

YJFL 2024 BY-LAW AMENDMENTS – MARCH 2024

SUMMARY

By-Law	Description
5.10	AMENDMENT The proposed 2024 amendment did not allow for any communication between Team Managers and Umpires during the match. The proposal is to alter this By-Law to allow Team Managers to discuss administrative matters with umpires during a match (eg. ground condition, team sheet compliance or clarification of red/yellow cards). They are still not permitted to approach the umpires to discuss umpiring decisions as per the original amendment. Add clarity that no other match official may approach the umpires (ie. Coach, Assistant Coach, Runner, Trainer)
6.5.11	AMENDMENT: Amended the proposal to allow a player to play up to, and including, 8 matches in total with Senior/Reserves/Under 19 teams. The proposed By-Law allowed for 5 matches. This is now consistent with EFNL & NFNL at no more than 8 matches.
14.2	AMENDMENT: Now refers to the relevant sections of the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook which was introduced in 2023 to replace existing policies.
Schedule AD	NEW: Attendee/Spectator By-Law which outlines the process for dealing with breaches of the Code of Conduct by Spectators/Club Members/Parents.

DETAILED

- 5.10** Team managers may only approach the Umpires at breaks in play regarding administrative matters, such as ground condition, team sheet compliance or clarification of red/yellow cards. They are not permitted to approach the umpires to discuss umpiring decisions. As per the Laws of Australian Football (5.5) – the captain, vice-captain or runner may request that the field umpire count the number of players of the opposing Team who are on the playing surface at any time during a match.
- No other match official is permitted to approach the umpires during a match.
- 6.5.11** Once a player has played more than a total of 8 games with a Senior, Reserves or Under 19 team, that player will be ineligible to again participate in the YJFL season, including finals. An exemption to this rule may be sought in writing to the CEO, and approval may be granted by the CEO at their discretion.
- 14.2** The League formally adopts the Policies, Codes of Conduct and/or Guidelines contained in the AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook relating to:
- 14.2.1 Player registration and transfers (Item 3)
 - 14.2.2 Vilification and Discrimination (Item 10)
 - 14.2.3 Member Protection (Item 9)

- 14.2.4 Coaching Accreditation (Item 5)
- 14.2.5 Coaches Code of Conduct (Item 9.3)
- 14.2.6 Age Dispensation (Item 4)
- 14.2.7 Concussion Policy (Item 19)
- 14.2.8 Safeguarding Children and Young People (Item 11)
- 14.2.9 Deregistration (Item 7)

SCHEDULE AD

ATTENDEE/SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

PURPOSE

Yarra Junior Football League (YJFL) will from time to time adopt and implement codes of conduct pursuant to advice obtained from the AFL, AFL Victoria or of its own creation. These codes of conduct will be applicable to players, coaches, spectators and officials. Breaches of these codes of conduct may result in disciplinary action being taken pursuant to these By-Laws or the penalties prescribed in the spectator's "code of conduct".

The purpose of the Code of Conduct of the YJFL is to create the best possible match day and training environment for all participants. The Code of Conduct for Parents, Coaches, Volunteers and spectators was developed by the young leaders of all clubs of the YJFL to ensure our children develop, have fun and participate in Australian Rules Football in a positive and inclusive environment.

YJFL CODE OF CONDUCT

- Be great role models with your behaviour.
- Support all players, not just your child.
- Abuse, in any form, is not tolerated. Support all efforts to remove it.
- Everyone is different, we want everyone to be included and valued.
- Footy is fun. We play for the love of it and to make friends.
- Development of players, teams and clubs is more important than the outcome of a game.
- Respect everyone and their role. Let players, coaches, umpires and volunteers do their job.
- Your language matters. Please be positive and supportive and encourage us to do our best.
- Our safety is your number one priority.

CODE OF CONDUCT BY-LAW

Any club member, supporter or spectator attending an event under the auspices of the YJFL shall not:

1. Push, hit or strike an Umpire, Coach, Team Official, League Official, Spectator or Player.
2. Cause any act of misconduct that is detrimental to the best interest of YJFL.
3. Use offensive language or abuse (malicious and/or threatening) to any Coach, Team Official, Player, Umpire, Match Day Official or Spectator.
4. Consume alcohol (or illicit substances) in any form. Refer to By-Law 9.6.
5. Make a public nuisance of oneself before, during or after a scheduled event.

How the Attendee and Spectator Code of Conduct will be enforced

Offence: Person commits breach of the Attendee and Spectator Code of Conduct.

- 1. Complaint Lodged:** Ground manager, YJFL Official or member of a club executive are advised of, or witness, a breach of the code of conduct. Such person, to whom a complaint is lodged, shall approach the person who has committed the breach of code and may issue a warning to the person or depending upon the severity of the breach of code, require the person to leave the fixture/venue/event. This enforcement is not reliant on the receipt of a complaint.
- 2. Eviction:** In the event of a Ground Manager, YJFL Official or member of a club executive determining that the person should leave the fixture/venue/event, such person shall be asked to leave and in the event of a refusal an eviction from the venue by security or police.
- 3. Investigation:** The YJFL, upon written notification of an eviction and/or complaint lodged will engage a league investigator to review the incident. The Investigation will follow the process outlined in Rules 24.7, 24.8 and 24.9. At the conclusion of the Investigation, the Investigator may recommend a sanction to be ratified by the CEO and YJFL Board, or refer the matter to the YJFL Conduct Investigation Tribunal.
- 4. Penalty Imposed:** YJFL may issue a letter to the person and/or club stating the offence committed and request for the person and/or club to show cause why a proposed penalty should not be imposed. The person and/or club must respond within 72 hours of the letter being forwarded by YJFL, or the penalty imposed by the YJFL will stand.
- 5. Hearing:** If YJFL believes in good faith that the person and/or club has breached the Rules, Regulations and/or By-Laws of the league, the CEO may order the person and/or club to appear before the Yarra Junior Football League Board or League Independent Tribunal.

Penalties for Breach of Code of Conduct

Violation of Code 1

1. First Offence: Dismissal from all YJFL events for up to (1) year.
2. Second Offence: Permanent dismissal from all YJFL events.

Violation of Codes 2, 3, 4, 5.

1. First Offence: Dismissal from all YJFL events for three (3) weeks
2. Second Offence: Dismissal from all YJFL events for up to one (1) year
3. Third Offence: Permanent dismissal from all YJFL events.

The YJFL Board reserve the right to decrease or increase any penalty at its discretion.

Appeal Process

If a party who has been served a penalty by the League Board wishes to challenge the Board's verdict, they may do so by submitting a written application to the CEO, requesting the matter be heard by the League Independent Tribunal.