

Amendments under COVID-19  
to  
AFL Queensland State Junior Football  
Rules & Regulations  
2020





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## PURPOSE OF AMENDMENTS

Due to the restrictions, protocols and regulations introduced as a result of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the following Amendments to the AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations (AFLQSFJR&R) will apply for Season 2020. Where these Amendments vary from the AFL & AFL Queensland policies, and the AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations, these Amendments apply. On all matters where these Amendments are silent, the AFL and AFL Queensland rules, regulations and policies apply. Definitions used in these Amendments have the same meaning as given in the AFLQSFJR&R.

For the avoidance of doubt, these Amendments are effective immediately. (Initial Release).

## SPIRIT OF JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Every participant understands that Football in Queensland is delivered to the Community with the Spirit of the Game in mind.

It is incumbent on every participant irrespective of their place in the game, to ensure that they will:

- (a) Not focus on winning at all costs and understand that the role of Footy4Fun & Youth Football is to foster the development of players, volunteers, umpires, coaches and officials. Learning to win and lose is part of the developmental journey of a participant but must remain secondary to the primary focus of player development.
- (b) Maximise the enjoyment and development of Footy4Fun & Youth footballers.
- (c) Provide our children with a match environment that is safe, fun and fair.
- (d) Ensure that the values which add to the spirit of our game, which include fairness, equality, respect and teamwork are encouraged and celebrated.
- (e) Uphold, promote and protect the Rules, Laws, Codes, Policies and Spirit of the game.
- (f) Not accept poor behaviours around our game and deter practices that undermine our match environments (coaching, playing, volunteering, spectating and umpiring).
- (g) Adhere to any directive issued by the games controlling bodies in the best interests of achieving the above.
- (h) Coaches should adopt an athlete centred coaching philosophy.



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## **1. PERMANENT AMENDMENTS**

The following amendments will remain in force for Season 2020 and will not be subject to change.

### **1.1 DEFINITIONS (Rule 1.3)**

Restricted Player	Means a player who is not permitted to play in another team from the same club in the same age group
Team List	Refers to a list of Restricted Players in a team

### **1.2 CLUB RESPONSIBILITY (Rule 2.4.9, 2.4.10, 2.4.11)**

- 2.4.9 Clubs shall be responsible for reading Return to Play protocols and appointing a Covid Safe Officer. The Covid Safe Officer is responsible for ensuring protocols are adhered to and participants can return and continue to play in a prepared and safe environment.
- 2.4.9.1 The Covid Safe Officer must also: -
- (i) complete education and training in accordance with requirements of AFL Queensland and the Queensland Government where applicable; and
  - (ii) ensure that club officials and participants are provided with guidance and undertake appropriate education and training to support and maintain club protocols.
- 2.4.10 Clubs shall be responsible for ensuring that the Covid Safe Officer is provided with the necessary support, materials and equipment required to meet protocol requirements.
- 2.4.11 It is recommended that clubs encourage all participants to immediately download the COVID-SAFE App to ensure that any outbreaks in the community can be quickly traced and managed.

### **1.3 CLUB COLOURS & UNIFORMS (Rule 2.5.6)**

- 2.5.6 In addition to rules in relation to playing jumpers, the following shall apply:-
- (d) Playing jumpers cannot be shared under any circumstances during a match. All playing jumpers must be washed, cleaned and sanitised before each match.
  - (e) Clubs providing playing jumpers under Player Number Equalisation rules must ensure that the jumpers provided to players are washed, cleaned and sanitised prior to use.
  - (f) Under no circumstances can a playing jumper which has been worn by another player (since it has been washed) in the same or any other match be used by another player.

### **1.4 PLAYER REGISTRATION (Rule 3.1.2)**

- 3.1.2 To be eligible to register and participate in a Footy4Fun competition a player must turn 7 years of age on or before 30 June in the year they wish to participate in.
- 3.1.2.1 Clubs may make application for dispensation from the Minimum Age Policy in Queensland for a player to participate in an Under 8.5 competition where specific criteria are met. Specifically, this application only applies to players born from 1st July 2013 to 31st December 2013 and:-
- (i) have been a registered in both the past two (2) seasons (2018 & 2019) in a Roys/Superstars Junior Football Program; or
  - (ii) wishes to register with a club that does not have a Superstars team in season 2020.
- Clubs must submit the application on a 'Minimum Age Dispensation Application'.

### **1.5 AGE POLICY (Rule 3.4.1)**

- 3.4.1 A player must meet minimum age requirements to be eligible to play in a competition. Refer to Rule 3.1.2 and 3.1.2.1.



## 1.6 PLAYER DE-REGISTRATION (Rule 3.5)

- 3.5.1 A player may be de-registered if they have not been listed on a team sheet for a single match. A match includes a practice match.
- 3.5.2 For players to be de-registered, a player must be listed on a 'Player De-registration' form which must be submitted to the Competition Manager. Clubs may submit one form each month.
- 3.5.3 'Player De-registration' forms will not be accepted after 31 August.
- 3.5.4 Player de-registrations will be processed on the last working day of each month only.

## 1.7 AGE DISPENSATION (Rule 3.11.1, 3.11.7)

- 3.11.1 Players may be provided dispensation to play in a Competition below their applicable age group in accordance with the 'AFL National Age Dispensation Policy'.
  - 3.11.1.1 In Season 2020 AFL Queensland reserves the right to give special consideration to an Age Dispensation application that does not meet the criteria of the 'AFL National Age Dispensation Policy'. The decision made by AFL Queensland under this clause cannot be appealed.
- 3.11.7 Applications for Age Dispensation in SEQ Juniors competitions will close on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

## 1.8 NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN A MATCH (Rule 4.2.2.2, 4.2.2.3)

- 4.2.2.2 The maximum number of players allowed on the playing surface at any time is as follows:-
  - (i) SEQ Juniors Competitions
    - All Youth Competitions – 16
    - Under 15 Youth Girls and Under 17 Youth Girls – 16
    - Under 13 Youth Girls – 12
  - (j) Other AFLQ Administered or Affiliate League Competitions
    - All Youth Competitions – 16
    - Under 15 Youth Girls and Under 17 Youth Girls – 16
    - Under 13 Youth Girls – 12

In all Youth Competitions, where both teams have 20 or more players listed on the team sheet, the maximum number of players allowed on the playing surface at any time will be increased to 18 for the match. The following conditions apply: -

Both Team Managers must:

- (i) note the change on the Umpire's copy of the Team Sheets; and
- (ii) sign both Team Sheets under the notation.

Where the maximum number of players allowed on the playing surface at any time is amended outside of the above, penalties will apply.

- 4.2.2.3 The minimum number of players in a team is as follows: -
  - All Youth Competitions – 12
  - Under 15 Youth Girls and Under 17 Youth Girls – 12
  - Under 13 Youth Girls – 9

## 1.9 ENTERING MULTIPLE TEAMS IN AN AGE GROUP/COMPETITION (Rule 4.2.5)

- 4.2.5.1 If a club nominates more than one team in a competition in the same age group, then the following will apply:-
  - All teams nominated by the club in the same competition in the same age group must be graded equally.
  - Players will be subject to Player Movement rules.
- 4.2.5.2 For the avoidance of doubt, clubs may be required to reallocate players where AFLQ or its Affiliate Leagues deem that teams have not been graded equally. If a club is directed to reallocate players, the club will be required to resubmit their teams and will be subject to further review.



## 1.10 PLAYER MOVEMENT BETWEEN COMPETITIONS (Rule 4.2.6)

### 4.2.6.1 PLAYER MOVEMENT BETWEEN ALL COMPETITIONS

- (a) Clubs fielding multiple teams in the same age group, must provide an initial Team List of sixteen (16) Restricted Players to the Competition Manager for each team in the same age group.
- (b) The best and most skilled players within each team must be listed on the initial Team List as Restricted Players for that team in that age group.
- (c) The Competition Manager reserves the right, following consultation with a club, to direct a player (or players) to be included/excluded in the Restricted List at any time.
- (d) Deliberate attempts to exclude players from a Team List to gain advantage will incur penalties.
- (e) Where a club wishes to replace a player on the Team List, a written submission must be made to the Competition Manager.
- (f) A Restricted Player listed on the initial Team List must be a current registered player. Where a player transfers or is de-registered, where the club does not have sixteen (16) Restricted Players listed the club must update their Team List and submit to the Competition Manager immediately following the player's transfer or de-registration.
- (g) Players not listed on an initial Team List in an age group will be permitted to play across the teams in that age group. However, once a player plays their fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) match for a team in an age group they will be added to the Team List as a Restricted Player for that team in that age group.
- (h) For the avoidance of doubt, players will be permitted to play in multiple age groups subject to 4.2.6.1 (a) to 4.2.6.1 (g), player eligibility and club policies.

## 1.11 MATCH DURATION (Rule 5.2.1, 5.2.4)

5.2.1 The match durations approved for each age group are detailed in the Playing Rules and Regulations Matrixes.  
**NB. For season 2020, the quarters for all Youth and Youth Girls matches shall be 15 minutes.**

5.2.1.1 Intervals between matches shall be no less than 15 minutes.

5.2.4 On match day, all teams are required to 'Get In, Play, and Get Out'. Team Managers must ensure that teams arrive on time, are ready dressed to play, and are encouraged to leave immediately following the completion of a match.

## 1.12 SPECTATOR ACCESS TO GROUNDS (New Rule 5.6)

- 5.6.1 Spectators are not permitted to enter the field of play at any time. For the avoidance of doubt this includes prior to a match, duration a match including breaks, and after the completion of a match.
- 5.6.2 All clubs must display signage notifying spectators that they are not permitted to enter the field of play at any time.
- 5.6.3 Spectators must adhere to strict Social Distancing guidelines at all times.

## 1.13 HOT WEATHER GUIDELINES (New Rule 6.18)

6.18.1 AFL Queensland shall refer to Sports Medicine Australia's Hot Weather Guidelines for determining risk related to the weather. Where required due to high temperatures, AFL Queensland shall review safety measures introduced to meet Covid-19 protocols and amend as needed in order to minimise heat stress. Clubs shall be notified in writing of any amendments.

## 1.14 FINALS ELIGIBILITY (Rule 8.1.5)

8.1.5 Any player registering in the competition after the completion of Round Eight (8) must play a minimum of two (2) matches.

## 2. FLUID AMENDMENTS

The following amendments will remain in force for Season 2020 and may be subject to change dependent on easing of government restrictions and protocols. Where any changes to these amendments occur, this document will be updated and re-issued in its entirety.

### 2.1 FOOTY4FUN – ARM BANDS (Rule 4.1.2.2)

4.1.2.2 Arm bands are not permitted to be worn.

### 2.2 WATER BOTTLES (New Rule 5.7)

5.7.1 All players must supply their own water bottle clearly marked with their name. Under no circumstances can players share water bottles.

5.7.2 During a match players may place their water bottles over the boundary line (against the fence if available or at least 1.5 metres from the boundary line) in the vicinity of their position. Players must retrieve their own water bottles as and when required. Under no circumstances may any player handle another player's water bottle.

### 2.3 TEAM OFFICIALS DURING MATCH (Rule 6.15.2.4, 6.15.2.5)

6.15.2.4 The following team officials are permitted (or where indicated, are required) to be supplied by each club for a match. Refer to AFLQ State Junior Football Rules and Regulations for requirements of each team official.

- (a) COACH (1 Required), ASSISTANT COACH (1 Permitted)
- (b) TEAM MANAGER (1 Required)
- (c) GOAL UMPIRE

Applies: Under 11 Mixed, Youth Age Groups (1 Required)

Applies: Under 8, Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 Girls (1 Optional)

- A goal umpire may wear a bib only if the bib provided has been washed, cleaned and sanitised prior to use. A Goal Umpire Bib is not permitted to be worn by more than one person. Where clubs do not have a goal umpire bib for each team for single use, a goal umpire bib will not be required.

- (d) TIMEKEEPER (1 Required – Home Team; 1 Permitted – Away Team)

6.15.2.5 The following team officials are not permitted in Season 2020:

- (a) TEAM RUNNER
- (b) WATER CARRIERS

For the avoidance of doubt, any additional rule references in the AFLQ State Junior Football Rules and Regulations to these team officials no longer apply.

### 2.4 HOME CLUB MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS (Rule 6.16.4, 6.16.8)

6.16.4 The home/hosting club must also ensure the following requirements are in place before the commencement of any match:

- The ground and playing surface are marked as per the competition requirements and LOAF;
- The playing surface is free of debris and hazards;
- All permanent goal posts and obstacles in and around the playing surface have protective pads in place; **Protective pads must be cleaned and sanitised prior to each match.**
- Where applicable, the necessary match day paperwork is provided to the field umpires;
- **Provide cleaned and sanitised correct match footballs to the field umpires;**
- Provide, monitor and maintain an alcohol and smoke free environment;
- **Change rooms must be kept locked at all times on match day. Teams are not permitted to enter change rooms before, during, or after a match;**
- Shared facilities such as toilets must be cleaned and sanitised in accordance with protocols directed by the Club's Covid Safe Officer;
- All cleaning and sanitizing protocols directed by the Covid Safe Officer must be adhered to at all times.

6.16.8 In addition to the responsibilities detailed in Rule 6.16.3 for Ground Marshalls and Assistant Ground Marshalls, these officials must support the Club's Covid Safe Officer in administering match day protocols for Covid-19.