



# McDonalds Ballarat Football Netball League Inc

## BFLW By-Laws

The following BY LAWS is to be read in addition to the Ballarat Football Netball League Football BY LAWS and are specific only to the BFLW competitions.

### **1. MENTORS (Junior Girls competition only)**

It is the role of a Club Mentor to provide on-ground coaching to young players in competitions where Mentors are allowed (Under 14 Junior Girls ONLY). The role of a Mentor is to provide on-ground coaching to young players learning to play the game and teach them the basics of the game whilst out on the ground. Where permissible, clubs are only allowed to have one (1) Mentor out on the ground at a time and the Mentor needs to ensure they do not involve themselves in the play at any stage. Mentors must avoid barracking at all times and must keep their instructions clear and concise in relation to the positioning of players on the ground, the movement of play and the provision of feedback to player's decision making out on the ground. Club Umpires or appointed Umpires are well within their rights to remove a Mentor from the ground if they feel the Mentor is not behaving in an appropriate manner and they may also refuse to allow a club to have a Mentor on the ground if they deem it necessary. Mentors must wear the League's approved Mentor top.

### **2. BFLW FOOTBALL CAP**

Under 12 shall have a cap of 20 Players

Under 14 & Under 16 shall have a cap of 24 players

Under 19 shall have a cap of 24 players + COATES TALENT League Players (See below in Player eligibility for further information).

Senior Women's shall be capped at 28 players + VFLW / COATES TALENT League Listed Players

Any club found to have deliberately breached the cap by clearing or registering new players will be severely dealt with by the Board and the resulting punishment will be left up to the Board's discretion.

The only way a club can register more players in an age group than the cap advised above is if they have more than the player cap amount as above players of wanting to re-register with the club from the previous 3 seasons of competition only.

e.g. 2023

2022

2021

Any players who are not recognised as a registered player of the club in the previous year will be subject to the cap.

If clubs wish to apply for more players under special circumstances. You are to contact the BFLW Football Manager with your reasonings for consideration.

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## 3. EVENING UP RULE

The League expects all team officials to understand and adhere to the 'spirit' of this rule, which is, the team that has the greater number of players available shall lend as many players as possible to equalize numbers with the other team so that all players available to participate in that match shall have the opportunity to play in as much of that match as possible.

Where one team has between 10 and 14 players in all grades (Women's, Youth Girls & Junior Girls) and the second team has more players than the first team, both teams shall field the same number of players, therefore an equal number of players shall take the field. If a team begins with less than 10 players (Women's, Youth Girls & Junior Girls) the match will be forfeited, however a match must still occur as a scratch match. If players are not offered to the team with less than 16 players, then playing numbers must be reduced so that both teams field the same number of players on the ground.

If players are offered, but not accepted, then the team with the greater number of players is not required to reduce playing numbers, i.e., the evening up rule does not apply.

If players are not offered, the team refusing to offer players will have their interchange bench capped at 3 players and on-field playing numbers must be equal. The players on the field and the 3 interchanges are the only players permitted to participate in the match.

Team Managers, particularly from the Team that requires the evening-up rule to apply, must ensure the process is organized as early as possible and prior to the teams taking the field.

a) Late Arrivals Should a player arrive late, that player may take the field at any time provided the following procedure is adhered to:

- i) The Team Manager shall inform the Officials of the other Team.
- ii) The opposition team is to be informed when the players are ready to take the field that the playing numbers of each side are to be increased.
- iii) Addition to the playing numbers on the field can only be made providing the numbers on the field remain equal for both teams.
- iv) Where a head count is conducted and uneven playing numbers are evident the scores at the time of the head count shall be noted and the matter referred to the League for determination of the result of the match.

b) Loss of players during the match due to injury or illness Should a player be removed from the field due to injury or illness and the team has no interchange players, as soon as practicable but no later than at the next quarter break teams should even the playing numbers. If the injured player is available to play after being taken from the fields, the player is only able to do so through the interchange gate once the opposition team and umpire is notified. Where a player is ordered off by the Field Umpire and there is no replacement available there is no requirement to even-up the playing numbers on the field.





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c) Daily loan of players When players are loaned, the Team Manager of both teams shall note on the team sheet the number of players loaned. Players may be loaned on a quarter-by-quarter rotating basis or for the whole match as appropriate. Any dispute regarding this rule will be referred to the League who will determine penalties, if any, to be applied. Penalties may include loss of premiership points and/or score by the offending team and/or the Club of the offending team shall be penalized as the League deems fit.

## 4. REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

a) All Ballarat FNL affiliated Clubs will support the representative program for all grades, where the league have approved the leagues participation in representative football for the upcoming season.

c) All ancillary services and personnel shall be drawn from the Clubs, other than for the position of Coach.

d) The League Board shall, in conjunction with the General Manager and BFLW Football Manager, appoint the BFLW Interleague Coaching staff at their discretion.

e) All players in all affiliated Clubs are to make themselves available for selection in any representative game.

f) Any Club that does not participate fully or support the League in representative matches or who does not comply with the League request to ensure their players attendance at the required sessions may incur a fine of an amount determined by the League, or the loss of premiership points.

g) Should a player have a legitimate reason for non-attendance at any session called by the coach, then an acceptable reason should be e-mailed to the coach or League Football Manager prior to the session in question.

h) The League shall supply jumpers, shorts, socks, and off field apparel of the appropriate colour for all teams at the cost of each player to which each club will be invoiced for each player registered to their club. All players and coaching staff will keep all apparel after the representative program.

i) Should any player receive serious injury in any Inter-League match, Players must lodge any insurance claims through their Home Clubs insurance policy.

## 5. AWARDS

### a) Best & Fairest Awards

An award shall be made to the best and fairest player in all grades of competition. Votes for these awards shall be made in secret by the Central Umpires, or controlling umpire or their representative, as the case may be, at the end of each game and handed or sent to the Football Manager of the League as soon practical after the completion of the match. At the end of the home and away rounds, the league shall count all votes as cast during that time and arrive at the conclusion as to whom has attained the greatest total of votes. No player who has been found guilty of any charge by the Ballarat FNL Independent Tribunal or accepted a set penalty shall be eligible to win a Best and Fairest award. In the event of a tie, additional awards will be made available.

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## b) Other awards that may be awarded include:

Most Valuable Player Awards – Under 14 & Under 16 and any other presentation that may be required or approved by the League Board.

Goal kicking Awards – Under 19 & Senior Women, and any other presentation that may be required or approved by the League Board.

## c) Grand Final Trophies

An award shall be made to the best on ground in all grades of competition in football based on their performance in the BFLW Grand Finals, this will be determined by the officiating umpires on the day.

## Other awards that are to be awarded at the Grand Final include:

- Premiership Medallions in all grades of competition
- Premiership Cup for all grades of competition

## 6. BFLW FOOTBALL COMPETITION HIERARCHY

1. Women's Football – Senior Competition
2. U/19 Female Football – Senior Competition
3. U/16 Girls Football – Junior Competition
4. U/14 Girls Football – Junior Competition
5. U/12 Girls Football – Junior Competition

## 7. VFLW PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

### a) Eligibility of players to play between the BFLW and VFL Women's

i) A maximum of 3 VFL Women's listed players can play for any Open Women's team in the BFLW competition for each round of football without prior consent from League Board.

ii) A maximum of 5 VFLW players can be registered with any Ballarat FNL affiliated club in any one season.

*iii) Points (i) and (ii) above do not apply to members of a club previously registered in the most recent season of the BFLW competition.*

iv) In the event that a bye occurs in the VFLW competition, a VFL Women's player is only eligible to play in any BFLW team, if they have been listed and played the previous fixtured game with said club in the BFLW competition.

v) Any player included on an official VFLW list can, may return to play with their registered club in finals, provided they meet the following:





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- A player has qualified under the Rules described in finals eligibility rule 9, and
- vi) A VFLW player must not have played more than 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the VFLW Home and Away Matches in the current season to be eligible for Finals.
- viii) A VFLW Listed player is not permitted to any BFLW fixtured match following a VFLW match in the same weekend. Unless prior approval has been given.

## 8. COATES Talent League GIRLS PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

a) Eligibility of players to play between the BFLW and COATES Talent League competitions.

- i) BFLW Clubs are not to have more than 5 COATES Talent League Players on their playing list unless defined as a 'returning player' in **BFLW By Law 2 BFLW Football Cap**.
- ii) If a club wishes to apply for more COATES Talent League players. Clubs must do so in writing to the BFLW Football manager for approval by the BFNL Board of Directors.

b) A COATES Talent League listed player is not permitted to any BFLW fixtured match following a COATES Talent League match in the same weekend. Unless prior approval has been given.

## 9. FINALS ELIGIBILITY

a) Home and Away Matches to Qualify for finals:

- i) A player selected on the team sheet that is exchanged before the commencement of the match and who is on the ground in uniform and remains so until the conclusion of the match, shall for all purposes be deemed to have played in such match.
- ii) Any player who changes club mid-season shall be deemed a new player for the club, with which she has been granted a permit to play and shall be required to meet all finals eligibility criteria as set out below.
- iii) A player must play in at least three (3) home & away matches in a grade to be eligible to play in the final series in that grade, except in the following cases:
  - a) Where an underage player is selected to play in an open age side
  - b) Where a registered junior player is selected to play in a higher age group on the BFLW Competition Hierarchy (e.g., under 14 players playing under 16).

This is not to be at the expense of a registered and available player in that age group.

iv) A registered player, playing three (3) games during the home and away season in any one season in a competition, shall be eligible to play finals in that competition and any competition that sits above it on the competition hierarchy.





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- v) A player who has played more than one minor round match in a day (e.g. U/14 and U/16) shall only have their lowest age group game recorded as a game played when determining finals eligibility. The higher age group game will not count when determining finals eligibility.
- vi) A player may only participate in one finals match across any weekend in the age group the player has qualified for, in any round of a final's series. No player can play in more than one final's match during the same round of finals.
- vii) Final's eligibility is calculated using home and away matches only. Finals matches played are not included when determining finals eligibility.
- viii) Junior competition 50% eligibility rule does not apply when a player plays a game for a team in the Junior boy's competition e.g., BFL. An U/13 Junior girl can play in the mixed competition without the game counting towards their 50% eligibility criteria over the course of the season.
- ix) The Greater Western Victorian Rebels are not recognised as a player's home club.

## **BFLW Match Day Policy**

### **10. Modified Rules for U/12 Matches:**

#### **U/12**

- 1) The U/12 competition shall be a 12 player per side competition with as many players on the interchange as the club likes. Clubs must do everything in their power to ensure both sides have the same number of players on the ground at the same time meaning clubs MUST lend the opposition players if they do not have enough to field a full side.**
- 2) Games will be played on Friday night with Games commencing at 6:15pm**
- 3) Players must be Under 12 years of age at the 1st January 2024**
- 4) Clubs will compete in registered club colours, including shorts.**
- 5) A size 3 synthetic football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/12 matches**
- 6) Games will be played as 4 x 10 minute quarters with a 3 minute break at quarter, half and three quarter times.**
- 7) 15 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/12 games**
- 8) Both competing clubs will provide a club umpire to officiate the U/12 match**
- 9) Mentors:** Club mentors can be the coach of the side. Mentors are not allowed to carry a coach's board on the field whilst the match is being played. Club mentors are only permitted on the ground to talk to players who are not in the direct play. At no stage should a mentor be anywhere near the ball. Mentors are to deliver their message to the player and return to the coach's box straight away. The difference between a runner and a mentor is that the mentor can

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deliver coaching advice whilst on the ground whereas a runner cannot. A runner is to deliver a message and leave the playing field immediately.

**10) Runners:** Runners may be used at this level of football. Runners are to deliver a message to the player and leave the ground straight away. Runners are only permitted on the ground to talk to players who are not in the direct play. At no stage should a runner be anywhere near the ball. Runners are not allowed to carry a coaches board on the field whilst the match is being played.

**11) Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.**

**12) Team Numbers:** Each team shall consist of the same number of players on the ground at all times. At no time should one side out-number the other. As per agreement, a minimum of 9 players per side can constitute a game and there has been no maximum placed on interchange numbers in U/12 games as long as both sides have even numbers on the ground.

**13) Resuming Play:** To start play, at the beginning of a quarter or after a goal has been kicked, the Umpire shall choose two players of equal size to contest the centre bounce. Each side may have 3 players each, usually the on-ball players, to be inside the centre square (or within a 20m radius if no square is available) to contest for the football. If there are 9 players or less, only 2 players per side may compete for the ball at the start of each quarter or after a goal has been kicked.

**14) Ball Ups:** The ball must be hit out of the ruck and shall only be contested by the two nominated players. At no stage can a third player contest in the ruck and at no stage can the ball be taken out of the ruck and kicked or handballed.

**15) Out of Bounds:** When the ball has been kicked out of bounds without being touched, a free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent. Where the ball has been touched and called by the umpire, play shall be restarted by a ball-up 10 metres in from the boundary line where the ball went out.

**16) Running & Bouncing with the Ball:** A player is permitted only one bounce and then must dispose of the football by kicking or handballing to another player. If a player takes more than one bounce, a free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opponent. The player touching the ball on the ground constitutes as a bounce and the same rule shall apply.

**17) Bumping and Tackling:** Bumping is permitted only from the side, any front on bumps shall be penalised by awarding a free kick. Tackling is permitted, normal tackling rules apply here. Sling tackles are illegal, and the tackler shall be penalised with a free kick awarded to the player who was tackled.

**18) Holding the Ball:** A player must not attempt to barge past their opponent, they must try to evade them. Failure to do this shall result in a free kick being awarded to the nearest opponent.

**19) Scoring:** Normal scoring rules apply. No score will be kept by goal umpires.

**20) Size of Ground:** Clubs may choose to reduce the size of the ground for this age group using portable goal posts.

**21) Marking:** A mark shall be paid when the ball is disposed of by foot. There is no restriction on distance travelled at this level.

**22) Mentors Inside the Forward 50m During a Kick-Out:** As long as the mentor is nowhere near the play, mentors are allowed inside the forward 50m during a kick-out to provide coaching advice to the players. No free kick shall awarded for mentors who do not get out of the forward 50m.

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**23) Runners Inside the Forward 50m During a Kick-Out:** Runners are not permitted inside the forward 50m arc when there is a kick out. A free kick may be awarded against a runner of either side if they are inside the forward 50m arc when the ball is being brought back into play from a kick out.

**24) Jumpers:** Each team should be attired as per other sides who play within the club. Numbered jumpers should be worn and each player should be assigned their own number.

**25) Interchange:** Teams shall use the interchange bench as they see fit. There is no limit as how many kids can play in each team however there must only be 12 players on the ground per side at any one time and rule 2 must also apply.

**26) Order-Off Rule:** A Club Volunteer Umpire may order a player to leave the field for any of the below offences:

- Fighting or unduly rough play
- Persistent or deliberate breaking of the rules
- Disputing the Umpire's decision
- Objectionable language, remarks or behaviour
- Swearing at or abusing another player or the Umpire

If a player has been ordered off the ground, they shall not return to the playing field for the rest of the match. The Umpire shall then choose whether or not they wish to take the issue further with their own club and punishment shall be handled internally. If the incident is deemed to have been serious enough, the Umpire may then refer the incident onto the League by filling out a report sheet and the League shall follow up accordingly.

**27) Abuse from Official or Supporter:** If it is obvious that the Umpire is being abused by a Team Official or Supporter, the Umpire should ask the offending person to control their actions as they are at a junior match. If the abuse continues, they can hold play up and ask the home and/or visiting side to remove the person in question. Play shall be suspended until such an issue has been resolved. The League must be informed if such an incident has occurred. Unfortunately, due to a tight schedule for the rest of the day, time cannot be made up.

**28) Decisions Final:** The Club Volunteer Umpire is in charge of the match and every decision made by that Umpire is considered final. Players and Officials must abide by the Umpire's decisions and at no stage shall they dispute any decision made. Any issues arising from the performance of a Club Volunteer Umpire should be referred to the league for further investigation.

**29) Starting Line Up:** For the U/12 competition the starting line of 15 will be

**4 Forwards | 4 Midfielders | 4 Defenders**

## Under 14 Girls

a) The U/14 competition shall be a 16 player per side competition with up to 8 players on the interchange unless the following occurs.

NOTE: If both clubs have the following team numbers, the following must be adhered too.

More than 18 players: 18 on the field with the remaining players to be on the interchange.

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Between 16-18 Players – 16 players on the field with the remaining players on the interchange unless agreed upon by the coaches of each competing team.

Less than 16 – Refer to BYLAW 3. Evening up rule

- b) Games will commence at 8:30am.
- c) Games will be played in 4 x 12-minute quarters.
- d) Players must be Under 14 years of age at the 1st January 2023. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st of January 2008.
- e) Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
- f) A size 3 synthetic football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/14 matches.
- g) Mouthguards are compulsory in this competition
- h) 25 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/14 Girls Games.
- j) Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.
- k) Kicking off the ground is permitted.

## Under 16 Girls

a) The U/16 competition shall be a 16 player per side competition with up to 8 players on the interchange.

NOTE: If both clubs have the following team numbers, the following must be adhered too.

More than 18 players: 18 on the field with the remaining players to be on the interchange.

Between 16-18 Players – 16 players on the field with the remaining players on the interchange unless agreed upon by the coaches of each competing team.

Less than 16 – Refer to BYLAW 3. Evening up rule

- b) Games will commence at 9:45am.
- c) Games will be played in 4 x 15-minute quarters.
- d) Players must be Under 16 years of age at the 1st January 2023. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st of January 2008.
- e) Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
- f) A size 4 Leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/16 matches.
- g) Mouthguards are compulsory in this competition
- h) 25 metre penalties only (not 50m) shall apply in all U/16 Girls Games.

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j) Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.

k) Kicking off the ground is permitted.

## Under 19 Girls

a) The U/19 competition shall be a 16 player per side competition with up to 8 players on the interchange.

NOTE: If both clubs have the following team numbers, the following must be adhered too.

More than 18 players: 18 on the field with the remaining players to be on the interchange.

Between 16-18 Players – 16 players on the field with the remaining players on the interchange unless agreed upon by the coaches of each competing team.

Less than 16 – Refer to BYLAW 3. Evening up rule

b) Games will commence at 11:15am.

c) Games will be played in 4 x 15-minute quarters.

d) Players must be Under 16 years of age at the 1st January 2023. Therefore, they must have been born on or after the 1st of January 2005.

e) Clubs will compete in registered club colours.

f) A size 4 Leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all U/16 matches.

g) Mouthguards are compulsory in this competition

h) 50 metre penalties shall apply in all U/19 Girls Games.

j) Gloves are permitted in all BFNL junior competitions.

k) Kicking off the ground is permitted.

## Senior Women's

a) The Senior Women's competition shall be a 16 player per side competition with up to 8 players on the interchange.

NOTE: If both clubs have the following team numbers, the following must be adhered too.

More than 18 players: 18 on the field with the remaining players to be on the interchange.

Between 16-18 Players – 16 players on the field with the remaining players on the interchange unless agreed upon by the coaches of each competing team.

Less than 16 – Refer to BYLAW 3. Evening up rule

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- b) Games will commence at 12:45pm.
- c) Games will be played in 4 x 20-minute quarters.
- d) Clubs will compete in registered club colours.
- e) A size 4 Leather football (red or yellow) will be used for all Senior Women's matches.
- g) 50 metre penalties shall apply in all Senior Women's Games.
- h) Gloves are permitted in all BFLW competitions.

## BFLW Football

Grade	Start	Ground	Qtrs.	Breaks
Women's	12:45pm	Full	4 x 20min	No time on 5min – 12min – 5min
Under 19	11:15am	Full	4 x 15min	No time on 5min – 7min – 5min
Under 16	9:45am	Full	4 x 15min	No time on 5min – 7min – 5min
Under 14	8:30am	Full	4 x 12min	No time on 5min – 7min – 5min
Under 12	6:15pm	Quarter	4 x 10 min	No time on 3min – 5min – 3min

BFLW Competitions					
Regulations	U/12 Girls	U/14 Girls	U/16 Girls	U/19 Girls	Women's
Ground Size	Quarter	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Ball Type	Syn Only	Syn only	Leather	Leather	Leather
Ball Size	3 Synthetic	3 Synthetic	4 Leather	4 Leather	4 Leather
Quarter Duration (mins)	10	12	15	15	20
Break Lengths, ¼, ½, ¾	No Time On 3-5-3	No Time On 5-7-5	No Time On 5-7-5	No Time On 5-7-5	No Time On 5-10-5
Results		Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Mouth Guards	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Club - Compulsory*
LAWS					
Tackling	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Bouncing the ball	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Kicking off the ground	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Throw-ins	Ball up (10mtrs in)	Ball up (10mtrs in)	Ball up (10mtrs in)	Standard	Standard
Marking	No Distance Show Control	15m Show Control	15m Direct Catch	15m Direct Catch	15m Direct Catch
Penalty distance	15m	25m	25m	50m	50m
Deliberate out of bounds	X	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deliberate Rushed Behind	X	X	X	X	X

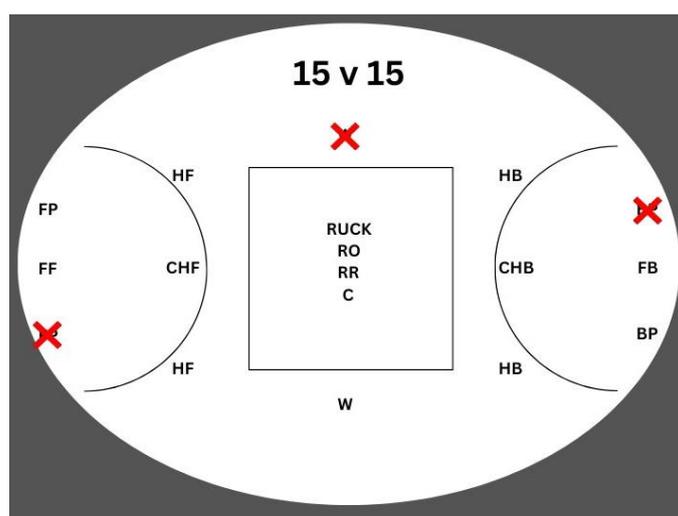
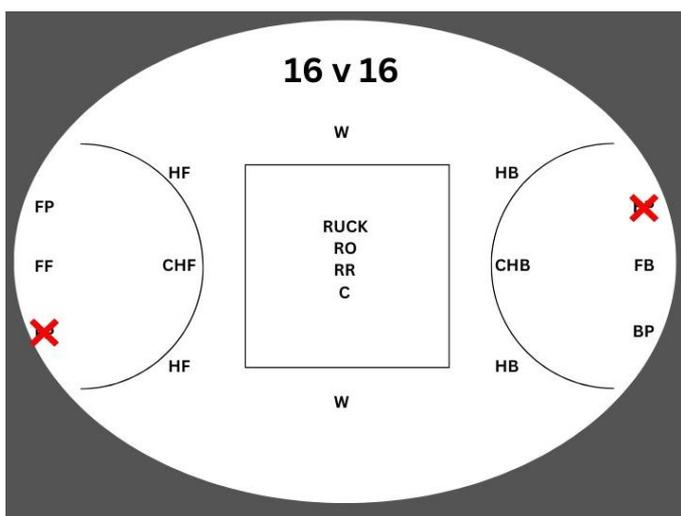
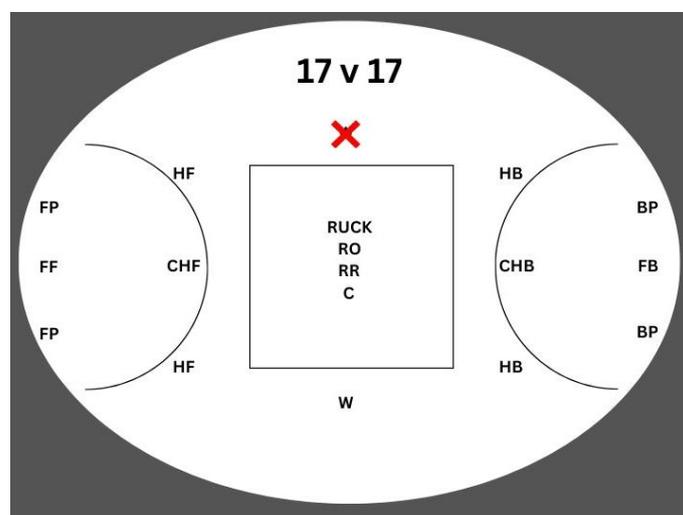
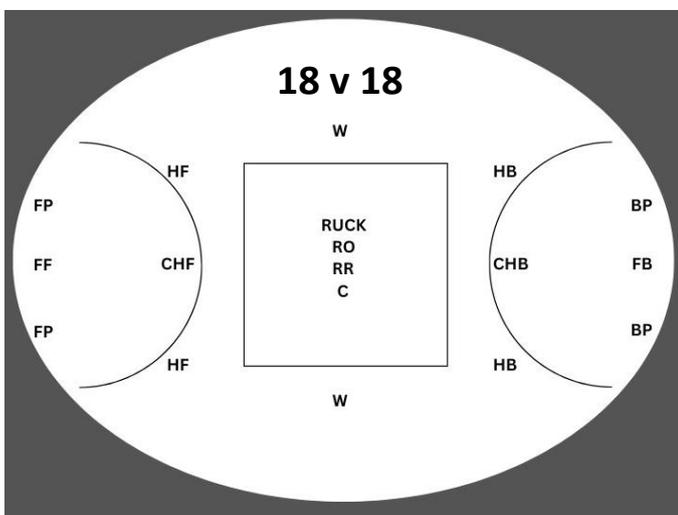




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UMPIRES & COACHES					
No. Field Umpires	1 x per club	1 x BFUA	2 x BFUA	2 x BFUA	2 x BFUA
Boundary Umpires	(0) Ball-Up Rule	(0) Ball-Up Rule	2 x Club (when Available)	2 x BFUA/Club (when Available)	2 x BFUA/Club (Compulsory)
Goal Umpires	Club	Club	Club	Club	Club
Mentors	1 per club	1 per club	X	X	X
Runners	1 per club	1 per club	1 per club	1 per club	1-2 per club

## Team Configurations

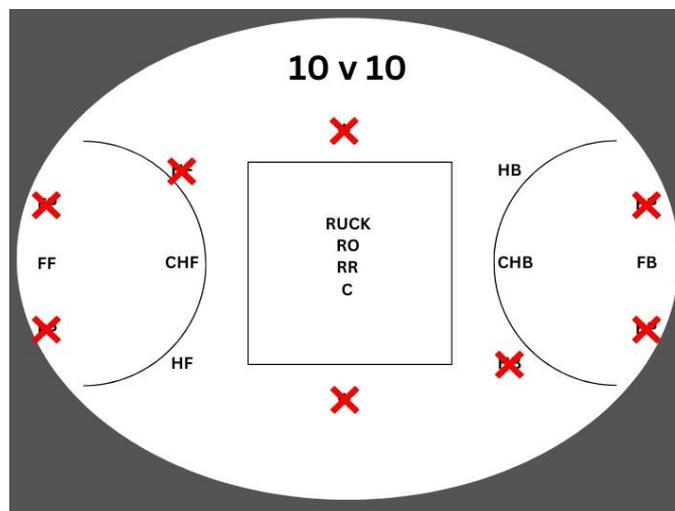
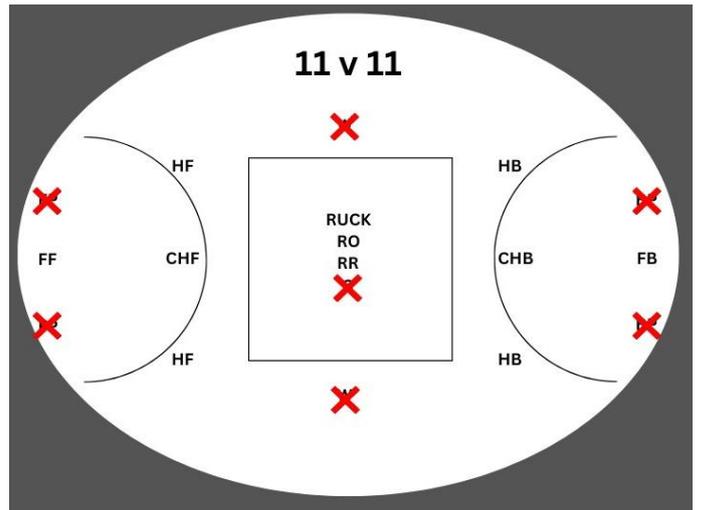
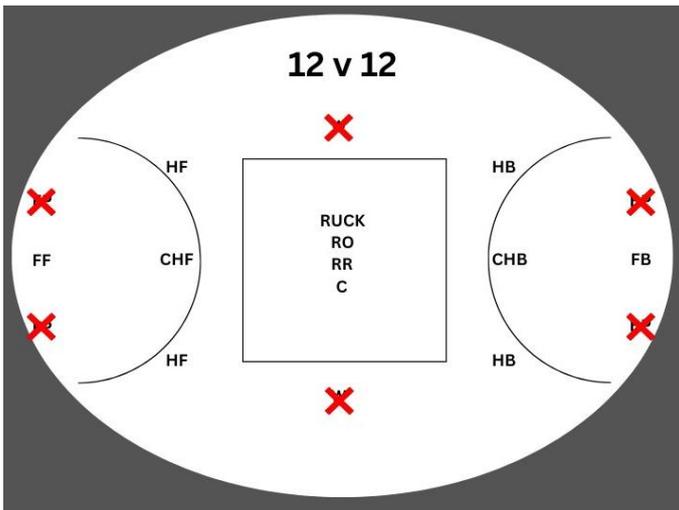
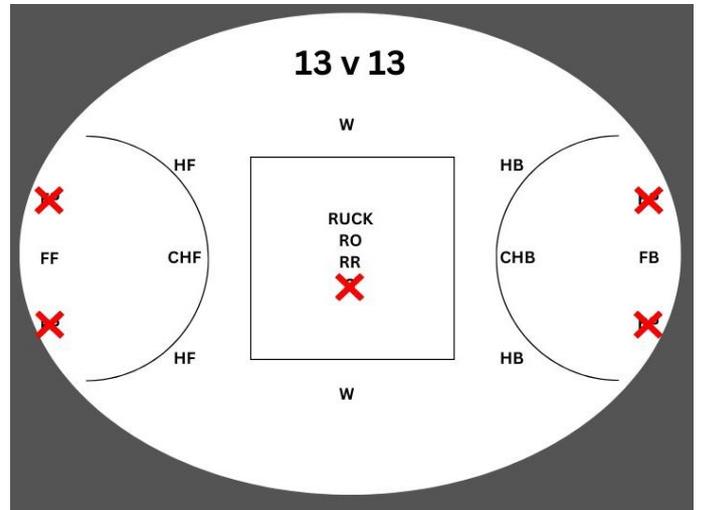
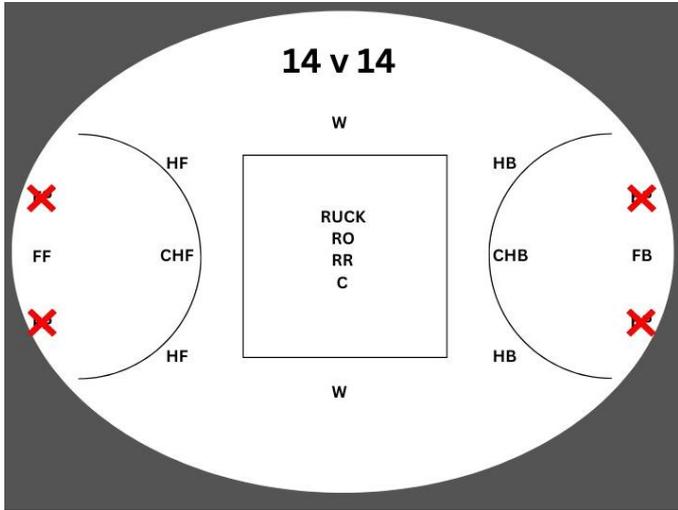


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