



EASTERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS ADDENDUM COVID 19

(Last amended 2nd August 2021)



1. Introduction

This Addendum outlines changes to certain aspects of the EFNL By-Laws, introduced because of the impact of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and the State Government restrictions imposed on Community Football. This Addendum will apply for the duration of the 2021 EFNL season. To the extent of any inconsistency between the EFNL By-Laws and this Addendum, this Addendum will prevail. All clubs must abide by the AFL Victoria Return to Play Protocols.

2. Purpose

The aim of these changes is to accommodate the restrictions and protocols of a season and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all EFNL Member Clubs, staff, officials, umpires, players, parents, volunteers, and spectators. Acting in accordance with all State Government, Local Council, AFL Victoria and League restrictions and guidelines.



BY-LAWS

4.3 To Participate in Finals Matches- (Applies to home and away matches only)

(a)

- (i) Players must play at least 3 matches with their Affiliated Senior (Incl. veterans) or Junior Club in home and away matches to qualify to play in the final's series for their senior or junior club.
- (ii) To be eligible to play in the second 18 or under 19 team finals matches a player must have played in three home and away matches for that team during the current season. Provided that such exception shall be presumed where any club fields a first 18, second 18 **and** under 19 team in a final's series match on the same day, or the same weekend.

New

- (iii) The EFNL 'Playoff Round' will count as a Home and Away match for the purpose of finals qualification in the Junior competition.

5.4 Under 19's

New

(c) Over-age players;

Each team shall be permitted in season 2021 to have development **players who are turning 20 years of age in 2021 join the clubs under 19 list**. These players must satisfy the following criteria;

- The player must have been registered in any of the last 3 seasons (2018, 2019 or 2020) for the particular club; or
- The player had transferred into the club for season 2020 prior to the cancellation of season.

For season 2021 there is no limit on the number that can be selected in any game.

This is intended for use of "development" type players who may be unsuitable for the move to senior football at this stage of their career or players that missed out on playing their top age year due to the 2020 season cancellation. Players capable of playing Senior football should be promoted to the Senior list.

Clubs must complete the Development Player Permit so the league has a record of these players, this must be received by the EFNL General Manager – Football Operations 7 days prior to the first game played by the player.



If an **over-age player is reported and subsequently found guilty and/or suspended** the Board may at its discretion revoke the over-age permit for that player.

Final's qualification rules remain in place as per the existing By Laws.

5.7 Junior Team Maximum Player Lists

No junior grade team (Under 11-16) is permitted to have more than 24 players registered in each competitive age group in each season unless approved by the Junior Manager.

The exception to this rule is for Under 17 boys and U18 girls who are permitted to have 28 players registered in each competitive age group in each season.

Increase to list sizes may be amended throughout the season via approval of the league's Junior Manager.

New

Junior teams are permitted to have up to 26 players on their list in each competitive age group for both the 'Playoff and Grand Final match.

5.9 FOOTBALLS

New

The home club is required to put in place protocols to ensure match balls are sanitised prior to the commencement of a game at ¼ time, ½ time ¾ time and post the game (if required by the DHHS).

Club boundary and League appointed umpires and/or players should retrieve the ball after a goal or when the ball crossed the boundary line or leaves the playing surface. Clubs shall use their best endeavours to limit the handling of match day balls.

The home team umpire escort shall be responsible for ball sanitising at ¼ time, ½ time and ¾ time. The team manager shall be responsible for sanitising the balls pre- and post-game.

7. LADDERS

7.5 Non-Completion of Matches – COVID 19

New

If any match or matches or entire round or rounds is cancelled due to COVID 19, the game shall be removed from the fixture and no points will be allocated to either team. Match ratio will be applied to the ladder for that division and grade for the remainder of the season.

The Board may at its discretion add or remove home and away matches based on the prevailing Public Health requirements at the time.



8. FINALS

8.1 Arrangements

The final series of matches will be developed at the discretion of the Board and published prior to the start of each season.

New

The Board may at its discretion change the finals series by adding or removing matches as deemed necessary to conduct a season that meets both public health requirements and is financially viable for the League.

In the unlikely event that a competition finals series cannot commence or be completed in full, the Board will determine if a Premiership Cup will be awarded and the criteria to be utilised (for example the team that finishes top of ladder at end of season may be determined the Premier).

8.2 The Board

The Board shall exercise full control in relation to the arrangement of the times and places of the playing of all finals matches.

New

The Board may at its discretion change the times and places of any finals matches pre or during the finals to meet Public Health requirements and ensure League financial viability.

8.7 Allocation of Rooms and Warm Up Areas

New

Juniors

Only the participants required to play a match (players and team officials) will be able to access change rooms before a game, during the game (half time, toilet usage and injured players) and post the game for a limited period of time. At all other times density quotas apply as per the DHHS guidelines for indoor spaces.

Unless adverse weather conditions teams should remain on the ground at half time to limit the use of change rooms. Toilets will be accessible subject to density limits and rooms can be utilised for treating injured players.

No parents or spectators are permitted in the change rooms.

Seniors

Only the participants required to play a match (players and team officials) will be able to access change rooms before a game, during the game and post the game for a limited period of time. At all other times density quotas apply as per the DHHS guidelines for indoor spaces.



No parents or spectators are permitted in the change rooms.

Junior Umpires

Junior umpires will be able to access change rooms before a game, at half time and post the game. Umpires should come the game dressed ready to umpire and limit the time in umpire rooms.

Senior Umpires

Senior Umpires will be able to access change rooms, before, during and post the game for a limited period of time. At all other times density quotas apply as per the DHHS guidelines for indoor spaces.

No other persons shall enter the umpire rooms.

14. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

14.1 Timing of Matches

New

The Board at its sole discretion may change the start time, duration, and break times of any matches to accommodate DHHS and AFL VIC requirements and protocols.

There will be limited grading in season 2021.

14.3 Runners

New

Runners are only permitted on the ground to interchange, move a player from one position to another or to deliver a message. Runners must remain off the ground at all other times.

14.4 Trainers

New

All clubs must appoint a COVID Safety Officer who has completed by the Australian Government COVID 19 training (Infectious Disease).

All Team trainers and COVID Safety Officers must complete the Australian Government COVID 19 course and provide a copy of their certificate to the League.

The League also encourages all coaches, team officials and parents to complete the Australian Government COVID 19 training.



14.5 Drink Carriers

New

Juniors

No Drink carriers are permitted to enter the ground in any junior matches. Players should leave their water bottles at the bench.

All players must have their own water bottle which is clearly identifiable.

Seniors

A maximum of 2 drink carriers are permitted to enter the ground when a goal is scored by either team. The drink carriers should meet players at a central point on the ground for a drink (CHF/CHB). Drink carriers must leave the ground immediately once the umpire is ready to commence play.

All players must have their own water bottle which is clearly identifiable.

14.6 Timekeepers

New

Timekeepers where possible will socially distance and wipe down any benches or equipment after use.

14.8 Interchange

New

Any player or official who is on the bench during a match must wherever possible adhere to the 1.5 metre social distancing rule.

39. MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS BETWEEN TEAMS AND AGE GROUPS

39.1 (a) Under 10 to 18

All players in the under 10 to 18 grades (inclusive) may play out of their registered age group. However, no player may:

- (i) Play more than two years above his/her registered age group.
- (ii) Play more than two (2) games out of his/her registered age group in any one season.

The first team a player plays his/her third (3) match in is the only team they can qualify for finals in. Once a player has qualified in an age group, they are limited to two (2) matches in a higher age group. They cannot move down to a lower age group.



New

The Junior Manager may at his or her discretion provide a club with an exemption upon receipt of a written submission.

Under 17/ Under 18 Girls

All players in Under 17 and Under 18 Girls grade may play out of their registered age group. However, no player may:

- (iii) Play nine (9) or more games out of his/her registered age group in any one season.
- (iv) Play nine (9) or more games in the senior competition or NAB League Competition and participate in the under 17 finals in that season

Players may qualify for finals in both Under 17/Under 18 Girls and under 19/Seniors.

(b) **MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS WITHIN AGE GROUPS**

Under 11 to 16

Where a club fields more than one (1) team in the same age grade, a player is permitted to move between teams. However:

- (i) Once a player has played five (5) matches in the higher graded team, that player may not move to the lower graded team for the remainder of the season.
- (ii) Players in the lower rated team are free to move to the higher rated team during home and away matches, the 'playoff match' and a club may apply via written submission to top up playing numbers for the Grand Final match...
- (iii) The first team a player plays 5 games is the only team that player is eligible to represent in the final's series.
- (iv) Where a bye is fixtured in the higher graded team, no player is permitted to move to the lower graded team during the week of the bye.
- (v) If a club with multiple teams in one age group forfeits a match, the forfeit can only occur in the lower rated team.

New







League and Club Guiding Principles & Key Checklist

COVID 19 - 'Best Endeavours' Approach

Best Endeavours – 'all that reasonable persons reasonably could do in the circumstances'

Common sense - 'your natural ability to make good judgments and to behave in a practical and sensible way'.

Clubs should focus on the key COVID requirements (what you can control):

COVID 19 Signage	
Club / Venue QR code	
Density quota limits (indoor spaces)	
Covid Safety Officer	
PA Announcements on Game Day	
General COVID 19 Guidance (Scan code/social distance around ground)	

Other Key Requirements – COVID 19:

State Government QR Code System

All clubs should register with the State Government QR code system. Each venue should be registered to receive a unique QR code specific to the venue.

Signage Display

All clubs shall display key COVID 19 signage in prominent places around their venues.

- Venue QR Code
- Indoor Density Limits (change rooms, social rooms)
- COVID 19 Community guidelines
- Maintain Distance
- Masks

Outdoor Crowd Limits

- As per restrictions

Density Rules (Indoor Spaces)

- As per restrictions

Website/Socials – COVID 19 Documents

- Publish club COVID Safe Plan on club website
- Publish RTT / RTP Guidelines on club website
- Share Covid Safe requirements via all social media