



## AFL North West NSW By-laws – Key Substantive Amendments to Local Variations January 2020

Provision	Change	Rationale
2 Club Affiliation	Provide the scope to require clubs to sign updated affiliation agreements.	Acknowledges that agreements signed in previous years may not reflect current operating environment, and that changes in club personnel are likely to mean that club representatives aren't familiar with obligations in pre-existing agreements.
4.7 Distance Penalties	Retain the distance penalties at twenty-five (25) metres in the Women's Competition, and reduce distance penalties in the Under 14 competition to twenty-five (25) metres.	Reduced distance is more reflective of the distances kicked by the majority of players in both competitions. In developing competitions, this decreases the likelihood that a distance penalty results in a goal that determines a result.
4.11 Boundary Throws	Specifies the appropriate technique for taking a boundary throw.	Addresses possible issue of players throwing the ball in to the advantage of their own team.
4.11 Boundary Throws	Stipulation that clubs must provide a Boundary Umpire for all matches in the Men's and Women's competitions, and are encouraged to provide a Boundary Umpire in the Under 14 and Under 17 competitions.	Ensures consistency for the Men's and Women's competitions whilst also providing opportunities for young umpires. Encourages clubs to seek Boundary umpires for younger competition matches which assists with succession and prepares players for open age footy.
4.12 Minimum Age	Provide the scope for players that turn fifteen (15) in the year of competition to play in the Under 17 age group.	Aligns the minimum age approach across both Under 14 and Under 17. Provides increased opportunities for players to take part in the Under 17 competition without the need for an exemption.
4.12 Minimum Age	Require all players that are granted an age exemption in any grade to wear a green arm band.	Re-introduces the former rule that was overlooked rather than ever being formally removed.
4.15 Ineligible Players	Clarifies that a player deemed ineligible on any grounds can be dealt with under Regulation 4.6(B).	Removes the uncertainty that existed around possible penalties that could be imposed in relation to ineligible players.
9.3 Number of players – Senior Women's Competitions	Retain the on field maximum number at sixteen (16) and increase the maximum bench size to six (6). Remove the clauses that conflicted with the local rules.	On field number as sixteen is consistent with all other levels of Women's footy, up to and including AFLW. Increasing the bench size provides more opportunity in an environment where there is no second division.
9.3 Number of players – Senior Women's Competitions	Clarify that loaning of players is only mandatory up to the point where each team achieves the minimum number, however is recommended beyond that point.	Removes the confusion that previously existed. Encourages sharing beyond the minimum number so that players get the maximum chance to get on field minutes and match involvement.

Provision	Change	Rationale
9.4 Number of players – Junior and Youth Competitions	Remove the clauses that refer to the maximum team number as twenty (20) and the maximum on-field number as sixteen (16). Specify minimum number as twelve (12) in each grade and increase the maximum on field number in Under 14 to eighteen (18).	Increased minimum and maximum numbers better reflect the player interest after one season of this age group whilst also better retaining the integrity of matches.
10.4 Match Conditions (Finals)	Remove the requirement for players to play in their own age group in Finals matches.	Allows clubs to field their strongest teams at Finals time irrespective of a player's age.
11.5 Match Duration	Increase the quarters in the Women's competition to twenty (20) minutes. Provide scope for amended quarter times in Under 14 Super Sundays.	Increases opportunities for Women to be involved in matches. Change in Under 14 timings reflects what was the practice in the 2019 season (not foreseen and captured when By-laws were developed).
12.9 Players Seeking to Play Up a Competition Age Group	Remove the new state rule relating to playing up an age group. Retain the existing local rule requiring players to play in their own age group before playing up, but remove this requirement in Finals matches.	Continue to support the establishment of younger age groups by requiring players to play with their peers. Allow clubs to field their strongest teams at Finals time irrespective of a player's age.
15.2 Red Card	Clarify that a player that is reported for intentionally striking, kicking, kneeing, stomping, eye-gouging or head-butting another person is to be issued with a red card.	Removes confusion that existed between the Laws of the Game and the By-laws.