

Addendum to the Bylaws – 2020 COVID Reduced Season Guidelines

1. Overview of Document

- a. These guidelines have been established to provide stakeholders with an overview of the changes that have been implemented for the 2020 season of Community Club Football, which resumes in the form of a reduced length season from 17 July 2020 after being postponed from 20 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given a number of rules may apply for this shortened 2020 season only, an addendum to the Bylaws was deemed more appropriate than Bylaws changes that may be required to be reversed at the end of the season.
- b. These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the following pre-existing documents:
 - i. [Laws of Australian Football](#)
 - ii. [AFL NSW/ACT Regulations 2020](#)
 - iii. [National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations](#)
 - iv. [State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines](#)
 - v. League specific documents such as:
 - A. Bylaws
 - B. Player Points System Policy
 - C. Player Payment Rules
 - D. Player Interchange Agreements
- c. In the event there is a conflict between the pre-existing documents outlined in 1(b), these Guidelines shall prevail.
- d. The Covid-19 2020 Community Football Guidelines is an evolving document and may be subject to change at any time, by the AFL or AFL NSW/ACT.
- e. This document is intended as a guideline for the administration of all junior and senior community club competitions within NSW/ACT and is not intended to be exhaustive. To the extent that these Guidelines are silent in relation to a matter, the CEO NSW/ACT or their nominee, may determine such at their absolute discretion.

2. COVID Safety Compliance

- a. Clubs shall be responsible for ensuring all relevant Club personnel familiarise themselves with the AFL NSW/ACT [Return to Contact Training, Competition & Auskick Protocols](#), as well as all State Government rules, restrictions and protocols relating to community sport.
- b. Clubs must appoint a minimum of one (1) COVID Safety Officer, who must complete the free 20 minute [COVID-19 infection control training](#), submit the certificate of completion to their league administrator, and be responsible for ensuring all COVID protocols are adhered to, including taking an attendance register.
- c. It is recommended that Clubs encourage all participants to download the COVID-SAFE App.

3. Positive Case Implications

- a. If there is an occurrence of a positive case of COVID-19 at your club, the health authorities, your club's COVID Safety Officer and the League Administrator should all be notified and the process detailed in the [Positive COVID Case Response Plan](#) should be followed.
- b. Forfeit, Cancellation or Suspension of Matches - If a team is unable to participate in a designated fixture due to COVID-related medical reasons, the club may apply to have the match cancelled rather than be deemed a forfeit. The club will need to substantiate that COVID-related medical reasons were the predominant reason for the team being unable to participate by submitting to the Competition Management Committee any available evidence (i.e. number of players affected, medical certificates etc.).

- c. In such circumstances, the Competition Management Committee will determine the outcome of the match.
- d. Such determination will factor in minimum player numbers, squad availability, player eligibility and notification timeframes as a basis for decision.
- e. Any Competitions where teams have played an uneven number of games will result in teams being positioned on the ladder in the order of club's "Winning Percentage" or "Match Ratio" in place of total premiership points accrued. A Club's match ratio will be the percentage of wins against matches played (draws will be 0.5 of a win). Where more than one club has the same "Match Ratio" those clubs will be positioned on the premiership ladder in order of percentages calculated from the points scored for and against, by such clubs. The premiership ladder will not count cancelled matches as matches played and thus 'Match Ratio' is only affected by the number of games played where a win, loss or draw can be affected.

4. **Fee Structures**

- a. Club Insurance - AFL NSW/ACT have absorbed the full cost of insurance for all teams and have maintained the Silver Level upgrade for personal injury cover.
- b. Team Levies & Affiliation Fees - All Managed League affiliation fees have been confirmed as 60% of previously communicated figures (40% discount). Service and affiliation fees charged to Affiliated leagues are also 60% of previously communicated figures (40% discount), with these leagues encouraged to pass on any savings to clubs that has occurred as a result of the reduced season length.

5. **Registration, Transfers and Player Movement**

- a. Registration / Permission to Play - All existing AFL NSW/ACT Regulations will be enforced, along with the existing [National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations, Addendum to National Player Registration and Transfer Regulations](#) and the [National Player and Official Deregistration Policy](#).

i. Transfer Periods

- A. Pursuant to Regulation 3.7.1 of the Regulations, a Transfer Request may be lodged between 1 November to 30 November or 1 February to 30 June in each calendar year.
- B. In respect of the ACT, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia only, the Transfer Period from 1 February 2020 to 30 June 2020 will be extended to 31 July 2020. The Transfer Periods will not change for South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria.
- C. Transfers will be permitted into and out of the ACT, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australian from 1 February 2020 and up to and including 31 July 2020. Transfers will not be permitted into or out of South Australia, Tasmania or Victoria after 30 June 2020.

ii. COVID-19 Type 2 Permit

- A. A new national COVID-19 Type 2 Permit was introduced from 22 June 2020 to allow the movement of players (on loan) in circumstances where their League or Club is not participating in an Australian football competition in the 2020 season.
- B. Where a player's Club or League either does not submit any teams or does not otherwise participate in the 2020 community football season, that player will be eligible to apply for a COVID-19 Type 2 Permit no later than 31 July 2020. In such circumstances, the COVID-19 Type 2 Permit will allow the player to move to another club for the duration of the 2020 community football season and that player will then revert back to their original Club on 1 November 2020.

iii. The differences between the COVID-19 Type 2 Permit and a normal Type 2 Permit (Local Interchange Permit) are as follows:

- A. A normal Type 2 Permit requires an Interchange Agreement between the relevant Leagues. There is no requirement for an Interchange Agreement for a COVID-19 Type 2 Permit.
- B. A normal Type 2 Permit is available to players in all Leagues and Clubs provided that an Interchange Agreement is in place. A COVID-19 Type 2 Permit is only available to a player where the player's League or Club is not participating in the 2020 season.
- C. The timings for a normal Type 2 Permit are determined in accordance with the relevant Interchange Agreement. A player must apply for a COVID-19 Type 2 Permit by 31 July 2020.
- D. In the event a player moves from a Club not participating in the 2020 season, to a Club where a local interchange agreement also exists, it is assumed the Permit is a COVID-19 Type 2 Permit unless specifically stated otherwise, with the player to be treated as any other player in the league including finals eligibility.

6. **Representative Football**

- a. In 2020 there will be no Representative Football due to travel, time and budgetary restrictions.

7. **Player Points System**

- a. Please refer to league specific Player Points System Policies for any updates including the number of matches required to qualify for a season of service deduction.

8. **Player Payments**

- a. Allowable Player Payments for 2020 have been adjusted for Riverina FL Clubs, Farrer FL Clubs, and AFL Canberra Clubs – please refer to your individual league Player Payment Rules for more information.

9. **Finals Qualification**

- a. In line with the reduced season length, finals qualification may be altered on a league by league basis. Please refer to individual league bylaws for updated qualification criteria.

10. **Finals Structure**

- a. In line with reduced season length, the structure of finals series games may be altered. Please refer to individual league bylaws for updated structures.

11. **Tribunals**

- a. The [State and Territory Guidelines](#) have been recently amended, with a change made to the classification of Dangerous Tackles.
- b. The AFL Riverina Tribunal will operate in a similar manner to the 2019 season.
- c. All other leagues will conduct tribunals online in 2020, with further detail on the process identified here.
- d. All existing penalties yet to be served will continue in full.

12. **Club Compliance**

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- a. Please refer to this page for a summary of key [Club Compliance](#) requirements for Season 2020

13. Timekeepers

- a. In the event the Government's prescribed social distancing protocols cannot be applied in the area where the timekeeping is taking place, then only one (1) timekeeper will be permitted, and must be supplied by the Home team.