LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

1. NAME

(a) The competition shall be named in accordance with the grade of competition and is at the sole discretion of the League.

(b) Where a competition is sponsored, the League will have the sole and absolute discretion to incorporate the name of the sponsor in the naming of the competition.

2. ELIGIBILITY

(a) All member clubs of the League are eligible to enter into one or more of the competitions.

(b) Clubs competing in those divisions which are defined as requiring the fielding of a reserves team shall field a reserves team in that competition.

(c) Except as provided at 2(b) above, no club shall have more than one team in the same senior division.

(d) The League reserves the right to limit the number of teams which a club may enter into the competition.

3. DIVISIONS

(a) The League championship and (where applicable) the League reserves championship shall be divided into divisions according to the number of participating clubs in the League.

(b) Where possible ten teams will be allocated to each division. Where ten teams are unable to be allocated, it will be the lowest divisions that will be allocated with more or less than ten teams. The allocation of teams and/or divisions is at the sole and absolute discretion of the League.

4. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

(a) The two top teams of a lower divisions shall be promoted to the next higher division each year.

(b) The two bottom teams of the higher division shall be relegated to the next lower division each year.

(c) When vacancies occur in higher divisions through the resignation or disbandment of teams, or any other cause, the vacancies shall be filled by the teams next in line for promotion from the next lower division.

(d) When the interest of the League is best served, the Board shall have the power to adjust the numerical composition of teams in the two lowest divisions.

4.1 Exclusions

(a) Consistent failure by any club to support League activities or to adhere to acceptable disciplinary standards or to provide facilities acceptable to the League may result in its being denied promotion or in its being demoted to a lower division at the absolute discretion of the League.

(b) Promotion and relegation shall not occur in respect of Reserves or C Team's teams, which shall be tied to the position held by the respective club's Senior team.

5. CASUAL VACANCIES

Where a vacancy occurs in any division during the course of the playing season (and whether or not that vacancy occurs in the first or the second half of the playing season) then all results, player votes and all goals registered for or against the withdrawing team shall be erased from the record so that, in effect, the end result were as though that team had not existed at any stage of the season. The exception being that any disciplinary sanctions, including Red and Yellow cards, will remain.

5.1 Resignation of Membership

(a) A member may resign from the League at any time by providing confirmation in accordance under Clause 5.16 of the SAASL Constitution.

(b) The member shall cease to be a member of the League upon the Board accepting the resignation.

(c) The resignation of a club shall not affect any suspension of the club in operation at the time of the resignation or the power of the League to suspend the club, its officials, players and members.

5.2 Termination of Membership for Breach

(a) A Club's membership may be terminated in accordance with the requirements under clause 5.17 of the SAASL Constitution.

(b) Notwithstanding the resignation or termination of a member, the member shall continue to be liable to the League for any membership fees or other money due and unpaid at the time of its resignation or expulsion.

5.3 Amalgamation of Clubs

(a) Notice of intention to amalgamate shall be lodged with the League by the parties concerned.

(b) The amalgamation shall be completed and approved by the Board on or before 31st December of that year or on or before such other date as may be determined by the Board.

(c) A bond of the prescribed amount must be lodged with the League by the newly constituted clubs within 7 days of the approval of the amalgamation by the Board.

(d) The bond may be refunded after 12 months if the League is satisfied that the amalgamated club is established and has fulfilled all its necessary commitments.

(e) The amalgamated club shall be responsible for all claims existing against the former clubs at the time of the amalgamation, and the League may use the bond to meet any of those claims if it is deemed necessary.

6. CONDUCT OF COMPETITION

(a) The League championship and (where applicable) the League Reserve, C team or single team championship in each division or section of a division shall (except as provided at 6(i), below) be played on a home and away basis so that each team shall play each of the other teams in its division or section of a division twice during the season, thus:

(i) once at its home ground (home match) except that where a club cannot provide covered changing facilities, toilet facilities and access to running water for the visiting team and for match officials the League may direct that it play its matches at some other ground than its registered home ground; and

(ii) once at its opponent's ground (away match) subject to the same exception as stated at 6(a)(i), above.

(b) For every WIN, a team shall be awarded three (3) championship points.

(c) For every DRAW, a team shall be awarded one (1) championship point.

(d) For every LOSS, a team shall not be awarded any points.

(e) The team which achieves the highest number of championship points at the end of the competition shall be known as the Divisional Winners.

(f) When two or more teams have achieved the same number of points at the end of the competition, goal difference will determine the highest finishing team.

(g) When goal difference fails to separate two or more teams, the team that scored the greater number of goals will determine the highest finishing team.

(h) When goal difference and goals scored fail to separate two or more teams, and the order of precedence determines promotion or relegation or eligibility to compete in other competitions, a play-off shall be scheduled at a time and place and under conditions determined by the League. In all other cases the order of precedence shall be determined by the alphabetical order of the names of the teams concerned.

(i) Where a division (as provided elsewhere in these rules) consists of more or less than ten teams, then the number of home and away games to be played by any team shall be at the absolute discretion of the League.

7. GOAL DIFFERENCE

Goal difference is determined by subtracting the number of goals scored against a team from the number of goals scored for that team. The result may be positive (goals for exceed goals against), neutral, or negative.

8. MATCH SHEETS

(a) Prior to the start of a match, the Club Manger or Coach of a team shall, at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time of kick-off, submit their Match Sheet on the Dribl App, which will include up to, but not more than, six substitutes (consisting of 5 field players and 1 Reserve Goalkeeper (RGK) participating in that match.

(b) The first eleven players listed must (except through circumstances reasonably beyond the control of the team concerned) be the eleven players that are to commence the game.

(c) The shirt number worn by each player and substitutes***,*** shall be listed on the Match Sheet.

(d) The Match Sheet must correspond exactly with the shirt numbers worn by each player and substitutes.

(e) No player shall take part in the match if they are not correctly listed on the Match Sheet.

(f) Once the Match Sheets have been submitted by each team, both teams are able to view each other's Match Sheet and their Identification Cards, and will have to confirm the opposition team on the Dribl App.

(g) Any club that fails to submit their Match Sheet on time will be reported to the League. The League will determine the penalty and sanction to be imposed, including a fine as set by the League.

(h) A match must not commence until both properly completed Match Sheets are submitted on the Dribl App.

(i) Where a Club is the cause a of a late start to the match due to 8(g), the Club will be sanctioned in accordance with the automatic fines published by the League.

(ii) Any Club being the cause of the match not proceeding due to 8(g), will be deemed the cause for the match to be abandoned, and will be subject to Rule 29 Abandoned and Postponed Fixtures of these rules.

(i) The Club shall select the registered Coach for each team and also enter onto the Dribl App the full names and identification numbers of the team officials and the nominated Club Marshall/Ground Stewards for the fixture, as prescribed by the SAASL Club Marshall and Ground Steward Roles and Responsibilities policy, and as determined by the League.

(j) The registered Club Referee officiating in a reserve, C team or Over 35s fixture shall comply with the Club Referee Policy and ensure the relevant information is supplied to the Home Team Manager or Coach, so the Match Sheets on Dribl are duly completed and submitted to the League immediately on the completion of any fixture, and as specified.

(k) "Played" shall mean that the participant's name has been entered on the Match Sheet.

(l) Only Participants named on the Match Sheet are permitted in the technical area.

9. PARTICIPANT IDENTIFICATION

(a) The Board recognises the Dribl Identification Cards that are viewable on the Dribl App (after a Club has submitted their team on the App), as being the photo identification of all participants.

(b) Clubs have an obligation under these Rules to ensure that every participant is registered with the League prior to commencing any fixture within a competition of SAASL.

(i) Includes Players, team officials in technical area during the match, plus all Club Marshall and Ground Stewards.

(c) The League may at any time request that a Club or participant provide additional verification of identity. This must be in the form of a recognised photo identification, being a current Drivers Licence or passport. The League may suspend a participant's registration until their identity is verified.

10. CHECKING IDENTITY OF PLAYERS

Where a club suspects that an opposition player taking the field of play or one of the substitutes is not the player listed on the opposition Match Sheet:

(a) A Team official may report to the Referee any Suspected Ineligible Player Violation at the first convenient opportunity (either before the game starts, at half time, or immediately after the conclusion of the match).

(b) The reporting Club is required to complete the ***Suspected Ineligible Player Violation form*** and submit it to the League, accompanied by any evidence or statements, by no later than 12pm on the first business day following the fixture.

(c) The League will only investigate an alleged breach of the player eligibility rules once the duly completed Suspected Ineligible Player Violation form has been received by the League, as stated within these rules.

(d) Where the fielding of an ineligible player is proven or apparently proven, the club, if requested to do so, shall identify the player to the satisfaction of the League. Should the club fail to identify the player as requested, it may be suspended from all further competition until it does so or, in the case of continuing default, may not enter any subsequent competition or renew its membership.

(e) A club making allegations under this rule without proper and sufficient reason, frivolously, maliciously or dishonestly shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined on the Suspected Ineligible Player Violation form which shall, for the purposes of this rule, be taken as though it formed part of these rules.

11. PLAYERS

All players taking part in the competition shall be properly registered with the League and undertake to abide by the SAASL Codes of Conduct.

(a) All players playing in the SAASL competitions, must register on-line on Play Football through the SAASL website, as specified by the League,

(b) In all SAASL competitions, clubs are not permitted to play players who are currently registered with any other association or any other similar body.

(c) No player may be registered with more than one (1) member club or one (1) association at any given time during a season.

(d) Any breach of the player registration and eligibility rules will be subject to the sanctions permitted under the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

(e) Clubs may, by application, seek an exemption for junior players to register to participate for the same Club in the League Championship competition. The League, at its sole discretion, may grant such exemption, but reserves the right to decline any application under this rule.

(f) Shared registration of player participating in Under 18, or Over 35s with other competitions outside of SAASL will be at the discretion and approval of the League and in accordance with the Shared Registration Policy.

(g) In the Over 35's Competition only, two underage players (their minimum age of 30 years of age) will be permitted to be listed on the match sheet and participate in any one match.

11.1 Player Registration

(a) The player is required to complete their registration on Play Football through the SAASL website as specified by the League. A clear current photo is required as part of the Player Registration process.

(b) The Club is responsible for verifying their Player's Identity at the time of Registration and prior to allowing a player to participate in a match, and the Club will be held accountable for any breach of the Player Registration and Eligibility Rules.

(c) Players will be required to provide their identification document to the Club Registrar/Administrator for verification and on Play Football.

(d) Once the Club Registrar/Administrator has accepted the player registration on Play Football, this will populate to Dribl and the League will then approve the player registration. (This process can take up to 48 hours.)

(e) Any errors, omissions or fraudulent registrations by a participant must be reported to the League immediately.

(f) The Club will be held fully responsible for any breach of the Player Registration rules and will be charged and sanctioned under the Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

(g) Players holding a current registration and wishing to transfer to another club, must complete the online transfer process. The acceptance of the transfer is at the discretion of the League. The de-registration and re-registration must be completed by the 30th June.

(h) Where Clubs seek to register new Players for the League after 30th June, the Club and Player will be required to fill in the ***Mid-season Player Registration Form***.

(i) A player may be registered for a maximum of three (3) clubs during the season. During this period the player is only eligible to play in matches for 2 clubs.

(j) The League will advise each club when they need to provide a new photo for their players. Updating players' photos will be at the discretion of the League.

(k) Player transfers from all competitions outside of SAASL, requested prior to the 30th June, must be formally lodged with the League on the ***Player Transfer Request Form – Outside of SAASL***, by the Club and Player for approval by the League prior to registering on Play Football.

(l) Players are not to register on Play Football and/or be verified by the Club on Play Football until the Club has received a confirmation email from the League that the player is permitted to register for the Club.

(m) The League reserves the right to nominate a registration fee as required.

11.2 SAASL Representative Teams

(a) Players selected to represent SAASL in State Representative and/or Select Teams, shall be released from the Club to which they are registered to participate in training and fixtures scheduled by the League.

(b) Clubs that fail to release Players, or are found to have misrepresented a Player's availability, will be subject to investigation and may be sanctioned in accordance with the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

(c) Players who fail to make themselves available without proper reason, will be subject to investigation and may be sanctioned in accordance with the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

12. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

To commence a game each team is required to have no more than eleven players, one being a goalkeeper, on the field of play. No team shall be allowed to take or to remain on the field if it consists of less than seven players, one being a goalkeeper.

13. SUBSTITUTES

(a) No more than six substitutes may be listed on the Match Sheet for any match, irrespective of the Grade. The following substitutes will be permitted in all League Championship matches:

(ii) Five (5) players may be replaced by substitutes during the course of a match for Seniors and Reserves.

a. Teams will only be permitted to make these substitutions as follows:

(1) Substitutions will only be permitted at three (3) stoppages during the match.

(2) Substitutions during the half time interval can be made with no effect on the three (3) stoppage rule.

(iii) Substitutions at all times are subject to the discretion of the Referee.

(b) Only nominated C team, Under 18s, single teams and Over 35s Competitions are permitted to interchange Players in respect to 13(a).

14. MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS BETWEEN TEAMS

(a) A Club with more than one team in the League competition can move players between teams only if those teams play on the same day (Saturday or Sunday).

(b) Players under suspension or who have been sent off on the same day cannot be moved between teams on the same day.

(c) Player Eligibility for League matches scheduled after Senior Fixtures

(i) If a Senior League fixture is scheduled to be played before a Reserve, C Team , or Over 35s match in the same round, and it's not a catch-up fixture as per sub-rule 14(d), then:

i. If a player starts in the Senior League match, they cannot play in any other subsequent match in that round.

ii. If the player is used as a substitute and plays more than 50% of the Senior match, they cannot play in the other matches of that same round.

(d) Restrictions on Regular Senior Team Players in Postponed League Fixtures:

(i) When the Senior team is not playing in a catch-up fixture, regular Senior team players cannot play for the Reserve, C teams or Over 35's teams.

(ii) A regular Senior team player is defined as someone who has played 80% of the Senior team's League games that have been completed to date, calculated to the nearest whole game.

i. For the purpose of this rule, a player is defined as a Senior team player if they are named as starting on the Senior match sheet or have been used as a substitute and played more that 50% of the Senior match.

Example: if it is Round 16 of the League Championship, a player is deemed a regular Senior team player if they have started or came on as a substitute in 80% of the 16 senior matches, therefore 13 or more senior team games.

(e) Interpretation of this rule is at the sole discretion of the League and any determination will be final.

(f) Consequences for Breaching the Rules

(i) If a breach of any part of these rules is suspected, the Club will be investigated and charged with misconduct by League.

(ii) If the charge is upheld by the Competitions Disciplinary Committee, the Club will forfeit the match in which an ineligible player participated and may be subject to additional penalties as determined by the Competitions Disciplinary Committee and permitted by the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

15. GROUNDS, GROUND EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES

(a) Except for very good reason, the League will not permit any championship fixture to be played at a venue where covered changing facilities are not available for use by the competing teams and by the Referees.

(b) If covered changing facilities are inadequate to accommodate both of the competing teams and the match officials, then the visiting team and the Referees shall be given priority in the use of those facilities.

(c) The home club shall by means of a marked spectator's line, barriers, ropes or other device define an area which will keep all spectators and/or officials and/or players not directly involved in the game at least three metres from any sideline or goal line.

Any barrier or ropes must be of a safe material and not pose any danger in any way to the safety of spectators, players or officials.

The home club shall be responsible for ensuring that no unauthorised person intrudes closer to the sideline or goal line than the distance specified in this rule.

The away team shall ensure that its spectators and/or officials and/or players not directly involved in the game remain within the area specified by the home club and shall be responsible for ensuring that none of those persons intrudes any closer to a sideline or goal line than is specified by this rule.

(d) The home club shall supply and have on hand, at all home matches, goal nets, sufficient pegs to adequately fasten the goal nets, 4 corner flags, a match ball and a reserve match balls, a whistle, linesperson's flags and ground marking equipment. All items shall conform to the requirements of the Laws of the Game.

(e) The home club shall have available and provide the Club Marshall and Ground Stewards vests and the Club Officials' identification cards. The home club is to ensure that their registered Club Referee is wearing the Club Referee's uniform supplied by the League.

(f) The away club shall have available and provide the Club Marshall and Ground Stewards vests and the Club Officials' identification cards.

(g) It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that the field of play, ground markings and appurtenances comply with the Laws of the Game and any additional requirements as determined by the SAASL.

16. TEAM COLOURS AND EQUIPMENT

(a) The team uniform includes the shirts, shorts, and socks of a player or goalkeeper.

(b) Team colours shall be advised to the League on the form ***Confirmation of Club Officials, Teams and Playing Strips*** on the date nominated each year. Once a team's colours have been published by the League, those colours may not be changed during the course of that calendar year without the approval of the League. Each team must play in its registered team colours approved by the League.

(c) The shirts of players must bear a distinctive number corresponding to the number shown on the Match Sheet. No two players may wear the same number except that where a goalkeeper is injured or changes position and is replaced in goal by an outfield player it shall not be necessary for that outfield player to wear a shirt number different from that worn by the goalkeeper whom they replace.

(d) The **home team** will be permitted to wear their nominated first strip. Prior to any fixture, it is the **away team's** responsibility to ensure that their playing uniform (socks, shorts and shirts) does not clash with the **home team,** and where necessary, the **away team** will use their alternative playing uniform.

(e) If the Referee at any match deems that the uniforms of the teams or goalkeepers taking part are not sufficiently different, then it is the responsibility of the **away team** to change their uniform, or any part thereof, to the satisfaction of the Referee.

(f) The goalkeeper shall wear colours which distinguish them from outfield players and from Referees.

The goalkeeper may wear padded shorts or track suit pants which are black in colour and shall not be required to wear outfield shorts in his team's colours over those padded shorts or track suit pants.

(g) The playing equipment of all players shall conform to the Laws of the Game.

17. DISCIPLINE & APPEALS PROCEDURE

(a) The Competition Disciplinary Committee, Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee shall each consist of members appointed by the League in accordance with its Constitution and the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

(b) All disciplinary Offences arising out of a match and whether those actions involve player, officials or a club's supporters shall be dealt with in accordance with the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

18. PLAYERS CAUTIONED OR SENT OFF

(a) The caution system (described in the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules) shall apply to all players registered and playing in the various League competitions.

(b) Any player cautioned by a Referee shall be subject to the disciplinary measures set out in the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

(c) Any player sent off by a Referee shall be subject to the disciplinary measures set out in the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

(d) Accumulation of Yellow Card and/or Red Card Suspension or any other Disciplinary action determined at the end of the current season will carry over to the following season and must be served in the League Championship, unless otherwise directed by the Competition Disciplinary Committee.

(i) For serious breaches of the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules, the League may, at its discretion, make determinations regarding participation of the participant in any non-Competitive matches of the following preseason.

19. CLUBS AND CLUB OFFICIALS' CONDUCT

(a) Each member club is unconditionally responsible for the behaviour of its officials, players and supporters. Disciplinary action will be taken against clubs, club officials and players whose actions (or the actions of the club's officials, players or supporters) are, in the opinion of the League, in breach of the Constitution of the League, the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules, the Laws of the Game, or the SAASL Code of Conduct, or are actions that bring the game into disrepute.

(b) All clubs and participants must abide by and promote the SAASL Code of Conduct

(c) The home club shall be responsible for the safety of Referees and other officials, for the maintenance of good order, and for ensuring the safety of all those present at its ground or at the ground on which its fixture is being played.

(d) The away club shall be responsible for cooperating with the home club in every way for the safety of Referees and of other officials, for the maintenance of good order, and for ensuring the safety of all those present at the match in which it is involved.

(e) Coaching whilst the match is in progress will only be permitted from within the Technical Area.

(f) Where the conduct of spectators, players, coaches or club officials is found to have seriously breached the League rules, the SAASL Code of Conduct, or to have brought the game into disrepute, the matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

(g) At the sole discretion and determination of the Disciplinary Committee one (or more) of the following sanctions may be imposed:

(1) deduction of championship points
(deducted points will carry over to the following season)
(2) suspension from a certain number of fixtures
(3) suspension for remainder of season
(4) fines and/or bonds of good behaviour

19.1 Registration of Club and Team Officials, Coaches and Non-Playing Roles

(a) Each club will be supplied with up to five club official numbered identification cards (or more if the club chooses to register more than 5 officials). Clubs are free to allocate their officials' identification cards to appropriate club members on match days, and all such persons wearing an official club identification shall be deemed to be appointed club officials for that club on that day.

(b) Team Officials', Coaches or non-playing participants, must be registered on Play Football and will be required to fulfill the registration requirements which includes the verification of Working with Children Checks (WWCCs) by the Club Registrar/Administrator.

(c) Once the Club Registrar/Administrator has verified the Team Officials', Coaches or non-playing participants registration on Play Football, it will populate to Dribl and the League will then approve the registration. (This process can take up to 24 hours.)

(d) Registration is required at the commencement of each season and prior to participating in a match as a coach, team official or non-playing participant. Any person in the Technical Area must be listed on the Match Sheet.

(e) Any errors, omissions or fraudulent registrations must be reported to the League immediately.

(f) Clubs are unconditionally responsible for the behaviour of club officials, and must, upon demand by the League, provide the identity of any person who was wearing a club official's identification at any time.

19.2 Club Marshall and Ground Steward Requirements

(a) The minimum requirements are:

i. Senior fixtures - a minimum of three (3) Club Officials, one of which is to be the nominated Club Marshall and the remaining two are to be the Ground Stewards. Both the Club Marshall and Ground Stewards shall fully comply with the Club Marshall and Ground Steward Roles and Responsibilities and the SAASL Code of Conduct.

ii. Reserve fixtures, C Team, Single Teams and Under 18's – one (1) Club Marshall is required and shall fully comply with the Club Marshall and Ground Steward Roles and Responsibilities.

iii. The League may at any time impose additional Club Marshall and Club Official/Ground Steward conditions on any club or division.

(b) Without in any way limiting the generality of paragraph 19.1 above, the following instances are specified:

i. No person may have any dealings with the appointed Match Officials unless they are wearing a club official's identification card. This applies to all dealings with Match Officials, submitting match sheets and entering the referee's room.

ii. No person may be in the technical area, sit on the bench during matches or locate themselves inside the spectator restraining barrier (fence, rope, line, etc) unless they are either a nominated player whose name and player identification is on the Match Sheet or unless they are listed on the Match Sheet wearing a club official's identification card.

iii. No registered club official shall permit their club officials' identification cards to be worn or displayed by any other person during the course of the day unless they have been specifically authorised to do so by the club.

(c) Clubs are responsible for ensuring that no club official, supporter, registered player or any other person is in breach of the provisions of paragraph 19.2 (b) above.

(d) Any person who was wearing a registered club official's identification card shall make themselves available to attend a Disciplinary Committee hearing if called upon to appear. The club shall be responsible for the failure of such persons to appear as directed, and shall be subject to an automatic fine for each such failure.

(e) Any club or person failing to abide by any of these provisions, the appropriate SAASL rules or policy and/or the Codes of Conduct, shall be in breach of the League Championship Rules and, upon receipt of a written report from the Match Official, a Club Referee or League official, shall be subject to disciplinary procedures.

(f) Breaches will result in sanctions against the club including, but not limited to, fines, suspension, loss of championship points, as determined by the Competition Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee and/or the Board, as prescribed in these League Championship Rules or the Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

20. APPEALS

(a) The rights of appeal, the appeals process, and the procedures for Clubs, club officials and/or players in relation to appeals, are clearly stated in the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

(b) Appeals lodged in accordance with the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules shall be referred to the Appeals Committee of the League.

21. COMPLAINTS

(a) Other than a matter that falls within the ambit of the Disciplinary and Appeals Rules, any Club wishing to complain about any aspect of the League competitions, should, in the first instance, attempt to resolve the issue informally by discussing it with those involved.

(b) A complaint relating to any aspect of the League competitions must be made in writing to the League only on the form prescribed from time to time.

(c) Any written complaint submitted to the League under rule 21(a) will be considered by the League and actioned accordingly, entirely at its discretion.

22. REFEREES AND REFEREE ASSISTANTS

(a) Referees and Referee Assistants shall, subject to availability and to the League's policy as defined from time to time, be appointed to each fixture only by the League or on behalf of the League.

(b) The ***home club*** is responsible for the payment of official Referees and of official Referee Assistants.

(c) Fees for matches conducted by official Referees and official Referee Assistants remain the responsibility of the Clubs.

(i) The senior Match Officials/Assistant Referees will continue to be appointed in accordance with the appointment requirements and processes.

(ii) The League, on behalf of the Clubs/Teams, will process the payments to the appointed Match Officials/Assistant Referees

(iii) The Clubs will be notified weekly and will be required to reimburse the League the cost of their official Match Official fees within fourteen (14) days of notification.

(iv) Clubs failing to reimburse the League as required, may find their Club fixtures suspended.

(d) Fees for Cup games are shared equally between the home and away Clubs, as scheduled.

23. CLUB REFEREES AND REFEREES ASSISTANTS

(a) If by the scheduled time of kick off, the appointed Match Official is not present, and there is no official assistant referee present to take the Match Official's place, then the following shall occur:

(i) Senior (A team) fixtures – if there is no official or appointed Match Official then the game shall not be played. The League will determine the outcome in accordance with the League Championship rules.

- In exceptional circumstances, the League may appoint a Club Referee to officiate the senior fixture and the fixture must proceed.

(ii) Reserve (B team) fixtures – if there is no appointed Match Official, then the fixture must be played and officiated by a registered Club Referee as prescribed in the Club Referee Policy and League Championship Rules.

(iii) For C Team, Over 35s and other competitions nominated by the League, Clubs are required to provide a registered Club Referee if no official referee is appointed.

(b) Should an appointed Match Official be unable to continue refereeing a Senior team fixture, the senior appointed Assistant Referee shall take over the fixture to completion. Should there be no official appointed Assistant Referee available to take over the fixture, then the fixture will be abandoned, and the League will determine the outcome in accordance with the League Championship Rules.

(c) If by the scheduled time of kick off, the official Assistant Referees are not present, each team shall provide a club linesman. In the event that only one official Assistant Referee is present, the home team's club referee shall assist the official referee.

(d) If at any time the official Assistant Referee arrives late, they shall take over from the time they arrive and the home club shall report the late arrival to the League.

(e) No fixture shall commence, or continue, without two (2) Assistant Referees/Club Linesman.

(i) If one (1) Club cannot provide an Assistant Referee/Club Linesman, then the opposition team shall provide both Club Linesmen for the duration of the match.

(ii) The game shall not proceed without two (2) Club Linesmen, the fixture will be abandoned, and the League will determine the outcome.

24. LAWS OF THE GAME

All matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as promulgated by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) or (FIFA).

25. DURATION OF THE MATCH

The duration of a match shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Division	Halves	Half time Break
Seniors & Reserves	2 x 45 Minutes	10 Minutes
C Teams & Single Teams	2 x 40 Minutes	10 Minutes
Over 35's	2 x 40 Minutes	10 Minutes
Under 18's League	2 x 40 Minutes	10 Minutes

26. OFFICIAL STARTING TIME

The kick off times of all matches shall be as specified by the League.

27. LATE START

(a) A late start is deemed to have occurred if the match commences 10 minutes or more after the specified kick off time.

(b) At the discretion of the Referee, if matches start more than 10 minutes late, matches may be reduced in duration as reflected in the table below: -

Division	Match Starts 10 min late	Adjusted Match duration	Match Starts 20 min late	Adjusted Match duration
Seniors & Reserves	2 x 40 Minutes	80 Minutes	2 x 35 Minutes	70 Minutes
C Teams & Single Teams	2 x 35 Minutes	70 Minutes	2 x 30 Minutes	60 Minutes
Over 35's	2 x 35 Minutes	70 Minutes	2 x 30 Minutes	60 Minutes
Under 18's	2 x 35 Minutes	70 Minutes	2 x 30 Minutes	60 Minutes

(c) Any club which is found to be the cause of a late start shall be fined in accordance with the Schedule of Automatic Fines as published.

28. WALKOVER

(a) If a match does not start within 30 minutes of the specified kick off time due to a team failing, or in the opinion of the Referee, fails to be ready to commence play in that game, upon receipt of the Referee's report, the game shall be considered a walkover to the team present at that time provided that:

(i) the team present must be changed and ready to take the field; and

(ii) have submitted their Match Sheet on Dribl App for the Referee to confirm as required by these rules.

Should the above conditions not be met then the match shall be reported as abandoned and not as a walkover, and neither side shall be entitled to championship points.

The team which is present and ready to play a League match which is declared a walkover shall be entitled to three (3) championship points and that team shall be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0).

If at the time of the abandonment or walk off, and where the opposing team is winning the game by a greater margin than three (3) goals, the score line at the time of the abandonment or walk off, will stand.

Where a forfeit is applied, the statistics of the club that did not forfeit or abandon the game, such as the goal scorers and best and fairest votes, will be retained. Red and yellow cards will be applied for both teams.

(b) Any club which is found to be the cause of a walkover of a fixture shall be fined in accordance with the Schedule of Automatic Fines as published.

(c) Where a match is declared a walkover, the Referees shall be entitled to their full scheduled fees, paid for by the offending club.

29. POSTPONED AND ABANONDED FIXTURES

(a) Where ground conditions are such that it appears unlikely the match could be played, the home club shall advise the League not later than 4.00pm on the day prior to the game being played, with supporting evidence as requested, as detailed in the SAASL Extreme Weather Policy under section Heavy Rain and Other Conditions.

(i) Where a match fails to take place because of the failure of one team to comply with League Championship Rule 8 and/or Rule 9 and/or Rule 15 and/or Rule 16, that team shall forfeit the match.

(b) If, in the opinion of the Referee, the condition of the ground is such that it constitutes a danger to players or the game cannot be played due to inclement weather or any other cause, the game shall be postponed, and the Referee and official Assistant Referees (if any) shall be entitled to one half of the scheduled fees.

(c) If the Referee, once a game has started, abandons the game because of inclement weather and/or ground conditions or for any other cause which would prevent the game from continuing to its completion, both the Referee and the appointed Assistant Referees (if any) shall be entitled to their full scheduled fees.

(d) The League, or any appointed disciplinary committee, shall have the discretionary power to determine the outcome of an Abandoned Match. Where an abandonment of a game has occurred due to events outside of the control of the teams involved, the result of the abandoned game may stand if the number of minutes of the Match has been completed in Table 29(f), in the full discretion of the League.

(e) The League shall have the sole discretionary power to determine the time of the abandonment; the duration of a match, the outcome of any abandoned match, and whether any such abandoned match shall be replayed, and may make further determinations it considers necessary.

(f) Table 29(f)

Division	Duration of Match	Defined minute of Abandonment
Seniors & Reserves	90 Minutes	From 65 minutes
C Teams & Single Teams	80 Minutes	From 60 minutes
Over 35's	80 Minutes	From 60 minutes
Under 18's League	80 Minutes	From 60 minutes

(g) Matches abandoned or postponed because of inclement weather, bad ground conditions or other causes not involving violence or disturbance shall be replayed at a time and place specified by the League such, as:

(i) within 2 weeks of the fixture, or

(ii) at the next Cup Round should both clubs not be playing, or

(iii) when and where, as directed by the League.

(h) Matches abandoned due to circumstances other than those specified in subrule 29(g), shall be subject to investigation and may at the discretion of the League be subject to disciplinary action.

(i) For matches abandoned under the provisions of subrule 29(j), the League will implement the findings of the Competitions Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Committee which may include:

(i) that the result of the match at the time of abandonment shall stand; or

(ii) that the match shall be replayed at a time and place specified by the League; or

(iii) that the match shall not be replayed, and no result recorded i.e. no points will be awarded;

(iv) that the match be forfeited by one or other of the teams, and that championship points be allocated to the opposite team as would otherwise be awarded for winning of the match.

(j) Matches abandoned due to the violent behaviour and/or conduct of spectators, players, or club officials causing serious and significant breaches of the League championship rules, the Codes of Conduct, and/or the principles of Fair Play / Fair Conduct, may be subject to investigation and disciplinary action being imposed on one or both clubs involved by the Disciplinary Committee as permitted under the SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

(k) Any match which was required to be replayed under the provisions of either subrule 29(g) or subrule 29(i), above, and which have not been replayed by the end of the League's normal programme, shall not be replayed unless:

(i) first or second place of either of the teams concerned or of any other team in that division may be affected by the result; or

(ii) the relegation of either or both of the teams concerned or of any other team in that division would be affected by the result; or

(iii) the right of either or both of the teams involved or any team or teams in that division to participate in any competition or in any re-organisation (where that right is determined be the precedence of a team in the League championship ladder) may be affected by the result.

(l) When, in accordance with subrule 29(g) or 29(i) a match is not replayed, the match will be recorded as no result with no championship points awarded to either of the teams involved.

30. RESULTS

(a) At the completion of a match, the appointed Match Official will enter the results onto Dribl, by no later than 7pm on the day of the match.

(b) When an Appointed Club Referee officiates the Match, at the completion of the Match, it is the home club's responsibility to enter the results onto Dribl (including all goal scorers, any relevant cards and any injuries) by no later than 7pm on the day of the match.

(c) A club that fails or is late to post the result of its match/es, shall be fined in accordance with the Schedule of Automatic Fines as published by the League.

31. DRAW OF FIXTURES AND VENUES

(a) A club applying for an adjustment of a fixture must do so in writing at least 30 days before the commencement of the season. No other application will be considered except in relation to FA Cup matches in which a member club may be involved.

(b) A club applying to change the venue of a fixture must, unless under exceptional circumstances, do so at least 15 days prior to the date of that fixture.

(c) Where a club, in exceptional circumstances, requests to change the venue of a fixture and the time proves too short for all members of the opposing team to be advised, the result of that match (if it is played) may be set aside and a replay be ordered at a time and place determined by the League.

(d) If a club does not field a team, the League shall refer the matter to the Board. The Board shall determine:

(i) whether any compensation shall be paid by the club which did not field a team to the opposing club; and

(ii) if it decides that compensation shall be paid, it shall fix the amount of such compensation.

(e) If the Board decides that compensation shall be paid, the club which did not field a team shall pay the amount of compensation fixed by the Board to the opposing club in the manner and at the time directed by the Board.

32. PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Player of the Year awards are decided on League Championship senior matches only.

In each case the Referee shall be the sole judge and voter.

The Referee will nominate the three best players in the match:

3 Votes are awarded to the best player of the match

2 Votes are awarded to the second best player of the match

1 Vote is awarded to the third best player of the match

At the end of the season, the player in each senior division who has accumulated the most points shall be the “Player of the Year” of that division.

The player gaining the most points in Sunday Division 1 shall be declared the **Bailetti Medal Winner.**

The player gaining the most points in Saturday Division 1 shall be declared the **Rossi Medal Winner.**

The player gaining the most points in Sunday Division 2 shall be declared the **Cox Medal Winner.**

The player gaining the most points in Saturday Division 2 shall be declared the **Karschimkus Medal Winner.**

The player gaining the most points in Sunday Division 3 shall be declared the **Bailey Medal Winner.**

The player gaining the most points in Saturday Division 3 shall be declared the **Gossland Medal Winner.**

Players on equal points shall each be awarded the respective medals.

33. PERPETUAL TROPHIES

(a) The League championships of every division and section of a division may be presented a perpetual trophy to mark their success. Such perpetual trophies shall be held by the successful clubs for a period specified by the League and must be returned upon request.

(b) The winning Club will be held responsible for the safe keeping of the perpetual trophy and for its return to the League.

(c) Whether or not perpetual trophies are awarded, each winning club shall be presented a plaque to keep as its own.

34. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) The Board may publish or direct the publication of in any manner it thinks fit, any information it considers should be published and may suppress all or any information.

(b) No other person or body shall make any public announcement or publish information relating to the conduct, business or affairs of, or under the control of, the League except with the permission of the Board in writing.

(c) The provisions of subrule (b) shall not apply to the publication of comments on, and the result of, matches and general information regarding a club and their social activities which must not breach the SAASL Constitution, the Social Media Policy or the Video and Images Policy.

35. SPONSORSHIP SIGNAGE AND LICENSED PRODUCTS

(a) Clubs and all their teams, players and members shall observe and perform all directions of the Board in relation to any agreement or arrangement made by the League with sponsors of the League or members of the League, or sponsors of any competition in accordance with the Policy prescribed by the League.

(b) Clubs playing in any competition shall, if so required by the League, display signs advertising the sponsors of the League and the sponsors of the competition at their club grounds in such positions as the League and the club may agree.

36. COPYRIGHT

(a) The copyright of the SAASL Logo, including all lists of fixtures or matches, programmes, publications and announcements of the League, shall be the sole property of the League as permitted under the SAASL Constitution.

(b) No club or other person shall reproduce, copy or authorise, or purport to authorise, any person to reproduce or copy the whole or any part of SAASL Logo, any such list of fixtures or matches, programme, publication or announcement, except with the written permission of the Board and in accordance with any conditions imposed by the Board, as permitted under the SAASL Constitution.

37. MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

(a) On the recommendation of the Board, the League may make a Meritorious Service Award, to any person who has rendered sterling service to soccer, at SAASL Club level, for a period of not less than ten years, as detailed in the SAASL Awards and Life Member Policy.

(b) Members may nominate persons who have rendered sterling service to the Club and soccer for at least ten years for consideration by the Board.

(c) Nominations shall be in writing, on the prescribed form, and shall contain full details of the services rendered by the nominee and must be received by the due date nominated by the League.

(d) Not more than one award shall be made in any one year.

38. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

These rules may be altered, amended or otherwise changed only by the League and provided that such alterations, amendments or other changes are made and approved by the Board not later than 30 days prior to the commencement of the championship season to which they relate.

39. MATTERS NOT COVERED

Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be at the sole and absolute discretion of the League and all the matters concerning the planning and management of the competition shall be vested in the Board.

40. INTERPRETATION

(a) The Board shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the Constitution, Rules, and Policies.

(b) The decision of the Board on any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the League or its members and not provided for in the Constitution, Rules, and Policies, shall be binding on all members, coaches, managers, members of committees of the League and its members, and all other persons bound or affected by these rules and policies of the League.

(c) The interpretation of the Rules and Policies for Trial games, Pre-Season Cup Competitions or any other competition authorised and played under the jurisdiction of the League will be subject to the League Rules and Policies and at the sole discretion of the Board.

(d) Disciplinary sanctions arising out of Trial Games, Pre-season Games and/or Pre-Season Cup Competitions in relation to Yellow Cards and send off offences, as detailed in the Disciplinary and Appeals Rules, is subject to the determination of the League.

(e) All member Clubs shall be bound by and shall observe and enforce the Rules and Policies and each member Club shall be responsible for the actions of all its officials, players and members, and shall enforce these rules and policies on its officials, players and members.

41. ADDENDUM 1 – League Championship Rules - ***Suspected Ineligible Player Violation Form***

League Championship Rules Control

Date	Clauses Amended	Description of Change	Date
February 2026	4.1 (b)	Changed the reference from thirds team to C's team	23rd February 2026
	6 (a)	Changed the reference from thirds team to C's team or single team	
	9	Section renamed to Participant Identification and reference in section from player to participant	
	11 (f) & (g)	Section (f) added in about shared registration, original (f) moved to (g)	
	13 (b)	Deleted reference to thirds team and changed to C team and added Under 18's and single team divisions	
	14	Reorder section (d) to be section (c) so the rule reads better remove reference to third team to C team	
	16 (e)	Made change from home team to away team	
	19 (f)	Clarification added	
	19.1	reworded	
	19.2 (a) (ii)	Added Under 18's	
	21	More clarification about the procedure	
	23 (a) (iii)	Added other competitions	
	25	Table added in to clarify the duration of matches	
	27	Table added to clarify the length of matches if late starts	
	29	Renamed section and moved section (k) to be (a)	
	29	Table added to clarify timing for abandoned matches	
	29 (l)	Rule if match is not replayed	
	33	Reworded	
	37	Clarification and addition of reference to relevant policy	