



NGURRA KUJUNGKA (INC)

WESTERN DESERT LEAGUE

“BY-LAWS”

&

COMPETITION HANDBOOK

NGURRA KUJUNGKA (INC)

WESTERN DESERT LEAGUE "BY - LAWS"

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SECTION A GENERAL

SPIRIT OF THE GAME

By-Law 1

- 1.1 Every participant irrespective of their place in the game understands that sporting activities conducted by the Council are delivered with the spirit of the game in mind.
- 1.2 The values that add to the spirit of the game include fairness, equality, respect and teamwork.
- 1.3 The game environment is safe, fun and fair.
- 1.4 All participants will uphold, promote and protect the Rules, Laws, Codes, Policies and Spirit of the game.

“BLUE SHIRTS”

By-Law 2

- 2.1 Ngurra Kujungka council members and “Blue Shirts” are responsible for the smooth running of Western Desert League carnivals.
- 2.2 Each member community shall appoint a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) “Blue Shirts” prior to scheduled sports carnivals.
- 2.3 “Blue Shirts” should be both male and female.
- 2.4 “Blue Shirts” responsibilities include:
 - 5.3.1 keeping the peace in the community and at the sports ground
 - 5.3.2 being present at the grounds at all times
 - 5.3.3 confiscate any alcohol that may be in the community
 - 5.3.4 provide protection to umpires where required
 - 5.3.5 patrol desert feet concerts and other youth centred activities
 - 5.3.6 other duties as directed by the Council
- 2.5 If a matter cannot be resolved by the Blue Shirts, if necessary the Blue Shirts shall approach the police for a resolution

SECTION B COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER COMMUNITIES

By-Law 3

- 3.1 A member community is any recognised community affiliated to Ngurra Kujungka Inc.
- 3.2 Current member communities are: Jigalong, Kiwirrkurra, Kunawarritji, Marble Bar, Nullagine, Parnngurr, Punmu, Warralong and Parnpajinya.

COLOURS

By-Law 4

- 4.1 Each community in its application for membership of the Council shall nominate its colours and design of playing uniform.
- 4.2 Such design shall be approved by the Council unless, in the opinion of the Council, the design clashes with that of another member's community, in which case the Council shall request that a member community determine another design within agreed design criteria.
- 4.3 All teams representing each member community shall wear the correct Western Desert League playing uniform approved for that community by the Council.

SECTION C COMMITTEES

WESTERN DESERT LEAGUE RULES COMMITTEE

By-Law 5

- 5.1 The council shall appoint a rules committee comprising of four (4) females and four (4) males
- 5.2 The committee shall elect a Chairman to preside over all meetings of the committee
- 5.3 The committee shall be supported by at least one Indigenous Sport Development Officer who will provide secretariat, mentorship and other duties as required
- 5.4 The committee shall manage and control the Western Desert League football and softball rules and make changes to the by-laws as required

SECTION D FESTIVAL & COMPETITION RULES

DEFAULT OF COMMUNITIES, TEAMS OR PLAYERS

By-Law 6

- 6.1 If any member community shall fail to pay an annual fee, fine or other payment for which such member community is liable, within the time prescribed for such payment, the member community may attend Council meetings but shall not vote until such payment has been made.
- 6.2 If any team or player fails to pay any fine imposed under these rules, such team or player shall be disqualified from playing in any matches until such fine is paid.
- 6.3 If any member community does not show up to a Ngurra Kujungka council meeting or Western Desert League carnival they shall lose the right to host a carnival.

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL

By-Law 7

- 7.1 The Council shall appoint a Chairman, Deputy Chairman and at least four (4) others prior to the commencement of the season to act as the Independent Tribunal. No more than three (3) persons can sit on the board at any one time. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman to name the members to sit on each panel.

Any report or charge against a player or official will be heard at a suitable time prior to the next fixture at the discretion of the Chairman. The Tribunal shall exercise the following functions and all decisions shall be final subject to the right of re-hearing and re-opening contained in By-Law 9.1.3

- 7.1.1 hear and determine all protests, disputes, expulsions, disqualifications and charges against players, or officials; as well as all other matters, which the Council may from time to time refer to the Tribunal.
 - 7.1.2 impose such disqualifications and inflict such fines and other penalties as the Tribunal shall think fit in the cases brought before the Tribunal.
 - 7.1.3 re-open and re-hear any case previously dealt with if the Tribunal in its discretion shall consider such a re-hearing to be justified. Any application to re-hear or re-open shall be before the same members who originally dealt with the matter in question.
- 7.2 Every decision of this Tribunal shall be reported to the Council in writing and shall be received without comment. A report of the same shall be kept by the Secretariat/Executive Officer.

REPORTS

By-Law 8

- 8.1 Only the field umpire may report a player or official.
- 8.2 All reported players and officials shall appear before the Tribunal.

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

By-Law 9

- 9.1 The field umpire shall at his/her discretion only, issue a yellow or red penalty card to an offending player or official.
 - 9.1.1 A yellow card is a warning and applies to minor offences and is not reportable.
 - 9.1.2 A player or official who receives two yellow card offences in the same match or on the same day shall leave the field immediately for a period of 5 minutes and can be immediately replaced by an interchange player.
 - 9.1.3 For a third and subsequent yellow card in the same match or on the same day, the offender shall be reported for misconduct and consequently deemed to have committed a Red Card offence.
 - 9.1.4 When ordered off for a Yellow Card offence, failure to leave the field immediately when directed by the field umpire shall result in the offender being reported for misconduct and consequently be deemed to have committed a Red Card offence.
- 9.2 ***A Red Card offence is an automatic reportable offence.***
 - 9.2.1 an offender ordered off for a Red Card offence shall take no further part in the match but may be replaced after 15 minutes of game time.
 - 9.2.2 the offending player or official shall attend a Tribunal hearing as described in By-Law 7.
 - 9.2.3 a player or official who fails to leave the playing arena immediately when directed by the field umpire shall be reported for misconduct, the match shall be terminated and the offending person's team will forfeit the match.
- 9.3 Any player found guilty of an offence in the Laws of the Game is ineligible to win any Fairest and Best medals or awards in the season in which the offence took place.
- 9.4 The council supports a zero tolerance stance against any form of umpiring or officials abuse. Any breaches of these codes will result in penalties to the person responsible, the team or possibly the member community.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE CARNIVAL HOST COMMUNITY

By-Law 10

The community that hosts the sports carnival shall:

- 10.1 Ensure the playing surface is level and free of dangerous debris.
- 10.2 Ensure ground markings are clear and maintained throughout the carnival.
- 10.3 Provide waste bins.
- 10.4 Provide some wood for visitors.
- 12.5 Provide band equipment.
- 10.6 Organise skin group games.

- 10.7 Arrange opening ceremony.
- 10.8 Take responsibility for reading out the rules.
- 10.9 Organise cultural activities and kids games in conjunction with Ngurra Kujungka indigenous sport development officers
- 10.10 Ensure ground announcements are made throughout the carnival including scores, game times and organisation of umpires for football and softball games

OBLIGATIONS OF NGURRA KUJUNGKA INC.

By-Law 11

Ngurra Kujungka Inc. will:

- 11.1 Provide fuel for the truck buses when they are used for Council (and/or) Carnival business only.
- 11.2 Provide a shop with food and non-alcoholic drinks for sale at the carnival.
- 11.3 Send information on carnival venue and dates through telephone, email, fax and in person to all communities 4 weeks prior to the carnival.
- 11.4 Provide two (2) Indigenous Sport Development officers, West Australian Football Commission (WAFC) and Softball WA representatives at each carnival.
- 11.5 Provide football and softball equipment, kids sporting equipment and PA systems at each carnival
- 11.6 Provide medals and trophies at each carnival.
- 11.7 Provide scoring equipment, umpiring shirts and playing jumpers/shirts.
- 11.8 Host and organise all Council meetings at Telfer including food, accommodation, meeting equipment, meeting minutes.
- 11.9 Ensure secure storage of all equipment required for Council business.

REGISTRATION

By-Law 12

- 12.1 Captains and coaches must register all players before the commencement of each festival. A maximum of thirty (30) players may be registered for each football team and twenty (20) players for each softball team.
- 12.2 As each player is registered to a team, their jumper/shirt number must be recorded
- 12.3 Football and softball jumpers are to be returned at the conclusion of each team's last game for the day to the administration tent. Failure to do so will result in registered players having to pay a jumper/shirt replacement fee.

- 12.4 Teams cannot replace injured players on the registration sheet unless all other teams have the maximum allowed number of registered players being thirty (30) for football and twenty (20) for softball.

FIXTURES

By-Law 13

- 13.1 Fixtures shall be drawn on the first day of each carnival after the Ngurra Kujungka council has met on the day preceding the commencement of the carnival to discuss any issues and/or questions.
- 13.2 A football and softball premiership ladder will be maintained by Indigenous Sport Development Officers supported by council members.
- 13.3 The finals structure for ALL Western Desert League carnivals is as follows:
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1st Semi Final (second chance) | 1 v 2 |
| 2nd Semi Final (knockout) | 3 v 4 |
| Preliminary Final | Winner of 2 nd semi final (knockout) v
Loser of 1 st semi final (second chance) |
| Grand Final | Winner 1 st semi final (second chance) v
Winner preliminary final |
- 13.4 Grand finals will be stand-alone fixtures on the final day of the carnival.
- 13.5 Only council organised carnivals will be included in premiership season points.
- 13.6 Only council members' teams can earn premiership points.

FOOTBALL MATCHES

By-Law 14

- 14.1 Unless otherwise agreed by the Council:
- 14.1.1 carnival football matches will be of four (4) quarters, each of not more than 10 minutes in duration
 - 14.1.2 carnival football grand final match will be of four (4) quarters, each of not more than 15 minutes duration
- 14.2 No time on period applies in football except:
- 14.2.1 if the field umpire suspends play (by blowing their whistle and indicating to the Timekeeper with both hands above their head) due to a player sustaining an injury that requires a stretcher or use of a vehicle to transport the injured player from the ground;
 - 14.2.2 if the field umpire suspends play in the event of an Order Off offence committed by a player or team official.
 - 14.2.3 if the captain approached the field umpire to request a head count.
 - 14.2.4 if in the opinion of the field umpire exceptional circumstances are warranted e.g. dust storm.

- 14.3 If a team has more than 18 players on the field they will automatically forfeit the game and the game will end. The request to have a head count must be from the team captain to the umpire.
- 14.4 In addition to the eighteen (18) players on the playing arena of a football match, each team is permitted twelve (12) players who shall be allowed to take part in the match as Interchangeable Reserves with a team total of thirty (30) players.
- 14.5 No player shall enter the playing area until the player he is replacing has crossed the boundary line.
- 14.6 An interchange area will be marked on the football oval boundary line and easily identified by flags, lines or markers, not more than nine (9) metres apart and close to the mid-point between the two sets of goals.
- 14.7 No rule changes are to occur at a festival, all rule changes must be spoken about at a Ngurra Kujungka Council meeting.

SOFTBALL MATCHES

By-Law 15

- 15.1 Unless otherwise agreed by the Council:
 - 15.1.1 Carnival softball matches will be of 3 innings each or at the conclusion of 1 hour of play, whichever ever comes first.
 - 15.1.2 Carnival softball grand final match will be of 4 innings each or at the conclusion of 1.5 hours of play, whichever ever comes first.
 - 15.1.3 if after 1 hour or play for carnival softball matches or 1.5 hours of play for the carnival softball grand final match, one softball team is part way through an innings or a if a team has played one innings less, then that team will complete the innings.
- 15.2 A mercy rule of 20 runs at the top of the 2nd innings and 15 runs at the top of the 3rd innings can be offered to a losing softball team by the plate umpire. If the team chooses to take the mercy rule "time and game" will be automatically called by the plate umpire.
- 15.3 Each softball team must complete a team line up prior to each game and can only bat in this order. Batting out of order will result in an automatic out on the offending player.
- 15.4 Softball safety equipment must be worn at all times. If a player refuses to wear safety equipment or removes safety equipment during play then that player shall be automatically out and 1 run shall be deducted from the offending players team score.
- 15.5 If a team has more than 9 players on the diamond they will automatically forfeit the game and the game will end. The request to have a head count must be from the team captain to the plate umpire.
- 15.6 No rule changes are to occur at a festival, all rule changes must be spoken about at a Ngurra Kujungka Council meeting.

FORFEITED MATCHES

By-Law 16

- 16.1 Where a team fails to enter the playing arena later than ten (10) minutes after the fixtured playing time or where a team forfeits a match, full premiership points shall be awarded to the team receiving the forfeit.
- 16.2 The team receiving the forfeit shall be credited with 50 points in the case of football and 5 runs in the case of softball.
- 16.3 The team that forfeited the match shall be credited 0 points or 0 runs.
- 16.4 The Council shall be empowered to fine or otherwise penalise the forfeiting team/member community, at the discretion of the Council.
- 16.5 Teams that arrive on day three or later of the carnival shall not be eligible to participate in the remaining matches of the carnival, unless otherwise accepted at the discretion of the Council prior to the carnival commencing.

MATCH OFFICIALS

By-Law 17

- 17.1 Each team that played in the previous game must
 - 17.1.1 Provide goal, boundary and field umpires for the next football game
 - 17.1.2 Provide a plate or base umpire for the next softball game
- 17.2 Coaches are not permitted to commentate on the PA system.
- 17.3 A coach must not be or wear a "blue shirt" at the same time. A "blue shirt" may resume his/her duties once the team he/she coached has finished playing.
- 17.4 Ngurra Kujungka council delegates cannot coach their community's football or softball teams however are allowed to be a player.
- 17.4 Captains and coaches must collect umpire/water/runner shirts at the end of each game and hand them to the scorer's tent.
- 17.5 Timekeepers will keep time and maintain scores
- 17.6 The Ground Manager will coordinate umpires, uniform distribution and collection, ensure balls and other equipment for games, coordinate PA speakers and arrange meetings in the administration tent to resolve any issues and prepare finals fixtures.

REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

By-Law 18

- 18.1 The Council shall appoint a Committee to select all representative teams and shall also appoint the Coach, Manager and Officials.
- 18.2 The Manager shall have power to report players on serious breaches of accepted off-field behaviour while representing a Council League team.

- 18.3 Any player who fails to meet his/her obligations to represent a Council League team or misconducts himself/herself while representing the team shall appear before the Tribunal if reported by the team manager.

QUALIFICATIONS OF COACHES AND UMPIRES

By-Law 19

- 19.1 All coaches and field umpires will be required to attend an education forum prior to the Western Desert League season commencing.

AGREEMENT WITH OTHER LEAGUES

By-Law 20

- 20.1 The council may from time to time by resolution enter into any contract, agreement or other arrangement with any other League or Association formed for the purpose of encouraging sport and recreation, and may by resolution cancel or determine any such contract, agreement or other agreement.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

By-Law 21

- 21.1 Players may be randomly breath tested for alcohol and drugs before games.
- 21.2 A Police Officer, council member or "Blue Shirt" will administer the tests and report any positive reading to the administration tent.
- 21.3 Any player recording a positive reading shall not be eligible to play for that day.

SECTION E ADMINSTRATING OF BY-LAWS

ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS

By-Law 22

- 22.1 Should any situation arise which is not covered in these By-laws then the Rules, Codes, Policies and Regulations of the relevant sports body shall apply.
- 22.2 Alterations to these By-Laws may be made by recommendation from a committee of the Council, for ratification at a Council meeting. Alterations to the By-laws will not be implemented until ratified.