



**The Update - 11th December 2024**



## **ARRIVEDERCI**

When you start hearing Mariah Carey singing "All I Want For Christmas" or Band Aid "Do They Know it's Christmas" on the radio.... its time to say goodbye.

The Adelaide Footy League is one that means more to their respective communities than simply the game of footy as crucial as that is to the equation.

Commercially we position ourselves to a different market than that of our neighbouring AFL Clubs and the SANFL. In a proposal to a potential partner of our League, Social Capital heads the list of touch points for any organisation to be-friend our League which remains our strength above all others, regardless of our rank in the football food chain. We engage anything up to one hundred thousand players, volunteers, mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grandmas, grandpas on a weekly basis across nearly 150 matches per weekend. Whilst our Member Clubs' juniors are affiliated with the SANFL, our Clubs have a direct affiliation with roughly 30,000 players made up of girls, boys, women and men and everything they bring to the table as a collective.

2024 saw the formalisation of a partnership with the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA) and Perth Football League (PFL [Formerly WAAFL]) to what is now known as a tri-state collaboration. In the last 12 months to two years, The League has reset its course to a range of initiatives that we think reflect our purpose. The genesis of that partnership reflects the needs and wants for what is an aggregate of nearly two hundred clubs and circa forty thousand (40,000) 18 to 35 year old men and

women who represent our playing members in concert with volunteers and general club members to what is recorded as circa three hundred thousand (300,000).

The purpose is to consolidate commercial and social interests by way of sponsorship opportunity to national and international conglomerates and statutory agendas at State and Federal government levels.

In short, strength in numbers from the west to east coast of Australia in what we still argue is footballs heartland.

The roll out of Born to Build via Master Builders SA, You Belong in Blue with SAPOL and now the Gambling HARM Reduction Program are samples of our ideologies that offer some direction for us and by extension our clubs being more than just clubs that play footy, a purpose many of them embrace either organically or by design as matter of course.

John Mannion as head of Breakthrough Mental Health, leads a team who deliver services made available to our clubs to ensure they as frontline representatives of their clubs are well versed in the very confronting dynamic relative to mental health and wellness. As the seasons roll on, the organic development of our relationship Channel 9 Adelaide never fails to deliver. Managing Director Sean O'Brien is instrumental on ensuring Ch9 continue to offer a profile to our League we could not possibly afford. Our stable of Blue-Chip Partners would not be lost on the honour boards of the Port Adelaide or Adelaide Football Clubs is complete with Police Credit Union, Sherrin, O'Neills Sportswear, Wakefield Sports Clinic, Neomorph Mouthguards, Vili's, Powerade, SA Gourmet Meats, Belgravia/New Balance and our Apparel and Medical Partners.

When we consider the size of our organisation and the cross section of demographics, motivations and or ideologies of what constitutes a healthy community footy based competition, on or off the field, we have arrived at a comfortable position though with room to improve.

The continued challenge for our Clubs is to not only move in the same direction as The League but to challenge themselves to compete with their fellow member Clubs to a standard many of those Member Clubs have orchestrated themselves and to what we now refer to internally as self-benchmarking. In fact, it is fair to suggest it is not even The League administration or League Executive who drives that standard, but our Clubs and they make no apologies in ensuring we are as equally held to account, and it is a responsibility we embrace on their behalf.

Our original plans to be positioned at Thebarton Oval have been well and truly skuttled. That reference of skuttled should in no way be construed as a negative slant on our position. It simply presents a new challenge and indeed our League Executive have represented the Clubs who elect them to manufacture an outcome that whilst our claims to compensation are to be agreed upon as I write, we can be moderately content with our position with when it is. However, if it is not agreed upon, we make no apology to putting a stake in the ground and holding firm on our very well-established legal

position in the interests of our Clubs and by extension, The League. Though the lessons learned as we continue to explore every possible benefit to The League whether it be for the present day or to what may be legacy decisions to stabilise a platform for the next generation of management of this League to operate from is to ensure we remain in absolute control of our own destiny accepting a need to collaborate with the football community at large for the Good of Footy generally. As the governing body of football in South Australia, we will continue to work with SANFL on a platform free of the considerations around Thebarton Oval and the periodic forks in the road to that and our collective wants to collaborate for good.

To that end, The League has now officially relinquished any interest in the Thebarton precinct. Whilst we maintain it was an experience we could have done without; the reality is we did have to deal with it, and we believe we have represented our League and its clubs to be comfortable with a settlement even if there was some skin lost off our elbows as we presented our cause against the sharp end of football town.

The interest in on-field behaviour is forever present. This year alone has been of an exponentially higher standard than previous years. Our pre-season focus areas of Abuse of Umpire, and generally speaking, non-football incidents has been the lowest in a decade and crucially, at a time when a third (1/3) of our matches are recorded suggesting its far easier to be reported in 2024 than it was in 2014.

But what is of significant frustration is in turn, the lack of acknowledgement to most Clubs and or players who manage to conduct themselves in manner that exceeds The League's expectations and with little effort. 99% of our players have not seen the inside of The League's Tribunal Room. That said there is some irony that even those Clubs who have had players dealt with through The League judiciary, most are pragmatic enough to be fully supportive of the bigger picture and what it means to allow young men and women to participate in a safe environment and how that directly enhances participation levels.

Concussion is the revised risk to not only playing participants, but those charged with supervising players at club level and the duty of care that falls upon them. The League takes some comfort that our journey to participating in concussion research and education is as advanced as any similar type of organisation in the land. Keith Thomas representing SPARK is a blessing to our league. He speaks our language and is fully understanding of the challenges of this very high priority being understood by volunteer-based clubs. However, volunteerism is not a defence to any apathy to ensure our players health and wellbeing are paramount to our priorities. The League will continue seeking examples of Best Practice in our duty of care for the players who take the field but also those who are affected by injury. Awareness to concussion in the short and long terms is not going away though there is a general acknowledgment and acceptance to it by our clubs and for all the right reasons.

When those who ask what our Clubs do, the answer is more than just football. Our Clubs represent all that is good about what it is to be part of a Club – people including volunteers and we are lucky enough to have lots of them.

As the guardians of local footy, our Clubs continue to do what they love and do so exceedingly well and do not let anyone tell you otherwise.

Adelaide Footy League, strengthening communities through footy.

See you next year!

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## AGENDA

### New

- [Registrations Opening Date and Transfer Period](#)
- [Football Facilities Fund](#)
- [Coach Registration / Accreditation](#)
- [Rule of the Week # 1](#)
- [Rule of the Week # 2](#)
- [Rule of the Week # 3](#)
- [2024 BRS Discipline Report](#)
- [2025 Season Start Date](#)
- [Gambling Harm Reduction Program](#)
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**Registration Date / Transfer Period**

Registration Opening Date – Clubs may take registrations from October 1

Clubs can commence taking registrations under section 3 of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook. This will apply in respect of the 2025 community football season.

Under section 3.2 of the Handbook, registration previously commenced on November 1.

The AFL has brought the registration opening date forward to October 1 to allow Leagues and Clubs to register new or returning participants earlier should they wish to.

It is important to note that:

1. Players wishing to transfer to a new Club can now do so from **November 1 till November 30**, with the Transfer Period opening again from **February 1 till June 30** as per Regulation 3.24 of the AFL National Player Registration & Transfer Regulations.
2. The decision on when to open registrations remains at the discretion of the League and Club. A League must first invite a Club to the 2025 season for the Club to commence setting up their registration forms.

This decision aligns with the Handbook which outlines that Player Transfer Requests may be lodged between **12:01am (AEST) on 1 November to 11:59pm (AEST) on 30 November** in the calendar year preceding the relevant season or **12:01am (AEST) on 1 February to 11:59pm (AEST) on 30 June** in the calendar year of the relevant season.

## Football Facilities Fund

The State Government, SANFL and AFL have recently announced the opening of the second round of funding under the \$8 million SA Football Facilities Fund.

The ground breaking three-year funding program – a direct benefit for footy in SA as host State for AFL Gather Round – has already benefited 42 clubs across SA in the first round of grants.

Grants totalling almost \$2 million were allocated in April to a wide range of facility projects with a total estimated project value of \$19 million.

In round two, a pool of \$3.4 million will be available, with more funding earmarked for priority projects such as changerooms, lighting and turf upgrades.

SA Football Facilities Fund grants are open to footy clubs, local councils, umpire associations and schools or tertiary institutions, with grants of up to \$150,000 on offer.

In round one, there were 28 metropolitan/Greater Adelaide which were successful in receiving grants.

Round two will remain open until February 5, 2025 with successful applicants to be announced as part of the 2025 AFL Gather Round festivities in April.

[SA FOOTBALL FACILITIES FUND WEBSITE](#)

## Coach Registrations / Accreditations

The registration and accreditation process for 2025 will mirror previous years with coaches needing to complete the following 3-step process:

1. Fill out the Coaching Profile and add their club coaching role/s
2. Complete the Welcome to Coaching in 2025
3. Complete their required learning

Click on the link below which will take you to the Coach AFL homepage.

[PLAY.AFL/COACH](#)

## **Rule of the Week # 1**

**6 RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE**

6.1 Member Club may only assume a right to apply as a Renewal of Membership should such club have participated in a competition of The League the season prior to the season it seeks affiliation, fielded a minimum of two (2) senior men's teams, is not unfinancial, expelled or suspended from The League in accordance with these Rules and Regulations.

(a) Each current Member Club seeking renewal of its membership with The League for the next playing season shall make its application as prescribed by The League and to be received by The League not later than 11:59PM on the thirty first (31st) day of October of the year preceding the year to which renewal is sought and shall include front and rear view photographs of the Member Club's proposed playing uniform(s).

(b) A nomination of the Division(s) in which the Member Club desires to compete.

(c) The number of teams the Member Club desires to field in The League shall be

(i) the minimum number of Senior Men's teams being two (2) and/or

(a) a current Member Club nominating only one (1) Senior Men's team shall be allowed to field one team only for the playing season in which it seeks affiliation.

(b) should such Member Club not being able to field a minimum of two (2) Senior Men's teams in the following playing season The League retains the right to reject the Member Club's renewal of its membership of The League.

(d) A fee as determined by The League which shall be deducted from the Member Club's scheduled fees for the forthcoming playing season.

(e) Any other information The League may request to form part of a Member Club's application.

(f) Any Member Club which fails to make such application by the time date specified in Clause 6.1 of these Regulations shall forfeit the right to make application for a Renewal of Membership of The League and in turn be required to apply as per the conditions set out in Clause 5 of these Rules and Regulations.

6.2 A Member Club making an application for an additional team(s) shall pay a fee to The League by no later than 11:59 PM of the thirty first **(31st) January** in the year to which the application is sought.

(a) if a Member Club withdraws such additional team prior to the date determined by The League the fee shall be refunded in full to the Member Club.

(b) in the event a Member Club withdraws its additional team after the date determined by The League no part of the Member Club's fee shall be refunded.

6.3 For the purpose of considering an application for renewal of its membership to The League, The League retains the right to examine and inspect the Member Club's records, oval(s), change rooms, clubrooms and facilities.

6.4 The League may make recommendations as it sees fit concerning such Member Club's oval(s), change rooms, clubrooms or facilities.

6.5 A Member Club withdrawing a team or teams during the playing season shall pay part of or the total of their scheduled fees as The League deems fit.

6.6 A Member Club expelled or suspended may lose all its rights and privileges conferred by the Constitution and these Rules and Regulations and may not be entitled to any refund of monies from The League in accordance with Clause 6 of these Rules and Regulations.

(a) Such Member Club may forfeit all its rights and privileges conferred by The League's Constitution and these Rules and Regulations and may not be entitled to make an application for admission to The League in accordance with Clause 6 of these Rules and Regulations unless approved by the Executive Committee.

6.7 A Member Club shall not participate in any aspect of The League whilst any of its Affiliation Fees are in arrears.

6.8 A Member Club will be subject to The Behavioural Rating System as prescribed by The League.

6.9 All Member Clubs, existing or applying as a New Club as described in Clause 5 of the Regulations accept The Rules contained as described in The League's Constitution and or Rules and Regulations which shall prevail in all circumstances over another League or Association, Tribunal or body whether judicial, quasi-judicial or otherwise including the Australian Football League, the South Australian National Football League and South Australian Community Football League.

## LEAGUE AFFILIATION PART II

## Rule of the Week # 2

### 11 APPROVED PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM (APPS)

**11.1** Member Clubs shall comply with the Approved Player Points system (APPS) Rules and conditions as specified in the SACFL Regulations in particular Regulation 31.

**11.2** The Player Points System for a team shall be in accordance with the Rules set out in the extract ([Appendix 9](#)) and or [Appendix 3](#) of the SACFL Regulations.

**11.3** A Member Club shall not field a Men's "A" Division team in any match of The League including Major Round matches where the team's Total Points Rating exceeds fifteen (15) points.

**11.4** Before playing a match for a Member Club a Men's player shall complete Section 1(b) – the Player Point Rating – at the bottom of the Player Registration and Transfer Form and such form be made available upon



request by The League.

**(a)** a player whom attended the school associated with a Member Club for three (3) years or more from the year in which the player turns thirteen (13) years of age shall be given a base rating of zero (0) points.

**(b)** such school-Member Club association shall be determined by The League.

**11.5** Except in instances where Points Deductions or Exemptions may apply, a player who has played the majority of their matches for the Men's team of a Member Club who then transfers to another Member Club shall be allocated three (3) points regardless of which Division the player has either been transferred to or from within The League.

**11.6** For the purpose of the SACFL's [Appendix 4](#), Clause 8.3 is the ruling regarding the child of a Member Club Life Member attracting zero (0) APPS Points, The League's interpretation of a Life Member of a Member Club is a person who played a minimum of one hundred and fifty (150) Senior matches for the same Member Club or has given ten (10) years unpaid off field service to the same Member Club.

**(a)** The League in its absolute discretion may instigate an investigation it considers appropriate to determine the Life Membership qualifications of a Member Club person.

**11.7** The League accepts no responsibility for a Member Club which may self-assess a player's Approved Player Points System value which is subsequently determined to be incorrect.

## Rule of the Week # 3

### 62 MERIT AWARDS

**62.1** The League shall award a Certificate of Merit to persons who have made a significant contribution to their Member Club and/or to The League ([Appendix 14](#))

**62.2** Certificate Of Merit award nominations shall be submitted on the form prescribed by The League ([Appendix 14](#))

**62.3** A person shall only receive one (1) Certificate of Merit  
**PLAYER LIFE MEMBERSHIP** 63.1 To be awarded Player Life Membership of The League a player shall play 150 Senior matches in The League.

Certificate of Merit Application Forms must be lodged at The League Office No Later than **January 31**.

# 2024 BRS & DISCIPLINE REPORT

2024 Season Football Operations Summary Report

- Participation Report
- Discipline Summary

[2024 BRS DISCIPLINE REPORT](#)

## 2025 SEASON START DATE | ROUND 1

Saturday **5th of April 2025** will be Round 1 of The Adelaide Footy League 2025 Season as agreed at the General Meeting by Member Clubs.

Gather Round will be during the week of the 12th of April, with Easter Long weekend on 19th April, Round 2 will commence on 26th April 2025.

## GAMBLING HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

### 'THE REAL STAKES'

Gambling Harm Reduction Program – The Real Stakes

The Real Stakes is an initiative of the Adelaide Footy League to deliver information and resources from February 2025 to June 2025 to our football community.

- Tri-state collaboration – Adelaide Footy League, Perth Football League, and Victorian Amateur Football Association – formed to address gambling harm in their communities

- The program will be by community and for community, taking form in four live in-person workshops and three online webinars
- The program will be supported by a dedicated website with resources, tools and educational materials related to gambling harm prevention

The Real Stakes is a pre-cursor activity to the Here For The Game Community Program which is an accreditation program for local sports clubs to tackle the growing presence of harmful sports betting and gambling in the community, being delivered by the South Australian Government.

Coaches & Player Leadership Groups can elect to **attend one** of the four The Real Stakes Live Workshop sessions:

Saturday 1st March	9:00am - 11:00am	AdFL Men's Coach Player Umpire Session
Saturday 1st March	1:00pm - 3:00pm	AdFL Women's Coach Player Umpire Session
Sunday 2nd March	9:30am - 11:30am	AdFL Men's Coach Player Umpire Session
Sunday 2nd March	1:00pm – 3:00pm	AdFL Men's Coach Player Umpire Session

Players [Seniors / Juniors], Trainers, Umpires, Support Staff, Parents etc. can participate / dial in to **one or all three** online webinar sessions.

Online Webinar dates:

Tuesday 8th April	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Adelaide SA - Post Training in Club Rooms
Tuesday 29th April	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Adelaide SA - Post Training in Club Rooms
Tuesday 6th May	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Adelaide SA - Post Training in Club Rooms





## PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL HOST EMPLOYERS WANTED

Master Builders SA is seeking host employers to take on **plumbing** and **electrical apprentices**.

Master Builders SA manages all the paperwork such as leave entitlements and superannuation, and arranges off-the-job training (trade school) with an RTO.

Providing flexible hosting arrangements means our members can spend more time focusing on managing and growing their business.

If you're interested in hosting a Master Builders SA apprentice, please call 8211 7466 or email [apprentices@mbasa.com.au](mailto:apprentices@mbasa.com.au).



## Key Links

AFL Concussion Policy - [AFL Concussion Guidelines](#)

AdFL Rules and Regulations -

[https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc\\_7809a934dddf431789b3e28c373b7555.pdf](https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc_7809a934dddf431789b3e28c373b7555.pdf)

AdFL Division Specifications -

[https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc\\_7679895828fa420aa028326ab996ff81.pdf](https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc_7679895828fa420aa028326ab996ff81.pdf)

CFL Regs - <https://sanfl.com.au/communityfootball/community-football-rules-regulations/>

Laws of Australian Football - <https://play.afl/learning-resource/laws-game#article-0>

AdFL Umpire Fees -

[https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc\\_5c3a8e968b894637a7e8ee13f39caeb1.pdf](https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc_5c3a8e968b894637a7e8ee13f39caeb1.pdf)

## Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/faq-s>

## Archived Updates

For anyone, particularly newer Delegates or club officials, please see below.

<https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/the-update>

## Key Dates

### **2024**

1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	2025 Affiliations Part 2 Open
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	APPS Review's
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	PlayHQ Registrations & Transfer can be opened
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	AdFL Office Closure

## **2025**

20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	AdFL Office Open
20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	APPS Review's
31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	2025 Affiliations Part 2 Due

## **League Contacts**

Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 4:30pm

Friday 9:00am to 1:30pm

### **Football Operations**

**Danielle Robran** - All Football Operations including APPS, TPPS, Womens and Men's Footy, Fixtures, Registration & Transfers, Play HQ: [Danielle@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:Danielle@adelaidefooty.com.au)

**Nick Pietraroia** - All Football Operations including APPS, TPPS, Womens and Men's Footy, Fixtures, Registration & Transfers, Play HQ: [NickP@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:NickP@adelaidefooty.com.au) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

**Forfeits** – All forfeits [forfeits@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:forfeits@adelaidefooty.com.au)

### **Administration**

**Giannina Taeger** – Administration, Rules & Regulations, Policy, Accounts: [Giannina@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:Giannina@adelaidefooty.com.au)  
(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

**Ivana Lombardi** – Administration, Accounts: [accounts@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:accounts@adelaidefooty.com.au)

### **Sponsorship / Media / Social Media**

**Dee Shepard** - Marketing, Communication, Social Media, Sponsorship: [dee@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:dee@adelaidefooty.com.au)

### **Umpiring**

**Colin Rowston** – Umpiring Manager: [colin@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:colin@adelaidefooty.com.au)

**Peter Angel** – Umpiring Coordinator: Late Forfeits [peter@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:peter@adelaidefooty.com.au)