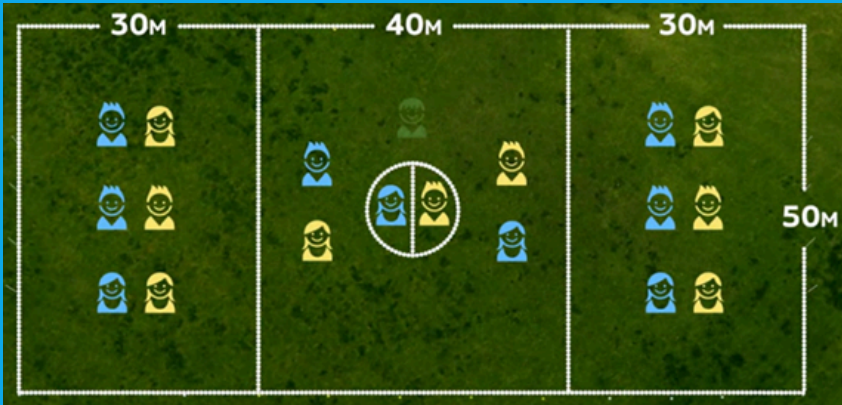


AFL NINES

COMPETITION RULES

	YOUTH	ADULT
BALL SIZE	Size 3 – synthetic	Size 4 (Women) – synthetic or soft touch Size 5 (Men & mixed) – synthetic or soft touch
TEAM NUMBERS	9 a side (on field) – reduced if low numbers Optimal no more than 3 on the bench	9 a side (on field) Mixed – minimum 3 females on field Optimal no more than 3 on the bench
MERCY	Capped margin of 60 points	
GAME TIME	2 x 20 minute half (no time on) 5 minute half time break	
GROUND SIZE	100m x 50m (max) 80m x 40m (recommended)	
STARTING POSITIONS	<p>Players must start in their zones at each starting ball up and after a goal has been scored. Players cannot kick the ball over the middle zone. If a player kicks the ball over the zone, then the opposing team is awarded a free kick from the top of the third that the ball landed in.</p> 	

AFL NINES RULES - EXTENDED

STARTING BALL UP	The ball up will include one individual from each team that acts as the Ruck. Players are encouraged to start by having one foot next to each other and then jumping vertically when the ball has been thrown up. If contact is made, a free kick is awarded to the opposing team.
SCORING	Goal = 6 points Behind = 1 point
GOALS & BEHINDS	<p>Only Forward positions players may kick for goal and must kick from within the forward zone. Forward players must identify with a coloured wristband.</p> <p>Players are unable to score from a turnover or out of bounds free kick.</p> <p>Players are able to score from a free kick if awarded in their forward zone.</p> <p>Players are unable to dribble kick a goal due to it being considered a turnover.</p> <p>If a behind is scored, the ball is to be kicked back into play from between the goals by a defender.</p>
KICKING OFF THE GROUND	No
POSSESSION	<p>A player may stay in possession of the ball for a maximum distance of 30m.</p> <p>Players must take a bounce every 15m. Players can only take one bounce.</p>
HOLDING THE BALL	<p>When a player in possession of the ball is touched by an opponent with one hand but deemed to have 'no prior opportunity', the umpire will call TOUCH and the player must kick or handball within two steps or two seconds.</p> <p>Failure to do so will result in a free kick being awarded to the opposing team.</p> <p>When a player in possession of the ball is deemed to have had 'prior opportunity' to dispose of it when touched by an opposing player with one hand, the umpire will award a free kick to the opposing team.</p>

AFL NINES RULES - EXTENDED

OUT OF BOUNDS

When the ball goes out of bounds (ball completely over the line) by hand or foot, a free kick is awarded to the opposite team.

If there is any doubt as to which team last touched the ball before it went out of bounds, the umpire shall call a ball up 5 metres in from the boundary line with the two teams Rucks.

MARKING / TURNOVER

Any distance, any reasonable attempt. Shows control.

When a ball is kicked and the player does not mark the ball, but it does touch the hand, then the play continues as per normal - umpires are encouraged to verbally yell "play on" to assist with the flow of the game.

When a ball is kicked and the player does not mark nor touch the ball, aka the ball lands directly on the field, then the umpire blows the whistle and calls a turnover. The opposing team is awarded the ball.

When two individuals are in an equal position to mark the ball, they can both attempt to mark, however purposeful contact cannot occur. Players cannot bump, come from behind or push the opposing player. If neither player marks the ball and no purposeful physical contact is made, then the play continues as long as someone has touched the ball. If no one touches the ball it is considered a turn over.

If purposeful physical contact is made, then a free kick is awarded to the player that did not make the contact.

If two players continually make noticeable contact with one another then the umpire may choose to issue a warning. The umpire must blow their whistle to pause play (time stays on), and then issue both players a warning. The umpire will then restart play by performing a 'ball up'.

TURNOVER

A turnover occurs when the ball touches the field via a kick or handball without being touched.

If the ball is handballed or kicked and has been touched (not marked) prior to hitting the ground, then it is considered "play on".

AFL NINES RULES - EXTENDED

STANDING ON THE MARK	When a player is awarded a mark or free kick, one player from the opposing team must stand on the mark, unless otherwise directed by the Umpire.
CONTACT	<p>Players cannot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hold an opponent with their hands -Knock the ball out of an opponent's hands -Push the player in the side -Steal the ball from another player -Deliberately bump another player <p>-Smother an opponent's kick by trying to block the kicking motion at the point of impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Barge, fend off or shepherd opponents -Touch the ball while another player has possession <p>Or any other form of contact at the umpires discretion</p>
DELIBERATE RUSHED BEHINDS	<p>A field Umpire shall award a free kick against a player from the defending team who intentionally kicks, handballs or forces the football over the attacking team's goal line or behind line or onto one of the attacking team's goal posts, and the player:</p> <p>a)is not under immediate physical pressure; has had time and space to dispose of the football.</p>
PLAY ON	<p>The umpire shall call "play on" in the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When a player after taking a mark runs off the mark - When a player after a turnover has occurred runs off the mark <p>The ball after being kicked has been touched in transit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When a the ball has been touched and then lands on the ground