



NFNL Laws of the Game Variance

Law Number	NFNL Rule
1.1 Definitions	Forty-five metre arc: the line drawn in the shape of an arc at each end of the playing surface to show the distance to the centre of the goal line is forty-five metres
1.1 Definitions	Twenty-five metre Penalty (Juniors): the act of advancing the position on the Playing Surface by 25 metres towards the centre of the Goal Line, where a Player has been awarded a Free Kick or a Mark.
3.1 General	The "home" club should ensure:- - the ground is in playable condition. - all lines - boundary, kick off, centre circle, 45 metre square, two 45 metre or 50 metre arcs (subject to ground dimensions) and interchange lines are all properly marked. - goal posts are padded. - goal posts are fitted with brackets for flags
3.2 (a) Playing Surface	The Playing Surface shall be: (i) oval in shape; (ii) between 150 metres and 185 metres in length; and (iii) between 95 metres and 155 metres in width.
3.2 (b) Playing Surface	At a ground that is fully enclosed by a fence, the distance between the marked boundary line and the fence at all points must be at least three (3) metres. Where the ground is not enclosed by a fence a second line must be marked four (4) metres outside the marked boundary line. No spectator is to encroach over this "second" line during the playing of quarters. Clubs with unfenced grounds must also ensure that an area behind the goal and behind posts is sectioned off to a distance of 5 metres behind the goal/behind posts. Once a team has entered the playing arena for the conduct of a match (at their programmed commencement time) they are not permitted to leave the arena other than for the recognized ½ time break and on the conclusion of the match (after the final siren has sounded)
3.5 (a) (ii) Identifying Areas On The Playing Surface	Be 45 or 50 metres long and 45 or 50 metres wide;
3.5 (g) Identifying Areas On The Playing Surface	Coaches' lines: A line to be drawn half-way between the boundary line and the fence/coaches box over which no official is to encroach during the game's playing time
3.5 (h) Identifying Areas On The Playing Surface	Trainers/Water carriers line: a line to be marked 15m either side of the coaches box from the boundary fence to the boundary line which indicates the place that trainers and water persons are to remain clear of the coaches box, unless in the case of trainers who are providing medical treatment to an injured player in the coaches box area. NOTE: COACHES BOXES Coaches' boxes or benches must be placed on opposite sides of the interchange area and each box/bench must be at least 35-40 metres from the marked interchange area. If boxes are fixed the interchange area must be marked exactly in the middle between the two boxes. Coaches' boxes/benches and the interchange area must be placed on the same side of the oval without the prior approval of the CEO. Fines will be imposed when home clubs fail to meet this requirement or any alternative requirement imposed by the CEO. It is the responsibility of the home club to provide appropriate and suitable seating for the coach, interchange players and his support staff, such support staff not to exceed four (4) in number. Umpires may award a free kick against any support staff who does not comply with the rule.
4.2.1 Supply And Selection Of Footballs	The home club must submit the choice of the visiting team: In Senior matches two new footballs which must be the Sherrin brand and stamped with the League logo.
4.2.2 Supply And Selection Of Footballs	In Reserves and U/19's matches one new Sherrin brand football stamped with the League logo and one good second hand Sherrin ball, as used in 1 match in a Senior match.
4.2.3 Supply And Selection Of Footballs	In the event of a dispute as to the selection of the ball or its general condition the Field Umpire of the match shall have the right to select the match ball.
4.2.4 Supply And Selection Of Footballs	In wet weather, prior to the commencement of the match, both Secretaries will come together to decide on the number of balls to be used in that match. In the event of a dispute, the home club Secretary shall have the right to decide.
4.2.5 Supply And Selection Of Footballs	Red balls can be substituted for yellow coloured balls but only if agreed to by the away club Secretary. The colour selected shall be used throughout the match
5.1 Number Of Players In Team	Refer to NFNL By Law 8.1 – for allowable team numbers per division and/or age group
5.3.2 Completing And Lodging Team Sheets	On-line team sheets must be handed to the field umpire no later than the half time break. Fines are applicable for non-compliance with this requirement in accordance with Schedule 20 Clubs must ensure teamsheets are completed in full and signed by all players.
5.5.3 (b) Players Exceeding Permitted Number	A Fifty Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded; (25 metre penalty in Juniors)
5.5.3 (d) Players Exceeding Permitted Number	The field Umpire shall report the circumstances to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time. The NFNL Board may further determine the matter by way of a fine, reversal of Match result or other sanction as it deems appropriate, including overturning the loss of points prescribed by Law 5.5.3(c).
6.2 (a) Identification	Runners: One runner may be used in any league match. The runner is allowed to be used to deliver a message from the coach to a player at any one time - he must then leave the ground immediately. Runners are not to speak to opposition players whilst the game is in progress. After one warning the field umpire can order that official be barred from entering the ground again for the rest of the match. Clubs are able to communicate (coach to interchange area) with electronic aids, however no devices of this nature are to be carried/worn by any official onto the playing area. No person shall act as a club runner unless they have attained the age of 18 years. A runner must wear the uniform of green/black shorts and green shirt as approved by the league from time to time.

6.2 (b) Identification	<p>Runners: One runner may be used in any league match. The runner is allowed to be used to deliver a message from the coach to a player at any one time - he must then leave the ground immediately. Runners are not to speak to opposition players whilst the game is in progress. After one warning the field umpire can order that official be barred from entering the ground again for the rest of the match.</p> <p>Clubs are able to communicate (coach to interchange area) with electronic aids, however no devices of this nature are to be carried/worn by any official onto the playing area. No person shall act as a club runner unless they have attained the age of 18 years. A runner must wear the uniform of green/black shorts and green shirt as approved by the league from time to time.</p>
6.2 (c) Identification	<p>Water Carriers: Each team is allowed to have water carriers. Each team shall be permitted up to 6 persons to perform the duty of "water carriers" and trainers.</p> <p>In all Senior, Reserves & U/19 games, water carriers must be a minimum of fifteen (15) years of age. The activities of "water carriers" must be limited strictly to the delivery to players of drinks. The time spent by "water carriers" on the playing arena must be kept to the minimum essential for the actual delivery of drinks to players. "Water carriers" must not perform the activities normally performed by runners or trainers, must keep clear of play at all times and must immediately obey any instruction from an official field, boundary or goal umpire.</p> <p>Water carriers are to deliver water after a goal has been scored and before the ball is bounced in the centre to restart play.</p> <p>Water Carriers are NOT allowed within 15 metres of the coaches boxes at any time during matches. Any water carrier who interferes with the conduct of play in such a manner that the umpire must stop play shall result in a free kick and 50 metre penalty being awarded to the opposing team.</p> <p>An umpire is to order from the field any water carrier or trainer known to be younger than fifteen years officiating in an on field capacity. Where an umpire is not certain of the age, but may suspect that the person is younger than 15, the person's name may be reported to the League CEO who will investigate the matter.</p>
7.1 Interchange Steward-Appointment and Duties	The NFNL does not require the use of interchange stewards.
7.3 Use Of Stretcher	Each home affiliated Club shall have a suitable stretcher available for accident cases, which shall be stored either next to the home coaches box during the game; or preferably next to the interchange area
8.2.1 (a) Field Umpires	In all matches, the League appointed field umpires have power to veto a decision made by a club goal or club boundary umpire and make an alternative decision, if the field umpire is of the opinion the goal or boundary umpire has made an incorrect decision. The field umpire's decision shall be final.
8.2.1 (b) Field Umpires	Where a club person is involved in an incident which may constitute a Reportable Offence an umpire appointed by the League shall report that person and the matter will be referred to the Tribunal for hearing and determination. e.g Club Boundary Umpire is to communicate the witnessed reportable incident to the NFNL Field Umpire.
9.2 (d) Gloves Prohibition Of Items	Players are not permitted to wear gloves unless they are first granted league approval to wear the gloves and are inspected by the umpire prior to the commencement of the game
9.4.1 (b) Order by Umpire And Replacement Player	The Player ordered from the Playing Surface may only re-enter the Playing Surface once the Player has removed the prohibited item and yellow card timings off ground penalty are completed
9.4.2 (a) Refusal To Leave Surface After Being Reported	Where a Player refuses to or does not immediately leave the playing Surface when ordered to do so by a field Umpire the field Umpire shall report the player for misconduct in failing to follow a direction of an Umpire.
9.4.2 (b) Refusal To Leave Surface After Being Reported	The field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the Player of the opposing Team who is nearest to where the warning was given or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty;
9.4.2 (c) Refusal To Leave Surface After Being Reported	If the Player still refuses to leave the Playing Surface:(i) the Match shall immediately end and the reported Player's Team shall forfeit the Match.
10.1 Times Of Playing	<p>Commencement: unless otherwise expressly approved by the CEO:</p> <p>(i) Senior Home and Away matches shall start at 2.10pm.</p> <p>(ii) Reserves Home and Away matches shall start at 11.55am.</p> <p>(iii) U/19 Home and Away matches shall start at 9.40am.</p> <p>All competing teams to be on the ground four minutes before the scheduled time of starting both the first and third quarters</p> <p>Refer to NFNL By Law 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 for all junior and senior women timings.</p>
10.2 (a) Late Teams	Home and Away Matches – Affiliated Clubs not ready to commence play at the appointed time or exceeding the prescribed intervals during the game as reported on the official time sheets may be dealt with by the CEO, and be liable to a fine in accordance with Schedule 20
10.2 (b) Late Teams	<p>Finals Matches – Affiliated Clubs not ready to commence play at the appointed time or exceeding the prescribed intervals during the game as reported on the time keepers cards will be liable to a fine in accordance with Schedule 20. Late starts following quarter and three-quarter time incur an automatic fine in accordance with Schedule 20.</p> <p>All Reserves matches must not cause a late start to Senior matches. Special arrangements – once it becomes apparent that a match will not finish prior to the scheduled start time of following grade/match, timekeepers may reduce the length of the breaks and/or quarters to ensure that equal time periods are played in accordance with Rule 10.3. When this arrangement is invoked time on is not added for these quarters.</p>
10.2 (c) Late Teams	If a team is not ready within thirty minutes after the scheduled starting time, the match is forfeited to the other team
10.3 Length Of Quarters	<p>(a) The duration of quarters shall be as follows:</p> <p>(i) Seniors - 20 Minutes plus "Time On"</p> <p>(ii) Reserves and U/19's – 20 minutes plus "Time ON" in the last 2 quarters only.</p> <p>The designated breaks between quarters for all League matches shall be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/4 Time - 5 Minutes • 1/2 Time – 15 Minutes • 3/4 Time - 5 Minutes <p>Refer to NFNL By Law 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 for all junior and senior women timings</p>
11.1 (c) Unauthorised Playing Surface Entry	Until the situation is rectified under (b), all Umpires will be accompanied from the Playing Arena by the Umpire Escorts of the two competing clubs who will remain with them until it is mutually agreed that they may leave
11.1 (d) Unauthorised Playing Surface Entry	A decision on whether the game will be resumed will be at the sole discretion of the Field Umpire(s) based on consideration relating to personal safety & the general wellbeing of all umpires.

11.1 (e) Unauthorised Playing Surface Entry	Where water carriers, runners or trainers remain on the ground after they have completed their immediate duty the following is to occur. Where there are League appointed boundary Umpires the boundary umpire is to offer one warning to the offending official(s).
11.1 (f) Unauthorised Playing Surface Entry	If the official re-offends the official must be ordered off by a field umpire and cannot be replaced. The re-offending official cannot be used again for the remainder of the game in any on field role.
11.1.2 Incomplete Match	If a Match is unable to commence or continue within the time scheduled for the Match for reasons beyond the control of either Team (including circumstances where it is unsafe for the Match to proceed), the following shall apply: eg. Extreme weather conditions lightning
11.1.2 (a) Incomplete Match	The Controlling Body may vary the length and scheduling of the interval to suit practical circumstances. The below is a guide only and NFL League contacts must be contacted to be determined.
11.2.2 (1) Consequence Of Forefeiture	(1) "One-off" forfeiture Where, due to a particular Team's lack of Players, the Match is caused to be forfeited, the following is to apply in this situation. (i) The side forfeited to shall receive four premiership points; (ii) Scores from the game in which the greatest winning margin occurred in that division and grade for that round will be applied to calculate percentage for both teams. (iii) Any side forfeiting twice in one season may be called before the Board on the charge of "conduct unbecoming of a Member of the League";
11.2.2 (2) Consequence Of Forefeiture	(2) Forfeiture due to suspension of Team or permanent withdrawal of Team. If a Team is suspended or withdraws from the competition causing a "long term" forfeit in any section, the percentage of each Team in respect of any game not played as a result of such suspension or withdrawal shall be calculated as follows: (i) The Team suspended (or causing forfeit) shall lose from its "points for" total, the average losing margin in games played on each date to which the suspension applies. (ii) The Team drawn to play against such Team shall have its percentage calculated in accordance with a formula to be determined by the Board, having regard to- (a) the period of such suspension (b) the date within the season of such suspension or withdrawal (c) the performance of such Team prior to the date of such suspension or withdrawal. (d) overall fairness to all clubs in the section or grade This sub-rule will take effect when a "long-term" forfeit arises such as a Team being suspended from the competition or withdrawing due to lack of Players
17.1 Bringing The Football Back Into Play	A player of the defending team may kick the football into play when the goal umpire has signalled that a behind has been scored. For all matches from U/11 – U/18 age groups, a Player from the defending Team may only kick the football into play when the Goal Umpire has completed waving the flag to signal that a Behind has been scored.
17.1 (e) Bringing The Football Back Into Play	A Free Kick is to be paid against a club if its runner or any other on field official is positioned within the 45 or 50 metre area when a full back is kicking in after a Behind has been scored. In this event the Free Kick is against the team bringing the ball back into play, the opposing team shall take a free kick from the 45 metre arc in that half of the ground. In the event that the Free Kick is against the team defending against the ball coming back into play, the player bringing the ball back into play shall be advanced to the 45 or 50 metre arc. An Umpire may show discretion only in the event of a club trainer being in the area to attend a Player who is genuinely distressed or injured.
18.4.2 Number Of Rucks	Each Team must have no more than one Ruck contesting any centre bounce, throw-up or boundary throw-in. Player ruck nominations are NOT required.
18.8.3 Free Kicks-Umpires	Where a League appointed umpire (or club boundary or goal umpire) is verbally abused by officials, interchange players or supporters in the proximity of the coach's box the following is to apply: • In the first instance of such abuse one of the field umpires should warn the officials in the coaches box ("bench"). • If the abuse occurs again the field umpires is to stop the match and award a free kick to the other club. A free kick for can only be awarded due to abuse by persons in the vicinity of the bench and inside the fence. If it is noticed that suitable seating is not provided for each team by the home club this will be reported to the League (refer Law 3.5 - adequate seating). If the additional officials do not leave the coaches box the Umpire will stop play and award a free kick. If the "bench" re-offends the club will be referred to the League
18.10.4 Last Disposal	In Senior men's/women's, reserves and Under 19 games where there is NO NFL appointed boundary umpires and the ball goes out of bounds: A Free Kick shall be awarded against a Player who Kicks or Handballs the football over the Boundary Line without the football being touched by another Player; For the purposes of defining a kick, a kick shall be an intentional action, not accidental. When the ball comes off the foot or lower leg of a player without the intent of the player being to kick the ball, it will be deemed accidental contact and will not be determined as a kick by the umpire and therefore will result in a ball-up 15m from the boundary.

19.0 Fifty Metre Penalty	For all incidents in which a 50 metre penalty would be imposed, this distance is reduced to 25 metres for all junior grades Under 17 and below.
22.0 Reporting Players And Officials	In the event of any reportable offence taking place during the progress of any official match or on the day of the match, the field umpire(s) in all sections (NFL or club) and all official League goal and boundary and emergency umpires shall have the power to report players or officials in respect of the offence to the Northern Football League Independent Tribunal and apply the League Order Off Rule where applicable.
22.3.1 Reports During A Match	At the time of making any such report of any player or club official, the field umpire, an emergency umpire and the appropriate goal and boundary umpires shall take down the numbers of the players reported and the victim (if any) of the incident. The reporting umpire shall ensure all details of the incident are contained in the authorised report sheet. It is the responsibility of the reporting umpire to forward the report sheet to the CEO.