



## MEMORANDUM

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To: **Metropolitan Leagues, Country Regions**

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Cc: **AFL Victoria Management, Region Managers**

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From: **John O'Donohue – Community Football Manager**      Date: **6 March 2023**

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Re: **AFL Victoria Community Affiliate Regulations**

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Ahead of the 2023 season, AFL Victoria are releasing the amendments to Community Affiliate Regulations which are effective as of the above date and better align to the Nation Community Football Policy Handbook (NCFPH) as adopted as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and updated March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

This has been a significant process of review, consultation and consideration which has resulted in the presentation of streamlined policies and regulations for Affiliate-to-Affiliate Club and Team Transfers, Admission of new clubs, Timeframes, Appeals, Definitions and other process which are outlined below.

Amendments to the Community Affiliate Regulations include revised processes and timeframes, should be read in conjunction with the NCFPH dated March 2023. AFL Victoria will support the implementation with education and advice to Leagues and Regions prior to and during the upcoming season.

Please refer below to a summary of substantive amendments to be implemented in 2023:

1. AFL Victoria shall determine objections and appeals that arise from a dispute between one affiliate and another.
2. A party to a decision may Appeal on one or more of the following grounds:
  - Section 26.1(b)(i)(A) the decision was an error of law;
  - Section 26.1(b)(i)(B) the decision was so unreasonable that no Controlling Body or Tribunal acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it;
  - Section 26.1(b)(i)(D) the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or inadequate.
3. Timeframes for an Appeal lodgement have been amended and are now consistent with the NCFPH as 5.00pm on the following day or receiving notice from the relevant body.
4. Unless otherwise determined by AFL Victoria, appeals will be heard consistent with Section 26 of the National Community Football Policy Handbook.
5. The objection process has been removed. A party to a decision may only Appeal under these regulations to AFL Victoria.

### AFL Victoria

Please feel free to circulate this notice and copies of the Community Affiliate Regulations to your respective teams; should you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact [darryl.collings@afl.com.au](mailto:darryl.collings@afl.com.au) in the first instance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**John O'Donohue**  
**Community Football Manager**  
**AFL Victoria**