



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

CONDITIONS OF PLAY IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT

The VAF A is absolutely committed to ensuring the 2021 VAF A season commences and that all registered players are provided with as many opportunities as possible to participate and compete.

Additionally, conducting and scheduling matches in a safe, hygienic and controlled manner is paramount to the VAF A. At all times, the VAF A abides by the expert advice and direction provided to them by the Victorian State Government and AFL Victoria's Return to Training and Games Protocols (available on the VAF A Portal) and expects clubs to do the same.

The VAF A will be guided by the following conditions if/when confronted with the unique challenges of COVID-19 during the season. By producing these conditions, the VAF A is attempting to find the right balance between ensuring all matches continue to be played as well as guaranteeing that the integrity of the competition can still be protected.

1. COVID-19 Positive Player

In the event that a registered player(s) from a club has been directed to isolate / quarantine by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) at any time during the 2021 VAF A season, the impacted club via their Club President or COVID Safety Officer shall immediately notify the VAF A of this ruling. Included in the notification must be written evidence from the DHHS that a player has been directed to isolate for a certain length of time.

2. Commencement of Match

If eight (8) or less registered player(s) who played in the same team in the previous match have all been directed to isolate / quarantine by the DHHS prior to the team's next scheduled match(es) during the 2021 VAF A season, the

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upcoming scheduled match(es) involving that specific team will still proceed with four (4) points awarded to the winning team.

Background: Eight (8) players has been decided as the threshold in accordance with the principle of Rule 5 of the Laws of Australian Football which allows a team (for those that play with an interchange of four players) to be able to participate in a match even if they were unable to find any replacement players to replace those directed to isolate.

3A. Cancellation of Home and Away Match

If nine (9) or more registered player(s) who played in the same team in the previous home and away match have all been directed to isolate / quarantine by the DHHS prior to the team's next scheduled home and away match(es), the upcoming scheduled match(es) involving that specific team will be cancelled and deemed an incomplete match. In this instance, the ladder of that competition will revert to a match ratio calculation for the remainder of the season due to an uneven number of matches being played by the competing teams.

3B. Cancellation of a Finals Match

If nine (9) or more registered player(s) who played in the same team in the previous home and away and/or finals match have all been directed to isolate / quarantine by the DHHS prior to the team's next scheduled finals match(es), the finals match shall be forfeited to the opposing team.

Note: An impacted club wishing to still play under conditions 3A or 3B may request this in writing to the VAFA, however the VAFA holds full discretion in determining whether the match proceeds.

4. Cancellation of Round of Matches or Week of Finals

In the event the DHHS orders a temporary ban on all outdoor physical recreation and community sport, all matches scheduled to take place during that period will be cancelled and deemed incomplete matches with all ladders reverting to a match ratio calculation for the remainder of the season. In the event this occurs during the finals series, the higher ranked team will be deemed the winner of the match.

5. Cancellation of Season

The VAFA Board may in its full discretion cancel the 2021 VAFA season at any point. When determining whether to award a Premiership, the VAFA Board will take into consideration the number of matches played so far, the number of matches remaining and the match results and percentages from the season so far.

6. Rescheduling of Match

The VAFA will not be rescheduling any matches impacted by players who are directed to isolate / quarantine by the DHHS.

7. Match Ratio Calculation

The match ratio calculation reflects the number of wins by each team against the number of matches played by each team.

An example match ratio calculation at the end of a season is included below:

- Team 1 plays 18 matches for 9 wins: $9 \text{ wins} / 18 \text{ matches} = 50\%$
- Team 2 plays 18 matches for 10 wins: $10 \text{ wins} / 18 \text{ matches} = 55.5\%$
- Team 3 plays 17 matches for 9 wins: $9 \text{ wins} / 17 \text{ matches} = 52.9\%$

Ladder positions at the end of a season based on the match ratio calculation would be as follows:

1st – Team 2 (match ratio 55.5%)

2nd – Team 3 (match ratio 52.9%)

3rd – Team 1 (match ratio 50%)

If two teams finish the home and away season with the same match ratio, the team with the higher percentage (total points scored against total points against) will be entitled to the higher ladder position.