HANDBOOK 2026

PORT LINCOLN FOOTBALL LEAGUE INC.
PO BOX 1517 Centenary Oval, Port Lincoln, SA
0428 837 535
info@plfl.com.au plfl.com.au
ABN 44 767 209 42

V1

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Delegate / Role	Name	Mobile
Boston	Ash Dyer-Pietsch	0455 299 954
Lincoln South	Aden Martin	0466 113 619
Mallee Park	Jayde Warren	0427 616 865
Marble Range	Dan Anderson	0418843 056
Tasman Imperial	Natasha Kayser	0411 417 804
Wayback	Dave Grey	0405 311 978
Administration Officer	Gavin Walding	0427821445
Chairperson	Greg Fitzgerald	0424 519 068
Operations Manager	Quinn Dutschke	0428 837 535
Junior Development Officer	Luke Schrapel	0437 649 865
Junior Development Officer (Girls)	Carly Thomson	0428 842 094
Auskick (ages 5 to 8)	Kelsey Ridley	0448 330 583
Under 12's (ages 9 to 12)	TBC	

COACHES / MANAGERS

Club	Team	Coach	Mobile	Manager	Mobile
Boston	U16				
	Open				
Lincoln South	Open				
Mallee Park	U16				
	Open				
Marble Range	U16				
	Open				
Tasman Imperial	Open				
Wayback & **Wayback/Tumby Bay**	Open				
	U16				

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ROLE/PURPOSE

- To support the growth of the Women's competition
- Establish an annual budget for the women's competition
- Support affiliate clubs in encouraging participation
- Support player representatives selected in the regional Eyre Peninsula side
- Liaise with primary schools to establish a primary school age grouping competition
- Liaise with clubs and the Port Lincoln City Council to develop appropriate facilities for the women's competition.

TERM

- These Terms of Reference are effective from 11th November 2025 and will be ongoing and dependent on the needs of the Port Lincoln Football League

MEMBERSHIP:- The Women's Football Committee will comprise:

- The Chairperson who will be the Port Lincoln Football League Board member with the Women's Football portfolio.
- One member from each of the affiliated clubs and affiliated teams.
- The delegates all have one vote whether they have one or two teams.
- Ex-officios are:
    - Operations Manager
    - Junior Development Officer,
    - Junior Development Officer (Girls)

To be eligible to vote at the Women's Football Committee meetings the following must be adhered to:

- The organizations are to be financially affiliated to the Port Lincoln Football League of the Port Lincoln Football League.
- The Secretary of the clubs must notify the Administration Officer in writing prior to the first Women's Football Meeting of the appointment of its representative for the upcoming Women's Football season.
- No representative will have the right to vote at any Women's Football Committee meeting unless a notification of his or her appointment, signed by the Secretary of the club which he or she represents, and has been served on the Administration Officer.
- Each club must nominate an alternative person who may perform the role of the representative if the representative is unable to attend any meeting and that nominee will have all the powers of a Women's Football Committee representative, once the club Secretary has informed to Administration Officer in writing.
- In the event of a club cancelling a representative's appointment for any reason whatsoever, that club must submit in writing to the Administration Officer a declaration of the vacant office and in the first instance elect or appoint another person to act as delegate for the balance of the then current season.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Women's Football Committee is accountable to the Port Lincoln Football League Board and is to provide up to date information and recommendations to the Board, while maintaining a focus of the agreed scope, outcomes, and benefits of the Strategic Plan.

There are some specific roles for this committee but not limited to the following:

- Develop competition programs for the season with the above purpose in mind.
- Submit a budget for approval by the Board.
- Provide the Port Lincoln Football Board with advice and recommendations on Women's Football operational issues only.

The membership of the group will commit to:

- attending all scheduled Women's Football Committee meetings
- sharing all communications and information across all the Women's Football Committee members and Port Lincoln Football League Board members
- making recommendations for, and continually reviewing, the developed Strategic and Operational Plan.

Members of the Women's Football Committee will expect:

- that each member will be provided with complete, accurate and meaningful information in a timely manner.
- to be given reasonable time to make key decisions.
- to be alerted to potential risks and issues that could impact projects, as they arise
- open and honest discussions, without resort to any misleading assertions

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All Women's Football Committee meetings will be chaired by the Port Lincoln Football League Board, member with the Women's Football portfolio.

A Women's Football Committee quorum will be at least four delegates and decisions are to be made by consensus (i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice). If this is not possible, the Chair makes the final decision.

Meeting agendas and minutes will be provided by the League in consultation with the Chair. and includes:

- preparing agendas and supporting papers, and
- preparing meeting notes and information.

Meetings will be held monthly from August to April at a time convenient to Women's Football Committee members.

Failure to attend a Women's Football Committee Meeting by a Board approved representative without an acceptable reason will incur a fine. The offending club will be automatically fined one hundred dollars ($100) in the first instance.

AMENDMENT, MODIFICATION OR VARIATION

This Terms of Reference may be amended, varied, or modified in writing after consultation with and agreement of the Port Lincoln Football League Board.

OPERATIONL PLAN 2025-2026

OBJECTIVES / GOALS	STRATEGIES/KEY ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME FRAME	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Continue to improve administration	Establish members on the Women's Football Committee as per PLFL rules and regulations	• Women's Football • Board Member • Clubs • Operations Manager	August 2025	Committee established
	Regular meetings occur	• Women's Football • Board Member • Operations Manager	Monthly minimum	Meetings conducted and documented
	Increase club input and involvement	• PLFLW • Clubs • Operations Manager	Ongoing	Increased club administrative involvement
	Establish roles and responsibilities	• PLFLW • Clubs • Operations Manager	October 2025	Roles and responsibilities documented
Conduct competitions	Survey stakeholders	• PLFL Women's Football Committee	April 2026	Survey competed and reviewed
	Conduct Open and Under 16 competitions successfully	• PLFLW • Operations Manager	January 2026 – March 2026	Competitions successful
	Appropriate facilities and equipment are utilised.	• PLFLW • Operations Manager	Ongoing	Facilities and equipment appropriate
To be financially sustainable	Establish an annual budget for the women's competition targeted at increased participation	• PLFLW • Finance Board Member	October 2025	Annual budget established
Encourage participation	Develop income streams.	• PLFLW	Ongoing	Income more than expenditure
	Further develop come and try opportunities, junior competitions and the Auskick program	• PLFLW • Clubs • Junior Development Officer • Junior Development Officer (Girls) • Operations Manager	From October 2025 to March 2026	Junior competitions conducted and participation increased

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

For Parents & Caregivers

• I/We consent to the registration of my/our son/daughter with the PLFL.

• I/We acknowledge that I/we have been provided with, and understand, the Code of Conduct of the PLFL.

• I/We agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and agree to observe and obey this Code and all rulings made by the PLFL that relate to me/us, other family members and invited guests.

• I/We understand that the PLFL may withdraw or suspend my/our son(s)/daughter(s) registration to play in the PLFL should I/we fail to comply with the Code, the Rules and/or any rulings of the PLFL.

Players Code of Conduct

Players are bound by the following Code of Conduct:

• Play in accordance with the Laws of the Game;

• Never argue with an official. If a player disagrees with a decision, you should ask the Team Manager to raise the matter at an appropriate time;

• Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport and may be a breach of your state, league or national Member Protection Policy;

• Never engage in any type of violence either on or off the field;

• Work equally hard for you and your team. The team's performance will benefit, and so will yours;

• Be a good sport. Applaud all good play whether they are made by your team or the opposition;

• Treat all participants as you would like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor;

• Co-operate with your coaches, team-mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition;

• Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit and for the enjoyment and benefit of your teammates, not to please anyone else.

• Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants, regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion;

• Do not take part in any form of bullying including via the use of social media. For more information, see the National Member Protection Policy;

• Be prepared to be responsible for your actions.

PARENTS & SUPPORTERS/SPECTATORS CODES OF CONDUCT

Parents and supporters/spectators are bound by the following Code of Conduct:

- Remember that you are there for the participants to enjoy the game.
- Encourage participation, but don't force it.
- Teach that enjoyment is more important than winning.
- Never ridicule mistakes or losses. Supporters/spectators are there to support, not downgrade.
- Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires, officials and spectators. Physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Recognise all volunteers who give up their valuable time.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match Officials, Umpires, Players or any policy decisions of the Club, or the PLFL.
- Never publicly criticise umpires, rather raise personal concerns with Club Officials in private.
- Do not use remarks based on race, religion, gender or ability. It is your coach, the players, Club and family that are let down with such remarks.
- Respect the facilities and equipment of your own and opposing Clubs.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal abuse or conduct toward any player, official, administrator, umpire or supporter/spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Abusive language is unacceptable.

OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT

The Officials of all clubs are bound by the following Officials Code of Conduct:

- Involve others in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to Australian Football.
- Create pathways for people to participate and develop through the sport, not just as players, but also as coaches, umpires and administrators.
- Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of the participants.
- Appoint, train and develop qualified and competent coaches and officials
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Assist all participants in Australian Football to know and understand the laws and the rules.
- Set a conduct example for others to follow.
- Make it clear that abusing people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.
- Make no detrimental statements in public (radio, television, print or electronic media) in respect to the performance of any match officials, umpires, players, or any policy decisions of the club, the PLFL or AFL.
- Do not engage in physical and/or verbal intimidation, abuse or conduct towards any player, official, umpire or spectator. Such actions are totally unacceptable.
- Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.
- Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Ensure all parents, coaches, sponsors, officials, medical staff and players understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.
- Abide by the rules (including any requirements or restraints applying to any official role such as a Boundary or Goal Umpire).
- Display fairness and uniformity in applying the rules.
- Be honest in your assessment of situations.
- Be consistent and courteous in calling all infractions.
- Condemn deliberate fouls as being unsporting and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
- The health and safety of the players must be the most important reason to be weighed during the decision-making process.
- Use common sense to ensure the "spirit of the game" for players is not lost when applying the rules and laws.
- Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance.
- Ensure you remain up to date with any law changes and/or interpretation of laws.
- See continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.
- Where acting as a Field, Boundary or Goal Umpire, act at all times in a professional manner, do not barrack or give support to a team, give advice or make comment to the players, other officials or spectators, and under no circumstances approach a Field Umpire, except in relation to your umpiring duties.

MATCH DAY CHECKLIST

This checklist is a basic pre-game inspection tool that helps to identify safety concerns and record your actions on match day.

DUTY OF CARE

Clubs owe a duty of care to players, spectators, and volunteers on match day. Insurance cover may not exist for clubs and/or officials who show deliberate negligence or disregard for these responsibilities.

SIGNING THE CHECKLIST

Some people view the formal nature of signing a document relating to risk and insurance as formidable. This is simply not the case and if a reasonable attempt to identify risks has been made then no concern is warranted. If reasonable care has been taken to provide a safe environment, then signing the checklist puts the club in a strong position to demonstrate it has complied with its duty of care.

- If the conditions are not safe … and can't be made safe for play, then it may be negligent to start playing. To play in these conditions is placing the club in a poor position to demonstrate any duty of care has been complied with.
- If something happens … and the checklist has been used properly and signed, the club remains in a strong position to demonstrate it has complied with its duty of care to provide a safe environment.
- If the checklist isn't signed … and play commences in what appears to be normal conditions and an accident occurs resulting in serious injury, the club is in a poor position to demonstrate it has complied with its duty of care.
- The basic message is … the club and its members, including the signatories, are in a better position if they complete and sign the checklist.

PROTECTING CLUB OFFICIALS

Legislation and insurance exist to protect club officials who complete the checklist, thereby demonstrating they have complied with their duty of care.

INSURANCE

An important part of your public liability insurance is that your club supports the use of match day checklists. By addressing risk before matches commence, you can reduce your club's exposure to injuries and/or legal action. Recording your actions on the checklist may also assist in the defence of legal action against your club.

WHEN SHOULD THE CHECKLIST BE COMPLETED?

You should complete the checklist before the first match of the day. If conditions change, the checklist should be reviewed again (even if the checklist has been completed earlier). This can be done online using the above QR Code.
Marsh Insurance recommend hard copy checklists are retained on file by the home club (or association where required) for a minimum of seven years

2026 MATCH TIMES

Competition	Time Frame	Start	Latest Finish	Length of Quarters / Halves	¼, ¾ Quarter Times	Half Time
Regular Schedule (all grades playing Friday Nights)						
Auskick	30 minutes	6.10pm	6.40pm			
Superkick	30 minutes	6.10pm	6.40pm			
Under 16	60 minutes	5pm	6pm	12 minutes	3 minutes	5 minutes
Open – G1	71 minutes	7.10pm	8.21pm	15 minutes	3 minutes	5 minutes
Open – G2	71 minutes	8:30pm	9:41pm	15 minutes	3 minutes	5 minutes
Saturday						
Auskick	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Superkick	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Under 16	60 minutes	5pm	6pm	12 minutes	3 minutes	5 minutes
Open – G1	71 minutes	6.15pm	7.26pm	15 minutes	3 minutes	5 minutes
Open – G2	71 minutes	7:35pm	8:46pm	15 minutes	3 minutes	5 minutes

THE ROLE OF MATCH DAY OFFICIALS

ROLE

To ensure that the club and League are providing a safe environment for both players and spectators while adhering to and enforcing code of conduct and policies of the League.

CLUB REPONSIBILITIES

Each club is required to have an appropriate Match Day Official (MDO) at all games, which may necessitate the use of more than one MDO during a game day.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The MDO must:

- be a financial member of a Port Lincoln Football League (the League) club.
- be at least 18 years of age.
- be conversant with the League's codes of conduct for parents, players, coaches, and officials.
- be in a clearly visible location and wear a MDO vest supplied by the League.
- introduce themselves and liaise with the other designated MDO from the other club.
- be listed on the appropriate team sheet.
- support the Umpires by
    - meeting umpires at the changerooms before a game and walk with them to the playing area.
    - meeting umpires at the boundary as they leave the ground at breaks or end of the game.
    - ensuring communication with the umpires is made at break times by making visual contact with the umpires at the breaks to see if they have any concerns.
    - monitoring that unofficial persons are not in contact with the umpires in their changerooms and during the game.
- be aware of the degree to which League rules can be enforced when dealing with club members and the public which includes:
    - approaching anyone using abusive and/or inappropriate language
    - enacting upon anyone demonstrating aggressive and/or threatening behaviour.
    - monitor that spectators are kept within the designated spectator areas.
    - monitor and refer concerns in relation to liquor licencing to the Responsible Service of Alcohol personnel on duty.
    - permitting only team captains to approach umpires during the breaks.
- contact the MDO of the other club if members of the other club are behaving inappropriately. If the issue is not resolved the MDO may contact the police in consultation with the other MDO and Club Presidents.
- be aware and be able to initiate processes regarding the non-compliance of the above
- if there are any incidents a MDO Incident Report Sheet must be completed and can be located in the umpires' folder.
- Failure to comply to these requests will incur a minimum fine of one hundred ($100) dollars per infraction and for more wilful breaches of these requests a fine of five hundred ($500) dollars.

DESIRED KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES

Ideally the MDO is someone who:

- can communicate effectively and is able to work in a team environment.
- has a working knowledge of relevant policies including Child Protection Policies, Harassment Protection Policies and Codes of Conduct.
- has a working knowledge of the alcohol policies of the League.
- can successfully undertake appropriate conflict resolution processes.
- has a current Working with Children Check (essential).

- holds a current First Aid certificate.

ESSENTIAL ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

Club Field Umpires

- Working with Children Check

Club Goal Umpires

- Working with Children Check

Coaches

- Level 1 Coaching Accreditation
- Working with Children Check

Managers

- Working with Children Check

Runners

- Working with Children Check

Trainers

- Working with Children Check
- Level 1 Trainers Accreditation

Timekeepers

- N/A

Match Day Officials

- Working with Children Check

TEAM MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

PERSONNEL

Field Umpires

- Where field umpires cannot be provided by the PLFL Umpires Committee, both teams must provide one. Where only one additional field umpire is needed, the first listed team must provide one.

Goal Umpires

- Both teams must provide a goal umpire who will record scores and goal kickers.

Trainers

- Each team must have a qualified trainer available.

Coaches

- Coaches must receive minimum accreditation as required by the AFL prior to coaching.

Major Rounds Eligibility

- Players will have played in two (2) or more minor round matches to be eligible to play in major rounds, unless otherwise granted an injury permit by the Permit Committee.

PREPARATION

Prior to First Match

- BOTH GRADES - Both teams to complete an inspection of the playing surface, ensuring the ground is suitable to play on. The Marsh Insurance Checklist must be completed.
- BOTH GRADES – Home team to supply match ball to field umpires.

Match Requirements

- Both teams must supply Goal Umpires who must have score cards and goal flags.
- Goal kickers must be recorded on the back of score cards.
- Field Umpires must be supplied as required, unless appointed by the Umpires Committee.
- Both teams must supply a Timekeeper who will share responsibility for timing quarters, live scoring and siren. Use a phone to track times, ensuring breaks and start times are as scheduled.
- First named team must supply a scoreboard attendant for the Open Grade matches.

Post Final Match

- Score cards and Umpire Votes to be promptly returned to Umpires Folder.
- Each team to promptly update scores and goal kickers in PlayHQ, do not enter the final score at the top.

RULES and PROCEDURES

All matches must be conducted in accordance with the by laws, regulations, rules, and directions of the Port Lincoln Football League unless otherwise stated below:

BALL SIZE

- Under 16 and Open: Size 4 Yellow Leather Sherrin Match Ball

TEAM COMPOSITION

- **Under 16** – A team shall consist of twelve (12) players on the ground, with no more than eighteen (18) on the team sheet. If both sides agree, fourteen (14) players may be permitted on the ground.
- **Open** - A team shall consist of sixteen (16) players on the ground, with no more than twenty-two (22) on the team sheet.

TEAM SHEETS

- Team sheets must be submitted on PlayHQ at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the match scheduled start time. (In accordance with By-Law 27 (h))
- All players must be listed, including guernsey numbers, captains, coaches, runners, and water carriers.
- Players that do not play must be removed from team sheets.

REDUCED PLAYER NUMBERS

Forfeits

- Teams having less than eight registered (8) players in Under 16 and twelve registered (12) players in Open matches to that club available for the match will forfeit the match.

Equitable Playing Numbers

- Should a team be unable to field the required number of players, opposition players must be used to equate player numbers on the ground.

PLAYING UP/DOWN PERMITS:

- Permits may be applied for in accordance with PLFL By-Law 15.
- Players must be 14 years of age or older as of January 1 to be eligible for a Playing Up permit for the Open grade.
- Players must be 12 years of age or older as of January 1 to be eligible for a Playing Up permit for the Under 16 grade.

SEND-OFF RULE:

- A Field umpire may send a player off the oval in accordance with PLFL By-Law 32.

PLAYING TIME

- Open matches will consist of 4 x 15-minute quarter. U16 4 x 12-minute quarters. Both grades; 5-minute half time break, and 3-minute quarter breaks.
- No time-on.

MARKING

- For the U16 grade, any player catching a ball directly from the kick of another player, provided the ball has travelled at least ten (10) metres, shall be awarded the mark.

SPORTSMANSHIP RULE

In under 16 minor round matches the "sportsmanship rule" will be invoked when a difference of 48 points is reached.

i) The rule will be invoked at any point in the match when the prescribed difference in score is reached, at which point the recording of scores, goalkickers and votes will cease. The official match will be over and those will be the final results.

ii) Play will continue until the end of that quarter.

iii) Prior to the start of the next quarter, coaches will meet and adjust the teams to enable a more competitive contest, and a trial game will be played.

iv) In other regards, the rules of the game will still apply.

CHECKLIST – UNDER 16 – FIRST MATCH - FIRST NAMED TEAM

• Set Up goal posts
• Set Up chairs for officials & interchange players
• Supply match ball
• Supply timekeeper & sports trainer
• Supply goal umpire
• Supply field umpire
• Complete match day checklist with second named team representative. Both game teams
• Finalise Play HQ 15 minutes prior to match commencement
• Post Match – record best players and goalkickers on Play HQ

CHECKLIST – UNDER 16 – SECOND MATCH - FIRST NAMED TEAM

• Supply timekeeper & sports trainer
• Supply goal umpire
• Supply field umpire
• Complete match day checklist with first named team representative. Both game teams
• Finalise Play HQ 15 minutes prior to match commencement
• Pack up goal posts and return to storage
• Pack up chairs and return to undercover area
• Post Match – record best players and goalkickers on Play HQ

CHECKLIST – OPEN – FIRST MATCH - FIRST NAMED TEAM

• Place padding on goal posts
• Supply match ball (yellow)
• Supply goal umpire
• Supply field umpire
• Supply timekeeper & sports trainer
• Complete match day checklist with second named team representative. First game teams only
• Finalise PLAY HQ 15 minutes prior to match commencement
• Post Match – record best players and goalkickers on Play HQ, tidy change room, empty bin

CHECKLIST – OPEN – SECOND MATCH FIRST NAMED TEAM

• Supply match ball (yellow)
• Supply goal umpire
• Supply field umpire
• Supply timekeeper & sports trainer
• Finalise Play HQ 15 minutes prior to match commencement
• Post Match – return goal post padding to storage area
• Post Match – record best players and goalkickers on Play HQ, tidy change room, empty bin

POLICY REMINDER

Heat Policy

Matches are to be conducted in accordance with the PLFL Heat Policy. A match will not proceed should the forecast temperature for the match scheduled start time be 34 degrees Celsius or higher as at 5 hours prior.

LEAGUE BY LAWS

For any matter not determined in this handbook, PLFL Bylaws will apply. These can be viewed at: plfl.com.au

CONTACT

Further enquiries can be directed to the PLFL Operations Manager:

Operations@plfl.com.au

Flinders Ports Women's Competition