

**NORTHERN FOOTBALL  
NETBALL LEAGUE  
INCORPORATED**



**SCHEDULE 21:  
FOOTBALL ORDER OFF RULE**

**Adopted  
October 2018**

**NORTHERN FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE INCORPORATED**  
**FOOTBALL ORDER OFF RULE**

1. Players in any NFNL match may be ordered from the field by the field umpire or league appointed emergency umpire and may be reported. Players can be ordered from the field for breaching the Laws of Australian Football/NFNL codes of conduct. All players sent off can be replaced.
  
2. Where a player, at the sole discretion of the Field Umpire or League appointed Emergency Umpire, is deemed to be in breach of any of the following AFL Laws of Australian Football (Rule 19.2.2), the offending player may be ordered off the ground for a duration of 15 minutes (yellow card) or the remainder of the match (red card) and may be reported:
  - Intentionally or carelessly striking another person;
  - Intentionally or carelessly kicking another person;
  - Intentionally or carelessly kneeing another person;
  - Intentionally or carelessly stomping on another person;
  - Intentionally or carelessly charging another person;
  - Intentionally or carelessly engaging in rough conduct against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable;
  - Intentionally or carelessly bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when that player has their head down over the football;
  - Intentionally or carelessly head-butting an opponent or making contact to an opponent using the head;
  - Intentionally or carelessly eye-gouging an opponent or making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the eye region of an opponent;
  - Intentionally or carelessly making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face of an opponent;
  - Intentionally or carelessly making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with an injured player;
  - Intentionally or carelessly scratching another person;
  - Intentionally or carelessly tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg;
  - Carelessly making contact with an umpire;
  - Attempting to strike another person;
  - Attempting to kick another person;
  - Attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg;
  - Using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language;
  - Using abusive, insulting or obscene language towards or in relation to an Umpire;
  - Disputing a decision of an Umpire;
  - Use of an obscene gesture;
  - Engaging in time wasting;
  - Engaging in an act of staging;
  - Engaging in a melee, except where a player's sole intention is to remove a teammate from the incident;
  - Instigating a melee;
  - Wrestling another person;
  - Pinching another person;
  - Interfering with a player kicking for goal;
  - Kicking or otherwise causing the football to hit any part of a stadium roof's structure;

- Intentionally shaking a goal or behind post when another player is preparing to kick or is kicking for goal or after the player has kicked for goal and the football is in transit;
  - Wearing boots, jewellery and equipment prohibited under Law 9;
  - Engaging in any other act of misconduct or serious misconduct.
3. Where a player, at the sole discretion of the Field Umpire or League appointed Emergency Umpire, is deemed to be in breach of any of the following AFL Laws of Australian Football (Rule 19.2.2), the offending player shall be ordered off the ground for remainder of the match and be reported (red card):
- Intentionally making contact with, or striking, an Umpire;
  - Attempting to make contact with, or strike, an Umpire;
  - Spitting at or on an Umpire;
  - Spitting at or on another person;
  - Behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire;
  - Failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by an Umpire.
4. Any player issued a yellow or red card by the Field Umpire will move quickly to the Interchange line, departing the playing arena through the nominated interchange area. The timekeepers shall note the time the player crosses the interchange line and this is the start of the 15 minute penalty.
5. An ordered-off player is not required to report to the Field Umpire prior to resuming play at the expiry of his penalty time. However; when ready to return to the field of play, an official of the players club is to confirm with the time keepers that the 15 minute period has expired. When returning to the field the player must return through interchange area.

Note:

- Officials may contact timekeepers by phone for confirmation;
  - 15 minute period does not include periods when umpires indicate time on.
6. A player shall immediately leave the playing surface when ordered to do so by an Umpire. Where a player refuses to or does not immediately leave the playing surface when ordered to do so by an Umpire, the following shall apply:
- I. In addition to being reported for the reportable offence which led to the player being ordered from the playing surface, the player shall be reported for misconduct in failing to follow the direction of an umpire;
  - II. The match shall end immediately and the reported player's team shall forfeit the match.
7. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. All cases of foul or abusive language will result in an automatic yellow or red card without prior warning (and report if necessary). This ruling applies to players and officials alike.
8. Where a player is reported and sent-off in a match, the record of the send-off will be removed if the player is found not guilty by the NFNL tribunal.
9. Any match day official for example but not limited to coach, assistant coach, team manager, trainer, runner, water carrier, timekeeper, club umpire, or umpire escort issued a yellow or red card shall be ordered from the playing field (including the bench) and take no further part in the match. Required officials (see By-Law 11.5) must be replaced otherwise the offending official's team shall forfeit the match.
10. [For junior matches and Coaches Box Area White Cards refer to NFNL By Law 16.7.](#)

**CARDS**

11. Where a player is issued a second yellow card in the same match, the offending player will be shown a red card and ordered off the ground/court for the remainder of the match.
12. The field umpire/netball umpire shall submit the name(s) of any player(s) issued a yellow or red card to the League on the umpires match report.
13. Any junior player (under-9 to under-18) issued a yellow or red card twice in one match or twice in one season (including cards issued in senior, reserves, under-19.5) will incur an automatic one match suspension in addition to any other penalty imposed by the Independent Tribunal or accepted set penalty.
14. Any senior player (senior, reserve, under-19) issued a yellow or red card three times in one season will incur an automatic one match suspension in addition to any other penalty imposed by the Independent Tribunal or accepted set penalty.
15. Any junior player (under-9 to under-18) player issued a yellow or red card a third time in the same season (including cards issued in senior, reserves, under-19.5) will incur an automatic two match suspension in addition to any other penalty imposed by the Independent Tribunal or prescribed set penalties. The automatic penalty will then double for each subsequent yellow or red card in the same season.
16. Any senior, reserve, under-19.5 player issued a yellow or red card four times in the same season will incur an automatic 2 match suspension in addition to any other penalty imposed by the independent Tribunal or prescribed set penalties. A fifth yellow or red card in a season and the offending player will face the tribunal.
17. Any club who believes a player has been issued a yellow card unfairly has the right to appeal to the office of the GM Football Operations. Any such appeal must be lodged in writing to the League by no later than 5:00pm on the Monday immediately following the game together with a \$300 bond.
18. If the appeal is subsequently upheld by the office of the GM Football Operations 80% of the bond shall be refunded and the record of the yellow card in question struck from the register.
19. If the appeal is subsequently dismissed by the office of the GM Football Operations the bond or percentage of the bond may be forfeited and the record of the yellow card will be retained on the register.