

## 2023 Generic Rules – Key Amendments Summary

2022 Rule	Section Heading	2023 Amendment	Reason
6.2.4	League Variations to the Rules	Inclusion of new Rule 6.2.4(E) <i>If a League fails to meet the requirements of Rule 6.2.4(D),</i> <i>(i) the AFL NSW/ACT Generic Rules will apply until such time as the League complies; and</i> <i>(ii) the will RMC determine the constraints of any Rules that require completion by a League for a competition to be proceed.</i>	To ensure that a competition can proceed with a suitable Rules structure in place where a League has failed to finalise its variations and publish its Rules prior to the commencement of the season.
6.6.2(G)	Child Safe Standards	Amended date to <b>1 April 2023</b> and Guidance Note date to <b>1 March 2023</b> Inclusion in Guidance Note <i>Where a Club does not have a Website, the statement is to be placed on the Club's primary social media page (e.g. Facebook).</i>	
6.7	COVID-19 Compliance	Amended heading to Public Health Compliance Removal of reference to COVID-19 throughout Rule. No just references any <b>Public Health Order or Direction</b>	To cover any future pandemic scenario. The fundamental requirement has always been to adhere to the PHO.
		Removal of Appendix 5	Barely used last season and not expected to be in 2023 with changed isolation requirements
8.7.3	Approved Suppliers	Amended (A) to The suppliers listed in Table 2 are licensed and authorised as the only suppliers in <b>NSW and ACT</b> to use the <b>AFL logo</b> Guidance Note also added to clarify this.	Previously only covered the AFL NSW/ACT logo. This now also covers league logos that have the AFL logo in them.
8.7.4	Logos on Uniforms	New inclusion at (B) <i>There are no limitations on the number, size or placement of logos on any Club merchandise that is not part of a playing uniform, however Clubs are to ensure that the type of logos on any Club</i>	To ensure that the same provisions that apply to exclusion of inappropriate content on playing uniforms also applies to club merchandise.

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		<i>merchandise does not contravene the items referred to in 8.7.4(A)(i) to (iv)</i>	
8.12	Club Transferring, Amalgamating, Disbanding	Separated into Club Transferring (8.12), Club Amalgamating (8.13) and Club Disbanding (8.13). Rule 8.12 (Club Transferring) re-written	To provide better Rules for Clubs and Leagues to step through for a circumstance of this significance.
9.3.4	Coaches No Dual Team Official Role	New Rule <i>Any person designated on the Team Sheet as the Coach or Assistant Coach for a Match must not undertake any other team official roles including those of runner, water carrier, first aid or trainer</i> Guidance note also added	As per guidance note, <i>The purpose of this Rule is to prevent a Coach or Assistant Coach assuming another team official role to enter the field of play during a match and potentially coach players from on field</i>
10.4	Number of Field Umpires for a Match	Inclusion of new Rule (D) <i>(A) If for any reason, none of the field Umpires who commenced the Match are able to complete the Match and there is no other accredited Umpire available:</i>  <i>(i) the competition Match will be stopped and the result determined in accordance with Rule 16.6;</i>  <i>(ii) the League is to be notified of this via the Umpire Match Report;</i>  <i>(iii) Teams may proceed with a scratch match for the remaining duration of time that was allocated to the competition Match, with the provision by one or both Teams of a person to umpire that scratch match</i>	Scenario of no umpire being able to complete a match was not previously accounted for.
10.14	Abuse of Umpires	New inclusion	To provide Rules allowing a Controlling Body to implement, at any time, relevant measures to curb umpire abuse. Also to provide special penalty provisions for persons and clubs for such offences.

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11.1.2	Junior Player Registration with Senior Club	Inclusion at (C) of new <i>(ii) the Player's Junior Club has provided written endorsement of the registration with the Senior Club</i>	To ensure the junior club is aware of the request and that the junior and senior clubs have communicated with each other.
11.2.1	Junior Player Age Eligibility	Amended from <i>The minimum age for a Player to register and participate in a NSW or ACT Junior football Competition is seven (7) years of age as at 31 March of the season.</i> To <i>A Junior Player must be a minimum of seven (7) years of age by 31 July in the year of the relevant season in order to be eligible to be registered</i>	This was incorrectly written for 2022 in attempting to ensure a consistent minimum age date across both NSW & ACT. Reverted now to 2021 wording, but with a common date for NSW and ACT.
		Amendment to 11.2.1(E)(iii) <i>the Player must not displace another Junior Player to whom that higher Junior age group applies and who otherwise would be available to play</i>	To clarify that the 'displacement' rule applies only to Junior Age groups.
11.2.2	Dispensation to Play Up	Guidance Note added after 11.2.2(A): <i>A Player younger than the minimum age specified in Rule 11.2.1(A), is not eligible to register as a Junior Player and is therefore not eligible to seek dispensation under this provision.</i>	To clarify an issue that arose several times in 2022 where parents / clubs were seeking to have players lower than the minimum age play in u9s.
		Removed in (B) <i>not simply to make up numbers in a Team</i>	The reality is this is exactly why many clubs seek dispensation and it may actually be the circumstance that provides a development opportunity for a lower age player providing the other requirements of the Rule are met (ie that it is about the player's development, the player is ready for the step up etc).
11.2.5	Player Eligibility to Move Between Senior Grades	New inclusion at (C) <i>During the home and away Rounds, a Player is ineligible to drop back more than one Grade once that Player has played five (5) or more highest available Grade matches in the Competition in that season</i>	Only relevant to competitions with more than two senior grades. To prevent clubs stacking lower grade teams, particularly late in the season for ladder position. CMC application may be made where exceptional circumstances. Leagues may vary the qualifying games.

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		CMC application option extended to include new Rule 11.2.5(C). 11.2.5(D) – Added timeframe of 48hrs prior to match insert for application to be made to CMC	To prevent applications being made to CMC's on the day or weekend of a match.
12.3.1	Player Points System	New inclusion at (E) <i>Appeal rights and procedure in relation to decisions made under the Player Points System Policy are provided for within that Policy rather than under the Rules</i>	Provisions for a specialized appeal process for PPS Policy matters which are now established in that Policy.
15.3.2	Uniform Clashes	Amendment of (A)(i) <i>subject to Rule 15.3.2(ii), the Host Team shall play in dark coloured shorts (e.g. black, dark-brown, blue, green etc.) whilst the away Club's Team will play in white shorts, or shorts that are of reasonable contrast to the Host Team's shorts</i>	Following from the change to elite level policy, to allow teams with female players the option to wear shorts other than white
15.5.1	Ground Marking	Amendment to (A) <i>For any Grade where a Match is played on a full-size field, the ground is to be clearly marked with lines in white or other easily discernible colour as detailed in Table 22</i>	To allow clubs to use a colour other than white to mark the playing field lines
		50m arc Rule rewritten <i>The fifty (50) metre arc is not to intersect with the centre square. If a ground is less than one hundred and fifty (150) metres in length:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>the arc to be reduced by 5m intervals (e.g 45m or 40m) until it no longer intersects with the centre square; and</i></li> <li><i>the Club is to clearly mark, at both ends of the arc, the actual number of metres the arc is from the goals (e.g. 45).</i></li> </ul>	For grounds less than 150m in length - to ensure no line marking of an arc intersects with the centre square. Guidance note on use of chemicals to kill grass and risk factor.
15.5.6	Change Rooms	New Rule inserted at (C) <i>For Senior Grade Matches, the Host Club is to make the change rooms available to both teams as follows:</i>	Instances in 2022 of change rooms not being opened until 30mins before matches. Difficult to apply the same provision to Juniors given starting times. In any event, unlikely to be

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		<p><i>(i) for the first the Match of the day, or where there is no match immediately prior, at least one (1) hour prior to scheduled commencement time of the Match;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) for all other Matches, by no later than the commencement of the third quarter of the Match immediately prior.</i></p>	needed by the junior grades that start in early morning.
15.6 Formerly 16.6	Match Footballs	<p>Amendment to 15.6(C) <i>The Home Club must make available at least two footballs of a suitable standard and correct size for each Competition Match</i></p>	Previously just said “a football”. There should always be at least one spare suitable ball available in the event the main ball is lost, damaged etc.
		<p>New Rule inserted at 15.6(B): <i>For the purposes of Rule 15.6(C), a football of suitable standard is a new ball, where that is mandated by a League under Rule 15.6(D) for a particular Grade, or otherwise it is used ball where that ball:</i></p> <p><i>(i) has only had limited use, is clean and has no discernible scratches or damage to its surface;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) has retained its proper shape and colour;</i></p> <p><i>(iii) has all branding and writing on the ball clearly visible and legible; and</i></p> <p><i>(iv) can be inflated to the correct limit.</i></p>	To establish a definition of <i>suitable standard</i> as referred to in Rule 16.6(A)
15.9	Ground Closure	<p>Amendment to (A) <i>Where a ground at which a Match is scheduled becomes unavailable due to adverse weather conditions or other reason, the home Club is to advise the League and any opposing Club as early as it becomes aware of the likelihood of the ground closure....</i></p>	To ensure an opposing club who may be impacted is notified of the ground closure and can be prepared to move its teams to a different venue.
		<p>New inclusion at (B) <i>Where a ground has been closed by the local Council, no Competition Match is to be played on that ground unless the home Club:</i></p>	To ensure that Clubs are not overriding Council closures without authority or proper risk assessment process.

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		<p>(i) <i>has a written agreement with the local Council that allows it to override the ground closure; and</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>in making its decision on the use of the ground, has followed any risk assessment process expected as part of that agreement with the local Council.</i></p>	
15.10	Postponed Matches	New Rule inserted	To place clear requirements on clubs to reach agreement on rescheduling of any postponed match, including a timeframe for doing so. Also covers how outcome of match is to be treated if a match cannot be rescheduled.
16.9 (now 15.2.10)	Persons Allowed on Field of Play	New rule inserted: <i>“Where a player is injured and it has been determined by medical staff that the player is not to be moved pending the arrival of an ambulance, the parents or guardians of an injured junior player, or the spouse or partner of an injured senior player, are allowed to enter the field of play to provide support to that player.”</i>	To allow family support to an injured player on the field whilst waiting for an ambulance.
24.1.1	Order Off Rule - Yellow Card	Amended the penalty duration from 15 minutes to: <i>not permitted to resume playing in the Match for a penalty time equivalent to one quarter of consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters</i>	Match duration varies considerably depending on grade, so a blanket 15min penalty impacts players quite differently across grades. Revised rule ensures same % time off match off the field for each player regardless of grade. Also simplifies return to field time, i.e. whatever time of the quarter the player went off, is the time they can come back on in next quarter.
		Inclusion of new (D) <i>Where a time-on is played in a particular Grade, the equivalent will be the stated duration of a quarter prior to the addition of any time-on</i>	To define how the rule operates where time-on applies to a Grade
24.1.2	Order Off Rule - Red Card	As per yellow card. Penalty duration for replacing a player red carded is amended from 15 minutes to the equivalent of one quarter. Same inclusion as 24.1.1(D) re time-on	See note in 24.1.1

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24.2	Melees	In Table 32 - removal of “points” and replaced with actual \$fine	The Rules didn’t actually define what a point was worth. This simplifies the penalty process.
25.2.4	Review of Footage	Removal of particulars to be provided and replaced with <i>complete and lodge the Request for Review of Footage form together with footage relied upon;</i>	New template. Simplifies process and ensures consistency in information to be provided. Prevents clubs ‘fishing’ for reportable offences with the league before formally submitting the footage.
25.4.2	Low Level Offence	Most content of (A) & (B) removed and inserted into Appendix Three	Better fit.
25.4.8	Multiple Offences in One Match	New Rule inserted <i>25.4.8 Multiple Offences in One Match</i> <i>(B) Where a Player commits multiple reportable offences in a Match;</i> <i>(i) each reportable offence is to be classified and graded separately; and</i> <i>(ii) any suspension applicable to each reportable offence is to be served consecutively, not concurrently.</i>	To be clear on the process and the application of suspension where a player commits multiple reportable offences in one match.
26.2.3	Complaint for Vilification or Discrimination	Inclusion of new Rule <i>(A) Where complaint relates to an alleged Prohibited Conduct breach as defined in Section 10 of the Policy Handbook, the reporting party is to and submit a Vilification &amp; Discrimination Notice of Complaint form, together with any supporting evidence, to the Controlling Body.</i> <i>(B) Any Complaint made under Rule 26.2.3 is to be managed by the Controlling Body in accordance with Section 10 of the Policy Handbook.</i>	There are specialized requirements for the management of vilification complaints. Not previously delineated properly in the Rules. New complaint for designed specifically for such matters.
26.2.5	Offending Party Right to See and Respond to Complaint	Inclusion of New Rule <i>(A) Unless determined otherwise by the Controlling Body, any Party named as the offending Party in a Complaint lodged under Rule 26.2.2 has the right to:</i>	To afford due process to the alleged offending party and to ensure that persons making a complaint are aware of this when lodging the complaint.

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		<p><i>(i) be provided by the Controlling Body with a copy of the Complaint as well as any evidence submitted in support of the Complaint; and</i></p> <p><i>(ii) provide a respond to the Complaint to the Controlling Body within any timeframe determined by the Controlling Body.</i></p>	
26.5.2	Direct Referral to Tribunal	New inclusion <i>In issuing a Notice of Breach in accordance with Rule 26.5.1, the Controlling Body may, in its absolute discretion, refer a Party directly to the Tribunal for a Tribunal Hearing under Rule 27</i>	Allows a Controlling Body to refer a policy breach matter directly to the Tribunal. Will typically only be used in serious policy breach matters.
30.3	Suspension of a Person	Inclusion of a Guidance note for (D) <i>“The effect of this Rule (D) is that a Player cannot count towards his/her suspension matches in more than one grade in each round, even if he/she regularly ‘doubles up’.”</i>	To help address questions on whether a player who plays more than one grade in a round (eg u13 and u15) can count those as separate matches for the purpose of a suspension.
		<p>Amendment to (M)</p> <p><i>A person transferring from one Competition to another Competition will carry over any suspension to the new Competition, and the suspension shall apply to the Grade in the new Competition that:</i></p> <p><i>(i) is most closely aligned to the Grade in which the person was suspended; and</i></p> <p><i>(ii) for which the person is eligible to participate in</i></p> <p>Example also provided.</p>	To be clear on how a suspension applies to a new competition when a player transfers
		Amendment to (Q) <i>A suspended person may not play or perform any football Official duties on matchday for the duration of their suspension unless the Controlling Body, Tribunal or Appeal Board orders otherwise</i>	To be clear that a person who is suspended whilst performing official duties, and who is also a player, cannot play for the duration of the suspension.



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Appendix 1	Code of Conduct	<p>Overhaul of Code of Conduct template to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate participant provisions from two parts to one</li> <li>• Include Code of Conduct Toward Umpires</li> </ul>	<p>Much of the content in the two previous sections was duplicated, so now consolidated into one.</p> <p>To emphasise behavioural expectations toward umpires with the aim of reducing the extent of umpire abuse and assisting with umpire retention.</p>
Appendix 3 – Table 3	Impact Assessment Table	<p>Amendment to Medium Impact</p> <p><i>Clearly some impact on the Player, and/or the Player left the field for a lengthy period of time, and/or some possible lower level ongoing treatment(s) required <b>and/or likely to miss one Match</b></i></p>	<p>To plug the gap between "medium" and "high" impact where a player may miss one match and there is little medical information. Medium didn't refer to missing any matches. High referred to missing "some" matches. There was nothing that dealt with a player likely to miss only one match.</p>