



**FOOTBALL
INTEGRATION
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION**

**SCHEDULE 3
MODIFIED RULES
(2025)**

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1. Modifications to the Laws of the Game

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 All matches played under the control of FIDA shall be played under the AFL's Laws of Australian Football.
- 1.1.2 The most recent version of the Laws of the Game is always applicable.
- 1.1.3 The AFL's Laws of Australian Football also allows for a controlling body to adopt its own rules and interpretations in some instances and FIDA follows the below rules and interpretations across all its competitions.

1.2 Centre Ball Up

- 1.2.1 A Player may not take full possession of the ball at a centre ball up. The ball must go to another Player or touch the ground before the Player winning the knockout can take possession of the ball.

1.3 Field Ball-Up

- 1.3.1 A Player may not take full possession of the ball at any ball up around the field. The ball must go to another Player or touch the ground before the Player winning the knockout can take possession of the ball.

1.4 Out of Bounds

- 1.4.1 If the ball goes out of bounds whilst in dispute (not out of bounds on the full) the controlling umpire will bring the ball in ten (10) meters from the boundary and conduct a ball up as per the above (1.3.1).

1.5 Marking

- 1.5.1 A mark is to be paid to a Player who marks the ball from a kick, provided that the kick has travelled at least Ten (10) metres and has not been touched in transit.
- 1.5.2 The controlling field umpires may award a mark to a low or extremely low functioning player where an attempt by that player has been made.

1.6 Bouncing the Ball

- 1.6.1 A Player in possession may bounce the ball a maximum of Two (2) times and then must make a genuine attempt to dispose either by hand or by foot.
- 1.6.2 For the avoidance of doubt as per **Non-Tackle Players are not permitted to run or bounce the ball**. Their possession constitutes a mark or free kick and must be taken accordingly.

1.7 Possession

- 1.7.1 a Player shall be deemed to be in possession of the football during the period when the Player handballs the football to themselves and regains possession without the football touching the ground or another Player.
- 1.7.2 a Player shall be deemed to be in possession of the football during the period when the Player completes a solo (the Gaelic skill where the Player kicks the ball to themselves).

1.8 15 Meter Penalty

- 1.8.1 A 15-meter penalty shall replace the 50-meter penalty in all Official FIDA matches.

1.9 Standing the Mark

- 1.9.1 A player standing the mark when the opposition player is awarded a mark or a free kick may still move laterally or backwards, however is not permitted to move forwards over the mark until the umpire calls 'play on.'

2. Mercy Rule

- 2.1 The mercy rule is applied in all official FIDA matches.
- 2.2 The Mercy Rule comes into effect if either team is leading by the designated margin at any stage during the game.

Metropolitan Conference	40 Points
Central Conference	20 Points
Western Conference	30 Points
Northern Conference	30 Points

- 2.3 The following actions will apply until the margin between teams is below the designated points above.
 - 2.3.1 centre ball up will cease & the trailing team will kick out from the centre.
 - 2.3.2 If the leading team kick a behind the trailing team will take the kick out from the back of the centre square.
- 2.4 Clubs must ensure players remain in their positions, there should be no 'dropping of players behind play,' flooding etc.

3. Non-Tackle Player

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 A Non-Tackle Player is a player who for medical reasons has been authorised by the league to participate in the main Conferences with the allowance and understanding of not being tackled.
- 3.1.2 It is the duty of all players to be aware of Non-Tackle Players and to ensure their safety.
- 3.1.3 It is the duty of Non-Tackle Players to ensure they do not endanger themselves.
- 3.1.4 The Non-Tackle allowance does not guarantee a player complete safety from injury. It is the obligation of the club to ensure players are aware that the risks of football still apply.

3.2 Permitted Grades and Conferences

- 3.2.1 Non-Tackle Players are permitted to participate in the following Grades and Conferences within FIDA
 - a. Central Conference
 - b. Metropolitan Conference B Grade
 - c. Metropolitan Conference C Grade
 - d. Northern Conference
 - e. Western Conference
- 3.2.2 Non-Tackle Players are not permitted in Metropolitan A Grade
- 3.2.3 FIDA will assess the numbers of Non-Tackle Players registered prior to the commencement of each season to establish the on-field allowance for Non-Tackle Players per team.

3.3 Qualification

- 3.3.1 Players seeking to participate as Non-Tackle Players in the Conferences within FIDA must:

- a. Be identified as Low to Extremely Low Functioning (per the Schedule 4: Functionality Grading) unless provided an exemption from the league for exceptional circumstances.
- b. Have a medical certificate confirming that they can participate in sport with the proviso they are not tackled due to a medical condition that would prohibit participation otherwise.
- c. Have exhausted options that may have allowed the player to participate as a regulation player (i.e. protective equipment).
- d. Wear a yellow high-vis long sleeve vest underneath their playing jumper to be identified.

3.4 **Rules regarding Non-Tackle Players**

- 3.4.1 All Non-Tackle Players must be identified on all Team Sheets with a 'T' manually written next to their name.
- 3.4.2 A Non-Tackle Player may not be tackled by any other players.
- 3.4.3 A Non-Tackle Player may not initiate contact with any other players (including but not limited to tackling, pushing etc.).
- 3.4.4 A Non-Tackle Player may not physically impede their opposition (this includes but is not exclusive to blocking a running players path, initiating any form of contact, moving into a congested contest area, moving into space already occupied by another player, causing contact).
- 3.4.5 A Non-Tackle player will not be considered impeding another player should the opposition player move into the space already occupied by the Non-Tackle Player.
- 3.4.6 The Umpire may award a non-tackle player possession where they have made reasonable effort to take possession (attempted mark)
- 3.4.7 A Non-Tackle player taking possession [of the ball] or awarded possession shall take possession as a free kick.
- 3.4.8 A Non-Tackle player who elects to 'play-on' over the mark may not move further than 5 meters before disposing of the ball.

3.5 **Positions**

- 3.5.1 A Non-Tackle Player may not accept the position of Ruck.
- 3.5.2 A Non-Tackle Player may not be involved in any ball up around the ground.
- 3.5.3 A Non-Tackle Player stationed in the goal square may not remain there for more than half a quarter at a time, and must move away from the goal square position if they kick a goal (i.e. move to Centre Half Forward etc.)
- 3.5.4 A Non-Tackle Player may return to the goal square after their team scores another goal or 5 minutes game time has elapsed.

3.6 **Penalties**

- 3.6.1 A Player that tackles a Non-Tackle Player will have a free kick award against them.
- 3.6.2 An Umpire may award a 15-meter penalty in the case where Non-Tackle Players have been tackled more than once in the same game.
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- 3.6.4 Non-Tackle Player who travels more the 5m with the ball will have a free kick award against them.

4. On-Field Coaching

4.1 Permitted Grades and Conferences

4.1.1 Coaches may coach on-field in the following Grades and Conferences

- a. Central Conference
- b. Metropolitan Conference - C Grade
- c. Northern Conference
- d. Western Conference

4.1.2 On-Field Coaching is **not permitted** in:

- a. Metropolitan Conference - A Grade
- b. Metropolitan Conference - B Grade.

4.2 Rules for On-Field Coaching

4.2.1 One (1) Accredited Coach may coach on-field to help direct players.

4.2.2 On-Field Coaches may not directly engage in play and must make all effort to remain 10+ meters from active play.

4.2.3 The designated on-field coach MUST wear either the Official FIDA Coach or Assistant Coach Vest.

4.2.4 On-Field coaches may not be accompanied by any other personnel (including other match officials or players).

4.2.5 No On-Field coach shall be in the 50-meter arc when a defensive player is taking a kick in following a behind, unless attending to an injured player or making a genuine effort to vacate the area.

4.2.6 Runners may not function as on-field coaches, only a coach in official FIDA vest may undertake this role.

4.3 Penalties

4.3.1 If in the Umpire's determination, the on-field coach is interfering directly with play, or otherwise infringing on the natural state of play, the umpire may ask the on-field coach to cease.

4.3.2 If in the umpire's determination, the on-field coach fails to heed the official warning and continues to breach the allowances, the umpire may ask the on-field coach to leave the field of play and return to coaching from the bench.

5. On-field Care Providers/Support Workers

5.1 Where a Player has a care provider employed as part of a formal support program to provide close-proximity physical, sensory, or behavioural support, that carer may accept a position on the ground with the Player.

5.2 Any Care Provider taking up on-field support must wear an orange high-vis vest to assist in identifying them to umpires and players.

5.3 Care Providers may not act in any coaching capacity or influence the game in any manner whilst providing care.

5.3.1 Carers may not pick up a ball whilst in dispute.

5.3.2 Carers may not interact with general play.

5.3.3 Carers may assist a player with possession and/or disposal of the football should their designated Player be awarded a kick by the controlling umpire.

5.4 If, in the umpire's determination, the care provider is acting as an on-field Coach, or in any way influencing the game in any manner greater than the individual support being provided, the umpire shall warn the care provider to cease.

- 5.5 If in the umpire's determination, the care provider continues to function as an on-field Coach, or in any way continues to influence the game in any manner greater than the individual support being provided, the umpire shall direct the care provider to leave the ground. (This may have an impact on the safety of the Player concerned, and the Coach of the respective Team shall have the full and total responsibility of determining whether the Player can safely continue to play or not.)
- 5.6 All Care Providers **MUST** be registered as volunteers with their respective clubs through PlayHQ. **They will not be allowed to provide on-field support if they are not registered.**