

# Summary of Changes

## **2021 AFL Queensland Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures**





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## Background

AFL Queensland undertakes an annual review of its Senior Community Competition Rules & Procedures.

Following the events of 2020 there has been a clear focus on trying to minimize the requirements of volunteer administrators. Accordingly, several rule amendments have been made in line with that.

With Youth and Senior football now sitting within the same department (Community Football), over the course of season 2021 we will be developing one set of community competitions rules and procedures that covers Junior, Youth and Senior football.

All references below ("*Ref*"), unless stated otherwise, refer to the 2021 AFLQ Senior Community Competitions Rules & Procedures

## State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines

*Ref 1.1 (b) – notation*

The updated 2021 State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines are attached.

The changes made for 2021 reflect recent amendments to the AFL and AFLW Tribunal Guidelines and can be summarised as follows:

1. **Classification of contact for Dangerous Tackles:** The definition of 'High' contact has been expanded for a dangerous tackle which has the potential for injury to be caused through dangerous high contact with the ground but where high contact does not actually occur.
2. **Intentional strikes:** The guideline in relation to upgrading impact based on the potential to cause injury has been expanded to capture all intentional strikes, and therefore is not limited to head-high strikes only.
3. **Contesting the ball:** The 'contesting the ball' exception in relation to high bumps and forceful front-on contact has been tightened to change the requirement that "the Player was contesting the ball and did not have a realistic alternative way to contest the ball" to "the Player was contesting the ball and it was reasonable for the Player to contest the ball in that way".
4. **High contact to chest:** The AFLW Tribunal Guidelines include contact to the 'chest' in the same category as high contact and contact to the groin. We have updated the State and Territory Tribunal Guidelines to ensure consistency with the AFLW Tribunal Guidelines in this respect. You will see that we have clarified that each new reference to chest applies to females only. Please refer to the 'Classifiable Offences' tables in sections 5.2(b) and Appendix 2, as well as section 5.2(b)(3).



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### Title Change

*Ref – whole document*

The *State Manager – Senior Football* has been replaced with the *Community Football Manager QLD*.

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### Amendments to AFLQ Rules and Procedures

*Ref 1.4 (c)*

Providing clarity that any rule amendments for Affiliate Leagues (local by-laws) are only applicable for one year and need to be re-applied for each year.

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### Player Movement Between Competitions

*Ref 3.5 (b) – variation / new rules*

- The NEAFL has been replaced by the VFL.
  - The former QAFL / NEAFL Player Interchange Agreement has been replaced (throughout the document) by the *VFL & QAFL Free Agency and Player Interchange Agreement*.
  - Clubs should familiarize themselves with the rules for VFL listed players who are classified as Development players and what the criteria is for them to play for their aligned junior club.
  - All VFL listed players must have a QAFL/QFA club alignment (*refer VFL & QAFL Free Agency and Player Interchange Agreement for alignment rules*)
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### Youth Players Playing Senior Football

*Ref 3.8 (b) – variation*

- Clarity given that any player who plays both Youth football and Senior football will only be required to pay one AFLQ mandated fee.
  - It's a matter for clubs in terms of what club registration fees they charge those players who play Youth and Senior football concurrently.
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### Permit Types

*Ref 3.12 (b)(i) – amendment*

- Type 1 permits can now only be used for players who play for their direct opposition on match day to assist with a team numbers imbalance.
- All other permits, except for a Type 3 temporary transfer, must be a Type 2 transfer. A Type 2 requires both clubs to approve before League approval in SportsTG.
- **It is strongly recommended that ALL clubs fully understand rule 3.12 in its entirety.**



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### Stretchers

*Ref 4.3 c) (ii) – variation*

Clarity added that once a stretcher is called for an injured player by their medical staff, the injured player cannot return to the field for twenty (20) minutes of elapsed time, regardless of whether the player left the field on the stretcher or not.

### Adding Time-on

*Ref 4.9 (g)(i)(ii) – variation*

- Important to note that time-on is to be applied in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football.
- A variation to the Laws of Australian Rules for applying time-on has been added for any Regional competition wishing to adopt such variation. Approval to adopt such variation must come from the Community Football Manager QLD.

### Match Duration

*Ref 4.9 (h) – variations*

*Please refer below table for match timings, as there have been some minor changes to game lengths and half-time breaks.*

Competition	Time of Quarters	Time of Breaks (quarter time / half time / three quarter time)
QAFL	20 minutes plus time on	6/20/6
QAFL Reserves	25 minutes no time on Finals 17 minutes plus time on	5/15/5
QFA Division 1 Seniors	20 minutes plus time on	5/15/5
QFA Division 2 Seniors	17 plus time on	5/15/5
QFA Division 1 & 2 Reserves	20 minutes no time on Finals 15 minutes plus time on	5/15/5
QFA Division 3 & 4	20 minutes no time on (clock stops for yellow / red cards and stretchers). Finals 15 minutes plus time on	5/15/5
Colts – All Competitions	20 Minutes no time on Finals 15 minutes plus time on	5/15/5
QAFLW	20 Minutes no time on Finals 15 minutes plus time on	5/15/5
QFAW & QAFLW Development League	15 minutes no time on Finals 12 minutes plus time on	5/10/5
<b>Affiliate Leagues – Recommended only</b>		
Senior Men	17 minutes plus time on	5/15/5



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Reserves Men	17 minutes no time on Finals 15 minutes plus time on	5/15/5
Women	15 minutes no time on Finals 13 minutes plus time on	5/10/5

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### Match Day Paperwork & SportsTG Results

#### *Ref 4.3 (c) – amendment*

- To assist time pressures on volunteers, the entry of match results into SportsTG has been extended to 10am the following day. However, clubs are encouraged to enter results ASAP.
- The home club is still responsible for entering the full game results for both teams, including quarter by quarter scores, goal kickers and best players for both teams.
- Competition Managers will no longer 'chase up' clubs that haven't entered their results on time. If a club fails to enter the results by 10am the following day, they will be sanctioned \$100.

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### Practice Matches

#### *Ref 4.28 (c) – variation*

Amended to highlight it's the club's responsibility to undertake a ground inspection before any practice match. The same ground inspection that would occur before a regular season game.

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### Match Review Panel

#### *Ref 5.2 – amendment*

Amended rule to reflect the MRP can be a minimum of 1 person and a maximum of 3 people.

Previously it was solely a maximum of 3 people. The 2020 season (COVID) highlighted the challenges of having a panel of 3 when staff were working remotely.

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### Player Suspension

#### *Ref 5.3 (d) – new rule /variation*

Previously any suspended player could play in a sanctioned practice match. Rule amended to stipulate that only a suspended player with three (3) games suspension or less can play in sanctioned practice match. Players with four (4) games suspension or more cannot play in a sanctioned practice match.



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### Competition Appeal Rules

Ref 5.4 – new rule

New rules as listed:

a) Process

If a player found guilty of a reportable offence by a Tribunal or Controlling Body, may only bring forward an appeal in accordance with the Competition Appeal Rules as outlined in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines.

b) Fee

The Appeal Fee, as referenced in the State & Territory Tribunal Guidelines, is five hundred dollars plus GST (\$500 + GST).

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### Club Video Referral (excludes QAFL & QAFLW)

Ref 5.6 (a) (ii) (A) – variation

Rule amended to the following, the main change is the fee isn't payable straight away and stipulates who can make the request on the club's behalf.

*“Where a club has clear video evidence of what they believe may be a reportable incident, the club may formally refer an incident to the Competition Manager to be investigated. Such referral must be made prior to 5.00pm on the first business day after the game has been played and the referral must be in writing from either the club President or Football Manager (not team manager). The referral will incur a fee of \$125, as in accordance with rule 5.8(b)(i)(B) of these AFLQ Rules and Procedures. Where a club refers and incident for review and a charge for a Classifiable Offence is laid, the \$125 fee will not be payable”.*

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### Investigations – Late Requests

Ref section 9.1 (c) – variation

Clarity added as to the time limitation for late lodgments.

*“In exceptional and completing circumstances AFLQ or its Affiliate Leagues may accept late lodgments (no greater than 5.00pm on the third working day after the match) of a request for investigation where it was deemed necessary. This shall be at the sole discretion of AFLQ or the relevant Affiliate League”.*

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### Admission to Grounds

Ref 6.2 (d) (e) – new rules

Added two new rules to address matters that arose in 2020 in SEQ.

- (a) For all SEQ competitions, all players and officials who are listed on a match day team sheet, as well as AFLQ and Affiliate League officials, umpires and umpire officials are exempt from paying entry fees to community ovals during the home and away, and Finals Series games.



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- (b) Parking fees are subject to the respective venue's discretion.
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### **Club Sponsorship / Club Uniforms**

*Ref 6.3 & 6.4 – variation*

Beastwear are no longer an AFLQ partner or AFLQ licensed apparel supplier.

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### **Finals Eligibility**

Note: – finals eligibility for all Youth and Senior grade competitions is now four (4) games.

#### QAFLW & Development League

*Ref 8.1 (f) – amendment*

QAFLW and Development League finals eligibility changes from 3 to 4 games.

#### QFAW

*Ref 8.1 (g) (iv)(v) – new rule*

- (iv) QFAW teams are not permitted to list more than two (2) senior primary registered minimum age players per game on their team sheet.
- (v) If a youth eligible player is primary registered with her U17s club then that player can play in both U17s and senior women's with very few restrictions (on a Type 2 permit). The only requirement to be eligible for both finals is that the player has participated in at least 4 regular season matches in each competition, and that they have played in more youth matches than they have in seniors.

#### Colts or U18's

*Ref 8.1 (i) (iii) – new rule*

In the event a player participates in a Colts game and a Senior or Reserve grade game for their club on the same weekend, all games shall count towards finals eligibility for all grades played.

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### **QAFLW, Affiliate & All QFAW Divisions**

*Ref - Rule 12.2 in 2020 version – deletion*

Competition mission statements have been removed – not necessary.

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### **Playing Age**

*Ref 12.2 (b) – amendment*

Rule amendment around primary registered Youth age players.



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*The minimum age to play QAFLW, Development League, all QFAW Divisions and Affiliate Leagues is turning 17 years of age in the year of competition. However, QFAW teams are not permitted to list more than two (2) senior primary registered minimum age players per game on their team sheet.*

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### **Interchange Players**

*Ref 12.2 (d) – amendment*

The number of players on the Interchange for QAFLW has been amended from 4 to 5.

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### **Gender Diversity**

*Ref 12.4 (a) – amendment*

Reference made to the *AFL's Community Gender Diversity Policy Companion Guide*.

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### **QAFLW CLUB LIST & PLAYER MOVEMENT RULES**

*Ref 14 – amendment*

The QAFLW List Management rules have been removed and can be found of the AFL Queensland Policies and Regulations Information Hub

*Ends:*