



TRIBUNAL POLICY

RATIONAL

The Central Murray & Golden Rivers Board like many sporting organizations arbitrates disputes over the AFL and CMFNL/GRFNL rules through their Independent Tribunal. The tribunal is designed to resolve disputes and rule violations within football and netball. Its main function is to decide on penalties for players, administrators, club members and spectators who breach the rules of their league. The system and tribunal members that underpin the operations of the tribunal are fundamental to each league.

PURPOSE

1. To merge the tribunals of the CMFNL and the GRFNL into one cohesive and unified body.
2. To operate a simple system that is fair, reasonable and transparent.
3. The system is understood by the clubs, players and the public.
4. To improve the knowledge of the members of the tribunal, as well as, club advocates, by providing opportunities to access training and development.
5. To improve the standard of advocacy at all tribunal hearings.
6. To improve the tribunal awareness of umpires and a better understanding of their duty of care to the upholding of the laws of Australian Football, the rules of Netball and our Codes of Conduct.
7. To make the tribunal a user pays system. The cost of the tribunal should be borne by those clubs, players and members who appear before the tribunal and are found guilty.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. All tribunal members will receive an honorarium, with the appointed Chairs receiving an additional 50%.
2. The role of league investigating officer and the league prosecutor will be merged to form a new role of "Reporting Officer". The Reporting Officer will be the leagues' advocate/prosecutor at tribunal hearings, as well as, Investigating Officer when needed.
3. The remuneration of each Reporting Officer will be based on a retainer plus a bonus for each case they prosecute or investigate.
4. Guilty Verdict fees – Where clubs, members or players appearing before the tribunal are found guilty, clubs will be invoiced for a "Guilty Verdict Fee".
5. Clubs, players and administrators who plead guilty before the tribunal will receive a discount on their potential penalty.
6. All fees, honorariums and charges will be reviewed annually by the Board.

INVESTIGATIONS

Outcome of Investigations

1. The following fees shall apply following the outcome of an investigation:
When the Reporting Officer determines that there is no case to answer, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of part of the initial deposit, and the balance will contribute to the costs of the Reporting Officer as payment for their services.
2. In cases where the Reporting Officer refers the matter to the Independent Tribunal, and a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a refund of part of the initial deposit, and the balance will contribute to the costs of the Reporting Officer as payment for their services.
3. In cases where the Reporting Officer refers the matter to the Independent Tribunal and a guilty verdict is determined, the club that has requested the investigation shall receive a full refund of their deposit. The club of the player/official that has the guilty verdict applied to it shall be fined the Guilty Verdict Fee (In addition to any additional Tribunal fine) which shall be used by the Board for payment to the Reporting Officer for their services.



4. The proportion of the refund to clubs will be determined by the Board.
5. The above financial policy shall be applied in cases where the Reporting Officer shall be paid a standard fee. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. more difficult, complex or lengthy investigations) the Reporting Officer may request an amount over & above the flat rate and this will be negotiated with the Operations Manager accordingly.

Failure to Cooperate Fee

Any person who fails to cooperate with the investigation process shall be fined by the league. The league, in conjunction with the Reporting Officer, shall determine if a club member or club has failed to cooperate with the investigation process. Failing to cooperate may mean but is not limited to, players/officials/umpires not turning up for interviews, persons not being contactable, and clubs failing to confirm availabilities for interviews or withholding their members from the investigation process.

Other Fines

Any other fines implemented as a result of recommendations from the Reporting Officer or as a result of a subsequent Tribunal hearing shall be issued to the club in question on top of any other fines or fees that apply.

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL - REMUNERATION, COSTS AND FINES	
Item	Remuneration or Fine
Tribunal Member Annual Honorarium	\$200
Tribunal Chair Annual Honorarium	\$300
Reporting Officer, annual retainer	\$200
For each matter/case heard before the tribunal the reporting officer will be recompensed at \$25/hour for an average of four hours work. Where a case is more complex or time consuming the Reporting Officer may apply to the Operations Manager for compensation of actual hours worked.	\$100
Reporting Officer travel rates will be aligned with the Umpire rates	90% of ATO rates
Investigation of a matter; the Reporting Officer will be recompensed at \$25/hour for an average of four hours work. Where a case is more complex or time consuming the Reporting Officer may apply to the Operations Manager for compensation of actual hours worked.	\$100
Failure to co-operate with a Reporting Officer, Investigation or Tribunal hearing	\$200
Investigation - a verdict of not guilty (or case not proven) Against the club who brought the allegation.	\$300
Guilty Verdict Fee	\$300