

Hi folks. A couple of hurdles but certainly the best Round 1 we've had for a while at many levels.



## The Update – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### AGENDA

- League Contacts
- Concussion Policies and Memos
- Guernsey Clashes
- Tribunal Report
- Play HQ Outage / Sunday Mail
- Rule of the Week # 1
- Rule of the Week # 2
- Key Links
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Archived Updates
- Key Dates

### LEAGUE CONTACTS

Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 4:30pm

Friday 9:00am to 1:30pm

#### **Football Operations**

**Aaron Jones** - All Football Operations including APPS, TPPS, Womens and Men's Footy, Fixtures, Registration & Transfers, Play HQ: [Aaron@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:Aaron@adelaidefooty.com.au)

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(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

#### **Administration**

**Giannina Taeger** – Administration, Rules & Regulations, Policy, Accounts:

[Giannina@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:Giannina@adelaidefooty.com.au)

(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

Ivana Lombardi – Administration, Accounts: [accounts@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:accounts@adelaidefooty.com.au)

### **Sponsorship / Media / Social Media**

Dee Shepard - Marketing, Communication, Social Media, Sponsorship:

[dee@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:dee@adelaidefooty.com.au)

### **Umpiring Manager**

Colin Rowston – Umpiring: [colin@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:colin@adelaidefooty.com.au)

Peter Angel – Umpiring Coordinator: Late Forfeits [peter@adelaidefooty.com.au](mailto:peter@adelaidefooty.com.au)

## **Concussion Policies and Memos**

Last year the Concussion Poster and Concussion guidelines was supplied to all clubs as per the then protocols. Given the well-publicised changes and focus to Concussion diagnosis and management in recent times, it would be prudent for all clubs to remove and destroy those posters and in the short term replace with this: [AdFL Concussion Poster](#) in the short term. The League will organise the production of current in due course.

The most recent [AFL Concussion Guidelines](#) can be found here.

## **Guernsey Clashes**

The rules regarding Guernsey Clashes had a significantly more liberal approach offered to it in the off-season following feedback and requests by clubs and was subsequently approved by Member Clubs.

- 28.6 In the absence of any pre-determined clash of playing guernseys, competing clubs may agree for the visiting team to wear an alternative playing guernsey as an away guernsey.
- (a) In the event of such agreement, all visiting teams are required to wear the same playing guernsey i.e. A, B and C if applicable.

In short what it means is if you have an “AWAY” Guernsey regardless of The league Pre-determining it as a clash, your club may wear it though the onus is now firmly on clubs to ensure you have a back up if the home team has had approved a celebration type Guernsey that coincides with your visit. That is to say, the home team has right of way. Away team must have contingencies

To avoid such dilemma, it strongly advised clubs have their home set of guernseys available if not a reversible type of Guernsey.

And to remove any ambiguity if there is any, white shorts are worn as the away short regardless of Guernsey clash being determined.

So much so we included the same inference in different applications in the recent amendments for those who want to argue the toss.

## 28 PLAYING UNIFORM CLASHES & OTHER

28.1 A Member Club shall have a uniform design approved by The League to differentiate it from all other Member Club's uniforms.

28.2 In the event of The League determining a clash of uniforms of two Member Clubs playing each other in a match of The League the following shall apply

- (a) the Member Club designated as the Away team shall change its guernsey for such match so as to remove the clash.
- (b) the Member Club designated as the Home team shall wear their licensed colour other than white shorts as approved by The League.
- (c) the Member Club designated as the Away team shall
  - (i) for Men's teams wear their licensed white shorts as approved by The League.
  - (ii) for Women's teams may wear their licensed home coloured shorts as approved by The League (Women's teams are not required to wear white shorts as described in Clause 28.2 (b)).for Major Round matches the highest ranked team shall wear their home coloured short.
- (d) for Member Club's Men's teams designated as the Home team shall wear their home coloured shorts as approved by The League.
- (e) black encompasses all dark colours including maroon, navy blue, royal blue, brown, red and green. (For avoidance of doubt, any colour other than white unless otherwise advised by The League.)
- (f) for Member Club's Men's team designated as the Away team shall wear their licensed white shorts as only approved by The League.
- (g) for Major Round matches the highest ranked team shall wear their home coloured short.

## Play HQ Outage / Sunday Mail

A small number of clubs have enjoyed the benefit of the doubt in not complying to requirements to entering scores to Sunday Mail last week as PHQ navigated a nation-wide PHQ crash.

However, Play HQ's crash has been proven to fall at 6:03pm ACST on Saturday and until circa 11:00pm. And it has been suggested by PHQ that it would not have affected the ability to enter scores or the Sunday Mail to download for print even if the crash had of occurred pre 6:00pm.

Be that as it may, we'll consider last Saturday a test run and look forward to higher level of score entries going forward.

For clarity, the response from Play HQ can be seen here:

## What went wrong?

PlayHQ encountered a site-wide system outage on Saturday 13th April between 6pm (AEST) and 11:30 pm (AEST). Around one third of users visiting [playhq.com](https://playhq.com), PlayAFL, MyHoops and NetballHQ apps saw a 404 message instead of the fixtures and match centres they sought. Those visiting the admin portal and registration flows would have found it slow.

## What caused it?

After a change to mobile apps deployed in January 2024, PlayHQ's mobile app requests to the PlayHQ Neo4j database layer were not being cached correctly. Our mobile app requests were hitting our Neo4j database and not the cache as expected. This issue was exacerbated by the significant growth in usage of PlayHQ's mobile apps. Neo4j hit its database limit, and all the services relying on this database failed.

## What are we doing about it?

PlayHQ is focused on ensuring it doesn't happen this weekend or moving forward with the following actions this week:

1. PlayHQ has fixed the caching issue with the mobile apps.
2. As an insurance policy, PlayHQ has increased CPU for our Neo4j database.
3. PlayHQ is improving automated forecasting, monitoring & alerts.
4. Increasing caching and specific request optimisations across different experiences to improve site speed.
5. Fixing the deployment and QA processes to ensure caching is implemented properly.

## Rule of the Week #1

36.29 A maximum of three (3) Drinks Carriers per participating team may be on the playing field at the same time in a match of The League.

- (a) A Drinks Carrier may only enter the field during a kick for goal and/or when the ball is being returned to the centre circle for the recommencement of play following a goal.
  - (i) Play will not resume until the Drink Carriers have left the field of play.
  - (ii) If an Umpire deems that a Drink Carrier is on the field for purposes outside of their function, the Umpire will blow the whistle and issue that Drink Carrier a warning.
  - (iii) If a Drink Carrier from the same team is warned a second time, the Drink Carrier will receive a red card for the remainder of the match and a free kick shall be awarded to the opposition team from the centre circle or the position of the ball at the time of such warning determined by whichever is of the greater advantage.
  - (iv) A Drink Carrier may deliver drink bottles in a hand-held carriage utility within the constraints described in Clause 36.29(a).
- (b) A Drink Carrier shall be a minimum of twelve (12) years of age.

## Rule of the Week #2

We're having this on re-run from last week.

Beside the rule itself, not adhering to it is not fair on the opposition. You know as well if not better than us that this is the stuff that wears out and frustrates volunteers including the forfeiting club.

We understand this is akin to attempting to round up the cats but C or D grade men's or stand-alone women's teams need some processes in place so you are not left carrying the can on a Saturday morning.

### 41 FORFEITS

41.1 A Member Club not able to field a minimum of fourteen (14) players suitably attired in playing uniforms within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled start time of a match shall be deemed to have forfeited such match unless a later start time is agreed upon by both Captains of the teams participating in such match.

41.2 A Member Club forfeiting a match of The League in which it is involved shall notify The League not later than noon on the day preceding such match.

41.3 A Member Club forfeiting a match and not giving the notice specified in Clause 41.2 may be imposed a Fine by The League which may include the cost of fees for Umpire(s) appointed by The League and any other applicable costs including costs incurred by the opposing Member Club as deemed fair and reasonable by The League.

As an extension of last week's example of internal club policies, another sent us this and whilst relevant to registrations and sub, anyone could apply this tough love to forfeits too because see this below.

While were at it, feel free to share your own example of wielding the stick to players.

**From:**

**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:01 PM

**To:** John Kernahan

**Subject:** FW: The Update 11th April 2024

Hey mate

Registrations and subs - does my head in every year!

We have a rule that all players have to be registered (obviously) AND pay half subs by R1 or they aren't able to be selected.

I used to have literal sleepless nights about it until I realised it didn't affect my time in the house, only theirs.

Three seasons ago I told the entire playing group on Tuesday before R 1 that we were forfeiting Saturday. I hadn't told the players or coaches this beforehand because I wanted to get a response.

To my surprise there was *minimal* body-language response from the players UNTIL I told them it wasn't the C grade that was forfeiting!

We got all teams on the park

## Key Links

AFL Concussion Policy - [AFL Concussion Guidelines](#)

AdFL Rules and Regulations -

[https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc\\_7809a934dddf431789b3e28c373b7555.pdf](https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc_7809a934dddf431789b3e28c373b7555.pdf)

AdFL Division Specifications -

[https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc\\_7679895828fa420aa028326ab996ff81.pdf](https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc_7679895828fa420aa028326ab996ff81.pdf)

CFL Regs - <https://sanfl.com.au/communityfootball/community-football-rules-regulations/>

Laws of Australian Football - <https://play.afl/learning-resource/laws-game#article-0>

AdFL Umpire Fees -

[https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc\\_5c3a8e968b894637a7e8ee13f39caeb1.pdf](https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/files/ugd/7209dc_5c3a8e968b894637a7e8ee13f39caeb1.pdf)

## Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/faq-s>

## Archived Updates

For anyone, particularly newer Delegates or club officials, please see below.

<https://www.adelaidefooty.com.au/the-update>

## KEY DATES

2024		
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup> April	ANZAC Day
	11 <sup>th</sup> May	Umpire Appreciation Round
	18 <sup>th</sup> May	Breakthrough Round
	8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Jun	King's Birthday Weekend - BYE ALL TEAMS
	5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Women's Medal Count – Digital (TBC)
	17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Women's Grand Finals Division 3, 4 , 5 & 6
	24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Women's Grand Finals - Division 1, 1R, 2 & 2R
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Men's Medal Count – Digital (TBC)
	7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Men's Grand Finals - Division 7, 7R
	14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Men's Grand Finals - Division 2-6, C2-C8
	21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Men's Grand Finals - Division 1, 1R & C1