

UniSport Australia Guideline

AFL Nines

Mixed

UniSport Australia (UniSport) AFL 9s competitions are conducted in accordance with the rules of [AFL Nines Program Handbook](#) except where these differ from UniSport competition guidelines; in which case the latter shall take precedence. Reference should also be made to the UniSport *Breach of Competition Requirements* guideline for penalties related to breaches.

1. Team/squad size

- Minimum registered players – 12
- Maximum registered players – 15
- Maximum cross registrations – 3
- Minimum number of players that can take the field without incurring a forfeit – 6
- In mixed competitions, a minimum of three players of each gender must be on the ground at all times

2. Competition Format

2.1. Team composition

- a) Teams consists of three forwards, three centres and three backs (forwards distinguished by either bibs, wristbands or armbands).
- b) Players must be in their zones at the start of each half and after a goal has been scored. Once the game is in progress, players can move freely across all three zones.

2.2. Interchange

- a) Interchange of players may take place at any time, and be unlimited in number.
- b) Injured players are not required to participate in 50% of the match

2.3. Game duration

- a) Each game will consist of 2 x 20 minute halves with no time on. The halftime interval will be five minutes in duration.

2.4. Scoring

- a) Only designated forwards can kick for goal within their scoring zone. This can be during general play or by receiving a kick or handball; or upon marking the ball and taking a set shot for goal.
- b) The player kicking for goal must be inside the scoring zone. The field umpire will be the sole judge or whether the kick for goal was successful.
- c) A designated forward may kick for goal from a Free Kick (initiating contact, holding the ball etc.) but not from a Turnover (ball hitting the ground or going out of bounds).
- d) A goal or behind is scored if the ball touches the ground and bounces through, provided that it is kicked by a designated forward and has not been touched between making contact with the ground and passing through the goals.
- e) Scoring is as per the Laws of Australian Football. In mixed competitions, a goal scored by a female forward is worth nine (9) points.
- f) If a player who is not a designated forward has a shot on goal, a Free Kick will be awarded to the opposition team at the point in which the shot was taken.

2.5. Drawn matches

- a) If preliminary pool matches are drawn at full time, both teams will be awarded two competition points as per section 2.6.
- b) If progression or medal matches are drawn at full time, two extra periods of three minutes will be played (no time on). If it is still a draw, extra periods of three minutes will be played as required until a result is determined.

2.6. Pool points scoring

Points for each match shall be awarded as follows:

- a) Winning team: 3 points
- b) Drawn match: 2 points per team
- c) Losing match: 1 point

- d) Forfeited match: 0 points
- 2.7. Pool tiebreakers

In the event that two or more teams have the same number of points at the completion of the preliminary rounds, the higher placed team(s) will be decided when the first of the following criteria in order, favours one team:

- a) Percentage (for/against) in all pool games
- b) Difference in points scored (for and against) in all pool games
- c) Head-to-head result of the team/s on the same points
- d) Toss of a coin

3. Send Off Rule and Set Penalties

- 3.1 The competition will follow the [AFL 9s Rules and Regulations](#) as relating to Send Offs and Set Penalties. Where reference is made to '1 week' or '2 weeks' penalties, for avoidance of doubt, this will translate to '1 match' or '2 match' penalties.
- 3.2. The competition manager reserves the right to invoke heavier penalties if circumstances require.
- 3.3. Any appeals relating to send offs must be lodged to the competition manager within one hour of conclusion of the match as per the UniSport *Disciplinary and Disputes* guideline.

4. Forfeits, delays and abandonments

- 4.1. A forfeit will be declared five minutes after the scheduled start of play where either team is unable to commence play.
- 4.2. The forfeit score is 60-0.
- 4.3. Should the commencement of a game be delayed due to no fault of either team (as determined by the competition management or UniSport), the game shall be played in its full duration if possible. If full game duration is not possible, the recommended revised game duration will need to be agreed upon by both teams. If resolution between the teams is not possible then the competition manager (or their delegate) will make the final decision regarding match format, which will not be subject to appeal.
- 4.4. In the event of a game being abandoned due to no fault of either team, the UniSport *Abandonment of Sporting Competitions* guideline will be implemented.

5. Uniform requirements

- 6.1 Each athlete shall wear the uniform of their university. The university shall submit a description of its uniform to the organiser at the sport specific team managers meeting or before if requested.
- 6.2 The uniform requirements for AFL 9s are as per the AFL standard with the following UniSport uniform requirements:
 - Shorts, socks and jerseys.
 - Jersey may have sleeves or shoulder cut. Numbering on backs of jerseys is compulsory (number to remain the same for entire tournament). Only single or double-digit numbers may be used.
 - Soft-molded studs on football boots are permitted.
 - No jewellery is permitted.
 - Headgear and mouthguards are at the player's discretion and may be subject to inspection from the field umpire.

6. Team duties

- 6.1. Team duty requirements for AFL 9s are:
 - a) Each team in the current match may be required to assist with scoring or timekeeping duties as required.
- 6.2. The person fulfilling the team duty requirements can be any competent person associated with that team or university and does not necessarily have to be a player, e.g. team manager.

Previous amendments

June 2023

*All competitions will be held in accordance with the UniSport competition guidelines.