



Club Conference 2024

Football Operations

Proudly Partnered By



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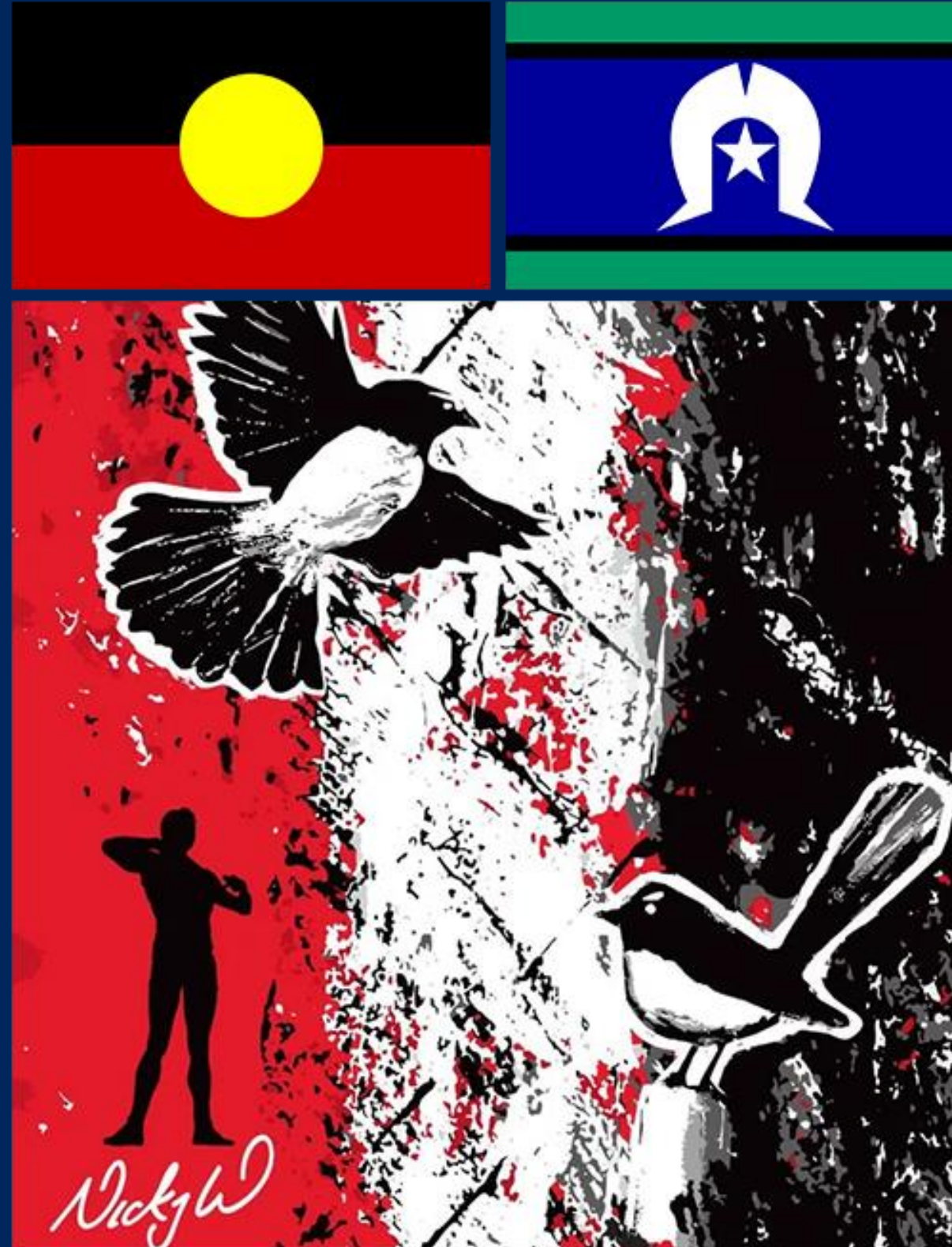


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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



Club Conference
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AGENDA



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I. Umpiring

- i. 2024 Umpiring Department
- ii. SMJFL OpenCorp Umpire Academy
 - Role of an Umpire
 - Club Volunteer Umpires
 - Appointments

2. Football Operations

- i. Bylaws / Junior Match Policy
- ii. Season Calendar
- iii. Operational Requirements
- iv. Risk Management



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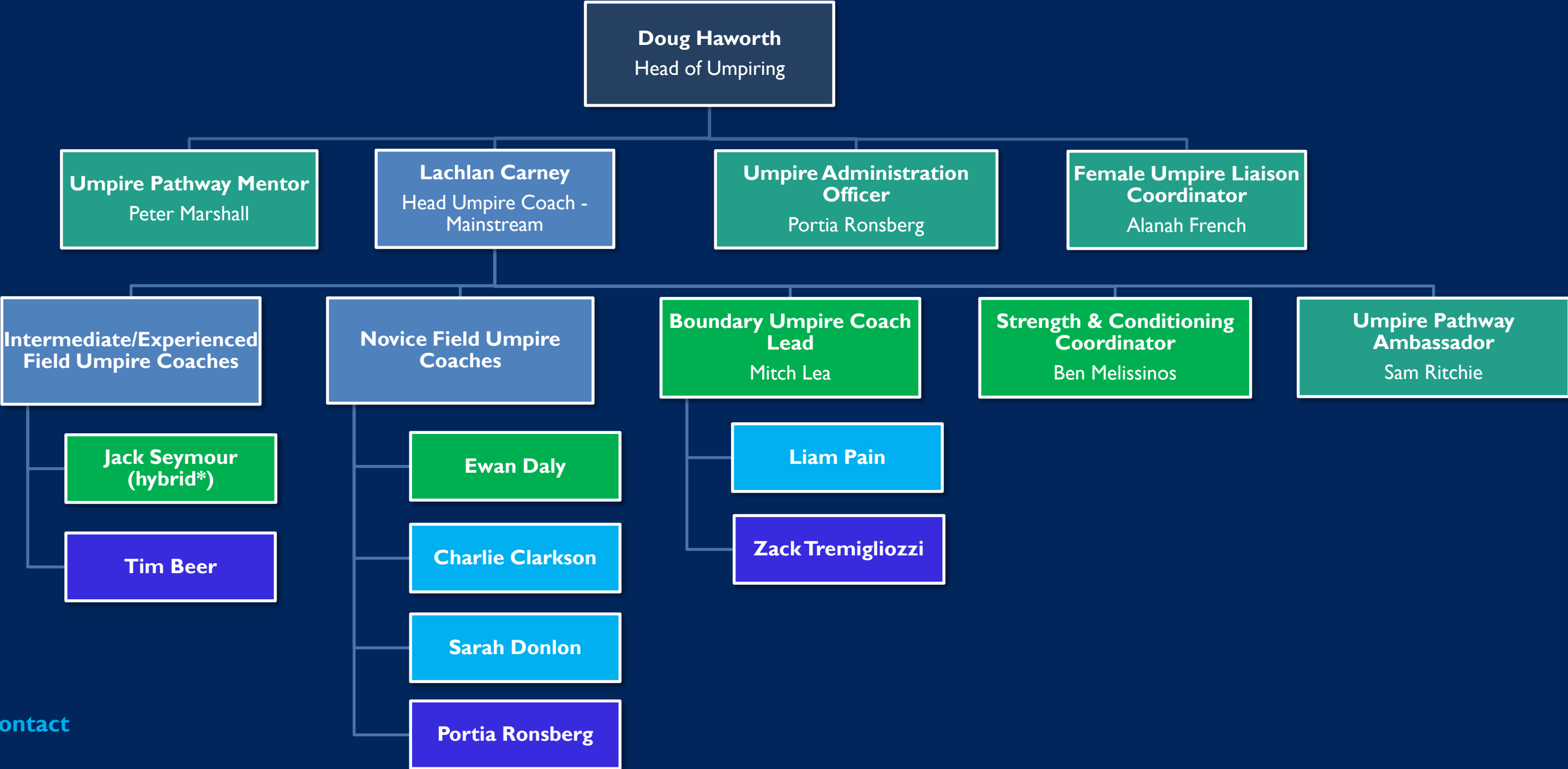
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UMPIRING DEPARTMENT



Club Conference
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2024 Organisation Chart



Umpiring Department Contact
P: 0490 495 079
E: umpiring@smjfl.com.au

Only club Presidents, Secretaries or Incident Officers to contact the umpiring department unless;

- Umpire no-show
- Other umpire related incidents that require immediate attention e.g. Injured umpire (**NOT** reports, umpire feedback)



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UMPIRING DEPARTMENT

Additional Staff



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Portia Ronsberg

Umpire Administration Officer

- Assists with admin enquiries from Umpires
- Weekly Field Umpire Appointments
- Coaching Novice Field Umpires



Peter Marshall

Umpire Pathway Mentor

- Former VFL/AFL Umpire
- Helping develop Umpires in their transition from Junior to Senior Football



Sam Ritchie

Umpire Pathway Ambassador

- AFLW Umpire Field Umpire and former SMJFL Umpire
- Support Umpires interested in the talent pathway (regardless of experience)



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UMPIRING DEPARTMENT



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The Umpire

Duty and role

The duty and role of the umpire:

- As per Laws of Australian Football 8.2.1 Field Umpires; The field Umpires shall have full control of and officiate a Match in accordance with these laws.
- The role of the umpire is to interpret and apply the laws of Australian Football within the spirit and intention of each law.

Academy Structure

- Develop junior umpires to officiate in the SMJFL.
- Umpires are categorised based on experience and ability:

Novice

- Less than one year umpiring
- Identified with **red** sweatbands

Intermediate

- More than one year umpiring
- Showing competency with foundations of umpiring
- Identified with **yellow** sweatbands

Experienced

- Identified as potential for senior football/regular U16 or 17 level football
- Identified with **green** sweatbands

Academy coaching team

- 14 appointed coaches/staff
- Inclusive of a qualified Strength & Conditioning coach

A few points to be mindful of:

- Like the Players, Umpires are learning too
- Umpiring presents many challenges, even those in the AFL don't get it right!
- We all play a part in creating a positive matchday environment!



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UMPIRING DEPARTMENT



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Club volunteer Umpires

Duty and role

The duty and role of the umpire:

- Club Volunteer Umpires have the same duty and role as any other umpire

Getting Started

Registration form has been distributed via Club Connect and email.

The registration form requires:

- WWCC
- Acknowledgement of a Code of Conduct

Recruitment

Why is becoming a Club Volunteer Umpire worth it? Well, there are many reasons!

- It is a great way to actively contribute to the development of your child's football journey
- Helps promote a healthy lifestyle
- Meet new, like-minded people each weekend
- Learn a skillset that can be transferable
- Supporting the growth because without umpires, we don't have a game!

Information Sessions

Sunday March 17

- Information session will be held in-person

Wednesday March 20

- Online recording will also be available



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UMPIRING DEPARTMENT



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Appointments

Appointment publishings

- Umpire appointments are published weekly on the Friday before each Round
 - Mid-week matches will be published as soon as possible, prior to the match
 - If any concerns about non-appointment of Umpires, clubs will be contacted
- Appointments published on SMJFL Website via a live Google Doc
 - Teams should check appointments Saturday and Sunday morning in case any late changes

Finals Umpire Appointments

- SMJFL Umpiring Department endeavours to fill as many appointments as possible
- Goal Umpire appointments based on availability from senior leagues and Umpires who suitably fit the role
 - First week – expect to be thin

Goal Umpires are only used in the Final Series



Friday afternoon –
Appointments published



Saturday afternoon –
Teams to check appointments



Sunday morning –
Final check for last minute
changes



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UMPIRING DEPARTMENT – APPOINTMENT NO SHOW



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The SMJFL will endeavour to appoint two (2) Field Umpires to each match. If only one (1) Field Umpire is appointed, it is not a requirement of the Clubs to appoint a second Field Umpire.

- Home Club shall provide a Field Umpire (if available) if the League appointed Umpire should request for assistance.

Where an SMJFL Umpire is absent or unable to complete a match and another member of the current SMJFL Umpires Department is not available, consistent with SMJFL By-Law 26:

- The teams involved may agree to appoint a substitute Field Umpire or Field Umpires who shall:
 - Officiate for the match
 - Have the power to lodge a report against a player or team official; and
 - Award SMJFL best and fairest votes for the match.

If no substitute Field Umpire(s) can be agreed upon the match shall be abandoned and the matter referred to the CEO for a determination regarding allocation of premiership points.

- A team Head Coach is not permitted to act as a Field Umpire.



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UMPIRING DEPARTMENT

Umpiring Staff

Coaches around the grounds

Umpiring Coaches will be around the grounds on match day to:

- Observe and provide feedback for Umpires
- They are not expected to provide operational assistance, outside of their coaching duties
- Team Managers can provide feedback
 - Provided it is done professionally and respectfully



**Coaches
identifiable
by grey and
green on
uniforms**



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UMPIRING DEPARTMENT

Umpiring Department request form

Member Clubs can request to have a representative from the SMJFL Umpiring Department come and speak to a desired audience.

<https://form.jotform.com/240437994048061> or scan the QR code to access the form



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2024 BY-LAWS



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- Consistent with the SMJFL's 2022-2024 Strategic Plan and the leagues commitment to its values of Fun, Accountability, Integrity and Respect, our focus continues to be on delivering a fair and equitable competition.
- Draft 2024 Bylaws with track changes has been sent to Clubs.
- **Clause 44 - Appendix 4 – Player Movement and Finals Qualification** is currently being redrafted following the overwhelming support of Clubs to include reference to Restricted Player Lists (RPL's) from U13 – U18 in season 2024
- A final draft of the Player Movement and Finals Qualifications Clause will be finalised and distributed on Friday 15 March
- “Clean” version of the 2024 SMJFL Bylaws will be distributed to Clubs and made available on the SMJFL website from 18 March



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JUNIOR MATCH POLICY - UPDATES



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Changes to SMJFL By-laws to align with AFL's Junior Match Policy, including:

- Ball Sizes (U8s – Size 1)
- New Age Groups (U8 and U9 Girls)
- Team Numbers (16 players for U12-U18 Girls Competitions)

Other changes that align with AFL's Junior Match Policy, include:

- Updated recommended Ground Size for modified competitions.



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OTHER BY-LAW - UPDATES



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- PlayHQ Administration
 - Administration i.e. Team Sheet submissions (changed to Match Start Time)
 - Match Entry of Results deadline (changed to 9pm on the day of match)
- U11 Girls Non-Modified (All Divisions)
- Restricted Player Lists (See Next Slide)



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OTHER BY-LAW - UPDATES



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- 2024 UPDATED RULES MATRIX



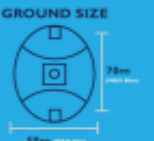
SOUTH METRO JUNIOR

FOOTBALL LEAGUE


RULES MATRIX

MIXED UNDER 8

GROUND SIZE



70m




10 MINS

14-A-SIDE (MAX 12)

3-6-3

MINI-FOOTBALL

SYNTHETIC SIZE 1




✓ ZONES

✓ RESULTS

✓ SCOREBOARD

✗ B&F/GOALS

 LIGHTNING CARNIVAL

✗

• BUMPING

• BARGING

• SMOTHERING

• FENDING OFF

• SHEPHERDING

• KICKING OFF THE GROUND

• THROW INS

• SET PLAYING POSITIONS

• STEALING THE BALL

• DELIBERATE OUT OF BOUNDS

• DELIBERATELY RUSHED BEHIND

• PLAY ON WHILST ADVANCING

TACKLING (MODIFIED)


BOUNCING THE BALL (1 MAX)

BALL UPS (NOMINATED PLAYERS OF EQUAL SIZE)

MARKING (ANY DISTANCE)

DISTANCE PENALTY (10m)

WAIT FOR FLAG AFTER POINT ✓



BOUNDARY UMPIRES

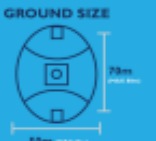
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FIELD UMPIRES


2

(CLUB APPOINTED)

GROUND SIZE



70m




10 MINS

9-A-SIDE (MAX 12)

3-6-3

MINI-FOOTBALL

SYNTHETIC SIZE 1




✓ ZONES

✓ RESULTS

✓ SCOREBOARD

✗ B&F/GOALS

 LIGHTNING CARNIVAL

✗

• BUMPING

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BALL UPS (NOMINATED PLAYERS OF EQUAL SIZE)

MARKING (ANY DISTANCE)

DISTANCE PENALTY (10m)

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BOUNDARY UMPIRES

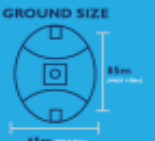
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FIELD UMPIRES


2

(CLUB APPOINTED)

GROUND SIZE



85m




12 MINS

14-A-SIDE (MAX 12)

3-6-3

MINI-FOOTBALL

SYNTHETIC SIZE 1




✓ ZONES

✓ RESULTS

✓ SCOREBOARD

✗ B&F/GOALS

 LIGHTNING CARNIVAL

✗

• BUMPING

• BARGING

• SMOTHERING

• FENDING OFF

• SHEPHERDING

• KICKING OFF THE GROUND

• THROW INS

• SET PLAYING POSITIONS

• STEALING THE BALL

• DELIBERATE OUT OF BOUNDS

• DELIBERATELY RUSHED BEHIND

• PLAY ON WHILST ADVANCING

TACKLING (MODIFIED)


BOUNCING THE BALL (1 MAX)

BALL UPS (NOMINATED PLAYERS OF EQUAL SIZE)

MARKING (ANY DISTANCE)

DISTANCE PENALTY (10m)

WAIT FOR FLAG AFTER POINT ✓



BOUNDARY UMPIRES

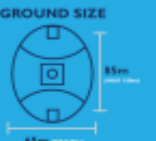
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FIELD UMPIRES


2

(CLUB APPOINTED)

GROUND SIZE



85m




10 MINS

9-A-SIDE (MAX 12)

3-6-3

MINI-FOOTBALL

SYNTHETIC SIZE 1




✓ ZONES

✓ RESULTS

✓ SCOREBOARD

✗ B&F/GOALS

 LIGHTNING CARNIVAL

✗

• BUMPING

• BARGING

• SMOTHERING

• FENDING OFF

• SHEPHERDING

• KICKING OFF THE GROUND

• THROW INS

• SET PLAYING POSITIONS

• STEALING THE BALL

• DELIBERATE OUT OF BOUNDS

• DELIBERATELY RUSHED BEHIND

• PLAY ON WHILST ADVANCING

TACKLING (MODIFIED)


BOUNCING THE BALL (1 MAX)

BALL UPS (NOMINATED PLAYERS OF EQUAL SIZE)

MARKING (ANY DISTANCE)

DISTANCE PENALTY (10m)

WAIT FOR FLAG AFTER POINT ✓



BOUNDARY UMPIRES

✗

FIELD UMPIRES

2

(CLUB APPOINTED)

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OTHER BY-LAW - UPDATES



Club Conference
2024

- 2024 UPDATED RULES MATRIX




SOUTH METRO JUNIOR

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RULES MATRIX

MIXED UNDER 14

GROUND SIZE




14-A-SIDE (MAX 11)

3 - 8 - 5

MIN 10 LENGTH

15 MINS

LEATHER SIZE 4



✗ ZONES

✓ RESULTS

✓ SCOREBOARD

✓ B&F/GOALS

✓

FINALS SERIES

✓

TACKLING

BUMPING

BARGING

SHOOTING

PENDING OFF

SHEPHERDING

THROW INS

STEALING THE BALL

KICKING OFF THE GROUND

PLAY ON WHILST ADVANCING

DELIBERATE OUT OF BOUNDS

DELIBERATELY RUSHED BEHIND

SET PLAYING POSITIONS ✗


BOUNCING THE BALL (UNLIMITED)

BALL UPS ✓

MARKING (5m)

DISTANCE PENALTY (20m)

WAIT FOR FLAG AFTER POINT ✓



BOUNDARY UMPIRES

✓


(LEAGUE APPOINTED BY 1 & 2 ONLY)

FIELD UMPIRES

2

BOYS UNDER 15, 16 & 17.5

GROUND SIZE




14-A-SIDE (MAX 11)

3 - 10 - 5

MIN 10 LENGTH

20 MINS

LEATHER SIZE 5



✗ ZONES

✓ RESULTS

✓ SCOREBOARD

✓ B&F/GOALS

✓

FINALS SERIES

✓

TACKLING

BUMPING

BARGING

SHOOTING

PENDING OFF

SHEPHERDING

THROW INS

STEALING THE BALL

KICKING OFF THE GROUND

PLAY ON WHILST ADVANCING

DELIBERATE OUT OF BOUNDS

DELIBERATELY RUSHED BEHIND

SET PLAYING POSITIONS ✗


BOUNCING THE BALL (UNLIMITED)

BALL UPS ✓

MARKING (5m)

DISTANCE PENALTY (11-15m, 17.5-20m)

WAIT FOR FLAG AFTER POINT ✓ (11-15 ONLY)



BOUNDARY UMPIRES

✓

FIELD UMPIRES

2

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RESTRICTED PLAYER LISTS



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- Clubs with multiple teams in any of the U13-U18 Age Groups are asked to provide a Restricted Player List to the SMJFL (Date TBC):

- X number of players per team 18-a-side comp*
- X number of players per team 16-a-side comp*

*Not required for the lowest ranked team

- Clubs required to “fill from below”:

- RPL players:

- CAN play in a higher division
- CAN play in a higher Age Group (if competition is ranked higher)
- CAN'T play in a lower division
- CAN'T play in finals in a team other than the team they are nominated on an RPL for

- Non-RPL players:

- CAN play in a maximum of two teams within an Age Group
- However, 6-match rule still applies

DIVISION 1	DIVISION 3	DIVISION 4
P1 (RPL)	P1 (RPL)	P1 (UNRESTRICTED)
P2 (RPL)	P2 (RPL)	P2 (UNRESTRICTED)
P3 (RPL)	P3 (RPL)	P3 (UNRESTRICTED)
P4 (RPL)	P4 (RPL)	P4 (UNRESTRICTED)
P5 (RPL)	P5 (RPL)	P5 (UNRESTRICTED)
P6 (RPL)	P6 (RPL)	P6 (UNRESTRICTED)
P7 (RPL)	P7 (RPL)	P7 (UNRESTRICTED)
P8 (RPL)	P8 (RPL)	P8 (UNRESTRICTED)
P9 (RPL)	P9 (RPL)	P9 (UNRESTRICTED)
P10 (RPL)	P10 (RPL)	P10 (UNRESTRICTED)
P11 (RPL)	P11 (RPL)	P11 (UNRESTRICTED)
P12 (RPL)	P12 (RPL)	P12 (UNRESTRICTED)
P13 (RPL)	P13 (RPL)	P13 (UNRESTRICTED)
P14 (RPL)	P14 (RPL)	P14 (UNRESTRICTED)
P15 (RPL)	P15 (RPL)	P15 (UNRESTRICTED)
P16 (UNRESTRICTED)	P16 (UNRESTRICTED)	P16 (UNRESTRICTED)
P17 (UNRESTRICTED)	P17 (UNRESTRICTED)	P17 (UNRESTRICTED)
P18 (UNRESTRICTED)	P18 (UNRESTRICTED)	P18 (UNRESTRICTED)



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2024 UNDERS PROGRAM



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- Program running again in 2024
- 4-week transition program taking place immediately after the 2024 Auskick season (1st or 2nd week of August).
- Auskick centers create a team/s made up of Auskick participants eligible for under 8's in 2025. These teams will again be aligned to SMJFL clubs.

NOTE

Contact details of Unders participants are provided to Clubs following completion of program to help drive recruitment.

Over 75% of U8s participants in 2024 participated in the Unders program in 2023.



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**SMJFL are launching AFL Nines
as an additional way to play the game**

More information to come



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OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS – BEFORE THE GAME



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Team Sheets

- Submit team selections before the match starts
- Both team lists will download once both teams have submitted
- Player **must** be removed from team sheet if they don't take the field

Venue Set Up

- Ensure ground markings are correct and visible
 - Boundary line at least three (3) metres from any potential obstacle
- Modified rules ground is set up according to SMJFL Rule Variation Matrix
- First match played at a venue must complete a Ground Inspection Report (link in Team Managers Handbook)
- Encouraged to set up a three (3) metre exclusion area around each team bench (no parents/spectators)

Equipment

- Must provide Goal Umpires with
 - Flags x 2, white coat, pen/pencil, score card
- Timekeepers to be provided with scorecards (Timekeeper specific)

Match Day Roles

- Ensure all roles are filled with accredited people (accreditations where applicable)

Umpires

- Meet Umpires and have two footballs ready of the appropriate specifications (according to SMJFL Rule Variation Matrix)



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OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS – DURING THE GAME



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Spectator Behaviour

- TM responsible for addressing issues involving their team's spectators (i.e. spectators towards Umpires)

Interchange Bench

- Only permitted officials allowed in team interchange bench area
 - Coach, Assistant Coach, Coach Development Program (CDP) – Junior Coach
 - Trainer
 - Runner
- Ensuring no one else enters that area (Team Manager included)
- Enforce three (3) metre exclusion area (if set up)

Umpires

- Check in with Umpires at half-time



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OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS – AFTER THE GAME



Club Conference
2024

Duties

- TM to complete Competition Match Report (CMR).

Goal Umpires & Timekeeper Equipment

- Must collect and keep respective Goal Umpire Scorecards and Timekeeper Cards.
- Submit scores and other match statistics in PlayHQ by 9pm on the day of the match.

This is also a requirement for Modified games

Injuries

- Injuries to be reported to Club.

Umpire

- TM name given to Umpires for CMR.
 - On the basis of confirming the details of the CMR (i.e. no reports, issues etc.)
- Club will be notified of any incidents / abuse by the Umpires / SMJFL Match Officials (discussed further in Incident Management session).



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2024 FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION DATES



Club Conference
2024

Action (blue = club action required)	Date	Who?
Nominations for 2024 SMJFL Grading Committee	Wednesday 8th November, 2023	SMJFL
2024 Grading Committee - Meeting #1	Tuesday, 28 November 2023	Clubs
Initial pre-season gradings posted on Secretaries' Corner	Monday, 22 January 2024	SMJFL
Football Operations Club Meetings Open	Monday, 5th February 2024	SMJFL / Clubs
SMJFL Board considers final draft 2024 SMJFL Bylaws	Wednesday, 21 February 2024	SMJFL BOARD
Initial Grading Committee Meeting	Thursday, 22 February 2024	SMJFL
SMJFL Bylaws circulated and loaded to SMJFL Website. Note: subject to Board approval	Thursday, 22 February 2024	SMJFL
Final gradings posted on Secretaries' Corner	Sunday, 25 February 2024	SMJFL
SMJFL Club Conference	Sunday, 25 February 2024	SMJFL / CLUBS
SMJFL send summary from club meeting to each club - ground info and fixture requests	Wednesday, 28 February 2024	SMJFL
Football Operations Club Meetings Close	Thursday 29th February 2024	SMJFL / Clubs
SMJFL finalise fixture masterlist V1	Friday 1 March, 2024	SMJFL
Final teams, ground info and fixture request due (9am) -	Friday 15 March, 2024	SMJFL
Updated gradings posted on Secretaries' Corner	Monday 25 March 2024	SMJFL
Final fixtures released on website (rds 1&2)	Friday, 5 April 2024	SMJFL
Round 1	Sunday, 14 April 2024	ALL
Final fixtures released on website (rds 3&4)	Tuesday, 23 April 2024	SMJFL
Re-grading requests due by 5pm	Sunday, 5 May 2024	Clubs
Football Operations review submissions (Afternoon/Evening)	Sunday, 5 May 2024	SMJFL
Grading Committee Meeting for Regrade	Monday, 6 May 2024	SMJFL
Updated gradings released to clubs	Tuesday, 7th May, 2024	SMJFL
Final fixtures released on website (rds 5-9)	Wednesday, 8 May 2024	SMJFL
Final fixtures released on website (rds 10-15)	Friday, 14 June 2024	SMJFL



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2024 SMJFL SEASON DATES



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Date	Day	U8 & U9	U10	U11-U13	U14+	Holidays
14/04/2024	Sunday	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	School Holidays
21/04/2024	Sunday	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	
28/04/2024	Sunday	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	
5/05/2024	Sunday	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	
12/05/2024	Sunday	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Mother's Day
19/05/2024	Sunday	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	
26/05/2024	Sunday	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	
29/05/2024	Wednesday	Interleague Round 1				
2/06/2024	Sunday	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	
8/06/2024	Saturday	Interleague Round 2				
9/06/2024	Sunday	No Games				
10/06/2024	Monday	Interleague Round 3				King's Birthday
16/06/2024	Sunday	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	
23/06/2024	Sunday	No Games				School Holidays
30/06/2024	Sunday	No Games				School Holidays
7/07/2024	Sunday	No Games				School Holidays
14/07/2024	Sunday	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	School Holidays
21/07/2024	Sunday	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	
28/07/2024	Sunday	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	
4/08/2024	Sunday	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	
11/08/2024	Sunday	LC	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14	
18/08/2024	Sunday		LC	Round 15	Round 15	
Week commencing 19/08/2024				Semi Finals	Semi Finals	
Week commencing 26/08/2024				Grand Finals	Preliminary Finals	Father's Day
Week commencing 02/09/2024					Grand Finals	



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RISK MANAGEMENT – UNFIT GROUND



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- Prior to commencement of play home team manager or ground manager must complete inspection of the ground and Ground Inspection Report be completed online.
- Where both team managers agree that the ground is unsafe
 - Attempts should be made to find alternative venue, in consultation with SMJFL staff
- If no alternative venue is found
 - Match will not proceed on fixtured day
 - May be rescheduled at the CEO's absolute discretion
- If no reschedule occurs
 - The match is abandoned
 - Premiership points will be split and no adjustment to teams' cumulative total points for and against



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RISK MANAGEMENT – NO UMPIRE IN ATTENDANCE



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- Where an SMJFL umpire is absent or unable to complete match:
 - Teams may agree to a substitute
 - A Head Coach is not permitted to umpire
 - If no substitute can be agreed upon the match will be abandoned and referred to CEO for premiership point allocation
- If 1 Field Umpire is appointed it is not a requirement for a club to provide a second umpire



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RISK MANAGEMENT – INJURY STOPPED GAME

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Where play is stopped because of an injury for a period of time equal to 1 quarter the following procedure applies:

- Where an alternate ground at the same venue is available, in suitable condition and agreed upon by Team managers
 - Play should continue the alternate oval at the same point which it was stopped.
- Where no alternate venue is immediately available (game stopped before half time):
 - Game abandoned
 - Premiership points shared
 - No adjustment to for and against scores
- Where no alternative venue is immediately available (game stopped after half time)
 - Game abandoned
 - Scores remain final



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ANY OTHER MATCH DAY ISSUES



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If you are unsure about any other issues on match day call the SMJFL Match Day number on ...

Match Day Contact Details

Bree Vallance: General Manager – Football Operations

Ph: 0411 499 907

Doug Haworth: Head of Umpiring

Ph: 0490 495 079



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UNIQUE MATCH PROCESSES - HEAD COUNT



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- If a team captain calls for a head count during play:
 - The field umpire requests a head count of the opposing team's players
 - Play must stop immediately
 - Timekeepers' clock must be stopped whilst the head count is taken
 - The timekeepers are to note the score on the scorecard



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QUESTIONS?



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**BREE
VALLANCE**

GENERAL MANAGER –
FOOTBALL OPERATIONS



**DOUG
HAWORTH**

HEAD OF UMPIRING



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THANK YOU

Proudly Partnered By



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