

OMEIO DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

(as of 22nd July 2024)

Process for altering a Football By-law:

Any changes to the Football By-laws will be subject to the following process.

1. A Club votes at a meeting of their Committee to move for a change to a Football By-law.
2. The Secretary of the Club writes to the League Secretary giving Notice of Motion to change a By-law.
3. The League Secretary will notify the Clubs of the Notice of Motion. If the Notice of Motion is received 7 or more days prior to the next meeting of the Delegates, then the Notice of Motion will be listed as an Agenda item for the next meeting. If the Club's Notice of Motion is received less than 7 days prior to the meeting, then the Notice of Motion will be listed for the following meeting.
4. Once the Notice of Motion is received by the Clubs via the League Secretary the Clubs will discuss the motion and instruct their Delegates how to vote on the motion.
5. A simple majority is required to pass the Motion, which will come into effect as from the date of the League meeting.

Omeo District Football Netball League Football By-laws

1. Junior Games:

- 1.1 All games are 4 x 20-minute quarters. No time on. Start no later than 12.30 p.m.
- 1.2 To constitute a game, each club shall have minimum 10 players. Equalization Rule then applies so each team has the same number on the ground.
- 1.3 In all Finals, should a tie occur, five minutes extra time each way until a result has been achieved.

2. Finals:

- 2.1 In Finals, there will be a total prohibition of spectators and players bringing any alcohol into the ground.
- 2.2 Deleted.
- 2.3 No team shall be permitted to have more than the combined total of six Trainers/Water carriers listed on the team sheet as being able to enter the playing arena, except where the AFL Vic Country Heat/Cold Policy is invoked. In addition to the on-field personnel no team shall have more than six officials in the area of the Coach's box. These officials must be registered on the team sheet and must remain behind the white line between the boundary and the coach's box. Penalty for any Offending Club is to be referred to League Executive for penalty of a fine, the amount to be at the discretion of the Executive. In the event that the fine is not paid within 14 days of notice being issued then the matter may be referred to the League Executive for further penalty which may include additional fines, bonds or loss of match points.
- 2.4 That no free passes be issued to Finals games.
- 2.5 For Clubs to participate in Finals they must be financial.
- 2.6 In the event of draws in Finals, 5 minutes each way extra time is played.
- 2.7 The gate takings at all deciding Semi Final and Grand Final matches shall be paid to the credit of the League.
- 2.8 ***Deciding Semi Final, Final and Grand Final Matches.***
At the conclusion of the programme of the matches as arranged by the League, the first four clubs in the Premiership list as determined shall play off for the Premiership.
The following shall be the order in which the teams shall meet and play.
 - (a) The third and fourth shall meet in the First Semi-final.
 - (b) The first and second clubs shall meet in the Second Semi-final.
 - (c) The winners of the First semi final meet the loser of the Second Semi-final in the Preliminary Final.
 - (d) The winners of the Second Semi-final shall meet the winners of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final, and the winners of this match shall be the Premiers for that season.

3. Investigation Officers:

- 3.1 Players who fail to co-operate with the League Investigation Officer shall be referred to the League Executive/Independent Tribunal who may impose penalties as they see fit. Penalties may include fine, bond or suspension.

4. Players on Ground:

- 4.1 The AFL Laws of the Game state;
5.5.3 Players Exceeding Permitted Number
Where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:
(a) a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
(b) a Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded;
(c) the Team shall lose all points which it has scored in that quarter up to the time of the count; and
(d) the field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The Controlling Body may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate, including overturning the loss of points prescribed by Law 5.5.3(c).
- 4.2 If Coaches agree senior games can be played with 18 players on the ground in both Home and Away and Finals matches.
- 4.3 That in Senior Games 12 players is the minimum number to avoid forfeiting a game.

5. Team Sheets:

- 5.1 The team sheet is to have 3 copies. One for the Umpires, one for each of the Opposing teams.
- 5.2 Any Club that provides false or misleading information on a team sheet may be subject to penalty, as determined by the League.
Moved: Lindenow South. Seconded: Swan Reach.
Approved by consensus. (Date: 22nd July 2024)

6. Weather Conditions:

- 6.1 Captains have the power to call off the game at any time. If they disagree, Umpires to decide.

- 6.2 If conditions improve within 20 minutes the game can be resumed, if not the game is abandoned.
- 6.3 If games cannot commence at the stipulated starting time, because of weather conditions, players should remain on standby for 20 minutes in case of improvement.
- 6.4 In Junior matches umpires shall decide whether play is abandoned. There shall be no 20 minutes waiting period in Junior games.

7. Equalization Rule:

- 7.1 Equalization Rules does not apply in Finals.
- 7.2 Equalization Rule does not apply in ODFNL Senior games.

8. Grounds:

- 8.1 That all grounds are marked with an arc at each end of the ground indicating distance from goal with numbers.

9. Permits and Clearances:

- 9.1 The ODFNL Clubs agree to abide by a local Area Agreement to not clear players from the EGFNL for one match only. Any Club that infringes this By-law will be referred to the League Executive for 'Failing to comply with the ODFNL Club Agreement on Clearances'. EGFNL players who play on a clearance with the O.D.F.N.L. will not be cleared back to their E.G.F.N.L. Club until the second week after they have played for an O.D.F.N.L. Club.

- 9.2 **Senior Football:**

There is no Area Agreement between the EGFNL and the ODFNL.

- 9.2 **Junior Football:**

That 6 permit players from the EGJFA be the maximum allowable per team in the Juniors on any one day. In addition, 2 permit players from the Sale & District Junior Football be the maximum allowable per team in the Juniors on any one day. This means that a maximum of 8 permit players be allowed to play in the ODFNL Juniors on any one day, six from the EGJFA and two from the SDJFA.

- 9.3 By-law removed as we no longer have an Area Agreement between the EGFNL and the ODFNL.

- 9.4 **Only ODFNL Registered Players are eligible to play in the ODFNL Finals.**

Clarification: No Senior Players can play on a Season Permit in the ODFNL Finals.

Amendment for Junior Football Season Permits made June 2015:

Notice of Motion: That the qualifying number of permit games to play in ODFNL Junior finals be 8 games.

Moved: Buchan.

Seconded: Bruthen.

A vote was taken.

For: 10. Against: 2.
The motion was carried.

Amendment for Junior Football Season Permits adopted at June 25th 2018 meeting:
(See Appendix for age group table)

That EGJFA players, who meet the requirements for playing on permit for the ODFNL (eight (8) permit games) and Students Living Away from Home (eight (8) permit games) playing on permit for the ODFNL Under 16s be allowed to play in the ODFNL finals.

10. Risk Management Officers:

10.1 That all clubs appoint a Risk Management Officer.

11. Umpires Vote:

11.1 That in both Senior and Junior games the Umpires shall have one vote card and shall consult each other to determine the fairest and best three players.

12. Netball:

12.1 The O.D.F.N.L. Netball By-laws shall be endorsed by the O.D.F.N.L. Executive and Delegates.

13. Honorary Life Members:

13.1 The League shall have the power to elect Honorary Life Members, such memberships to be awarded to those, who, in the opinion of the delegates, have rendered special services to the League or to the game. Such Life Members shall be elected by at least two thirds majority of the delegates in attendance at the Annual General Meeting provided:-

- (i) No more that 2 Life Members may be appointed every five years.
- (ii) Notice of nomination to Life Membership must be given at least fourteen days before Annual General Meeting.
- (iii) Every Life Member, upon election as same by the League, shall be presented with and retain permanently, the official medallion of the League, the official medallion shall entitle the holder to admission to all matches conducted by, on behalf of, or under the jurisdiction of the League, without payment.
- (iv) Life Members shall have the same rights as other members except the right to vote.

14. Meetings:

14.1 Non-attendance of Clubs at Annual, Ordinary or Special Meetings of the League without reasonable excuse, incurs a fine of **\$50** for the first offence; **\$100** for a second offence and **\$150** for a third offence and

thereafter in the one season, such fine to be authorized by a majority of the League Delegates present at the next meeting. If the club, through their delegates, can provide an acceptable reason for non-attendance the meeting may choose to waive the fine, however it is still counted as a missed meeting.

15. Delegates:

- 15.1** Each Delegate to the League duly accredited by the club shall hold office from the commencement of the next ensuing Annual General Meeting of the League until the commencement of the Annual General Meeting of the League held in the following year.
- 15.2** On notice in writing signed by the Club President or Secretary, being given to the Secretary of the League, a substitute for any Delegates may be appointed for any particular meeting; any decision given by any meeting of the League at which any club is represented by a substitute or deputy delegates shall have equal force with, and be binding upon, all club as if the regular Delegates were in attendance.

16. Memberships:

- 16.1** Each club shall pay an annual membership subscription, as fixed by the League at its Annual Meeting of that year. Such fee shall be retained by the League. Fees must be paid prior to the first match of the season. No club which has failed to pay its membership fee shall be permitted to participate in matches controlled by the League.

17. Powers to Levy:

- 17.1** The League shall have the power to levy from each club such sum or sums as may be necessary to meet any expenses incurred by the League in connection with any of its activities.

18. Date of Payment:

- 18.1** All payments or levies due to or made by the League shall be due and paid no later than twenty-one (21) days from the date of the issue of any notification advising same.
- 18.2** Non-payment by the due date shall incur an automatic fine of 10% of the payment or levy due for each seven (7) day period (or part thereof) that the payment remains overdue.
- 18.3** The League shall have the power to amend any penalty as provided for in these rules. Any appeal/submission must be made, in person by the President of the offending club showing such extenuating circumstance for the non-payment of penalty.

19. Admission Charges:

- 19.1** The League its Annual Meeting shall have power to determine and prescribe the charge for admission to all matches, and other charges associated with matches in this League.

20. Player Uniforms:

- 20.1** The Colors of the Omeo District Football League shall be:-
Jumpers – Royal Blue and Maroon Top & Collar
Shorts - White
Socks – Royal Blue and Maroon Top
- 20.2** Each Club upon admission to the Omeo District Football Netball League shall register its uniform pertaining to Guernsey, Shorts and Socks, with the Secretary to the League.

21. Guernsey:

- 21.1** Players must wear the following AFL Vic Country official approved/endorsed colored Guernsey for their respective teams:

<i>Team</i>	<i>Guernsey</i>
Bruthen (Bulldogs)	Blue with Red Band and Collar
Buchan (Cavemen)	Blue and White Vertical Stripes
Lindenow South (Swamp Hawk)	Blue, Red and White Vertical Stripes
Omeo/Benamبرا (Ranges)	Black, teal & white
Swan Reach (Swans)	Red with a white V
Swifts Creek (Demons)	Navy with Red Band

All logos must conform with AFL Vic Country specifications.

22. Shorts:

- 22.1** Players must wear the following AFL Vic Country officially approved/endorsed colored shorts for their respective teams.

<i>Team</i>	<i>Shorts</i>
Bruthen	Red with piping or stripes
Buchan	Royal blue with white piping or stripes
Lindenow South	Red
Omeo/Benamبرا	White
Swan Reach	White
Swifts Creek	Navy with red piping or stripes

All piping or stripes must include appropriate contrasting colored AFL Vic Country Logo.

23. Socks:

- 23.1** Players must wear the following AFL Vic Country officially approved/endorsed colored socks for their respective teams.

<i>Team</i>	<i>Socks</i>
Bruthen	Blue, red & white Horizontal Hoops
Buchan	Blue
Lindenow South	Blue, red & white Horizontal Hoops
Omeo/Benamبرا	Black
Swan Reach	Red & white stripes
Swifts Creek	Red

24: Alteration to Club Uniform and/or Colors:

Any club intending to alter its uniform and/or colors must do so by “Notice of Motion” to the Annual General Meeting of to the League. Any alteration shall be subject to approval of a two thirds majority of the League.

25. Colors – Players must wear:

All players must play in correct registered club uniforms. Any player offending against this rule shall at the request of the opposing captain, be compelled to change to his correct uniform, and shall be reported to the League, and his club shall be fined the sum of \$10 for each player so offending. Should any player continue to offend in this respect, either in same game or in any future games, he shall be reported to the League, who may suspend him or take further action as it deems fit.

26. Numbers of Guernseys:

Each player shall wear, attached to the back of his Guernsey, a distinguishing number of a size of each numeral to be not less than 28cms long and 5cm wide. No two or more players in the same club shall wear the same number in the same match. Clubs and players offending in this respect shall be dealt with in the same manner as provided in Rule 30.

27. Match Arrangements:

- (a) The League at its Annual General Meeting shall fix the date of the first match and shall arrange the program of matches for the balance of the season and shall have power during the season to amend or otherwise vary such programmed, if in the opinion of at least a two thirds majority of the delegates present, circumstances warrant any such variation.
- (b) Home and away games only.
- (i) No matches shall be postponed due to adverse weather.
- (ii) Abandoned games. The Club Presidents (or their Delegates) of the two competing teams may decide that a game shall be abandoned, due to

adverse weather conditions. Every effort shall be made to inform the League President and/or Secretary prior to this decision being made. Such a decision should be made prior to 11.00 a.m. on match day. Once the decision has been made the League President or Secretary shall attempt to contact the Umpire's Association to inform them of the abandoned game. In the event that the Umpires arrive at the ground then the League will be liable for all umpire costs for that game.

(iii) Matches not commenced or completed. A game that fails to commence or that is abandoned before half time, due to adverse weather, will be declared a draw. When a game is abandoned at half time, or after, then the score at that stage of the match is taken as the final score. Votes, Goal Kickers etc are recorded if the match reached half time or later.

28. Premierships Positions and Points:

(a) In all matches, four points shall be scored for a game won and two for a game drawn. If two or more clubs are level in respect of games won and draws, then the relative position of such clubs shall be determined by the proportion of points scored for and against such clubs, and the clubs having the best percentage shall occupy the higher points.

(b) Except in cases where the League may rule that circumstances were beyond its control, the forfeiture of a match by any club shall mean that the offending club shall forfeit all rights to premiership points for that game and shall be liable for the umpire fees.

Refer to AFL Laws of the Game 11.2.2 re consequences of match forfeiture and the awarding of percentage

11.2.2 Consequence of Forfeiture

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 Home and Away Matches:

(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; 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.

11.2.3 Variation by Controlling Body

If the relevant Controlling Body is of the opinion that a Team will be disadvantaged by the calculation of percentage under Law 11.2.2, the Controlling Body may, upon application by the Team, vary the points debited or credited to the Team or the method of calculating the Team's percentage.

- (c) Clubs are to have a minimum of fourteen players each for an official match to take place. Intra-club permit players may be counted. i.e. If a club only had thirteen players but was able to get one or more players on intra-club permit an official match could take place.

32. Adherence to Program

Every club shall adhere to the program of matches drawn up by the League. Any club or clubs failing to fulfill any engagement on the date fixed shall, within forty-eight (48) hours thereafter, furnish the League with a statement setting forth the facts, and the League shall have the power to decide as to what action shall be taken, be provided always that should the reason be given deemed to be frivolous, then the offending club shall forfeit the match, and it shall be counted as a loss. Further, all expenses, such as umpire's fees, etc, shall be borne by the offending club unless the League decides otherwise.

33. Disbanding Clubs:

If a club nominates for the competition and on or after the first match disbands or fails to carry out its program, then such club shall be suspended during the pleasure of the League and no registered player of such club shall be permitted to play with any other club in the League without a permit from the League, nor shall any registered player of such club be granted clearance to any other club or association without a permit from the League. Any club in the League playing any registered player of a suspended club contrary to this rule shall forfeit each match in which such player takes part and shall be liable for such other penalty as shall be decided by the League/Independent Tribunal.

34. Matches Official, Central Umpires:

(a) Central Umpires shall be engaged and appointed by the League in accordance with rules laid down by the AFL Vic Country. The ODFNL will employ dual umpires for senior matches and may employ three central umpires for Home and Away and Finals.

(b) Umpires fees shall be paid by the Clubs.

(c) In the event of umpire(s) appointed or his/their substitute failing to attend, then the captains of both teams shall choose an umpire, but if unable to agree, then delegates of the two teams of the two teams shall decide.

35. Goal and Boundary Umpires:

- (a) Each opposing team shall appoint one goal umpire to act at each premiership match of junior and senior teams.
- (b) Complaints against any of these officials must be lodged in writing with the League.
- (c) Goal umpires when acting as such shall wear white coats and be quipped with white flags.
- (d) Each club shall be responsible for the provision of boundary umpires for senior and junior matches.
In which they participate, provided that
 - (i) all boundary umpires officiating in senior XV1 matches must be fourteen years of age and over.
 - (ii) all boundary umpires officiating in junior matches must be twelve years of age and over.
 - (iii) all boundary umpires officiating in ODFNL matches must be attired a white shirt and shorts.
 - (iv) all boundary umpires for semi final, final, grand final and inter-league games shall be appointed by the League.
- (e) If clubs cannot provide boundary umpires that comply with the provisions of this rule then the League can arrange for the EGUA to provide a boundary umpire and bill the club accordingly.
- (f) Failure to comply with the provisions of this rule shall incur a penalty of not less than \$20.

36. Timekeepers:

Each opposing team shall appoint an efficient timekeeper to act at each match, for each game, and each timekeeper shall be in possession of an approved stopwatch and an official timekeeper's card.

37. Duties of Club Timekeepers:

- (a) Each club shall provide an electric siren, bell, or gong, of sufficient volume to be heard over all parts of the ground.
- (b) Timekeepers shall sound a siren, bell, or gong ten minutes and five minutes prior to the commencement of each match.
- (c) Timekeepers shall sound a siren, bell or gong at the proper time of the termination of each quarter of the game. The timekeepers shall continue to sound the siren, bell or gong until the field umpires acknowledges that he has heard the siren, bell or gong by blowing the whistle and holding his two hands above his head.
- (d) Should the captain of a junior team request a count of players during a game, then time off shall be added.

38. Starting, Match & Interval Times:

(a) Junior Matches

All junior matches during the home and away seasons shall commence at 12:30 p.m. with matches comprising of four quarters each being of 20 minutes duration with no time on added. The time allowed between the first and second quarter shall not exceed three minutes; half time intermission shall not exceed seven minutes and three-quarter time intermission shall not exceed five minutes.

(b) Senior Matches

All senior matches shall commence no later than 2.30 p.m. excepting for some unforeseen reason that the junior match runs overtime. All matches shall be played in four quarters each of 20-minute (changed from 25 minutes as per By-law change at 2017 AGM) duration with time off added. This time allowed between the first and second quarters shall not exceed five (5) minutes, half time intermission shall not exceed 15 minutes and three-quarter time shall not exceed five minutes.

39. Official Runners:

The official water carriers, runners and trainers of the club must be attired in a top marked with the appropriate wording

ODFNL Runner, ODFNL Water, ODFNL Trainer. The Umpire Escort is to wear a fluoro top.

40. Goal Umpires:

(a) Goal Umpires and timekeepers shall be supplied with scorecards by the League through the secretary of the home club.

(b) At the conclusion of each quarter the goal umpires shall compare cards. In the case of a variation in scores, the scorecards of the timekeepers shall be consulted. At the conclusion of the match the goal umpires and timekeepers shall compare scorecards. In case of variation between the cards of the goal umpires and timekeepers, the scores upon the cards of the goal umpires shall be disregarded and the scores of the timekeepers shall be the arbitrator provided they agree with one or other of the goal umpire cards. Where none of the scorecards agree, the matter shall be referred to the League for a decision.

(c) Goal umpires and timekeepers shall sign each other's cards, which shall then be handed to the secretary of the home club, who shall transmit them to the League Secretary in the Match Day Envelope. Such signed cards shall be retained by the League Secretary and shall be the official records of the match.

41. Order-Off Rules:

The guidelines in relation to the 'order off' rule as set out by the AFL Vic Country in the handbook must be adhered to by the ODFNL.

42. Umpires to be Interviewed:

It shall be the responsibility of the club secretaries or their deputies to interview all the umpires at the conclusion of each match and ascertain whether anyone or more of them has any reports to make. If possible, the representatives of both teams should interview the umpire in company. (Within thirty minutes of completion of match)

43. Protests, Disputes, Charges & Tribunal:

As per current AFL Vic Country handbook.

44. Meeting Places/Expenses:

That the meeting place for the Independent Tribunal be arranged by the Tribunal Secretary in consultation with the affected parties.

The expense of the members of the Tribunal and the meeting shall be borne by the Clubs in the event that the player is found 'Guilty'. In the event that the player is found 'Not Guilty' then the expenses shall be borne by the League.

Power of ODFNL Independent Tribunal and Delegates to impose fines resulting from Tribunals.

The Omeo District Football Netball League Independent Tribunal and Delegates have the power to impose fines on Member Clubs to recover any costs incurred from or imposed by Tribunals, should the Club's player, who has been reported, is found 'Guilty'.

45. Prescribed Penalties:

As per current AFL Vic Country Handbook.

46. Registered and Qualification of Players:

Any player wishing to play with any team in the League must comply with AFL Vic Country and National Transfer Regulations clearance rules.

Such players must be registered and comply with all other requirements.

47. Disqualified Players:

No player who has been disqualified by any League, Club, association or other football governing body shall be permitted to play with any team of

this association during this period of disqualification and disqualified persons shall not, during this period of disqualification be eligible to act as an official or officer of the League.

48. Date Registration Cease:

As per AFL Vic Country and National Transfer Regulations

49. Eligibility of Players:

Any player knowing that he is not eligible to play and who does not notify his captain or a recognized official of his club, shall be referred to AFL Vic Country for penalty, who in turn may refer the matter to the League Independent Tribunal who can fine or suspend the player or place the player on a bond. The League recommends a five-week suspension for the player in the event that he knowingly deceived the Club he played with.

The age limit for junior teams shall be that all players turn 16 or be under 16 years of age of the first of January of the year they intend to play.

The Parent/Guardian of a player from the U/16 competition must sign the 'Junior Player Playing with the Senior Team Permit' **before** the player can play in the senior team.

Permit Form A has been approved for this.

50. Incorrect or False Registration, Information or Particulars:

Any player guilty of furnishing, incorrect, false or insufficient information in his registration form shall be disqualified by the League for such time as it deems fit.

51. Registrations to be acknowledged:

All new Registrations for players and officials will be retained on Play HQ.

52. Records to be kept and Clubs advised:

Play HQ shall keep a record of all players who transfer into a Club in the League.

53. Incomplete Registrations not Accepted:

Play HQ will not accept Registration forms submitted with required details omitted.

54. Interchange Players:

Any player who has been selected and recorded in the official team's exchange between clubs as an interchange player shall be regarded as having played in the match in which selected as interchange player provided that during the program of the game he was present and was able to take the field if required.

55. Players in Final Series:

(a) A player must play for a club in four rounds of home and away matches in the current season to be eligible to play for that club in the final series. An exception to this rule is that a player who has transferred in employment after the official close of clearances who is eligible to play in our League as per AFL Vic Country and National Transfer Regulation rules is only required playing in three rounds.

(b) In regard to a player playing on the junior team and the senior grade on the same day the senior game is to also count in the number of games he has played in the seniors for the season.

56. Clearances and Permits:

(a) This League shall be bound by the clearance and permit regulations of the AFL Vic Country and National Transfer Regulations and clubs shall be bound to operate under those regulations.

Any player knowing that he is not eligible to play and who does not notify his captain or a recognized official of his club, shall be referred to AFL Vic Country for penalty, who in turn may refer the matter to the League Independent Tribunal who can fine or suspend the player or place the player on a bond. The League recommends a five-week suspension for the player in the event that he knowingly deceived the Club he played with.

(c) Residential and registration requirements may be completed whilst a player is under disqualification.

Any Club that plays an ineligible player shall be referred to AFL Vic Country for penalty. Penalties may include loss of match points and all percentage as well as fines for the club and placing the Club on a bond.

(e) Intra club permit. This League allows clubs to lend players to the opposing team as long as the player is listed on the opposition team sheet.

with a note to say that he is 'on loan'. The player's games, goals and best & fairest votes are to be registered with the donating club.

57. Records of Clearances:

The League Secretary shall keep a record on Play HQ of all clearances and permits granted and endorsed by him.

58. Permit and Clearance Forms:

The clearance and permit form shall be accordance with the form laid down by the AFL Vic Country, as per AFL Vic Country Rules.

AFL Vic Country Clearance/Registration Form.

An AFL Vic Country Clearance/Registration Form must be completed by all players seeking a transfer, with any player under the age of 18 to have the form signed by the player's parent or legal guardian. The forms are to be retained by the Club requesting the transfer. A transfer lodged online (Play HQ) without a signed AFL Vic Country Clearance/Registration Form will be subject to a monetary fine of \$500 to be paid to the League within 14 days of receipt of the invoice.

59. Payments to Players:

A state-wide Salary Cap was introduced in 2017.

The Salary Cap for the ODFNL for 2024 is \$30,000.00.

The ODFNL has adopted the AFL Vic and AFL Gippsland Player Payment Rules.
<https://aflgippsland.com.au/player-payments/>

Allowable player payments adjustment, AFL Vic Rule 3 (a) (v):

a) Should a round or multiple rounds of fixtured matches be cancelled in a Football League, the Allowable Player Payments for a Club in the relevant Football League shall immediately be recalculated on a pro rata basis of the revised fixtured matches for that season relative to a normal season of fixtured matches.

b) The Region Commission may, at their discretion, reduce the Allowable Player Payments for a Club at any stage during a season.

Please note, all Gippsland Senior League's will adopt the player payment alteration as per the recommended Covid bylaws:

11. Impact of COVID Interruption on the Allowable Player Payment Rule

- Should a round be abandoned, then the Allowable Player Payment Caps shall immediately be calculated on a pro rata of games played.

- (c) Dressing sheds with adequate hot and cold showers, sufficient accommodation for all of the teams of both visiting and home clubs.
- (d) Separate dressing rooms and accommodation for all umpires.
- (e) Separate accommodation for duly accredited timekeepers and prohibition of the unauthorized persons into the same and the provisions of approved signal device electric siren, bell or gong installed at hand.
- (f) Adequate provision of both male and female conveniences on all grounds with running water for washing at all ground with reticulated services are provided.
- (g) Provision of scoreboard of satisfactory size and the use of clearly visible letters and numbers so that at all times the progressive scores are clearly visible to all spectators. Each home club shall be responsible for the appointment of a competent scoreboard attendant at all matches.
- (h) Provision of plastic/PVC sockets on the Goal Posts for the use as flag holders and the padding of goal and behind posts to AFL Vic Country standards.
- (i) Insistence of the goal umpires wearing white.
- (j) Insistence of the boundary umpires wearing approved dress that is white shirt and white shorts.
- (k) Insistence on the club officials enforcing the payment of the entrance charges at the gates of all grounds by officials without the official passes provided by the League.
- (l) The provision of adequate seating inside the fence line for:
 - (i) the interchange steward
 - (ii) the coaches, interchange players, trainers etc of each club.
 - (iii) a stretcher for use of participating teams in case of injury.
 - (iv) a telephone or other communication should be provided at the ground. Where it is not possible it remains the responsibility of each club to have access to a phone in event of an emergency.

63. Finals and Interchange Stewards:

- (a) In addition to duties as detailed (a) it is the Leagues responsibility to provide an adequate public-address system and podium for the grand final and interleague matches.
 - (b) Clubs participating in the final matches are to provide their own timekeepers and independent scorers. It is the responsibility of the League to develop a roster for interchange stewards.
- Final's Roster for Interchange Stewards.
 The Clubs finishing in the following ladder positions will supply an Interchange Steward
 First Semi Final: 1st on ladder.
 Second Semi Final: 3rd on ladder.
 Preliminary Final: 5th on ladder.
 Grand Final: 6th on ladder.

64. Voting for League Awards:

The League shall have the power to conduct such awards for players as it deems fitting.

(a) Best and Fairest awards votes shall be cast by the umpires in charge of the game. Immediately following the conclusion of each match, the umpire shall record the numbers, names and clubs of the 3 players who in his opinion were the fairest and the best players in the match, on the official card provided by the league. These players to be recorded 1,2,3 in the order of preference. The card to then be sealed in the envelope provided and returned to the League Secretary or his deputy along with any other records of the match.

(b) Voting in any other awards conducted by the League shall be a matter for decision by the directors of the clubs at meeting of the League to the commencement of each season.

(c) Naming of the Senior Football Best & Fairest Award.

The Senior Football Best and Fairest Medal remain unnamed.

Moved: Swifts Creek: Seconded: Buchan.

A vote was taken.

For 3 clubs. Against: 1 club. Two clubs not in attendance.

The motion was passed on 4th March 2024.

65. Counting of Best and Fairest Players Votes:

Following the last round of each season's matches, votes are to be counted: **No 1 vote to receive 3 votes; No 2 = 2 votes; No 3 = 1 Vote.** The player receiving the greatest number of votes is declared the winner. To be eligible to win any of the aforementioned awards a player must have played in at least six premierships matches of the respective grade during the season. In the event of all multiple ties all players concerned shall receive the fairest and best trophy. The votes shall be counted at the place of nominated by the League.

66. Uses of Players by Major League Clubs:

A Major League team shall use no players from this League unless his parent club shall first grant him the necessary permit required under the provision of AFL Vic Country Regulations for clearances and permits (Check current handbook)

67. Insurance:

It is recommended to clubs of the League that they should ensure that all players are members of a medical benefit scheme and Ambulance Scheme or is aware that they play at their own risk.

68. Practice Matches:

(a) Clubs of the League shall notify the Secretary of the League in the writing dates and venues of practice matches.

(b) Clubs shall use members of a registered umpire's association to umpire practice matches. The central umpire shall in practice matches, have the powers to report players and officials, as for official games. The League Independent Tribunal shall deal with players and/or officials reported by central umpires in practice matches.

69. Omeo District Football Netball League – Junior Competition:

- (a) There will be a competition known as the “Omeo District Football League Junior Competition”.
- (b) The teams and players taking part in the competition will abide and play under the by-laws of the Omeo and District Football Netball League
- (c) Players under sixteen as from 1st Jan in the current playing year will be eligible to take part in the Junior Competition.
- (d) All junior players must be registered on Play HQ. These players must declare their true date of birth when registering. All registrations to be entered by parent or guardian.

70. Forfeits – Junior Games:

In a scratch match where one team has forfeited and then borrowed players the League goal kicking and best and fairest is to be recorded. If the League Secretary is notified in time a local umpire may be used in order to cut costs.

71. Other – Special Rules for Junior Games:

- (a) Umpires to treat slinging in the Juniors as unduly rough play.
- (b) The intention of this rule is to allow all our Juniors to participate in a fair and challenging game of football.
 - (i) Teams are to have equal numbers at the start of play, excepting that one side may have one extra interchange player unless otherwise agreed by both coaches prior to the match.
 - (ii) Once the match commences there will be no further equalization of numbers in the event of injury or send off.
 - (iii) a loaned player who gets votes or goals will accumulate them to their own personal tally. They are eligible to receive club votes for their home club.
 - (iv) clubs receiving players on match permits shall list the name of those players separately on the bottom of the team sheet. This rule does not apply to any of the final matches.

Other – Special Rules for Junior Team’s Interchange Bench for Home and Away and Final’s Games:

Motion: 16 players on the ground plus unlimited bench for home and away and 18 on ground plus 4 on the bench for finals.

Moved: Omeo-Benamبرا Seconded: Swan Reach

A vote was taken:

For: 8. Against: 0.

The motion was carried.

(Approved 5th March 2018)

72. AFL Club Sustainability Program and Local Rules:

ODFNL Clubs must adhere to the Player Point and Salary Cap Rules as determined by AFL Vic and AFL Gippsland.

The ODFNL Clubs will commence the 2024 season with the following points based on ladder positions in the 2023 season post finals;

1st on ladder – 38 points.

2nd on ladder - 39 points.

3rd on ladder – 40 points.

4th on ladder – 41 points.

5th on ladder – 42 points.

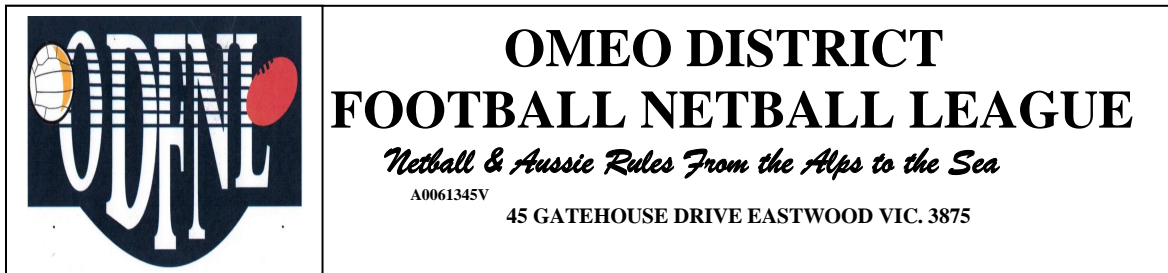
6th on ladder – 43 points.

Note that the ODFNL Clubs play 16 a side with 4 Interchange.

73. AFL National Age Dispensation Policy October 2020:

ODFNL Clubs must adhere to the AFL National Age Dispensation Policy.

74. ODFNL COVID Functional Framework: Refer to AFL Vic Guidelines



OMEO DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

Child & Young Person Safeguarding Policy

Our commitment to child & young person safety

The Omeo District Football Netball League is committed to child safety.

We want children to be safe, happy and empowered.

We support and respect all children, as well as our Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers,

We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse. All allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.

We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.

The Omeo District Football Netball League is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early and removing and reducing these risks.

The Omeo District Football Netball League has robust human resources and recruitment practices to reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers.

The Omeo District Football Netball League is committed to regularly training and educating our Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers on child abuse risks.

We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

We have specific policies and procedures in place that support our Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.

Our children

This policy is intended to empower children, who are vital and active participants in the Omeo District Football Netball League. We endeavour to involve them when making decisions, especially about matters that directly affect them. We listen to their views and respect what they have to say.

We promote diversity and acceptance at the Omeo District Football Netball League. People from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds are welcome. In particular, we:

- **promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children**
- **promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds**
- **ensure that children with a disability are safe and can participate in an environment that ensures their safety and well-being and the safety and well-being of other participants.**

Our staff and volunteers

This policy guides our Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers on how to behave with children at the Omeo District Football Netball League.

All of our Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers must agree to abide by our code of conduct which specifies the standards of conduct required when working with children. All our Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers, as well as children and their families, are given the opportunity to contribute to the development of the code of conduct.

Training and supervision

Training and education are important to ensure that everyone at the Omeo District Football Netball League understands that child safety is everyone's responsibility.

Our organisational culture aims for all our Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers, families and children to feel confident and comfortable in discussing any allegations of child abuse or child safety concerns. We train our Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers to identify, assess, and minimise risks of child abuse and to detect potential signs of child abuse.

We also support our Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers through ongoing supervision to develop their skills to protect children from abuse and promote the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the cultural safety of children from linguistically and/or diverse backgrounds, and the safety of children with a disability.

New Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers will be provided with appropriate training and guidance to ensure they understand the Omeo District Football Netball League's commitment to child safety and that everyone has a role to play in protecting children from abuse. This will include checking that their behaviour towards children is safe and appropriate (please refer to the Omeo District Football Netball League's code of conduct for information about appropriate behaviour). Any inappropriate behaviour will be reported through appropriate channels, including the Department of

Health and Human Services and Victoria Police, depending on the severity and urgency of the matter.

Recruitment

We take all reasonable steps to employ skilled people to work with children. We develop selection criteria and advertisements which clearly demonstrate our commitment to child safety and an awareness of our social and legal responsibilities. The Omeo District Football Netball League understands that when recruiting Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers, we have ethical as well as legislative obligations.

We welcome applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with a disability.

All people who are engaged in child-related work and who are not exempt, including volunteers, are required to hold a Working with Children Check and to provide evidence of this check. For more information, please refer to the [Working with Children website](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/) <<http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/>>.

We carry out reference checks and Working with Children's checks to ensure that we are recruiting the right people. If during the recruitment process a person's records indicate a criminal history, then the person will be given the opportunity to provide further information and context.

Fair procedures for Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers

The safety and wellbeing of children is our primary concern. We are also fair and reasonable to all Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers. The decisions we make when recruiting, assessing incidents and undertaking disciplinary action will always be thorough, transparent and based on evidence.

We record all allegations of abuse and safety concerns using our incident reporting form. All records are securely stored. If an allegation of abuse or a safety concern is raised, we provide updates to children and families on progress and actions we as an organisation take.

A person subject to a complaint may be excluded from working with our children whilst the complaint is being dealt with.

Privacy

All personal information considered or recorded will respect the privacy of the individuals involved, whether they be Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff, volunteers, families or children, unless there is a risk to someone's safety. Everyone is entitled to know how this information is recorded, what will be done with it and who will have access to it. This is intended to protect persons who make reports and to ensure that all members of the Omeo District Football Netball League are comfortable to disclose any allegations or concerns in relation to child safety without repercussions.

Legislative responsibilities

The Omeo District Football Netball League takes its legal responsibilities seriously, including:

- **Failure to disclose:** All adults in Victoria who have a reasonable belief that an adult has committed a sexual offence against a child under 16 have an obligation to report that information to Victoria Police
- **Mandatory reporting:** Any Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff, or volunteers who are mandatory reporters (doctors, nurses, midwives, teacher, principals and police officers) must comply with their duties
- **Failure to protect:** People of authority in our organisation will commit an offence if they know of a substantial risk of child sexual abuse and have the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but negligently fail to do so
- **Reportable conduct:** The head of our organisation must be made aware of any allegations of physical and sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, significant emotional or psychological harm or significant neglect by an employee or volunteer towards a child. We are also legally required to notify the Commission for Children and Young People of the allegation
- **Duty of care:** If a child is abused by an individual associated with our organisation, our organisation is presumed to have breached its duty of care unless it can prove that it took 'reasonable precautions' to prevent the abuse in question. For more information, please refer to the [new organisational duty of care to prevent child abuse page](https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/safer-communities/protecting-children-and-families/betrayal-of-trust-fact-sheet-the-new) <<https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/safer-communities/protecting-children-and-families/betrayal-of-trust-fact-sheet-the-new>> on the Department of Justice and Regulation's website.

Risk management

In Victoria, organisations are required to protect children when a risk is identified. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children.

We have risk management strategies in place to identify, assess and take steps to minimise child abuse risks which include risks posed by physical environments and online environments.

Allegations, concerns and complaints

The Omeo District Football Netball League takes all allegations seriously and has practices in place to investigate thoroughly and quickly. Our Delegates, members of the League Executive, staff and volunteers are trained to deal with allegations appropriately.

We work to ensure all children, families, board members, staff and volunteers know what to do and who to tell if they observe abuse or are a victim, and if they notice inappropriate behaviour.

We all have a responsibility to report an allegation of abuse if we have a reasonable belief that an incident took place. If an adult has a reasonable belief that an incident has occurred then they must report the incident. Factors contributing to reasonable belief may include:

- a child states they or someone they know has been abused (noting that sometimes the child may in fact be referring to themselves)
- behaviour consistent with that of an abuse victim is observed
- someone else has raised a suspicion of abuse but is unwilling to report it
- observing suspicious behaviour.

Regular review

This policy will be reviewed every two years and following significant incidents if they occur. We will ensure that families and children have the opportunity to contribute. Where possible we will do our best to work with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, culturally and/or linguistically diverse communities and people with a disability.

Written By: *Rod Twining*

Approved By: *Ray Gallagher, Brendan Ahsam & Susie Edwards*

Endorsed By: *Member Clubs on 5th February 2024*

Date for Review: *February 2025*

The Code

This Code of Conduct outlines appropriate standards of behaviour by adults towards children.

The Code of Conduct aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur. It also helps staff and volunteers by providing them with guidance on how to best support children and how to avoid or better manage difficult situations. This Code of Conduct applies to all people involved in the activities of the Omeo District Football Netball League and includes coaches, officials, volunteers and parents.

All Omeo District Football Netball League staff and volunteers are responsible for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people by:

- **Adhering to our Child Safe Policy, this Code of Conduct and other policies of the AFL, AFL Victoria, AFL Victoria and AFL Gippsland**
- **Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse**
- **Treating everyone with respect, including listening to and valuing their ideas and opinions**
- **Welcoming all children and their families and carers and being inclusive**
- **Respecting cultural, religious and political differences and acting in a culturally sensitive way, particularly when interacting with children who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or otherwise culturally or linguistically diverse and those with a disability**
- **Modelling appropriate adult behaviour**
- **Listening to children and responding to them appropriately**
- **Reporting and acting on any breaches of this Code of Conduct, complaints or concerns appropriately and treat them seriously and with respect.**

- Complying with our guidelines on physical contact with children
- Working with children in an open and transparent way – other adults should always know about the work you are doing with children
- Respecting the privacy of children and their families, and only disclosing information to people who have a need to know.

Omeo District Football Netball League staff and volunteers MUST NOT:

- Seek to use children in any way to meet the needs of adults
- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or language with children
- Engage in rough physical games
- Discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability or sexuality
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- Develop ‘special’ relationships with specific children or show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking site or email addresses with children
- Have unauthorised contact with children and young people online or by phone.

By observing these standards you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to the League Secretary, Rod Twining Phone: 0407347727 or email egfl2004@bigpond.net.au;

This Code of Conduct will be reviewed by the Omeo District Football Netball League annually.

I have read this Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it at all times.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Role: _____ Date: _____

Reporting a child safety concern or complaint

The League has appointed *Rod Twining* as Child Safety Person with the specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or children. Rod can be contacted by Phone: 0407347727 or email egfl2004@bigpond.net.au;

Social Media Use

The Omeo District Football Netball League has adopted the AFL National Community Football Policy Social Media Guidelines for all communication with children within the League. These guidelines are in addition to the League’s Cyber Safety Policy.

- a. No adult in a role working with children in an AFL Victoria Affiliate should engage in individual social friendships with children from the League/Club/Program/NAB Auskick Centre on personal social media sites.

- b. **Multiple adults, including Club President, Senior Manager or Centre Coordinator, should be part of the contact list and included in any social media communication with children from, or on behalf of the Centre/Club, or regarding Centre/Club details.**
- c. **When setting up a social media platform connected with any league, club or individual team within the league/club, an administrator should be appointed as someone who will check on the status of posts and comments.**
- d. **Confidentiality is important, permission must be obtained from parents for any use of a child's name or photo to be used in any postings, this is particularly important in case of any custody issues or privacy required.**

Risk Management

We recognise the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy, procedures and activity planning. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children. To reduce the risk of child abuse occurring, adults to whom this policy applies should avoid direct, unsupervised contact with children. For example, this should be a consideration when:

- **using change room facilities;**
- **using accommodation or overnight stays;**
- **travel; or**
- **physical contact when coaching or managing children.**

Reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed annually and we undertake to seek views, comments and suggestions from children, parents, carers, staff and volunteers involved in the League.



OMEO DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

SUSPENSION OF A FOOTBALL COACH **BY-LAW**

A coach (playing or non-playing) of a team in the Omeo District Football Netball League (Football) who is suspended by the League Independent Tribunal will be subject to the following conditions;

The coach shall be prohibited from entering the ground in any way, shape or form on game day. Entering the ground will mean that the suspended coach must remain outside the fence or barrier around the playing area or, in the case where there is no fence, the coach must remain outside the 'line' where a fence would be. At no time shall the suspended coach be in the coach's box or enter the playing arena to address the playing group.

Any breach of these conditions will result in the coach being referred to the League Independent Tribunal by the ODFNL Executive. Should the coach be found guilty of breaching these conditions the Tribunal will have the power to add any additional penalty as it sees fit.

The ODFNL Executive will also hold the coach's Club responsible for any breach of these conditions, with subsequent fines and penalties as the Executive sees fit.

This By-law came into effect from 22nd May 2018 and was reviewed by the Delegates at the June 2018 ODFNL meeting.

Motion: That the Suspension of a Football Coach By-law be adopted.

Moved: Swan Reach. Seconded: Swifts Creek.

A vote was taken: For: 12. Against: 0. The motion was carried.



PERMIT PLAYERS IN ODFNL FOOTBALL FINALS 2024

ABLE TO PLAY ON PERMIT IN ODFNL FOOTBALL FINALS

JUNIORS	EGJFA UNDER 11	EGJFA UNDER 13	EGJFA UNDER 15	EGFNL UNDER 17.5	BAIRNSDALE FNC UNDER 16	AGE DISPENSATION UNDER 16	STUDENT LIVING AWAY FROM HOME UNDER 16	FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCE UNDER 16
YES/NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
GAMES TO QUALIFY	N/A	8	8	N/A	8	8	8	8 - BUT CAN ONLY PLAY ONE GAME PER WEEKEND
SENIORS	EGFNL				BAIRNSDALE FNC	AGE DISPENSATION	STUDENT LIVING AWAY FROM HOME	FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCE OVER 16
YES/NO	NO				NO	NO	YES	NO
GAMES TO QUALIFY	N/A				N/A	N/A	5	N/A

AFL NATIONAL COMMUNITY FOOTBALL POLICY:

The ODFNL has adopted the AFL National Community Football Policy.

Reportable Offences:

The Policy allows Leagues to set fees for Incident Referrals from a Member Club. The complainant must lodge a deposit of \$500 by 5 p.m. on the Monday following the alleged incident. The deposit may be refunded in full, in part or forfeited at the discretion of the League Independent Tribunal or the League Executive.

Should a Report of Umpire be lodged, and the Club of Reported Player opt to take the offer of an Early Guilty Plea, the League will charge the Club a fee ranging between \$50 and \$150 for the cost of the Match Review Panel. Clubs that refer a Reportable Offence to the Tribunal will be subject to the costs as determined by the League Independent Tribunal and/or the League Executive.