MEMORANDUM

To:	**Community Football stakeholders**		
From:	**AFL Game Development, AFL Legal & Regulatory**	Date:	**13 February 2026**
Re:	**Summary of further amendments to 2026 National Community Football Policy Handbook**		

Dear all,

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a summary of further substantive amendments to the National Community Football Policy Handbook (**Policy Handbook**) for 2026.

As flagged in November, the further substantive amendments are with respect to the following sections:

1. **Appendix 1 (Reportable Offences)** – Amendments to the AFL Tribunal Guidelines (for elite) have resulted in further amendments to this Appendix to ensure consistency between the documents (where practical):

    a. **Grading 'Impact' for Careless acts** – Clarifying that an Intentional or Careless act causing a concussion will usually be graded as Severe Impact, but providing discretion to grade Careless acts that cause concussion as High Impact or Medium Impact, rather than Severe Impact. Such discretion should only be exercised in rare circumstances where other factors, including the observable level of force, are more consistent with a lesser impact grading.

    b. **Grading Impact for Intentional strikes ("gut punches")** – Intentional Strikes to a victim player's body or head will usually be classified as Medium Impact at a minimum (resulting in at least a 1-match sanction), rather than the current grading as Low Impact (resulting in a Reprimand).

    c. **Potential to cause further or greater injury** – Clarifying that the discretion to consider the potential to cause injury includes consideration of the potential to cause a further or greater injury.

    d. **Pushes into marking contests** – Expanding the scope of "Rough Conduct" to explicitly include incidences where a player pushes an opponent into another player from either team, where such conduct is unreasonable in the circumstances.

2. **Appendix 2 (Example Reportable Offences)** – Updates to the vision examples have resulted in amendments to this section.

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