



AFL NSW/ACT Generic Rules

Key Substantive Amendments 2022

The following identifies the key material changes made to the AFL NSW/ACT Generic Rules for the 2022 season. Changes have also been made to formatting and the structure of the document to assist with flow and function. Within a number of the Rules the additional use of tables assists with clarity.

Provision	What	Why
6.2 Rules Management Committee (New)	Oversee management of the Rules including drafting of, amendments, variations, suspension, repeal.	Provide clarity in relation to determinations on particular matters beyond the scope of CMC.
6.3 Code of Conduct	Previously incorporated as its own disciplinary process, now properly integrated into the Rules.	Simplified process that aligns with all Policy Breaches.
6.5 Prohibited Conduct	Requirement on adherence to determinations by Players, Clubs, etc.	Reduces likelihood of improper publicity or public criticism of such a determination.
6.6 Child Safe Standards	Register to be maintained by clubs and produced upon request (WWCC requirements unchanged). Commitment statement by Leagues and clubs on primary social media channels.	Register is a legislative requirement upon clubs. Online statement is public reinforcement of code's commitment to protecting children.
6.7 COVID Compliance	Provides allowance for AFL to mandate particular safety Rules or issue "directives" to Clubs and Leagues to address any COVID impact on competitions.	Previously dealt with under Matters Not Provided For. Ensures Leagues have the unquestioned scope that's needed to deal with issues relating to the pandemic.
7.6 Conflicts of Interest by CMC Members	Requires individuals with a potential conflict of interest to remove themselves from the decision-making process on that matter.	Reduces likelihood of accusations of conflict of interest against CMC members and minimises angst within a League.
8.1 Club Affiliation	Separates requirements upon "new clubs" and "existing clubs".	Reduces confusion and better reflects actual process.
8.7 Club Uniforms (New)	Details club obligations with regard to approval process for uniforms, including logo size and placement.	Provides greater clarity for clubs and reduces the likelihood of issues being experienced.
9.5 Team Officials (New)	Free kick to be awarded where Runner or Water Carrier interferes with play.	Provides a sanction for team officials that interfere with play, whether by design or inadvertently.

10 Umpires	Amendments to who can approach Umpires.	Addresses potential challenge of Umpires receiving multiple approaches from members of leadership groups.
11.1 Player Registration	Matchday registration provisions have been repealed. Junior players must register with Junior club or obtain CMC approval to play Seniors only.	Matchday registrations reflect a time before online registration portal. Priority for Junior players should be to play Junior footy.
11.2 Player Eligibility	Minimum age to play Junior footy aligned for both NSW and ACT to 7 years of age as at 31 March (where age appropriate competitions are offered).	Aligns both NSW and ACT in relation to minimum age.
11.2.4 Gender Eligibility and Diversity	Clarification that girls can only play mixed footy up to a maximum age of 14 years.	Removes a potential loophole that existed in previous versions of the Rules.
11.2.6 Club Request for Proof of Player Identity	New process requiring matter to be addressed if possible between Team Managers before escalation to League.	Ensures matters are resolved as quickly as possible without the need for an investigation.
11.4 Permits	Local interchange now called “season permit”, match day permit now called “game day permit”.	Aligns with terms used in PlayHQ.
12.5 Competition Grades	Three year age gaps require AFL NSW/ACT approval.	Three year gaps are inconsistent with Australian Football Match Policy and are only to be implemented as part of a strategic approach.
13.3 Club with Multiple Teams in a Grade	Clubs given three rounds to balance teams. After five rounds CMC may direct changes to ensure balance.	Ensures competitive balance to maintain interest in age group.
15.6 Forfeits	Creates a new provision where a fine of up to \$200 may be applied as reimbursement of canteen revenue or gate receipts, irrespective of the notice provided.	Ensures that sanction may still apply to a club that opts to forfeit ahead of the deadline.
16.2.8 Mercy Rule for Junior Competitions	Continues to come into effect at 60 points for ages up to Under 14, increases to 75 points for Under 15 to Under 18.	Considered that the lower score of 60 points can be too easily achieved in the older age groups.
16.2.9 Supporter Distance from Boundary	New provision for 5m exclusion zone for Goal Umpire.	Consistent with Laws of Australian Football.
16.3 Player Attire & Match Equipment	Process for change of jersey number during a match. Table outlining items that can and can’t be worn.	Ensures a consistent approach and uniformity in items that players wear.

16.7 Matchday Paperwork	Prescribed cut-off time for late arriving players to be added to team sheet, i.e. siren to start third quarter.	Removes confusion as to when timeframe has passed.
16.8.5 Significant Delay During a Match	Provides a process, and prescriptive measures, for the umpire and ground manager to determine whether a Match should recommence after a significant delay.	Ensures a consistent approach to dealing with delays in matches, and avoids issues with disputes arising over resumption of play.
17.7 Finals Match Unable to be Played	Allows for CMC to determine match results, change Finals structure, etc.	Previously dealt with under Matters Not Provided For, ensures there is no ambiguity over CMC scope.
20 Risk Management Checklist	Link to Marsh online checklist.	JLT app no longer to be used.
21 Injury Management (New)	Inclusion of “Qualified Medical Professional” (QMP) term with greater scope of qualified personnel.	Consistent with national direction, provides clubs with greater scope to provide required level of medical coverage on match day.
24.2 Melees	Additional requirement on Umpires to provide specific details of a melee in a match report.	Offers more info for a Match review Panel to determine if charges relating to melees need to be laid.
25.2.3 Club Citings	Removed four match sanction baseline, increased evidentiary requirement, timeline moved to 5:00pm on first business day, refund of fee only to occur where charge is laid.	Ensures that all reportable offences can be considered, but increases onus on clubs to ensure that citing will result in charge.
26 Policy Breaches	Standardising the process for dealing with policy breaches, including making complaints, and aligning with process for Reportable Offences.	Makes it easier for clubs to identify potential policy breaches and make complaints.
	Two processes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rules & Code of Conduct 2. National Policy Breaches 	Aligns with state v national responsibility for managing complaints.
30 Disciplinary Sanctions	Lists sanctions available for a Policy Breach.	Makes clubs aware of sanctions that may be imposed.