



GENERAL BYLAWS

Ballarat Football Netball League

BFNL GENERAL BYLAWS

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GENERAL BYLAWS

Preamble

These rules take precedence over, but must be read in conjunction with

- Laws of Australian Football
- AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook
- AFL Victoria Community Affiliate Regulations
- AFL Vic Country Rules
- Official Netball Rules as set down by Netball Australia

A breach of any BFNL bylaw will be processed in accordance with the BFNL Bylaw Breach Policy.

1. Definitions and Interpretation

Terms used in these bylaws shall be defined as follows, and any interpretation shall be guided by the common understanding of those terms within the context of this document and applicable law

- “BFNL” means Ballarat Football Netball League Incorporated
- “Seniors” are defined as Seniors, Reserves and Under 18.5 football competitions and A, B, C, D, E and 19 & Under netball competitions
- “Juniors” are defined as Under 16 Seniors, Under 16 Reserves, Under 14 Seniors, Under 14 Reserves, Under 12 Seniors, Under 12 Reserves & Under 10 Senior, Under 10 Reserve, Under 8 football competitions and Under 17 Seniors, Under 17 Reserves, Under 15 Seniors, Under 15 Reserves, Under 13 Seniors, Under 13 Reserves, Under 11 Seniors, Under 11 Reserves and Under 9 netball competitions.
- “Board” means the Committee having management of the business of the Association
- “League” means the Ballarat Football Netball League.
- “Competition” means any competition conducted by the BFNL
- “Team” means the group participating in a competition
- “Home and Away” means all fixtured games, excluding finals.
- “Football Rules” means the Football Rules of the Ballarat Football Netball League Incorporated of this handbook.

2. Club Information

2.1 Club Office Bearers

All affiliated Clubs must complete a Club Information Form within fourteen (14) days



following their Annual General Meeting and submit it to the league. Clubs are required to notify the league immediately of any personnel changes or updates to contact details for individuals listed on the form.

2.2 Club Annual Reports

Clubs are required to submit a copy of their audited Annual Report to the League within thirty (30) days of their Annual General Meeting.

Penalty: Clubs failing to submit within 30 days will incur a \$100 fine.

2.3 Meeting Attendance and Absentee Protocol

At least one Club office bearer is required to attend all League meetings as scheduled by the BFNL. If a Club is unable to attend a meeting, an apology must be submitted via email to the BFNL Operations Manager prior to the meeting.

Penalty: Clubs that fail to attend or provide an apology for non-attendance will incur a \$250 fine.

3. Fines/Payments of Accounts

3.1 Fines for Breach of Bylaws

In accordance with the BFNL Bylaw Breach Policy.

4. Admission

4.1 Admission Prices

Admission prices for Home and Away games (Seniors) and finals (all competitions) will be determined by the Board prior to the commencement of each season.

4.2 League Passes

The following will be honoured for free admission into all BFNL (Senior and Junior) and BFLW matches, including finals:

- BFNL Life Member card
- BFNL League Partner pass
- BFNL League Official pass
- BFNL Media pass
- AFL Victoria Country pass

5. Club Uniforms

Refer to Ballarat FNL Branding and Style Guide or Football/Netball Bylaws for additional information.



These bylaws should be read in conjunction with Section 21 of AFL Victoria Country Rules.

5.1 Colours and Design

Each Club must register its uniforms with the League, and the order of registration will determine the exclusive rights to wear those colours and designs. Any Club wishing to adopt new uniforms must submit a sample to the Board for approval prior to registration.

5.2 Logos

Refer to Ballarat FNL Branding and Style Guide

6. Fixture

6.1 Fixture Scheduling

The BFNL Board will establish the fixture for Senior, Junior and BFLW each season. Clubs may submit their scheduling preferences for consideration; however, there is no guarantee that all requests will be accommodated.

6.2 Changes to Fixture

Any requests for changes to the fixture must be submitted to the Operations Manager and approved by the BFNL Board. Fixture changes due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., ground/court condition) will be made in consultation with the affected Clubs.

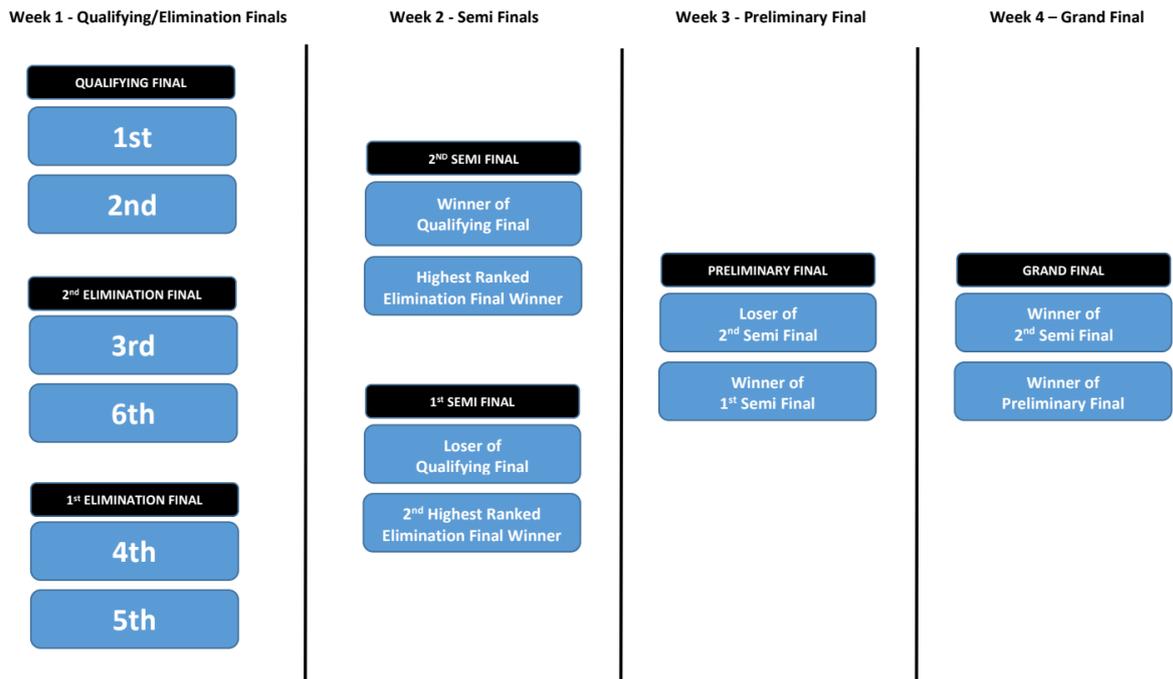
7. Finals

7.1 Fixtures and Venues

All finals matches will be played at venues determined by the Board, which will have full discretion over the scheduling of times and locations for these matches.

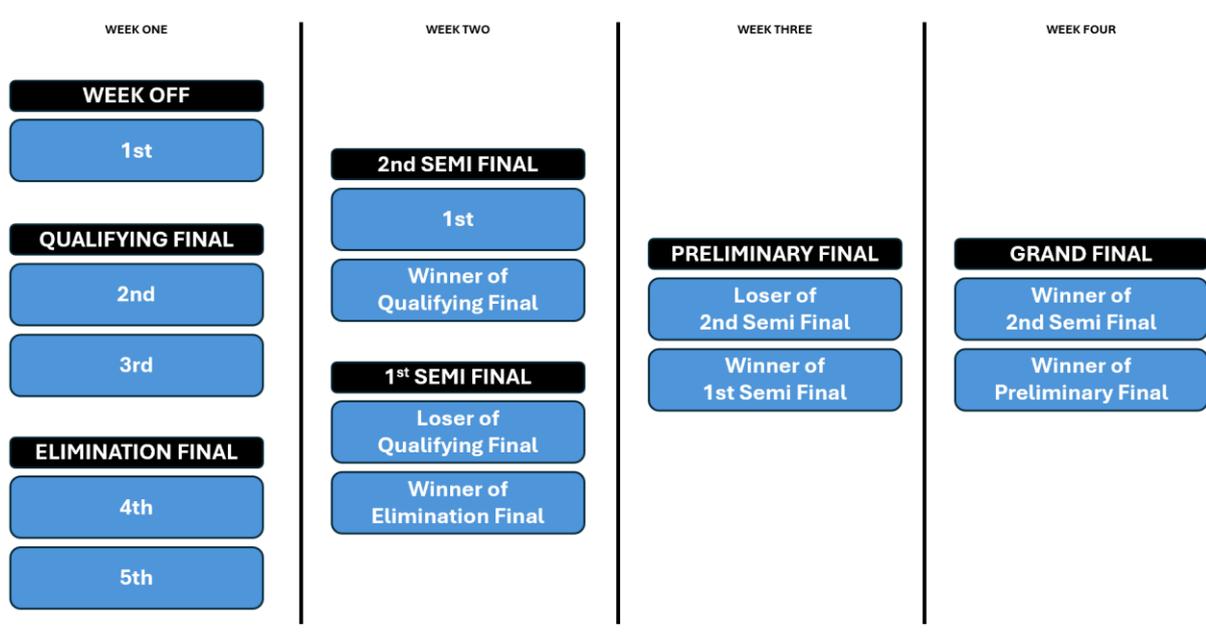


7.2.1 Finals Format (BFNL Competitions)



At the conclusion of the Home and Away season, the Clubs finishing in positions one to six on the ladder in each Senior and Junior Football and Netball competition (Excluding Under 8 and Under 10 Reserves) will form the "Final Six". All decisions made by the League regarding the calculation of points and percentages are final and binding.

7.2.2 Finals Format (BFLW Competitions)



At the conclusion of the Home and Away season, the Clubs finishing in positions one to five on the ladder in each BFLW competition (excluding Under 12) will form the "Final Five". All decisions made by the League regarding the calculation of points and percentages are final and binding.

7.3 Entrance Fees

The League shall be responsible for fixing and collection of all entrance fees at all finals series matches.

7.4 Catering and Booth

The Board will establish a schedule for catering rights during the entire finals series across the BFNL Senior, Junior, and BFLW competitions. All Clubs will be included in this schedule. Clubs may transfer their catering opportunity to another BFNL Club, but in doing so, will forfeit their place on the schedule. If a Club wishes to relinquish their assigned catering opportunity, they must notify the BFNL Operations Manager no later than June 30th.

Penalty: Failure to notify the BFNL Operations Manager by June 30th will incur a \$500 fine.

The Board will also create a separate schedule for booth rights during the BFNL Senior competition finals series, with all Senior Clubs included. A fee for booth rights will be set by the Board on a commercial basis. Where necessary, the League will inform Clubs of any "exclusive arrangements" that must be followed for booth sales.

Penalty: Failure to comply with exclusivity arrangements will result in a \$1,000 fine.

Year	Senior/BFLW Booth	Senior Catering	Junior Catering	BFLW Catering
2019	Sunbury	East Point	Redan	N/A
2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	Lake Wendouree	Sunbury	Mount Clear	N/A
2023	Melton South	Bacchus Marsh	Sebastopol	N/A
2024	Sebastopol	Redan	East Point	N/A
2025	East Point	Sebastopol	Lake Wendouree	Bacchus Marsh
2026	Ballarat	Darley	North Ballarat	East Point
2027	Bacchus Marsh	Lake Wendouree	Woody Yaloak	Sebastopol
2028	Redan	Melton	Bacchus Marsh	Ballarat
2029	North Ballarat		Darley	Darley
2030			Ballarat	Lake Wendouree
2031				North Ballarat
2032				Redan
2033				Carisbrook



7.5 Host Club

If your Club's home venue is selected to host a finals series, your Club will be expected to assist with the following:

- Provide access to changerooms one hour prior to the first game.
- Provide access to the timekeepers' box one hour prior to the first game.
- Set up the netball court and football field (including the Under 10 Football ground).
- Ensure access to equipment, including the stretcher, timers, siren, score bench, and interchange dots.

A fee of \$200 per day will be paid to the home Club. This fee is intended to cover the costs of utilities and other expenses associated with hosting the match on that day.

7.6 Raffle

Ground raffles during all BFNL and BFLW Finals may only be conducted by the League.

7.7 Changeroom, Bench and Short Allocation

The BFNL Board reserves the right to allocate the use of changerooms (Football and Netball), team benches (Netball) and shorts (Football) for all BFNL and BFLW finals.

8. Forfeiture

8.1 Forfeiture Procedure

Where a Team forfeits a Match, the following shall apply:

(a) the points for the Match shall be awarded to the Team who did not forfeit the match; and

(b) at the conclusion of the round in which the forfeit occurred:

(i) the percentage of the Team who did not forfeit the Match shall be adjusted by crediting and debiting that Team with the average number of points for the Home and Away Matches that were scored for and against the Team who did forfeit the Match, at that point of the season; and

(ii) the percentage of the Team who did forfeit the Match shall be adjusted by crediting and debiting that Team with the average number of points for the Home and Away Matches that were scored for and against the Team who did not forfeit the Match, at that point of the season.

If the forfeit occurs in Round 1, where no scores have been recorded for either team, the following shall apply:



- i) the percentage of the Team who did not forfeit the Match shall be adjusted by crediting and debiting that Team with the average number of points that were scored for and against in all other games of Round 1; and
- ii) the percentage of the Team who did forfeit the Match shall be adjusted by crediting and debiting that Team with the average number of points that were scored for and against in all other games of Round 1.

8.2.1 Forfeiture Fine (match)

Penalty: Forfeiting any scheduled BFNL/BFLW match will incur a fine up to the amount as outlined below.

Competition	Fine (inc. GST)
Senior Football	\$3,000
Reserves Football	\$2,000
Under 18.5 Football	\$1,000
Any Junior Football	\$500
A Grade Netball	\$3,000
B Grade Netball	\$2,000
C Grade Netball	\$1,500
D Grade Netball	\$1,000
E Grade Netball	\$1,000
Under 19 Netball	\$1,000
Any Junior Netball	\$500
BFLW Women	\$1,000
Under 19 Youth Girls	\$500
Under 16 Girls	\$500
Under 14 Girls	\$250
Under 12 Girls	\$100

8.2.1 Forfeiture Fine (season)

Where a team fails to field the required number of teams in a BFNL competition, the Club shall forfeit its season for the relevant competition(s).

Where an Associate Club has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the League, they must field all teams outlined in the MOU.

If a Club does not field the required teams as outlined, it will forfeit its participation in the competition and incur a fine as outlined below:

Competition	Fine (inc. GST)
Senior Football	\$54,000
Reserves Football	\$36,000
Under 18.5 Football	\$18,000
Any Junior Football Competition	\$7,000



A Grade Netball	\$54,000
B Grade Netball	\$36,000
C Grade Netball	\$27,000
D Grade Netball	\$18,000
E Grade Netball	\$18,000
Under 19 Netball	\$18,000
Any Junior Netball Competition	\$7,000

8.3 Forfeiture Expense

In addition to any fine imposed by the League, a Club that forfeits a BFNL Senior, Reserve or Under 18.5 Football competition match or A Grade Netball match where they are scheduled as the away team shall be required to pay the opposing host Club a \$500 fee. This fee is to cover the loss of income incurred by the host Club due to the forfeiture.

9. Match Day Paperwork

All required paperwork, as outlined below, must be submitted to Saxon House (BFNL headquarters) no later than 7:00 PM on the day of the match (excluding night games). The home Club is responsible for ensuring that all documentation is submitted to the League on time.

Match Day Paperwork	
Football	Netball
Team Sheets	Scoresheet
Report Sheet (if applicable)	League Best & Fairest Vote Cards
Timekeeper Cards	
Goal Umpire Cards	

Penalty: Clubs failing to submit paperwork to BFNL headquarters by 7:00pm on the day of the match (excluding night matches) will incur a \$150 fine.

10. Media Commitments

Each Club is encouraged to make personnel available to the media when requested, to support the promotion and visibility of the League. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in media days, promotional campaigns, and social media content creation.

11. Player Milestones

The BFNL will issue milestone certificates to players who reach 100 or 150 Senior BFNL/BFLW games. For players reaching 200 Senior BFNL/BFLW games, the league will



present a plaque. It is the responsibility of each Club to notify the BFNL Operations Manager in advance when a player is approaching a milestone.

12. Awards

12.1 Best and Fairest Awards

Best and Fairest awards will be presented in all Senior Football and Netball Competitions, as well as in the Senior divisions of the Junior Football and Netball Competitions (excluding Under 8 and Under 10 Football, and Under 9 and Under 11 Netball), and the BFLW (excluding Under 12) Competitions. Following the conclusion of each match, the official league field/court umpires will select their top three players for Best and Fairest honours. Umpires will award:

- 3 votes to the player they judge as the fairest and best,
- 2 votes to the second-fairest and best, and
- 1 vote to the third-fairest and best player.

For Football, umpires will submit their votes via the online platform, OfficialsHQ.

For Netball, umpires will complete their votes on a form and place them in a sealed envelope, which will then be handed to the court manager and submitted with all other match day paperwork.

At the end of the home and away season, the League will collate all votes from the minor rounds. The player with the highest total votes will be awarded Best and Fairest for their respective competition. In the event of a tie, the players with the equal number of votes will be declared joint winners.

12.2 Best and Fairest Eligibility

Any player found guilty of a Reportable Offence under Laws of Australian Football or by the Independent Tribunal on any charge shall be ineligible for the award of Best and Fairest during the current season. Where the highest vote getter has been ruled ineligible, the next placed that is not deemed ineligible will be declared the winner.

12.3 Goal Kicking/Shooting Awards

12.3.1 Goal Kicking Awards

Goal Kicking awards will be presented in all BFNL Senior, Junior (excluding 8 and Under and 10 and Under) and BFLW (excluding Under 12) competitions, to the player who has kicked the greatest number of goals during the Home and Away season. In the event of a tie, the players with the equal number of goals kicked will be declared joint winners.



12.3.2 Goal Shooting Awards

A goal shooting award will be presented in the A Grade Netball competition, to the player who has shot the greatest number of goals during the Home and Away season.

12.4 BFNL Senior Competition Awards

12.4.1 Henderson Medal

An award known as the “Henderson Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the BFNL Senior Football competition.

12.4.2 Sally McLean Medal

An award known as the “Sally McLean Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the BFNL A Grade Netball competition.

12.4.3 George King Medal

An award known as the “George King Medal” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the BFNL Reserves Football competition.

12.4.4 Dick Rees Memorial Trophy

An award known as the “Dick Rees Memorial Trophy” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the BFNL Under 18.5 Football competition.

12.4.5 Tony Lockett Medal

An award known as the “Tony Lockett Medal” shall be made each year to the player who at the completion of Home and Away matches, has kicked the greatest number of goals in the BFNL Senior Football Competition.

12.4.6 Jim Gull Medal

An award known as the “Jim Gull Medal” shall be made each year to the player who at the completion of Home and Away matches, has kicked the greatest number of goals in the BFNL Reserves Football Competition.

12.4.7 Under 18.5 Leading Goal Kicker

An award known as the “Under 18.5 Leading Goal Kicker” shall be made each year to the player who at the completion of home and away matches, has kicked the greatest number of goals in the BFNL Under 18.5 Football Competition.

12.4.8 A Grade Netball Goaler of the Year

An award known as the “A Grade Netball Goaler of the Year” shall be made each year to the player who at the completion of Home and Away matches, has shot the greatest number of goals in the BFNL A Grade Netball Competition.

12.4.9 Merv and Mary Howard Memorial Shield (Seniors)

On an annual basis, the League will award a Club Championship shield, known as the “Merv and Mary Howard Memorial Shield” to the Senior Club with the highest tally of points at the completion of home and away matches.



Points will be accrued for a win as follows:

Competition	Points Awarded
Senior Football	3 Points
Reserves Football	2 Points
Under 18.5 Football	1 Point
A Grade Netball	3 Points
B Grade Netball	2 Points
C Grade Netball	1 Point
D Grade Netball	1 Point
E Grade Netball	1 Point
Under 19 Netball	1 Point
Any drawn match	Points halved

12.4.10 Team of the Year

An award known as the ‘BFNL Team of the Year’ shall be made each year to recognise the most outstanding players and coaches in the Senior and A Grade competitions. This award will acknowledge the best twenty-two (22) football players and the best ten (10) netball players, as well as the best coach for each sport. The selection of the BFNL Team of the Year in each competition will be made by the Senior and A Grade coaches, who will select and vote for their best team. The BFNL will tally the submissions and award each position to the highest vote getter. In the event of a tie, the position will be awarded to the player with the greater number of League votes.

12.5 BFNL Junior Competition Awards

12.5.1 Lloyd Sims Trophy

An award known as the “Lloyd Sims Trophy” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the BFNL Under 12 Football competition.

12.5.2 Keith Rawle Memorial Trophy

An award known as the “Keith Rawle Memorial Trophy” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the BFNL Under 14 Football competition.

12.5.3 Gordon Wise Memorial Trophy

An award known as the “Gordon Wise Memorial Trophy” shall be made each year to the fairest and best player or players in the BFNL Under 16 Football competition.

12.5.4 Robert Allan Medal

An award known as the “Robert Allan Medal” shall be made each year to the player who is regarded to have the most potential to further their football career. The medal will be presented in the BFNL Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 Football competitions. The winner of the Robert Allan Medal in each competition will be determined based on the following criteria:



- Coaches from each competition will vote on the best opposing player they have coached against, awarding 3 votes for the best, 2 votes for second, and 1 vote for third.
- Players will receive 1 vote for being named best on ground in any Interleague matches.
- Players will receive 1 vote for each best on ground (3 votes) they receive in the League Best and Fairest voting.

12.5.5 Merv and Mary Howard Memorial Shield (Juniors)

On an annual basis, the League will award a Club Championship shield, known as the “Merv and Mary Howard Memorial Shield” to the Junior Club with the highest tally of points at the completion of Home and Away matches.

Points will be accrued for a win as follows:

Competition	Points Awarded
Under 17 Senior Netball	3 Points
Under 17 Reserve Netball	3 Points
Under 16 Senior Football	3 Points
Under 16 Reserve Football	3 Points
Under 15 Senior Netball	2 Points
Under 15 Reserve Netball	2 Points
Under 14 Senior Football	2 Points
Under 14 Reserve Football	2 Points
Under 13 Senior Netball	1 Point
Under 13 Reserve Netball	1 Point
Under 12 Senior Football	1 Point
Under 12 Reserve Football	1 Point

12.6 BFLW Competition Awards

12.6.1 MVP Award

An award known as the “Most Valuable Player” shall be made each year to the player who is regarded to have the most potential to further their football career. The medal will be presented in the BFLW Under 14 Under 16 Football competitions. The winner of the MVP in each competition will be determined based on the following criteria:

- Coaches from each competition will vote on the best opposing player they have coached against, awarding 3 votes for the best, 2 votes for second, and 1 vote for third.
- Players will receive 1 vote for being named best on ground in any Interleague matches.
- Players will receive 1 vote for each best on ground (3 votes) they receive in the League Best and Fairest voting.



12.6.2 Rookie of the Year Award

An award known as the ‘Rookie of the Year’ shall be made each year to a first year player who shows promise and potential in the game of Australian Rules Football in the Under 16 and Under 19 competitions. Each BFLW Club will nominate one (1) player for the award. The winner of the Rookie of the Year will be selected by the BFNL Board.

12.6.3 Rising Star Award

An award known as the ‘Rising Star’ shall be made each year to a first year player who shows promise and potential in the game of Australian Rules Football in the BFLW Under 14 competition. Each BFLW Club will nominate one (1) player for the award. The winner of the Rising Star will be selected by the BFNL Board.

12.6.4 Team of the Year

An award known as the ‘BFLW Team of the Year’ shall be made each year to recognise the most outstanding players in all BFLW competitions (excluding Under 12). This award will acknowledge the best twenty-two (22) football players. The selection of the BFLW Team of the Year in each competition will be made by the coaches of each competition, who will select and vote for their best team. The BFNL will tally the submissions and award each position to the highest vote getter. In the event of a tie, the position will be awarded to the player with the greater number of League votes.

12.6.5 Merv and Mary Howard Memorial Shield (BFLW)

On an annual basis, the League will award a Club Championship shield, known as the “Merv and Mary Howard Memorial Shield” to the BFLW Club with the highest tally of points at the completion of Home and Away matches.

Points will be accrued for a win as follows:

Competition	Points Awarded
Womens	3 Points
Under 19	2 Points
Under 16	1 Point
Under 14	1 Point

13. Sponsorship and Marketing

13.1 Naming Rights and Ground Sponsorship

No BFNL or BFLW club may enter into a "Club naming rights" sponsorship without prior written approval from the Board. All proposals must be submitted to the BFNL Operations Manager for consideration by March 1st of each calendar year.

13.2 League Sponsors

The League will enter into exclusive partnerships that must be protected. Clubs are



required to display League sponsor signage at their venue, upon request, at no cost to the League. The BFNL will assume responsibility for the maintenance of these signs. Additionally, Clubs must offer products from League sponsors for sale at their venue.

Current exclusive partnerships:

- McDonalds
- ISC
- 3BA
- Western Bulldogs
- Sherrin
- CUB
- Times News Group

Should new partnerships be entered into throughout the season, the BFNL Sponsorship and Events Coordinator will advise Clubs.

Penalty: Failure to comply will result in a \$100 fine per offence

