



AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL TRANSATLANTIC CUP

REGULATIONS

August 2024

**AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE
ACN 004 115 211**

140 Harbour Esplanade
DOCKLANDS VIC 3008

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BACKGROUND

The Transatlantic Cup is conducted under the control of the Australian Football League.

These Regulations relating to the Transatlantic Cup have been formalised to provide official and binding rules for competing teams and players.

It is the responsibility of each competing team to ensure that all appointed officials and players are fully aware of the contents of these Regulations to enable the competition to be conducted efficiently and in a fair and good-spirited manner.

1. GENERAL

1.1. Definitions

In these Regulations unless the contrary intention appears:

- (a) **AFL** means the Australian Football League (Australian Company Number 004 115 211), a company incorporated in Australia and responsible for the promotion and development of the game of Australian Football.
- (b) **AFL Official** means any person appointed by the Competition Manager or the AFL, to assist in the conduct of the Competition.
- (c) **Competition Manager** means the person employed by the AFL to oversee and manage all aspects of the Competition or such other person appointed by the AFL.
- (d) **Coach** means a person nominated and appointed to a Team in accordance with Regulation 8.
- (e) **Complaint** means a complaint made under Regulation 32.
- (f) **Competition** means the Transatlantic Cup conducted by the AFL from time to time.
- (g) **Laws of Australian Football** means the Laws of Australian Football as administered and controlled by the AFL.
- (h) **Guernsey** means the vest of a Player's uniform.
- (i) **League** means each AFL-affiliated National Australian Football body which has entered or intends to enter a Team(s) to participate in the Competition.
- (j) **Liaison Officer** means the person appointed in accordance with Regulation 11.
- (k) **Organising Committee** means a committee appointed by the AFL to implement these Regulations, manage the Competition and otherwise advise on the organisation, conduct and management of the Competition.

- (l) **Match** means a match between two Teams during the Competition.
- (m) **Match Manager** means the match manager appointed by the Competition Manager who has responsibility for the conduct of a Match.
- (n) **Player** means a person eligible and selected to play for a Team.
- (o) **Policy Handbook** means the National Community Football Policy Handbook (available [here](#)).
- (p) **Sponsor of the Competition** means a person, corporation or entity who has entered into any contract, arrangement, agreement or understanding with the AFL to sponsor the Competition.
- (q) **Steward** means the person or persons appointed under Regulation 12.5.
- (r) **Team** means a team competing in the Competition.
- (s) **Team Member** includes without limitation all Players, Coaches, runners, trainers, Team Managers, officials or other persons performing any duties (paid or unpaid) for or on behalf of a Team.
- (t) **Team Manager** means the person appointed in accordance with Regulation 10.
- (u) **Tribunal** means those persons appointed to the Tribunal in accordance with Regulation 36.
- (v) **Umpires' Manager** means the person appointed under Regulation 15.1.

1.2. Construction and amendment of Regulations

- (a) The AFL will interpret all provisions contained in these Regulations and any interpretation or application by the AFL of any of the provisions contained in these Regulations shall be final and binding on every person bound by these Regulations.
- (b) The AFL may from time to time amend these Regulations or make such further or other rules and regulations as it in its absolute discretion deems fit.

1.3. Delegation

The AFL may from time to time appoint a person or persons to exercise any of the powers hereby conferred upon the AFL and in each such case a reference to the AFL contained in these Regulations shall be a reference to such person or persons so appointed. Unless otherwise directed by the AFL, the person appointed as delegate for the purpose of these Regulations shall be the Competition Manager.

1.4. Effect of Policy Handbook

The Policy Handbook will apply to the Competition unless stated otherwise. To the extent of any inconsistencies between the Policy Handbook and these Regulations, and where the application of a specific section of the Policy Handbook is clearly unworkable when applied in conjunction with these Regulations, these Regulations will take priority.

2. ENTRY INTO COMPETITION AND COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

2.1. Application

Subject to any terms and conditions of entry determined by the AFL, each League (or such other national league approved by the AFL) may apply to enter a Team to participate in the Competition by submitting a nomination in writing by 31 January in the year of the Competition.

2.2. Number of Teams

The AFL may in its absolute discretion determine the number of Teams which will compete in the Competition.

2.3. Bound to Regulations and Other Rules

- (a) By participating in the Competition, each League, Team and Team Member is deemed to be bound by and shall comply with:
 - (i) these Regulations;
 - (ii) the Laws of Australian Football; and
 - (iii) any resolutions, determinations, rules or regulations made by the AFL.
- (b) Before competing in its first Match, a League must complete and lodge with the Competition Manager the "Certificate of Eligibility" form as prescribed by the AFL, signed by the Team Manager and President (or their nominee).

3. DATE OF COMPETITION

The AFL will determine the dates of the Competition.

4. VENUES

All Matches will be played at venues determined by the AFL.

5. FORMAT OF COMPETITION

5.1. Divisions

- (a) There will be one male division and one female division in the Competition.
- (b) The competition structure of each division in the Competition will be determined by the Organising Committee and notified to Leagues prior to the Competition.

5.2. Match Program

The fixture for each division in the Competition will be determined by the Organising Committee and notified to Leagues prior to the Competition.

6. MATCH CONDITIONS

6.1. Length of Quarters

- (a) Subject to Regulation 6.1(b), each quarter of each Match will be:
 - (i) of 17.5 minutes duration for the women's Competition (with no time on); and
 - (ii) of 20 minutes duration for the men's Competition (with no time on).
- (b) The Competition Manager or Match Manager may alter the duration of each quarter.

6.2. Intervals

Unless otherwise determined by the Competition Manager, the duration of intervals from the siren to conclude one quarter to the siren notifying the commencement of the next, will be:

- (a) Quarter-time: 5 minutes;
- (b) Half-time: 10 minutes;
- (c) Three-quarter time: 5 minutes.

Timekeepers shall sound the siren at two (2) minutes (3 blasts) and one (1) minute (2 blasts) prior to the due commencement time for each quarter. The Competition Manager may alter the duration of intervals between each quarter.

6.3. Commencement Times

- (a) The commencement time of Matches will be determined by the AFL, taking into consideration local weather and the availability of venues.
- (b) Each Team will:
 - (iii) enter the playing arena at least five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement time of a Match;
 - (iv) be ready to play at the scheduled commencement time of a Match; and
 - (v) be ready to play at the commencement time of each quarter.

6.4. Timekeepers

- (a) Timekeepers for all Matches will be appointed by the Competition Manager.

- (b) All timekeepers will follow the instructions of the Competition Manager.
- (c) No remuneration shall be paid to timekeepers.

6.5. Breach of Timing Requirements

Where a Team contravenes or fails to comply with Regulation 6.3(b), the Competition Manager or Match Manager will award the opposition with 1 goal for every two (2) minutes or part thereof that the Team is not ready to play at the prescribed time.

6.6. Points for Matches

For all Matches played (apart from Finals):

- (a) four (4) points will be awarded to a winning Team;
- (b) two (2) points will be awarded to each Team for a draw;
- (c) zero (0) points will be awarded to a losing Team;
- (d) a percentage will be calculated for each Team based on the proportion of points scored for and against during each Match.

6.7. Drawn Matches

- (a) In a non-finals Match, the draw will stand and points for the Match will be allocated in accordance with Regulation 6.6.
- (b) In the event of a drawn Match during the finals Matches, Teams will take a 5 minute break following the final siren, before entering extra time, where two additional halves of five (5) minutes each will be played (with a two (minute) break for half time) (**Extra Time**).
- (c) If the scores are tied at the end of Extra Time, play will resume two (2) minutes after the final siren and the Team that scores first will be declared the winner.

7. TEAM COMPOSITION

7.1. Squad

- (a) Each Team may select a maximum of 28 players. There will be no additional emergencies to replace injured players.
- (b) Each Team must play with 18 per side and up to 6 on the bench. For the avoidance of doubt, there will be no ability to play with extra on the bench.
- (c) Each Team must provide to the AFL no later than June 30 in the year of the Competition, their "Transatlantic Cup Official Squad List" listing players, coaches and officials (**Squad List**), and providing:

- (i) the playing number allocated to each Player within the squad of 28 Players;
 - (ii) the date of birth and height of each Player;
 - (iii) the local club of each Player;
 - (iv) the names of the Team Coach and Team Manager;
 - (v) the names of the Team Captain and Vice-Captain;
 - (vi) certification that all selected Players meet the eligibility requirements as outlined under regulation 7.2(a) and confirmation that each Player agrees to comply with these Regulations.
 - (vii) certification that the squad has no more than 8 Players who are based in Australia at the time of submitting team lists.
- (d) The AFL may, on a case by case basis, waive the eligibility requirements contained in regulation 7.1(c)(vi) if it is satisfied that allowing the team to participate would be in the best interests of the Competition. Submissions in this regard must be made by a team lodging their Squad List before 30 June in the year of the Competition unless otherwise approved by the Competition Manager.

7.2. Eligibility

- (a) A Player is eligible for selection for a Team if:
- (i) the Player is turning a minimum of 16 years of age in the year of the Competition; any players under 18 years of age will be excluded from attending official Competition events and supervision of those Players is the sole responsibility of the relevant Team.
 - (ii) subject to Regulation 7.2(b), the Player was predominantly (i.e. more than 50% of the time) a resident in the country of the League between 10 and 16 years of age;
 - (iii) subject to Regulation 7.2(b), the Player is a citizen of the country of the League at the time of the Competition;
 - (iv) the Player is not under suspension in that Player's local competition during the period of the Competition; and
 - (v) The Player is included in the Squad List provided under regulation 7.1.
- (b) The AFL may, on a case by case basis, waive the eligibility requirements contained in sub-clause 7.2(a) if it is satisfied that a Player is a bona fide resident in the country of the League and their participation would be in the best interests of the Competition. Submissions in this regard must be made by a Team lodging their Squad List before 30 June in the year of the Competition.

- (c) A Player not listed in the Squad List will be ineligible to participate in the Competition.

8. COACH

8.1. Appointment

A League will appoint a person to be the Coach of each Team competing in the Competition.

8.2. Eligibility

A person will only be eligible for appointment as a Coach of a Team if that person:

- (a) has been nominated by a League or other body competing in the Competition;
- (b) the nomination is lodged with the AFL no later than June 30 in the year of the Event on the "Coach Registration" form prescribed by the AFL; and
- (c) has completed and holds a current AFL Foundation accreditation.

8.3. Deemed Acceptance of Regulations

In completing and lodging the "Coach Registration" form and by participating in the Competition, a Coach is deemed to have agreed to:

- (a) observe the requirements of these Regulations, including the Code of Conduct, and any directions of the Competition Manager;
- (b) attend any meeting called by the Competition Manager; and
- (c) act and address Players and umpires in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

9. OFFICIAL RUNNER, TRAINERS AND WATER CARRIERS

- (a) Each Team may appoint one (1) person to be its Official Runner who must wear the uniform determined and supplied by the AFL.
- (b) The Official Runner will be the sole conveyor of a Coach's instructions and must adhere to the directions of field umpires.
- (c) Each Team may appoint up to four (4) Water Carriers who must wear attire approved by the AFL.
- (d) Each Team is encouraged to have in their touring party and in attendance at all Matches a Sports Trainer accredited to Sports Medicine Australia Level 2, or equivalent.

10. TEAM MANAGER

- (a) Each Team must appoint a person to be the Team Manager.
- (b) Each Team shall notify the Competition Manager in writing of its Team Manager no later than two months prior to the first scheduled playing day of the Competition.

11. LIAISON OFFICER

The Competition Manager shall appoint a Liaison Officer to provide advice to Teams, as required, regarding ground transport and general logistics of the Competition. The Liaison Officer will also assist the Competition Manager in coordinating Match and venue arrangements.

12. LAWS OF THE GAME

12.1. Laws to Apply

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, Matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football except that Law 19.2(a) (stand rule) will not apply and Laws requiring “designated: Rucks to contest the Ruck contest.

12.2. Interchange Players

Each Team competing at the Competition will be allowed to use six (6) interchange Players in each Match.

12.3. Order-Off

The Order Off law contained in the Laws of Australian Football shall apply as follows:-

- (a) **Red Card**
A Player ordered from the field for the remainder of the Match under Law 23.2 of the Laws of Australian Football shall be shown a **Red Card**.
- (b) **Yellow Card**
A Player shall be shown a **Yellow Card** and ordered from the field for a ten (10) minute period of Match playing time for committing all other reportable offences prescribed in the Laws of Australian Football other than the reportable offences listed in Law 23.2.

The Interchange Steward shall be responsible for administering the 10 minute period. The Player need not be reported to be ordered from the field.

- (c) Players ordered off the field may not be replaced.

12.4. Gloves

Players may wear gloves approved by the AFL.

12.5. Stewards

The AFL may appoint a Steward or Stewards who shall have the same powers for reporting Players and Team Members as that conferred on umpires.

13. TEAM SHEETS AND MATCH RESULTS

- (a) Each Team Manager must complete and submit to the Match Manager no later than sixty (60) minutes prior to the commencement of each Match three copies of their Team Sheet in the form prescribed by the AFL.
- (b) Manual changes to the Team Sheet may be made by consulting the Match Manager up until 20 minutes prior to the Match.
- (c) Upon completion of the Match, each Team Manager shall complete and lodge with the Match Manager a Match Result Sheet in the form prescribed by the AFL.

14. 15. PLAYERS UNIFORMS

14.1. Guernsey's and Shorts

Each League shall:

- (a) by no later than 31 March in the year of the Competition provide to the AFL the design and colour of their Team(s) guernsey, shorts and socks which must be compliant with the Playing Apparel Guidelines provided to each League;
- (b) make any modifications or adjustments to the guernsey as may be required by the AFL;
- (c) ensure that:
 - (i) its Team(s) only wears the guernsey, shorts and socks as approved by the AFL unless otherwise approved by the Competition Manager;
 - (ii) the guernsey clearly displays the number allocated to each Player of the Team; and
 - (iii) the number displayed on each guernsey is of the type, size and at the position determined and directed by the AFL.
- (d) In the event of wet weather or a clash of uniform colours, the Competition Manager may, at their absolute discretion, request that the two relevant Teams toss a coin for the choice of which Team will wear alternate guernseys in a Match.

14.2. Tracksuits and Travel Apparel

The AFL may direct that AFL official logos are to be affixed to all Team uniforms, tracksuits and travel apparel.

14.3. Bicycle shorts

Players who wear bicycle or lycra shorts extending on their legs below the line of the uniform shorts must wear such shorts which are beige in colour or a colour matching their shorts and they must not extend below the knee.

15. UMPIRES

15.1. Field Umpires

- (a) The Umpires' Manager appointed by the AFL from time to time must, in consultation with the Competition Manager, appoint a panel of field umpires to officiate at the Competition from domestic bodies and a pool of AFL-nominated internationally based field umpires. Field umpires must have AFL Foundation accreditation.
- (b) Unless otherwise determined by the AFL or Competition Manager, two field umpires shall officiate at each Match.

15.2. Boundary and Goal Umpires

- (a) The Umpires' Manager must, in consultation with the Competition Manager, appoint a panel of boundary and goal umpires to officiate at the Competition. Boundary and goal umpires must be accredited to AFL Foundation accreditation.
- (b) A Team may, at their own expense, invite voluntary boundary umpires who have AFL Foundation accreditation to join the umpires panel with the AFL's approval.

15.3. Match Appointment

- (a) For the avoidance of doubt, the appointment of field, boundary and goal umpires to officiate at each Match shall be determined by the Umpires' Manager.
- (b) The Umpires' Manager may call on the assistance of domestic leagues to assist in co-ordinating the appointments and general arrangements for umpires

16. SUPPLY AND SELECTION OF FOOTBALLS

The AFL shall supply the footballs to be used in the Competition. The Competition Manager and Umpires' Manager shall have the discretion to determine the suitability of footballs for each Match. The men's competition will use size 5 balls and women's competition will use size 4.

17. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

- (a) Travel reservations and travel costs (including ground transport costs) for each Team and their umpires (if selected) at the Competition are the responsibility of each League. Details of flight schedules must be provided to the AFL upon request.

- (b) Upon request, the AFL will endeavour to obtain and provide quotations with respect to ground transport during the Competition.

18. ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation reservations and accommodation for each Team and their umpires at the Competition are the responsibility of each League. Upon request, the AFL will endeavour to obtain and provide quotations with respect to accommodation. Accommodation details must be provided to the AFL as requested.

19. VENUE COSTS

The AFL will pay for the venue costs agreed with the Venue Manager, and the following Match related costs:

- (a) umpire uniforms;
- (b) trophies;
- (c) insurance premiums for the insurance policies taken out by the AFL in accordance with Regulation 37;
- (d) footballs and such other items approved by the AFL.

20. EXCLUSION OF PAYMENTS BY AFL

The AFL will not pay fees for timekeepers and officials, telephone costs, stationery costs, entertainment costs or any other forms of expenditure not previously identified and approved in writing by the AFL.

21. SPONSORSHIP

21.1. AFL to Obtain

The AFL and host League will endeavour to obtain a Sponsor or Sponsors of the Competition.

21.2. No Conflict

Subject to Regulation 21.3, a League shall not enter into any contract, arrangement, agreement or understanding with any person, corporation or entity for the supply, endorsement, approval or sponsorship of goods or services of the type provided by or associated with the Sponsor or Sponsors of the Competition or the AFL.

21.3. Consent of AFL

The League may enter into a sponsorship agreement or arrangement in conflict with any existing AFL Protected Sponsor or AFL Territory Sponsor notified to Leagues provided that it complies with the following:

- (a) the League must first provide to the AFL in writing the full details of the proposed sponsorship, including the name of the proposed sponsor and the money, goods and/or services to be provided by the proposed sponsor (**Sponsorship Proposal**);

- (b) the AFL will notify the relevant AFL Protected Sponsor or AFL Territory Sponsor of the Sponsorship Proposal. Such notification will constitute an offer by the League to the relevant AFL Sponsor or AFL Territory Sponsor to enter into a sponsorship agreement or arrangement on the terms and conditions set out in the Sponsorship Proposal (**Offer**);
- (c) if the relevant AFL Protected Sponsor or AFL Territory Sponsor accepts the Offer in writing within 14 days of receiving the Offer, the League shall be bound in respect of the Sponsorship Proposal;
- (d) if the relevant AFL Protected Sponsor or AFL Territory Sponsor does not accept the Offer or does not provide a response to the Offer within 14 days of receiving the Offer, the League may enter into the agreement or arrangement contained in the Sponsorship Proposal;
- (e) if the League proposes to vary the terms contained in the Sponsorship Proposal or extend the term of any agreement or arrangement, the League shall resubmit the proposed sponsorship arrangement to the AFL in accordance with the procedure contained in paragraphs (a) to (d) above and the same procedure shall apply.

22. ADMISSION INTO VENUES

The AFL, in consultation with the host League, will determine entry arrangements to venues.

23. ALLOCATION OF PLAYERS' CHANGING ROOMS

The Competition Manager (or their nominee) shall determine the allocation of change room facilities for each Team at a venue for a Match.

24. OFFICIAL PROGRAM

An official program will be published and circulated by the AFL.

25. OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS

25.1. AFL to organise

The AFL shall organise any official function(s) of the Competition.

25.2. Compulsory Attendance

An official party or parties of each League (as determined by the AFL) must attend any official function(s) of the Competition.

25.3. Other Functions

Other functions and post-match entertainment may be arranged by individual Teams. The AFL will not be responsible for the costs or arrangements for such functions.

26. CEREMONIES

26.1. AFL to arrange

The AFL will determine the time and format of ceremonies – if any – including, any Opening, Gala Dinner or “Parade of Nations” event.

26.2. Uniform

Each competing Team must attend such Ceremony and wear its designated uniform and shall provide the Team’s official flag as required.

27. MEETINGS

Competing Teams are required to ensure the attendance of Players, Coaches, Team Managers and other designated personnel at hearings conducted by the Tribunal or meetings convened by the Competition Manager.

28. CODE OF CONDUCT

Each Team and Team Member must:

- (a) comply with the code of conduct provisions set out in Section 9 of the Policy Handbook;
- (b) participate in the spirit of true sportsmanship; and
- (c) not engage in conduct which is unbecoming or prejudicial to the interests of the AFL or the Competition.

29. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

29.1. Types of Awards

The following trophies shall be awarded:

- Men’s Competition – Winner;
- Women’s Competition – Winner.

The following medals shall be awarded for the Men’s and Women’s Competitions:

- Best and Fairest Player – Grand Final;
- Leading Goal Kicker;
- Winners medals for each player in the Grand Finals.

30. ALL-TRANSATLANTIC TEAM

30.1. Appointment

The AFL will appoint persons to a panel to be known as the All-Transatlantic Team Selection Panel (**Selection Panel**).

30.2. Selection

Following the conclusion of the Competition, the Selection Panel will select twenty-four (24) Players, and a Coach to be included in the All-Transatlantic Team for both the men’s and women’s Competitions.

In making such selection, the Selection Panel shall have regard to the performances of those Players who competed in the Competitions. Each Player and official selected shall receive a "All-Transatlantic Team" Guernsey.

31. 32. COMPETITION MANAGER

31.1. Administration of Competition

The Competition Manager shall be responsible for administering the Competition.

31.2. Duties

Without limitation, the Competition Manager shall:

- (a) investigate and determine any protests, disputes or complaints made in relation to the interpretation or application of these Regulations or the general conduct of the Competition;
- (b) perform any other function or duty as prescribed in these Regulations;
- (c) perform any function or duty as directed from time to time by the AFL;
- (d) interpret any provision contained in these Regulations; and
- (e) interpret and provide any rulings with respect to the Laws of Australian Football.

31.3. Power to Report

Where the Competition Manager is of the opinion that a Team or Team Member has:

- (a) committed a reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football;
or
- (b) engaged in conduct in breach of these Regulations or which is otherwise unbecoming or prejudicial to the interest of the AFL or the Competition, the Competition Manager may refer the matter to the Tribunal for hearing and determination.

32. COMPLAINTS

32.1. Person May Make Complaint

A person who is directly affected by an act or omission which may contravene these Regulations may lodge a Complaint with the Competition Manager.

32.2. Notice of Complaint

A Complaint under Regulation 32.1 must be made by lodging with the Competition Manager, a duly completed Notice of Complaint in the form prescribed by the AFL, accompanied, if requested, by a payment to the

Competition Manager of Fifty Dollars (CAD \$50.00), which amount shall be refunded if the Complaint is upheld.

32.3. Time for Making Complaint

- (a) A Complaint shall be lodged within the following times:
 - (i) where the Complaint relates to an incident during a Match, no later than two (2) hours after the completion of the Match; or
 - (ii) where the Complaint arises at any other time, as soon as possible after the person lodging the Complaint becomes aware of the facts forming the basis of the Complaint provided the complaint is made before the completion of the Competition.
- (b) Notwithstanding Regulation 32.3(a), the Competition Manager may investigate a Complaint made outside the prescribed times if, in their opinion, it would be unjust if the Complaint was not investigated.

32.4. Competition Manager to Investigate

Upon receiving a Notice of Complaint, the Competition Manager shall investigate and determine the matter in accordance with Regulation 33.

33. INVESTIGATIONS

33.1. Power to Investigate

The Competition Manager may investigate and determine any matter which they consider relevant to whether or not a person has contravened these Regulations.

33.2. Basis for Investigation

Without limiting the powers and discretions conferred upon the Competition Manager in Reg 33.1, the Competition Manager may investigate any matter:

- (a) of their own motion;
- (b) on the basis of a Complaint made by a person under Regulation 32; or
- (c) upon having a matter referred to them by an umpire or Steward.

33.3. Co-operation

For the purposes of conducting an investigation under this Regulation 33, a person must:

- (a) upon receiving a request to do so, appear before the Competition Manager;
- (b) fully co-operate and truthfully answer any questions asked by the Competition Manager;

- (c) provide any document in their possession or control requested by the Competition Manager; and
- (d) not make any false or misleading statement or make a statement calculated to or which is likely to mislead.

33.4. Failure to Co-operate

A person who, in the opinion of the Competition Manager, fails to fully observe and comply with Regulation 33.3, will:

- (a) be deemed to have been involved in conduct which is prejudicial to the interests of the AFL and the conduct of the Competition; and
- (b) be dealt with by the Competition Manager as they in their absolute discretion thinks fit.

33.5. Procedure and Rules for Investigation

Subject to the further matters set out in this Regulation 33, the Competition Manager may regulate any investigation commenced in such manner as they think fit.

33.6. Conduct of Investigation

An investigation by the Competition Manager will be:

- (a) inquisitorial in nature;
- (b) conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matter permits; and
- (c) conducted and concluded as soon as practicable.

33.7. Rules of Evidence

The Competition Manager is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to persons exercising a judicial capacity in a court of record but may inform themselves as to any matter in any such manner as they think fit.

33.8. Natural Justice and Other Obligations

Where an investigation is commenced by the Competition Manager, the Competition Manager will:

- (a) inform the relevant person of the investigation and the alleged contravention or complaint being investigated;
- (b) provide any person whose interests will be directly and adversely affected by any decision, an opportunity to be heard;
- (c) hear and determine the matter in an unbiased manner; and
- (d) make a decision that a reasonable person could honestly arrive at.

33.9. Standard of Proof

The Competition Manager shall decide to their reasonable satisfaction whether a person has contravened these Regulations.

33.10. Onus of Proof

No person appearing before or assisting the Competition Manager shall bear an onus of establishing that a person has or has not contravened these Regulations.

33.11. Decision and Penalty

At the conclusion of an investigation, the Competition Manager may impose such penalties and make such orders and give such directions in each case as they in their absolute discretion think fit.

33.12. Hearing on Penalty

Where the Competition Manager determines that a person has contravened these Regulations and before considering any penalty, they shall provide that person an opportunity to be heard on the question of penalty.

33.13. No Reasons

The Competition Manager shall not be obliged to give reasons for any decision made under this Regulation 33.

33.14. Appeal

Regulation 34 will apply to a decision of the Competition Manager made under Regulation 33.11 but to no other decision made by the Competition Manager under the Regulations.

34. APPEAL FROM DECISION OF COMPETITION MANAGER

34.1. Appeal from Decision of Competition Manager

This Regulation prescribes the procedures for an appeal by a person in respect of a decision of the Competition Manager made under Regulation 33.11.

34.2. Person May Appeal

An aggrieved person may appeal to the Tribunal in respect of a decision made by the Competition Manager under Regulation 33.11 provided the appeal is brought no later than 12.00 p.m. on the day after which the decision of the Competition Manager was made.

34.3. Notice of Appeal by Person

An appeal under Regulation 34.2 shall be brought by lodging with the Chair of the Tribunal a completed Notice of Appeal in the form prescribed by the AFL and will be accompanied, if requested, by an appeal fee of Fifty Dollars (AUD

\$50.00), which sum may be refunded in whole or in part in the absolute discretion of the Tribunal.

34.4. Time For Hearing of Appeal

- (a) Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, the Chair of the Tribunal will:
 - (i) as soon as practicable fix a date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal; and
 - (ii) advise all parties interested in the appeal in writing of those particulars;
- (b) The Tribunal may vary the date, time and place specified under Regulation 34.4(a) and upon doing so shall immediately provide all parties interested in the appeal notice of any such variation.

34.5. New Hearing

- (a) Subject to Regulations 34.4(b) and 34.6, the Tribunal shall deal with the appeal as a new hearing.
- (b) The Tribunal may have regard to the record of the investigation conducted by the Competition Manager, including a record of any evidence given to the Competition Manager.

34.6. Onus and Standard on Appeal

On the hearing of an appeal, the appellant shall bear the onus of showing on the balance of probabilities, that the relief sought should be granted.

34.7. Power of Tribunal

The Tribunal may confirm, reverse or modify any decision of the Competition Manager the subject of the appeal and make such orders and give such directions as it thinks fit.

34.8. Procedure and Evidence

Subject to the provisions contained in this Regulation 34, in hearing and determining an appeal, the procedures set out in Annexure A1 shall apply to an appeal heard by the Tribunal.

35. REPORT ON VIDEO EVIDENCE

An umpire, the Competition Manager or a Steward may report a Team Member on the basis of video evidence.

36. TRIBUNAL

36.1. Appointment

The AFL shall from time to time appoint persons to a disciplinary Tribunal to be known as the Tribunal.

36.2. Members of Tribunal

- (a) Subject to sub-clause 36.2(b), the Tribunal shall consist of at least three persons who in the opinion of the AFL possess sufficient knowledge of Australian Football (**Panel Members**).
- (b) A person cannot be appointed to the Tribunal if they are a Team member.

36.3. Composition of Tribunal for Hearing

For the purpose of hearing and determining any matter coming before the Tribunal, the Tribunal shall be constituted by three Panel Members who shall appoint a Chair from their number.

36.4. Jurisdiction of Tribunal

The Tribunal may hear and determine:

- (a) a report made by an umpire, the Competition Manager or Steward that a person has committed a reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football;
- (b) an appeal in respect of a decision of the Competition Manager lodged under Regulation 34; and
- (c) any other matter referred to the Tribunal by the AFL.

36.5. Powers and Procedures

Subject to the further procedures set out by the Competition Manager in their absolute discretion, the Tribunal may regulate any proceedings brought before it in such manner as it thinks fit.

37. INSURANCE

37.1. Public Risk Insurance

The AFL shall include the Competition in its Public Risk insurance policies.

37.2. Players, Coaches & Officials

Each Player, Coach and Official shall pay the costs associated with their injuries which are not covered in the policy obtained pursuant to sub-clause 39.1. For the avoidance of doubt; such costs may include (without limitation):

- an injury that is sustained outside of Matches; and
- long term treatment and damage (including loss of income) which may result from any injury sustained in the competition

37.3. Travel Insurance

Competing teams shall be responsible to arrange their own Travel Insurance.

38. ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The AFL may appoint an Organising Committee to advise it regarding the general arrangements for the Competition and to provide logistical assistance in the conduct of the Competition as required. The AFL shall have absolute discretion to accept or reject advice provided by any Organising Committee.

39. ARENA CONTROL

39.1. Permitted Team Officials

Each Team may have a maximum of seven (7) Officials inside the arena fence during Matches who must be listed on their Team Sheet.

39.2. AFL Officials

The Competition Manager and such other AFL Officials shall be empowered to request the removal from the arena of any Team Official or other person not listed on the Team Sheet.

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

TRANSATLANTIC CUP (Regulation 34.8) (Annexure A1) TRIBUNAL

1. Purpose

This document prescribes the procedures for a matter coming before the Tribunal either in respect of a decision made by the Competition Manager under Regulation 33.11 or in respect of a report made by an umpire, the Competition Manager or a Steward.

2. Conduct of Matter

The matter before the Tribunal will be:

- (a) inquisitorial in nature; and
- (b) conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matter permits.

3. Natural Justice and Other Obligations

At any hearing before the Tribunal, the Tribunal will:

- (a) provide any person whose interests may be directly or adversely affected by its decision an opportunity to be heard;
- (b) hear and determine the matter before it in an unbiased manner; and
- (c) make a decision that a reasonable body could honestly arrive at.

4. Rules of Evidence

The Tribunal is not bound by the rules of evidence or by practices and procedures applicable to courts of record, but may inform itself as to any matter in any such manner as it thinks fit.

5. Onus of Proof

No person appearing before the Tribunal shall bear an onus of establishing that a person has or has not engaged in the alleged conduct.

6. Standard of Proof

The Tribunal shall decide on the balance of probabilities whether a person has or has not engaged in the alleged conduct.

7. Decisions

- (a) At the conclusion of its hearing, the Tribunal may make such determinations, impose such penalties, make such orders and give such directions in each case as it in its absolute discretion thinks fit.

- (b) Without limiting the general discretion of the Tribunal under Rule 7(a) contained in this Annexure, the Tribunal may impose a penalty on a Player beyond the duration of the Competition so that the Player is unable to compete in their local competition for the period of suspension.
- (c) The question before the Tribunal must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of members constituting the Tribunal.

8. Penalty

The Tribunal may have regard to any matters which it considers relevant to the question of penalty and without limitation may consider:

- (a) the seriousness of the reportable offence or matter sustained against the person;
- (b) the injury sustained and effect upon the person against whom the reportable offence has been committed;
- (c) the prior record of reportable offences or conduct committed by the person; and
- (d) the code of ethics contained in Regulation 30 of these Regulations.

9. Hearing on Penalty

Where a matter is sustained against the person and before imposing a penalty, the Tribunal shall provide a person a reasonable opportunity to be heard on the question of penalty.

10. No Reasons

The Grievance Tribunal is not obliged to give reasons for a decision made by it.

11. Questions of Law and Fact

In the hearing and determination of a matter, the Tribunal shall decide all questions of law and fact and without limitation shall determine:

- (a) the meaning of any words relevant to a reportable offence under the Laws of Australian Football; and
- (b) the meaning of any words contained in these Regulations.

12. Determination of Tribunal - Final and Binding

Any determination made by the Tribunal shall be final and binding and a person shall not be entitled to appeal any determination of the Tribunal.

13. Representation

- (a) At any hearing before the Tribunal, a person may:
 - (i) represent himself or herself; or

- (ii) be represented by another person provided that person is not a legal practitioner.
- (b) For the purposes of this Rule, a legal practitioner means a person duly qualified to be admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria or a person with similar or equivalent qualifications in any other State or Territory of Australia or elsewhere.

14. Validity of Hearing

- (a) Where there is any procedural irregularity in the manner in which a matter has been brought before the Tribunal, the Tribunal may still hear and determine the matter unless it is of the opinion that the irregularity has caused or may cause injustice if the matter was heard.
- (b) Subject to Rules 3 and 9 of this Annexure A1, any procedure or requirement regulating the function of the Tribunal is directory in nature and a decision of the Tribunal is not invalid by reason of that procedure or requirement not being fulfilled.