



LODDON VALLEY FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

Registered No: A0058838S

STATEMENT OF PURPOSES AND RULES

**UPDATED
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Rules for an Incorporated Association

Note: The persons who from time to time are members of the Association are an incorporated association by the name given in rule 1 of these Rules.

Under section 46 of the **Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012**, these Rules are taken to constitute the terms of a contract between the Association and its members.

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

1 Name

The name of the incorporated association is ‘Loddon Valley Football Netball League Incorporated’ and shall herein after be referred to as the Association. Registration Number: A0058838S

Note: Under section 23 of the Act, the name of the association and its registration number must appear on all its business documents.

2 Purposes

The purposes of the association are to provide an opportunity for the people of our area to participate in Australian Rules Football and Netball and to enhance their health and wellbeing through organised sport. The Association will at all times endeavour to provide for the health, welfare and wellbeing of its players, supporters and spectators. This aim will be achieved by promoting and developing the following values and objectives;

- To conduct, encourage, promote, arrange and develop the playing of Australian Rules Football and Netball.
- A sense of social and community values.
- An environment to nurture the physical and mental development of our players.
- Respect for officials, opposition players and supporters.
- The virtue of fair and disciplined play.
- Equal opportunity for everyone.
- To provide facilities, amenities and equipment for the playing of Australian Rules Football and Netball.
- To regularly communicate with all members of the Association.
- To do all such other acts, deeds or things as is incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above purposes.

3 Financial year

The financial year of the Association is each period of 12 months ending on 31 October.

4 Definitions

In these Rules—

absolute majority, of the Board, means a majority of the Board members currently holding office and entitled to vote at the time (as distinct from a majority of Board members present at a Board meeting);

appeal subcommittee means a subcommittee appointed under rule 24(3);

associate member means a member referred to in rule 14(1);

chairperson, of a general meeting or Board meeting, means the person chairing the meeting as required under rule 47;

Board of Management means the Board having management of the business of the Association;

Board meeting means a meeting of the Board held in accordance with these Rules;

Board member means a member of the Board elected or appointed under Division 3 of Part 5;

disciplinary appeal meeting means a meeting of the members of the Association convened under rule 24;

disciplinary meeting means a meeting of the Board convened for the purposes of rule 22;

disciplinary subcommittee means the subcommittee appointed under rule 21;

Executive Officer means a person appointed by the Board into that role.

financial year means the 12 month period specified in rule 3;

general meeting means a general meeting of the members of the Association convened in accordance with Part 4 and includes an annual general meeting, a special general meeting and a disciplinary appeal meeting;

member of the Association refers to the affiliated Football/Netball clubs recognised by the Board, including their nominated member delegate(s).

life member means an individual awarded life membership in accordance with rule 15;

member entitled to vote means the nominated delegate(s) of the affiliated club who under rule 13(2) is entitled to vote at a general meeting

member delegate refers to the maximum number of 2 delegate(s) nominated by each member and approved by the Board, to act on behalf of the member in matters relating to the Board. The Association is entitled to assume any person presenting as the delegate of the club has been properly appointed.

member representative refers to a person(s) acting on behalf of a member, but not recognised as a member delegate.

Independent member of the Association refers to individuals not directly associated with affiliated clubs, but support the purposes of the Association through election and/or appointment to the Board of Management.

special resolution means a resolution that requires not less than three-quarters of the members voting at a general meeting, whether in person or by proxy, to vote in favour of the resolution;

the Act means the **Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012** and includes any regulations made under that Act;

the Registrar means the Registrar of Incorporated Associations.

PART 2—POWERS OF ASSOCIATION

5 Powers of Association

- (1) Subject to the Act, the Association has power to do all things incidental or conducive to achieve its purposes.
- (2) Without limiting subrule (1), the Association may—
 - (a) acquire, hold and dispose of real or personal property;
 - (b) open and operate accounts with financial institutions;
 - (c) invest its money in any security in which trust monies may lawfully be invested;
 - (d) raise and borrow money on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit;

- (e) secure the repayment of money raised or borrowed, or the payment of a debt or liability;
 - (f) appoint agents to transact business on its behalf;
 - (g) enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.
- (3) The Association may only exercise its powers and use its income and assets (including any surplus) for its purposes.
- (4) The League Board of Management shall have full power to determine and settle in such manner as it may provide, all disputes and/or questions in connection with any match or matches played under its supervision or patronage or any other matters coming within its jurisdiction.

6 Not for profit organisation

- (1) The Association must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.
- (2) Subrule (1) does not prevent the Association from paying a member—
- (a) reimbursement for expenses properly incurred by the member; or
 - (b) for goods or services provided by the member—

if this is done in good faith on terms no more favourable than if the member was not a member.

Note: Section 33 of the Act provides that an incorporated association must not secure pecuniary profit for its members. Section 4 of the Act sets out in more detail the circumstances under which an incorporated association is not taken to secure pecuniary profit for its members.

PART 3—MEMBERS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND GRIEVANCES

Division 1—Membership

7 Minimum number of members

The Association must have at least 5 members.

8 Who is eligible to be a member

Any person or organisation that supports the purposes of the Association is eligible for membership.

9 Application for membership

- (1) To apply to become a member of the Association, the applicant must submit a written application to a board member stating that the applicant—
- (a) wishes to become a member of the Association; and
 - (b) be cleared in writing from any previous affiliated Association that the Board deems conflicts with this Association.
 - (c) supports the purposes of the Association; and
 - (d) agrees to comply with these Rules.
 - (e) is, or will be within the first 12 months of membership, a single incorporated entity for its Football and Netball operations.
- (2) The application—
- (a) must be signed by the applicant; and

- (b) may be accompanied by the joining fee.

Notes:

- 1 The joining fee is the fee (if any) determined by the Association under rule 12(3).
- 2 A requirement for a signature of a person may be met by electronic signature. See section 9 of the **Electronic Transactions (Victoria) Act 2000**.

10 Consideration of application

- (1) As soon as practicable after an application for membership is received, the Board must decide by resolution whether to accept or reject the application.
- (2) The Board must notify the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as practicable after the decision is made.
- (3) If the Board rejects the application, it must return any money accompanying the application to the applicant.
- (4) No reason need be given for the rejection of an application.

Note:

An association may have obligations under Division 6 of Part 4 of the **Equal Opportunity Act 2010**.

11 New membership

- (1) If an application for membership is approved by the Board—
 - (a) the resolution to accept the membership must be recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting; and
 - (b) the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the name and address of the new member, and the date of becoming a member, in the register of members.
- (2) A person or organisation becomes a member of the Association from the date on which both of the following have occurred—
 - (a) the Board approves the applicant's membership; and
 - (b) the applicant pays the joining fee.
- (3) Subject to rule 13(2), a person or organisation is entitled to exercise their rights of membership from the date referred to in subrule (2).

12 Annual subscription and fee on joining

- (1) At each annual general meeting, the Association must determine—
 - (a) the amount of the annual subscription(s) (if any) for the following financial year; and
 - (b) the date for payment of the annual subscription(s).
- (2) The Association may determine that a lower annual subscription is payable by associate members.
- (3) The Association may determine that any new member who joins after the start of a financial year must, for that financial year, pay a fee equal to—

- (a) the full annual subscription; or
 - (b) a pro rata annual subscription based on the remaining part of the financial year; or
 - (c) a fixed amount determined from time to time by the Association.
- (4) The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual subscription by the due date are suspended until the subscription is paid.

13 General rights of members

- (1) A member of the Association who, by determination of the Board, is entitled to vote has the right—
- (a) to receive notice of general meetings and of proposed special resolutions in the manner and time prescribed by these Rules; and
 - (b) to submit items of business for consideration at a general meeting; and
 - (c) to attend and be heard at general meetings; and
 - (d) to vote at a general meeting; and
 - (e) to have access to the minutes of general meetings and other documents of the Association as provided under rule 75; and
 - (f) to inspect the register of members.
- (2) A member is entitled to vote if—
- (a) the member's delegate(s) is/are a member other than an associate member; and
 - (b) more than 10 business days have passed since they became a member of the Association; and
 - (c) the member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason.

14 Associate members

- (1) Associate members of the Association include—
- (a) any members under the age of 15 years; and
 - (b) any other category of member as determined by special resolution at a general meeting.
- (2) An associate member must not vote but may have other rights as determined by the Board or by resolution at a general meeting.

15 Life members

Life Membership of the Association can be awarded to a person or person(s) in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the Association. Qualification to become a Life Member will be determined by the Association's Board of Management. Any other privileges associated with Life membership will be determined by the Board.

16 Rights not transferable

The rights of a member are not transferable and end when membership ceases.

17 Ceasing membership

- (1) Membership ceases upon resignation, expulsion or death.
- (2) If a person or organisation ceases to be a member of the Association, the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the date the person or organisation ceased to be a member in the register of members.

18 Resigning as a member

- (1) A member may resign or withdraw from the Association by notice in writing given to the Association. Intention to resign or withdraw must include consent of a two thirds majority of the members present at a meeting convened for the purpose of receiving such resignation or withdrawal, and of which each member in the Association has been notified in writing.

Note: Rule 74(3) sets out how notice may be given to the association. It includes by post or by handing the notice to a member of the board.

- (2) A member is taken to have resigned if—
 - (a) the member's annual subscription is more than 12 months in arrears; or
 - (b) where no annual subscription is payable—
 - (i) the Secretary has made a written request to the member to confirm that they wish to remain a member; and
 - (ii) the member has not, within 3 months after receiving that request, confirmed in writing that they wish to remain a member.

19 Register of members

- (1) The Secretary must keep and maintain a register of members that includes—
 - (a) for each current member—
 - (i) the member's name;
 - (ii) the address for notice last given by the member;
 - (iii) the email address last given by the member (if available); and
 - (iv) the date of becoming a member; and
 - (v) if the member is an associate member, a note to that effect; and
 - (vi) any other information determined by the Committee; and
 - (b) for each former member, the date of ceasing to be a member.
- (2) Any member may, at a reasonable time and free of charge, inspect the register of members.

Note: Under section 59 of the Act, access to the personal information of a person recorded in the register of members may be restricted in certain circumstances. Section 58 of the Act provides that it is an offence to make improper use of information about a person obtained from the Register of Members.

Division 2—Disciplinary action

20 Grounds for taking disciplinary action

The Association may take disciplinary action against a member in accordance with this Division if it is determined that the member—

- (a) has failed to comply with these Rules; or
- (b) refuses to support the purposes of the Association; or
- (c) has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Association.

21 Disciplinary subcommittee

- (1) If the Board is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a member, the Board must appoint a disciplinary subcommittee to hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the member.

- (2) Subject to subrule (3), the Board may appoint any person to a disciplinary subcommittee.
- (3) A person must not be appointed to a disciplinary subcommittee if the person is biased in favour of or against the member concerned.

22 Notice to member

- (1) Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the Secretary must give written notice to the member—
 - (a) stating that the Association proposes to take disciplinary action against the member; and
 - (b) stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action; and
 - (c) specifying the date, place and time of the meeting at which the disciplinary subcommittee intends to consider the disciplinary action (the *disciplinary meeting*); and
 - (d) advising the member that they may do one or both of the following—
 - (i) attend the disciplinary meeting and address the disciplinary subcommittee at that meeting;
 - (ii) give a written statement to the disciplinary subcommittee at any time before the disciplinary meeting; and
 - (e) setting out the member's appeal rights under rule 24.
- (2) The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days, and no later than 14 days, before the disciplinary meeting is held.

23 Decision of subcommittee

- (1) At the disciplinary meeting, the disciplinary subcommittee must—
 - (a) give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) consider any written statement submitted by the member.
- (2) After complying with subrule (1), the disciplinary subcommittee may vote to recommend to the Board—
 - (a) take no further action against the member; or
 - (b) subject to subrule (3)—
 - (i) reprimand the member; or
 - (ii) suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period; or
 - (iii) expel the member from the Association.
- (3) The disciplinary subcommittee may recommend to the Board to impose a penalty as prescribed in the Association By-Laws.
- (4) The recommended suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the disciplinary subcommittee under this rule takes effect immediately upon approval by the Board.

24 Appeal rights

- (1) A member whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the Association under rule 23 may give notice to the effect that they wish to appeal against the suspension or expulsion.
- (2) The notice must be in writing and given—

- (a) to the disciplinary subcommittee immediately after the vote to recommend suspension or expulsion of the member is taken; or
 - (b) to the Secretary not later than 7 days after the vote.
- (3) If a person has given notice under subrule (2), the Board must appoint at least 3 persons to an appeal subcommittee to consider the appeal.
- (4) Subject to subrule (5), the Board may appoint any person to an appeal subcommittee.
- (5) A person must not be appointed to an appeal subcommittee if the person—
 - (a) was appointed to the disciplinary subcommittee to hear and determine the matter of the member concerned; or
 - (b) has a personal interest in the dispute; or
 - (c) is biased in favour of or against the member concerned.
- (6) The Board must convene a meeting of the appeal subcommittee (the *disciplinary appeal meeting*) as soon as practicable and no later than 21 days after the notice of the appeal is received.
- (7) Notice of the disciplinary appeal meeting must be given to each member of the Association who is entitled to vote as soon as practicable and must—
 - (a) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
 - (b) state—
 - (i) the name of the member against whom the disciplinary action has been taken; and
 - (ii) the grounds for taking that action; and
 - (iii) that at the disciplinary appeal meeting the members present must vote on whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.

25 Conduct of disciplinary appeal meeting

- (1) At a disciplinary appeal meeting—
 - (a) no business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and
 - (b) the appeal subcommittee must state the grounds for suspending or expelling the member and the reasons for taking that action; and
 - (c) the member whose membership has been suspended or who has been expelled must be given an opportunity to be heard.
- (2) After complying with subrule (1), the of the appeal subcommittee present and entitled to vote at the meeting must vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.
- (3) A member may not vote by proxy at the meeting.
- (4) The decision is upheld if not less than three quarters of the members voting at the meeting vote in favour of the decision.

Division 3—Grievance procedure

26 Application

- (1) The grievance procedure set out in this Division applies to disputes under these Rules between—

- (a) a member and another member;
 - (b) a member and the Board;
 - (c) a member and the Association.
- (2) A member must not initiate a grievance procedure in relation to a matter that is the subject of a disciplinary procedure until the disciplinary procedure has been completed.

27 Parties must attempt to resolve the dispute

The parties to a dispute must attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within 14 days of the dispute coming to the attention of each party.

28 Appointment of mediator

- (1) If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by rule 27, the parties must within 10 days—
- (a) notify the Board of the dispute; and
 - (b) agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
 - (c) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (2) The mediator must be—
- (a) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - (b) in the absence of agreement—
 - (i) if the dispute is between a member and another member—a person appointed by the Board; or
 - (ii) if the dispute is between a member and the Board or the Association—a registered mediator.

Note

This includes a registered mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria or accredited by the Victorian Bar.

- (3) Subject to subrule (4), the Board may appoint any person as a mediator.
- (4) The Board must not appoint a person as a mediator if the person—
- (a) has a personal interest in the dispute; or
 - (b) is biased in favour of or against any party.

29 Mediation process

- (1) The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, must—
- (a) give each party every opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
 - (c) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.
- (2) The mediator must not determine the dispute.
- (3) Any costs of mediation are to be paid—
- (a) if an agreement as to costs is reached between the parties—in accordance with that agreement; or

- (b) if there is no such agreement—by the Board.

30 Failure to resolve dispute by mediation

If the mediation process does not resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

PART 4—GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

31 Annual general meetings

- (1) The Board must convene an annual general meeting of the Association to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (2) Despite subrule (1), the Association may hold its first annual general meeting at any time within 18 months after its incorporation.
- (3) The Board may determine the date, time and place of the annual general meeting.
- (4) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting is as follows—
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;
 - (b) to receive and consider—
 - (i) the annual report of the Board on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year; and
 - (ii) the financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Board in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
 - (c) to elect the members of the Board;
 - (d) to confirm or vary the amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee.
- (5) The annual general meeting may also conduct any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

32 Special general meetings

- (1) Any general meeting of the Association, other than an annual general meeting or a disciplinary appeal meeting, is a special general meeting.
- (2) The Board may convene a special general meeting whenever it thinks fit.
- (3) No business other than that set out in the notice under rule 34 may be conducted at the meeting.

Note: General business may be considered at the meeting if it is included as an item for consideration in the notice under rule 34 and the majority of members at the meeting agree.

33 Special general meeting held at request of members

- (1) The Board must convene a special general meeting if a request to do so is made in accordance with subrule (2) by at least 10 member delegates of the Association who are entitled to vote.
- (2) A request for a special general meeting must—
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) state the business to be considered at the meeting and any resolutions to be proposed; and

- (c) include the names and signatures of the member's delegate(s) requesting the meeting; and
 - (d) be given to the Secretary.
- (3) If the Board does not convene a special general meeting within one month after the date on which the request is made, the members making the request (or any of them) may convene the special general meeting.
- (4) A special general meeting convened by members under subrule (3)—
 - (a) must be held within 3 months after the date on which the original request was made; and
 - (b) may only consider the business stated in that request.
- (5) The Association must reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by the members convening a special general meeting under subrule (3).

34 Notice of general meetings

- (1) The Secretary (or, in the case of a special general meeting convened under rule 33(3), the members convening the meeting) must give to each member of the Association—
 - (a) at least 21 days' notice of a general meeting if a special resolution is to be proposed at the meeting; or
 - (b) at least 14 days' notice of a general meeting in any other case.
- (2) The notice must—
 - (a) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
 - (b) indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting; and
 - (c) if a special resolution is to be proposed—
 - (i) state in full the proposed resolution; and
 - (ii) state the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution; and
 - (d) comply with rule 35(6).
- (3) This rule does not apply to a disciplinary appeal meeting.

Note: Rule 24(4) sets out the requirements for notice of a disciplinary appeal meeting.

35 Proxies

- (1) A member may appoint another delegate as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at a general meeting other than at a disciplinary appeal meeting.
- (2) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed on behalf of the member making the appointment.
- (3) The member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on his or her behalf, otherwise the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as he or she sees fit.
- (4) The appointment of a proxy vote is limited to one proxy vote per member entitled to vote per meeting.

- (5) If the Board has approved a form for the appointment of a proxy, the member may use any other form that clearly identifies the person appointed as the member's proxy and that has been signed by the member.
- (6) Notice of a general meeting given to a member under rule 34 must—
 - (a) state that the member may appoint another delegate as a proxy for the meeting; and
 - (b) include a copy of any form that the Board has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (7) A form appointing a proxy must be given to the Chairperson of the meeting before or at the commencement of the meeting.
- (8) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Association no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

36 Use of technology

- (1) A general meeting may be held and members may take part by the use of technology that allows members to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other participating member.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a member delegate(s) participating in a general meeting as permitted under subrule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member delegate(s) votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

37 Quorum at general meetings

- (1) No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless a quorum of member delegate(s) is present.
- (2) The quorum for a general meeting is the presence (physically, by proxy or as allowed under rule 36) of 10 member delegate(s) entitled to vote.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting—
 - (a) in the case of a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members under rule 33—the meeting must be dissolved;
Note: If a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members is dissolved under this subrule, the business that was to have been considered at the meeting is taken to have been dealt with. If members wish to have the business reconsidered at another special meeting, the members must make a new request under rule 33.
 - (b) in any other case—
 - (i) the meeting must be adjourned to a date not more than 21 days after the adjournment; and
 - (ii) notice of the date, time and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given at the meeting and confirmed by written notice given to all members as soon as practicable after the meeting.
- (4) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time to which a general meeting has been adjourned under subrule (3)(b), the member delegates present at the meeting (if not fewer than 6) may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present.

38 Adjournment of general meeting

- (1) The Chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of a majority of member delegates present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting to another time at the same place or at another place.
- (2) Without limiting subrule (1), a meeting may be adjourned—
 - (a) if there is insufficient time to deal with the business at hand; or
 - (b) to give the member delegates more time to consider an item of business.

Example: The member delegates may wish to have more time to examine the financial statements submitted by the Board at an annual general meeting.
- (3) No business may be conducted on the resumption of an adjourned meeting other than the business that remained unfinished when the meeting was adjourned.
- (4) Notice of the adjournment of a meeting under this rule is not required unless the meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, in which case notice of the meeting must be given in accordance with rule 34.

39 Voting at general meeting

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting—
 - (a) subject to subrule (3), each member delegate who is entitled to vote has one vote; and
 - (b) member delegate(s) may vote personally or by proxy; and
 - (c) except in the case of a special resolution, the question must be decided on a majority of votes.
- (2) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (3) If the question is whether or not to confirm the minutes of a previous meeting, only member delegate(s) who were present at that meeting may vote.
- (4) This rule does not apply to a vote at a disciplinary appeal meeting conducted under rule 25.
- (5) Member delegate(s) are not entitled to vote at a general meeting unless all moneys that are due and payable by the member of the Association have been paid, other than the amount of the annual subscription payable in respect of the current financial year.

40 Special resolutions

A special resolution is passed if not less than three quarters of the member delegates voting at a general meeting (whether in person or by proxy) vote in favour of the resolution.

Note: In addition to certain matters specified in the Act, a special resolution is required—

- (a) to remove a board member from office ;
- (b) to alter these Rules, including changing the name or any of the purposes of the Association.

41 Determining whether resolution carried

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Chairperson of a general meeting may, on the basis of a show of hands, declare that a resolution has been—
 - (a) carried; or
 - (b) carried unanimously; or
 - (c) carried by a particular majority; or

- (d) lost—
and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting is conclusive proof of that fact.
- (2) If a poll (where votes are cast in writing) is demanded by six or more member delegate(s) on any question—
 - (a) the poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the Chairperson of the meeting; and
 - (b) the Chairperson must declare the result of the resolution on the basis of the poll.
- (3) A poll demanded on the election of the Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately.
- (4) A poll demanded on any other question must be taken before the close of the meeting at a time determined by the Chairperson.

42 Minutes of general meeting

- (1) The Board must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each general meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- (3) In addition, the minutes of each annual general meeting must include—
 - (a) the names of the member delegate(s) attending the meeting; and
 - (b) proxy forms given to the Chairperson of the meeting under rule 35(7); and
 - (c) the financial statements submitted to the members in accordance with rule 31(4)(b)(ii); and
 - (d) the certificate signed by two Board members certifying that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association; and
 - (e) any audited accounts and auditor's report or report of a review accompanying the financial statements that are required under the Act.

PART 5—BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Division 1—Powers of Board

43 Role and powers

- (1) The business of the Association must be managed by or under the direction of a Board of Management
- (2) The Board may exercise all the powers of the Association except those powers that these Rules or the Act require to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the Association.
- (3) The Board may—
 - (a) appoint and remove staff;

- (b) establish subcommittees consisting of member delegates with terms of reference it considers appropriate.

44 Delegation

- (1) The Board may delegate to a member of the Board, a subcommittee or staff, any of its powers and functions other than—
 - (a) this power of delegation; or
 - (b) a duty imposed on the Board by the Act or any other law.
- (2) The delegation must be in writing and may be subject to the conditions and limitations the Board considers appropriate.
- (3) The Board may, in writing, revoke a delegation wholly or in part.

Division 2—Composition of Board of Management and duties of members

45 Composition of Board of Management

- (1) The Board consists of—
 - (a) a maximum of six (6) Board members, each of whom shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting.
 - (b) up to three (3) other Board members, which may be appointed by the elected Board members for a specific purpose identified by the Board..
- (2) There shall be such office bearers as the league shall determine and unless or until the Board determines otherwise the office bearers shall be;
 - i. Chairperson
 - ii. Deputy Chairperson
 - iii. Secretary
 - iv. Treasurer

These positions shall be appointed by the Board from amongst the Board members as soon as practicable after each Annual General Meeting. The appointees will hold the positions until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting following their appointment. Board members may be reappointed to executive positions. The Board may appoint an ex-officio Executive Officer under any terms and conditions it resolves.

- (3) Board members, either elected or appointed, are excluded from holding any committee position within a member of the association.

46 General Duties

- (1) As soon as practicable after being elected or appointed to the Board, each Board member must become familiar with these Rules and the Act.
- (2) The Board is collectively responsible for ensuring that the Association complies with the Act and that individual members of the Board comply with these Rules.
- (3) Board members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence.
- (4) Board members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties—
 - (a) in good faith in the best interests of the Association; and

- (b) for a proper purpose.
 - (5) Board members and former Board members must not make improper use of—
 - (a) their position; or
 - (b) information acquired by virtue of holding their position—so as to gain an advantage for themselves or any other person or to cause detriment to the Association.
- Note:** See also Division 3 of Part 6 of the Act which sets out the general duties of the office holders of an incorporated association.
- (6) In addition to any duties imposed by these Rules, a Board member must perform any other duties imposed from time to time by resolution at a general meeting.

47 Board Chair and Deputy Chair

- (1) Subject to subrule (2), the Board Chair or, in the Board Chair's absence, the Deputy Chair is the Chairperson for any general meetings and for any Board meetings.
- (2) If the Board Chair and the Deputy Chair are both absent, or are unable to preside, the Chairperson of the meeting must be—
 - (a) in the case of a general meeting—a member elected by the other members present; or
 - (b) in the case of a Board meeting—a Board member elected by the other Board members present.

48 Secretary

- (1) The Secretary must perform any duty or function required under the Act to be performed by the secretary of an incorporated association.
- Example:** Under the Act, the secretary of an incorporated association is responsible for lodging documents of the association with the Registrar.
- (2) The Secretary must—
 - (a) maintain the register of members in accordance with rule 19; and
 - (b) keep custody of the common seal (if any) of the Association and, except for the financial records referred to in rule 70(3), all books, documents and securities of the Association in accordance with rules 72 and 75; and
 - (c) subject to the Act and these Rules, provide members with access to the register of members, the minutes of general meetings and other books and documents; and
 - (d) perform any other duty or function imposed on the Secretary by these Rules.
 - (3) The Secretary must give to the Registrar notice of his or her appointment within 14 days after the appointment.

49 Treasurer

- (1) The Treasurer or delegated representative must—
 - (a) receive all moneys paid to or received by the Association and issue receipts for those moneys in the name of the Association; and
 - (b) ensure that all moneys received are paid into the account of the Association within a reasonable period of time as determined by the Board; and
 - (c) make any payments authorised by the Board or by a general meeting of the Association from the Association's funds; and
 - (d) ensure cheques are signed by at least 2 Board members.

- (2) The Treasurer or delegated representative must—
 - (a) ensure that the financial records of the Association are kept in accordance with the Act; and
 - (b) coordinate the preparation of the financial statements of the Association and their certification by the Board prior to their submission to the annual general meeting of the Association.
- (3) The Treasurer must ensure that at least one other Board member has access to the accounts and financial records of the Association.

Division 3—Election of Board members and tenure of office

50 Who is eligible to be a Board member

A person is eligible to be elected or appointed as a Board member if the member—

- (a) is 18 years or over; and
- (b) is entitled to vote at a general meeting.

51 Positions to be declared vacant

- (1) This rule applies to—
 - (a) the first annual general meeting of the Association after its incorporation; or
 - (b) any subsequent annual general meeting of the Association, after the annual report and financial statements of the Association have been received.
- (2) The Chairperson of the meeting must declare all designated positions on the Board vacant and hold elections for those positions in accordance with rules 52 to 55.

52 Nominations

- (1) Prior to the election of each position, the Chairperson of the meeting must call for nominations to fill that position.
- (2) An eligible person may—
 - (a) nominate himself or herself; or
 - (b) with the person's consent, be nominated by a member.
- (3) An eligible person who is nominated for a position and fails to be elected to that position may be nominated for any other position for which an election is yet to be held.

53 Election of Board members

- (1) A single election may be held to fill the designated board positions for that year.
- (2) If the number of eligible people nominated for the position of Board member is less than or equal to the number to be elected, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare each of those people to be elected to the position.
- (3) If the number of eligible people nominated exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 54.
- (4) At the first meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the Board members will elect, from within, a Board member to fill any vacancy that exists within the association's executive.

54 Ballot

- (1) If a ballot is required for the election for a position, the Chairperson of the meeting must appoint a member representative to act as returning officer to conduct the ballot.

- (2) The returning officer must not be a nominated candidate for the position.
- (3) Before the ballot is taken, each candidate may make a short speech in support of his or her election.
- (4) The election must be by secret ballot.
- (5) The returning officer must give a blank piece of paper to—
 - (a) each member representative present in person; and
 - (b) each proxy appointed by a member.

Example

If a member has been appointed the proxy of 5 other members, the member must be given 6 ballot papers—one for the member and one each for the other members

- (6) If the ballot is for a single position, the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote.
- (7) If the ballot is for more than one position—
 - (a) the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of each candidate for whom they wish to vote;
 - (b) the voter must not write the names of more candidates than the number to be elected.
- (8) Ballot papers that do not comply with subrule (7)(b) are not to be counted.
- (9) Each ballot paper on which the name of a candidate has been written counts as one vote for that candidate.
- (10) The returning officer must declare elected the candidate or, in the case of an election for more than one position, the candidates who received the most votes.
- (11) If the returning officer is unable to declare the result of an election under subrule (10) because 2 or more candidates received the same number of votes, the returning officer must—
 - (a) conduct a further election for the position in accordance with subrules (4) to (10) to decide which of those candidates is to be elected; or
 - (b) with the agreement of those candidates, decide by lot which of them is to be elected.

Examples: The choice of candidate may be decided by the toss of a coin, drawing straws or drawing a name out of a hat.

55 Term of office

- (1) Subject to subrule (3) and rule 57, each Board member holds office for a period of three (3) years.
- (2) The election of Board members will be staggered over a three (3) year period to protect the intellectual property of the Association. Two (2) Board members will be elected in the first year. A second group of two (2) Board members elected in the second year and the final group of two (2) Board members elected in the third year.
- (3) A Board member may be re-elected.
- (4) A general meeting of the Association may—

- (a) by special resolution remove an elected Board member from office; and
 - (b) elect an eligible person of the Association to fill the vacant position in accordance with this Division.
- (5) An elected Board member who is the subject of a proposed special resolution under subrule (4)(a) may make representations in writing to the Secretary or Board Chair of the Association (not exceeding a reasonable length) and may request that the representations be provided to the members of the Association.
 - (6) The Secretary or the Board Chair may give a copy of the representations to each member of the Association or, if they are not so given, the Board member may require that they be read out at the meeting at which the special resolution is to be proposed.
 - (7) Appointed Board members can serve a maximum of a three (3) year term.
 - (8) Appointed Board members are eligible for re-appointment by the Board.

56 Vacation of office

- (1) A Board member may resign from the Board by written notice addressed to the Board of Management.
- (2) A person ceases to be a Board member if he or she—
 - (a) ceases to be a member of the Association; or
 - (b) fails to attend 3 consecutive Board meetings (other than special or urgent Board meetings) without leave of absence under rule 67; or
 - (c) otherwise ceases to be a Board member by operation of section 78 of the Act.

Note: A Board member may not hold the office of secretary if they do not reside in Australia.

57 Filling casual vacancies

- (1) The Board of Management may appoint an eligible member of the Association to fill a position on the Board that—
 - (a) has become vacant under rule 56; or
 - (b) was not filled by election at the last annual general meeting.
- (2) If the position of Secretary becomes vacant, the Board must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- (3) Rule 55 applies to any Board member appointed by the Board under subrule (1) or (2).
- (4) The Board of Management may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.
- (5) Any vacant position casually filled by the Board must be elected by the members at the next Annual General Meeting following the appointment. The elected period will be the remaining term of office for the casual vacancy.
- (6) For the sole purpose of these Rules, vacant Board appointed positions are not considered casual vacancies.

Division 4—Meetings of Board of Management

58 Meetings of Board of Management

- (1) The Board must meet at least 4 times in each year at the dates, times and places determined by the Board.

- (2) The date, time and place of the first Board meeting must be determined by the members of the Board as soon as practicable after the annual general meeting of the Association at which the members of the Board were elected.
- (3) Special Board meetings may be convened by the Board Chair or by any 5 members of the Committee.

59 Notice of meetings

- (1) Notice of each Board meeting must be given to each Board member no later than 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- (2) Notice may be given of more than one Board meeting at the same time.
- (3) The notice must state the date, time and place of the meeting.
- (4) If a special Board meeting is convened, the notice must include the general nature of the business to be conducted.
- (5) The only business that may be conducted at the meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

60 Urgent meetings

- (1) In cases of urgency, a meeting can be held without notice being given in accordance with rule 59 provided that as much notice as practicable is given to each Board member by the quickest means practicable.
- (2) Any resolution made at the meeting must be passed by an absolute majority of the Board.
- (3) The only business that may be conducted at an urgent meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

61 Procedure and order of business

- (1) The procedure to be followed at a meeting of a Board must be determined from time to time by the Board.
- (2) The order of business may be determined by the Board members present at the meeting.

62 Use of technology

- (1) A Board meeting may be held by the use of technology that allows committee members to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other participating member.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a Board member participating in a Board meeting as permitted under subrule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

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63 Quorum

- (1) No business may be conducted at a Board meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (2) The quorum for a Board meeting is the presence (in person or as allowed under rule 62) of a majority of the Board members holding office.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a Board meeting—
 - (a) in the case of a special meeting—the meeting lapses;

- (b) in any other case—the meeting must be adjourned to a date no later than 14 days after the adjournment and notice of the time, date and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given in accordance with rule 59.

64 Voting

- (1) On any question arising at a Board meeting, each Board member present at the meeting has one vote.
- (2) A motion is carried if a majority of Board members present at the meeting vote in favour of the motion.
- (3) Subrule (2) does not apply to any motion or question which is required by these Rules to be passed by an absolute majority of the Board.
- (4) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (5) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

65 Conflict of interest

- (1) A Board member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a Board meeting must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the Board.
- (2) The Board member—
 - (a) must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; and
 - (b) must not vote on the matter.

Note: Under section 81(3) of the Act, if there are insufficient Board members to form a quorum because a member who has a material personal interest is disqualified from voting on a matter, a general meeting may be called to deal with the matter.

- (3) This rule does not apply to a material personal interest—
 - (a) that exists only because the Board member belongs to a class of persons for whose benefit the Association is established; or
 - (b) that the Board member has in common with all, or a substantial proportion of, the members of the Association.
- (4) The Board must keep a conflict of interest register.
- (5) The conflict of interest register must record the following—
 - (a) the name and position of the member who has disclosed a material personal interest;
 - (b) a description of the nature and extent of that interest;
 - (c) a management plan documenting actions required to mitigate the conflict.

66 Minutes of meeting

- (1) The Board must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each Board meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the following—
 - (a) the names of the Board members in attendance at the meeting;
 - (b) the business considered at the meeting;
 - (c) any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote;
 - (d) any material personal interest disclosed under rule 65.

67 Leave of absence

- (1) The Board may grant a Board member leave of absence from Board meetings for a period not exceeding 3 months.
- (2) The Board must not grant leave of absence retrospectively unless it is satisfied that it was not feasible for the Board member to seek the leave in advance.

PART 6—FINANCIAL MATTERS

68 Source of funds

The funds of the Association may be derived from joining fees, annual subscriptions, donations, fund-raising activities, grants, interest and any other sources approved by the Board.

69 Management of funds

- (1) The Association must open an account with a financial institution from which all expenditure of the Association is made and into which all of the Association's revenue is deposited.
- (2) Subject to any restrictions imposed by a general meeting of the Association, the Board may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.
- (3) The Board may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the Association (including by electronic funds transfer) up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the Board for each item on which the funds are expended.
- (4) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by 2 Board members.
- (5) All funds of the Association must be deposited into the financial account of the Association within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Board.
- (6) With the approval of the Board, the Treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid from or paid into the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction.

70 Financial records

- (1) The Association must keep financial records that—
 - (a) correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance; and
 - (b) enable financial statements to be prepared as required by the Act.
- (2) The Association must retain the financial records for 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.
- (3) The Treasurer must keep in his or her custody, or under his or her control—
 - (a) the financial records for the current financial year; and
 - (b) any other financial records as authorised by the Board.

71 Financial statements

- (1) For each financial year, the Board must ensure that the requirements under the Act relating to the financial statements of the Association are met.
- (2) Without limiting subrule (1), those requirements include—
 - (a) the preparation of the financial statements;

- (b) if required, the review or auditing of the financial statements;
- (c) the certification of the financial statements by the Board;
- (d) the submission of the financial statements to the annual general meeting of the Association;
- (e) the lodgement with the Registrar of the financial statements and accompanying reports, certificates, statements and fee.

72 Audit

- (1) An auditor or auditors shall be duly appointed at the Annual General Meeting and will remain in office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting next.
- (2) The accounts of Loddon Valley Football Netball League shall be examined and the correctness of the profit and loss accounts and balance sheets ascertained by an auditor or auditors at least once in every financial year.

PART 7—GENERAL MATTERS

73 Common seal

- (1) The Association may have a common seal.
- (2) If the Association has a common seal—
 - (a) the name of the Association must appear in legible characters on the common seal;
 - (b) a document may only be sealed with the common seal by the authority of the Board and the sealing must be witnessed by the signatures of two Board members;
 - (c) the common seal must be kept in the custody of the Secretary.

74 Registered address

The registered address of the Association is—

- (a) the address determined from time to time by resolution of the Board; or
- (b) if the Board has not determined an address to be the registered address—the postal address of the Secretary.

75 Notice requirements

- (1) Any notice required to be given to a member or a Board member under these Rules may be given—
 - (a) by handing the notice to the member personally; or
 - (b) by sending it by post to the member at the address recorded for the member on the register of members; or
 - (c) by email or facsimile transmission.
- (2) Subrule (1) does not apply to notice given under rule 60.
- (3) Any notice required to be given to the Association or the Board may be given—
 - (a) by handing the notice to a member of the Board; or
 - (b) by sending the notice by post to the registered address; or
 - (c) by leaving the notice at the registered address; or

- (d) if the Board determines that it is appropriate in the circumstances—
 - (i) by email to the email address of the Association or the Secretary; or
 - (ii) by facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the Association.

76 Custody and inspection of books and records

- (1) Members may on request in writing to the Board, inspect free of charge—
 - (a) the register of members;
 - (b) the minutes of general meetings;
 - (c) subject to subrule (2), the financial records, books, securities and any other relevant document of the Association, including minutes of Board meetings.

Note: See note following rule 19 for details of access to the register of members.

- (2) The Board may refuse to permit a member or their delegated representative to inspect records of the Association that relate to confidential matters such as; Board meeting minutes, personal, employment, commercial or legal matters or where to do so may be prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- (3) Any requests to inspect under subrule (2) must be in writing to the Board stipulating the reasons for such a request.
- (4) The Board must on request make copies of these rules available to members and applicants for membership free of charge.
- (5) Subject to subrule (2), a member may make a copy of any of the other records of the Association referred to in this rule and the Association may charge a reasonable fee for provision of a copy of such a record.
- (6) For purposes of this rule—

relevant documents means the records and other documents, however compiled, recorded or stored, that relate to the incorporation and management of the Association and includes the following—

 - (a) its membership records;
 - (b) its financial statements;
 - (c) its financial records;
 - (d) records and documents relating to transactions, dealings, business or property of the Association.

77 Winding up and cancellation

- (1) The Association may be wound up voluntarily by special resolution.
- (2) In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the Association, the surplus assets of the Association must not be distributed to any members or former members of the Association.
- (3) Subject to the Act and any court order made under section 133 of the Act, the surplus assets must be given to a body that has similar purposes to the Association and which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.
- (4) The body to which the surplus assets are to be given must be decided by special resolution.

78 Alteration of Rules

These Rules may only be altered by special resolution of a general meeting of the Association.

Note: An alteration of these Rules does not take effect unless or until it is approved by the Registrar. If these Rules (other than rule 1, 2 or 3) are altered, the Association is taken to have adopted its own rules, not the model rules.
