Appendix 10 – SANFL Community Football Fair Play Rule
("*Fair Play Policy*")

This Fair Play Policy is established in accordance with the Fair Play Rule principles of the *AFL Junior Football Rules Program Handbook* and these Regulations. The purpose of this Fair Play Policy is to instil in all coaches, officials, club members, and parents that a one-sided match has a detrimental impact on player development (both teams) and retention.

This Fair Play Policy shall apply to all junior premiership age groups from Under 16.5 and below within all Affiliated Leagues and Affiliated League Clubs. Nothing in this Fair Play Policy prevents an Affiliated League from extending its application to additional age groups; however, any such extension is at the sole discretion of that Affiliated League. Participation, youth retention and sustainable growth are key focuses for SANFL, and this Fair Play Policy forms a key part of the strategy to ensure players are involved in competitive and fair matches.

Rules

1. Scores

a) For teams competing in non-premiership age groups, no Match results shall be published (including social media), no scoreboards shall be present, no premiership points shall be awarded, and no ladders recorded.

b) In respect of premiership grades, if the margin exceeds sixty (60) points at or following half time of the Match, the scoreboard must cease to reflect the score.
(*For avoidance of doubt, goal umpires and any independent scorer(s) should advise the field umpire if the margin exceeds sixty (60) points at half time*)).

c) The goal umpires and any independent scorer(s) are to continue to score the Match and submit score cards to the field umpire at the conclusion of the Match.

d) After a Match, the Match points and percentage will be adjusted by the Affiliated League to ensure that no winning margin exceeds sixty (60) points. This score will be reflected on the Online Management System proceeding the fixtured Match.
(For the avoidance of doubt, if a team wins by more than sixty (60) points, the score is to be adjusted so the final margin is capped at sixty (60) points. The winning team's score is set at the point in the match when they first achieve that 60-point lead).

e) For avoidance of doubt, individual goal scorer(s) and best player(s) shall be recorded by an Affiliated League and Affiliated League Clubs for the purposes of end of season awards.

f) Rule 1 (b), (c) and (d) shall also apply for all Major Round matches (finals) in respect of junior premiership age groups.

2. Coaching Responsibilities

Coaches have a key role in fostering the development of their Players. Learning to win and lose is part of the developmental journey but must remain secondary to the primary focus of player experience, development, and retention:

a) In the event of a one-sided game, both Coaches must attempt to even the Match.
b) If it is identified that a Match may be one-sided prior to commencement, it is required that Coach(es) implement Fair Play procedure(s) as outlined in Rule 4(a) in this Fair Play Policy.
c) For avoidance of doubt, if it is identified that a match may be one-sided prior to commencement, coach(es) and Affiliated Club(s) must share dominant or influential players with the Team that has been identified as the less competitive Team prior to the commencement of the Match.
d) There is no discretion for coaches to agree to non-implementation of this Fair Play Policy.

3. Application of Fair Play Policy

a) If the margin equals or surpasses sixty (60) points in a Match between Affiliated League Clubs competing in a premiership grade, the Field Umpire and Affiliated League Clubs must enforce the Fair Play Policy at half time, or at the next major break following half time.

4. Application of Fair Play Policy – Leading Team

a) Scoring endlessly is not only unfair on opponents but will not aid the development of Player(s). The following procedures must be implemented when applying the Fair Play Rule by the leading team:

(i) Sharing dominant and/or influential Player(s) with the Trailing Team once the Fair Play Policy is enacted pursuant to Rule 3 (a) herein.
(ii) Rotation of dominant and/or influential Player(s) prior to commencement, if it is identified that there may be a one-sided Match.
(iii) Adjust positions for all Player(s).

b) The following procedures are encouraged but not mandatory:

(i) Setting challenges to maintain possession for certain periods of time and/or setting a certain number of possessions required before scoring;
(ii) Challenges the Team to use non-preferred hand and/or foot;
(iii) The trailing team automatically starts with the ball at the centre square after a goal; and
(iv) All players to be set up in their field positions until possession has been disposed of.

(*For avoidance of doubt, additional procedures other than the procedures outlined in 4 (a) may be implemented by Affiliated League Clubs).*

c) For the avoidance of doubt, the Fair Play Procedures outlined in Rule 4(a) are mandatory for Major Round matches.

5. Failure to Implement Fair Play Policy

a) Where a Club(s) and/or coach(es) fails to implement any part of this Fair Play Policy, including but not limited to the procedure(s) outlined in Rule 2(b) and 4(a), the Affiliated League in its absolute discretion, may implement any penalty it deems appropriate, which may include (but is not limited to):

(i) Censure;
(ii) The loss of premiership points for the Match in which the Fair Play Policy was not implemented;
(iii) Suspension of coach(es); and/or
(iv) A fine.

(*For avoidance of doubt, where a trailing team also refuses to implement this Fair Play Policy, the Club and or coach(es) may be subject to the penalty provisions outlined in Rule 5 of this Fair Play Policy.*

b) Notwithstanding Rule 5(a) of this Fair Play Policy, it is recommended that the following penalty schedule shall apply as a result of any breach of this Fair Play Policy by a coach(es) and/or Affiliated League Club:

(i) For a first offence a Censure;
(ii) For a second offence, a fine not exceeding $1,000;

(iii) For a third offence the loss of premiership points for the Match in which the Fair Play Policy was not implemented and or a suspension of a coach(es) as determined by the Affiliated League in its absolute discretion.

6. Application of Fair Play Rule – Trailing Team

Motivating a team that is trailing in a one-sided game can be challenging. However, it is achievable when the win/loss situation is not overstated by adults who are present. Redefine the definition of 'winning' so that Player(s) are focused on self-improvement and individual goal attainment rather than the overall scoreline.