



AFL North Coast By-laws – Key Substantive Amendments to Local Variations November 2019

Provision	Change	Rationale
2(E) Club Affiliation	Extend the date for Senior team nominations and payment of deposit to 31 January.	Provides extra time for clubs to confirm player numbers and be sure of team entries without impacting upon draw preparation. Increases the likelihood of new clubs being able to recruit sufficient players to enter the competition.
2(E) Club Affiliation	Requirement upon Junior clubs to nominate one umpire per team entered is further clarified such that one of these umpires must be an adult where the club enters an Under 15 and/or Youth Girls team. Where sufficient umpire nominations are not received clubs will have to show cause as to why their team(s) should be allowed to play for competition points.	Ensures older, more mature umpires are available to handle situations that may arise in these older age groups, and are able to provide increased support to junior umpires.
4.4 Alcohol Policy	Specifies that the local policy is to prohibit the sale of alcohol until the conclusion of the last Junior/Youth match.	Provides clarity of the current situation within the League which isn't recorded anywhere else.
4.7 Distance Penalties	Confirms that distance penalties awarded in the Women's Competition shall be twenty-five (25) metres.	Reduced distance is more reflective of the distances kicked by the majority of women. In a competition that is generally low scoring, this decreases the likelihood that a distance penalty results in a goal and determines a result.
4.9 Traditional Playing Positions at Centre Bounce	Clarifies the number of players in each area of the field down to the minimum number in all open age grades.	North Coast has lower minimum numbers in Reserves and Women's competition than is covered by the existing state-wide By-law.
4.10 Boundary Throws	Specify that boundary throws will only be used in Senior Grade. All other grades will play the "Last Disposal" rule.	"Last Disposal" rule will speed up the resumption of play and remove the need for the League and clubs to find Boundary Umpires for these matches.
4.11 Girls' Participation	Girls may play in the Youth Girls competition in the year that they turn fourteen (14).	Amends the new Regulation to more accurately reflect the rules for Youth Girls footy since introduction.
4.17 Footballs	Require all matches in all grades of the Senior Competition to use yellow match balls.	Provides cost savings to clubs and addresses any issues relating to light and visibility.
4.18 Minimum Age – Male Under 17	Individuals may play in the Under 17 competition in the year that they turn fifteen (15).	Amends the new Regulation to provide increased opportunities for players to take part in the Under 17 competition without the need for an exemption.
4.19 Ineligible Players	Clarifies that a player deemed ineligible on any grounds can be dealt with under Regulation 4.6(B).	Removes the uncertainty that existed around possible penalties that could be imposed in relation to ineligible players.
9.4 Number of players – Junior and Youth Competitions	Remove the clauses that refer to the maximum team number as twenty (20) and the maximum on-field number as sixteen (16).	These numbers conflicted with the local maximum numbers which are specified later in this rule.

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10.3 Match Duration	State that Finals matches played at the Stadium will not be bound by the requirements of all matches starting on time.	Ensures the results of Finals matches can't be influenced by a significant injury.
10.7 Player Eligibility	Increase the number of games required to be played to 34% of home and away matches (from 3 matches) in all age groups in the Junior Competition.	Increases the commitment that players are required to make during the home and away rounds which will assist teams to field stronger numbers.
10.7 Player Eligibility	Remove the clause that prevents players from playing in more than one grade during the Senior Competition Finals.	Removal of this clause aligns the conditions for Finals with those in effect for the home and away rounds.
12.10 Injury Treatment	Make both clubs responsible for compliance with the Sports Trainers Policy for all matches played at neutral venues.	Ensures there is appropriate coverage to treat injuries.
15.1 Yellow Card	Reduce the time spent off the field to ten (10) minutes for players that are issued with a Yellow Card in both Reserve and Women's Grades.	Quarter duration in these grades is fifteen (15) minutes so the former rule was a harsh penalty.
15.2 Red Card	Reduce the time that a player cannot be replaced to ten (10) minutes when issued with a Red Card in both Reserve and Women's Grades.	Quarter duration in these grades is fifteen (15) minutes so the former rule was a harsh penalty.