



***Trinity
Aquinas***

AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

BY-LAWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	2
2.0	DEFINITIONS	2
3.0	SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS.....	3
4.0	SPIRIT OF THE GAME	3
5.0	CODE OF CONDUCT	4
6.0	VILIFICATION	4
7.0	LIQUOR LICENCING AND RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL	5
8.0	MEDIA COMMENT AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.....	5
9.0	COACHES.....	6
10.0	TEAM LEADERS.....	7
11.0	TEAM SELECTION	7
12.0	PLAYER CLEARANCES	7
13.0	BEST AND FAIREST AWARDS.....	7
14.0	HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS.....	8

1.0 INTRODUCTION

These By-laws are made under the authority of the Rules of the Trinity Aquinas Amateur Football Club Inc. ("TAAFC") to ensure the fair and equitable enjoyment of the TAAFC.

The By-laws contain various directions and requirements of the TAAFC and are binding on members, players, officials, supporters, committees and sub-committees. They are to be interpreted in accordance with, and are subject to, the Rules of the TAAFC.

The By-laws are made for the dominant purpose of ensuring a safe and fair system or framework within which amateur football may be played and enjoyed.

It should be recognised that the TAAFC believes in and operates under strict equity guidelines. Any reference to a person as *he* or *his*, *she* or *her* in this document is meant to read as unisex.

The **Rules of the Trinity Aquinas Amateur Football Club Inc.** is the authority under and through which we govern and manage the business of the TAAFC.

The **By-laws of the Trinity Aquinas Amateur Football Club Inc.** is the framework within which playing amateur football and the enjoyment of membership is regulated and conducted.

The TAAFC also makes **policies** and such policies formalise the TAAFC's position on specific issues and/or details the required procedures considered important to effect competent and prudent management and operations.

The Committee also pass **resolutions** and such resolutions are a procedural means of formalising and recording a decision, rule, policy or position on a specific issue.

Sub-committees may provide **recommendations** to the Committee to act on. These recommendations are non-binding, but provide a procedural means of formalising and recording advice to the Committee on a specific issue.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Act means the Liquor Control Act 1988.

A Grade means the Team with the highest WAAFL grading playing in the WAAFL men's competition.

ARF means Australian Rules Football.

By-laws means these By-laws of the TAAFC.

Clearance means the processes of either a Player being permitted by the WAAFL to play for the Club or to leave the Club and play for another club in accordance with the rules and by-laws of the WAAFL.

Club means the TAAFC.

Coach means the senior or head coach of a team representing the Club. All other coaches are deemed assistant coaches.

Committee means the management committee of the TAAFC.

Committee Member means a member of the Committee.

Football Director means the football director of the TAAFC appointed in accordance with the Rules.

Game means a game of ARF.

Honorary Life Membership means honorary life membership of TAAFC in accordance with the Rules.

Licensed Premises means premises that the Club obtains a Liquor Licence for.

Liquor Licence means a licence for the Club to sell alcohol under the Act.

Member means a member of the TAAFC in accordance with the Rules.

Official means a person elected or appointed as a Committee member, coach, team manager, support personnel, timekeeper or any other person acting in an official capacity for the TAAFC.

Player means a player registered to play for the TAAFC.

Premiership Points are points awarded by the WAAFL for a Team during the Season in accordance with the Rules and By-laws of the WAAFL.

President means the president of the TAAFC appointed in accordance with the Rules.

Regular Season means a Game played by a Team in the Season that is for Premiership Points.

Rules means the Rules of the TAAFC.

Season means the period starting immediately before the first Game of any Team and ending immediately after the last Game played by any Team in the calendar year.

Selection Committee means such committee as outlined in these By-laws whose purpose it is to select players to a Team.

TAAFC means the Trinity Aquinas Amateur Football Club Inc.

Team means any team representing the TAAFC in playing ARF.

WAAFL means the Western Australian Amateur Football League (Inc).

3.0 SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Issued	Committee Meeting	Minute Item No.	By-law Amended
			▪ Adoption of By-laws

4.0 SPIRIT OF THE GAME

- 4.1 The objective of the Club's Spirit of the Game is to recognise that there is a critical element of the conduct of a game of ARF that cannot be the subject of written rules nor of regulation by the Club.
- 4.2 This element is the fairness, decency and honesty which coaches, players, umpires and spectators (participants) must bring to the conduct of the game on every occasion and in all situations, which arise in the conduct of the game.
- 4.3 ARF games are played to be won and it is a contact sport so it is expected that games will be hard fought and physically demanding. However, the Club also requires that each game is played within both the written rules of the game and the Spirit of the Game.
- 4.4 Each participant is personally responsible for ensuring his or her behaviour is fair, decent and honest.

-
- 4.5 The desire for victory must not outweigh:
- a. The ideals of sportsmanship which are the foundation of the game; and
 - b. The reputation and integrity of the Club.
- 4.6 At the completion of each game, each participant involved with the winning team should honestly be able to say that the team played fairly, decently and honestly, and behaved in a sportsmanlike manner in victory.
- 4.7 At the completion of each game, each participant involved with the losing team should honestly be able to say that the team played fairly, decently and honestly, and behaved in a sportsmanlike manner in defeat.
- 4.8 Even in the heat of a game all participants must conduct themselves fairly, decently and honestly and with respect for:
- a. The opposition;
 - b. The Club; and
 - c. The game of ARF.

5.0 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 5.1 The Club is committed to promoting an environment which promotes consistent, accountable and acceptable standards of behaviour from all members and this Code of Conduct has been developed to set the minimum behaviour guidelines in order attract new members, improve the culture of the Club, protect the Club's property and enhance the reputation of the Club within the community.
- 5.2 It is the expectation of the Club that all Members, Officials, supporters and affiliates abide by the following:
- a. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every individual associated with the Club regardless of ability, gender, cultural background or religion;
 - b. Respect the Club's facilities and all of its property and equipment as if it were their own and commit to using it in the manner in which it was designed for;
 - c. Display appropriate conduct towards umpires and other match day officials. Inappropriate conduct can include derogatory, intimidating or abusive language, threatening or violent behaviour and interfering with umpires and/or their property;
 - d. Display control, respect and sportsmanship to all involved with the Club and game day operation. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media and spectators;
 - e. Demonstrate leadership in holding others accountable for breaches of this Code of Conduct.
- 5.3 Members, Officials, supporters and their affiliates will be held personally responsible for all costs, including fines imposed upon the Club by the WAAFL or any other body, repairs or sanctions as a result of that individuals own behaviour should that behaviour, in the view of the Committee, have directly or indirectly resulted in or contributed to that cost.

6.0 VILIFICATION

- 6.1 The Club acknowledges the diversity of Members and Officials and accepts it has a responsibility to promote positive and constructive relations between all groups.
- 6.2 The Club is committed to an environment which promotes tolerance by prohibiting certain conduct and providing a means of redress for victims of vilification.

-
- 6.3 Vilification is the conduct that incites hatred towards, contempt for, ridicule of or discrimination against a person on the grounds of, including but not limited to, their race, religion, colour, gender, sexual orientation, preference or identity, or special ability/disability (mental health, injury, illness).
- 6.4 The Club and the individuals concerned will take immediate action to resolve the matter. This process must be in private and no public statement is permitted by the Club or the individuals involved.
- 6.5 A vilification complaint may be made by a Member, Official, supporter or affiliate or by an umpire, opposition club or the WAAFL.
- 6.6 If this is the first complaint of this nature against the particular individual, the matter is referred to conciliation and is to be resolved within five working days of the report date. The accused and witness are to meet with the President and such Committee Members as the President deems appropriate or a mutually agreed third party. The complaint is heard in private.
- 6.7 Where the conciliation fails or it is the individual's second offence, the Club will direct the matter to a disciplinary sub-committee of the Club.
- 6.8 Any Member or Official who is found to have vilified another person and where that Member or Official has failed to demonstrate that they have acted in a meaningful way to prevent or reduce vilification may receive a penalty which may include suspension or other sanctions.

7.0 LIQUOR LICENCING AND RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL

- 7.1 The Club may obtain a Liquor Licence to sell alcohol on a Licenced Premises.
- 7.2 The Club must fully comply with the terms and conditions of the Liquor Licence and all aspects of the Act, including, but not limited to the following:
- a. Ensuring the licensed area is clearly identified during Games and that alcohol is only consumed within that area;
 - b. Ensuring that any person attending a Game at which the Club is selling alcohol does not bring their own alcohol to the venue at any stage, under any circumstances;
 - c. Alcohol will only be sold to those who are over 18 years of age; and
 - d. Alcohol will not be sold to anyone who is showing signs of intoxication.
- 7.3 The Club must also comply with any rules, by-laws or policies of the WAAFL in relation to the Club's Liquor Licence and the sale of alcohol by the Club.
- 7.4 The Club must also ensure that it only permits persons to sell alcohol on its behalf under its Liquor Licence if that person has undergone and completed responsible service of alcohol training consistent with the applicable state standards.

8.0 MEDIA COMMENT AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

- 8.1 Any Member or Official who makes public comment to the media (including to the media or by the means contemplated by By-law 8.2) which the Committee in its absolute discretion considers is contrary to the interests of the Club (Inappropriate Public Comment) may receive such penalty as the Committee in its absolute discretion sees fit which may include suspension or other sanctions.

-
- 8.2 Any Member or Official who is found to have engaged in, or is suspected of engaging in the unacceptable use of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or any other social networking site, including blogs, in connection with the Club in any way, may be dealt with by the Club as it deems fit, notwithstanding the behaviour did not occur on the playing field.
- 8.3 Without limiting the operation of this by-law, Inappropriate Public Comment or unacceptable use may involve the Member or Official:
- Criticising Members, Officials, the Club, Committee Members, umpires, the WAAFL or any other person involved in the Club;
 - Engaging in bullying behaviour including but not limited to name-calling or making condescending, offensive (including racist or sexist) or abusive remarks about any person; or
 - Engaging in any other behaviour which the Committee determines in its absolute discretion to have breached this by-law.
- 8.4 It is not relevant that the Member or Official making the remarks was not aware that the content could or would be made publicly available.
- 8.5 In the event that any Member or Official is contacted by the media for any matter relating to the Club must adhere to the following process:
- Under no circumstances make a comment on the matter;
 - Ascertain the nature of the enquiry;
 - Obtain contact details of the enquirer, including name, media outlet, telephone number and email address;
 - Advise the enquirer that the Club will be in contact to make a comment, if appropriate, in due course; and
 - Provide the information gathered to the President or a Committee Member.
- 8.6 The President or Committee Member in receipt of the information must consult with such Committee Members as he deems appropriate and any other advisors, whether legal or otherwise, prior to making any comment to the media.
- 8.7 The President shall be the spokesperson for the Club however should the President be unable, unwilling or unavailable to act in in this capacity, then the Committee shall nominate a spokesperson.
- 8.8 The Club is not obligated to make a comment to the media on any matter, and may chose not to do so should the Committee deem that to be the most appropriate response.
- 9.0 COACHES**
- 9.1 The Committee shall appoint the Coach for each team representing the Club.
- 9.2 The Coach shall be a member of the Selection Committee for the Team he has been appointed to coach.
- 9.3 The Committee may suspend or terminate any Coach at the absolute discretion of the Committee.
- 9.4 Each and every Coach shall have his position vacated at the completion of the Season.
- 9.5 The Committee shall solicit expressions of interest for each and every Coach at the completion of the Season for coaching roles for the following Season.

10.0 TEAM LEADERS

- 10.1 Each Team shall have appointed Team Leaders.
- 10.2 Team Leaders shall consist of persons to act in the following leadership positions:
- a. Captain; and
 - b. Vice captain.
- 10.3 Teams may have one or more individuals acting in each leadership position, referred to as co-captains or co-vice captains as the case may be.
- 10.4 Team Leaders shall be appointed prior to the commencement of the Season by:
- a. The Coach of the Team; or
 - b. Elected by Players representing the Team.
- 10.5 In the event of an election in accordance with By-law 10.4.b it shall be conducted and determined by a show of hands on a simple majority or by such other election process as determined appropriate by the Coach of the Team.
- 10.6 The Coach shall determine the method of appointing Team Leaders provided it is done in accordance with By-laws 10.4 and 10.5.
- 10.7 The A Grade Team Leaders must be ratified by the Committee before they can be officially appointed.
- 10.8 Team Leaders shall hold their title for the Season unless earlier resignation or removal.
- 10.9 Team Leaders may be removed from holding title at the discretion of the Coach of the Team or the Committee.

11.0 TEAM SELECTION

- 11.1 There shall be a Selection Committee for each Team.
- 11.2 The Selection Committee shall comprise the following:
- a. The Coach of the Team; and
 - b. Two individuals nominated by the Coach.
- 11.3 The Selection Committee is responsible for the selection of Players to represent the Team for each Game.

12.0 PLAYER CLEARANCES

- 12.1 Requests for a Clearance for a player wishing to leave the Club must be submitted to the Committee.
- 12.2 The Committee shall not consent to a request for a Clearance in accordance By-law 12.1 should the Player requesting the Clearance owe a debt of any nature to the Club, including debts relating to unpaid membership fees, or be in possession of any Club property.

13.0 BEST AND FAIREST AWARDS

- 13.1 An award is to be granted to a Player for each Team deemed to be the best and fairest player for that team with such award to be determined in accordance with these By-laws.
- 13.2 The voting system for all Teams shall consist of three (3) voting cards for each Regular Season Game to be distributed by each Team's Coach as follows (Nominated Person):

-
- a. One (1) voting card assigned to an individual nominated by the Coach;
 - b. One (1) voting card assigned to an individual nominated by the Committee; and
 - c. One (1) voting card assigned to the Coach.
- 13.3 Upon acceptance of the nomination the Nominated Person must be identified to the Committee as a Nominated Person.
- 13.4 For A Grade Games, in the event that a person nominated in accordance with By-law 13.2.a is absent or otherwise unable to attend the Game, the President of the Club or the most senior member of the Committee present at that A Grade Game will nominate another person to act as the Nominated Person.
- 13.5 For non-A Grade Games, in the event that any persons have not been nominated or were nominated but are absent or otherwise unable to attend the Game, the Coach shall nominate another person(s) as the Nominated Person.
- 13.6 The voting cards must be completed directly after the completion of each Regular Season Game. Votes are to be awarded to Players on a 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 basis, with 5 votes awarded to the Player deemed to be the fairest and best player for that particular game, 4 votes for the Player considered the 2nd fairest and best player, and so on.
- 13.7 Voting shall be undertaken independently of the other Nominated Persons, in private and without collusion, either directly or indirectly.
- 13.8 Votes are only to be awarded for Regular Season Games and are to exclude any other Games, including those designated as finals by the WAAFL.
- 13.9 Following each Game the voting cards must be returned by the Nominated Person to the Football Director, who is to maintain a record of the votes.
- 13.10 The contents of the information contained on the voting cards must not be shared by the Nominated Persons or the Football Director to any persons or each other.
- 13.11 The Football Director shall tally up the votes for each Team by Season end in a timely manner to enable the presentation of the best and fairest award at the awards presentation to be held at such time as prescribed by the Committee.
- 14.0 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS**
- 14.1 Nominations for Honorary Life Membership will be considered by the Club annually and awarded to the successful nominee(s) in the year of nomination provided the nomination was submitted in accordance with the Rules by the end of the Season.
- 14.2 Honorary Life Membership awards will be presented at a time and place determined by the Committee.
- 14.3 Nominations for Honorary Life Membership received after the end of the Season will be considered and if successful, awarded in the following year at a time and place determined by the Committee.