

COVID TEAM ASSISTANCE FOR THE 2022 BWAH COMPETITION

Goals

- Support maximum participation
- Preserve the integrity of competition as much as possible whilst providing relaxation options.
- Lessen stress for club volunteers trying to field teams.

Actions:

Clubs should, where possible, fill COVID team shortages as per our normal rules 7 and 8 ie: from their teams below or as per the “Playing in more than one competition” Table.

If this is not possible and team numbers fall to 10 or fewer players due to isolation requirements relating only to positive COVID-19 test results and/or close contact definition, the affected team may fill their match day team to a maximum of 11 players using the below relaxations:

Relaxation options: to make the bare team (no subs).

U7/U9

- As per normal rules and guidelines, as these games are not for points, clubs should use players across teams & ages to have enough to play games (no subs). The purpose of U7/U9 is participation, fun and fairness.
- Relaxation to allow a maximum of 4 boys on the field to make a team (no subs)

Junior Full Field

Aim: To allow teams to compete with enough players to make 11 - no subs

- Lowest U11 team with no U9 club teams - Relaxation: pull players from first year players from lowest U13 team - no more than 4 players allowed.
- Lowest U13 team with no U11 club teams - Relaxation: pull players from first year players from lowest JG team - no more than 4
- JG – no relaxations, pull players from lower teams
- Junior turf – no relaxations, pull players from lower teams

Masters

- No relaxation: pull players from your club. Master’s teams regularly play with 9-10 players.

Senior grass-targeted relaxations for specific clubs

- SBE DP4 only – pull players from JG2 and then relaxation to pull players from JT4 if needed to make 11. No more than 4 players
- Valleys DP5 only – pull players from JG2 and then relaxation to pull players from JT4 if needed to make 11. No more than 4 players
- Commodores DP4/Pine Rivers DP4/QUT DP3/Ascot DP5/St Andrews DP5 - option to use players from the other 4 club teams listed to make 11. No more than 3 players. Clubs would need to ensure the correct club uniform is worn (shirt/socks)

Senior turf

- no relaxations: pull players from club Grass, Juniors or Masters teams
- relaxation for ML1 to ML3 Goal Keepers if clubs cannot use their lower registered goal keepers or Junior goal keepers due to COVID. ML1 to ML3 goalkeepers may fill in as goalkeepers for other Senior ML1 to ML3 teams in divisions equal or higher than their normal registration.

Not enough players to field a team

If clubs cannot field a side to prevent a forfeit as per rule 15(11) due to COVID illness or isolations, through normal club substitutions and using the relaxations provided above, the game can be abandoned, with no fee or penalty imposed (the result will be as per forfeit rules).

To advise the need to abandon a game or use relaxation options:

Clubs must submit to the BWA COVID Mailbox (bwhacovidreq@gmail.com) as per the timelines below, if they need to abandon a game or use any of the listed relaxation options.

Full details of this must be submitted in the email ie:

Club; Game; Venue; Time; how many registered team members are unavailable due to COVID or isolation rules; why you cannot use normal club substitutions; is the game being abandoned or played; if being played list the players being used and where they are from as per the relaxation options.

[Club Officials should not ring or contact BWA Staff with requests outside office hours.](#)

If no email is received by the listed time, then the game may be considered a normal forfeit and the normal penalties apply.

- Friday night games – no later than 12pm Friday
- Sat AM games – no later than 8pm Friday
- Sat PM games – no later than 8am Saturday
- Sun games - no later than 6pm Saturday

Q and A: for abandoned games and relaxation options:

Q. What do we do about casuals? A. Abandoned game doesn't count as a casual game

Q. Eligibility for finals? A. if an abandoned game would make the 6th game, clubs can approach the BWA Board of Management for a decision.

Q. How many abandoned games in a season? A. Clubs would not be allowed to have more than one abandoned game in a season due to the relaxations provided.

Q. Will these rules apply for the whole season including the Final Series? A. Yes, if necessary, but we expect clubs to have more club players available from lower club teams to meet our final series rules to avoid using the relaxation options.

- Relaxations are to be used to manage COVID only. Not to be taken advantage of for other absences.

- The normal forfeit rule will apply for breaking rules (Management discretion)

Goal Keeper assistance already in our rules:

- (12) Goal Keepers:
- (a) All teams (except U7's) must have a fully equipped Goalkeeper on the field at all times:
 - (i) To avoid a forfeit, however, a player with goalkeeping privileges, wearing an approved helmet and different coloured shirt from the teams playing, may be used in place of a Goalkeeper.
 - (ii) If a player with goalkeeping privileges is used in the BWA competition, this player shall have the same privileges as a goalkeeper and therefore must stay primarily within their defensive goal circle, except when taking a Penalty Stroke.
 - (iii) Teams must have a goalkeeper or player with goalkeeping privileges on the field at all times ie you cannot have field players only, except as per 15(12)(d).
 - (iv) Division 1 (Senior Turf) teams may play with 11 field players, after starting the game with a Goal Keeper as per Rule 15 (11).
 - (a) Goalkeepers registered in any division may, upon written application from their Club to the Board of Management, be approved to play in another division on the field.
 - (b) The Board of Management shall determine the lowest division in which the player may be registered as a field player.
 - (c) This player shall not play in a goalkeeping or player with goalkeeping privileges position in a lower division than the team that they are registered in as a goalkeeper.
 - (d) Masters goalkeepers may fill in as goalkeepers for other masters teams in divisions equal or higher than their normal registration.
 - (e) Senior Grass goalkeepers may fill in as goalkeepers for other Senior Grass teams in divisions equal or higher than their normal registration.