



Match Rules & Regulations

1. General

- 1.1 These rules are to be read in association with the Laws of Australian Football as set down by the Australian Football League.
- 1.2 The interpretation and application of these rules shall be at the discretion of the Aussie Rules UK Executive.
- 1.3 Any application of these rules can be appealed by the party or parties concerned to the Executive.

2. Competition Format

- 2.1 The Aussie Rules UK National League teams shall be assigned to divisions based on location. As of 2007, the divisions are Northern, Southern, Central and Wales.
- 2.2 Within each division, the teams shall play a series of home-and-away games against each other. The highest finishing teams in each division will advance to a finals series for the ARUK National Premiership.
- 2.3 The exact number of teams that progress to the finals in each division, and the format for the finals shall be determined before the start of each season.
- 2.4 The divisions shall also compete in a representative series involving teams from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

3. Match Duration

- 3.1 A National League match shall consist of four quarters. Each quarter shall be 20 minutes with no time-on.
- 3.2 If any match that requires a winner (finals, knockout games, etc.) should finish with the scores level, extra time consisting of two halves of five minutes shall be played. The teams shall change ends at the completion of the first half of extra time. This procedure is to be continued until a winner is decided.

4. Number of Players per Team

- 4.1 Prior to each match, the competing clubs shall fill out a team sheet and hand it to the field umpire. Only players whose names appear on this list shall be allowed to participate in the match.
- 4.2 The maximum number of players allowed on a club's team sheet is 15.

4.3 In the finals, the maximum number of players allowed on a club's team sheet shall be negotiated by the competing teams. If no agreement can be reached, the Executive shall decide.

4.4 In all games, the maximum number of players allowed on the field shall be 12.

5. Player Eligibility

6.1 All National League players must correctly fill out and sign a National League Membership Form.

6.2 Membership forms may be handed to the field umpire on the day of their first game for submission to the Executive along with the match documents.

6.3 A person must be at least 16 years old to play in an open-age National League match.

6.4 No player may transfer from one club to another after June 30 and before the completion of the season.

6.5 A player registered for a particular club may make a guest appearance for another club if that club's opponents do not object.

6.6 If a player plays for more than one club during a season, then in the finals he may only play for the club with which he played the most games in that season.

6.7 Players wishing to transfer from one club to another must first obtain approval from the first club to do so. If such approval is not granted, the Executive Committee shall step in and arbitrate the matter.

7. Umpires and Officials

7.1 The Executive shall attempt to provide a field umpire for all matches.

7.2 It is the responsibility of Aussie Rules UK to pay the field umpire.

7.3 In all matches the home club must supply two (2) goal umpires.

8. Match Result

8.1 The winner of a match shall receive four (4) match points.

8.2 In a drawn match, each club shall receive two (2) points.

8.3 If a club is unable to field a side at the commencement of a match, then that club shall forfeit that match.

8.4 When a match is forfeited, the non-offending club receives four (4) match points. The offending club shall receive zero (0) points, unless the match is allowed to proceed by borrowing guest players from other clubs, in which case it receives one (1) point.

8.5 When a forfeited match proceeds, the scores attained shall stand for percentage purposes.

8.6 When a forfeited match does not take place, the points for and points against shall be taken from the average winning and losing scores respectively (rounded) from all matches played in the same round in the same division.

8.7 A club which forfeits two or more matches in the same season may forfeit its right to compete in the finals series.

9. Best and Fairest Awards

9.1 At the conclusion of each home and away match, the field umpire(s), in collaboration if there is more than one, shall award 3, 2 and 1 votes respectively to the three players who in their opinion were the fairest and best in the match.

9.2 The votes shall be counted at the end of the season. The player with the most votes in each division shall be awarded that division's Best and Fairest Award.

9.3 If more than one player share the most amount of votes, then they shall each receive the award.

9.4 The player with the highest total from 9.2 shall be awarded the XYZ Medal, for the Best and Fairest player in the Aussie Rules UK National League.

10. Reports and Ordering Off

10.1 Goal umpires may not report players. However, if they witness an incident they deem to be reportable, and the field umpire does not witness it, then they may bring the field umpire's attention to the incident. The field umpire may then report the player or not, at his own discretion.

10.2 The field umpire may order a player off the field for the remainder of the quarter, the match, or any other specified time period. That player may not be replaced by another player.

10.3 A player can be ordered off without being reported.

10.4 A player can be reported without being ordered-off.

10.5 A player who is reported twice in the same match for similar offences must be ordered-off for the remainder of the match.

10.6 On the third and all subsequent occasions in the same season that a player is ordered off, that player shall be automatically suspended from the next match for which he is eligible.