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BY-LAWS

2017 EDITION

This edition is valid for the 2017 CAFL Season and shall continue to be current until a new edition is released by AFL Northern Territory. These By-Laws are specific to the CAFL and are to be read in conjunction with the AFL Northern Territory By-Laws.

Preamble

AFL Northern Territory (AFL NT) is responsible for the conduct of all competitions within Central Australia, known as the Central Australian Football League (CAFL).

These By-Laws are drafted and designed to provide direction for the administration of all competitions and grades within Central Australia and should be read in conjunction with the most recent version of the AFL Northern Territory Rules and Regulations (By-Laws), Laws of Australian Football and the AFL's Member Protection Policy.

Table of Contents

1	Operation of By-Laws	4
1.1	Member Protection Policy.....	4
2	Definitions	4
3	Football Operations.....	5
3.1	Match Management.....	5
3.2	Match – Match Day Checklist (Insurance Requirements)	5
3.3	Match - Team Sheets	5
3.4	Match - Time Keepers	5
3.5	Competitions.....	5
3.6	Competition - Footballs.....	5
3.7	Competition - Playing Numbers.....	5
3.8	Competition - Premiership Points.....	6
3.9	Competition - Forfeits	6
3.10	Competition - Affects of Forfeits	6
3.11	Competition - Finals.....	7
3.12	Scheduling - Match Times and Duration	7
3.13	Scheduling - Matches not Commenced or Incomplete	7
3.14	Support Staff.....	7
3.15	Support Staff - Coaches, Team Managers & Stewards	7
3.16	Support Staff - Personnel Entering the Playing Arena	7
3.17	Support Staff - Registered Players Acting as Team Officials.....	7
3.18	Umpires - Club Umpires	7
3.19	Rules – Send Off Rule.....	8
4	Club Requirements	9
4.1	Nominations - Teams	9
4.2	Nominations – Club Coaches	9
4.3	Nominations - Club Complaints Officer	9
4.4	Nominations - Club Tribunal Advocate.....	9
4.5	Accreditation – Club Officials.....	9
4.6	Accreditation – Club Coaches	9
4.7	Player Registrations	9
4.8	Player & Club Cooperation	9
4.9	Player & Club Officials - Change of Details.....	9
4.10	Player & Club Relations.....	9
4.11	Club Colours, Uniforms and Logos	10
5	Player Eligibility.....	10
5.1	Playing a Match	10
5.2	Age and Gender Qualifications.....	10
5.3	Player Eligibility - All Matches.....	10
5.4	Player Eligibility - Finals Matches.....	11
5.5	Unregistered, Overage or Ineligible Player	11
6	Transfers and Permits	11
6.1	Country League and Community Cup Permits.....	11
7	Representative Teams & The Northern Territory Football Club	12
7.1	NTFC Player Movement Rule.....	12

8	National Policies and Guidelines	12
8.1	AFL Member Protection Policy	12
8.2	Guidelines	12
9	Appeals, Complaints and Deferrals	13
9.1	Appeals	13
9.2	Complaints	13
9.3	Referral of Incident	13
10	Special Provision	13
10.1	Competition	13
10.2	Fines	13
10.3	Black Arm Bands	13
10.4	Minutes Silence	13
10.5	CAWFL Playing Numbers	13
10.6	CAWFL Playing Transfers	14
10.7	Trial Games	14
11	Appendices	16
	Appendix 1 AFLNT Code of Conduct & Conditions of Entry	17

1 Operation of By-Laws

1.1 Member Protection Policy

- 1.1.1 The AFL Member Protection Policy applies, subject to AFL NT By-Laws. In the event that the policy conflicts with the AFL NT By-Laws, the AFL NT By-Laws shall prevail.

2 Definitions

In these By-Laws, unless a contrary meaning is required by the context, definitions are as listed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

3 Football Operations

3.1 Match Management

3.1.1 Clubs who manage home & away matches during any CAFL competition are bound by AFL NT By-Laws.

3.2 Match – Match Day Checklist (Insurance Requirements)

3.2.1 A JLT Match Day Checklist must be completed in accordance with AFL NT By-Laws.

3.3 Match - Team Sheets

3.3.1 Each team must submit a signed team sheet in accordance with AFL NT By-Laws.

3.4 Match - Time Keepers

3.4.1 Each club must appoint a time keeper for all matches in which they have a team participating unless notified that AFLNT has appointed official time keepers.

3.4.2 All time keepers must abide by the time keepers instructions as listed in the AFL NT By-Laws

3.5 Competitions

3.5.1 AFL NT shall arrange and conduct competitions in the Central Australian Football League for the following grades:

- (a) Seniors
- (b) Reserves
- (c) Women's
- (d) Country League
- (e) Community Cup
- (f) Under 18
- (g) Under 15

3.5.2 AFL NT may arrange and conduct additional competitions subject to AFL NT By-Laws.

3.6 Competition - Footballs

3.6.1 Only AFL NT approved footballs, in accordance to AFL NT By-Laws are to be used for CAFL matches.

3.6.2 Size 5 leather footballs are to be used in all CAFL Under 15 Development League matches.

3.7 Competition - Playing Numbers

- 3.7.1 Any team opposing a team with fewer than 18 players on the field, must apply the +2 Philosophy. Where by both teams must have a minimum of two (2) players on the interchange, with equal numbers on the field.
- 3.7.2 If during a match playing numbers for either team (except Under 12) fall below 14, for any reason, the provisions of clause 20.7 of the Laws of Australian Football shall apply.
- 3.7.3 Any team which does not have the required 14 players at the scheduled match commencement time, shall be given 10 minutes to reach the required number of players. Failing to do so within 10 minutes will result in the match being forfeited by the team/s.
- 3.7.4 Teams commencing with fewer than 18 players must allow other players to participate later in the match, provided they are listed on the team sheet prior to the match commencing and are in attendance by the conclusion of the second (2) quarter. An on field increase in equal playing numbers may be permitted as soon as both Clubs have players eligible to take to the field.
- 3.7.5 Where the playing numbers for both teams are 17 or less at the commencement of the match, each quarter shall be amended to 15 minutes where the normal duration is longer.

3.8 Competition - Premiership Points

- 3.8.1 Premiership points for all home & away matches played in CAFL competitions will be awarded as follows:
 - (a) Win Four (4) Points
 - (b) Draw Two (2) Points
 - (c) Washout Two (2) Points
 - (d) Loss Zero (0) Points
 - (e) Bye Zero (0) Points
 - (f) All teams who forfeit receive Zero (0) Points in the event of a 'Double Forfeit'

3.9 Competition - Forfeits

- 3.9.1 The Football Operations Department shall be provided with written notice of any forfeit at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled match by the Club concerned. Where notice is provided, no team sheets shall be submitted for either team. No player is to be credited with playing the match and/or personal achievements such as Minahan Medal or Leading Goal awards. The following penalties will also apply for all forfeits in any grades where notice is not provided.
 - (a) Seniors and Reserves; \$1,000
 - (b) Women's, Country League, Community Cup, Under 18; double the allocated cost of umpire fees

3.10 Competition - Affects of Forfeits

- 3.10.1 Where a team forfeits a match, AFL NT By-Laws shall apply.

3.11 Competition - Finals

3.11.1 At the conclusion of the home & away season in any CAFL competition, the finals matches will be scheduled in accordance with AFL NT Final Four (3 Weeks) Schedule as listed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

3.12 Scheduling - Match Times and Duration

3.12.1 The duration of any match in which a team participates shall be:

- (a) Seniors - Four (4) quarters of 23 minutes with no time on
- (b) Reserves - Four (4) quarters of 20 minutes with no time on
- (c) Country League and Community Cup - Four (4) quarters of 20 minutes with no time on
- (d) Women's - Four (4) quarters of 15 minutes with no time on
- (e) Under 18 – Four (4) quarters of 18 minutes with no time on
- (f) Under 15 - Four (4) quarters of 15 minutes with no time on

3.12.2 The AFL NT appointed match manager has discretionary authority to adjust match times to ensure all matches and other matches of interest commence on time.

3.13 Scheduling - Matches not Commenced or Incomplete

3.13.1 If a match cannot be commenced at the scheduled start time or having already commenced is unable to be completed within that time scheduled for that match for reasons other than a forfeit, the AFL NT provisions shall apply.

3.14 Support Staff

3.14.1 On field support staff must be at least 15 years of age when participating in an under 18 or senior grade match.

3.15 Support Staff - Coaches, Team Managers & Stewards

3.15.1 Coaching staff, team managers and stewards must wear closed in footwear when participating in a match.

3.16 Support Staff - Personnel Entering the Playing Arena

3.16.1 All support staff

3.17 Support Staff - Registered Players Acting as Team Officials

3.17.1 A registered player, acting as a team official may do so in accordance with AFL NT By-Laws.

3.18 Umpires - Club Umpires

3.18.1 Where notified by the Football Operations Department, clubs must supply one club field and/or boundary and/or goal umpire to umpire matches, as prescribed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

3.19 Rules – Send Off Rule

3.19.1 In addition to that outlined in Law 20 of the Laws of Australian Football:

- (a) A Player sent off for a red card offence;
 - i. Cannot return to the field of play for the remainder of the match
 - ii. Cannot be replaced until ten (10) minutes of playing time has elapsed.
 - iii. The ten (10) minutes of playing time is to be determined by the timekeepers.
 - iv. The umpires are to signal to the timekeepers that the player is sent off by holding up a red card.
 - v. The timekeepers are to acknowledge the umpires send off instruction with a matching red card for the umpire to see.

- (b) A Player sent off for a yellow card offence;
 - i. Cannot return to the field of play or be replaced until ten (10) minutes of playing time has elapsed.
 - ii. The ten (10) minutes of playing time is to be determined by the Timekeepers.
 - iii. The umpires are to signal to the timekeepers that the player is sent off by holding up a yellow card.
 - iv. The timekeepers will acknowledge the umpires send off instruction with a matching yellow card for the umpire to see.

- (c) A player sent off for a second yellow card offence in the same match is automatically deemed to have received a red card and;
 - i. Cannot return to the field of play for the remainder of the match
 - ii. Cannot be replaced until ten (10) minutes of playing time has elapsed.
 - iii. The ten (10) minutes of playing time is to be determined by the timekeepers.
 - iv. The umpires are to signal to the timekeepers that the player is sent off by holding up a yellow card and then a red card.
 - v. The timekeeper will acknowledge the umpires send off instruction with a matching yellow card and then a red card.

- (d) Any player who receives three (3) yellow cards in any one season shall automatically be suspended for one (1) week.

- (e) Any player suspended after receiving three (3) yellow cards in the same season shall be ineligible to win any League Best and Fairest award.

4 Club Requirements

4.1 Nominations - Teams

4.1.1 Clubs are required to nominate all teams they intend to enter into CAFL competitions each season, as prescribed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

4.2 Nominations – Club Coaches

4.2.1 Clubs are required to nominate all coaches (including assistant coaches) for all teams entered into CAFL competitions each season, as prescribed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

4.3 Nominations - Club Complaints Officer

4.3.1 Clubs shall appoint one or more Complaints Officers, as prescribed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

4.4 Nominations - Club Tribunal Advocate

4.4.1 Clubs are required to nominate a minimum of one Club Tribunal Advocate, as prescribed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

4.5 Accreditation – Club Officials

4.5.1 Any person wishing to be an accredited club official in any CAFL competition must complete the AFL NT club official Accreditation process, in accordance with AFL NT By-Laws.

4.6 Accreditation – Club Coaches

4.6.1 Any person wishing to be an accredited club coach in any CAFL competition must complete the AFL NT club coach Accreditation process, in accordance with AFL NT By-Laws.

4.7 Player Registrations

4.7.1 Any person wishing to be registered as a player in any CAFL competition must complete the AFL NT player registration process, in accordance with AFL NT By-Laws.

4.8 Player & Club Cooperation

4.8.1 Players and officials must abide by the directions of an AFLNT appointed tribunal, as outlined in the AFL NT By-Laws.

4.9 Player & Club Officials - Change of Details

4.9.1 Clubs are able to change the details of a player or official by completing the form prescribed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

4.10 Player & Club Relations

4.10.1 Each club shall have and make available to all club members a copy of that club's constitution and any rules regulations, codes of conduct, policies and guidelines adopted by the club, the league that club is affiliated too and AFLNT.

4.11 Club Colours, Uniforms and Logos

4.11.1 Each club must submit all Club colours, uniforms and logos for AFL NT approval in accordance with AFL NT By-Laws.

5 Player Eligibility

5.1 Playing a Match

5.1.1 In determining how many matches a player has played for a club, a player on the team list and who is on the ground (including the interchange bench), in uniform, is deemed to have played that match.

5.2 Age and Gender Qualifications

5.2.1 Each participating player in Senior Men's Grade must be:

- (a) at least 15 years of age at the time of playing; and
- (b) male.

5.2.2 Each participating player in Senior Women's Grade must be:

- (a) at least 14 years of age at the time of playing; and
- (b) female

5.2.3 Each participating player in Under 18 Grade must be:

- (a) at least 14 years of age at the time of playing;
- (b) less than 18 years of age on or before July 1 of the previous season/year. For season 2017, players must have been born on or after 1 July 1998.
- (c) male

5.2.4 Each participating player in Under 15 Grade must be:

- (a) at least 12 years of age at the time of playing
- (b) less than 15 years of age on or after 31 December of the previous season/year. For season 2017, players must have been born on or after 1 January 2002;
- (c) male

5.3 Player Eligibility - All Matches

5.3.1 A player is eligible to play in a match for the club with which they are registered subject to the age and gender qualifications.

- 5.3.2 A player who has already played a Senior, Country League or Community Cup home & away match cannot play in another competing team in a lower grade match after the Senior or Reserves match scheduled on the same day.
- 5.3.3 Any player of any grade is eligible to play two (2) matches on any given weekend/round. Penalties will apply for any player who exceeds the two (2) match limit.
- 5.3.4 Penalties for failing to adhere include:
 - (a) a fine equal to the total umpire fees for matches that were officiated in which the player was involved;
 - (b) loss of premiership points in all grades that the player was listed on the team sheet; and/or
 - (c) the player will not be accredited with a match statistic for the purpose of qualifying for any finals matches.

5.4 Player Eligibility - Finals Matches

- 5.4.1 A player is eligible to play in a finals match for a team provided that player has played a minimum of three (3) home & away matches for that same team.
- 5.4.2 Where a team plays a player who does not meet the player eligibility criteria, penalties include;
 - (a) a fine equal to the total umpire fees for matches which the player was listed on the team sheet; and
 - (b) forfeiting the match or the higher grade depending on which is the greatest penalty.

5.5 Unregistered, Overage or Ineligible Player

- 5.5.1 A club which permits an unregistered, overage or ineligible player to participate in a match will be deemed to have forfeited that match.

6 Transfers and Permits

6.1 Country League and Community Cup Permits

- 6.1.1 A player registered with a Country League or Community Cup Club, may enter into an agreement with a CAFL Club at the discretion of AFL NT.
- 6.1.2 A copy of the player permit must be submitted to the Football Operations Department within ten (10) days of its execution.
- 6.1.3 Once a player permit has been lodged with the Football Operations Department, it will be considered valid unless revoked by AFL NT.
- 6.1.4 All player permits must be in place by June 30 each year.

- 6.1.5 Once the agreement is in place, a permit must be initiated by the destination Club, by logging into FootyWeb and submitting a Type 2 Local Interchange Permit Application.
- 6.1.6 No more than twelve (12) player permits are allowed at any CAFL Club in any one season.
- 6.1.7 No more than eight (8) permitted players are allowed to play in any Senior CAFL team on any given weekend.
- 6.1.8 No more than four (4) permitted players are allowed to play in any Reserves CAFL team on any given weekend.
- 6.1.9 Any Club wishing to transfer a permitted player, must complete and lodge an Application to Transfer Permit form.
- 6.1.10 Any Club found to have breached these By-Laws will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will be dealt with in accordance with AFL NT By-Laws.

7 Representative Teams & The Northern Territory Football Club

7.1 NTFC Player Movement Rule

- 7.1.1 Any player who has signed a contract and duel registration with NEAFL and AFL NT is deemed to be a NTFC player. They must seek NTFC approval to play with their last registered CAFL Club when not playing for NTFC. However, any suspensions imposed by the higher grade must also be observed at CAFL level.

8 National Policies and Guidelines

8.1 AFL Member Protection Policy

- 8.1.1 AFL NT have adopted and implemented the AFL Member Protection Policy, as outlined in the AFL NT By-Laws.

8.2 Guidelines

- 8.1.1 AFL NT may from time to time adopt and implement regulations, codes of conduct, policies and guidelines for use in interpreting these By-Laws or any other matter to do with the operation of any AFL NT administered competition or for any other purpose as it deems necessary.

9 Appeals, Complaints and Deferrals

9.1 Appeals

9.1.1 A club may appeal a decision made under these By-Laws or any other rules, regulations or guidelines recognised within these By-Laws by lodging a notice of appeal form as prescribed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

9.2 Complaints

9.2.1 A club may make a complaint by lodging a formal or informal complaint form as prescribed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

9.3 Referral of Incident

9.3.1 A club may refer an on field incident by lodging a referral of incident form as prescribed in the AFL NT By-Laws.

10 Special Provision

10.1 Competition

10.1.1 Unless otherwise determined by AFL NT, all CAFL competitions shall be conducted each year between April 1 and September 30 any given year.

10.2 Fines

10.2.1 Any club found to be in breach of these By-Laws will be liable to a penalty outlined in the AFL NT By-Laws.

10.3 Black Arm Bands

10.3.1 Clubs may arrange for the players of a team(s) to wear black arm bands as a mark of respect for the passing of persons associated with their club, as outlined in the AFL NT By-Laws.

10.4 Minutes Silence

10.4.1 A mark of respect in the form of a minutes silence prior to the commencement of any given match may be prescribed, as outlined in the AFL NT By-Laws.

10.5 CAWFL Playing Numbers

10.5.1 All teams are required to field 16 players for any scheduled match.

10.5.2 Any team opposing a team with fewer than 16 players on the field, must field equal playing numbers. Where by both teams must have a minimum of twelve (12) players on the field.

10.5.3 If during a match playing numbers for either team fall below 12, for any reason, the provisions of clause 20.7 of the Laws of Australian Football shall apply.

10.5.4 Any team which does not have the required 12 players at the scheduled match commencement time, shall be given 10 minutes to reach the required number of players. Failing to do so within 10 minutes will result in the match being forfeited by the team/s.

10.5.5 Teams commencing with fewer than 16 players must allow other players to participate later in the match, provided they are listed on the team sheet prior to the match commencing and are in attendance by the conclusion of the second (2) quarter. An on field increase in equal playing numbers may be permitted as soon as both Clubs have players eligible to take to the field.

10.5.6 Where the playing numbers for both teams are 15 or less at the commencement of the match, each quarter shall be amended to 10 minutes where the normal duration is longer.

10.6 CAWFL Playing Transfers

10.6.1 If in the period of 1 January to 30 June each year, a player registered with one CAWFL Club wishes to transfer to another CAWFL Club, they shall complete and lodge an Application for Transfer via FootyWeb. Transfers outside this time will not be considered.

10.6.2 The former Club may refuse the transfer within the six (6) business days, via Footyweb.

10.6.3 A refusal can only occur where a Club can substantiate that the player:

- (a) Has not spoken to the former Club prior to the transfer being lodged
- (b) Is a contracted player
- (c) Is indebted to the Club (receipt proof must be provided)
- (d) Is in possession of Club property (eg. Guernsey) that needs to be returned

10.6.4 A Club refusing to transfer a player must provide evidence to Football Operations within 72 hours of the refusal in order to substantiate the claim. Failure to provide such evidence will result in Football Operations re-opening and approving the transfer.

10.7 Trial Games

10.7.1 Any team or Club entering into an AFL NT administered competition by the way of a trial game is ineligible for finals qualification.

10.7.2 For any trial game where special provision is not provided, all AFL NT and CAFL By-Laws apply.

10.7.3 The Football Operations Department shall be provided with both written notice and supporting evidence of any travelling team forfeit, at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled match. Where notice is provided, no team sheets shall be submitted for either team. No player is to be credited with playing the match and/or personal achievements such as Minahan Medal or Leading Goal awards.

10.7.4 The following penalties will also apply for all trial game forfeits where notice or supporting evidence is not provided.

- (a) \$1,000 fine
- (b) The loss of 8 Premiership points

11 Appendices

1. AFLNT Code of Conduct & Conditions of Entry

Appendix 1 AFLNT Code of Conduct & Conditions of Entry

This Code of Conduct applies to all members as defined in the AFL Member Protection Policy and any other person visiting an AFL NT venue or attending an AFL NT event.

For the purpose of this Code of Conduct, any gathering sanctioned by AFL NT will be considered an AFL NT event, including but not limited to functions, football matches, training sessions and education sessions.

This Code of Conduct further applies to all members and any other person who causes any act of misconduct that is detrimental to the best interest of the AFL, AFL NT or any individual or organisation affiliated to the AFL or AFL NT including but not limited to Sponsors and Funding Partners of the AFL or AF LNT.

Category 1 Offences:

1. Act in conflict with the AFL Member Protection Policy;
2. Act in conflict with Government Legislation (for the purpose of this Code of Conduct Government includes Federal and State Government and Local Councils); or
3. Enter an AFL NT venue without paying an entrance fee (where applicable).

Category 2 Offences:

1. Use offensive or abusive language (malicious, threatening or otherwise);
2. Cause any act of misconduct that is detrimental to the best interest of AFL/AFL NT; or
3. Make public comment that is detrimental to the best interest of AFL/AFL NT without first advising AFL NT of the content of that public comment.

Category 3 Offences:

1. Push, bite or strike (including attempt to strike) another person;
2. Spit at another person; or
3. Threaten or bully another person (including but not limited to cyber bullying);

When AFL NT become aware that a breach of this Code of Conduct has been committed the following will occur:

Eviction:

In the event that a security officer or an AFL NT official determines that an individual(s) has breached this Code of Conduct and should be removed from the venue, such person shall be asked to leave and should that person refuse to leave, they will be evicted from the venue by security or police.

Penalties:

In the event that an alleged offender(s) is a member of a Club (or umpires association), AFL NT may notify the Club that a penalty as prescribed in this Code of Conduct is to be imposed on that member(s). It is the responsibility of that Club to ensure that the member is notified of the penalty being imposed.

In the event that the alleged offender(s) is not a member of a Club, AFL NT may notify the individual(s) that a penalty as prescribed in this Code of Conduct is to be imposed on that individual(s).

The individual (or the Club on behalf of the individual) must respond within five (5) business days of receiving notification of this penalty. If AFL NT has not received a response by 5PM on the fifth business day, it will be deemed that the penalty has been accepted and no further avenue for appeal will be available to that individual.

In the event that an individual that is not a member of a Club is not able to be contacted, the offence must be sent to an independent tribunal to adjudicate over the matter.

Tribunal:

In the event that AFL NT believes that the alleged offence is so severe that the penalties listed in this Code of Conduct do not reflect the severity of the offence, the matter may be sent to a Match or Disciplinary Tribunal.

In the event that an individual is unable to be contacted and the matter is sent to a Match or Disciplinary Tribunal, the tribunal may hear and determine the matter in the absence of the alleged offender.

In the event that an offence under this Code of Conduct is sent to a Match or Disciplinary Tribunal and the alleged offender is found guilty of that offence, the Tribunal has discretionary authority to hand down a penalty the same or greater (but not less) than the penalties listed in this Code of Conduct.

Category 1 Offence Penalties:

First Offence: Suspension of five (5) weeks from all AFL NT Events.
Second Offence: Suspension of ten (10) weeks from all AFL NT Events.
Third Offence: Suspension of fifteen (15) weeks from all AFL NT Events and deregistration as a player or official at the completion of that fifteen (15) week suspension.

Category 2 Offence Penalties:

First Offence: Suspension of ten (10) weeks from all AFL NT Events.
Second Offence: Suspension of fifteen (15) weeks from all AFL NT Events and deregistration as a player or official at the completion of that fifteen (15) week suspension.

Category 3 Offence Penalties:

First Offence: Suspension of fifteen (15) weeks from all AFL NT Events and deregistration as a player or official at the completion of that fifteen (15) week suspension.

Any player or official that is found guilty of a third offence as listed in this Code of Conduct, regardless of which category, will be deregistered at the completion of the suspension received for that third offence.

Any player or official that is deregistered under this Code of Conduct must follow the National Deregistration Policy when appealing their deregistration.

Any individual who is not a player or official and is found guilty of a third offence as listed in the Code of Conduct regardless of which category, will receive a life ban from all AFL NT events at the completion of the suspension received for that third offence.

The above are minimum penalties and the AFL NT Executive Committee reserve the right to increase any penalty at its discretion.

A copy of the AFLNT Conditions of Entry can be found at:

http://www.foxsportspulse.com/assoc_page.cgi?c=0-2860-0-0-0&slD=358586