

2021 Football Operations Manual



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CONTACT INFORMATION

HEAD OFFICE

Windy Hill (Level 1)

78A Napier Street,

Essendon, VIC 3040

Email: headoffice@essendondf.com.au

Note: All EDFL meetings/training sessions, unless otherwise advised, will be held at Head Office

Regular updates and information are posted on our social media networks

Twitter - www.twitter.com/EDFLfooty

Facebook - www.facebook.com/essendonDFL

Instagram - www.instagram.com/EDFLfooty

YouTube - www.youtube.com/EDFLfooty

Visit the EDFL website www.essendondf.com.au

Club Hub – For Rules and Guidelines, the Club Noticeboard, Interleague Updates and SportsTG support.

Match Centre – For Scores, Best Players, Goal Kickers and Ladders

League – For the Strategic Plan, Annual Reports and League History

Media & News – For EDFL Video, Photography, Podcasts and Radio

Umpiring – For Electronic Paperwork, Umpire Appointments and General Information

EDFL Staff

Staff Member	Position	Email	Phone
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Club Contacts

Club	Contact	Email	Phone
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West Coburg	Kim Behringer	secretary@wcfc.com.au	0417 106 467
Westmeadows	Deb Williams	secretary@westmeadowsfc.com.au	0434 013 702

Ground Locations

Venue Name	Club	Address
Aberfeldie Park West	Aberfeldie	Tilba Street, Aberfeldie
Boeing Reserve	Strathmore	Boeing Road, Strathmore Heights
Brearley Reserve	West Coburg	Heliopolis Street, Pascoe Vale
Buckley Park	Essendon Doutta Stars	Cooper Street, Essendon
Burnside Heights Recreation Reserve	Burnside Heights	Tenterfield Drive & Ironbark Grove
Burnside Heights Recreation Reserve - Oval 2	Burnside Heights	Tenterfield Drive & Ironbark Grove
Canning Reserve	Avondale Heights	Canning Street, Avondale Heights
Charles Mutton Reserve	Northern Saints	Lorne Street, Fawkner
Charles Mutton Reserve - Oval 2	Northern Saints	Lorne Street, Fawkner
Clarke Oval	Sunbury Lions	Riddell Road, Sunbury
Clifton Park	Aberfeldie	Batman Street, Aberfeldie
Coburg City Oval (Piranha Park)	Coburg FC	Harding Street, Coburg
Cole Reserve	Coburg Districts	Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale
D S Aitken Reserve	Craigieburn	Craigieburn Road, Craigieburn
Eric Boardman Reserve	Sunbury Kangaroos	Wilsons Lane, Sunbury
Essendon Football Ground	EDFL	Napier Street, Essendon
Etzel St Reserve	Airport West	Etzel Street, Airport West
Green Gully Reserve	Keilor	Green Gully Road, Keilor Downs
Greenvale Recreation Reserve	Greenvale	Section Road, Greenvale
Greenvale Recreation Reserve - Oval 2	Greenvale	Section Road, Greenvale
Hallam Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Bawden Court, Pascoe Vale
Hansen Reserve	Airport West	Etzel Street, Airport West
Highgate Reserve	Craigieburn	Grand Blvd, Craigieburn
Highgate Reserve - Oval 2	Craigieburn	Grand Blvd, Craigieburn
Hillside Reserve	Hillside	Landscape Drive & Royal Crescent
J P Fawcner Reserve	Oak Park	Francis Street, Oak Park
J P Fawcner West	St Francis	Francis Street, Oak Park
Jacana Reserve	Jacana	Lorraine Crescent, Jacana
Jackson Reserve	Coburg	1 Outlook Rd Coburg
John McMahon Reserve	East Sunbury	Lancefield Road, Sunbury
Keilor Park Reserve	Keilor Park	Stadium Drive, Keilor Park
Joe Brown Recreation Reserve	Keilor	Old Calder Highway, Keilor
Lakeside Oval	Roxburgh Park	Lakeside Drive, Roxburgh Park
Lebanon Reserve	Strathmore	Mascoma Street, Strathmore
Leo Dineen Reserve	Tullamarine	60 Spring Street, Tullamarine
Lionheart Reserve	Taylors Lakes	Lionheart Avenue, Taylors Lakes
Maribyrnong Park	Maribyrnong Park	The Boulevard, Moonee Ponds
Maribyrnong Park - Oval 2	Maribyrnong Park	The Boulevard, Moonee Ponds
Martin Reserve	Hadfield	Box Forest Rd, Hadfield

Venue Name	Club	Address
Nipper Jordan Oval	Essendon Doutta Stars	Cooper Street, Essendon
Oak Park Swim Centre	St Francis	Pascoe Vale Road, Oak Park
Ormond Park	Moonee Valley	Pattison Street, Moonee Ponds
Overland Reserve	East Keilor	Parkside Avenue, East Keilor
Piranha Park	Coburg	Cnr Russell & Harding St Coburg
Raeburn Reserve	Pascoe Vale	Landells Road, Pascoe Vale
Salesian College Oval 1	Rupertswood	3-5 Macedon Street, Sunbury
Sewell Reserve	Glenroy	Glenroy Road, Glenroy
Shore Reserve	West Coburg	Reynard Street & Melville Road
Vic Foster	Craigieburn	Pines Way, Craigieburn
Walter St Reserve	Ascot Vale	Walter Street, Ascot Vale
Westmeadows Reserve Oval 2	Westmeadows	Ardlie Street, Westmeadows
Willowbrook Reserve	Westmeadows	Mickleham Road, Westmeadows

Fixture Schedule

Mens				
Date <i>Weekend of</i>	Premier	Division 1	Division 2	Thirds
2-Apr-21	Good Friday games			x
10-Apr-21	Rd 1	Rd 1	Rd 1	x
17-Apr-21	Rd 2	Rd 2	Rd 2	Rd 1
24-Apr-21	Rd 3	Rd 3	Rd 3	Rd 2
01-May-21	Rd 4	Rd 4	Rd 4	Rd 3
08-May-21	Rd 5	Rd 5	Rd 5	Rd 4
15-May-21	Rd 6	Rd 6	Rd 6	Rd 4
22-May-21	Rd 7	Rd 7	Rd 7	Rd 5
29-May-21	Rd 8	Rd 8	Rd 8	Rd 6
05-Jun-21	Rd 9	Rd 9	Rd 9	Rd 7
12-Jun-21	Rd 9	Queens Birthday	Queens Birthday	Queens Birthday
19-Jun-21	Rd 10	Rd 10	Rd 10	Rd 8
26-Jun-21	Rd 11	Rd 11	Rd 11	Rd 9
03-Jul-21	Rd 12	Rd 12	Rd 12	Rd 10
10-Jul-21	Rd 13	Rd 13	Rd 13	Rd 11
17-Jul-21	Rd 14	Rd 14	Rd 14	Rd 12
24-Jul-21	Rd 14	Rd 15	Rd 15	Rd 13
31-Jul-21	Rd 15	Rd 16	Rd 16	Semi
07-Aug-21	Rd 16	Rd 17	Rd 17	Prelim
14-Aug-21	Rd 17	Rd 18	Rd 18	Grand Final
21-Aug-21	Rd 18	Semi	Semi	
28-Aug-21	Semi	Prelim	Prelim	
04-Sep-21	Prelim	Grand Final	Grand Final	
11-Sep-21	Grand Final			

**Lead up finals for all Men's competitions are the weekend of the date listed. Thirds finals will all be Friday nights.

Womens					Juniors		
Date <i>Weekend of</i>	Premier	Division 1	Division 2	Under 18.5s	Date	Division 1-4 <i>Top 5</i>	Division 5+ <i>Top 4</i>
2-Apr-21	x	x	x	x	Easter	x	x
10-Apr-21	Rd 1	Rd 1	Rd 1	Rd 1	11-Apr-21	Rd 1	Rd 1
17-Apr-21	Rd 2	Rd 2	Rd 2	Rd 2	18-Apr-21	Rd 2	Rd 2
24-Apr-21	Rd 3	Rd 3	Rd 3	Rd 3	25-Apr-21	Rd 3	Rd 3
01-May-21	Rd 4	Rd 4	Rd 4	Rd 4	02-May-21	Rd 4	Rd 4
08-May-21	Rd 5	Rd 5	Rd 5	Rd 5	09-May-21	Rd 5	Rd 5
15-May-21	Rd 5	Rd 5	Bye Week	Bye Week	16-May-21	Rd 6	Rd 6
22-May-21	Rd 6	Rd 6	Rd 6	Rd 6	23-May-21	Rd 7	Rd 7
29-May-21	Rd 7	Rd 7	Rd 7	Rd 7	30-May-21	Rd 8	Rd 8
05-Jun-21	Rd 8	Rd 8	Rd 8	Rd 8	06-Jun-21	Rd 9	Rd 9
12-Jun-21	Queens Birthday	Queens Birthday	Queens Birthday	Queens Birthday	13-Jun-21	Queens Birthday	Queens Birthday
19-Jun-21	Rd 9	Rd 9	Rd 9	Rd 9	20-Jun-21	Rd 10	Rd 10
26-Jun-21	Rd 10	Rd 10	Rd 10	Rd 10	27-Jun-21	Rd 11	Rd 11
03-Jul-21	Rd 11	Rd 11	Rd 11	Rd 11	04-Jul-21	Rd 12	Rd 12
10-Jul-21	Rd 12	Rd 12	Rd 12	Rd 12	11-Jul-21	Rd 13	Rd 13
17-Jul-21	Rd 13	Rd 13	Rd 13	Rd 13	18-Jul-21	Rd 14	Rd 14
24-Jul-21	Rd 14	Rd 14	Rd 14	Rd 14	25-Jul-21	Elim/Qual	Semi
31-Jul-21	Bye Week	Bye Week	Bye Week	Bye Week	01-Aug-21	Semi	Prelim
07-Aug-21	Semi	Semi	Semi	Semi	08-Aug-21	Prelim	Grand Final
14-Aug-21	Prelim	Prelim	Prelim	Prelim	15-Aug-21	Grand Final	
21-Aug-21	Grand Final	Grand Final	Grand Final	Grand Final			

Match Day Information

SATURDAY FOOTBALL

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER DURATION	TIME ON
Seniors	2:15 PM	20 Minutes	Yes
Reserves	11:50 AM	25 Minutes	No
Thirds	11:00 AM	20 Minutes	No
U18.5	10:00 AM	20 Minutes	No
Women	11:15 AM	20 Minutes	No
Under 18.5 Girls	9:30 AM	17 Minutes	No

SUNDAY FOOTBALL **

GRADE	START TIME	QUARTER DURATION	TIME ON
Under 16 Boys	2:00 PM	20 Minutes	No
Under 16 Girls	2:00 PM	15 Minutes	No
Under 14 Mixed	12:30 PM	15 Minutes	No
Under 14 Girls	12:30 PM	15 Minutes	No
Under 12 Mixed	11:00 PM	15 Minutes	No
Under 12 Girls	11:00 PM	12 Minutes	No
Under 10 Mixed	9:45 PM	12 Minutes	No
Under 10 Girls	9:45 PM	12 Minutes	No
Under 8's	8:30 AM	10 Minutes	No

**With the exception of Senior Football none of the above grades play time on, unless there is a stretcher entering the field or a player count called by the umpire (including juniors).

**Juniors, Thirds & Senior Women please note starting times will vary according to ground availability the times above are just an indicator of start times.

Break Length

¼ Time	5 minutes
½ Time	15 minutes
	10 minutes (All underage grades excluding under 8's, U18.5's)
	5 minutes (Under 8's)
¾ Time	5 minutes

Underage Eligibility

BOYS AGE GROUPS			
Age Group	Date of Birth	Age	Born between
Under 18.5	Born between 1 July and 31 December 2002	18.5	July 1 2002 and Dec 31 2004
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2003	18	
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2004	17	
Under 16	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2005	16	Jan 1 2005 and Dec 31 2006
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2006	15	
Under 14	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2007	14	Jan 1 2007 and Dec 31 2008
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2008	13	
Under 12	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2009	12	Jan 1 2009 and Dec 31 2010
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2010	11	
Under 10	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2012	10	Jan 1 2011 and Dec 31 2012
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2013	9	
Under 8	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2013	8	Jan 1 2013 and April 30 2014
	Born between 1 January and 30 April 2014	7	

GIRLS AGE GROUPS			
Age Group	Date of Birth	Age	Born between
Under 18.5	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2002	18	Jan 1 2002 and Dec 31 2004
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2003	17	
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2004	16	
Under 16	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2005	15	Jan 1 2005 and Dec 31 2006
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2006	14	
Under 14	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2009	13	Jan 1 2007 and Dec 31 2008
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2010	12	
Under 12	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2010	11	Jan 1 2009 and Dec 31 2010
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2011	10	
Under 10	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2012	9	Jan 1 2011 and April 30 2012
	Born between 1 January and 31 December 2013	8	
	Born between 1 January and 30th April 2014	7	

Also note, as determined by the AFL, a player must turn 7 by April 30th to begin playing competition-based football.

Further, a player is only permitted to play in an age group that is 1 age group above their eligible age group. Eg. A player in the girls competition who is 10 years old plays in the under 12 team because her club has no under 10 team; although under 14's is only 1 age group above the under 12's, she would be ineligible to play as it is more than 1 age group above her eligible age.

For all other age groups, the eligibility of an underage player shall still be determined by the age of the player on the 1st of January in a competition year.

No player may play more than two years above his/her registered age-group.

If further clarification is required please call the Ken Waters, Football Operations Assistant – 0418 146 953.

Home & Away Eligibility

A player is permitted to play matches in more than one underage competition on the one day/weekend in any home and away round providing that the player qualifies by age to play in those matches.

A player is not permitted to play in more than one Division in the same underage competition on the same weekend (weekend includes Friday night, Saturday and Sunday).

Clubs who have VFLW listed players playing in the EDFL competition will only be able to play two VFLW players per game. **Need to clarify NAB/VFL/AFLW RULING**

Fixture Amendment Requests

Any club that is looking to change the timing/day/location of a Senior, Reserve, Under 18.5 or junior grade match once the fixture has been published must complete the following process to have the change approved in 2021.

14 days' notice is provided to EDFL Operations clearly stating an agreement has been reached by both clubs for the specific alteration to occur.

Finals Arrangements

In the event of a tie in a finals match, extra time will be played comprising of two (2) x five (5) minute halves at each end.

"Time on" will only be allowed in matches where "time on" is normally recorded. This extra time procedure will be repeated until a result is obtained.

Coaches are not to address their team during change of ends or half time when playing extra time. Water persons and runner can deliver water/messages as per new rule.

Finals Eligibility

To be eligible to play finals with an affiliated club any junior player must play at least 4 home and away matches played on separate weekends for the club in the particular age-group.

In addition, any female player must have played more games in the season with their EDFL Club's junior girls' team than they played in the AFL Under 18 Girls competition.

Need to clarify NAB/VFL/AFLW RULING

Any female player who has played more than 50% of games in the VFL Women's team home and away matches is ineligible to play with the EDFL Club's team in the finals series, with exception where a Club fields multiple teams (VFL Women's/EDFL) in a finals series on the same day or weekend.

See the EDFL By-Laws for further information regarding finals eligibility.

Football Size/Requirements

All match day footballs must be purchased from the EDFL Head Office and carry the EDFL Logo. Host clubs must supply two EDFL approved footballs. For Senior Matches one of the footballs must be of new quality and the other of good reasonable quality.

Size requirements are as below:

Senior Men	Leather	Sherrin KB
U16 Boys, U18.5 Boys, Reserves, Thirds	Leather	Sherrin Match 5
U14 Boys, U16 Girls, U18.5 Girls, Senior Women	Leather	Sherrin Match 4
U10 Girls, U12 Boys & U14 Girls	Synthetic	Sherrin Match 3
U8's, U10 Girls, U10 Boys	Synthetic	Sherrin Match 2

Number of Interchange Players Allowed

Under 18.5's – Seniors	up to 4 Interchange
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All Underage Grades & Senior Women's	up to 6 Interchange
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Club Minimum Numbers

An Affiliated Club not fielding at least 14 players (12 in Girl's competitions) 20 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the match shall forfeit the match.

If, during the course of a match a team is reduced to less than 14 players (12 in Girl's competitions) the match shall be forfeited, and the Team sheets shall immediately be signed on the ground in the presence of the field umpire, endorsed and forwarded in line with the standard match day paperwork procedure to the league.

An Affiliated Club forfeiting the match shall pay all umpire fees in full.

Team Officials on Bench

Seniors

7 Officials permitted on the bench and must include runner and trainer.

Juniors

5 Officials permitted on the bench and must include runner and trainer.

Match Day Officials

CLUB OFFICIAL UNIFORMS

Seniors

- Runner Fluro Shirt & Fluro Yellow Shorts (shorts optional)
- Trainer Black Bib or Polo Shirt & White Pants
- Water Person Green Bib
- Umpires Escort Blue Bib

Juniors

- Coach Red Bib
- Assistant Coach Red Bib
- Runner Fluro Yellow Bib
- Water Person Green Bib
- Trainer Black Bib or Polo Shirt & White Pants
- Match Day Official Yellow Bib
- Team Manager Red Bib
- Umpires Escort Blue Bib
- Boundary Umpire White Bib
- Goal Umpire White Bib
- Field Umpire White Bib

Uniforms and Equipment

Jumpers and Shorts

All players shall be attired in an appropriately numbered Club Jumper / Guernsey with EDFL and approved sponsors logos. The number must be a one or two figure number (between 1 and 99), no two players in the same team shall wear the same number.

Players shall wear:

Black or Team coloured shorts for home games.

White shorts for away games.

Team coloured socks for all matches

Gloves and Protective Equipment

In all competitions, a player must obtain advice from a medical practitioner before wearing gloves. A list of acceptable gloves can be obtained from the EDFL website.

The player proposing to wear the glove must bring it into the EDFL Offices along with the Medical Certificate which must outline the players name, club, league, nature of the condition and the period the medical advisor believes the player is required to wear the glove. It must be viewed and approved by the Football Operations Manager.

This approval must be available if requested to be viewed by the umpire to allow the player to participate in the match.

A player must have written approval from the EDFL to wear any protective equipment in a match.

The player proposing to wear the protective equipment must bring it into the EDFL Offices at Windy Hill and have approved by the Football Operations Department

This approval must be available if requested to be viewed by the umpire to allow the player to participate in the match. The exception is a player's helmet which can be worn in all grades.

Undergarments

Player's undergarments (such as skins) must be neutral (matching skin tone) or the same colour as their team's shorts.

Junior players are permitted to wear club coloured long sleeve jumpers or compression garments under their jumpers, these must be tight fitting.

Umpires may request the removal of undergarment if it is deemed to be dangerous.

Mouth Guards

Mouth Guards are recommended to be worn for all games of football. The EDFL mandates the use of mouth guards in all junior matches.

Hair

If a player (male or female) has their hair braided, and it swings free from their head when the head is moved, it may cause harm to another player if struck by the braid.

Players with plaited ponytails will be instructed by the Umpire to either roll the plait into a bun or remove the plait and play with a loose ponytail (as long as the pony tail does not hide the player's number).

Jewellery

Players are not permitted to wear jewellery of any kind whilst playing. Umpires will remove players from the field who are wearing jewellery and it is a reportable offence. Covering a piece of Jewellery with tape is NOT permitted.

Nails

Players' nails must be short and smooth. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that players are adhering to this rule.

Hijab (Full Head Scarf)

The EDFL supports the wearing of hijabs, long sleeve jumpers, and full skins to encourage active involvement of participants under religious or cultural constraints.

Boots

Football boots must be of an acceptable safety standard. No metal studs are allowed.

Minimum Facility Requirements

Boundary Line Marking

The Host Club shall have the boundary marked in the manner prescribed by the League and as set out in the Laws of Australian Football. The centre circle and centre square shall be as set out in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football. A 50m arc must also be marked at each end of the ground in accordance with Laws of Australian Football. All lines must be clearly marked.

Siren

Host Club should provide a suitable sounding device

or siren

Coach and Official Holding Area

Seeks to prevent issues with players, coaches and officials getting too close to the boundary line whilst on the bench. This is a hazard as it impedes the boundary umpire's role and poses a risk for all players, coaches and officials.

Goal Flags

At least four goal flags.

Goal Posts

Must be a minimum height of five (5) metres, 6.4

metres apart (for Open Age matches), with Goal

Post padding as set out in accordance with the

Laws of Australian Football.

All Games - Exclusion Zone Around Coaches Box

An "Exclusion Zone" around the (2) Coaches Box's will be erected by the host club. Bollards and yellow/black hazard tape should be used.

Scoreboards

Shall be provided by the host club and in operation

throughout the whole game. The scoreboard must be clearly visible to the goal umpires who shall check its accuracy at the conclusion of each quarter

Behind Kick In – Clear Out Zone

Given the introduction of the rule allowing 10m from the top of the goal square for kick ins following a behind, we are asking Clubs to also mark with a painted dot, as a minimum the 2 corners of the zone, however up to 5 dots may be used to provide a guide for players and umpires.

CLUB ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Code of Conduct

Any player, parent, club official, umpire or spectator must conform to the EDFL Code of Conduct. Copies are available on the EDFL website.

Registrar

It is the responsibility of the registrar to:

Register all new players within the league guidelines

Maintain a copy of injury reports

Process insurance claims

Security of all teams, players' votes

Maintain record of the number of games played by each player

Follow up with teams and ensure players are registered and able to play

Follow up with Treasurer on outstanding fees

Pass onto club Secretary all player contact details to ensure club database is always accurate

Team Manager (must also be registered in SportsTG)

It is the responsibility of the team manager to:

Ensure all players are either currently registered with the League or have an approved clearance from previous club

Provide the Secretary with a list, in jumper number order, of all players and keep all players lists updated as every change is made

Check jumpers are in good order at all times and have appropriate sponsors logos attached if required

Ensure other support staff have been appointed and are in attendance as required

Issue all paperwork to the respective club officials

Instruct all club officials what their duties are and ensure they are correctly dressed

Team Sheets are to be handed to Field Umpire 15 minutes prior to the start of the game by the Team Manager.

Child Safety / Welfare Officer

The EDFL has adopted key policies and procedures improving focus on Child Safety. All Clubs are now required to nominate a Child Safety Officer. This is an important position and Clubs should carefully consider who would best fit this role (A Position Description has been forwarded to Club

Secretaries). CSO's will be required to attend a training session in March, which will give them further knowledge and resources to perform their role.

Coaches

Junior Coaches must be clearly identifiable and wear a red bib on game days.

Each Club must ensure that coaches have correctly completed and paid for their coaching accreditation on CoachAFL as per AFL requirements, prior to the commencement of Round 1 or their first match as a coach. Further information will be provided to Clubs by the middle of February.

All coaches must also check their personal profile on SportsTG to ensure that their coaching accreditation details are accurate and that they are registered as a coach in SportsTG (Please note: It can take up to 1 business day for information to transfer from CoachAFL to SportsTG)

All Clubs must also complete the EDFL Club Officials Form including details for all nominated coaches. This form must be lodged with the EDFL by April 1 or before an individual coach's first game of the season.

Coaches shall not be listed on the team sheet without valid CoachAFL accreditation or an interim permission letter from the EDFL Football Operations Department.

If a person coaches when not accredited or when under suspension for any reason, then at the discretion of the Board the following penalties shall apply:

A fine will be issued per coach, per week until such time as all coaches are registered for the season.

Other sanctions may be imposed as decided by the Board following a hearing.

ALL COACHES MUST BE ACCREDITED TO AT LEAST LEVEL 1.

Runner

It is the responsibility of the runner to:

Deliver messages from the coach to players whilst each quarter is in progress.

Deliver the message as quickly as possible and return to the Coaches Box immediately.

Not loiter on the ground. Not interfere with any players or officials throughout the game.

Be correctly attired in accordance with league requirements

Trainers

It is the responsibility of the trainer to:

Attend and be available during each match in which its football team participates for the duration of the match.

All junior coaches and trainers (seniors and juniors) are to wear identification bibs.

All clubs must provide access to Defib machine, Stretcher, First Aid Kit and Ice.

Each Club must ensure that its trainers have correctly filled and lodged their registration on SportsTG prior to the commencement of Round 1 or their first game.

All Trainers must also be listed on the EDFL Club Officials Form. This form must be lodged with the EDFL by April 1 or before an individual Trainer's first game of the season.

Trainers shall not be listed on the team sheet without valid accreditation or an interim permission letter from the EDFL Football Operations Department.

If a person carries out the duties of a Trainer when not accredited or when under suspension for any reason, then at the discretion of the Board the following penalties shall apply:

A fine will be issued per trainer, per week until all trainers are registered.

Other sanctions may be imposed as decided by the Board following a hearing.

ALL TRAINERS MUST BE ACCREDITED TO MINIMUM LEVEL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Water Persons (Must be at least 16 years of age)

It is the responsibility of the Water Person's to:

Wear the green bib and are not to act as a second runner.

When not out on the ground - position themselves outside the boundary line and adjacent to the 50 metre arc line.

If the team's Coaches Boxes is within 30 metres of one of the 50 metre arc lines then the water person must position themselves either at the other end or on the opposite side of the ground.

Competition	Maximum Number
Under 12's and below	Nil
Under 16's and above Under 14's	Two (2)
All other Competitions	Two (2)

Umpires Escort:

It is the responsibility of the Umpires Escort to:

Escort the umpires from their change rooms to the centre of the field prior to the start of each match.

Escort the umpires from their assembly point on the field to their change rooms at half time.

Escort the umpires from their change rooms to the centre of the field after the half time break.

Escort the umpires from their assembly point on the field to their change rooms at the conclusion of the match.

Stand with the umpires during the quarter and three quarter time intervals and provide / offer water

Scoreboard Attendant:

The Host Club must ensure that the scoreboard is up-to-date at all times during a match.

Scoreboard attendants must be at least 12 years old or, in the opinion of the Field Umpire, of sufficient age to be competent to perform the task.

Time Keeper

It is the responsibility of the Time Keeper to:

Keep time for each quarter of the match

Record on timekeeper's sheet the time taken to play each quarter and the time in which quarters commenced. Record the score for each quarter.

Home team to lodge completed time sheet with the Team Manager after the game has finished Sound the siren in accordance with the procedures contained in the league rules and regulations.

Stop the clock used for timing of each quarter as required by the league rules and regulations.

Match Day Official (Juniors Only)

The Match Day Official must wear a yellow bib including their club name. (Must be EDFL approved issue).

During the course of the match, in conjunction with their opponents Match Day Official, both shall deal with any “unsavoury behaviour”.

The duties and responsibilities of this official should be in accordance with the AFL Kids First program philosophies.

Please ensure the Match Day Manager is not undertaking any other role during these matches.

The role and duties are:

Encouragement – at all times encourage parents and spectators to observe the Code of Conduct and display positive behaviour.

Public Relations – assume a public relations role with parents and supporters and reinforce the philosophy of AFL Kids First and Code of Conduct.

Observance and Presence – maintain a clear but calm presence at all times. Monitor and communicate with appropriate club personnel and parents as required.

Report – where necessary, report serious and/or continued breaches of the Code of Conduct to their club officials.

Club Umpires

Both clubs (except where provided by the League) must supply umpires for each match and must wear a white I/D bib.

Goal Umpires are to wear a clean white coat/bib and carry a pair of clean white flags. The Boundary Umpire is to wear a white bib and carry a whistle. No club umpires are to abuse or question decision of the field umpire or communicate with any player.

The Home Team Manager is responsible for ensuring that all official umpires are offered a drink at all breaks in the game.

Umpires

The only person who can approach any umpire (club or EDFL) is the team captain.

Registrations/Transfers

SPORTSTG Club Registration

All Officials and Participants are required to register/re-register their intention to play each season through SportsTG. Links to each club's registration page can be accessed via the EDFL Website (> Player Registration > Club) from November 1st for each new season.

All players must be registered PRIOR to taking the field of play. Any breaches to these regulations may result in possible loss of match points and/or fine.

Player Registrations – Transfers

If any player requires a Transfer, the club can process their application through the online Transfer Section on SportsTG. Under no circumstances can a player play unless the Transfer is approved by ALL parties involved in the Transfer Process including this league.

Any breaches to these regulations may result in loss of match points and possible fines.

Junior Registrations

Juniors are required to verify their date of birth providing a copy of their Original Birth Certificate/Extract of Entry, Passport or School Photo I/D to their club registrar when registering.

Clubs must supply a copy of identification within 48 hours if requested.

Support Staff Compulsory Registrations on Database

All Team Managers, Trainers, Water Persons', Runners and Coaches are required to be entered into the SportsTG database and provide their appropriate accreditation details which must include their Working with Children identification number.

FOOTYWEB Access

Players are able to provide clubs with their player records by going 'Play.AFL' as displayed here:

The player is to login using their normal login to re-register each year.

The player can update personal details and check their player statistics through this portal.

Match Day Paperwork

JLT Match Day Checklist

All competing clubs are required to complete a Matchday Checklist before the first match of the day to evaluate potential injury and accident causes on and around the player and public areas. It also allows club officials to identify safety concerns and record any actions required to address these concerns.

It is compulsory for the checklist to be completed on-line using a mobile device (iPhone, iPad or Android) which enables JLT to ensure the checklist has been completed.

The checklist must be completed prior to any matches commencing and be completed with a representative of all competing teams.

The home club is to provide the mobile device.

Wi-Fi access is not required to complete the checklist

As a last resort a hardcopy can also be downloaded and completed

The opposing team managers are to inspect playing surface and surrounding area prior to the start of the first game and the home team manager is to complete the JLT Match Day Checklist ensuring a copy is given to the umpires at least 15 minutes before the start of the first game.

Team Sheets

A Team Sheet shall:

- (a) list the names and numbers of the Players in the Team;
- (b) identify the Interchange Players;
- (c) identify the captain; and
- (d) list the name of the Coach, Trainer, Team Manager, Runner and all other Officials participating in the Match.

The Team Manager from each Team shall complete and lodge with a field Umpire its Team Sheet no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled commencement of a Match.

This Team Sheet should accurately reflect the persons who are participating in the match both in player and official capacity and should be identical to the completed SportsTG Online Team Sheet.

Teams can have up to 25 players (seniors)/ 27 players (reserves/underage) listed on the team sheet but must put a neat and clear straight line through the emergency's names.

Timekeeper (Scoring) Sheet

Timekeepers must complete a timekeeper's scoresheet for each match. These can be found on the EDFL Website and printed by Clubs as required.

Only 1 scoresheet per match is required to be completed.

All sections of the scoresheet must be completed (with the exception of the Blue/Yellow/Red card section which is to be completed on a case by case basis).

At the completion of each game, timekeepers from each club must sign the Scoresheet and provide to the Home Team's Team Manager who will give to the umpires for confirmation and take a photo. (Home team should retain the hard copy).

Notice of Report

As soon as practicable after the completion of the match, an umpire who has reported a person shall complete a Notice of Report in a form prescribed by the League from time to time.

Within 10 minutes of the completion of a match, the Team Manager of each Affiliated Club shall attend the Umpire's room, at which time one of the field umpires shall inform the Team Manager of the Umpire's Report and any Notice of Report to each Team Manager. The Team Manager must sign a copy of the Umpire's Report. Receipt by the Team Manager of a Notice of Report under this By-Law shall be deemed to be notice of the report to both the Affiliated Club and the reported person. If the Team Manager of an Affiliated Club fails to attend the Umpire's room as required by this By-Law, the Affiliated Club will be fined by the League.

All reports are done electronically and sent via email to the Secretary of the clubs involved.

The League shall have set penalties for breaches of the Laws of Australian Football by players as determined from time to time by the Board of Management. If the player elects to accept the set penalty, he/she is not required to attend the Tribunal and is suspended from playing immediately for the length of the set penalty accepted. However, the umpire may also elect to send the report direct to the Tribunal.

The club and player, after receiving a copy of the report, have until 12pm of the Monday following the match to decide whether or not to accept the set penalty or contest the charge at the Tribunal. A player may initially dictate that they will contest the charge but inform the EDFL Football Operations Manager before 12pm Monday if they will instead accept the set penalty offered.

Where a player is not offered a Set Penalty or rejects the penalty offered the matter shall be referred to and dealt with by the Tribunal. The umpire, all players and witnesses named in any Notice of Report must appear at the Tribunal to give evidence on Tuesday Night commencing at 7:00 PM, these are held EDFL Offices (Windy Hill).

Electronic Match Day Paperwork

Senior Requirements

Submission of Senior Selected Sides on Team Sheets (Mandatory for Senior Men & Women)

Each club must submit their selected senior division sides for both men and women into SportsTG prior to 10am on the Friday preceding a round of matches, or the day preceding your game if being played on a Friday or Sunday. (it is optional for Reserves, U18.5s, Thirds or Juniors).

Submissions for a PPV value for any player to take part in a match must be approved by 11:00am on the Friday preceding the match.

Players MUST have their allocated jumper number entered into the system by Friday 10am. Up to 3 Emergencies may be named.

Failure of a Club to correctly submit a side to the system by deadline shall result in a fine. Any changes that occur to the selected squad after the 10am deadline must be immediately communicated directly to the EDFL Media Manager.

Live Scoring (Mandatory for Senior Men & Women)

It is the responsibility of the home club to:

Provide ongoing Live Scores for every senior men's and women's game via the SportsTG 'At Game' Live Score System (it is optional for Reserves, U18.5s, Thirds or Juniors).

Clubs are required to keep this score up to date for the entirety of the game.

Please note the live entry of goal kickers is also available, but not required.

Once Live Score is activated at the start of your game, the live score is automatically available to the public.

Post-Match Requirements (Junior & Senior)

After each game the Team Manager is to take the tablet or phone to the umpires change room, so the umpire can submit the match report and any player/official report/s. Type in the web browser, <http://forms.edflmatchreports.com.au/edfl/GMDR> and save this on your electronic device.

Once the umpire submits the reports, each club will receive an email with information of fines (if any).

If a player or official is reported the nominated emails will receive the report, the Secretary will forward on the report to the player/official.

Junior Competition

The Home Team Manager is responsible for the entering of scores for both teams on the internet by no later than 5.30pm on Sunday. Both Team Managers from a match are also responsible for making any team sheet amendments (e.g. late inclusions/omissions) and the inputting of Goal Kickers and Best on Ground details prior to 12am Monday following the match.

Senior Competition

The Team Managers are responsible for the entering of any team sheet amendments (e.g. late inclusions/omissions) and the inputting of Goal Kickers and Best Players details no later than Saturday 5.30pm following the match (unless your match is being played past this time).

2021 EDFL Rules

All EDFL competition rules are to be considered in accordance with the AFL Laws of the Game and the EDFL By-Laws.

Order-Off Rule

If a player is involved in an incident on the football field, they may be shown a card and ordered from the field. The following table illustrates what each card represents, all players sent from the field can be replaced immediately by a player on the bench.

CARD	OFFENCE	SANCTION
Red Card	(Major Reportable)	CANNOT RETURN
Yellow Card	(Minor Reportable)	15 MINS
Blue Card	(No Report)	15 MINS

In all competitions conducted by the League, the following order off procedures shall apply:

Where a Field Umpire has reported a player for a breach of the laws of Australian Football that player shall, where the reporting umpire considers the player's conduct is of such a serious nature that the player should not participate any further in the game:

be shown a Red Card;

leave the playing surface immediately; and

not be eligible to participate in the match for the remainder of that match.

A player who is reported and shown a Red Card will NOT be offered a set penalty.

The player will be required to attend the Tribunal.

Where a Field Umpire has reported a player for a breach of the laws of Australian Football, that player may:

be shown a Yellow Card;

leave the playing surface immediately; and

not be eligible to return to the playing surface until 15 minutes playing time (not including any breaks that might occur) has elapsed from the time the player left the playing surface following the report/Yellow Card.

The reported player could be offered a set penalty.

A player who has been shown a Yellow Card on two separate occasions in the same match by the Field Umpire/Umpires must be ordered to leave the playing surface and shall remain off for the remainder of the game, but such player can be replaced by the player's Club with another player immediately.

Where a Field Umpire considers that a player is behaving in an unduly aggressive and unruly manner or in any manner that would bring the game into disrepute, that player may:

be shown a Blue Card;

leave the playing surface immediately; and

not be eligible to return to the playing surface until 15 minutes playing time (not including any breaks that might occur) has elapsed from the time the player left the playing surface following the Blue Card.

Where a player has received three (3) blue cards in a season, the player shall be automatically suspended from playing for one (1) match. The player shall receive a further suspension of one (1) playing match for every third blue card received.

The suspensions shall take place on the date/s, as advised by the League, in writing to the Secretary of the Affiliated Club the player is registered with.

Where a Field Umpire proposes to issue a Red, Yellow or Blue Card to a player the Umpire shall:

Show the player Red, Yellow or Blue Card as applicable by holding the Card above the umpire's head for a period of five (5) seconds;

Inform the player that the player is to leave the field immediately;

Hold the applicable Card aloft above the umpire's head for a further period of five (5) seconds in the direction/s of both the interchange bench of the team of the player who has been shown the card and in the direction of the timekeepers.

In each of the above circumstances, the player shown the Red, Yellow or Blue Card, as the case maybe, may be replaced immediately. The timekeepers of the match shall determine when the 15-minute time period has elapsed.

Club Officials – All Competitions

In all competitions conducted by the League, where a Field Umpire has reported an official of a Club, that official shall leave the Playing Surface immediately and shall remain off for the remainder of the game (except in the case of a trainer or other recognised medical official) but such official can be replaced by the official's Club with another official after 15 minutes playing time (not including any breaks that may occur) has elapsed after the reported official was ordered off.

Any club official who is named on the team sheet, e.g. coach, team manager, runner, umpires escort, time keeper, trainer, boundary umpire, goal umpire or water person who commits a reportable offence either before, during or after the match must be reported on the electronic report sheet. (The charge is then referred to the EDFL tribunal)

If the offence takes place after all the paperwork has been finalized and signed off by the team managers, the umpire will still fill out the incident on the electronic report sheet. (The charge is then referred to the EDFL tribunal) When an Official is reported they must front the tribunal with no set penalty offered.

Tribunal

Correspondence to - Tribunal Secretary, Level 1, 78A Napier St, Essendon 3040

Ph.9373 2700 or Email – headoffice@essendondfl.com.au

All players reported, and/or named in connection therewith, together with the witnesses and advocates are required to attend before the Tribunal at 78A Napier Street, Essendon by 7.00pm on the Tuesday following the match in which the report occurred.

The Football Operations Manager must be notified in writing before 12pm on the preceding Monday if a player/witness/advocate is not available to attend the tribunal hearing. Non- attendance will incur a fine and/or immediate cancellation of "permit to play".

Investigations

Correspondence to - CEO, Ian Kyte, Level 1, 78A Napier Street, Essendon 3040 Ph. 9373 2700 or Email – ian.kyte@essendondfl.com.au

All clubs requesting investigations to the EDFL must lodge their written request, (co- signed by at least THREE senior committee members on club letterhead) and \$550.00 cheque no later than 5.00pm on the Monday immediately following the match.

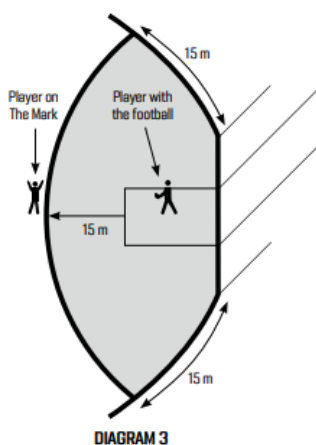
Appeals

Appeals should be lodged and received no later than the day immediately following the tribunal by 12pm on the Notice of Appeal form available under Club Hub in Policies and Resources on the EDFL website.

New Rules (Senior Football Only)

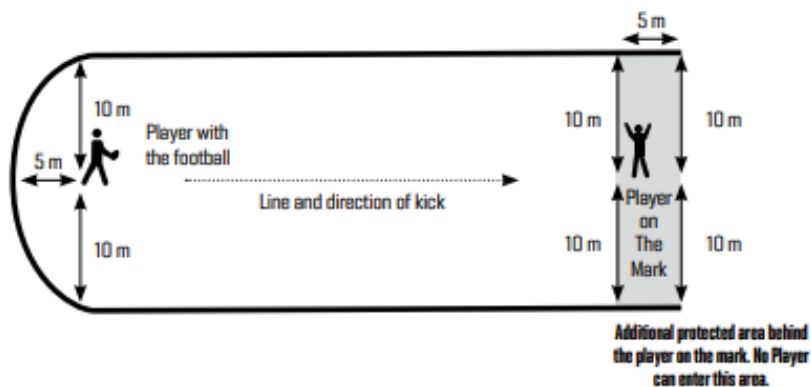
- **Location of The Mark at Kick Ins**

The Mark shall be set at 15 metres from the centre of the Kick-Off Line towards the centre of the ground at Kick Ins. This was previously set at 10 metres. When the player on the mark is 15m away they can move laterally.



Protected area is the same as a protected area around the ground where the umpire will aim to clear the area and a defender is allowed to go in the area as long as they are within 2m of their opponent.

- **Player Standing The Mark**



- The protected area will be extended by 5m behind the player on the mark as shown in the diagram above. No attacking players can be in this area (i.e., shepherding is not allowed). Protected area is the same as previous years where the player can follow within 2m.
- If a player from the defensive team is in this area (the grey area on the diagram) and they are told to stand by the umpire, then they cannot move except jumping up and down on the spot. This player cannot be swapped once stand has been called.
- This player must then remain in the same spot until the umpire calls play on.

Modified Junior Rules

2021 MODIFIED RULES AFL JUNIOR LAWS OF THE GAME										
JUNIOR GIRLS AND BOYS										
	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under
	8 (mixed)	10 (mixed)	12 (Mixed)	14 Boys	16 Boys	8 Girls	10 Girls	12 Girls	14 Girls	16 Girls
ADMINISTRATION										
Ground size	100m x 80m (recommended max.) and divided into 3 equal zones (thirds)	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	100m x 80m (recommended max.) and divided into 3 equal zones (thirds)	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Zones	✓	✖	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖	✖	✖	✖
Min. players for game	8	14	14	14	14	8	12	12	12	12
# players on ground	12 to 15 a side	18	18	18	18	12 to 15 a side	18	18	18	18
# players on interchange	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Ball type	Syn Only	Syn Only	Syn Only	Leather	Leather	Syn Only	Syn Only	Syn Only	Syn Only	Leather
Ball size	2	2	3	4	5	2	2	3	3	4
Quarter duration (mins)	10	12	15	15	20	10	12	12	15	15
Break length 1/4 - 1/2 - 3/4 time	5-5-5	5-10-5	5-10-5	5-10-5	5-10-5	5-5-5	5-10-5	5-10-5	5-10-5	5-10-5
UMPIRES										
# field umpires	Club - 1	1 or 2	2	2	2	Club - 1	1 or 2	2	2	2
Boundary umpires	✖	Club	Club	Club	Club	✖	Club	Club	Club	Club
LAWS										
Tackling	Modified	✓	✓	✓	✓	Modified	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bumping	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stealing the ball	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barging	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Smothering	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fending off	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shepherding	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bouncing the ball	1 max	1 max	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 max	1 max	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kicking off the ground	✖	✖	✖	✓	✓	✖	✖	✖	✓	✓
Ball ups	Nominated players of equal size	✓	✓	✓	✓	Nominated players of equal size	✓	✓	✓	✓
Throw-ins	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Distance over which marks are paid	0m	10m	15m	15m	15m	0m	5m	10m	15m	15m
Distance penalty	✖	25m	25m	50m	50m	✖	25m	25m	25m	25m
Zones	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Deliberate out of bounds	✖	✖	✖	✓	✓	✖	✖	✖	✓	✓
Deliberately rushed behind	✖	✖	✖	✓	✓	✖	✖	✖	✓	✓
COMPETITION DETAILS										
Complete Team Sheet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Premierships ladders/Finals	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scores kept	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Record best players/goal kickers	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
League representative team selected	✖	✖	✓	✓	✓	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖
Coach allowed on-field	✓	✖	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖	✖	✖	✖
Runner	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Person	✖	✖	✖	2 max	2 max	✖	✖	✖	2 max	2 max

NOTES




Essendon District Football League

78A Napier Street, Essendon, 3040

Ph: 9373 2700

essendondfl.com.au

 facebook.com/essendondfl
 [@edflfooty](https://instagram.com/edflfooty)

 [@EDFLfooty](https://twitter.com/EDFLfooty)
 youtube.com/edflfooty