



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

### February 2023

Provision	Change to/by Local Variation	Rationale
9.3.4 No Dual Team Official Role	On field Coach in Under 10 is unable to act as a Club Umpire.	Ensure Coaches can focus on that role, and encourage clubs to find people to step into Umpiring.
9.3.5 Coaching in an Under 10 Match	Outlines the responsibilities of an Under 10 Coach including being allowed on the field.	Provide clarity on what a coach can and can't do while on the field and overview of interactions with Players and Umpires.
9.5.5 Runners/9.5.6 Water Carriers	Inclusion of new Local Variation saying that in Under 10 matches there are no Runners or Water Carriers.	Coach on field removes the need for a Runner. Short duration of matches means Players can get a drink in breaks.
10.3 Appointment of Umpires	Creation of a deadline of noon on a Thursday for the League to provide affected Clubs with a notice where insufficient League Umpires are available.	To allow clubs additional time, particularly at training on a Thursday night, to find a Club Umpire to fill the vacancy.
	Clubs to show cause why match result shouldn't be a forfeit where they have not provided a Club Umpire if given sufficient notice.	To act as a deterrent against Clubs not providing a Club Umpire when needed.
10.4 Number of Field Umpires for a Match	Removal of Local Variation that outlined what should happen if one Umpire was unable to complete a Match and suitable substitute Umpire was unavailable.	These requirements have been included in the generic Rules.
	Matches in the Under 14, Under 16, and Youth Girls 17 age groups must have at least one (1) adult field Umpire.	Mature adults required to control Matches with older Players as aggression level increases.
10.6.1 Club Field Umpires	Umpires for non-competitive matches will be appointed by Clubs, not the League.	Encourages clubs to find Umpires who can start in a non-competitive environment.
	Umpires for non-competitive matches are not required to complete post-match paperwork.	Clarifying responsibilities for Club Umpires after a non-competitive match.
12.3.2 Restricted Player List – Reserve Grade	Inclusion of three (3) new criteria to Local Variation to identify players rated as Senior (First) Grade Players.	To further meet the aim of preserving the integrity and competitive balance of Reserve Grade.
	Amendment of Local Variation from players who have represented NSW/ACT to players who have participated in the NAB League or AFL National Championships.	To ensure greater number of elite juniors can be included in criteria.
	Amendment of Local Variation to make it easier to identify a Tier 1 State League, or the highest grade in a Premium Competition League.	To clarify which competitions are used to identify Senior (First) Grade players. Aligned to existing definition in Player Points System Policy.
	Local Variation amended from “any one (1) of the three (3) preceding completed seasons” to “any one (1) of the three (3) preceding seasons where a Premier was declared.”	To clarify which seasons each Restricted Player List criteria pertains to.
12.4.1 Bouncing the Ball	In an Under 10 match a Player can bounce the ball once and only inside their own zone.	To ensure more competent Under 10 Players share the ball with team mates.

12.4.2 Kicking off the Ground	Local Variation amended to include Under 10 as an age group where kicking off the ground is not allowed.	Encourage Players in younger age groups to learn to bend down and pick the ball up.
12.4.3 Marking	No minimum distance in Under 10 Match for a mark to be paid provided the Player shows control.	Distances more reflective of actual distances that young Players can kick the ball.
12.4.4 Modified Tackle	Identifies what is considered a legal and illegal tackle for all players in an Under 10 match and girls wearing a coloured sleeve in an Under 12 match.	Improved safety of Players that are new to the game, or are playing in a mixed team and are uncomfortable with male contact.
	An Umpire can deem a girl no longer eligible to wear a coloured sleeve in Under 12 match if she chooses to engage in full contact.	Prevents Players who are wearing a sleeve from using that to gain an advantage in circumstances where they are comfortable with full contact.
12.4.5 Minimum Game Time	In each Under 10 match, all Players are to be on the ground for a minimum of fifty (50) percent of the match.	To ensure all Players in an Under 10 match spend a significant portion of each match on the field.
12.4.6 Under 10 Zones	Explanation of the three Zones on the field for an Under 10 match, how many players in each zone and situations where a Player may briefly leave their zone.	Establishes the progression from Auskick to structured footy.
12.4.7 Ball ups	In Under 10 matches two Players of similar size/height will be chosen by the Umpire to contest a Ball Up. Explanation of what a Player can and can't do while contesting a Ball Up.	Ball Up contests in Under 10 encourage more players to be involved in stoppage situation rather than just the Players contesting the Ball Up.
12.4.8 Rushing a Behind	Player in an Under 10 match will not be penalised for deliberately rushing a behind.	Avoid heavy penalties for Players who are likely to be making their first foray into footy.
12.5 Competition Grades	Table 16 has been amended to new even age groups and include new Under 10 non-competitive age group.	To show age group changes from odd years to even as well as the addition of the Under 10 non-competitive age group
14.5 Number of Players in a Team - Junior Competitions	Table 16 updated to include Player numbers for an Under 10 Team.	To reflect the minimum and maximum player numbers required for Under 10 age group.
	Minimum number of players for a Youth Girls 14s match raised from 8 to 9.	To align with other age groups and to reflect the growth in Player numbers as the age group enters a second season.
14.7 Even Up Rule - Junior Competitions	Inclusion of new Under 10 age group in Table 17.	Even-up rule for the Under 10 age group is the same as all age groups.
Under 17 "Plus" Age Group	Local variation removed.	Change of age group to Under 18 allows top age players to remain in underage football for one more year so "Plus" age group no longer required.
15.2.2 50 Metre Penalties	Under 10 age group added to junior competitions where distance penalty is 25 metres.	To reflect addition of new Under 10 age group.

	Distance penalties in the Women's grade increased to fifty (50) metres.	To bring further parity between the two Senior competitions and help to open up the game further. Also reflects the increased standard of Women's football in the region
15.2.6 Out of Bounds	Addition of local variation to outline procedure when ball goes out of bounds in a Senior Men's match and there's no boundary umpire appointed.	Ensures the Rules provide a solution in an instance where it has not been possible to appoint Boundary Umpires.
15.1.8 Mercy Rule – Junior Competitions	Amendment of Local Variation regarding the Mercy Rule for Under 18 matches.	To remove the Mercy Rule provisions from the Under 18 age group.
	Addition of Local Variation outlining that there won't be a Mercy Rule in Under 10 matches as scores are not kept but the principle of evening up should be applied where it is that one team is stronger than the other.	To ensure that even though match scores are not being kept in Under 10 matches, coaches are still required to even-up teams when one team is better than the opposition.
15.2.3 Starting Positions at Centre Bounces	Application of the Starting Positions at Centre Bounces Law to the Under 18 age group.	Provides consistency in approach throughout the Saturday match day. As many Under 18 Players are also playing open age matches they are used to this Law.
15.2.5 Player Standing the Mark	Application of the Player Standing the Mark Law to the Under 18 age group.	Provides consistency in approach throughout the Saturday match day. As many Under 18 Players are also playing open age matches they are used to this Law.
15.7.1 Team Sheets	Amendment in Table 26 that there is no need prior to an Under 10 match for Clubs to prepare a Team sheet via PlayHQ.	Team sheets not required as there are no Finals and eligibility does not need to be established.
15.8.1 Match Start Times	Rule amended to include new Under 10 age group and different start and finish times for all other Junior age groups.	Now that Under 10 is part of a match day, needed to show new start and finish times for other age groups.
15.8.2 Match & Quarter Duration	Inclusion of Under 10 into Table 28 with length of quarters and breaks at end of each quarter.	To stipulate length of Under 10 matches.
15.9 Ground Closures	Deadline created for a Club to advise the League of a possible or definite Ground Closure (4.00pm Friday for Seniors and noon on Saturday for Juniors).	To ensure if Match/es need to be moved to a different venue due to Ground Closures, notification is given in a timely manner.
15.10 Postponed Matches	Clubs have two weeks to reschedule postponed matches and must give the League at least three business days' notice of new date.	Provides a definitive timeline for clubs to reschedule a postponed match.
16.2 Ladder	No ladder will be kept for Under 10 age group.	Maintaining that the age group is a non-competitive age group.
17.1 Finals Structure	Addition of Local Variation to explain that there are no finals for the Under 10 age group.	To show that as a non-competitive age group, there will be no Finals for Under 10.
17.5 Match Conditions	Amendment to Local Variation to further clarify the process to be taken if during a final played at the C.ex Coffs International Stadium, the clock is stopped for the blood rule or when a Player is replaced using the stretcher.	Outlines who is responsible for making the decision of possibly rescheduling subsequent game times and that identifying which Clubs will be affected by said decision is part of the decision-making process.

24.1.1 Yellow Cards	A Player in an Under 10 match spends three (3) minutes off the ground after being given a yellow card and is taken off the field by the Coach to provide feedback.	To ensure immediate feedback is given to the Player at this important stage of their football development, the Coach of the team is required to leave the field with the Player to do so.
	In an Under 10 match, a player given a yellow card can be replaced immediately.	Being a development age group, keeping matches as even as possible is vital to ensuring the players get maximum enjoyment from their footy.
	A Coach in an Under 10 match is to be issued a yellow card if they pressure, instruct or make comment to or about Umpires or about any member of the opposition team.	To ensure a proper example is provided to developing players regarding the Zero Tolerance Policy to Umpire Abuse.
	Host club is to email a copy of the timesheet to the League in the case of a Player and/or Coach being issued a yellow card.	As there will be no Team Sheets created or final scores entered into PlayHQ for Under 10 matches, a separate action is required to record when a Player and/or Coach is issued a yellow card.
24.1.2 Red Cards	Action is to be taken by the Coach of the team should a Player in an Under 10 match be given a red card.	To ensure immediate feedback is given to the Player at this important stage of their football development, the Coach of the team is required to leave the field with the Player to do so.
	A Coach in an Under 10 match is to be issued a red card on a second offence if they pressure, instruct or make comment to or about Umpires or about any member of the opposition team.	To ensure a proper example is provided to developing players regarding the Zero Tolerance Policy.
	Host club is to email a copy of the timesheet to the League in the case of a Player and/or Coach being issued a red card.	As there will be no Team Sheets created or final scores entered into PlayHQ for Under 10 matches, a separate action is required to record when a Player and/or Coach is issued a red card.