

# VARIATIONS TO THE 2020 AFL QLD SENIOR COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS RULES & PROCEDURES.





# Variations to 2020 AFL Qld Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.

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## Background / Purpose

Following the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on community football, AFL Queensland has reviewed its statewide Rules & Procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose for Senior community football in 2020.

The temporary variations outlined in this document apply to the 2020 AFLQ Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.

In the event of a conflict between these variations and any other AFL Qld or AFL document, including the Laws of the Australia Football, the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines and the National Player Transfer Guidelines, these variations shall prevail.

For circumstances that arise which are not covered in these variations or existing AFL Queensland / AFL rules, policies or guidelines, the State Manager – Senior Football shall make determinations that are in the best interests of the competition. For matters relating to COVID-19 health or hygiene, the State Manager – Senior Football will act in accordance with the relevant Government and Health Authority requirements / directions.

All references below (“Ref”), unless stated otherwise, refer to the 2020 AFL Queensland Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.

## **State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines**

*Ref 1.1 (b) – notation*

The updated State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines have been amended and are attached. Note - changes have occurred to the classification of Dangerous Tackles.

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## **COVID Safe Compliance**

*Ref 1.5 (d) – new rule*

Clubs shall be responsible for ensuring all relevant Club personnel familiarize themselves with all AFL Queensland and AFL Return to Play protocols, as well as all State Government restrictions and protocols relating to community sport.

Clubs must ensure the appointment of a COVID Safe Officer/s. As a minimum, a Club must always have a COVID Safe Officer present during training and matches. The Officer has responsibility for ensuring all COVID safe protocols are adhered to.

The COVID Safe Officer must also:

- complete education and training in accordance with requirements of AFL Queensland and the Queensland Government where applicable; and
- ensure that club officials and participants are provided with guidance and undertake the appropriate education and training to support and maintain club protocols.

The COVID Safe course is available at:

<https://www.qlbs.com.au/AFLHealthCheck/Assessment/AFLReturntoPlay?IsNew=Y>



## **Variations to 2020 AFL Qld Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.**

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Clubs shall be responsible for ensuring that the COVID Safe Officer/s is provided with the necessary support, materials and equipment required to meet protocol requirements.

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.

In the event a Club fails to act responsibly regarding COVID safe protocols, the Club may be subject to Sanction at the discretion of AFL Queensland.

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### **Fees & Charges**

*Ref 2.10 (a) (iii) & 2.10 (b) (iii) – variation*

Any Club that is not meeting their payment terms, may be excluded from finals. A maximum thirty (30) day credit period applies to all debts with AFLQ.

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### **Player Movement Between Competitions**

*Ref 3.5 (b) - variation*

Following the cancellation of the 2020 NEAFL season, a revised Player Points System has been adopted to accommodate NEAFL players entering the QAFL and QFA competitions. \* *Refer attached revised PPS policy.*

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### **Clearances**

*Ref 3.10 – variation*

Any reference in this section to June 30, is amended to July 31. \* *Refer attached memorandum re National Transfer Guidelines.*

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### **Permits**

*Ref 3.12 – variation*

- Any reference in this section to July 1, is amended to August 1.
  - A new National Type 2 COVID Permit exists for players whose club or League is not participating in 2020 – \* *Refer attached memorandum re National Transfer Guidelines and User Guide for the appropriate application of this permit.*
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### **Cancellation & Suspension of Matches**

*Ref 4.8 – notation*

In the event a match cannot proceed due to circumstances relating to COVID-19 health or hygiene matters, the existing rules shall prevail.

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## Variations to 2020 AFL Qld Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.

### Timekeepers

*Ref 4.9 – variation*

Unless the Government’s prescribed social distancing protocols can be applied in the area where the timekeeping is taking place, only one (1) timekeeper is permitted in 2020, and such timekeeper MUST be supplied by the Home team.

### Half Time Senior Game

*Ref 4.9 (d) – variation*

The QAFL is no longer an exception to this rule. Half time breaks in all competitions across Queensland is 15 minutes. Refer to the table below under ‘Match Durations’.

### Match Durations

*Ref 4.9 (h) – variation*

Match lengths have been shortened in all competitions to reflect the interruption to player preparation, thus trying to minimise the effects of fatigue related injuries.

The following match durations shall apply in 2020.

Competition	Time of Quarters	Time of Breaks (quarter time / half time / three quarter time)
QAFL	17 minutes plus time on	5 / 15 / 5
QAFL Reserves	17 minutes no time on Finals 15 minutes plus time on	
QFA Division 1 & 2 Seniors	17 minutes plus time on	
Affiliate League Senior Men	17 minutes plus time on	
QFA Division 1 & 2 Reserves	17 minutes no time on Finals 15 minutes plus time on	
Affiliate League Reserve Men	17 minutes no time on Finals 15 minutes plus time on	
QFA Division 3 & 4	17 minutes no time on. Finals 15 minutes plus time on	
Colts – All Competitions	17 Minutes no time on Finals 15 minutes plus time on	
QAFLW	17 Minutes no time on Finals 15 minutes plus time on	
QFAW & QAFLW Development League	15 minutes no time on Finals 12 minutes plus time on	
Affiliate League Women	15 minutes no time on Finals 12 minutes plus time on	



## Variations to 2020 AFL Qld Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.

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### **Duties of Water Carriers**

4.16 (g) – variation / notation

- All players must supply their own water bottle that is clearly marked with their name. Under no circumstances can players share water bottles.
  - Water carriers can only provide water to a player with the player's own clearly marked water bottle.
  - Water carriers must wear disposable sterile gloves when undertaking their duties.
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### **Match Review Panel**

Ref 4.25, 4.26, section 5 – variation

Due to limited resources and remote working arrangements, the Match Review Panel (MRP) will be replaced by a Match Review Officer (MRO). Any references to MRP are replaced by MRO.

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### **Trainers Accreditation**

Ref 6.6 – variation

All trainers are required to undertake the Infectious diseases training. The online course takes 15 minutes and can be located at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>

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### **Finals Eligibility**

Ref section 8.1 – variation

For all senior competitions in Queensland, please refer below for finals eligibility in 2020.

#### **Finals Eligibility**

##### **(a) General Requirements**

- (i) While AFLQ or the Affiliate League will monitor player finals eligibility, it is ultimately each club's responsibility to check that their players are eligible to play in finals matches. A team that plays an ineligible player in a finals game may forfeit the match and/or be subject to a monetary sanction.  
*(Penalty up to 300 units and sanction)*
- (ii) When a club has its Senior grade and Reserve grade teams participating in finals on the same weekend, the selection of players in the finals shall be unrestricted, provided a player has participated in at least two (2) home and away matches with any team in their club during the season. Should a club also have a Colts team playing finals on the same weekend, this rule will extend to the Colts competition. This rule does not apply to the QFA 3/4 or QFAW competitions.
- (iii) Matches played for Queensland U17s and U18s, Lions or Suns Academy teams or as a 'top up' player for an AFL reserves team on the same weekend as a scheduled club match will count, for the purpose of finals eligibility, as reserve



## Variations to 2020 AFL Qld Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.

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grade matches in their registered club, irrespective of which team they normally play in.

- (iv) On weekends in which both a senior representative match and home and away fixture are scheduled, representative matches will count as a qualifying match for finals eligibility. This is on the understanding that representative players will not play in a home and away fixture that is on the same weekend as the representative match. The games will be credited to the grade in which the player was playing immediately prior to being selected for a State fixture.

### **(b) AFLQ Managed Competitions**

Note: These rules also apply at the discretion of the AFLQ State Manager – Senior Football.

### **(c) QAFL, QFA and Affiliate League Seniors**

A player must play a minimum of two (2) home and away games with any team (Colts, Seniors or Reserves) in their registered club to be eligible to play senior finals.

### **(d) QAFL, QFA and Affiliate League competitions with reserves**

- (i) A player must play a minimum of two (2) home and away games in the Reserves team, with their registered club to be eligible to play finals.
- (ii) If a player has played two (2) or more home and away games in the Senior team, they must have played in at least three (3) home and away games in the reserves to be eligible to play finals.
- (iii) In the event a player plays in a Senior and Reserve grade game for their club on the same weekend, only the Senior grade game shall count towards finals eligibility.

### **(e) QFA Division 3/4**

- (i) A player must play a minimum of two (2) home and away games with the QFA 3/4 team in their registered club to be eligible to play finals.
- (ii) If a player has played two (2) or more home and away games in a higher ranked team in the club (Reserves) they must play at least three (3) home and away games in the QFA 3/4 to be eligible to play finals.
- (iii) If a player has played five (5) or more games in higher ranked teams in the club (Reserves) they are not eligible to play finals in QFA Division 3/4.
- (iv) Unless otherwise approved by the AFLQ, a player who has played a senior game (not Reserves) in a higher division is ineligible to play in Division 3 or 4 for the remainder of the current season including finals.

### **(f) QAFLW & Development League**

- (i) Only Listed Players are eligible to play in a QAFLW or Development League finals.



## Variations to 2020 AFL Qld Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.

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- (ii) As a minimum a player must have participated in a total of two (2) home and away season Club games to be eligible to play QAFLW finals.
- (iii) Notwithstanding paragraph (ii) above, a player must have participated in a minimum of two (2) home and away games in Development League to be eligible to play Development League finals.
- (iv) If a player has played two (2) or more home and away games in the QAFLW team, they must have played at least three (3) home and away games in the Development League to be eligible to play finals in that competition.
- (v) In the event a Club has both its teams playing finals on the same weekend, rule iv) above shall not apply. However, as a minimum a player must have participated in a combined total of two (2) home and away Club games to play in either team without restriction.

### **(g) QFAW All Divisions**

- (i) To play QFAW finals a player must have played a minimum of two (2) home and away games with their registered club.
- (ii) If a player has played two (2) or more home and away games in a higher ranked team in the club (Division 1) they must play at least three (3) home and away games in Division 2 to be eligible to play finals.
- (iii) If a player has played four (4) or more games in higher ranked teams in the club (Division 1) they are not eligible to play Division 2 finals. No QAFLW listed player is eligible for QFAW finals.

### **(h) Affiliate League Senior Female Competitions**

A player must have played at least two (2) home and away games with their registered club to be eligible to play finals.

### **(i) Colts or U18's**

- (i) A player must play a minimum of two (2) home and away games in the Colts /U18's team in their registered club to be eligible to play finals.
- (ii) If a player plays Colts/U18s and another higher-grade match for their club in the same round (senior or reserves), both the Colts and the Senior or Reserves match will count towards finals eligibility for their respective competitions.
- (iii) If a player has played two (2) or more home and away games in a higher ranked team in their club (Seniors or Reserves) they must play at least three (3) home and away games in the Colts /U18's to be eligible to play finals.

### **(j) Long Term Injury Clause**

- (i) A player who has missed four (4) or more consecutive games through injury may, provided medical documentation is forwarded to AFLQ, be permitted, to play in the finals despite not having qualified for that grade of competition. All applications for the use of this rule must be directed through the Competition Manager and will be at the discretion of the State Manager -



## Variations to 2020 AFL Qld Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.

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Senior Football or the Affiliate League. There is no provision for players who miss consecutive matches due to suspension and/or unavailability.

- (ii) Consideration will only be given to a player with long term injuries when a medical certificate is supplied, the player is registered with that club, and the application is lodged more than fourteen (14) days before that competition's finals. Clubs must apply in writing for AFLQ approval.
  - (iii) Consideration will always be given to the competition (e.g. senior or reserves) in which the player was injured whilst playing or the competition last played in before sustaining the injury.
  - (iv) In the event a club has the ability to qualify a player for finals on their return from a long-term injury, consideration will not be given to allowing the long-term injury clause to be used.
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### **QAFL 23<sup>rd</sup> Player**

*Ref Section 12 - new rule 12.8*

#### **a) QAFL 23<sup>rd</sup> Player**

All QAFL Clubs may play one (1) player in addition to the regular 22 players, known as the "23rd player" subject to the following requirements:

- (i) the 23rd player must be under the age of 20 on 1 January 2020;
  - (ii) the 23rd player must have been primary registered in Queensland in season 2019;
  - (iii) there is no limit to the number of times a player can be listed as the 23rd player;
  - (iv) the 23rd player rule will be implemented in both home and away and finals series matches – the 2 game qualification rules apply in 2020;
  - (v) to be eligible as the 23rd player, the 23rd player cannot have played 10 or more QAFL or NEAFL games prior to season 2020;
  - (vi) the point rating of the player listed as the 23rd player will not be included in the teams total player points cap;
  - (vii) any payments made to the 23rd player will be excluded from the team's salary cap;
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### **Player Points Cap and Salary Cap**

*Ref 13 – variation*

- The Player Points System has changed. *\*Please refer to the attached NEAFL Cancellation memorandum and Revised PPS Policy.*
- The Salary Cap for all competitions has been reduced by 50% and then pro rata per game.
- For example: QFA Div. 2 South
  - 50% of \$20,000 = \$10,000





## Variations to 2020 AFL Qld Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.

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- \$10,000 divided by 16 games = \$625 per game
  - New cap = \$625 x 8 games = \$5,000
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### **QAFLW List Management & Player Movement Rules**

*Ref 14 – variation*

The revised List Management and Player Movement Rules below shall apply for 2020.

#### **14.1 Team Lists Requirements**

- a) Each Club can have a list of up to 65 players for the entirety of the season including finals. Such players will be deemed as Listed Players.
- b) Apart from players born in 2003, (and thus still eligible for youth competitions), any listed player must have their primary registration with the QAFLW Club.
- c) A Club may include up to ten (10) players born in 2003 on their list and such player's primary registration can be held with their Junior club. In such cases the Player would be on a Type 2 Interchange Permit (Type 2 ceases if delisted).
- d) Except for paragraph (e) below, QAFLW or Development League teams can only name a Listed Player on the official team sheet.
- e) In any home and away game, a Club may list one (1) age eligible player on their team sheet in both QAFLW and Development League that is not on the Club's List. Such player may come from any other competition within Queensland or overseas and play on a match day permit.
- f) A player removed from the Club's List will be deemed to have been Delisted and cannot be returned to the List for the remainder of the season, including finals.
- g) A Delisted player can be replaced prior to 5.00pm on 20 August 2020.

#### **14.2 List Lodgements**

- a) Club must submit their updated list of up to 65 players by no later than 5.00pm on June 30.
- b) Clubs can make changes to their lists prior the final list lodgement at 5.00pm on 20 August 2020, however with national transfers closing on June 30, list changes can only occur via an approved Type 2 permit.
- c) Clubs wishing to make changes to their list prior to 20 August 2020, can do so by the Competition Manager receiving formal notification of any changes via the prescribed form. No more than two (2)
- d) No changes to a Club's list are permitted beyond 20 August 2020.

#### **14.3 Player Movement**

- a) Any Listed Player that plays in a Club game, cannot play in any other senior women's competition on the same weekend. For the purposes of clarity, weekend also includes midweek fixture in the same round.
- b) Any QAFLW Listed Player, except for AFLW Listed players, can play in the QFAW Division 1 on a permit.
- c) Except for QFAW Division 1, clubs must seek approval from the Competition Manager for a Listed Player to play in another AFL Queensland sanctioned women's competition on a permit.
- d) Excluding players born in 2003, a Listed Player cannot play finals in any other competition other than the QAFLW or Development League.



## Variations to 2020 AFL Qld Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures.

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- e) In circumstances where a player participates in a match that they are ineligible to play in, such breaches will be treated under existing AFLQ Rules and Procedures in relation to playing unregistered or ineligible players.
- f) Where a Club has fully exhausted their player list, they can make a request for an exemption from the Competition Manager to add players on a match day permit.

### 14.4 Finals Eligibility QAFLW

- a) Only Listed Players are eligible to play in a QAFLW or Development League finals.
- b) As a minimum, a player must have participated in a total of two (2) home and away season Club games to be eligible to play QAFLW finals.
- c) Notwithstanding rule (d) below, a player must have participated in a minimum of two (2) home and away games in Development league to be eligible to play Development League finals
- d) If a player has played two (2) or more home and away games in the QAFLW team, they must have played at least three (3) home and away games in the Development League to be eligible to play finals in that competition.
- e) In the event a Club has both its teams playing finals on the same weekend, paragraph (d) above shall not apply. However, as a minimum a player must have participated in a combined total of two (2) home and away Club games to play in either team without restriction

### 14.5 AFLW Primary Listed Players

- a) QAFLW Clubs are restricted to listing a maximum of six (6) 2020 AFLW Listed Players on their QAFLW match day team sheet.
- b) To be classified as a 2020 AFLW Listed player for the purpose of the 2020 QAFLW season, a player must have played three (3) or more AFLW matches in the 2020 AFLW Season. AFLW matches include all home and away and finals games played.
- c) No QAFLW listed AFLW player is permitted to play in any competition below the QAFLW.
- d) A team may exceed rule 14.5 (a) in any QAFLW match if the opposition team exceeds the number of AFLW Listed players by the same value. All clubs will need to advise the Competition Manager by 2pm every Wednesday of how many AFLW players they have available for the coming game. The Competition Manager will then advise clubs where a like for like situation can occur and will stipulate the number of AFLW listed players permitted to play in the match. Once a like for like notification is received by Clubs, no team is required to vary their numbers below what was stipulated.
- e) AFL Queensland reserves the right to grant exemptions to the above rules in exceptional circumstances. Any exemption is invalid unless provided in writing by the State Manager, Senior Football Operations.

**Ends:**