8.2, then application for any variation must be made to the BJFL advising reason(s) for the deletion of any player or players prior to the inclusion of any additional player(s).

GENERAL MEETINGS

- 5.1** All Clubs are required to be represented by a Delegate at all General Meetings. Any Club failing to be so represented at a GM without notifying the JOM prior to the GM shall be liable to a fine of \$25.
- 5.2** For the purposes of these By-Laws, it is provided that for voting at any GM, each Club has one vote (to be exercised by its Delegate), and each member of the Advisory Committee has one vote. Votes may only be cast personally by those present at the GM. In the case of an equality of voting on a question, the Chairman is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- 5.3** A Club is not entitled to vote if all monies due and payable by it to the BJFL have not been paid by the prescribed date. Although all BJFL fees are due and payable by the 30th June each year, should any fees remain outstanding, then such club teams' will be ineligible to compete in any finals matches until full payment is made.

MATTERS DETERMINED PRE-SEASON

FOOTBALLS

- 6.1** The Advisory Committee shall determine the appropriate Footballs to be used in each age division for the forthcoming season by **31 January** each year and shall notify all Clubs of its decision by **7 February**. All Teams must supply the Footballs so determined in accordance with these By-Laws.

INTERLEAGUE ORGANISATION

- 7.1** Administration of the Inter-league Carnivals will be operated by AFL Central Victoria in consultation with the Advisory Committee.
- 7.2** A player shall be eligible for selection in any Age Division for which they met the Age restrictions, regardless of the Age Division in which they usually play in the BJFL.
- 7.3** Clubs are to be notified as to times when Interleague squads train and as to players selected. Clubs should encourage participation of players.
- 7.4** All Players train and play for Interleague at their "own risk".

PART C - THE HOME & AWAY SEASON

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 8.1** A player must be registered with the BJFL each season prior to the player's first game in the BJFL. Registration is completed through the online database system used by the BJFL / AFL.
- 8.2** Each club shall appoint a club registrar who shall allocate a provisional list of registered players to teams through the online system by 5:00pm on the Wednesday prior to the first game of the season

(Including grading games). This timeframe is to include nominations of the Top 10 players for clubs with two or more teams in an age group (higher division team only).

- 8.3** No Team in the Under 9, Under 10 or Under 12 Girls Division is allowed to have more than 16 Players registered. No Team in the Under 12 Mixed, Under 14 Mixed, Under 15 Girls, and U16 Boys Division is allowed to have more than 24 Players registered (refer to Bylaw 13.1a for regional team allowances).
- 8.4** A club nominating 3 teams in an age group (e.g. Under 14's) must have a minimum of 63 players registered 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the BJFL season (grading included).

CLEARANCES AND PERMITS

- 9.1** The AFLVC / National Handbook Rules and Regulations regarding clearances shall apply to the BJFL.
- 9.2** Affiliated clubs must comply in accordance with the Rules for 'Junior Player Points System' set out by the BJFL, as applicable.
- NOTE:** This does not apply to clubs who do not have a team in the applicable age group (e.g. St Kilian's - St Peter's players moving to Under 14's).
- 9.3** No player permits are granted in the BJFL Final Series.
- 9.4** Season Permits are not allowed between BJFL Club and BJFL Club unless exemption is sought by BJFL Advisory Committee prior to the game(s) being played.

ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY

- 10.1** Players playing in BJFL games must be under the maximum age for each age group at the date prescribed by **By-Law 3.2**, and must have reached the Minimum Age as per **By-Law 3.3**.
- 10.1(a)** An overage/underage exemption policy exists for the Bendigo Junior Football league. This policy and application process can be found on the BJFL website.
- 10.2** A Player must provide the Registrar with an extract of birth certificate or a copy of School record of date of birth, if requested.
- 10.3.1** Subject to meeting age eligibility, players may play no more than 5 games in a higher age group/competition throughout the season (BJFL and BFNL only, does not apply for HDFNL and LVFNL. Refer to area agreement). Not to be exceeded unless exemption granted by the BJFL. Players from another team / age group must be clearly recorded on the team sheet.
- Any team using players under this system shall be limited to a maximum of 20 players on that day.
- Any breaches exceeding the maximum of 5 games shall be subject to such penalty as applied at the discretion of the Advisory Committee in terms of by-law 28.1 (e.g. any or all of, suspension, fine and/or loss of points)
- Note: Should players play a sixth game in a higher age group/competition they CANNOT return to play in the lower age group/competition.**

- 10.3.2** Players within the same Age Group (except under 12) may "move" up or down from Division 1, Division 2 or Division 3 throughout the season, but may only move to the next lower division in which their club participates. Once a player has played or been listed on the team sheet for more than 8 games in Higher Division, they can then only play finals in that team.

The Higher Division team (or "teams" if a club has 3 teams entered in one age group) must have nominated 10 players with team nominations (Refer to by-law 8.2) who are ineligible to play in any lower division/s under this provision.

- 10.3.2 (a)** Under 12 players may play up to a maximum of 5 games per season in the next highest Under 12 team of their club. Any team using players under this system shall be limited to a maximum of 20 players on that day.

U12 Players may not play in a lower-level team other than where they are registered.

Note: Should players play a sixth game in a higher division they CANNOT return to play in the lower division/s.

10.3.2 (b) Where a club has two teams in the same division, each team must be registered separately, and they will take part in the competition on the same terms and conditions as if they were entered as separate clubs. Movement of players between teams in these circumstances can only be made after League approval is obtained. A list of players of teams concerned must be forwarded to the League office before the first round of the home and away season.

10.3.3 Eligible players may play 2 games on the same weekend if required, on a maximum of 5 occasions per player. Players may only play the additional game in the team/s above or team immediately below their nominated team. Any team requiring additional players under this system shall be limited to a maximum of 20 players

Note: Please read by-law 29 for Finals Eligibility.

Any breaches exceeding the maximum of 5 games shall be subject to such penalty as applied at the discretion of the Advisory Committee in terms of by-law 28.1

(e.g. any or all of, suspension, fine and/or loss of points)

10.4 Variations to the team lists should be made via PlayHQ no later than Round 6. The league to be informed of any change requests after Round 6.

DIVISIONAL SPLITS

11.1 Teams competing in any Age Group may be split into divisions within that Age Group to suit the circumstances of the Season - e.g. team numbers. Any split shall be at the discretion of the Advisory Committee.

MATCH PROVISIONS

FIXTURES, LADDERS, CANCELLATIONS, FORFEITS ETC.

12.1. 4 Premiership points shall be allotted for a win or for a bye and 2 points for a draw.

12.1.1 These points will accrue and be applied to the start of the Home and Away season, percentage will not be carried forward. An appeal process is available for any major discrepancy that creates unfair advantage and ineligibility for finals. This process must be lodged to BJFL 4 weeks prior to the commencement of finals.

Note: For creating the draw easier and quicker, at the end of grading there will be no referral to who played who and where previously. We will start the season proper from Round 5 with the aim to have the new draw completed as soon as possible.

12.2 Ladders:

12.2.1 Ladders shall be calculated on Premiership Points, if positions are tied then head-to-head criteria is used. Head-to-head criteria:

Two (2) teams tied:

- a) Win-Loss record of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
- b) Points difference in head-to-head games between the two teams. E.g. – Team A won by 1pt and Team B won by 12pts, Team B will place higher.
- c) Win-Loss record against highest common opponent (proceeding downwards if necessary).
- d) Average points against.

Three (3+) or more teams tied:

- a) Best winning percentage of games played among the tied teams.
- b) Points against in head-to-head games between the tied teams.
- c) Record against highest common opponent (proceeding downwards if necessary). 4. Average points against.

12.2.2 Where team numbers in divisions are an odd number, match ratio to be used. Match ratio is when wins are divided by the matches played to determine a percentage. This removes the unevenness of byes in fixtures.

12.3 Any Club wishing alterations or special considerations regarding the season's fixture, must give at least 14 days' notice in writing to the Advisory Committee, with any alteration to be absolutely at the discretion of the BJFL Advisory Committee. Any fixture may be changed at any time by the Advisory Committee at its discretion.

12.4 The BJFL will abide by the National Handbook Extreme Weather rules. In the case of a general cancellation, the JOM shall endeavour to have this announced via electronic communication at 7:00 AM or as soon thereafter as possible on the day of play.

12.5 A Team which is to forfeit any game must advise JOM before 12 Noon on the Friday prior to the day of play. It must still pay Match Fees for the game, but any Team forfeiting after this deadline must pay the Match Fees for both teams.

12.5.1 Whenever a forfeit occurs the Advisory Committee shall, at its discretion, determine the allocation of premiership points in accordance with the AFL Laws of the Game.

12.7 If a team arrives with enough players which would enable a game to proceed by lending extra players to the opposition (not having minimum numbers), but does not or will not lend players, then no points will be granted to either team, (even though the other team would have been required to forfeit).

TEAM NUMBERS AND TEAM SHEETS

13.1 For any BJFL Game, each Team shall consist of no less than 14 players (11 players for Girls teams) and no more than 24 Players. Teams can only have an Interchange bench consisting of no more than

6 Players (unless fielding players due to by-law 13.6). The minimum number must be ready to play 10 minutes prior to the official starting time of the match.

13.1a An exemption to the maximum allowed 24 players is extended for Castlemaine, Heathcote, Lockington Bamawm United, Maryborough and Rochester Clubs to a total of 30 players for their competitive teams on the basis that only one team is entered into those age divisions. Should they wish to enter two teams, then the normal 24 player maximum for each team shall apply.

NOTE: Maximum match day team numbers of 24 players shall still apply.

13.2 Official BJFL Team Sheets shall be the only recognised record of a Player's games played in the Season, and no other record or evidence shall be considered.

13.3 Any Team playing a Player who is not listed on the official BJFL Team Sheet for any game shall be deemed to have played an ineligible Player. The onus is on Clubs to ensure that official Team Sheets are filled out in a neat, legible and correct manner and an illegible Sheet will not be an acceptable defence to a charge arising under this By-Law.

13.4 Each Team Sheet shall include the following:-

13.4.1 The Surname and Christian name and Playing Number of each Player, and

13.4.2 The Surname and Christian name of each of the Team's Match Officials for the game (as referred to in **By-Law 18**)

13.5 Each Team Sheet shall be clearly signed by the Coach or Team Manager, and must be handed to the Field Umpire no later than 10 minutes before the scheduled commencement of the game.

13.6 At the commencement of a season game (home & away), if a team has less than 18 players (15 players for U15 Girls and 12 players for U12 Girls), the opposing team shall be limited to **that number** of players on the field.

The alternative to playing with less than 18 is as follows:

Teams may share players to allow all players the opportunity to play on the day – this sharing system applies to a season game (home & away). Players loaned to any team on the day must be recorded on team sheet of team actually playing for on that day - clearly noting accordingly.

Note: players may be varied during the game at intervals only (not during play) and umpires must be notified preferably prior to game start, but at minimum at each interval.

13.7 If a club has less than maximum playing numbers, and rejects the opposing clubs offer to loan players, then the opposing club can play with the maximum number on the field (18 players / 15 players for U15 Girls and 12 for U12 Girls).

TIMES OF PLAY

14.1 Unless otherwise determined by the Advisory Committee, games shall be of the following duration –

14.1.1 For U14 Mixed & U16 Boys Age Groups - 4 x 20 minute Quarters, with maximum breaks between quarters of 5, 5 and 5 minutes respectively.

14.1.2 For Under 12 Mixed & Under 15 Girls Age Groups - 4 x 15 minute Quarters, with maximum breaks between quarters of 5, 5 and 5 minutes respectively.

14.1.3 Under 12 Girls Age Group – 4 x 12 minute Quarters, with maximum breaks between quarters of 3, 3 and 3 minutes respectively.

14.1.4 Under 9 & Under 10 Age Groups – 4 x 10 minute Quarters, with maximum breaks between quarters of 3, 3 and 3 minutes respectively.

14.2 Except for Finals (as provided in **By-Law 30.2**), no time on shall be played in any BJFL game.

14.3 If the scheduled playing time in any BJFL Match is interrupted by 30 minutes or more in a single instance, (arising for example, because of a serious injury to a player or from any other cause), then at the discretion of the JOM, either-

14.3.1 The playing time for the match shall be reduced to such time as the JOM determines, but so both teams have an equal time to kick to both ends, or

14.3.2 The match may be terminated, and the Advisory Committee may then, in accordance with the Laws of the Game award the result or declare the match abandoned or call a replay at such time and place as it may determine.

ACCEPTABLE EQUIPMENT

- 15.1** In the interest of Player safety the Advisory Committee (in conjunction with the BUA) reserves the right to deem what items of equipment or clothing a Player can or cannot use when playing in BJFL games. The National Handbook regarding Protective Equipment shall apply to all BJFL games.
- 15.2** Match Day apparel must abide by the uniform policy that can be found in the BJFL Team Managers and Coaches handbook and on the BJFL website.

FIELD UMPIRES AND STEWARDS

- 16.1.** If no Field Umpire is available for any Match, or if a Field Umpire is unable to continue in any Match, the Coaches of the 2 Teams may by agreement appoint any person or persons (recommended one from each Club) to umpire the Match or the remainder of it, failing which the match shall be abandoned.
- 16.2** Only the team Captain shall be permitted to speak to Field Umpires during the progress of the match at intervals. In the event that the Captain is not confident in approaching the umpire(s) the Team Manager may assist them to speak with the umpire to convey the message. Any breach of this rule may be referred to the Tribunal and is not intended for specific umpire decision clarifications.
- 16.3** A Field Umpire may overrule any decision made by a Goal Umpire provided by a Club in accordance with **By-Law 18**

COACHES

- 17.1** To be eligible to hold a Coaching position within the BJFL, all Coaches must meet the requirements of the AFLVC Handbook listed under "Coaching Accreditation."
- 17.2** The Advisory Committee may conduct compulsory meetings of Coaches, but no penalty shall apply if a genuine reason is given for non-attendance. Coaches may send a representative
- 17.3** Coaches are permitted inside the fence during play but must stay outside the boundary line. BJFL blue vest must be worn.
- 17.4** To be eligible to Coach in the BJFL all Coaches (Including Assistant Coach) must obtain a Working with Children Check – Volunteer and abide by the Child Safe Standards.

MATCH OFFICIALS

- 18.1** Subject to **By-Law 30.1**, BJFL Teams are required to provide one of each of the following Match Officials for every game in which that Team participates. The names of each Official shall be included on the Team Sheet for the Match. Each official must wear the appropriate BJFL Vest throughout the Game, must be at least 14 Years of Age (except in the case of Water Carriers) and must be capable of performing the duties required. The Officials to be provided and the Vests they are to wear are:-

- **Head Coach – BJFL Accredited Coach Blue Vest**
- **Assistant Coach – BJFL Blue Vest**
- **Team Manager – BJFL Yellow Vest**

- Official Runner – BJFL Green Vest
- Water Carrier – BJFL Red Vest
- Trainer/Medical – BJFL Red Vest with White Cross
- Timekeeper's/Umpires Escort – BJFL Orange Vest
- Boundary/Goal Umpires – BJFL White Vest

Note: each team is permitted to have only 2 coaches, whether that be 2 co-coaches or 1 head coach and 1 assistant coach.

18.2 A Team may have up to 1 Water Carrier and 1 Trainer/Medical person for all games. ***Water Carriers can only enter the field of play at a reasonable break in the game, (e.g. After a goal is scored).*** Trainer / Medical person shall not be allowed to be a water carrier and shall only be allowed to enter the field of play in the case of an injury. A greater number may be allowed at the discretion of the JOM.

Note: The above does not exclude either water carrier from being a qualified medical person.

18.3 The BJFL recommends that each Team should have at least 1 Trainer who has a current First Aid Certificate or Level 1 Trainers Certificate as a minimum accreditation.

18.4 Boundary Umpires are required for Under 16 Boys. All other competitive divisions will play the last touch rule (a document explaining the rule can be found on the BJFL website).

18.5 Goal Umpires must be equipped with Flags and a Score Card. They must fairly carry out all the duties of Goal Umpires under the Laws of the Game, but are not able to Report any Player or Official. They must record scores on their Score Cards during the Game and must confer and reconcile their Score Cards at each break.

18.6 Time Keepers must be equipped with a reliable Clock or time-keeping device, a Time Card and a Bell or siren. They must ensure that each quarter of each game is played for the correct time in accordance with these By-Laws, and that breaks are restricted to the maximum allowable. They must record starting and ending times for each quarter on their Time Cards. In addition they must -

18.6.1 Record on the Time Cards details of any "Orders Off" during the game, including the Name and Number of the player.

18.6.2 Ensure a player ordered off does not return until the required period of playing time has elapsed.

18.6.3 Jointly act as Interchange Stewards as required by **By-Law 23.2**, and each keep a separate record of all Scores made by each Team during the Game.

18.6 (a) Each Team must provide an Umpire's Escort whose duties are to Escort the Central Umpire on and off the Playing Field, this person may be either the Time Keeper or Goal Umpire from either side participating. Team Sheets to be marked accordingly.

18.7 In the Event that the Goal Umpires disagree on the final scores in any Match, the JOM shall take into consideration the scores separately recorded by the Timekeepers in determining the result of the Match.

18.8 Official Runners may only enter the playing arena during a Game to confer with players of their own Team, after which they must immediately leave the arena.

18.9 Trainers/Water Carriers/medics may only enter the playing arena during a game to provide medical assistance after which they must immediately leave the arena.

18.10 Official Runners and Trainers/Water Carriers must comply with any instruction of the Field Umpire. The Field Umpire may order any such person off the arena and may Report any person who infringes this By-Law. Any such report shall be referred to the Tribunal.

18.11 A Team may also have an Assistant Coach as a Match Official. In that case, the name of the Assistant shall be recorded on the Team Sheet for the Match. The Assistant shall wear the BJFL Blue Vest and shall comply with **By-Law 17.3** and this By-Law in the same manner as the Coach is required to do.

18.12 All Match Officials must wear BJFL official identification vests at all times during all BJFL games. Any Official not wearing his vest shall be liable to a fine. Once allocated to a position for the game, bibs cannot be exchanged.

18.13 All clubs must abide by the Child Safe Standards as set out by law / governing bodies (e.g. Working With Children Check).

CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

- 19.1** At any ground where a Junior Club shares a facility with a Senior Club, it is the responsibility of that Junior Club (whether or not it is fixtured to play there and whether or not it is the Home Team) to ensure that goal post covers are fitted, that any other safety equipment items that may be required are readily available, that Change Rooms are open and operational and that the interchange area is marked at the facility for all fixtured BJFL Games.
- 19.2** The Home Team is responsible for the following-
- 19.2.1** Collecting all match information and submitting as required by the prescribed time on the day of play.
 - 19.2.2** Providing the football for the match as prescribed under **By-Law 6**, and
 - 19.2.3** Providing markers for Interchange area (refer **By-Law 23.3**)
- 19.3** Both participating Teams are responsible for the following in relation to Change Rooms (whenever available) –
- 19.3.1** Ensuring the change rooms are left in a clean and tidy condition before they vacate the rooms (even if another club is to use the rooms for following game)
 - 19.3.2** Ensuring no valuables or property are left unattended. The BJFL shall not be responsible for any loss or damage to a Club's or Player's personal property.
 - 19.3.3** A Club shall be liable for any damage caused to any rooms being used by that Club's Team.
 - 19.3.4** Teams must ensure that no footballs are kicked within the confines of the rooms. Hand passes only shall be permitted.
 - 19.3.5** Any Team failing to abide by this By-Law shall receive a written warning. If that Team offends this By-Law again during the season it may be banned from using any change room used in the BJFL for a time as determined by the Advisory Committee. Any ban may include the Finals Series.
- 19.4** All Clubs shall be responsible for the conduct of their Members, Players, Officers and Officials and shall also endeavour to properly control spectators during and at all fixtures in which that Club is involved, and shall use their best endeavours to ensure that spectators comply with **By-Law 19.5 and the BJFL Code of Conduct and BJFL Conditions of Entry**.
- 19.4.1** 'BJFL Conditions of Entry' shall be enforced as per the policy provided in the 'Team Managers and Coaches Handbook' and BJFL website.
- 19.5** Spectators must remain outside the fence during play and should stand clear of the Goal Umpire. On grounds where there are no fences spectators must stand well back from the boundary.

BJFL GAME RULES

ORDER OFF RULE

- 20.1** The AFLVC Order Off Rule will apply to all BJFL Games with the following additional provision to apply: Under 12 Blue Card; 5-minute cool off with player replacement allowed and the White Card System (policy available on the BJFL website).
- 20.2** Any player ordered off for a third or subsequent time during the Season without being reported, shall be ineligible to play in the match following the third or subsequent order off.

FIFTY METRE AND TWENTY-FIVE METRE PENALTIES

- 21.1** A 50 metre Penalty shall be applied in accordance with the Laws of the Game in all Age Group Games for Under 15 or older Age Groups but this penalty shall be reduced to 25 metres in all younger Age Groups and female divisions.
- 21.2** A mark shall be paid in accordance with the Laws of the Game in all Age Group Games for Under 15 or older Age Groups but this distance shall be reduced to 10 metres in all younger Age Groups except

Under 9 & 10's. Marks are awarded for a kick no matter what distance it travels in Under 9 & 10 Division.

CENTRE SQUARE RULE

23.1 The Centre Square Rule shall apply to all Age Groups of the Bendigo Junior Football League and will be enforced only on grounds where the centre square is already marked or has provision for Senior Football to be played.

INTERCHANGE

23.1 An Interchange area must be used in all BJFL Games. The procedures for the interchange of Players during a Game shall be as provided in the Laws of the Game. A Player who does not leave the ground in accordance with those procedures shall not be permitted to take no further part in the Match.

23.2 The BJFL may appoint a Steward to supervise the interchange procedures during any Game (e.g. Finals). In all other Games where no Steward has been so appointed, the Timekeepers appointed by both Teams shall jointly act as Stewards for the purposes of the interchange law, and shall stand together at the interchange area throughout the Match.

23.3 On grounds that are not marked, the Interchange area must be designated by plastic dome type markers supplied by the Home Team (per **By-Law 19.2.3**), placed 15 metres apart in an area that is to the satisfaction of both Coaches and the Field Umpire.

AFTER MATCH PROVISIONS

RESULTS

24.1 As soon as possible after the completion of a BJFL Game, the Home Team Manager must confer with the Team Manager of the opposition Team, then complete the online results

24.1.1 No more than 6 best Players per Team to be lodged online.

24.1.2 Goal kickers for the match to be listed.

24.1.2 All match day documents must be submitted to the BJFL by the home team, no later than 12 noon on the Monday following the round.

PROTESTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

25.1 Protests as to the result of any BJFL Game may only be lodged by a Club or a member of the Advisory Committee. A Protest by a Club must accord with **By-Law 1.5** and must be lodged with the JOM within 72 hours of the starting time of the Game in question.

25.2 An Advisory Committee hearing shall be convened to hear and arbitrate on all matters that have been brought before it under **By-Law 25.1**.

25.3 The Advisory Committee may refer any matter under this By-Law to the Investigator for further investigation, and, if it decides not to determine the matter itself, it may refer the matter to the Tribunal for decision.

26.1 The AFLVC Rules concerning investigations apply to the BJFL and shall be carried out whenever a notice is lodged under the rules alleging any such conduct.

26.1.2 The If the investigation officer finds that there is no case to answer, or if the independent tribunal finds the person not guilty, then the cost of the investigation shall be borne by the club requesting the investigation.

26.1.3 If there is a case to answer and that person is found guilty at a subsequent tribunal hearing or accepts the set penalty offered, then the cost of the investigation shall be borne by the club to which the guilty person is affiliated.

- 26.1.4** If both clubs are found to be at fault, then the costs shall be shared between the two.
- 26.2** Any person or Club requested to provide evidence by the Investigator shall fully co-operate with them, including –
- 26.2.1** Truthfully answering any questions from the Investigator,
 - 26.2.2** Producing any relevant document in his custody or control when requested,
 - 26.2.3** Responding courteously and politely to Investigator requests.

REPORTS AND OPTIONAL PENALTIES

- 27.1** Umpires shall report to the BJFL any player or official who commits a Reportable Offence during a Match or on the day of a Match within the immediate proximity of the venue where the Match is conducted. Reports are to be made in accordance with the Laws of the Game / National Handbook.
- 27.2** The reporting procedure adopted by the AFLVC (as set out in the National Handbook) applies to Reports made by Umpires to the BJFL.
- 27.3** Boundary and Goal Umpires provided by Clubs in accordance with these By-Laws are not able to report a Player or Official.
- 27.4** Any player who is suspended by the Tribunal, or for whom a set penalty is imposed as above, or who receives a suspension under any other By-Law, shall be ineligible to win a 'Best and Fairest' Award of the BJFL in the year in which the suspension or set penalty is imposed.

PENALTIES, FINES AND APPEALS

- 28.1** If at any time any Player, Club Official, Club, Umpire, member of the Executive or any other person ("the Offender") shall, in the reasonable opinion of the Advisory Committee, be guilty of a Reportable Offence or of misconduct or unbecoming conduct or conduct prejudicial to the interest of the BJFL, then the Advisory Committee may, subject to the BJFL Rules, at any time during the calendar year when the incident leading to such action occurs or within 3 months thereafter, at its discretion –
- 28.1.1** Request the Investigator to investigate the incident and then take such further action under this By-Law or any other By-Law as it considers appropriate, or
 - 28.1.2** Impose a Fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 on the Offender, or
 - 28.1.3** If the Offender is a Club, cause that Club to be expelled or suspended as a member of the BJFL in accordance with the BJFL Rules, or
 - 28.1.4** Deregister or refuse to register any Player or Official for any period of time, or
 - 28.1.5** Impose such further penalty as it thinks fit, or
 - 28.1.6** Do any combination of the foregoing.
- 28.2** The Advisory Committee shall not impose any of the penalties set out in the preceding **By-Law 28.1** (other than Reporting an Offender) unless it has given the alleged Offender details of the alleged offence and the opportunity of being heard or of making a written statement to which due consideration is given by the Advisory Committee.
- 28.3** All fines other than those handed down by the tribunal or independent investigator shall be determined by the Advisory Committee. This includes any breach under the Most Disciplined Club Award Criteria where the Advisory Committee believe the club has breached and/or not co-operated with the MDCA incident response form guidelines.
This shall also include any suspended fines or penalties issued.
- 28.4** Any person or Club receiving a penalty or fine or aggrieved by a Decision by the Advisory Committee or Investigator may appeal. Notice of the Appeal must accord with **By-Law 1.5** and must be lodged with the JOM within 72 hours of the occasion for the Appeal. The fee set out in **By-Law 28.6** must accompany the Notice of Appeal. The Tribunal shall hear the Appeal.
- 28.5** Any person or Club receiving a penalty or fine because of a decision by the Tribunal shall have any Right of Appeal in the AFLVC Rules but as an alternative may lodge a complaint under Policy Breach section of the National Handbook. If it determines a penalty should apply, it may then impose such penalty as it considers appropriate.
- 28.6**

PART D - FINALS

FINALS ELIGIBILITY

- 29.1** BJFL players can only play in one finals division / age group / competition / league per year. If player plays in a final in a different league, they will be ineligible from playing in the BJFL finals series. Written exemptions for *special circumstances* will be considered by the Advisory Committee, if received 4 or more days prior to the final.
- 29.2** A player must play a minimum of 4 BJFL games in the division (age appropriate) they wish to play finals in during the current home and away season to be considered eligible to play finals in that division. Exemptions may be available upon request for exceptional circumstances.
- 29.3** A player must be registered by the commencement of the 4th last round of the home and away season.
- 29.4 Under 12:** Players may only play in the finals for the division in which they are nominated prior to their first game. **(Refer to By-Law 8.2).**
- 29.5** To play in Division 2 or Division 3 finals, players (not included in nominated top 10 players and not having played more than 8 games in the higher division) may play in the next lower division provided 29.1 and 29.2 eligibility rules are met.
- 29.6** Should any team have less than 20 players at finals time, they may make application to play *ineligible* players from their lower division team, provided that the team hasn't played / isn't playing finals, up to a maximum of 20 players.
- Such application is to be made to the BJFL Advisory Committee at least four (4) days prior to each week of finals matches. Their decision shall be final.
- The BJFL Advisory Committee shall have the power to seek medical evidence of a players' injury should they consider it necessary.
- 29.7** Although all BJFL fees are due and payable by the 30th June each year, should any fees remain outstanding, then such clubs' teams' will be ineligible to compete in any finals matches until full payment is made.
- 29.8** Limitation of playing numbers on field or player share will not occur during finals, unless agreed to by both teams.

FINALS SERIES

- 30.1.1** The BJFL shall provide all footballs for all Finals series matches. Each team still required to bring a good quality match day football as a spare so that at least 2 Footballs are available for every finals game (as prescribed under By-law 6). The BJFL shall in addition, provide a new football for each Grand Final game.

NOTE: Footballs provided in other than Grand Finals shall remain the property of the BJFL.

Each Team competing in Finals is also responsible for the following –

- 30.1.2** Collecting match day paperwork as prescribed and submitting them by the required time.
- 30.1.3** Unless the JOM determines otherwise, it shall not be necessary for any team to supply any Umpire for any Finals game. If the JOM decides any such person must be provided, then each Team must provide such a person.

- 30.2** Unless the Advisory Committee otherwise determines, Time On shall be played in the second half only of all Finals games, and in any extra Time periods played under **By-Law 30.3**, in accordance with the Laws of the Game except that the Law that Time On always be added while the ball is out of bounds [Law 10.5.1(d)] shall not apply.

The clock shall not be stopped for scoring of goals UNLESS there is an undue delay. i.e. ball goes outside the perimeter fence. There should however be very few occasions when this is necessary due to there being spare balls held by Ground Managers.

If the umpire halts play in **ANY** quarter for a serious injury, the clock shall be stopped and time-on will apply.

- 30.3** In all Finals (including the Grand Final) if scores are confirmed level by the Goal Umpires at the scheduled time of completion of a game, the Field Umpire shall resume the match after a break of 2 minutes as follows:-
- 30.3.1** Teams shall change ends and play 2 x 5 minute periods. Teams shall change ends after the completion of the first 5 minute period.
 - 30.3.2** If scores are still level, the Captains shall toss for ends. Play will then immediately resume and the Team that scores first shall be the winner.
 - 30.3.3** Coaches are permitted to address their Players at the completion of normal time only, for a time period not exceeding 2 minutes. They may not address Players again during the extra time period.
 - 30.3.4** If Time On has been played per **By-Law 30.2** for that game, Time On shall also be played in the extra time periods playable under this By-Law.
- 30.4** Any Team causing delays before, during or after its Finals game shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$50.
- 30.5** The BJFL shall during the Finals series charge admission into finals venues. Admission prices shall be determined by the Advisory Committee at least 6 weeks prior to the Finals series and notified to Delegates at the following GM.
- 30.6** The following provisions shall apply unless the Advisory Committee determines that a different procedure is to be used in a particular season:-
- 30.6.1** In Divisions where 8 or less teams compete, there shall be a **Final Four**.
 - 30.6.2** In Divisions where 9 or more teams compete, there shall be a **Final Five**.

30.6.3 Finals shall be played over 4 weeks as follows:-

30.6.4 Where a **Final Four** applies -

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Week 1 - First Semi-Final (SF1) | - 3 rd place V 4 th place |
| Week 2 - Second Semi-Final (SF2) | - 1 st place V 2 nd place |
| Week 3 - Preliminary Final (PF) | - Loser SF2 V Winner SF1 |
| Week 4 - Grand Final | - Winner SF2 V Winner PF |

30.6.5 Where a **Final Five** applies-

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Week 1 - Elimination Final (EF) | - 4 th place V 5 th place |
| Qualifying Final (QF) | - 2 nd place V 3 rd place |
| Week 2 - First Semi-Final (SF1) | - Loser QF V Winner EF |
| Second Semi-Final (SF2) | - 1 st V Winner QF |
| Week 3 - Preliminary Final (PF) | - Loser SF2 V Winner SF1 |
| Week 4 - Grand Final | - Winner SF2 V Winner PF |

30.7 Subject to **By-Laws 29 and 30**, the provisions of **By-Laws 12 to 28** inclusive apply to all Finals games.

PART E - OTHER PROVISIONS

BEST & FAIREST AWARDS

- 31.1** Field Umpires, including persons appointed to umpire under **By-Law 16.1**, shall award votes for Best and Fairest Players in all Season Games in accordance with procedures set down for Under 14 Mixed, Under 15 Girls and Under 16 Boys.
- 31.2** Under 14 Mixed, Under 15 Girls and Under 16 Boys shall have a separate Award as shall each Division within those age Groups. Where a Team's Division is changed following the split made under **By-Law 11**, votes cast before the split shall nevertheless be awarded to the player in the Division in which that player's Team competes after the split, so that the player is credited with all votes cast for him/her during the season games in that Age division.

31.3 In the event 2 or more players receive an equal number of votes in the Award for any Division, they shall each receive the award.

31.4 By-Law 27.5 applies to make certain Players ineligible for an Award.

31.5 The Advisory Committee may determine to offer additional Awards at its discretion.

LIFE MEMBERS

32.1 The Directors shall be empowered to elect life members to the BJFL.

32.2 Clubs may submit names of suitable nominees.

32.3 To be eligible a nominee must have given outstanding service to the BJFL.

32.4 Nominations for each year shall close on **July 30** of that year.

CHANGES TO THESE BY-LAWS

33.1 The competition rules and by-laws may be amended by the BJFL Advisory Committee pursuant to the rules and advised to affiliate clubs.

33.2 The JOM shall give notice of a Special GM for the purposes of **By-Law 33.1** if so, requested by the Advisory Committee or by any 2 Clubs.

33.3 No changes to these By-laws shall take effect after **May 30** until the end of the Season for that year, except in the case of extraordinary circumstances (**33.1**).