

## **AMENDED PLAYING CONDITIONS 2020 (BY-LAW CHANGES) (1/3)**

<b>BY-LAW</b>	<b>EXISTING RULE</b>	<b>2020 RULE</b>
2.1 Home & Away games	4 premiership points awarded for a win, 2 for a draw, where there is a bye in a competition MR applies	MR applies to all competitions
2.2.1 Regrading	Regrading after Round 4	Regrading after Round 2
2.2 Premiership points after grading	Take into season	Re-set ladders for Round 3 after regrading, all team on no wins
2.4.2 Team Sheets	Each player to sign	Team Manager to sign certifying the team sheet is true and correct
3.5 Length of quarters: U8 U9 U10 U11- 14 Girls U11 - 13 Mixed U14 Mixed - Colts U15 Girls - Youth Girls	10 minutes 12 minutes 15 minutes 15 minutes 15 minutes 20 minutes 20 minutes	10 minutes 10 minutes 10 minutes 15 minutes 15 minutes 17 minutes 17 minutes
3.6 Time between quarters: Quarter Time Half Time Three Quarter Time	4 minutes 12 minutes 7 minutes	5 minutes 10 minutes 5 minutes  Players to leave ground immediately and leave the venue within five minutes. Teams for the next match are not to enter the arena before both teams from the previous match have left the field.  No handshaking or gatherings of players at the end of the match permitted. The respectful thing to do this season is not to handshake after the match.

## **AMENDED PLAYING CONDITIONS 2020 (BY-LAW CHANGES) (2/3)**

<b>BY LAW</b>	<b>EXISTING RULE</b>	<b>2020 RULE</b>
Crowd on ground before and after match and at breaks	No limit	Only the four bench officials and the Team Manager and Ground Manager are allowed on the ground during breaks. No spectators or other officials are to be on the ground during breaks or between matches.
Gaps between matches	No set gap.	At least 20 minutes will be allowed between matches in the match schedule to allow entry and departure of teams.
Players on bench	No set procedure	While it will be impracticable for players on the bench to observe strict social distancing protocols, they are expected at the least to avoid physical contact with each other. They should also avoid distancing so far from the coaches box that players are closer to adult spectators than their teammates. Hand sanitiser is to be available for the use of players on the bench
5.11 Ground Manager	Ground Manager cannot hold any other match day role.	Ground Managers can also be the COVID Safety Officer
5.4.3 Water Carriers	Two Water Carriers allowed per team.	No Water Carriers allowed. Teams to use interchange to rotate players for a drink if required.
5.8 Umpire Escorts	One Umpire Escort per team	No Umpire Escorts. Team Manager to liaise with Umpires and provide drinks and ball wipes at breaks. Team Managers and Ground Manager to ensure umpires have a safe exit from the ground at half and full time.
6.5.1 Finals Eligibility	In 14 Round season, minimum of four matches to qualify for finals	Two matches to qualify for finals. At least one of these matches must be in the first nine rounds i.e. a player cannot play both of their qualifying matches in the last three rounds.

## **AMENDED PLAYING CONDITIONS 2020 (BY-LAW CHANGES) (3/3)**

<b>BY-LAW</b>	<b>EXISTING RULE</b>	<b>2020 RULE</b>
6.5.2 Playing in higher divisions within an age group	A player who qualifies for finals in a higher division in an age group can only play finals in the higher division	A player who plays four matches in a higher division can only play finals in the higher division, (6.4.1 still applies, where a player has played four games in a division they may not be rotated to a lower division for the remainder of the season).
6.5.3 Playing in higher age groups	A player who qualifies in more than one age group can only play finals in the higher age group	Players can qualify and play in finals in multiple age groups (at least two games in each age group to play finals).
7.5 Gloves	Gloves are banned from U11 up, but may be used in U8, U9 and U10 competitions	Gloves not allowed in any age group due to gloves not allowing hands to be sanitised.
8.1.5 Reduced numbers provision (14 for Girls, 16 for Mixed and Boys)	Lowest ranked or single team can request reduced numbers for U13 and above	All teams from U11 and above can request reduced numbers.
8.2 Minimum numbers for official match: Mixed and Boys teams Girls teams	13 players 11 players	10 players 8 players
8.5 Evening Up	Both teams shall field the same number of players with lending of players encouraged (up to U12 compulsory)	Teams to play equal numbers for all age groups by one team reducing.
10.1 - 10.3 U8/U9/U10 Competitions	Evening Up required	No Evening Up - reduce numbers to equal teams
Wristbands	In matches where zones exist, three different coloured wrist bands to be used.	No wrist bands to be used.
Schedule B - Match Paperwork		TO BE REWRITTEN WHEN CHANGES HAVE BEEN AGREED
Schedule I - Guidelines for the Conduct of Finals		TO BE REWRITTEN DURING SEASON

## **ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES RELATED TO COVID PROTOCOLS**

### **1. TRIBUNAL PENALTIES FOR COVID-RELATED INFRINGEMENTS**

Clubs have a duty to ensure that players with COVID symptoms do not participate in training or games. Coaches have an influence over team behaviour and must ensure that players who are not well do not participate in training or games. If a coach is aware of a player being unwell, or showing symptoms, they must remove that player from training or game immediately. Coaches must be vigilant - negligent behaviour can impact their team, their club, other clubs or the whole competition.

- Coaches who play a player who is displaying COVID symptoms will be reported.
- Coaches who knowingly play a player with COVID, or play a player who has been advised to self-isolate for 14 days, risk a severe penalty.
- Coaches of a team whose behaviour is not reflective of the standard expected in the community will also be reported.
- Coaches shall be able to report other Coaches to the CEO for consideration of the use of the CIT process for COVID breaches.

The YJFL, at its sole discretion, may investigate any allegations or reported incidents or behaviour regarding players, officials or spectators with regard to COVID protocols.

Coaches must be supportive of umpire communications relating to COVID related concerns. Players may also be reported for misconduct in the event of clearing nasal passages during the match.

#### **SET PENALTIES FOR COVID OFFENCES\*:**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Deliberate spitting at or on another person	8 weeks (Secondary age) 6 weeks (Primary age)
Deliberate coughing at or on another person	6 weeks (Secondary age) 4 weeks (Primary age)
Engaging in any act of Misconduct	Tribunal
Failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by a field umpire for COVID related matter.	12 weeks (Secondary age) 8 weeks (Primary age)
Knowingly play or allow a player to play with COVID or when advised by health authorities to be self-isolated	16 weeks

\*no discount offered for electing to take penalty instead of going to the Tribunal.

\* Primary Age: under 12 and below; Secondary Age: U13 and above.

## **2. FIXTURING GAMES OF CLUBS IN 'HOT SPOT' SUBURBS**

The League will make every effort to fixture games out of 'Hot Spot' suburbs. For matches outside the grading period, if a club is not happy to play a certain club in a match which may or may not have been re-fixtured, it can lodge a request to the league via their club President outlining their concerns about playing a club from a 'hot spot'. If reasonable, an alternate venue can be offered and if no compromise can be reached, the club who refuse to play their scheduled opponent may be considered to have forfeited the match. If however, the concerns are deemed to be justified by the YJFL in their sole discretion, then the match will be abandoned (see item 4 'Postponement & Cancellation of games').

If clubs refuse to play during grading period it is difficult to impose match penalties and even harder to grade those teams. This increases the chances of manipulation by coaches/teams who may conveniently opt out of grading games. Options available to the league include issuing club fines, or the loss of points for when matches commence, or grading teams in the higher grade.

## **3. HANDLING CONFIRMED COVID CASES**

Clubs can be affected by the virus in multiple ways, including by players being diagnosed with COVID, players being instructed to isolate, or even due to the closure of schools.

**If a player is diagnosed with COVID:** If a player is diagnosed with COVID, the Club must follow all DHHS instructions and inform the League. DHHS will advise what changes the Club is to make to their operations. Once DHHS has completed all contact tracing and advised that the Club may re-open, any players who are not required to self-isolate may re-commence training or matches.

**If a player is instructed to isolate:** If a player is instructed to isolate, they must not attend any Club events, including training & matches.

**If a School is closed:** A player who attends a school which has been closed due to a confirmed COVID case is not to attend training or play in matches while their school remains closed. Once the DHHS has completed all contact tracing and advised that the school may re-open, any players who are not required to self-isolate may re-commence training or matches.

**If a Club is contacted by DHHS:** Where a club is contacted by DHHS due to a positive COVID test within the club, the club must follow all direction from the DHHS, which is likely to include the cancellation of training and matches, until they are advised that contact tracing has been completed and training and matches may re-commence.

Any individual subject to a direction by DHHS needs to declare that to the club and both the club and player must comply.

#### **4. POSTPONEMENT & CANCELLATION OF GAMES**

The AFL has issued a flow chart to guide Clubs as to the sequence of events that will occur when a COVID case is diagnosed within your extended community.

Within it, the YJFL approach to matches being unable to be played is described:

- (a) Games will not be played if not played as fixtured; no postponement is possible.
- (b) Cancellation of any match, prior to commencement, due to COVID 19 related issues, must be done in consultation with the League Football Operations Manager(s). This may include absences due to Stay Away requirements notified on the day of the match.
- (c) Presidents will be asked to confirm in writing a club's inability to field a team due to COVID 19 related issues.
- (d) Games will have no result entered and will not count towards the match ratio ladder result.
- (e) Matches that are terminated after commencement will be subject to the normal conditions as outlined in By-Law 3.7.

The flow chart is available on the resource page of the YJFL website:

<https://www.yarrajfl.org.au/covid-19/>