



2021 Covid-19 Junior Competition By-Law Addendums

It is the purpose of this document to outline changes required in the current by-laws to ensure compliance with Department of Human Health Service guidelines. This document will be active throughout the 2021 season, to be reviewed and amended as required for the 2022 season. The document compares the current relevant by-law against the covid-19 adaption/addition.

This document is to be read in conjunction with the AFL Victoria Return to Play Protocols document.

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Definitions

- **Match day officials – As stipulated in Section 16 of the current by-laws**
 - Umpires
 - Coach/Assistant coach
 - Team Manager
 - Runner
 - Trainer
 - Water carrier
 - Venue manager
 - Ground Marshall
 - Timekeeper

2021 Addendums

1. Forfeits – Section 13 pp.20-21

Current by-laws:

13.5. The team against whom the forfeiting team was to play, shall be awarded the win and shall be entitled to enter a team sheet into the Competition Management System to include the game in the records of its players for the purpose of finals eligibility.

13.6. Scores will be calculated by taking the average winning score and average losing score from matches played in that division during that round and be awarded accordingly.

2021 Addendum – Abandonment because of outbreak

13.10. If a team must forfeit a game due to a localised outbreak, the match will be entered as a Bye and the game will not be rescheduled. No points will be awarded for the game, percentage will be calculated by taking the average winning score and average losing score from matches played in that division during that round and be awarded accordingly.

2. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS – Section 15 pp 24-26

Current by-law:

15.1. Match Footballs – No current hygiene provisions

2021 Addendum

f) Clubs are required to put in place protocols to ensure match balls are sanitised if any contact is made with non-players or officials.

Examples of how this could be managed include:

- Spare sanitised ball at each end to designated person/people to sanitise the ball stationed at each end of the ground.
- Goal umpires are provided with wipes by clubs, that must be disposed of in an appropriate fashion.

Current by-law:

15.4. Coaches box

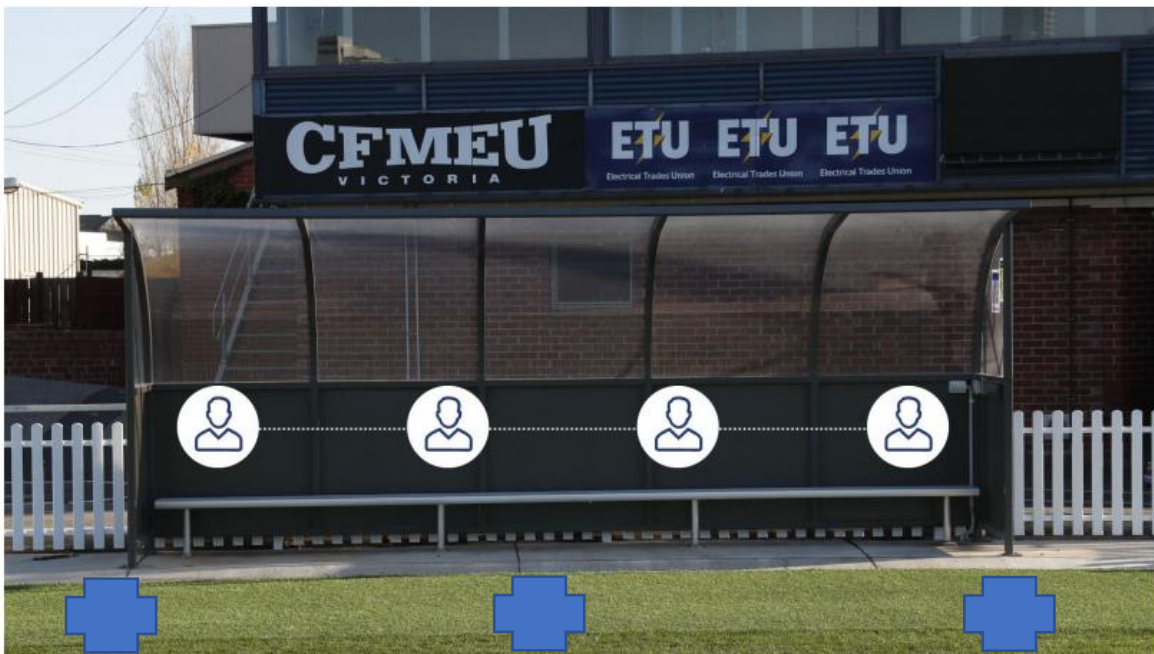
- a) There shall be, space permitting a clearly marked, 5 metre exclusion zone to the left, right and behind the coach's box.
- b) The officials permitted within fenced area and in the marked coach's area are as follows:
 - i. All interchange players;
 - ii. Trainer
 - iii. Coach
 - iv. Assistant Coach and must be identified and accredited
 - v. Runner

- vi. Team Manager

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- a) Any player or official who is on the bench during a match must adhere to the 1.5 metre social distancing rule. If the interchange box is not of adequate size, the home club must mark out a suitable sized box with cones or line markings as appropriate.
 - i. Team Managers will be allowed within 5-meter exclusion to perform their duties.
- b) The only officials permitted within fenced area and in the marked coach's area are as follows:
 - i. All interchange players
 - ii. Trainer
 - iii. Coach
 - iv. Runner
 - v. Assistant coach

The below picture provides an outline of how a bench can be managed. Blue crosses represent permitted match day officials (Coach, Runner, assist coach, Trainer).



Current by-law:

15.9. Spectators Quarter Breaks

Spectators are not permitted on the ground at $\frac{1}{4}$ (quarter) time or $\frac{3}{4}$ (three quarter) time, during the home and away season. Spectators are not permitted on the ground after the game until the umpires have left the field. In the Finals series, spectators are not allowed on the ground at any stage of the day.

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Only match day officials may enter the field of play during the course of a match, inclusive of quarter breaks.

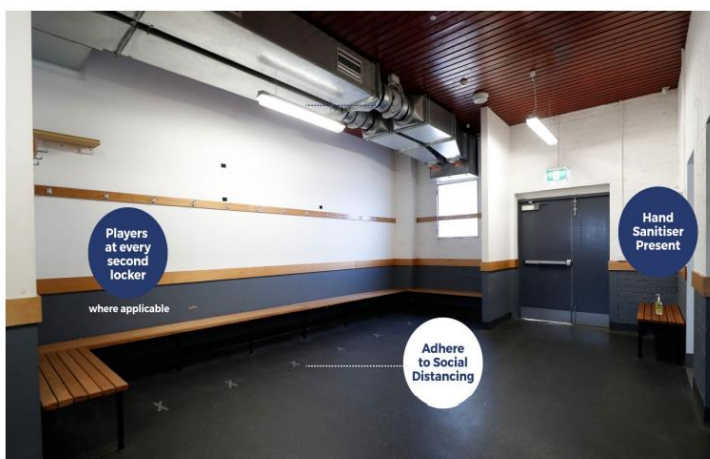
Current by-laws: No provisions

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15.13. Social distancing and hygiene

- a) Players are encouraged not to shake hands and are instead encouraged to offer three cheers to the umpires at the end of the match, at all times adhering to the social distant protocols.
- b) Singing of club songs shall only take place as soon as possible after the game, on the ground, away from the opposition and with the required 1.5m distancing rule observed.
- c) All players and officials must adhere to strict hygiene protocols during the game. The following are prohibited: spitting, handshakes, hi fives, excessive bumping behind play, communal water bottle and towel usage.
- d) Players must avoid removing mouth guards other than where necessary and take care when removed that no contact is made with another person.
- e) Limit tight huddles during breaks.
- f) Only players and match officials are allowed on the playing surface throughout the course of the day.
- g) Communal facilities, such as showers and changing rooms, can open provided participants abide by the AFLVIC Return to Play Guidelines (<https://aflvic.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Return-to-Training-and-Games-Protocols-Feb-24.pdf>)
- h) Only players and match officials are permitted in the changing rooms.

Below is an example of how change rooms should be set out.



First Aid Requirements – Section 17 pp.27-29

Current by-laws:

17.1. First Aid/ERC & Trainers

- (a) Prior to the commencement of each season each First Aider/ERC or Trainer must be registered with the League through the Competition Management System and Everproof with their WWC documentation uploaded.
- (b) There may be up to two (2) First Aiders or ERC or Trainers. Only one is permitted in the coach's box unless an injured player is being attended to. The other must be located around the ground at least 20 meters from the coach's area.

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- (c) All club/team First Aid Personnel/Trainer should complete the Australian Government COVID-19 infection control training available online via <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>. Medical officials must follow protocols as outlined in infection control training (i.e. disposal of gloves in between treatments, wearing of face masks). If you are using shared equipment it should be cleaned and sterilised after you use it.
- (d) There may be up to **One** First Aider or ERC or Trainer on the ground, located within the coach's box area adhering to the 1.5-meter social distance requirement unless attending to a player.
- (e) Any treatments/strapping that can be done at home should be done at home.

17.2 Runners/Water Carriers

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No water carriers permitted onto the field. Team trainer or runner may be used to take the duties of a water carrier, ensuring they provide individual water bottles specific to each player.

See example below of labelling for specific drink bottles.



Current by-law:

17.4. Boundary Umpires (CLUB SUPPLIED)

- (a) The Boundary Umpire must wear a uniform as determined by the League.
- (b) Before the commencement of their participation in a match, each Boundary Umpire must be registered with the League through the Competition Management System with relevant accreditation documentation uploaded
- (c) The Boundary Umpire must follow the instructions as given by the Field Umpire.
- (d) All Club supplied Boundary Umpires shall be at least 14 years of age.

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No club supplied boundary umpires are to be used (all grades). In grades where boundary umpires would normally be utilised field umpires will bring the ball in 15 meters and throw the ball up.

League appointed boundary umpires will be supplied as availability allows.

Current by-law:

18.2 Team Sheet

- (e) All Players and interchange Players must be listed with the correct jumper number. The Team Sheet must be signed by all players (U11 to U18 age groups) the Team Manager and the Coach must be included as selected from the Competition Management System. Team Sheets cannot be printed without a Coach's name.

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Players are not required to sign the team sheet. Team managers assume the responsibility dictate any players on the team sheet that do not play as DNP within the signature field, otherwise it is assumed that all over players participated.