

2024 Rule	Section Heading	2025 Amendment	Reason
5.1 Definitions	Holiday Period	Addition of: A semester or term break for an educational institution and does not include a Public Holiday, Pupil Free Day or Study Vacation unless that falls within the semester or term break.	Admin change to provide clarity on what constitute a “Holiday Period”
6.6.2(D)	Minimum Standards for Leagues and Clubs	Amendment (in red) / Addition of (in green): All Working with Children Check clearances must be valid and effective by 1 April each year for the duration of any period the person is working with children.	Admin change
8.7.1(B)	Club Uniform Obligations	Addition of: (in red) Each club: (i) must have a minimum of one (1) playing uniform; (ii) may have multiple playing uniforms; and (iii) all playing uniforms must be approved by the League.	Confirming that a club can have multiple approved uniforms.
8.7.1(C)		Addition of: (in red) All Players participating in a Match must: (i) play in the Club’s playing uniform as registered with and approved by the CMC; and (ii) where a Club has multiple approved playing uniforms or a Joint Venture Team uniform, all wear matching jersey, shorts and socks.	Confirming that all Players on a Team must be wearing the same approved uniform (jersey, shorts and socks) during Matches.
8.17(A)	Representations to the Controlling Body	Amendment of: (in red) Any representations made to a league in relation to any respect of these Rules, including any matters relating to disputes or interpretations of these Rules: (i) are only to be made via the nominated Club Delegate or Club Executive Committee member; and (ii) must be in a manner consistent with the Code of Conduct requirements set out in these Rules and the Policy Handbook.	Clarification of who can contact the relevant Controlling Body and the manner in which contact must be made.
9.4.1	Table 5 – Ground Manager Responsibilities	Addition of: (in red) Umpires: Ascertaining from the Umpires immediately following the conclusion of the Match whether or not any Reports and/or Incident Referrals of Players or Officials have arisen from the Match.	It is the Ground Manager’s responsibility to ascertain this information from the Umpires to enable them to advise Team Managers where requested or required.
		Amendment (in red) / Addition of (in green): Complaints and Attendee Conduct: Receive any formally submitted complaint from a Club Official or other person: (i) Manage, in consultation with other available Club Officials, any attendee behaviour that is contrary to the Code of Conduct (not including on-field Reportable Offences) and make a record of this. (ii) Determine if a complaint is practicably able to be resolved at the time (except where it involves a	Provide additional clarity around the responsibilities of the Ground Manager in the event of a potential Policy Breach matter on game days.

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		<p>complaint of vilification or a safeguarding children issue).</p> <p>Where a complaint cannot be resolved; ensure the complaint, together with any additional information collected, is forwarded to the League within 24 hours. (i) Manage, in consultation with other available Club Officials, any attendee behaviour that is contrary to the Code of Conduct (not including on field Reportable Offences) and make record of this. In the event of a complaint of or observation of serious misconduct of an attendee;</p> <p>(i) obtain as much immediate information as possible of the situation including the names and contact details of any witnesses;</p> <p>(ii) determine whether the Police need to be called; and</p> <p>(iii) complete and Forward all information in relation to the serious misconduct to the League within 24 hours submit the applicable Notice of Complaint form to the League in line with Rule 26.</p>	
9.5.3(v)	Team Manager	<p>Amendment (in red) / Addition of (in green): Ascertaining from the Umpires Ground Manager at the conclusion of each the Match whether or not any Reports and/or Incident Referrals of Players or Officials have arisen from the Match. or to receive the “all clear”</p>	Changed from Umpires to Ground Manager to limit Team Manager interaction with Umpires.
9.5.4	Sports Trainer/AFL First Aid/QMP	<p>Amendment/Addition of: (in red) A Sports Trainer, QMP or AFL First Aider: (i) must meet the appropriate minimum qualifications as per Section 15.3 of the Policy Handbook (ii) is to register as a “Medical Officer” in PlayHQ as per Section 15.4 of the Policy Handbook</p>	Minimum qualifications have been updated in the Policy Handbook and require all First Aiders to register as a “Medical Officer” on PlayHQ.
9.5.5(G) *New Rule*	Runners	<p>Addition of: A runner must remain a reasonable distance away from Field, Boundary and Goal Umpires to allow them to Umpire the Match without interference</p>	To provide space for the umpires to officiate the match
9.5.6(G) *New Rule*	Water Carriers	<p>Addition of: A water carrier must remain a reasonable distance away from Field, Boundary and Goal Umpires to allow them to Umpire the Match without interference</p>	To provide space for the umpires to officiate the match.
10.13(B)(v)	Approaching Umpires	<p>Addition of: (in red) The Team Manager, but only for the purpose of confirming the score of a Match where the Mercy Rule under Rule 15.2.8 may apply and only during a quarter break;</p>	Removed ability to approach to ascertain the “all clear”, this must now be sourced from the Ground Manager.
10.13(B)(vi) *New Rule*		<p>Addition of: for Senior Competitions only, one (1) captain from each competing team as designated on the Official Team Sheet; or</p>	Admin change
10.14.4	Action Against a Club for Umpire Abuse	<p>Addition of: Guidance note: In accordance with Rule 6.3.5 a Club is responsible for the behaviour and conduct of its players, officials, coaches and spectators. The purpose of this Rule 10.14.4 is to incentivise Clubs to address</p>	Provide explanation of the purpose of the rule.

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		behavioural issues that may be arising within a certain Team or playing group.	
10.14.4(A)		Addition (in green) and Amendment of (in red): A Club will be subject of the following automatic sanctions, payable to the Controlling Body in respect of any person with the Club who pleads or is found guilty of abuse where a Team has any person associated with it plead or found guilty of umpire abuse more than once during a season:	The rule will apply to offences in individual Teams, not across the club as a whole.
10.14.4 (A)(i)		A fine of two hundred and fifty (250) dollars for a first second offence in the current season, regardless of whether the offence was committed by the same or different person to the person who committed the first offence;	Alignment
10.14.4 (A)(ii)		A fine of five hundred (500) dollars for a second third offence in the current season, regardless of whether the offence was committed by the same or different person to the person who committed the first offence; and	Alignment
10.14.4 (A)(iii)		A fine of one thousand (1,000) for a third fourth or subsequent offence in the current season, regardless of whether the offence was committed by the same or different person to the person who committed any earlier offence under this Rule	Alignment
10.14.4(B)		Addition of: In respect of any fine issued in accordance with Rule 10.14.4(A), only one (1) fine will be issued per Match, irrespective of whether more than one (1) offence is committed in that Match, unless otherwise determined by the Controlling Body	New rule to indicate that numerous offences in a single Match will still only result in one fine
10.14.4(B)		Amendment of: (in red) Any Club that has been subject of three four (4) or more instances of sanction under Rule 10.14.4(A) in one season, will be issued with a Notice of Breach under Rule 26.5.1 and referred directly to the Tribunal for a Tribunal Hearing under Rule 27	Alignment
10.14.5 <i>*New Rule*</i>	AFL NSW/ACT Coaching Box Card Policy	New Rule: (A)The AFL NSW/ACT Coaching Box Card Policy is established in accordance with Rule 10.14.1 and sets out objectives and application of a process aimed at addressing unacceptable behaviour directed at umpires from the Coaching Box Area.	New rule to reference Coaching Box Card Policy
11.4.2	Season Permit	Addition of: (in red) Guidance note: a Player cannot participate in a Finals Match on a Season Permit unless specified otherwise in the Local Interchange Agreement.	Clarifying that season permits are for Home and Away Matches only, unless otherwise specified
11.4.4 Guidance Note	Student Permit	Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green): Guidance note: A Student Permit allows a Player, who has moved away from home to attend an educational institution on a full-time basis in a different region, and who has had to Transfer Clubs to play football in the	Refers “Holiday Period” back to definitions

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		new region, to return home during holiday periods a Holiday Period (as defined) to play in a home and away Match of their former Club.	
11.4.4(B)		Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green): (ii) requires proof of the relevant holiday periods Holiday Periods of that educational institution; (iii) required proof of the Player's living away from home address (vi) can only be utilised for home and away Matches	Additional information and clarification of Rule
11.6(A) *New Rule*	Ineligible Players	Addition of: (xi) has incurred a concussion and has not complied with all stages of the Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football	Inclusion of Concussion clearance for player eligibility
Table 13	Current Season Competition Grades	Addition of: 'Rank' Column	Grade rankings must be listed in this table as they impact player eligibility to play in certain grades.
14.6(A)	Even On-field Numbers- Junior Competitions	Addition of: (in red) (i) in the case of a Red Card send-off where the Rules disallow a replacement for a period of time; or (ii) in the case of a Yellow Card send-off where there is no available replacement Player; or	Clarification of on-field numbers in red and yellow card scenarios
15.2.11(A) *New Rule*	Procedure for Stopping Play (Injured Player)	New Rule: In the event a Player is clearly injured and being attended to by a trainer on the Field of Play, the field Umpire will only stop play when: (i) the ball is within one kick of the injured Player and heading in the direction of that injured Player; or (ii) a stretcher is required in accordance with Law 7.3 of the Laws of Australian Football. Guidance Note: a field Umpire will be the sole arbiter of what constitutes one kick, any dispute in regard to this from a Player or Official may constitute a free kick in accordance with Law 18.8.2 of the Laws of Australian Football or a Reportable Offence in accordance with Law 22.2.2 of the Laws of Australian Football.	Provide clarification on procedure that Umpires are trained to follow.
15.2.11(B) *New Rule*		If play is stopped under Rule 15.2.11(A), play can only recommence once: (i) the injured player has been assisted away from play as directed by the Umpire; or (ii) in the event a stretcher is required, once the player has been removed from the Field of Play in accordance with Law 7.3.2 of the Laws of Australian Football.	
15.2.11(C) *New Rule*		Once it is determined that play may recommence, the field Umpire shall recommence play as follows depending on the circumstances: (i) where the football was in dispute at the time play was stopped, by throwing up the football; (ii) where the football was out of bounds at the time play was stopped:	

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		<p>(a) where boundary Umpires are appointed, by directing the boundary Umpire to throw the football in; or</p> <p>(b) where boundary Umpires are not appointed, in accordance with Rule 15.2.6;</p> <p>(iii) where a Player had possession of the football at the time play was stopped, by awarding a Free Kick to the Player; or</p> <p>(iv) where a Player had been awarded a Free Kick or a Mark at the time play was stopped, by allowing the Player to dispose of the football.</p>	
15.2.12(A) <i>*New Rule*</i>	Pre-match Warm-up	<p>New Rule:</p> <p>When teams enter the playing field for the start of the Match, they may only warm up at the end of the field closest to their interchange bench</p>	Admin change – should be common practice, but provides Ground Managers a Rule to reference if it becomes an issue on Match Day.
15.5.4(C)	Scoreboard	<p>Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green):</p> <p>The correct score should is to be confirmed by the Goal Umpires with the Ground Manager at the end of each quarter and updated accordingly</p>	Admin change to make it a requirement
15.5.6(A)	Change Rooms	<p>Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green):</p> <p>(A) Separate and adequate changing facilities and showers must be provided for each Club Team and the Umpire for a Match.</p>	Amended to provide additional context on how clubs need to manage their facilities and communicate arrangements.
15.5.6(B) <i>*New Rule*</i>		<p>Addition of:</p> <p>Where a Club facility does not have separate Umpire changing facilities, the Club must make arrangements to appropriately manage change room access and communicate this to the Umpire Coordinator in a time frame determined by the League.</p>	
15.7.1	Table 26 - Team Sheet Requirements	<p>Addition of: (in red)</p> <p>Preparation of a Team Sheet</p> <p>(iii) the designated captain of the team; and</p>	The team sheet must have the captain listed on it, for the purposes of confirming which player is authorized to approach the Umpires.
15.9(F)	Ground Closures	<p>Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green):</p> <p>(i) the League is to provide as much notice of this as possible to the participating Clubs and Umpires providing that all adjustments to Wet Weather affected games are made and communicated prior to 7.00pm on the day preceding the scheduled Match with no further adjustments being permitted after this time or on game day;</p> <p>(ii) the competing clubs are expected must comply with this any adjustment made under this Rule;</p> <p>(iii) failure to comply with this by a Club will be deemed as a forfeit unless otherwise determined by the CMC</p>	Provides clear wet weather match adjustment process with cut-off times and expectations of clubs to comply.
15.10(A)		Amended to (in red):	

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	Postponed Matches	(A) Subject to 15.10(B), where it has been agreed by the League or the CMC that match is to be postponed for any reason, the competing Clubs have two (2) weeks from the date of postponement to reach agreement, and notify the League, on the rescheduling of the Match, including: (i) the date and time the Match is to be played, providing that no match is rescheduled to be played in the seven (7) days prior to the Finals Series commencing for that Grade;	Admin change to manage expectations and provide clarity regarding how this Rule is enforced in the lead up to Finals.
15.10(B)		Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green): Rule 15.10(A) does not apply where the date of the postponed Match is less than two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the Finals fixture. Any match scheduled to be played in the last three (3) rounds of the home and away season that is unable to be played for any reason, as agreed by the League or the CMC, cannot be rescheduled and will be deemed cancelled in accordance with Rule 15.11.	
15.12 *New Rule*	Sanctions for Match Day Breaches	New Rule: (A) Subject to Rule 15.12(B), Appendix 3 establishes the base sanctions that apply to a Club in respect of particular Match Day breaches. (B) An initial breach of an item listed in Appendix 3 will result in a warning, with any subsequent breaches to result in the corresponding sanction. (C) The CMC is not limited to the sanctions set out in Appendix 3 in respect of any breach.	Hold clubs accountable to match day expectations which aim at creating an optimal match day environment and experience for all participants.
16.4.2 *New Rule*	Environment Points (E-Points) System	New Rule: Objective: The E-Points System has the objective of promoting a fun, safe and respectful match day environment. It is a penalty-based system where poor match day behaviour from Player, Officials and Supporters negatively impacts their Team's ladder position with the loss of "points for". It actively incentivises Clubs to ensure that measures are in place to ensure their members exhibit positive conduct during match days. It is important to acknowledge that an appropriate response to issue management is only one part of the E-Points System. Beyond the management of behavioural issues, an improved and more enjoyable environment for all can reflect in a Club's capacity to retain Players and recruit Volunteer support. (A) A League may establish an E-Points System in respect of any Junior Competition that it manages. (B) Any E-Point deduction will be determined and applied by the League after the completion of each round in accordance with Table 30.	See objective for Rationale.

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	Table 30 – Determining E-Point Deductions	See Table 30 in Rules Document.	Outlines circumstance where a deduction will be invoked and the amount of the deduction to be invoked.
16.5.6(A)	Forfeit of a Higher Grade	Addition of: (in red) (A) In respect of Senior Competitions , should a Club play in a reserve or lower ranked Grade Match and subsequently forfeit a higher ranked Grade Match on the same weekend, that Club: (i) will not be awarded any points for the reserve or lower Grade Match, except where a forfeit is applied to the Higher Grade under Rule 15.9(F)(iii)	Provide clarity that is applies only to Senior Competitions, and how it aligns with Ground Closures that affect the higher grade.
24.1.1(C)	Yellow Card	Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green): (ii) an amount of time equivalent to one quarter of consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters (ii) to be seated with the Timekeeper or where provided, the Interchange Steward during play; (a) subject to Rule 24.1.1(C)(iii)(b), a period of fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes , excluding breaks between quarters; or (b) for matches with a quarter duration less than fifteen (15) minutes, an amount of time equivalent to one quarter , as detailed in Table 28, of consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters. (iv) not permitted to enter the field of play for the duration of the period, including breaks between quarters	Amended to simplify the timeframe in which the Yellow Card applies.
24.1.2 (D)		Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green): Unless otherwise determined by the CMC in its ultimate discretion, a Player who is ordered from the field of play under a red card can be replaced after: (i) subject to Rule 24.1.2(D)(ii), a period of fifteen (15) consecutive playing minutes , excluding breaks between quarters; or (ii) for Matches with a quarter duration of less than fifteen (15) minutes, an amount of time equivalent to one quarter , as detailed in Table 28, of consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters. (ii) A period of time equivalent to one quarter of consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters.	Amended to simplify the timeframe in which the Red Card applies
24.1.2 (H)		Removal of: (in red) An Official may be issued with a red card by an Umpire and reported for a breach of the Laws of Australian Football and in such instances will automatically be ordered from the field and cannot return for the duration of the match but can be replaced immediately.	Admin change
24.1.3		New Rule:	

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New Rule	Blue Card (Junior Competitions Only)	(A) A Junior Player who displays unsportsmanlike behaviour or is deemed to require a “cool off” at the discretion of the field Umpire may be ordered from the Field of Play by an Umpire under a blue card.	To provide an additional mechanism for Umpires of Junior Competitions to address and deescalate poor on field behaviour before it gets ‘out of control’. It aims to reduce behaviour reaching the level of a Reportable Offence.
		(B) A Player ordered off under a blue card is; (i) required to leave the playing area immediately through the interchange area; (ii) not permitted to resume playing the Match for a period of ten (10) consecutive playing minutes, excluding breaks between quarters; (iii) required to sit at the Ground Manager or Timekeeper table for the duration of the penalty period; and (iv) not permitted to sit on the bench or enter the Field of Play at any time (including breaks) for the duration of the penalty period.	
		(C) The ten (10) minute penalty period will commence once the offending Player has left the Field of Play.	
		(D) The offending Player’s Club is responsible for obtaining approval from the timekeepers for the Player to resume playing in the Match at the end of the ten (10) minute penalty period.	
		(E) All Players who are ordered from the Field of Play with a blue card can be replaced immediately.	
		(F) The reporting Umpire or Umpire Coach may review the blue card conduct during or post-match and determine it constitutes a Reportable Offence and submit a Notice of Report in accordance with Rule 25.2.2.	
25.2.2(E)	Umpire Report	Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green): Unregistered Club field Umpires, Club boundary Umpires and Club goal Umpires are not permitted to lodge a Notice of Report report a Player of Official but are permitted to lodge an Incident Referral Form in accordance with Section 22.1(b)(i) of the Policy Handbook if they consider a Player of Official has committed a Reportable Offence	Allows conduct which may constitute a Reportable Offence to be assessed by the Controlling Body and a Notice of Charge still able to be issued if deemed necessary.
25.3.3(E) *New Rule*	Further Investigation	Addition of: If in the course of any investigation, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO identifies that further Reportable Offences have been committed and have not been reported, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO may proceed to issue a Notice of Charge in respect of that finding.	To cover additional Reportable Offences that are identified during an investigation
25.3.4(A)	Dismissal of a Report	Addition of: (in red) After assessment and completion of any investigation, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO may dismiss a matter if it considers there to be insufficient evidence of a Reportable Offence occurring or does not meet the threshold to lodge a Notice of Citing under Rule 25.2.3(B)(i)	Admin change to align Rules

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25.4.1(A)	Classification and Grading of a Reportable Offence	Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green): Unless otherwise stated in this section, Where it is satisfied there is evidence that a Reportable Offence has been committed, the Controlling Body, MRP or MRO is to determine the classification and grading of the offence, in accordance with Clause 3 of Appendix 3 Appendix 1 of the Policy Handbook (Reportable Offence Categories) (i) Low Level Offence (ii) Classifiable Offence (iii) Auditory Offence (iv) Direct Tribunal Referral	Remove duplication between the Rules and Policy Handbook.
25.4.2	Low Level Offence	Removal of: All components of 25.4.2, 25.4.3, 25.4.4 and 25.4.5 and refer these Rules directly to the Policy Handbook	Remove duplication between the Rules and Policy Handbook.
25.4.3	Classifiable Offence		
25.4.4	Classifiable Offence (Auditory)		
25.4.5	Direct Tribunal Referral		
25.4.6 25.4.2(A)	Reportable Offence in a Grand Final or Special Round	Removal of: (in red) (A) The Controlling Body, MRP, MRO or Tribunal, as applicable, may apply at its absolute discretion, a loading of up to one hundred percent (100%) in relation to the base sanction for any Reportable Offence committed during a Grand Final; (B) (A) The Controlling Body, MRP, MRO or Tribunal, as applicable, may apply at its absolute discretion, a loading of up to one hundred percent (100%) in relation to the base sanction for any Auditory Offence committed towards an Umpire during Community Umpiring Week	Admin change – previously Rule 25.4.6 changed due to removal of above Rules. Removal of reference to Grand Final loading as this is covered in Appendix 1 of the Policy Handbook.
25.4.7(A)	Other Considerations in Classifying a Reportable Offence	Removal of: (in red) The Controlling Body, MRP, MRO or Tribunal may, in classifying a Reportable Offence and determining the appropriate sanctions, take into account the matters detailed in the Table 6 of Appendix Three	Rule removed as covered in newly referenced Policy Handbook.
26.2.1	Table 34	Amendment of: (in red) How to make a complaint: Guidance Note: It is the Complainant's responsibility to gather all witness statements and relevant evidence and submit this with the Notice of Complaint.	The Controlling Body is not responsible for the gathering of evidence. The Controlling Body assesses the evidence submitted as part of the Complaint and makes a determination based on that evidence. If there is not sufficient evidence submitted by the Club to make out the case, it will be dismissed.

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26.2.1(B)	Complaint Procedure	Removal of (in red) Amended to (in green): The Controlling Body may allow for a complaint to be submitted up to 30 14 days after the alleged breach where there is evidence of exceptional and compelling circumstances as to why it was not practicable for the complaint to have been made by the required day and time.	Allows for timelier resolution of matters and more reliable witness statements when an extension is granted under exceptional and compelling circumstances.
26.6.2(B) *New Rule*	Record of Sanctions	Addition of: If a Person who is issued with a Notice of Breach is not registered in the Competition Management Platform, the Club must arrange for this to occur by the date specified by the Controlling Body so the Person's record of having committed a Policy Breach can be recorded in accordance with Section 23.6 of the Policy Handbook.	Admin Change to detail process when a charged person is not registered in PlayHQ.
Appendix 3	Reportable Offences	Appendix 3 Removed and Replaced	Removed as Grading and Classification of Reportable Offences are now done in accordance with Appendix 1 of the Policy Handbook.
Appendix 3 *New Appendix*	Sanctions for Match Day Breaches	This <i>Penalties for Match Day Breaches</i> Appendix is established under Rule 15.12 and is to be used by the Controlling Body or CMC, to determine the base sanction to apply to a Club for a breach of any of the Rules listed in Table 1 of this Appendix. As per Rule 15.12 the Controlling Body or CMC is not limited to the sanctions set out in Appendix 3.	Established under Rule 15.12