



BY-LAWS

INTRODUCTION

The following by-laws have been made by the NTFA Council under the authority of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association Inc. Constitution, and are binding on all clubs, players, officials and any other person registered or included under these by-laws.

The NTFA adopts the Laws of Australian Football subject to its right to vary those laws from time to time.

These By-Laws take effect from 11th March 2026

1. DEFINITIONS

In these regulations & by-laws, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

"Club" means a club holding a licence allowing a team to participate in a competition of the Northern Tasmanian Football Association Inc.

"Constitution" means the Constitution of the NTFA.

"Council" means the NTFA Council which is made up of the Board of Management and one representative from each member club.

"Licence" means a licence admitting a team to participate in an NTFA competition.

"NTFA" means the Northern Tasmanian Football Association Inc.

"NTFA Board" means the Board of Management of the NTFA.

"NTFA Competition Rules" – means the Northern Tasmanian Football Association Inc. Competition Rules

"Official" includes any person involved in the administration of a Club.

"Person" means a person, Club, Player, Official, an Associate of a Club, corporation, senior coach, associate of a Player or spectator.

1.1. INTERPRETATION

In the interpretation of these by-laws, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (a) words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa.
- (b) words importing any gender shall be deemed to include any gender.
- (c) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of these by-laws.
- (d) “including” and similar words are not words of limitation.
- (e) Any words, terms or phrases defined in the remainder of these by-laws shall have the meaning prescribed within the regulations; and words, terms or phrases not otherwise defined in these by-laws shall be given their ordinary meaning.

1.2 CLUB ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Incorporation & Constitution Of Clubs

1.21 A Club shall be an incorporated association under the provisions of either the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964 (Tasmania)* or registered companies under the provisions of the *Corporations Law (Commonwealth)*.

1.22 Each Club shall deposit with the NTFA its constitution within one month of its adoption, and any alterations or additions to the constitution.

1.23 A Club shall not alter its constitution in such a way that it conflicts with the provisions of the Constitution, By-laws and resolutions of the NTFA.

The National Community Football Policy Handbook

1.24 The requirements set out in the *National Community Football Policy Handbook* published by the AFL, are incorporated into the NTFA By-Laws (the *Community Football Policy Handbook*).

1.25 Each Club and any person associated with the NTFA competitions must comply with the requirements set out in the *Community Football Policy Handbook*.

1.3 NTFA COMMITTEES AND PORTFOLIOS

- 1.31 The Board may appoint the following committees and tribunal.
- (A) Appeal Committee (members of this committee may not be on (C))
 - (B) Independent Tribunal
 - (C) Registration and permit Committee
 - (D) Any other Committee the Board determines

1.32 The Board shall appoint a Registration /Permit Committee annually comprising at least three people, of whom one shall be appointed Chairman by the Board.

1.33 The quorum is two.

1.34 Except where otherwise provided in these by-laws, the Committee has authority to exercise powers of the NTFA in relation to registration/permits and transfers of players.

1.35 A player or destination club has the right of appeal to the Appeal Committee against any decision of the Registration / Permit Committee under these by-laws and the decision of the Appeal Committee is final.

1.36 The Appeals Committee shall report to the NTFA Board any circumstances of which it may become aware which tend to suggest that false or misleading information has been provided to the Appeals Committee at or in connection with the hearing of any appeal.

1.4 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

The NTFA Board shall have the power to decide any matters not provided for in these By-laws

1.5 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1.51 The NTFA Board shall determine the Divisions, the season commencement date and season fixtures for each Division, including the number of teams per Division, and team relegation and promotion.

1.52 The Board may relegate or promote a team for fixturing and division competition.

1.53 Applies only to Division 1 and Division 2 and specifies that:

(a) The Club whose Senior Men's team finished last in Division 1 shall be relegated to Division 2.

(b) The Club whose Senior Men's team were the Premiers in Division 2 will be promoted to Division 1.

Noting that the Board may:

(a) Promote, relegate or refuse to promote or relegate any Club in the event that:

(i) The Club cannot field the full complement of teams for the forthcoming Season.

(ii) A decision is made pursuant to By-Law 1.51 altering the number of Divisions, the Board may set in place a system or mechanism to determine, or may itself exclusively determine, the teams of which Clubs shall be relegated or promoted to give effect to the decision.

1.54 The Board, in further of its objectives shall decide;

Notwithstanding the above, the teams of an Affiliated Club in the u18's/Colts or Senior Women's competitions shall play in the same division as the Affiliated Club's Men's Senior Team are competing in unless the Senior Team is participating in Division 2 whereby the Colts and Women's teams will remain in the Division 1 competition.

1.55 Prior to each season each club shall supply to the Competition Manager:

The postal and email addresses, business and mobile telephone numbers where applicable of administrators, including secretary, board or committee members, coaches of each team plus an audited balance sheet and annual report.

1.56 A club shall ensure that all volunteers and staff members have the appropriate qualifications and clearances to undertake their roles and responsibilities.

1.57 A club that has a licence for a team in the Women's Competition shall ensure that its women's team has the same rights of access to facilities, fixturing time on the oval and other places as male teams:

- (a) Including female players have equal access to club facilities and equipment and are not allocated late evening time slots; and
- (b) Club gym equipment is suitable for use by females.

2. Competition Arrangements

All competition and match day rules are published in the "Northern Tasmanian Football Association Inc. Competition Rules" booklet and updated annually.

3. Safeguarding Children and Young People

(a) To support and give effect to the AFL's commitment to safeguarding children and young people, and in recognition of its obligations under Tasmanian law, the NTFA will, and require each member club to:

- (i) have zero tolerance for child abuse, harm, neglect or exploitation of Children and Young People;
- (ii) provide and actively promote environments in which all Children and Young People feel safe, supported, respected and included when participating in any NTFA-sanctioned activity;
- (iii) recognise and respond to the particular needs of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People;
- LGBTIQ+ Children and Young People;
- Children and Young People from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds; and
- Children and Young People with disability, and implement culturally safe, inclusive and accessible practices and procedures to address those needs;

(iv) consider and have regard to the views and experiences of Children and Young People and, where appropriate, use those views to inform the development, review and continuous improvement of safeguarding policies, procedures and practices;

(v) ensure that Children and Young People and their parents or guardians are provided with clear, accessible and age-appropriate information about safeguarding expectations and practices, including rights, responsibilities and pathways for raising concerns, and that Children and Young People are supported to speak up if they feel unsafe;

(vi) ensure that any concern, complaint or allegation relating to child abuse, harm, neglect or other inappropriate behaviour towards a Child or Young Person that occurs in connection with NTFA sanctioned activities is:

- taken seriously;
- responded to promptly and sensitively;
- managed in a culturally appropriate and trauma-informed manner; and
- investigated or otherwise addressed in accordance with the Community Football Policy Handbook, any other relevant NTFA or AFL policies and procedures, and all applicable legislation;

(vii) comply with all statutory requirements relating to the safeguarding of Children and Young People in Tasmania, including (without limitation):

- the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023 (Tas);
- the Child Safe Standards; and
- the Reportable Conduct Scheme,
and ensure that all Persons engaged by, or acting on behalf of, the NTFA meet their applicable obligations, including Working with Children registration requirements; and

(viii) implement and maintain appropriate screening, selection and appointment processes for all child-related roles, including verification of Working with Children registration and any other checks required by law or NTFA policy;

b. All member clubs must by no later than 31 March each year provide written confirmation that they have complied, to the extent required by law, with the requirements of (a)(vii) and (viii).

4. Administration and Finance

NTFA Board

4.1 The NTFA Board shall control the day-to-day operation of the NTFA competition.

4.11 The Board has, and may exercise, all the disciplinary powers and functions vested in the NTFA by the constitution, these by-laws, the Community Football Policy Handbook, the Laws of Australian Football and the NTFA Competition Rules.

4.12 Without limiting the generality of that paragraph (a), the Board may, by direct action:

(a) Impose specific penalties where those penalties are named in these by-laws;

(b) Impose penalties in its discretion for other breaches to or failure to comply with, the constitution or these by-laws;

(c) Impose a penalty in respect of conduct which, in the opinion of the board, tends to be prejudicial to the interests of the game or tends to bring the game into disrepute.

4.13 The penalties available under this rule are a fine, suspension, disqualification, deregistration, or any other penalty which, in the circumstances of the case, the board thinks is appropriate.

4.14 In any action under this by law the board shall observe the principles of natural justice.

Attendance at Meetings

4.2 Each club will be required to have one representative in attendance at NTFA or Council meetings for which notice has been properly given. The representative must be an elected member of the club committee.

4.21 If a club fails to have a representative in attendance the club may be liable to a fine. This will be determined by the Board. Continued non-representation may result in the Club no longer being eligible to compete in the NTFA.

Fees

4.3 Each club shall pay the annual levy fixed each year for membership of the competition and any further fees or levies fixed from time to time by the NTFA.

4.4 Levies and other relevant charges will be invoiced on a schedule set by the Board at the start of each season.

Fines

4.5 Where a club, player, official or club umpire has been fined by the NTFA Board or incurs an automatic fine, such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of notification of the penalty except where otherwise specified by the NTFA. Failure to pay such fine by the specified time without a satisfactory explanation may result in the fine being increased by the NTFA Board.

Where a fine has not been paid within three (3) months of the invoice date, the player's, official's or umpire's club shall be responsible to pay the fine to the NTFA.

Outstanding Accounts

4.6 Except as provided for under by-law 4.8, any club which is in arrears to the NTFA for a period of 28 days or more from the date of the invoice, may be ineligible to receive any competition points which may be accrued by its teams, from that point in time until the overdue amount has been paid. The club maybe deregistered in the event of the club refusing to pay outstanding monies. They may also be fined.

4.7 Subject to a final decision by the Board, no club shall participate in any finals match if there are any monies still owed to the NTFA after the last roster match. Monies shall include association fees and other charges including undisputed fines as levied by the Board.

4.8 Where extenuating circumstances exist, the NTFA Board may in its discretion, place a club on financial scheme of arrangements for the repayment of outstanding accounts. Any club operating under such an arrangement shall be considered to be financial with the NTFA provided that it is up to date with all payments specified by the scheme and for the current year.

5. General

NTFA Colours

5.1 The official colours of the NTFA shall be as designated. The design of NTFA's representative jumpers shall be the responsibility of the NTFA Board.

Interpretation of the By-Laws

5.2 Where agreement is unable to be reached involving a question of interpretation of these by-laws, the opinion of the NTFA Board shall be taken and acted upon and its decision shall be final.

Matters not provided for

5.3 In the event of any question arising which is not provided for in these by-laws, the opinion of the NTFA Board shall be taken and acted upon and its decision shall be final.

Appeals

5.4 Any player, official, umpire or club who feels aggrieved by any decision involving these by-laws which cannot be appealed pursuant to the provisions of the *Community Football Policy Handbook*, or NTFA Competition Rules may appeal to the NTFA Appeals Committee in accordance with the appeal procedures as determined by the NTFA.

Note: The Community Football Policy Handbook sets out the rules applicable for appeals of Tribunal decisions regarding Reportable Offences and Policy Breaches (such as Code of Conduct breaches). The following by-laws do not apply to those appeals.)

Appeals Committee

5.41 An Appeals Committee shall be established by the NTFA Board to hear and determine all appeals relating to decisions that cannot be appealed pursuant to provision of the *Community Football Policy Handbook* or *NTFA Competition Rules*, including the refusal of domestic transfers, or severity of penalty and any other by-law decision as per 5.4

5.42 The Appeals Committee shall be appointed as necessary by the NTFA Board.

5.43 At any sitting of the Appeals Committee, a minimum of two members shall constitute a panel.

5.5 Lodgment of Appeals

5.51 The request in writing for an appeal of a decision made by the NTFA Registration and Permit Committee or the NTFA Player Points System Committee shall be accompanied by a fee of \$500 (plus GST) which may be retained, refunded in part or full at the discretion of the Appeals Committee.

5.52 For all other appeals as per by-law 5.4 the Notice of Appeal request in writing shall be accompanied by a fee of \$1000 (plus GST). \$500 which may be retained, refunded in part or full at the discretion of the Appeal Committee.

5.53 Where the Appeals Committee's decision is more favourable to the appellant than the earlier decision the Appeals Committee may refund up to 50% of the fee paid pursuant to by-law 5.52

5.54 An appeal must be lodged with the competition manager within 5 days (not working days).

Note: This does not apply to a tribunal decision, the National Community Football Policy Handbook Guidelines take precedent in this regard

5.6 Hearing Procedure

5.61 The Appeals Committee shall:

(a) Provide any person whose interest will be directly and adversely affected by its decision a reasonable 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.

5.62 The Appeals Committee may, subject to these by-laws, regulate any proceedings before it in such manner as it thinks fit.

5.63 The hearing before the Appeals Committee shall be:

(a) Inquisitorial in nature; and;

(b) Conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as the proper consideration of the matter permits.

5.64 The Appeals Committee 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.

5.65 The question on appeal before the Appeals Committee must be decided according to the opinion of a majority of the members constituting the Appeals Committee.

5.66 The Appeals Committee is not obliged to give reason for any decision it makes.

5.7 Power of Appeals Committee

5.71 Appeals Committee have the power to make any decision which may override that which is appealed against, impose any extra penalty or make any comment they consider necessary.

5.72 Decision Final

The Appeals Committee shall make the formal announcement of the appeal at the conclusion of the hearing or next day and shall inform the appellant in writing of the outcome of the appeal as soon as practicable thereafter. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.