



OUTER EAST FOOTBALL NETBALL COMPETITIONS INCORPORATED

BY-LAWS COVID AMENDMENT

(Draft approved by the Board on the 2nd March 2022)



Outer East Football Netball
Competitions Limited

1. Introduction

This document outlines changes to certain aspects of the OEFN By-Laws, introduced because of the impact of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and the State Government restrictions imposed on Community Football and Netball. This Addendum will apply for the duration of the 2022 OEFN season. To the extent of any inconsistency between the OEFN By-Laws and this Addendum, this Addendum will prevail. All clubs must abide by the AFL Victoria Return to Play & Netball Victoria Protocols.

2. Purpose

The aim of these changes is to accommodate the restrictions and protocols of a season and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all OEFN Member Clubs, staff, officials, umpires, players, parents, volunteers, and spectators. Acting in accordance with all State Government, Local Council, AFL Victoria, Netball Victoria and League restrictions and guidelines.



COVID BY-LAWS

Governing Principals

1. That the health and safety of the community remains the highest priority.
2. The sustainability and long-term futures of clubs and competitions will take precedence.
3. That whilst balanced competition is important, that the opportunity to participate whenever possible be of higher priority.
4. That where possible Home and away games and Finals shall be completed within the traditional timeframes.
5. Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these By Laws then the matter shall be referred to the OEFN Board to determine at their absolute discretion

By Laws are subject to changes in the Federal or State Government COVID Restrictions and AFL Victoria/Netball Victoria Protocols. Changes may trigger the application of these COVID By Laws or the addition of new By Laws as circumstances change.

LET'S PLAY!

COVID Specific Rules & Guidance

1. Vaccination Policy

Refer to the Victorian Government website [How we live: Information for Victorians | Coronavirus Victoria and getting active.](#)

The vaccination requirements of all League members, volunteers and spectators will be determined by the direction of the Victorian Government Directions and advised by AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria's Return guidelines.

2. Positive COVID TEST

Should a Player/Official receive a positive COVID Test Result, they must immediately follow Victorian Health Authorities directions.

The Player/Official must advise the Club immediately of the positive COVID result and the Club needs to assess the potential extent of exposure to its players and officials, as well as players or officials of opposition teams.

Based on the extent of exposure, should the number of players in COVID isolation affect their ability to field teams the relevant By Laws shall be enacted.

Public Health Authority shall advise on an individual's ability to Return to training or playing.



3. Fixture Management – COVID interruption.

Junior Football/Veterans

- Should an entire round of matches be abandoned, no points shall be awarded to any team.
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round.
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence
- Individual matches abandoned due to a Covid related abandonment will see no points awarded to any team.
- The League at its discretion has the option to re-fixture finals matches to allow for the season to reach a conclusion.
- Where a club fields two or more sides in an age group the forfeit should take place in the lower graded team.

Senior Football/Senior Open grade Netball

- Equality in the draw, in that each team should play each other team at least once, shall be sort in the Senior Mens football (where promotion and relegation are a factor).
- Should an entire round of matches be abandoned before all teams have played once in a competition, the first round where teams meet for a second time will be replaced with the abandoned round if those teams have not played once.
- For example, if Round 2 is abandoned in Premier, the Round 10 match will be removed, and the Round 2 matches will be played in its place.
- Once all clubs have played once any further abandoned rounds will be removed from the fixture and the competition will re start on the next originally scheduled round. From this point, should an entire round of matches be abandoned, no points shall be awarded to any team.
- Individual matches abandoned due to a Covid related abandonment will see no points awarded to any team.
- Any abandoned individual Senior Football match may result in that particular round being rescheduled and played after R9 in Premier Div and after R7 in Div 1 & Div 2 at the discretion of the league.
- Once each Senior Football team has played all other teams in its competition at least once, no games will be rescheduled due to an individual match being abandoned.

U19's/Senior Women/Junior Netball

- Should an entire round of matches be abandoned, no points shall be awarded to any team.
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round.
- The H&A season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence.
- Individual matches abandoned due to a Covid related abandonment will see no points awarded to any team.
- The League at its discretion has the option to re-fixture home and away rounds and matches to ensure every team has played each other at least once.

The League at its discretion has the option to re-fixture finals matches to allow for the season to reach a conclusion.



Impact of a COVID Interruption to open age (inc. Junior netball, Under 18/19 football) Team Player availability.

- Should players be unavailable to play any game as scheduled by the league due to COVID isolation requirements, senior matches shall take precedent for player numbers.
- **Senior competition Football:** Senior men's football and Under 18/19 matches will take precedence over Reserve grade matches.
- **Open grade Netball:** A Grade matches will take precedence over all other grade matches. B Grade will take precedence over C&D and C grade will take precedence over D Grade.
- **Junior Netball Grades:** Blue division matches will take precedence over White Division matches.
- Where a club fields two or more sides in an age group (U18-U19 football/Open Netball/Junior netball) the forfeit shall take place in the lower graded team.

4. Minimum Player Numbers.

Where a club has low numbers available for a team, the below rules shall apply for Season 2022 to the relevant competition that team is competing in.

Senior Men's games will be played provided that:

- Senior teams can field a minimum of twenty players (18 on-field and two on the bench).
- Should a team not be able to field twenty players, the game shall be cancelled (no points or percentage allocated), and match ratio will be applied to the competition.
- Teams may have unequal numbers on the bench for instance a team may play with twenty-two players v 20 players with 4 and 2 on the bench.
- A Senior team may ONLY be allowed to drop their player numbers to 20 IF there reserves team is not competing on that day/round.
- The League may at its absolute discretion amend the minimum player requirements to support the completion of matches.

All Netball games (Open & Junior) will be played provided that:

- Senior teams can field a minimum of Five players.
- Should a team not be able to field Five players, the game shall be cancelled (no points or percentage allocated), and match ratio will be applied to the competition.
- Each team shall have the same number of players on the court to start the match.
- Any team that starts with just 5 players, shall only be allowed to have one player on the bench. If another player becomes available, then they must increase their numbers on the court until they have the maximum of 7 on court. This shall be done at the earliest opportunity and before they do so, they must inform the opposition so they can prepare another player of theirs to do the same.
- Teams may have unequal numbers on the bench for instance: a team may play with 5 players and three on the bench and the other with 5 players and one on the bench.
- In all grades, other than A Grade, teams can loan their players to the opposition to assist in teams meeting the required number of players. The loaning of players will only be allowed during H&A matches.
- Teams cannot refuse players loaned from their opponent if that allows them to meet the minimum requirement to enable the match to take place.



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- Should players be unavailable to play any game as scheduled by OEFN due to Covid isolation requirements, clubs will fill their teams from A Grade downwards. To assist fielding a full complement of teams on a given day, Clubs may apply to the Netball Operations Coordinator to have a temporary variation to By Law 61.4

The League may at its absolute discretion amend the minimum player requirements to support the completion of matches.

Reserves Football games will be played provided that:

- Teams can field a minimum of 14 players.
- Should a team not be able to field 14 players at the start of the game, the game shall be cancelled (no points or percentage allocated), and match ratio will be applied to the competition.
- Teams can loan their players to the opposition to assist in teams meeting the required number of players. The loaning of players will only be allowed during H&A matches.
- Teams cannot refuse players from their opponent if that allows them to meet the minimum requirement to enable the match to take place.

The League may at its absolute discretion amend the minimum player requirements to support the completion of matches.

Women's Football, Veterans Football, Under 18/19s and Junior Football games will be played provided that:

- Teams can field a minimum of 12 (10 in applicable Junior football competitions) players.
- Should a team not be able to field 12 (10) players at the start of the game, the game shall be cancelled (no points or percentage allocated), and match ratio will be applied to the competition.
- Teams can loan their players to the opposition to assist in teams meeting the required number of players. The loaning of players will only be allowed during H&A matches.
- Teams cannot refuse players from their opponent if that allows them to meet the minimum requirement to enable the match to take place.

The League may at its absolute discretion amend the minimum player requirements to support the completion of matches.



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5. Impact of a COVID interruption on a Single Round, Match or Matches, Consecutive Rounds or Multiple Rounds – all competitions:

- No points or percentage shall be awarded to any team for any abandoned Rounds or matches.
- The season shall recommence at the next scheduled round.
- The home and away season shall continue until the original finals date.
- Rescheduling of individual games will be at the discretion of the league.
- Some clubs may end up playing less home matches than other clubs as the League follows the fixture.

6. Impact of COVID interruption on the Allowable Player Payment Rule:

- Should a round be abandoned, then the Allowable Player Payment Limits shall immediately be calculated on a pro rata of games played.
- Clubs should split their season payment budget into a weekly amount and stay within that amount each week.

7. Impact of COVID interruption on the Player Points System:

Player Point System and categories are not affected by any COVID interruptions.

8. Return to Play following a COVID abandoned whole Round or Rounds:

- If 1-3 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season may recommence at the next scheduled round at the discretion of the league.
- If 4-6 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum of 7-day training period at the discretion of the league.
- If more than six consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round following a minimum 14-day training period at the discretion of the League.
- Should the recommencement following any period of abandonment occur during the scheduled Finals Series, then the Finals shall be adjusted at the direction of the League Board.

9. Suspension in a COVID interrupted Season:

All suspensions must be served in accordance with the OEFN By Laws and suspensions apply to games played, not weeks.



10. Impact of COVID on Umpire Availability:

- Should umpires be unavailable to be appointed to matches as scheduled due to COVID isolation requirements, Senior matches (Men's and Women's) shall be a higher priority than Reserves.
- Should umpires be unavailable to be appointed to Senior matches as scheduled by the league/umpire association due to COVID isolation requirements, Field umpires will be appointed as priority, Goal umpires will be appointed as second priority, Boundary umpires appointed as third priority:
- Should the league not be able to appoint Field umpires to all Senior matches, or where only partial umpire panels are appointed (e.g., Field umpires only) or Boundary or Goal umpires are unavailable to officiate a match, the competing Teams may appoint an umpire(s) to officiate in those roles.
- Where only one Netball panel umpire is appointed to a Netball match, the home club should supply an umpire.
- Where a match is not appointed any league Field/Panel umpires, each club will supply one field umpire each.
- Further clarification on the non-attendance of an umpire process can be found in each of these By Laws:
 - Senior Football – 48.8
 - Netball – 74.17
 - Junior Football – 93.4

No Boundary Umpires

- In all Football competitions (other than Women's, Veterans, U18/19 and Juniors), should no boundary umpires be appointed or club volunteers available, the field umpires will ball the ball up 15 meters inside the boundary. Out of bounds on the full will remain in place but will be awarded only when no doubt remains.

11. Ladders

The following will be utilised to determine ladder position:

- Match Points or Match Ratio will be used to calculate ladder positions and head-to-head results will be used as tie breakers.
- Percentage will not be utilised as a tie breaker this season.
- The League may at its discretion add or remove fixtured home and away matches and adjust the finals series as it deems appropriate considering missed rounds for all competitions. The priority will be ensuring all teams play each other at least once during the season.

Point Allocation and Match Ratio Calculations

- If any match or matches or entire round or rounds is cancelled due to COVID 19 quarantine requirements and not rescheduled, the game will be abandoned. No points will be allocated to either team. Match ratio will then be applied to the ladder for that competition for the remainder of the season.
- Non Covid related forfeits will be managed as per league by-laws.



Ladder Tie-Breaker Process

- 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 x100*).

Two Team Tie

1. Win-Loss record of head-to-head competition between the two teams.
2. Greatest winning margin in games played between two teams.
3. Most Goals in games played between two teams.
4. Win-Loss record vs. Highest ranked common opponent (Proceeding downwards if necessary).
5. Aggregate margin vs. Highest ranked common opponent.

Three Team Tie (or more)

The following procedure will be used in the following order until the tie is broken:

1. Best winning percentage of games played among the tied teams.
2. Greatest winning margin in games played between teams.
3. Win-Loss record vs. Highest ranked common opponent (Proceeding downwards if necessary).

12. Promotion and Relegation in a COVID interrupted Season:

Clubs should move forward on the basis that promotion and relegation will take place. Match Ratio and or the tie breaker system will be used to determine promotion and relegation should a season and/or finals series not be completed.

13. Final's qualification in a COVID Interrupted Season

- Should a season be impacted by COVID 19, the finals qualification game requirements for players will be reduced at the discretion of the league after a minimum of 25% of the H&A season has been abandoned. Participation in 25% of matches completed will be the guiding measure in determining the required number of qualifying games.
- In situations where a match is cancelled as a direct result of player unavailability due to COVID 19 quarantine requirements, the game will count towards for finals qualification for the sides forfeited against. Sides who forfeit will not receive any games towards qualification. Teams Forfeited against in this situation will have to submit a team sheet for that match to count.

14. Finals in a COVID interrupted Season

- The Board may at its discretion add, remove, or reschedule any finals including the Grand Final to complete the season.
- If a finals series cannot be completed the League Board at its discretion may issue a Minor Premiers Cup or a Premiership Cup to the team that finished on top of the ladder at the end of the Home and Away subject to a minimum number of matches being completed.



15. Timing of Matches

The League at its sole discretion may change the start time, duration, and break times of any matches to meet AFL VIC or Netball Victoria protocols.

16. Year of Service in a COVID interrupted Season

Should the season be interrupted by COVID the League will review minimum matches required to achieve a year of service deduction (Football and Netball) and the HOME player definition in Juniors.

17. Forfeits

- Clubs must inform the league of potential Covid 19 related forfeits by 10am the day prior to competitions being held. The league and club will work through the Covid 19 Cancellation checklist, exhausting all avenues prior to the cancellation of games.
- Requests for extension of the 10 am timeline should be made to the League CEO.
- Any forfeits should only occur in the lower rated team, for example in the Reserves for a Senior club or a second team in the same age group unless the League provides prior approval. Clubs must push players up to fill sides in the higher rated team to ensure matches can be completed.
- Any match which is cancelled as a direct result of player unavailability due to COVID 19 quarantine requirements will not include the game in the records of its players. No ladder points will be allocated to either team.
- Failure to notify the league of any potential Covid 19 cancellation will be seen as a traditional forfeit, with existing league by-laws activated, including fines and payment of umpires.
- Non Covid 19 related forfeits will be managed under existing league by-laws.
- Abuse of the Covid-19 Cancellation policy will be referred to the league Investigator and the Board for review. Clubs may face possible sanctions in these circumstances. Sanctions will be at the discretion of the Board and may be required to be served in any forthcoming season if required.
- Clubs will be required to provide names of players unavailable due to COVID 19 quarantine requirements for all cancelled matches.

18. All Matters Not Covered by League and COVID By Laws:

Should any scenario occur which is not specifically covered within these By Laws then the matter shall be referred to the OEFN Board to determine at their absolute discretion.