



AFL North West NSW By-laws – Key Substantive Amendments to Local Variations February 2025

Provision	Change to/by Local Variation	Rationale
8.7.1(A) Club Uniform Obligations	Removal of Local Variation that outlined Under 10 and Under 12 teams were permitted to take the field in matching club shirts during initial year of competitions.	Now into the third year of Under 10 Gala Days and the second year of a competitive Under 12 age group.
10.2 Umpire Minimum Age Requirement	Previously there was no minimum age requirement and the onus of responsibility was on Clubs to ensure any umpire was of a suitable age and maturity to perform the role.	State Rules indicate updated minimum ages required to Umpire in Table 9.
10.6.1(H) Club Field Umpires	Removal of Local Variation that states in the Under 10 age group, an on field Coach is not permitted to also act as Umpire.	Already outlined in Rule 9.3.4(A)(i) No Dual Team Official Role. Removed to avoid unnecessary doubling up of same information.
15.6(B) Match Footballs	Local Variation added to allow clubs to have the option of using either a red or a yellow football for matches.	Formalising the agreement reached between clubs at the League Planning Meeting held on October 20. Initiative introduced as a possible cost cutting exercise for Clubs.
		Note - Rule 15.6(C) & (D) which outlines balls used in a match must be of a suitable standard which is a ball that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has only had limited use, is clean and has no discernible scratches or damage to its surface; • has retained its proper shape and colour; • has all branding and writing on the ball clearly visible and legible; and can be inflated to the correct limit.

11.6(A)(xi) Ineligible Players	Removal of Local Variation that states a Player is ineligible if they have played up an age group without a CMC approved Dispensation to Play Up.	Already outlined in Rule 11.6(A)(iii) that a Player is deemed ineligible for the same reason. Removed to avoid unnecessary doubling up of same information.
15.2.3(A) Starting Positions	Local Variation added to explain that starting positions at centre bounces or the “6-6-6 Rule” does not apply in any AFL North West matches.	Formalising the agreement reached between clubs at the League Planning Meeting held on October 20.
15.2.5 Player Standing the Mark	Local Variation added to explain that the Player Standing the Mark or the “Stand Rule” does not apply in any AFL North West matches.	Formalising the agreement reached between clubs at the League Planning Meeting held on October 20.
15.7.1 Team Sheets	Local Variation added so Clubs can choose to create a Team Sheet for an Under 10 non-competitive match if they wish but they are not required to.	If a Club wants matches played in the Under 10 age group to count toward the Player’s personal tally, it can record them via a Team Sheet in PlayHQ.
15.8.2 Table 28 Duration of Quarters & Breaks for All Grades	As all Junior Matches will be played in a Gala Day Format with teams playing multiple matches, Under 12 and Under 14 matches will consist of two (2) 17.5 minute halves and Under 10 matches will be two (2) 10 minute halves.	As junior teams will be playing multiple matches during each Gala Day, the duration of matches will be reduced to halves not only to ensure the Players don’t experience an overload but also to ensure all matches during a Gala Day are played within a reasonable timeframe.
15.8.3(D) Time On	Even though Time On is not played in any AFL North West NSW match, the Local Variation has been amended to include when a head count is being conducted or when an Umpire leaves the field or is being treated for an injury as instances where the clock can be stopped.	The Local Variation already allowed for the clock to be stopped in the case of a Blood Rule or when a player was requiring a stretcher. The additional instances allow for two more situations where a longer than usual delay could be expected.
16.5.7 Additional Costs for Forfeiting Club	Amendment of Local Variation that states hosting rights for the next fixtured meeting of the two Clubs can be reversed instead of the Forfeiting Club paying a compensation amount.	The amount of compensation is already outlined in Rule 16.5.1(A)(iv) and 16.5.1(B)(ii). Removed to avoid unnecessary doubling up of same information.

17.2 FINALS – Venue Selection	Slight amendment of Local Variation where the years 2023 and 2024 have been changed to 2025 and 2026.	Quick change to make the years listed in the Rule more relevant to the current year.
17.2(F) FINALS – Venue Selection	Removal of Local Variation that states that in odd numbered years (eg. 2025) that Senior Women’s matches will be played as the feature Match during the Finals series.	Feedback from the Clubs at the Planning Meeting on October 20 was the Senior Women’s Players found in 2023 that playing in the feature Match timeslot upset their Match Day routine and that the Players would prefer to maintain a Noon start to their matches.
24.1.1(F) Yellow Card – Time until can be replaced	Local Variation amended to say that a player cannot be replaced after being ordered from the field under a Yellow Card until after fifteen (15) consecutive minutes, excluding breaks between quarters, has elapsed.	Length of time changed from one (1) quarter to fifteen (15) minutes to bring the Rule into line with the updated AFL NSW/ACT Rule.