



## AFL South Coast Coaches Agreement – Key Rules Summary

As part of the commitment to making a positive game day experience for players, families and match officials, the below rules play an integral part. It is vital that coaches have a sound understanding of these rules, to avoid conflict between sides on match day, and act as a referral guide to allow easy resolution when in doubt.

As part of the process, all coaches are required to complete the agreement which [can be found here](#).

### Rule 9.3.1: Coach Eligibility

- (A) To Coach in a Competition Match, a Coach must be registered and accredited in accordance with Section 5 of the *Policy Handbook*.
- (B) Any Coach not accredited or not registered, or registered based upon incorrect information, is ineligible to coach a Club's team in a Competition Match.
- (C) Any Club who engages or permits an ineligible Coach to officiate during a Competition Match may be subject to disciplinary sanctions including the loss of Competition Match points and / or a fine determined by the relevant Controlling Body in its absolute discretion.

### Rule 9.3.4: No Dual Team Official Role

- (A) Any person designated on the Team Sheet as the Coach or Assistant Coach for a Match must not undertake any other Team Official roles including those of Club Umpire, runner, water carrier, first aid or trainer.

### Rule 10.13: Approaching Umpires

- (A) No person, except as listed in Rule 10.13(B)), shall approach, or talk to an Umpire (field, boundary or goal) prior to, during or after the conclusion of a Match, or leaving the playing arena.
- (B) The following excepted persons referred to in Rule 10.13(A) may approach an umpire during a quarter time break, or following the conclusion of the match:
  - (i) a full-time AFL NSW/ACT staff member, who is not otherwise participating in the Match as a Player, Coach or Team Official;
  - (ii) the Ground Manager, including any designated assistant;
  - (iii) the Umpire escort;
  - (iv) the Umpire Manager or Umpire Coach;
  - (v) the Team Manager of a Junior Team, but only for the purpose of confirming the score of a Match where the Mercy Rule under Rule 15.2.8 may apply and only during a quarter break;
  - (vi) the Team captain, vice-captain or Team runner, but only for the purposes of requesting a headcount in accordance with the *Laws of Australian Football*.



### Rule 14.5: Number of Players in a Team – Junior Competitions

(A) The CMC will determine the minimum and maximum number of Players allowed per Team for Junior Competitions and detail this in Table 16.

**Table 16 – Number of Players in a Team - Junior Competitions**

Competition	Grade	Minimum number of players for a match	Maximum number of players	
			On-Field	On Team-Sheet
Illawarra Juniors	Under-9s Mixed	6	9	12
	Under-9s Girls	6	9	12
	Under-11s Mixed	9	16	Unlimited
	Under-11s Girls	9	14	Unlimited
	Under-13s Mixed	9	16	Unlimited
	Under-13s Girls	9	14	Unlimited
Shoalhaven Juniors	Under-9s Mixed	6	9	12
	Under-9s Girls	6	9	12
	Under-11s Mixed	9	16	24
	Under-11s Girls	9	14	24
	Under-13s Mixed	9	18	24
	Under-13s Girls	9	16	24
South Coast Juniors	Under-15s Boys	9	18	Unlimited
	Under-15s Girls	9	16	Unlimited
	Under-17s Boys	9	18	Unlimited
	Under-17s Girls	9	16	Unlimited



- (B) During school holidays the “Minimum Number of Players for a Match” as per Table 16 are to be reduced by two (2) Players where this is necessary to ensure a Match can be played, unless the League advises otherwise.

#### Rule 14.6: Even On-Field Number – Junior Competitions

- (A) On-field Player numbers must be equal at all times other than:

- (i) in the case of a send-off where the Rules disallow a replacement for a period of time; or
- (ii) where a Coach declines to accept Players as per the requirements of Table 17.
- (iii) Where team numbers are adjusted in accordance with the mercy rule under [Rule 15.2.8](#).

- (B) If during the Match, an injured Player has to leave the ground but there are no replacements in that Team, the following applies:

- (i) the field Umpire, the Opposition Coach and the Ground Manager must be advised accordingly;
- (ii) the other Club’s Team is to remove a Player to keep the numbers on the ground even; and
- (iii) if the injured then Player returns to the field, the same process applies in reverse.

**Table 17 – Even Up Rules - Junior Competitions**

Grades	Requirements
<b>Under-9s and Under-11s</b>	Clubs <b>must</b> borrow or loan available Players up to the maximum on-field number for that Grade as specified in Table 16.
<b>Under-13s, Under-15s, and Under-17s</b>	<p>Clubs <b>may</b> borrow available opposition Players up to the maximum on-field number for that Grade as specified in Table 16.</p> <p>If the coach accepts the players, they must be rotated so that no single player plays more than one (1) quarter per match for the opposition team.</p> <p>If the Coach does not accept the Players offered, the Team offering the additional Players will be able to play with such additional Players up to the maximum on-field number as specified in Rule 14.5</p>



### Rule 15.2.8: Mercy Rule – Junior Competitions

- (A) The provisions of this Mercy Rule apply to all Junior Competition home and away Matches, but do not apply to finals Matches.
- (B) Regardless of the actual Match score, the official final winning margin between Teams in a Junior Competition Match cannot exceed:
  - (i) **sixty (60) points** for Under-11s and Under-13s;
  - (ii) **seventy-five (75) points** for Under-15s and Under-17s
  - (iii) The Mercy Rule does not apply to the non-competitive Under-9s grades
- (C) Where the score differential between Teams at the end of the second (2nd) or third (3rd) quarter equals or exceeds the points margin specified in Rule 15.2.8(B) for the relevant Grade, the requirements of Table 19 apply.

**Table 19 – Mercy Rule Requirements**

Component	Requirements
<b>On-field Equalisation Requirements</b>	<p>It is incumbent on the Coaches of both Teams to implement measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) equalise the on field competitive balance of the Match; and</li> <li>(ii) allow for improved participation in the Match for the Players of the losing team.</li> </ul> <p>Any equalisation measure should look to maximise the number of players on the field, but no more than the maximum number of players on field allowed for under <a href="#">Table 16</a>.</p> <p>Where an equalisation measure results in an uneven number of Players in each Team on the field, the Umpires must be notified of this so that the Headcount Rule is not unnecessarily invoked.</p>
<b>Coach Responsibilities</b>	<p>Clubs and Coaches may be required by the CMC to explain any circumstance in which there is evident failure to take equalisation measures or achieve a competitive balance between the Teams</p>

[Appendix 1: Coaching Box Policy – White Card Policy](#) (Linked to AFL NSW/ACT Website)

[Appendix 2: Code of Conduct](#) (Linked to AFL NSW/ACT Website)