

To: SMJFL Club Presidents, Secretaries and Football Operations Personnel
From: Matthew Brown, CEO
Date: Thursday, 30 November 2023
Re: SMJFL Bylaw Review Update

Thank you to those clubs who contributed to the first round of the SMJFL Bylaw Review ahead of Season 2024.

The first round of submissions closed on 23 October 2023 and since then the SMJFL Football, Pathways and Talent (FPT) Committee has, on 21 November, considered both the feedback and proposed amendments as submitted through the online platform.

Attached with this communication are the draft amended SMJFL Bylaws, as of 30 November 2023, with clubs now invited to provide further comment/feedback, following inclusions from stakeholders. Please note:

1. The final feedback period will close on 18 January 2024
2. The only feedback which will be received will be that which is received via the online link at: [SMJFL Bylaw Review Feedback Link](#)
3. Once the additional feedback / proposed amendments have been reviewed by the FPT Committee, the Bylaws will then be reformatted, with all numbering, references, links, and layout checked; and
4. Presented as a “final version” (of the revised Bylaws) to the SMJFL Board for approval at its 21 February 2024 meeting after which, and subject to Board approval, the updated Bylaws will be published online and circulated to clubs.

Additional future amendments to be communicated:

- i. The AFL has advised that the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH) is currently under review. Any additional amendments, required because of these updates will be considered before the SMJFL adopt all, or part, of the updated NCFPH and will be communicated separately
- ii. **SMJFL Bylaw 25.1 - Rules Variation Matrix** – will be updated in consultation with the AFL’s Junior Match Policy ahead of the Club Conference 3 March 2024
- iii. **SMJFL Bylaw 42 – Appendix 2 Set Penalties** – it is currently proposed that all Umpire Abuse charges will be increased by 1.5 times the current penalty e.g. a 4-week sanction increases to 6 weeks etc)

- iv. **SMJFL Bylaw 44. Appendix 4 – Player Movement and Finals Qualification Policy** is currently under review in consultation with the AFL Junior Match Policy and will be updated accordingly and distributed to all Clubs; and
- v. **SMJFL Bylaw 44. Appendix 4 cl. 2.11** – the existing competitions / team rankings listing will be updated once the AFL Guidelines are finalised.

Thank you and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the SMJFL office.

END

