



NORTH CENTRAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

COVID BY LAWS

Season 2022

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The NCFL COVID By Laws is to support the NCFL community in 2022 and beyond, by recognising the potential impacts of any interruptions and being prepared for the various scenarios.

Please note, the North Central Football League has the absolute discretion and right to amend the NCFL Covid By Laws at any time throughout the season and for any reason.

General Governing Principals

- That the health and safety of the North Central community remains the highest priority
- That all efforts will be made to ensure the H&A and Finals shall be conducted within the current fixture timeframes
- That a minor premiership be awarded until a minimum of 7 H&A games be achieved and when each club has played each other at least once
- That if a minimum viable season be achieved (which triggers a finals series to occur), that it will be the maximum number of games possible
- That a finals series be played with a minimum of 2 week (1 v 4 and 2 v 3 in the first week) and up to a traditional final's series of 4 weeks
- Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these By Laws then the matter shall be referred to the North Central Football League Board to determine at their absolute discretion

Vaccination Policy

- In line with the current Victorian State Government current policies

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 assess the potential extent of exposure to its players and officials and then notify Lance Standfield and Sam Skinner immediately via an email (and/or a phone call if possible)
- Public Health Authority shall advise on an individual's ability to Return to training or playing

Impact of a Covid Interruption to Reserves and Senior team player availability

- Should players be unavailable to play any game as scheduled by the league due to COVID isolation requirements, Senior games shall take precedent for player numbers
- Senior games will be played provided that: Senior teams can field a minimum of 14 players and 2 on the bench, 16 in total (e.g. 4 forward line, 6 midfield, 4 backline, 2 bench)
- Should a Senior team not be able to field 14 and 2 the game shall be cancelled, and each team awarded 2 points (a practice match is recommended to be played)
- Senior Teams must have equal number of players on the field at the commencement of the match
- Senior teams shall not share players
- Reserve games will be played provided that: Reserve teams can field a minimum of 14 players, of which at least 10 must not have played previously that weekend
- Teams are required to share players in Reserves matches to meet the minimum requirement
- Should a Reserves team not be able to field 14 players of which at least 10 have not have played previously that weekend, the game shall be cancelled, and each team awarded 2 points

- Reserves Teams must have equal number of players on the field at the commencement of the match
- If one Reserves team has more players than the other team, the team with more players must share the excess players, until each team has equal numbers of players
- If the number of excess players from the club with more players is an odd number, then the Reserves team with the greater number of players will retain one extra player on the bench
- Reserves teams may have unequal numbers on the bench
- Where games are cancelled, teams are encouraged to play a practice match where possible

Impact of a Covid Interruption to Under 14's and Under 17's team player availability

- Should players be unavailable to play any game as scheduled by the league due to COVID isolation requirements, game will be played provided that: Teams can field a minimum of 12 players in total, teams are required to share players to meet the minimum requirement and should a team not be able to field 12, the game shall be cancelled, and each team awarded 2 points
- Teams must have equal number of players on the field at the commencement of the match
- If one team has more than the other team, the team with more players must share the excess players, until each team has equal numbers of players
- If the number of excess players from the club with more players is an odd number, then the team with greater number of players will retain one extra player on the bench
- Teams may have unequal numbers on the bench
- Where games are cancelled, teams are encouraged to play a practice match where possible

Impact of Covid on Umpire Availability

- Should umpires be unavailable to be appointed to matches as scheduled due to COVID isolation requirements, Senior matches shall be a higher priority than Reserves
- Should umpires be unavailable to be appointed to Senior matches as scheduled by the Bendigo Umpires Association, due to COVID isolation requirements, Field umpires will be

appointed as first priority, Goal umpires will be appointed as second priority, Boundary umpires appointed as a third priority

- Should the Bendigo Umpires Association 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 do not attend to officiate a match, the competing Teams shall appoint a umpire(s) to officiate in those roles
- Where a match is not appointed by a Bendigo Umpires Association Field umpire, clubs shall appoint a Field Umpire each to officiate the match, for all competitions in the league
- Should no boundary umpires be appointed or club volunteers available to be a boundary umpire, to a senior match, the North Central Football League shall adopt the last disposal rule. If this is to occur:
 - The field umpires will award a free kick against the team of a player who last touches ball over the boundary

Impact of a Covid Interruption on a Single Round, on Consecutive Rounds and/or Multiple Rounds

- Should an entire Round of matches be abandoned, no points or percentage shall be awarded to any team
- The season shall recommence with the next scheduled round, only if all teams have played each other once (if this has not occurred then the round cancelled will be played at the next available opportunity)
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

Impact of a Covid Interruption on Individual matches within any Round

- Should individual matches within any Round be abandoned, teams shall be awarded 2 points each
- Individual games shall not be rescheduled
- The season shall continue until the original finals are scheduled to commence

Return to Play following a COVID Interrupted Round or Match

- If 1-3 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season may recommence at the next scheduled round (if all teams have played each other once) at the discretion of the league
- If 4-6 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled (if all teams have played each other once) round following a minimum of 2-day (e.g. Thursday and Friday) training period at the discretion of the league
- If more than 6 consecutive Rounds have been abandoned, then the season shall recommence at the next scheduled round (if all teams have played each other once) following a minimum a 4-day (e.g. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) 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 North Central Football League Board

Impact of a COVID Interruption on an individual FINALS matches

- The North Central Football League Board may reschedule FINALS matches at their absolute discretion and will do everything reasonable to facilitate a finals series to occur

Impact of a COVID cancellation of an entire Finals Series

- Should the entire Finals Series be abandoned with no finals games commencing, the team who finished top of the ladder at the completion of the Home & Away Season shall be awarded the Minor Premiers, provided the leagues minimum number of H&A games be achieved (7), and each club has played each other once
- No Premiership shall be awarded under this clause

Final Qualifications in a COVID interrupted Season

- Should a season be impacted by COVID in any manner, the North Central Football League Board may determine FINAL Qualifications game requirements for Players at their absolute discretion at any stage during the season

League Awards in a COVID interrupted Season

- Should a season be impacted by COVID in any manner, the North Central Football League Board will adopt a Pro Rata voting system for players who played that season based on the amount of games their club has played

Consequence of a suspension in a COVID interrupted Season

- All suspensions MUST be served in accordance with the AFL Victoria Country Rules and suspensions apply to games played and not dates

Impact of COVID Interruption on the Allowable Player Payment Rule

- Should a round be abandoned, then the Allowable Player Payment Caps shall immediately be calculated on a pro rata of games played by the respective clubs
- The North Central Football League Board may make an application to the AFL Central Victorian Region Commission to reduce the Allowable Player Payment Cap at any stage during the season should a minimum of 6 Rounds be abandoned
- Should any scenario occur which is not covered within this regulation, then the matter shall be referred to the AFL Central Victorian Region Commission to determine at their absolute discretion

Impact of COVID Interruption on the Player Point System

- Regardless of any Rounds being abandoned, the Player Point System regulations and categories shall not be affected
- Should individual club matches be abandoned, clubs may make application to the AFL Central Victorian Region Commission for special consideration for individual Player Reassessment for the following season under relevant region processes and consistent with the Clause 7.3 of AFL Victoria Player Points system Policy

Matters not covered by COVID By Laws

- Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these By Laws then the matter shall be referred to the North Central Football League Board to determine at their absolute discretion