



United States Australian Football League
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2018 Laws of the USAFL

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This document is how the USAFL modifies the 2018 Laws of Australian Football (as published by the AFL) for all games sanctioned by the USAFL in 2018. Any questions on the rules or interpretations to the rules are to be submitted to the USAFL Umpires Association Rules Committee.

USAFL Laws Variations to AFL Laws

Clause 5.2 Variation of Number

Player numbers for USAFL Nationals games will be as follows:

Division I & II: 18 players-a-side with 6 interchange players (24 players max).

Divisions III: 18 players-a-side with 6 interchange players (24 players max), unless the Captains of each team agree to field a lesser number of players, which must be worked out before the games start time and umpires must be notified.

Division IV and Reserves: 16 players-a-side with 8 interchange players (24 players max) unless the Captains of each team agree to field a different number of players, which must be worked out before the games start time and umpires must be notified.

Women's Division I & II: 16 players-a-side with 8 interchange players (24 players max) unless the Captains of each team agree to field a different number of players, which must be worked out before the games start time and umpires must be notified.

In all other USAFL sanctioned games the participating teams shall agree before the match on the number of players on the field, taking into consideration the size of the field, length of game, and other conditions.

50/50 Participation Rule

All USAFL sanctioned games are subject to the 50/50 rule: a team must have a minimum of 50% Nationals, i.e. Americans/Canadians. All others are considered Non-Nationals and are counted toward the 50%.

Clause 10.5 Stopping and Recommencing Time

USAFL Clubs do not have the capacity to add time on for stoppages; therefore games will continue to be played without "time on". Should a serious injury (e.g., a stretcher or ambulance is required to enter the field) occur during any USAFL sanctioned game the controlling umpire must signal to the timekeeper to stop the clock. The Controlling Umpire will signal the timekeeper to re-start the clock and signal "time on" to the players once the Controlling Umpire considers it safe to do so.



Clause 12.1.5 Goal Umpire to Judge Goal or Behind

Due to the lack of qualified goal umpires and the wide variety of ability of “fill in” goal umpires, the USAFL chooses to adopt paragraph (b) which allows the Controlling Field Umpire the right to overrule a decision made by a non-accredited Goal Umpire.

Clause 13.3 Kick-In After Goal Umpire Signal

The USAFL will not adopt the immediate kick-in rule once a behind has been signaled (one raised index finger) by the Goal Umpire; the kicker must wait for the flags to be waved.

Clause 15.8 Free Kicks – Deliberate Rushed Behind

The USAFL will not adopt the ruling to award a free kick to the attacking team when a defending opponent deliberately knocks the ball over the goal line.

Clause 16 Disposal from Mark or Free Kick

All players in the Protected Area (the area five yards from either side of the mark to the kicker and five yards behind the kicker) after a free kick will be give a chance to immediately clear the Area. A player not clearing the Area and then impacting the opportunity of the kicker to play on or kick shall be penalized with a 50-meter penalty. A player not clearing the Area who does not impact the kicker shall not be penalized.

Clause 17.3 The Advantage Rule

Due to the difficulty of education of players and umpires regarding how to apply the advantage rule, the USAFL will continue its policy that the field umpire has sole discretion to award advantage (this is different from the AFL where the player’s choice to play on to advantage is part of the application of the law. See support video from the AFL for clarity).

Clause 18.3 50-Meter Penalty – Local Conditions

This law allows a change to 25 meters for the distance assessed for this penalty. The USAFL has adopted this for all USAFL intrastate games. Certain games at nationals (usually Division1) will use a 50-meter assessment. In addition, with the growth of Metro footy in many clubs, the USAFL recommends the penalty be reduced to 15 meters when matches are played on soccer fields (or with 10 or fewer players per side).

Clause 20 Order Off Law

Yellow Card - a player receiving a Yellow Card is sent off for 15 minutes of game time and can be replaced on the field.

Red Card - a player receiving a Red Card is sent off for the remainder of that game and cannot return to the field of play. The player may be replaced on the field, but only after 15 minutes of game time. In addition, the player will also be subjected to an automatic USAFL tribunal appearance.