



American Football South Australia (AFSA)

Game Day Policy

Policy Owner: AFSA Board of Management

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Last Reviewed: April 2026

Next Scheduled Review: April 2028

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1. Policy Overview and Purpose

This policy outlines the operational rules, responsibilities, and requirements for all AFSA game day activities.

It ensures consistency across competitions, maintains integrity and fairness, and supports safe and efficient match day operations.

2. Underlying Principles

- Player safety and welfare is the highest priority
 - Fair and consistent application of rules
 - Integrity of competition must be maintained
 - Clubs and participants are accountable for compliance
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3. Scope and Application

This policy applies to all AFSA sanctioned matches, including:

- Regular season fixtures
- Finals series
- Exhibition and representative matches

This policy applies to all participants, including:

- Players
 - Coaches
 - Clubs
 - Officials
 - Game day personnel
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4. Core Policy Requirements

4.1 Equipment

All players must be fully equipped in accordance with current IFAF rules unless otherwise approved by AFSA.

4.2 Rules of Play

All matches will be conducted under IFAF rules unless modified by AFSA policy.

4.3 Minimum Player Requirements

- Minimum fifteen (15) junior registered players and eighteen (18) senior registered players must be available and able to participate
- Failure to meet this requirement will result in a forfeit unless otherwise agreed to by officials and the game day committee.

4.4 In-Game Forfeit

If a team cannot field eleven (11) players after half-time, the match will be declared a forfeit.

4.5 Experienced Player Restrictions

- Maximum of four (4) players with experience above Junior College (USA) level or equivalent
- Non-playing coaches excluded
- Players must declare experience via AFSA documentation
- AFSA may review and validate declarations

4.6 Interstate Players

- Maximum of four (4) interstate players per team per match
- All players must be registered and compliant

4.7 Finals Eligibility

- Minimum of three (3) regular season matches required
- AFSA Board may grant exemptions in exceptional circumstances

4.8 Game Day Operations

- First game: away team responsible for setup
- Last game: away team responsible for pack down
- Home team responsible for canteen and ball personnel
- Away team responsible for chain crew and sideline support

4.9 Player Registration and Game Sheets

- Registration closes 15 minutes prior to game
- Game team sheets to be submitted as per policy communicated by AFSA prior to the season start

5. Procedures / Processes

5.1 Tie-Break Process

Where teams are tied at the end of the regular season:

1. Head-to-head record (Win = 2, Draw = 1, Loss = 0)
2. Teams with a forfeit are ineligible
3. Points differential
4. Coin toss conducted by Head Official and AFSA representative

For multiple teams, process repeats until rankings are determined.

6. Breaches and Penalties

Failure to comply may result in:

- Competition point deductions
- Financial penalties
- Match forfeiture
- Disciplinary action

Examples include:

- Missing sideline personnel: point deduction or \$100 fine
 - Use of unregistered players: disciplinary review
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7. Enforcement and Responsibility

This policy is enforced by:

- AFSA Board of Management
- Match officials
- Authorised AFSA representatives

All decisions must be applied consistently and fairly.

8. Related Policies

- Competition Rules Policy
 - Junior to Senior Transition Policy
 - Member Protection Policy
 - Grievance & Dispute Resolution Policy
 - Tribunal Policy
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9. Policy Review and Approval

This policy will be reviewed every two (2) years or earlier if required.

It will be assessed to ensure alignment with competition structure, safety standards, and AFSA governance.