



2024 Football By-Law and Schedule Changes

NFNL Board approved December, 2023

Rule Area	Rule	Category	Rule Status	Summary	Notes
SENIOR COMPETITION APPLICABLE RULES AMENDMENTS ONLY					
CCSP Player payments	By Law 6.2	Senior Men	New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Player payments must be made each home and away round in accordance with the players contract at the commencement of the season. No monetary adjustment decreases on any player contracts are allowed by a club during the season. 	NFNL By Law added as this is not outlined/applicable in AFL Vic CCSP Policy.
Player Points For 2024+ seasons (U19 Season of service point deduction)	By Law 6.1	Senior Men	New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A player will receive a 1 point season of service deduction with their club per season if they play 50% or more of their clubs total Under 19 home and away games played in that 2024 season. Where a player plays both Under 19.5 and Reserves games in a season this will be based on their total accumulative number of matches <p>Example: 7 Under 19.5 games and 4 Reserves games they would be eligible for a 1 point deduction season of service as have reached number of games threshold in that season.</p>	<p>- To come into effect at the end of 2024 for Under 19 games played in 2024 only - not any retrospective years.</p> <p>- With the recent change in AFL Victoria MoU policy and reset for 2024, player point assessments for 2024 are based on 2024 MoU in place (not any historical MoU retrospective years games played data)</p>
U19.5 – Clubs with 2 teams	By Law 4.2.1 (h), (i)	Under 19.5	New	<p>Clubs that submit two Under 19.5 teams.</p> <p>Restricted Player Lists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs are required to submit their Restricted Player List (RPL) of the clubs best 15 players in their highest division team prior to the commencement of the season. 	- A change from current rules where once a Under 19 player has played 5 matches in the higher graded team they are not eligible



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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RPL players would not be eligible to play in the lower division team at any stage. These RPL players make up the nucleus of the higher division team for that season. Clubs are required to verify these RPL players through the supplying of club best and fairest votes etc from previous season. <p>Fringe 1st and 2nd team Players and the lower division team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other players can play between the first and second team during the home and away season. However for finals eligibility for the lower division team these players would only be eligible for finals if they have played more games in the lower division during the home and away season. If the player has played an equal number of games in both division teams then they would be eligible for the higher division team only. 	<p>to play again in the lower division team.</p> <p>- The Restricted Player List introduction provides greater flexibility for clubs with two teams while maintaining the integrity of lower division team games with the club's top 15 players on their Restricted Player List not eligible to play in the lower division team at any stage.</p>
VFLW Players	By Law 12.2.8	Senior Women	Revised	<p>At the completion of a VFLW teams season, VFLW players are not permitted to play with their NFNL community club in the home and away season if they have played more than 10 VFL Women's home and away matches.</p>	<p>- Was previously 50% of VFL Womens home and away matches. Greater flexibility has been allowed during NFNL home and away season with this increase.</p> <p>- But rule 12.2.3 is retained for the integrity of finals, if the player has played more than 50% of games in the VFLW home and away season they remain ineligible for NFNL finals.</p>



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VFLW Players	By Law 12.2.9	Senior Women	Removed	Where a Senior Womens team has a genuine shortage of eligible players for Home and Away games, the club may seek approval from the League for the utilisation of VFLW listed players. a) For the purpose of By-Law 12.2.9 a team has a “genuine shortage” when they have less than 20 players. b) In exceptional circumstances, variations to this rule may apply upon application to the League. c) Teams utilising players approved under By-Law 12.2.9 may play a Home and Away game with eligible and approved players on the Team Sheet to a maximum of 20 players	An increase in By Law 12.2.8 allowable number of VFLW games has occurred for eligibility in the NFNL home and away season, so rule has been removed.
CCSP	By Law 6 & Schedule 25, 28, 29, 30, 31	Senior Men	By Laws adoption	All current written policies of AFL Victoria Community Club Sustainability Program to be linked to AFL Victoria website to ensure updated accurate information	To be included in NFNL By laws and removal of Schedules
JUNIOR AND SENIOR COMPETITION APPLICABLE RULE AMENDMENTS					
Ladders for teams that change divisions	Schedule 24, By Laws 10.1, 10.2,10.3	Juniors, Under 19.5, Senior Women	Revised	<p>Divisionalisation (Re-Divisionalisation)</p> <p>(A) In the event of any team(s) being re-divisionalised from a competition, ladders for a division will be calculated by win/loss match ratio from all games played within that division.</p> <p>The following procedure will take effect to allow the competition to proceed:</p> <p>(i) Teams moving up a division will have results deleted and will commence the new division with a points ratio, match ratio and for/against ratio of zero. Teams are therefore eligible for finals based off games they have played in their new division.</p> <p>(ii) Teams moving down a division will have results deleted and will commence the new division with a points ratio, match ratio</p>	<p>- All teams will be placed in divisions for the season. The league may make changes to a division if required.</p> <p>In the event a change does occur any team that is placed in a lower or higher division (re-divisionalised), that divisions ladder will automatically be then based upon win/loss match ratio from games played within that division only.</p>



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				<p>and for/against ratio of zero. Teams are therefore eligible for finals based off games they have played in their new division.</p> <p>(B) In the event of any new team(s) being added to the competition, the new team will commence with a points ratio, match ratio and for/against ratio of zero.</p> <p>(C) In the event of any team(s) being removed / withdrawn from the competition, they will have their results removed from the competition ladder, with the remaining fixtures to be amended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring there is no advantage to a team that has been promoted from Div 2 to Div 1 with an unbeaten record & no team is disadvantaged that may be demoted to a lower division if they have not won a game. - This combined with league division awards being now from votes gained from games within that division and junior representative nomination caps based on division nominated for, it is hoped will ensure clubs nominate for correct divisions of standard.
League Awards	By Law 23	Senior Women, Under 19.5 & Juniors	Revised	<p>The player that accumulates the most votes in that division's games will be declared the winner. Votes stay within a division.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Umpire Votes and MVP Award votes of players for 2024 will not be transferred to another division if their team is re-divisionalised in Juniors, Senior Womens and Under 19.5. - Increased onus on clubs to ensure they apply for correct divisions.



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<p>Juniors playing up in seniors</p>	<p>By Law 4.2.1 (b), 12.1.15, 12.3.4</p>	<p>Seniors and Juniors</p>	<p>Revised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFNL juniors can play to a maximum accumulative 8 home and away matches up in the Under 19.5, Reserve, Seniors in a season. Once they have played 9 matches they are ineligible to again participate in the NFNL junior home and away season (and junior finals). Any player that has played 8 or less senior matches prior to the commencement of week 1 of the junior finals series will be eligible to play in that seasons whole NFNL junior finals series. Clubs will need to declare via the league template at the prescribed date prior to the junior finals series commencing any junior players who have played senior football in that season for league cross checking on eligibility for junior finals. 	<p>- This is a change for NFNL Juniors from a maximum allowable 4 accumulative Seniors, Reserves, Under 19.5 matches to a maximum allowable 8 matches in that season.</p> <p>- Rule remains where in a weekend a player plays 2 games (i.e. Under 17.5, Under 19.5) the higher hierarchical match would only count towards finals qualification.</p>
<p>Finals eligibility</p>	<p>By Law 12.3.1, 12.3.3</p>	<p>Seniors and Juniors</p>	<p>Revised</p>	<p>A junior player can play in both junior and senior finals series if they satisfy all finals eligibility requirements for the respective competitions.</p>	<p>Example: Played 5 junior games (player has played juniors only that weekend so counts as a junior match qualification) and has played 4 senior games on other weekends. Would meet finals requirements for both junior and senior team in that year.</p>
<p>Team Officials and spectators Misconduct Fines</p>	<p>Schedule 8, 20</p>	<p>Seniors, Juniors</p>	<p>Revised</p>	<p>FAILURE OF GAME DAY TEAM OFFICIAL TO PERFORM DUTIES AND/OR TO EXPECTED AND REQUIRED NFNL STANDARDS</p> <p>Change to a fine structure <u>modelled on deemed level of offence</u> by the General Manager Football Operations. Moderate Level: \$50 fine*</p>	<p>- Change from the current staged incremental increase in fine amount per team offence to a fine amount as per the deemed level of offence.</p>



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				<p>Medium level: \$100 fine*</p> <p>High Level: Sanction fine to be determined by the Football Manager</p>	<p>- *The General Manager Football Operations will have the power and full discretion to increase fine amounts for repeated team offences being received.</p>
League Levy	By Law 4.1	Juniors, Seniors	Revised	<p>Levy will be payable as per age of player of being Under 18.</p>	<p>- A change from a Junior levy to an age based levy of Under 18. Payable by all players under the age of 18 whether they choose to play junior or senior competitions.</p>
Players arriving late deadline and process	By Law 11.2	Juniors, Seniors	New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players arriving late must be identified on team sheet by team manager prior to the match and will not be permitted to participate in the match until they have been checked and ticked off by the team manager with the field umpire. • This can only be done at the quarter or half-time breaks. • Any player arriving after the commencement of the third quarter cannot participate in the fixture match. 	
Player Registration Identification	By Law 4.1.2	Juniors, Seniors	Revised	<p>Every club is responsible for citing a player's proof of age document to ensure their age eligibility for any player participating in a competition that has a minimum or maximum age requirement. The following documents are acceptable as proof of age: (i) Birth certificate (ii) Baptism certificate (iii) Baby Health Centre Book (iv) Drivers Licence or Permit (v) Passport (vi) School identification card (vii) Statutory Declaration.</p>	<p>PlayHQ the new competition platform does not allow for uploading of identification verification documents. Clubs responsibility to ensure participant meets minimum or maximum age requirements.</p>



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<p>Club video recording of matches</p>	<p>By Law 27</p>	<p>Juniors, Seniors</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>Photography & Video Footage at NFNL Games - Photography and taping of players at NFNL matches shall be allowed so long as the photos and/or footage is taken of NFNL competition matches in play. At no stage may any person take a camera into the change rooms of either club to take any kind photograph or video footage without the permission of the people whose image is being recorded. Further to this, photographs and video footage of NFNL games shall not be used for commercial gain without first obtaining the permission from the NFNL and the participating clubs. Failure to adhere to this By-Law shall result in punishment as deemed necessary by the NFNL Board.</p> <p><i>Hiring of an external paid professional video company for the purposes of recording a live match (e.g Sportscast) may only be done by home teams at their venue and does not require opposition club approval. Away team clubs are not permitted to do this when playing at another clubs venue unless approval has been received from the Home Club President.</i></p>	<p>Provides in writing current policy that amateur club video recording of matches for coaches and club purposes is allowable.</p>
<p>Trainers requirements</p>	<p>Schedule 16</p>	<p>Juniors, Seniors</p>	<p>Revised</p>	<p>Aligned with the standard AFL Victoria requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise Qualified Medical Professional (QMP) e.g. qualified doctor, paramedic, physiotherapist, osteopath, chiropractor, registered nurse or firefighter with Emergency Management Competency and appropriate first aid competencies. No requirement to attend a personal development session each year. <p>As process each year, a simplified streamlined process to be introduced where clubs will submit via a league online form the</p>	<p>- A change to recognising qualified medical professionals as a common sense approach and which is in line with AFL Victoria policy.</p> <p>- A process requirement for club's needing to declare all trainers meet requirements and fines issued for any false declarations of eligibility.</p>



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				declaration of all their football trainers each year. The onus is on club to ensure they have sighted the persons qualification and ensure that it is valid and in addition verify the work of any listed person that is a recognised qualified medical professional as per the AFL Vic policy and definition. Fines will be applied to any club for providing of any false information on validity of submitted persons and/or administration fine for failure to submit prior to the season.	
Melee Fines	Schedule 20 Fines	Juniors, Seniors	Revised	\$150 1st offence fine (Currently \$100) \$250 2 nd offence fine(Currently \$150) \$350 3 rd offence fine (Currently \$200)	- Melees are not good for the brand of the NFNL and puts the league at risk of major other incidents developing i.e. spectators ending up on ground, high level extreme on field fights developing. - Current melee fine amounts are very low when compared to amounts on other set league fines and have been increased accordingly.
Club administration item oversight Fines	Schedule 20	Juniors, Seniors	New	Failure to meet league directed mandatory administration operational items – \$50 fine per item.	We currently have no penalty and it is imperative that all clubs for example complete surveys and contribute to review processes, submit team of year nominees.
Suspended persons	By Law 16.5.1	Juniors, Seniors	Insertion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspended Players & Team Officials May attend as a spectator only. Are not allowed to enter the playing field including the ¼ and ¾ time breaks and/or be in or in the vicinity of the coaches box area for 	Provides in writing clear guidelines for suspended persons.



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				<p>their team at any time or be assigned to be any team official role.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspended Spectators Are not permitted to attend any NFNL sanctioned games during the suspension period. The NFNL may impose any such sanctions on a club or any individual they deem for any breach of this regulation. 	
Player Permits	By Law 4.1.3	Juniors, Seniors	New	<p>Any senior club wishing to play a junior player must submit a <u>season permit via PlayHQ</u>. The players junior club they are registered to for that season must be aligned to the senior club or as per Approved MoU to be approved by the NFNL.</p> <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>St Marys Junior player (YJFL) is only permitted to apply for a permit to St Marys Senior Football Club as per the MoU.</i> • <i>A Research JFC player is not permitted play on a permit with North Heidelberg Senior Football Club as they do not have a MoU agreement in place.</i> <p><u>Interchange League Agreements</u> The NFNL has an interchange league agreement only with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarra Junior Football League – (For NFNL Senior clubs aligned only in a MoU with the YJFL junior club) • Riddell District Football Netball League (For MoU - Wallan JFC with Wallan Senior Football) • AFL Victoria Country - Student and Family permits • AFL Masters • FIDA • VFL/Coates League • Other (Interstate application) 	<p>- The NFNL will not have match day permits on PlayHQ as they auto approve on the new software system.</p> <p>- Season permits will need to be submitted which will require NFNL approval and ensures oversight as per eligibility requirements.</p> <p>- Clear guidelines are now provided to clubs on what interchange league agreements the NFNL will have in place for 2024. Clubs/players shall need not apply for any other agreement outside what the NFNL has in place.</p>



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<p>Entering of results</p>	<p>By Law 11.3.1</p>	<p>Juniors, Seniors</p>	<p>Revised</p>	<p>Both teams responsible to enter their best players and goal kickers.</p>	<p>Under PlayHQ settings both teams will be required to enter their own individual best players and goal kickers. Under previous game day settings senior clubs were able to and required to do this.</p>
<p>Timekeeper instructions</p>	<p>By Law 8.5, 12.7.2, Schedule 15</p>	<p>Juniors, Senior Women, Under 19.5</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>Stretcher, Ambulance, Severe Weather Umpires in consultation with both team managers, will make all attempts to achieve a match result (which is half the total minutes of the matches playing time) within the allocated time for that match and have total discretion on the alteration of timings of length of quarters and breaks to achieve a result. Where possible the breaks and or quarters must be shortened into equivalent time periods and be consistent throughout the remainder of the match.</p> <p>Example: Under 16 junior game timings are 4*20 minute quarters = 80 minutes. 40 total minutes accumulative played in that match would constitute a match result.</p> <p>For further clarification on match day the league contact number for that day should be contacted.</p> <p>Games must be finished 5 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the next game or by no later than 5pm of the final game scheduled for that day.</p>	<p>- There is no current specific instruction wording for team managers, umpires and timekeepers on process when matches have significant delays due to adverse weather or players being unable to be moved off the ground and an ambulance is required to be called. This is now provided.</p> <p>-Information is also provided on what would constitute as a match played in total minutes and what clubs and umpires are to work towards achieving (if possible) before considering the abandonment of any game that may have a significant delay.</p>



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				<p>Example 1: Under 19.5 matches must be finished at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start time of the next game. If the Reserves commence at 11.55am, the final siren must sound no later than 11.50am.</p> <p>Example 2: Under 17.5 junior game starting at 3.15 must be finished by 5pm.</p> <p>Important - If the game was to continue for a few minutes after the 5pm deadline to achieve equal playing time, then common sense must prevail amongst umpires and team managers and the game is to continue.</p> <p>Refer to Schedule 15 Match Delay Policy</p>	
Female player colour shorts	By Law 13.1	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Junior girls and Senior women teams wishing to not wear white shorts in a season are to submit a request to the General Manager Football Operations for approval.	This is in line with current process and allowance introduced in 2023 if received.
Drawn Finals	By Law 12.8	Juniors, Seniors	Revised	Field umpires will re-commence the game (teams will not change ends) for a duration of three (3) minutes, plus time on. The siren will sound, and the teams will change ends and a further three (3) minutes shall be played, plus time on.	Drawn finals additional time reduced from 5 to 3 minutes each end.
Vilification and Discrimination	Schedule 10	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 10. Vilification and Discrimination	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule



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Gender Diversity	Schedule 12, 36	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 8. Gender diversity (participation of transgender and non-binary people)	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Infectious Diseases	Schedule 26	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 21. Infectious Diseases	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Pregnant Players	Schedule 27	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 20. Pregnant Players	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Safeguarding Children	Schedule 33	Seniors, Juniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 11. Safeguarding Children and Young People	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Concussion	Schedule 37	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 19. Concussion	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Gambling	Schedule 40	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 13. Gambling and Match Fixing	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Member Protection		Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 9. Member Protection	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule



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Anti Doping	Schedule 11	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 15. Anti-doping	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Respect and Responsibility	Schedule 41	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 14. Respect and Responsibility	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Trainers – Injury management	Schedule 16	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 16. Injury Management. <i>Note: 6/3/24- U13-18 – Level 1 Sports Trainer requirement – Transition year provided for clubs with first aiders accepted, but is expectation of league of Sports Trainer and this is the risk of club.</i>	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Registrations and transfers	Schedule 5	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 3. Player registrations and transfers	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Coach accreditation	Schedule 8	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 5. Coach Accreditation	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule
Umpire Accreditation		NFNL	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 6. Umpire Accreditation	
De-registration	By Law 4.11, Schedule 14	Juniors, Seniors	By Laws adoption	Adoption of AFL Victoria policy as per National Community Football Handbook – 7. De-registration	To be included in NFNL By Laws for AFL Victoria policy validity requirements and is removed as a Schedule.



JUNIORS COMPETITION ONLY APPLICABLE RULE AMENDMENTS

<p>Junior Ladders & winning margins</p>	<p>By Law 10.1, 10.2,10.3,10.4.1, 10.4.2</p>	<p>Juniors</p>	<p>Revised</p>	<p>Junior Ladders - Removal of for/against points percentage from matches and all ladders will be based on win/loss match ratio percentage from games played within that division. <i>(Refer to Re-Divisionalisation introduction for 2024 above).</i></p> <p>If teams are tied at the end of the season the below tie-break system will be used based on head-head clashes of the teams during the season.</p> <p>Finishing positions will be deemed a tie where; - Two or more sides finish on the same amount of match points or, - Two or more sides finish on the same Match Ratio (Games won/Games Played)*100)</p> <p>TWO-TEAM TIE 1. Match ratio 2. Win-Loss record of head-to-head competition between the two teams. 3. Points against/ conceded in head-to-head games between the teams 4. Win-Loss Record against highest common opponent (Proceeding downwards as necessary) 5. Average points against</p> <p>THREE-TEAM TIE (or more)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Best winning percentage of games played among the tied teams 2. Points against in head-to-head games between the tied teams 3. Record against highest common opponent (Proceeding downwards as necessary) 4. Average points against 	<p>- Winning margins for junior teams now have little to no relevance and will only come into effect where a team's final ladder position is required to be determined by a tie breaker if they have equal win/loss match ratio percentage from games played within that division with an opposition team.</p> <p>- The purpose of the removal of points for/against % is to disincentive coaches trying to win by large margins, encouraging coaches to equalise participation and inclusion for participants once it becomes clear they cannot lose the game.</p> <p>- This has been successfully piloted and then implemented in other leagues in recent years at EFNL and YJFL. Example: A team in Under 11 is 5 goals up at ¾ time in a very low</p>
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					<p>scoring match. The match is essentially won and at this point with the new rule there is no relevance on what their actual final winning margin will be in this game. A coach will then look to alternate positions of players for greater development and participation of other players in their team.</p> <p><i>Note: The previous rule teams could win by margins up to 60 points which encouraged coaches to continue to score heavily late in games for ladder % benefit.</i></p>
<p>Removal of modified rules U10 Mixed (Boys)</p>	<p>Schedule 32, By Law 8.1, 36</p>	<p>Juniors</p>	<p>Revised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 10 Mixed will act as a transition to competition in its design and will be played as per Under 11 rules with no zones or modified rules. The only difference to Under 11 being that there will be no game day scoring, no ladders, no finals, no league awards. Coaches on ground is allowable. Grounds which are a smaller size can be played on the full oval area or where games are scheduled on larger grounds they are to be played on 2/3 of an oval (shorten width of oval), unless both coaches mutually agree to play on the full larger sized oval. • Under 9 Mixed and Under 10 Girls introductory competitions will be the only competitions that contain modified rules and zones and where teams may be placed geographically (if possible). 	



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

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Junior Rules Matrix changes	Schedule 32, By Law 35	Juniors U10+	Revised	A change to all competitions U10 Mixed+ game rules will be consistent and will be played as per same rules with kicking off the ground allowed, no maximum bounces, no zones etc	Refer to revised attached Schedule 32 Junior Rules Matrix for the 2024 season
Zones – U/9 and Girls U/10	By Law 35, 36	U9 & Girls U10	Inclusion	On-field coaches in addition to their education of players are required to ensure their team is maintaining zones. Failure to maintain zones to a satisfactory level may result in a free kick against the offending team.	
U/9 and Girls U/10	By Law 35,36	U9 & Girls U10	Inclusion	If the ball goes out of bounds the umpire will blow their whistle and a ball up will occur 10 metres in from the boundary line.	
Wristbands – Modified zone competitions	By Law 36.2.2	U9 & Girls U10	Revised	YELLOW wristbands are to be worn by midfield zone players to help distinguish player zones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set colour of yellow must be worn so easily identifiable for umpire in 2024. No exceptions. - Clubs wore variable colours and/or mix of colours in 2023 which caused issues. Set colour consistent across the league in 2024 of yellow.
Junior League Awards	Schedule 32	Juniors U11, U12	Revised	All junior competition age groups that play finals will have a league best and fairest (Under 11+)	A change from currently only Under 13+ to Under 11+.
Junior Finals	By Law 11.12.3, Schedule 32	Juniors	Revised	No mercy rule in finals.	<p>Maintained in home and away matches for all age groups in 2024 and to be reviewed again for 2025 further with clubs.</p> <p>Despite there being no points for/against on ladders and in addition overall winning margins are of little relevance in 2024, the</p>



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					mercy rule has been maintained to ensure players at each end of the ground are provided opportunities to compete and a team the opportunity to score.
Junior Finals Bench allowances	By Law 12.3.9	Juniors	Revised	All Junior Finals Teams in 2024 are permitted to play a maximum 26 players. An additional 2 players maximum permitted. Unlimited extended bench rule applications and process has been removed.	- Clubs in taking registrations are recommended to cap team player numbers to a maximum 26 players so all players can participate in finals if the team finishes top 4. - Such club practice also ensures it minimises players being required to be rostered off from playing during the home and away season. This will be for the determination of each club to manage.
Junior Girls Team sizes	Schedule 32 – Junior Football Rules Matrix, By Law 8.1	Junior Girls U12, 14, 16, 18	Revised	Team size - 16 players on field and maximum 8 players on the bench in home and away matches.	There is a reduction in all junior girls Under 12,14,16,18 competitions to 16 players on the field versus 18 players. Teams are to play with 5 forwards, 6 centres (max 4 in centre square), 5 backs.
Junior Divisions name display	By Law 4.2.1 (f), 12.3.8	Juniors	Revised	All competitive age groups with finals will be named and displayed with division number versus colour as present. (Under 11 and up)	No colour names of divisions for easier reference for the many rules surrounding hierarchical divisions.



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					Example: Under 11 Blue will be called Under 11 (1)
Junior representative player transfer restrictions	By Law 5	Juniors - U14 & U15	New	Any junior representative player nominated by their club at yearly time of nomination is ineligible to transfer from the club that nominated them to another NFNL club in that season, unless authorised by the General Manager Football Operations from exceptional circumstances information provided by the parent.	Ensures integrity and ethical principles of junior representative program is protected.
Junior Rep Try Outs nomination caps	By Law 23.3	Juniors	New	<p>Post the league receiving all clubs junior team division nominations for that competition year (28 February, 2024), clubs will then be invited to nominate players for rep try outs.</p> <p>A tiered cap on the number of player nominations a club is permitted to submit are based on their highest division team: (Note: Clubs with 2 teams in two different divisions only get the number of players of highest division entered)</p> <p>Highest Division – 8 players, Second Division – 4 players, Third Division – 2 players</p> <p><i>Clubs are only be permitted additional nominees under extraordinary circumstances and would need to provide evidence and extended justifiable information on players for this to be approved.</i></p> <p>Note: Any player that has transferred to a new club for the 2024 season is included in the maximum allowable number of players cap.</p> <p>Applications for extended nominees where a club has new transferred players as part of their capped number of nominees will not be considered.</p>	



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<p>Junior club poaching and payment of players</p>	<p>By Law 5</p>	<p>Juniors</p>	<p>New</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Poaching and Payment of Players – Junior Competitions</u> Enticing top tier level junior players in recruiting in NFNL junior competitions, whether as match payments, sign on payments or incentives of any kind (free merchandise, free club membership, free external membership product groups, whatsoever, either to the player, parent or agent will not be permitted. Normal match day awards, trophy awards or assistance towards the purchase of playing equipment where financial hardship exists will be permitted only. For process on this, the aggrieved club is required to lodge a bond for the appointment of an Investigation Officer as per NFNL By Law 19. After completion of the investigation any club determined to be guilty by the Football Manager of doing this practice in enticing top tier level junior players will be sanctioned, who at their discretion may refer to the NFNL Board for determined sanctions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear guidelines of a process available for any club aggrieved that their top tier level junior players have been enticed (poached) by an opposition club with payments, free membership offerings etc which is not permitted in junior community football.
<p>Junior Coaches Box Area Misconduct</p>	<p>By Law 11.17, Schedule 20</p>	<p>Juniors</p>	<p>New</p>	<p>WHITE CARD - Coaching Box Area Card Policy (Juniors) Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Red Cards can be given. • Nothing in this policy prevents an Umpire from lodging a direct report at any phase for an act that is deemed by the umpire at the level of a reportable offence. • White/Red Cards can be issued by the umpire at the quarter time breaks from any incident and the card phase level consequence will commence the next quarter. <p><u>Ist White Card Phase – Free kick</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If, on a first occasion during a Match, a Field Umpire hears or observes any unacceptable behaviour arising 	<p>Trial initiative for 2024 junior season as implemented in AFLQ, AFLNSW, EFNL, YJFL.</p>



				<p>from the Coaching Box Area, regardless of whether an individual offending person can be identified, the Field Umpire is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) blow the whistle to immediately stop play; (ii) move within 20m of the offending Coaching Box Area; and (iii) hold up a white card. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Field Umpire after the issuing of the card shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where play was stopped will resume play by awarding a free kick against the offending team. • It is incumbent on the Coach to immediately address any unacceptable behaviour identified within the Coaching Box Area. • If any abuse or dissent is forthcoming from the Coaching Box Area during the card issuing process, a 25m penalty shall be additionally paid. <p><u>2nd White Card Phase – Free kick and 25 metre penalty</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If, on a second occasion during a Match, a Field Umpire hears or observes any Unacceptable Behaviour arising from the same Coaching Box Area, regardless of whether an individual offending person can be identified, the Field umpire is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) blow the whistle to immediately stop play; (ii) move within 20m of the offending Coaching Box Area; and (iii) hold up a white card. 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Field Umpire after issuing the card shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where play was stopped and then once the card has been issued, will resume play by awarding a free kick and a 25m penalty against the offending team. • It is incumbent on the Coach to again immediately address any unacceptable behaviour identified within the Coaching Box Area. • If any abuse or dissent is forthcoming from the Coaching Box Area during the card issuing process, the existing 25m penalty shall be upgraded to a 50m penalty. <p><u>3rd Card (Red) – Free kick and 25 metre penalty. Coach reported and ejected and must leave coaches box and go to change rooms or leave venue</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If, on a third occasion during a Match, a Field Umpire hears or observes any Unacceptable Behaviour arising from the same Coaching Box Area the coach will be ejected, regardless of whether an individual offending person can be identified, the Field umpire is to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) blow the whistle to immediately stop play; (ii) move within 20m of the offending Coaching Box Area; and (iii) *hold up a red card to the Coach to signal they are ejected • A Field Umpire after issuing the red card and once the ejected coach has left the coaches box area shall take control of the football at the spot on the field where play 	
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was stopped, will resume play by awarding a free kick and a 25 m penalty against the offending team.

- If any abuse or dissent is forthcoming from the Coaching Box Area during the card issuing process, the existing 25m penalty shall be upgraded to a 50m penalty.

Ejected Coaches

- The coach must immediately leave the coaches box area and go to the change rooms until both teams and umpires have left the playing field; *or* Leave the venue and not return until the Match is completed and both teams and umpires have left the playing field.
- The match will be cancelled and the offending coaches team will forfeit the match in the event a coach refuses to leave the coaches box and refuses to go to the change rooms or leave the venue.
- The Coach cannot nominate someone else to leave the Coaching Box Area in their place, regardless of whether someone else’s behaviour led to the red card.
- Any Coach who receives a red card shall be reported and issued a set penalty of 2 matches or can be sent direct to the Tribunal by the umpire.

Reasons for Card

- The Field Umpire shall not engage in any conversation when undertaking any phase of the process and shall not answer any questions that come from the Coaching Box Area.



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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a Club wants clarity as to why a white or red card was issued, the offending Team Captain (Seniors) or Team Manger (Juniors) can respectfully approach the Field Umpires in-between quarters to obtain an explanation. <i>Guidance Note: This is not an avenue for the Captain or Team Manager to debate the decision. It's simply an opportunity to gain an understanding as to why a card was issued.</i> <p><u>Coach Accumulation of cards penalties</u></p> <p>1 white card in a season to coaches box:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine of \$50 <p>2 white cards in a season to coaches box:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine of \$100 <p>3 white cards in a season to coaches box:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine of \$200 <p>4 white cards in a season to coaches box:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head coach set penalty suspension of 1 match <p>5+ cards in a season to coaches box:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head coach set penalty suspension of 2 matches for each card received <p>Straight Red Card issued in a match to coaches box:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head Coach Reported & sent Direct to Tribunal <p><u>Spectators</u></p> <p>In the event a Teams coaches box areas receives a card and they determine such behaviours have come from a person/s outside of the Coaching Box Area:</p>	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• it is incumbent on the Club to immediately seek to address the behaviour of that person/s; and it does not negate the issuing of the card	
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