

To: SMJFL Club Presidents, Secretaries and Football Operations

From: Brooke Hannaford, Chair SMJFL Football, Pathways and Talent (FPT) Committee
Matthew Brown, CEO
Bree Vallance, General Manager, Football Operations

Date: Wednesday, 1 March 2023

Re: Confirmed Changes to SMJFL By-laws for Season 2023 – Explanatory Memo

BACKGROUND

On the 27th of July 2022, the SMJFL Football, Pathways and Talent (FPT) Committee commenced a review of the 2022 SMJFL By-laws.

This has been a collaborative process and has included multiple opportunities for Clubs to either submit feedback on proposed amendments or to suggest their own changes.

At each stage the FPT has considered the feedback received and at the SMJFL Board Meeting of 15 February 2023, in accordance with SMJFL By-law 39, presented the proposed changes to the SMJFL By-laws for season 2023 to the SMJFL Board for adoption.

We now circulate those 2023 By-laws, in both marked up, and clean versions, for your information.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

A significant number of proposed changes are formatting, grammatical, additions to Definitions, for clarification, as required as a result of changes in Girls' age groups or as required as a result of the move to the Play HQ platform. This category of changes has no impact on the intent or operation of any particular By-law.

2. NOTABLE CHANGES

Of the remaining proposed changes, the following are of particular note:

- A definition of "Round" has been included to enable games to be played on any day from the Friday prior to and the Thursday following, the published date of the round (which will continue to be a Sunday).

- 5.5.2 – New By-law allowing the CEO to refuse a team nomination or deregister a team if multiple NGA/Interleague players join from other Club teams.
- 9.26 – Club sponsors’ logos are now allowed on the back of shorts in addition to the front of shorts.
- 14 – Number of Players
 - 14.1 – Changes to the number of players permitted to reflect changes to Girls’ age groups and the growth in Girls’ player numbers.
 - 14.2 – In non-modified rules games where one team does not have a full team, the team with the numerical advantage in players to play with up to two extra players this means that the loaning of players removed from the By-laws.
 - 14.3 – In modified rules games where one team does not have a full team, both teams to play with the same number of players this means that the loaning of players removed from the By-laws.
 - 14.1 – Finals – Retained no limit on player numbers for U11-U14 mixed, U15 Boys and U16-U17.5 Boys.
- 15 – Forfeited Matches
 - 15.2 – deleted requirement for a Club to forfeit its lowest ranked team in an age group.
 - Changes to administrative arrangements re advising of forfeits.
- 20.8 – New By-law stating an SMJFL Team or Assistant Coach cannot coach at NGA, Interleague or Development Program in same age group.
- 20.40 – Removed the inability of Field Umpires to override the decision of an SMJFL appointed goal umpire.
- 23 – Premiership Ladders
 - Changes for clarification, including that match ratio will be used as the primary determining factor to rank teams on the premiership table.
 - Removed regrading competitions after ladders have been reset, i.e., there will be no regrading’s after Round 4.
- 27 – Send Offs
 - Modified to include “Team Officials” in addition to “Players” as being able to be sent off.
- 38.2 – Limitations on vaping added to smoking limitations.

3. LATE CHANGE – U11 Girls Division 1 to be Non-Modified

Following feedback and discussions from Football Operations Department meetings conducted with the SMJFL Club network we now confirm that U11 Girls Division 1 will be non-modified, with subsequent divisions i.e. U11 Girls Div 2, will be modified.

4. FURTHER CHANGES REQUIRED

- Further changes to the By-laws are still required to ensure game day processes to accord with the requirements of the PlayHQ Competition Management Platform. An example being Team Sheets which were traditionally hard copy and signed as we move to paperless this is one aspect that requires updating.

These changes will be endorsed at a later date by the Board, noting that By-law 39 allows changes to the By-laws only by the Board. This will be completed and communicated prior to Round 1.

- On 21 December 2022 AFL Victoria confirmed that they had adopted the AFL's National Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH). As the SMJFL By-laws refer to various AFL Victoria Policies, the SMJFL is currently considering the implications of adopting the NCFPH as we believe further review on the following sections is required to ensure we have appropriate policies in place to protect our Members:
 - Part C – MEMBER PROTECTION & INTEGRITY including but not limited to Clause 10 - Vilification and Discrimination; and
 - Part E – DISCIPLINARY including but not limited to Tribunal and Appeals Policy and Processes.

Clubs will note that the NCFPH has been circulated previously for your information.

END