

Appendix A - ON-FIELD RULES ADOPTED BY THE LEAGUE

AFL Masters rules are based on the playing rules of the AFL. However, there are some specific modifications and Umpiring instructions which over-rule any Laws of Australian Football as administered and controlled by the AFL when relevant.

AFL Masters was formulated in 1980, all matches are conducted under the Laws of Australian Rules Football.

The major rule modifications are listed here. AFL Masters Umpires will let you know on the field of any infringements you may have made. The rule modifications take into account our competition ages (over 35s), our families and our futures (and the fact most of our players have work to go to the next day).

The behavioural changes are there to ensure our League is a friendly, family and community based enjoyable competition.

TWENTY-FIVE (25) METRE PENALTY – Women’s Competition (AFL Clause 19. FIFTY METRE PENALTY)

- After a mark or free kick has been awarded to a player in any women’s competition, a 25-metre penalty will be awarded against the opposing team that unduly delays or impedes the play or behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner.

BOUNDARY THROW-IN – Women’s Competition (AFL Clause 20.3 DISPOSAL FROM OUT OF BOUNDS)

- Umpires in women’s competition matches may step inside the boundary line before the throw-in to ensure they are able to reach the twenty-five (25) metre drop position from where the football went out of play.

LAST TOUCH OUT OF BOUNDS (BETWEEN ARCS) – Women’s Competition (AFL Clause 18.10 OUT OF BOUNDS)

- A free kick shall be awarded against a player who kicks or handballs the ball over the boundary line between the fifty (50) metres arcs without the ball being touched by another player.
- This rule will not apply where a player who does not have possession stops the football being touched by an opposition player by shepherding the ball across the boundary line where the ball could have otherwise been touched.
- If in doubt, the umpires are instructed is to be brought in twenty (20) metres from the boundary line and thrown up in the usual way.

THIRTY (30) METRE PENALTY – Men’s Competition (AFL Clause 19.4 IMPOSING A FIFTY METRE PENALTY)

- After a mark or free kick has been awarded to a player in any men’s competition, a 30-metre penalty will be awarded against the opposing team that unduly delays or impedes the play or behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner.

TEAM NUMBERS (AFL Clause 5.1 NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN TEAM)

- In the event of any team being short of players and receiving assistance with numbers from their opponents (FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME), the team receiving assistance shall not lose match points in the event of their winning the match.

STARTING POSITIONS (AFL Clause 13.1 STARTING POSITIONS)

- No 6:6:6 Rule: There is no limit on the number of players required to be in each area defined by the boundary line and the fifty (50) metre arc (or equivalent marking) at the time the field umpire throws up the football to start a quarter or recommence play after a goal has been scored.

STANDING THE MARK (AFL Clause 20.1.1 STANDING THE MARK)

- No stand on the mark Rule: A player standing the mark when the opposition player is awarded a mark, or a free kick may still move laterally or backwards, however is not permitted to move forwards until the umpire calls 'play on'.

KICK IN AFTER POINT (AFL Clause 17.1 BRINGING THE FOOTBALL BACK INTO PLAY)

- Player must wait for flags to be waved before starting play.
- Player returning ball into play cannot handball from inside the square.
- Player no longer needs to kick to themselves before leaving square, but once they cross the line, Umpire calls Play On. The ball can then be disposed of by hand or foot.
- Opposition Players must be minimum ten (10) metres from the square.
- If the ball goes over the Boundary Line without being touched, there is no free kick, the ball is thrown up in the usual way by the Umpire.
- Umpire can award a Free Kick if they deem Player deliberately kicked out of bounds.

HOLDING THE BALL / PRIOR OPPORTUNITY (AFL Clause 18.6.2 FREE KICKS - HOLDING THE BALL: PRIOR OPPORTUNITY)

- A player in possession of the ball who has had reasonable time (prior opportunity) to dispose of the ball MUST when legally held by an opponent firmly enough to retard their progress, dispose of the ball by a kick or handball within a reasonable time of being held, otherwise a free kick shall be awarded against the player for failing to dispose of the ball in a legal manner.
- The field umpire shall throw the ball up when the player with the ball has the ball held to their body by an opponent, unless the player has had a reasonable time (prior opportunity) to dispose of the ball prior to being tackled, in which case a free kick shall be awarded for holding the ball.
- Holding the ball in: A player who elects to dive on the ball and or drag the ball under them when he is on the ground will be penalised for holding the ball if they do not immediately hit the ball clear when held legally.
- When a player is fairly bumped in the side and the ball falls from their hands – the call is play on. Likewise, when a player is either knocked on the arms causing them to drop the ball.

THE RUCK / USE OF KNEES (AFL Clause 18.4 RUCK CONTESTS)

- Only one player from each team to contest all ruck contests. A third or subsequent player shall result in a free kick against third or subsequent player.
- A free kick shall be awarded against any ruck who raises their knee or leg against their opponent when contesting any ruck contest.
- If a ruck takes possession straight from a ball up, a free kick will be paid against them.

MARKING (AFL Clause 18.5 MARKING CONTESTS)

- A player in front of a pack competing for a mark is given every protection and opportunity to take the mark. No knees, boots or unnecessary interference allowed.

BEHAVIOUR (AFL Clause 22. REPORTING PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS)

- Field umpires shall carry red, yellow and green cards for all matches and use them in accordance with these By-Laws.

RUNNERS & WATER PEOPLE (AFL Clause 6. TEAM OFFICIALS AND TEAM RUNNER)

- Non-Players on the ground are to deliver Message/Drink and then leave the Oval. If they are deemed to be loitering on the ground a free kick can be paid against their Team.