

2019 VAFA LAWS OF THE GAME



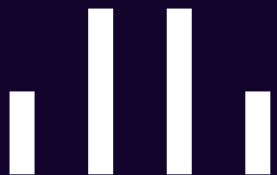
UMPIRING OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Haydn O'Connor
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- 0427 333 729 (Monday to Friday)
- Umpire Feedback Form (VAFA Portal)



ORDER OF EVENTS

- Existing VAFA Laws to be changed in 2019
- New VAFA Laws & Interpretations to be introduced in 2019
- Laws not introduced in 2019
- Feedback/Questions



EXISTING VAFA LAWS TO BE CHANGED IN 2019



50 METRE PENALTIES

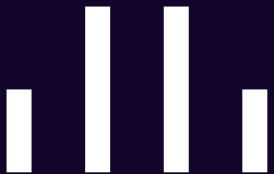
The VAFA will now impose 50 metre penalties in all sections in 2019 where a 25 metre penalty has been awarded previously.

As per the VAFA Umpiring philosophy only MAJOR and OBVIOUS infringements will result in 50 metre penalties with examples in the interpretations video.



HEAD COUNT – PLAYERS EXCEEDING PERMITTED NUMBER

- Where a team has more than the permitted number of Players on the playing surface, the following shall apply;
 - (a) A Field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
 - (b) a 50 Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded



HEAD COUNT – CORRECT NUMBER

- Where a count reveals that the opposing Team has the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply;
 - (a) A field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team;
 - (b) a 50 Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded.

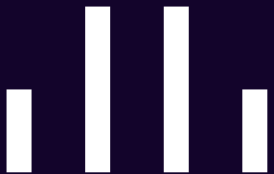


NEW VAFA LAWS IN 2019



KICK-INS

- For kick-ins from a behind, a player will no longer need to kick to themselves to play on out of the goal square.
- Additionally, following a behind, the player on the mark will be positioned 10 metres from the top of the goal square (currently 5 metres).
- A player must be within the goal square to bringing the ball back into play.
- All players must try to leave the protected area after a behind is scored.





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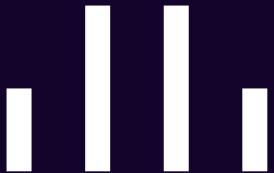


10M



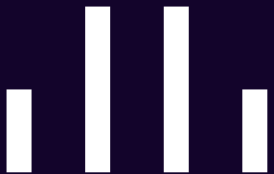
KICK-INS (FAQ)

FAQ	Response
How quickly can the player kick the ball in?	As soon as the goal umpire has signalled, the player is free to kick the ball in.
Must the kicker start in the goal square?	Yes, the player must start with both feet in the goal square with the ball in their possession
Do you have to kick to yourself before you exit the goal square?	No.
Can a player handball from within the goal square?	No, the player must kick the ball back into play, however once the umpire calls “play on”, the player may handball.
Once a player has exited the goal square, can they handball?	Yes, the player is free to kick or handball once they have left the goal square.
How far can the kicker run with the football?	15 metres from where they exit the goal square.
Will a free kick remain for a kick in that goes out of bounds without being touched by an opposition player?	No, however Deliberate Out of Bounds may be paid
The Protected Area?	The Protected Area is 19 x 19 metres (point post to point post out to the player on the mark).
Penalty for an infringement by the player on the mark?	The penalty would be advancing the mark by 50 metres from the player on the mark



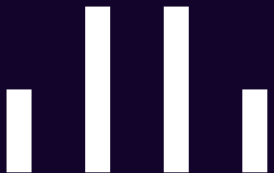
MARKS/FREE KICKS WITHIN 9 METRES OF THE GOAL LINE

- For all defenders who take a mark or gain a free kick within 9 metres of the goal line, the player on the mark for the attacking team will be brought in line with the top of the goal square.



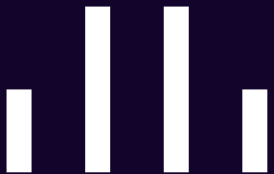
MARKS/FREE KICKS WITHIN 9M (FAQ)

FAQ	Response
What happens if the defensive team kicks laterally within the area, does the next mark get reset to 9m?	Yes. The Mark will always be reset to 9 metres.
Will the umpire delay play to set the mark?	No, the player who takes a mark will be entitled to play on at their discretion.
Does the normal Person on the mark rules apply?	Yes they do, once the mark is set the opposition should adjust quickly to stand the mark correctly.
Can an opposing player “press up” on the mark, prior to the umpire re-setting to 9m?	Yes. A Player can “press up” to the mark to limit the marking player from playing on, they can’t run over the mark. The umpire will then reset the mark to 9m.
Will umpires assist players?	Yes, the umpire will attempt to engage with players verbally to limit confusion, where possible.



UMPIRE CONTACT

- Players will be penalised for any contact made by setting up behind the umpire at each centre ball up. Free kicks may also be paid by a non-controlling field umpire.



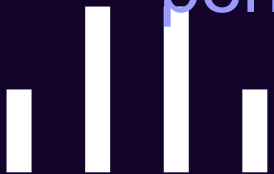
UMPIRE CONTACT (FAQ)

FAQ	Response
Why are we being stricter?	The umpires ball up and then exit backwards at speed, this puts them in a more vulnerable position compared to around the ground Ball Ups.
Is there a way that umpires can help avoid contact?	Yes, umpires are prepared to observe where players are set up and if the opposite side of the circle is less populated – flip to the other side, where possible
Can players start behind the umpire?	Yes they can, however they will be liable for any contact.
Players that start away but run behind the exiting umpire?	As above, they will be a liable for any contact.
What if a player is pushed into the umpires path?	That player that pushes an opponent into the umpires path will be penalised by a free kick if clearly seen for initiating umpire contact.
Can a free kick can be paid for making contact with an umpire?	Yes, if an umpire can clearly see which player made or instigated the umpire contact a free kick will be paid
Can a Tagged player use the umpire to split away?	No, the tagged player will be liable for any contact and can be free kicked if clearly seen.



50 METRE PENALTY

- Stricter interpretation on the infringing player delaying the game, allowing the Player with the ball to advance the mark by 50 metres.
- In addition, the Player with the Football will be able to “Play-On” on during the advancement of the 50-Metre Penalty.
- Major and Obvious infringements will result in 50 metre penalties as per VAFA Umpire Philosophy.



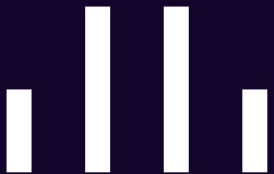
50 METRE PENALTY (FAQ)

FAQ	Response
Why the increase from 25m to 50m?	To fall into line with the AFL Laws of the Game and to give Players & Umpires more time to properly interpret the new law.
Why has this changed?	To provide more options for the attacking player that has been infringed against. This was the most resounding change from the Coaches Survey.
Once the defensive player has fallen behind the player who has been awarded the 50m penalty. Can they sprint passed them to stand the mark?	No, once the defensive player is behind, they must show intent to clear the (moving) protected area.
Who can stand the mark, if the initial defender is out of play by vacating the protected area?	Any player who is either; (a) up with the umpire. (b) forward of the mark or (c) has run around the moving protected area.
Can the player awarded the 50m penalty, play on at any time prior to the marking being set?	Yes, the player who has been awarded the 50 metre penalty has the freedom to play on at anytime up to the mark being set.
When does the attacking player in receipt of the 50m penalty, get called to play on?	The player will be called to play on if they deviate off the line of the mark in the lead up to the mark being set.
Once the player has played on who can pressure the player?	Once the umpire has called "play on" any opposition player can pressure, however it is crucial that all defensive players are not caught within the protected area prior to the play on call.
If you are player that infringed and conceded the 50m, how would you recommend they react?	By getting up with the umpire as quick as possible, to enable you to retreat and remain vigilant to any play on call.



KICKING FOR GOAL POST-SIREN

- A Player who has been awarded a mark or free kick once play has ended will now be able to kick across their body using a snap or check-side kick. The player shall dispose of the ball directly in line with the player on the mark and the goal as per diagram.
- The player must kick the ball from the “Blue Dot” but may line up and approach to this point along the “Black lines”

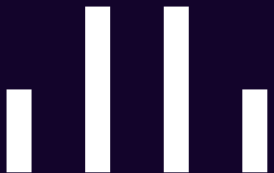


KICKING FOR GOAL POST-SIREN



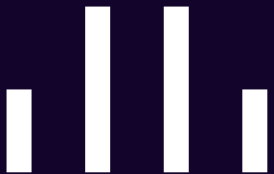
KICKING FOR GOAL POST-SIREN (FAQ)

FAQ	Response
Does the player have to stay on the line of the mark for their shot on goal?	No, the player will be allowed to go to their preferred side, enabling them to choose whichever type of kick they prefer.
Does the player still have to kick over the the line of the mark?	Yes, the player must kick the ball over the line of the mark.
What if the player goes past the line of the mark before taking the kick for goal?	The umpire will call “play on” and the shot at goal will not count (game over)
To ensure the player having the shot at goal is adhering to the rules, is there a recommendation for how they could check?	Engage the umpire. “I’m going to kick around the corner, start here and kick over the mark – is that okay?”
What can the defensive team do in this situation?	Ensure the player on the mark doesn’t overstep Ensure players are outside the set protected area and don’t adjust to the kicker’s positioning.



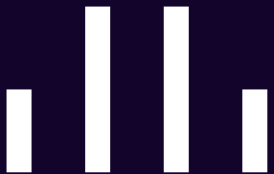
RUCK CONTESTS – PRIOR OPPORTUNITY

- A Ruck Player who takes possession of the Football while contesting throw up by a field Umpire or a boundary throw-in by a boundary Umpire, will not be regarded as having had Prior Opportunity



RUCK CONTEST PRIOR OPP. (FAQ)

FAQ	Response
Why has this rule changed?	The AFL believe that the Ruck should be entitled to take the ball out of the ruck contest
Is this the same prior opportunity as a player picking up a ground ball or receiving a handball?	Yes, identical to those situations. The current holding the ball rule applies.
Could be this be too much of an advantage to the taller Rucks?	This might be the case depending on match-ups, however, most likely it will encourage teams to play Rucks at stoppages to limit an individuals dominance.

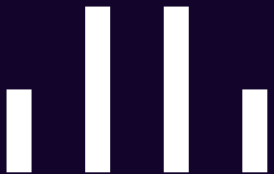


LAWS OF THE GAME – NOT INTRODUCED INTO VAFA 2019



LAWS NOT ADOPTED

- Traditional playing positions at Centre Bounce (6-6-6)
- Runners (rules to remain as is in accordance with VAFA guidelines)



SEE FORUMS FOR 2019 INTERPRETATIONS VIDEOS

<https://www.vafaua.asn.au/>



**FOR FURTHER
CLARIFICATION, PLEASE
ATTEND COACHING
SESSIONS AT TRAINING AND
VIEW THE COACHING FORUM**

<https://www.vafaua.asn.au/>

