



MWFA LTD
COVID-19 SPECIAL RULES for 2022
“Special Considerations”

INTRODUCTION

The continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, while dramatically decreased, may still play a part in our 2022 competition.

To balance the need to adhere to our social responsibilities with the need for competitive fairness, the MWFA Board, at the request of the Member Clubs, has made some decisions in the best interests of the game and the players, which require some additions/changes to the Playing Rules for the 2022 season.

This has been actioned by the MWFA Board based on the following section of the MWFA By-Laws:

9.1 ISSUE OF BY-LAWS AND PLAYING RULES.

(a) Special Considerations

The Board will have the power to consider special circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the MWFA By-Laws and Playing Rules should it be clear those special considerations are in the interests of the Game.

The Special Considerations for 2022 form part of the 2022 MWFA Playing Rules and will over-ride the current 2022 MWFA Playing Rules.

These Special Considerations are subject to change at the sole discretion of the MWFA Board if the NSW Government directions or Public Health Order change in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All Clubs, Club Officials, Teams, Players, Coaches, Managers and Spectators must comply with the NSW Public Health Orders, protocols and guidelines in relation to COVID-19 and any breaches of these Special Considerations will subject to disciplinary review.

“Special Considerations”

1. Competition structures

The Competition structures and all Playing Rules are to be interpreted as per the 2022 MWFA Playing Rules, except for the below considerations:

2. Postponements

No team will be able to postpone a match due to COVID-19 in relation to players who have COVID-19 or are requested to isolate under the NSW Public Health Order and guidelines.

3. Borrowing Rules

- a. If a team has a number of players unable to take part in a match due to COVID-19 or isolation they can utilise the borrowing rules (as per the MWFA Playing Rules).

- b. The current rules and general principles around Borrowing Players will remain in place, specifically in relation to the principles around the eligibility of players that can be borrowed (Borrowing Eligibility Rules Table)
- c. The limit on the number of players who can be borrowed in a match is 4.
- d. If a team has been impacted by COVID and players in that team must self-isolate in accordance with NSW Government regulations
 - i. That team can apply to borrow an additional two (2) extra players (to a maximum number of 6 borrowed players) to be able to play in the match.
 - ii. For matches to be played on Friday night, Saturday or Sunday, the team's club MUST apply in writing to the MWFA (admin@mwfa.com.au) before noon on the Friday afternoon ahead of the match, stating the players unable to play and the players who will be borrowed (along with the teams they play for).
 - iii. For matches to be played on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, the team's club MUST apply in writing to the MWFA (admin@mwfa.com.au) before noon on the afternoon of the match, stating the players unable to play and the players who will be borrowed (along with the teams they play for).
 - iv. The MWFA will promptly reply to any request but retains the right to seek information to verify the request.
 - v. All requests to borrow two extra players is ONLY valid for the next match.
- e. The Number of times a player can be borrowed, before having to change teams is 4.
- f. Exemptions to this rule will be considered by the MWFA Office on a case by case basis to avoid forfeits, consistent with the principle of maximising matches for each player and team.

4. Promotion and Relegation Men's Premier League / AL1

If the Men's Premier League (first grade competition) and the Men's AL1 (first grade competitions) play at least 50% of scheduled home and away games in the 2022 competition, the promotion/relegation principles will remain as per the intended competition structure. 1 club up, 1 club down and a playoff between the 2nd bottom PL side and the 2nd highest AL1 side (that does not have a team already in PL for the 2023 season).

Depending on any COVID-19 restrictions, that playoff will be played no later than 30 September 2022 or if delayed due to COVID-19, will be played by during the 2023 pre season at a date determined by the MWFA.

5. Major Premiers / Champions

If the competitions play at least 50% of scheduled home and away games in the 2022 competition, Champions will be declared based on the competition tables as they stand, adjusted where required if teams in the same division have played a different number of games

6. Player medals

- a. As with the 2021 season, medals will be prepared for all players in the U6 to 11 age groups regardless of the length of the season. Champions medals be prepared for U12 and above Major Premiers if the competition goes through the halfway mark (as per above)