



FOOTY RUSH

POLICY HANDBOOK

AFL FOOTY RUSH

NATIONAL POLICY HANDBOOK

PURPOSE

The AFL Footy Rush Policy Handbook aims to:

1. Make it easier for leagues, clubs, volunteers and other stakeholders to administer AFL Footy Rush within their communities; Provide a framework for key organisational requirements in relation to the delivery of AFL Footy Rush;
2. Address appropriate standards of behaviour and prevention of discrimination and harassment in AFL Footy Rush; and
3. Encourage the game of AFL Footy Rush is played in a fair, and good-spirited manner.

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AFL FOOTY RUSH COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

AFL Footy Rush Competition Eligibility Policy is divided into three (3) sections:

1. Age Eligibility
2. Team Eligibility
3. Scoring Eligibility

When implementing this policy, the AFL's registration and database system PlayHQ will be used as the single source of fact. This includes when someone selects their age and gender. The table below indicates how selections available in PlayHQ correspond to the references in gender in this policy. Participants can self-identify their gender.

PLAYHQ	REFERENCE WITHIN THIS POLICY
Male	Men or Trans-men
Female	Women or Trans-women
Non-binary	Non-binary
Different identity	Case by case dependant on how players self-describe.
Prefer not to say	Players who selected "Prefer not to say" during the registration are considered within the non-binary eligibility criteria.

The AFL Gender Diversity Policy (Community Football) (as amended from time to time) is adopted as part of these Regulations and their terms are deemed terms of these Regulations.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in a AFL Footy Rush Competition, the Participant must:

- a. satisfy the following age requirements:
 - i. in respect of a AFL Footy Rush youth competition, be at least 12 and no older than 18 years of age as of 31 December in year of participation, and be in secondary school;
 - ii. in respect of a AFL Footy Rush adult competition, be 17 years of age or older as at 31 December in the year of participation;
- b. where a Participant does not meet the age requirements set out (a) above but wishes to play in an adult competition, the Participant must obtain the approval required via contacting the Customer Service Team at clubhelp@afl.com.au;

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

The AFL is committed to inclusion and providing all people with an opportunity to participate in AFL Footy Rush.

Youth Boys, Men's Open or Men's Masters Competitions

To participate in a Youth Boys/Men's Open/Masters competition, each team must have seven (7) players who are men, trans men, or non-binary people on the field at any one time.

Youth Girls, Women's Open or Women's Masters Competitions

To participate in a Youth Girls/Women's Open/Masters competition, each team must have seven (7) players who women, trans women or non-binary people on the field at any one time.

SCORING ELIGIBILITY

For all competitions scoring is as follows:

- Behind – one (1) point
- Goal – six (6) points

All players are allowed to score, regardless of their position or zone.

AFL FOOTY RUSH FORFEIT ELIGIBILITY POLICY

The AFL Footy Rush Forfeit Policy, as updated from time to time, can be accessed at play.afl/footyrush

Unless otherwise stated, capitalised terms in this policy have the meaning given to them in the AFL Footy Rush Terms and Conditions of Participation, available [here](#).

POLICY OBJECTIVE

AFL Footy Rush competitions rely on team commitment to ensure a fair and enjoyable experience for all participants.

The AFL Footy Rush Forfeit Policy provides guidance for the Controlling Body in the event a team within a competition forfeits. The following policy applies to any team that forfeits a scheduled match within a AFL Footy Rush competition.

For the avoidance of doubt, reference to the “Controlling Body” in this Policy includes the applicable Competition Coordinator responsible for managing and administering the relevant Competition.

FORFEIT NOTIFICATION AND FINANCIAL PENALTIES

Teams must notify the Controlling Body as early as possible if they are unable to field a team to compete in a scheduled match.

A forfeit communicated to the Controlling Body at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled match will be classified as an “Early Forfeit”. Early Forfeits will avoid financial penalties.

A forfeit within 24 hours of a scheduled match will be classified as a “Late Forfeit”. Late Forfeits may result in financial and non-financial penalties.

Further details of the different forfeit types and penalties is set out in the table in Section 3 below. Financial penalties will be determined with respect to the costs incurred for venue hire and officiator fees. Financial penalties must be paid prior to the offending team’s next scheduled match. If a forfeit payment is outstanding, the Competition Coordinator may, at their discretion:

- a) Cancel the offending team’s next scheduled match; or
- b) Allow the offending team’s next scheduled match to proceed but withhold competition points from the offending team.

FORFEIT PENALTIES

The table below provides details of the forfeit penalties for AFL Footy Rush Competitions.

FORFEIT TYPE	PENALTY
Early forfeit (24+ hours)	Loss recorded (0 points). No financial penalty.
Late forfeit (<24 hours)	Loss recorded (0 points). Up to \$50 fee may apply Written warning issued.
No-show forfeit (no notice)	Loss recorded (0 points). Up to \$75 fee may apply. Written warning issued
Repeat forfeit	Upon three (3) forfeits, regardless of forfeit type the offending team may be removed from the competition without refund.

POSSIBLE SCENARIOS WHERE FORFEITS MAY OCCUR

The match official may also determine a Late Forfeit has occurred for the following reasons:

- a. a team is unable to field five (5) players (minimum number to play is five (5));

For the avoidance of doubt, competitions or divisions that have a scheduled BYE round are not eligible for refunds.

YOUR OPENENT FORFEITS

If a match is forfeited against your team (i.e. your opponent cancels):

- A win is recorded (full points – 4 points);
- The Controlling Body may schedule a friendly game where possible.
- As per our refund policy, no refund is provided unless multiple forfeits prevent your team from playing a fair portion of the season (Less than 75% of the scheduled competition games).

TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The person assigned as a Team Captain of a forfeiting team is responsible to the Controlling Body for:

- Communicating forfeits in a timely manner;
- Communicating forfeits with own team members; and
- Completing any payment of penalties prior to the following week's match

POSSIBLE SCENARIOS WHERE FORFEITS MAY OCCUR

The Controlling Body, or representative of the Controlling Body, is responsible for:

- a. Communicating with affected teams as soon as a forfeit is confirmed;
- b. Contacting other teams within the competition to arrange a friendly or fill-in match for the opposing team who is affected by the forfeit;
- c. Recording any forfeit information within competition records;
- d. Communicating any penalties, including fees in writing to the forfeiting Team Captain;
- e. Initiating refunds where applicable

REFUND PROCESS

The AFL Footy Rush refund policy in relation to forfeited matches is as follows:

- a. Refunds are determined by the Controlling Body in accordance with the AFL Footy Rush Terms and Conditions of Participation and this policy.;
- b. No refunds are provided for matches where a team has forfeited;
- c. No refunds will be issued to a team that is removed or withdraws as a result of Repeated Forfeits;
- d. If a match is forfeited against your team (i.e. your opponent cancels) and the Controlling Body is unable to find a further 'friendly' match and this results in your team participating in less than 75% of the scheduled competition games, you may be eligible for a pro-rata refund;
- e. If a team is eligible for a refund, it will be processed through the PlayHQ refund system and returned as follows to:
 - i. the Team Captain who registered the team; or
 - ii. ii) individual players, if the competition required players to make individual payments, using their original payment method;
- f. If the Controlling Body deem that a team is eligible for a refund, it is up to the Team Captain to contact the Controlling Body to initiate the refund process;
- g. In considering a refund request, the AFL's Customer Service Team will obtain relevant details via the Controlling Body, Competition Coordinator and/or AFL Footy Rush State Lead before proceeding;
- h. and refunds do not include any fees previously paid to PlayHQ upon registration of the team.

Further information regarding the refund process can be obtained by contacting our customer service team at clubhelp@afl.com.au.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES & DISCRETION

The Controlling Body has discretion in waiving any and all fees associated with forfeit penalties, including where a forfeit occurs due to unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances (e.g. emergencies, weather, facility issues).

CONTROLLING BODY FORFEIT PROCESS

FORFEIT TYPE	ACTION	METHOD
First	Within 24 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penalty recorded in line with penalty table Payment request executed by Controlling Body via PlayHQ for amount displayed in penalty table Penalty communicated to respective Team Captain 	Phone and email
	Outside 24 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No team penalty recorded 	
Second	Within 24 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penalty recorded in line with penalty table Payment request executed by Controlling Body via PlayHQ for amount displayed in penalty table Penalty communicated to respective Team Captain, including three forfeits may mean removal from competition 	Phone and email
	Outside 24 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No team penalty recorded Communication with respective Team Captain, including three forfeits may mean removal from competition 	
Third	Within 24 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling Body to review the reasons behind all three forfeits and make decision on if penalty should be recorded in line with penalty table Communication with respective Team Captain 	Phone and email
	Outside 24 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling Body to review the reasons behind all three forfeits and make decision on if penalty should be recorded in line with penalty table Communication with respective Team Captain 	

AFL FOOTY RUSH DISCIPLINARY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This AFL Footy Rush Disciplinary Policy establishes the process for applying penalties by an umpire and the Controlling Body for offences arising in AFL Footy Rush, including issuing careless and intentional infringements of play and identifying reportable offences

RESPONSIBLE PLAY RULE

The Responsible Play Rule holds every player accountable for their on-field actions, requiring them to act with a duty of care towards all other participants. It's a proactive rule designed to prevent injuries and maintain a safe, enjoyable environment. The rule is broken into two infringement: careless and intentional.

CARELESS INFRINGEMENTS

This type of offense occurs when a player's actions aren't deliberate but create an unsafe situation. The core principle is that a player failed in their "Responsible Play" to all other players. The focus is on what a "reasonable player" would do in the same circumstances.

Players that act in this way will be issued with careless conduct. This will result in a free kick to the opposition.

INTENTIONAL INFRINGEMENTS

This offense is committed when a player deliberately engages in an act with the specific purpose of causing a reportable offense. The principle here is that the player's actions demonstrate a clear intent to harm or cause an unsafe situation, regardless of whether they succeed.

Players that act in this way will be issued with intentional conduct. This will result in a yellow card to the player and a free kick to the opposition.

Players that continue to act in this way will be issued with a repeat intentional conduct. This second intentional infringement will result in a red card to the player, and a free kick to the opposition.

YELLOW CARDS

- Served when: players are issued with careless conduct.
- 1st yellow card: Free kick to opposition
- 2nd yellow card: Free kick to opposition & player must spend 5 minutes off field

RED CARDS

- Served when: players are issued with intentional conduct.
- Red card: free kick to the opposition and the carded player must immediately leave the field and cannot return to the field for the remainder of the match
- The Team Captain will be advised of the send-off, and the carded player cannot be replaced by a substitute

REPORTABLE OFFENCES

A player who receives a red card, will also be reported for the offence(s) by the umpire or Competition Coordinator (if present). A player may also be reported and not receive a red card.

- A reported player will incur an automatic one match suspension from participation in the next AFL Footy Rush match.
- Any reportable offence will be referred to the Controlling Body by the Umpire or Competition Coordinator (if present) by completing and submitting an Notice of Report
- On receipt of a Notice of Report – AFL Footy Rush, the Controlling Body is to assess the matter in accordance with “Controlling Body Assessment”.
- On review of the Notice of Report – AFL Footy Rush, the Controlling Body may extend the automatic one match suspension to two or more matches having regard to the Penalty Table below and other relevant matters (see Controlling Body Assessment).
- A suspension applies only to AFL Footy Rush. It does not carry into a Community Football competition, or vice versa.
- If the suspension is for a period that extends beyond the current AFL Footy Rush competition, the remainder of the suspension will apply to any future AFL Footy Rush competition for which the person registers.

COMPETITION EXCLUSION

- The Controlling Body may determine to apply a Competition exclusion to a reported person for a repeated intentional offence during the competition.
- Where a Competition exclusion is applied, a person cannot participate:
 - in any form for the remainder of the AFL Footy Rush competition; and
 - in any other AFL Footy Rush competition for a three (3) month period commencing from the date of the incident.
- Where a decision is made by a Controlling Body to apply a Competition exclusion to a person, that person is to be notified of this in writing by the Controlling Body or the AFL Lead as applicable
- A decision to apply a Competition exclusion to a person is final and not subject of any appeal right other than provided by law

PENALTY TABLE

CONDUCT	EXAMPLE OFFENCES
<p>Careless Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free kick, yellow card is issued 	Kicking a ball over a teammates head, forcing them to run with the flight of the ball into the space of a defender who is likely to also attempt the mark.
	A player running into a contest or mark at full speed, without attempting to reduce their momentum.
	Running a long way to be involved in a ball contest; player should be trying to avoid collision
	A player failing to take reasonable care to avoid tripping another player, even if there was no intent to do so. This could be from an outstretched leg or foot in a ground ball contest.
	Carelessly making contact with an umpire.
	Engaging in careless rough conduct
<p>2nd Careless Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free kick, 2nd yellow card, 5 mins off the field 	Repeated careless offence
<p>Intentional Conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free kick, sent off for the remainder of the match, red card is issued 	A player delivering a deliberate blow to an opponent with a closed fist, open hands or elbow. This is a clear example of intentionally causing harm
	A player deliberately pushing an opponent in the back after a mark has been taken or in a ground ball contest, with the clear purpose of taking them out of the play.
	Abuse: Using highly offensive, threatening, or abusive language towards an opponent or an umpire. This is an intentional act that goes against the spirit of the game and creates a hostile environment.
	Eye-gouging another player
	Making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face or eye region of another person
	Making intentional contact to another person using the head
	Attempting to strike an umpire
	Spitting on or at an Umpire or another person

CONTROLLING BODY ASSESSMENT

For the purpose of this Policy, a Controlling Body includes:

- The AFL;
- Any State Body, league, association, club or body responsible for the organisation and conduct of matches of AFL Footy Rush, who has determined to play such matches in accordance with AFL Footy Rush Rules & Regulations.

The sanctions referred to in the Penalty Table are indicative only. In assessing an offence and determining a sanction, the Controlling Body may:

- Consider any relevant matters including the nature of the reported person's conduct, the extent and location of contact made to another person and the impact on the other person including any injury sustained;
- seek additional information from any person involved in the match and that person is required to cooperate and comply with any such request; and refer to Appendix 1 of the National Community Football Policy Handbook ('the Handbook') for guidance.

Note: Where Appendix 1 of the Handbook used as a guide, sanctions should align to the Early Guilty Plea sanction in that Appendix, or where the offence is a Category 3 offence (which aligns to a Direct Tribunal Referral offence under the Handbook), to a minimum suspension of 3 matches.

Following completion of its assessment, the Controlling Body may:

- Uphold or overturn the reportable offence;
- Find the player guilty of a lesser or more serious offence and impose the appropriate penalty for that offence; or
- Find the player guilty of the offence but with consideration to mitigating factors impose a lighter penalty

The reported person will be notified in writing of the Controlling Body decision via a Notice of Sanction

REVIEW OF DECISION

Unless otherwise determined by the Controlling Body in exceptional and compelling circumstances, a reported person who has received a suspension of three (3) or more matches for an offence, may request a review of the decision of a Controlling Body on one or both of the following grounds:

- the decision was so unreasonable that no Controlling Body acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it; or
- the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive.

For the avoidance of doubt, only the appeal grounds specified above may be relied upon in a request for review of a Controlling Body decision.

The Controlling Body may charge a fee (not exceeding \$250) for review of decision. This is to be communicated with the player/s involved upon request.

A request by a reported person for review of a determination of the Controlling Body must:

- be made in writing on the Request for Review of Decision form, with all required particulars to be completed;
- attach all evidence to be relied upon in support of the review ground(s); and
- be lodged with the State or Territory Lead by no later than 5:00pm on the first business day following the decision.

Where an Offending Person is under the age of eighteen (18) years, the Request for Review of Decision is to be signed by a parent or guardian of the Person.

Legal representation in a request for review is expressly prohibited.

The State AFL Lead will convene a Panel (Review Panel) comprising at least two (2) persons to assess and determine the request for review. No person who was involved in the Controlling Body decision may be appointed to the Review Panel. In

determining whether any appeal ground relied upon has been met the Review Panel may inform itself as to any matter in such manner as it determines.

On completion of its review, the Review Panel may confirm, reverse or modify the decision of the Controlling Body based on the available and provided evidence.

The decision of the Review Panel will be notified in writing to the reported person and is final and binding and subject only to any rights of appeal provided by law.

APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS

A suspension is to apply to the next scheduled match(es) that the suspended participant's team is scheduled to play.

During the period of suspension, a suspended participant is not entitled to play in any other AFL Footy Rush competition.

If the suspension extends beyond the current AFL Footy Rush competition the persons Team is participating in, the remaining matches of suspension will apply to any future AFL Footy Rush registers for subject to the following.

Any such future competition the participant registers for must be one that is reasonably accessible to the participant (e.g. they can't register for one hour away just to circumvent the suspension); and

The participant must participate in that competition following the end of the suspension.

Any breach of these sanction conditions may, at the discretion of the Controlling Body, lead to the Participant's Competition exclusion from all future participation in any AFL Footy Rush competition