

# Australian Rules Football (AFL)

## Fact Sheet

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Australian Rules Football is a team-based sport where two teams attempt to kick the oval-shaped football between uprights at opposing ends of the field, with six points scored if the ball travels through the central goal posts and a single point scored if between the outer posts. The team with the highest score at the end of the time period wins.

HIERARCHY									
Element	State	Regional	Local - Category A	Local - Category B	Notes				
AFLQ Hierarchy	National/State	Regional	Local	-					
Total Site Area	9 ha	7.5 ha	6 ha	2 ha					
PLAYING AREA									
Orientation	Playing areas should ideally be developed with a north-south orientation to avoid players having to look into the sun.				NE	Preferable to have north-south orientation however due to the sport having a 360-degree nature of play and temporal use throughout the day it is not essential.			
No. and size of playing areas	2 senior full-size ovals	E	1 full-size senior oval 1 reduced size senior oval	E	1 full-size senior oval 1 junior size oval	E	Min. 1.5 ha of lit grassed space for multipurpose use	E	Full size senior oval – 165m x 135m Reduced size senior oval – 145m x 110m Junior size oval (U9 & U10) – 100m x 80m
Coaches boxes (2)	Coaches boxes elevated above interchange bench	E	Forms part of interchange bench	E	Forms part of interchange bench	E	-		Two coaches boxes are to be provided (home and away team) on the western side of the ground (both on the same side, looking away from the sun), positioned adjacent to the 'Centre Wing' position. Depending on the design and impact on spectator viewing of the playing field, two tiered (elevated) structures may also be appropriate, and is preferred for State League venues.
Player interchange benches (2)	6m long x 1.2m wide (Accommodate 10 people)	E	5m long x 1.2m wide (Accommodate 8 people)		E	Temporary seating	E		Permanent, heavy duty, vandal resistant structures that have three fixed sides to provide shelter and UV protection, form part of the boundary fence and seat club officials and interchange players. Ideally the facilities should not impede viewing of the ground and have side panels and back panels to allow for ventilation. Metal bench seating should be fixed within the shelter on a concrete pad.

**HIERARCHY**

Element	State	Regional	Local - Category A	Local - Category B	Notes		
Goal posts	Height and width based on size of field - refer to Notes			E	May be temporary	E	<p>Full size senior oval –goal posts 12m out of ground and point posts 8m out of ground.</p> <p>Reduced size senior oval – goal posts 9m out of ground and point posts 6m out of ground.</p> <p>Junior ovals – goal posts 6m out of ground and point posts 4m out of ground.</p> <p>Two posts 6.4 meters apart at ground level and measured for outer perimeter of post. Padding - from ground to 2.5 meters, 35mm thick foam covered in canvas or painted. Include flag holder on each goal post (50mm diameter PVC pipe, 500mm length, capped at bottom, 600, off the ground). Point Posts - two posts 6.4 meters either side of the goal posts and are preferably 2/3 the size of the goal posts. Padding - same as Goal Posts.</p>
Interchange steward/umpires/ officials box	3.6m long x 1.2m wide (Accommodate 6 people)	E	1.8m long x 1.2m wide (Accommodate 3 people)	NE	-	E	The interchange/umpires/officials' box should be located between the two Coaches Boxes and be of a similar design and construction.
Playing area surfaces	Grass playing area with no undulations or depressions			E	Grass area	E	<p>Wintergreen couch is the recommended turf for grass playing areas.</p> <p>Specific standards exist for 'Elite' facilities (i.e. those that may accommodate AFL sides) in relation to surface stability, hardness, traction and consistency.</p> <p>Synthetic Turf (meeting approved criteria) is now an acceptable surface for all football competition below State League level.</p>
Playing area drainage	Sub soil drainage	E	Turtle back or single cross-fall 1% max. gradient. Sub-surface drain-age around field perimeter	E	Single cross-fall 1% max. gradient. Swale drains around field with catch pits	E	Appropriately designed surface and sub-surface drainage and a good overall maintenance plan for sports field drainage is important for enhancing the player experience and maximising the use of the facility resulting in fewer cancellations.
Playing area marking	Line marking material should not cause grass loss (death), erosion or soil damage, therefore chemicals and/or weed killers should not be used.					E	
Playing area perimeter / run-off	5m min.			E	-	E	The playing area boundary line should ensure adequate run-off from any perimeter fencing or potential obstacles.
Scoreboard	Electronic preferred			CR	-	E	To be positioned for optimal visibility for spectators and players and, if includes LED, consider the impact of afternoon sun on readability. Scoreboards should have the capacity to display scores in the following format: e.g. Richmond 10 12 72 Collingwood 8 5 53.

**HIERARCHY**

Element	State		Regional		Local - Category A		Local - Category B		Notes
LED sports lighting (average minimum lux)	Training = 100 lux Match Practice = 100 lux Night Competition = 200 lux	E	Training = 50 lux Match Practice = 100 lux Night Competition = 150 lux	E	Training = 50 lux Match Practice = 100 lux Night Competition = 100 lux	E	Training = 50 lux Match Practice = 100 lux Night Competition = 100 lux	E	The average lux ratings are consistent with the AFL interpretation of the Australian Standard (AS 2560.2.3-2002 Sports Lighting - All Football Codes) (Appendix 3) for community based Australian Football (amateur and semi-professional). The lux readings are an average minimum requirement to meet the Australian Standard, clubs and land managers are encouraged to provide higher illumination where possible. Please note that the AFL minimum standard for hosting a non-televised practice match between two AFL teams is 500 lux. Venues that have a desire to host such matches should consider the higher standard required for these activities. In addition, whilst the average minimum lux levels for club competition is 100 lux, clubs/leagues/ councils should consider providing a minimum 150 lux should they wish to take contemporary spectator requirements into account.
Playing area fencing	Oval fencing should be approximately 900mm high with mesh in-fill or similar and allow adequate run-off distance from the playing area boundary line (for premier field only)			E	Min. post and rail fence 900mm high	NE	-		Adequate gates/access for maintenance and emergency vehicles, players and officials is required.
Irrigation	Sprinklers in line across the field and additional sprinklers around the outside of the fields			E	Sprinklers in line across the field		E		Irrigation of the playing area must be provided to ensure continued growth of the turf. An automatic watering system is required. The preferred controller is Toro Custom Command Series and the preferred rotors are Toro T-7 Series stainless steel.  Refer to Recommended Sport Field Construction Specifications for Logan City.
SURROUNDS									
Storage (grounds maintenance)	45m <sup>2</sup>				E	45m <sup>2</sup> if responsible for grounds maintenance			Sufficient space for tractors and/or mowers (7.5m x 3m bay).
Storage (playing equipment)	22.5m <sup>2</sup>				E	Included in clubhouse			Tackling pads, kit bags, balls, etc (7.5m x 3m bay).
Clock	Yes	E	Yes		NE	-			An approved match time clock that can be seen by spectators, players and officials shall be provided at all State League venues. Any finals venue should strongly consider installing time clock, potentially as part of an electronic scoreboard.
Cricket wicket	Turf only	NE	Turf or Concrete base (on reduced size AFL ovals only)			NE			Reduced size AFL ovals are often suited for shared use with Cricket. Management of turf and/or concrete base wickets must ensure the playing surface is fit for use for Australian Rules prior to game scheduling. Care must be taken with covering and uncovering concrete cricket wickets, the use of appropriate synthetic wicket covers is preferred.

**HIERARCHY**

Element	State	Regional	Local - Category A	Local - Category B	Notes			
Siren	An approved siren shall be installed and operated in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football (Section 10). Multiple sites for amplification around the ground may be required.			E	Portable	E		
Spectator seating	Grandstand or tiered seating for min. 200 persons on main field, bench seating or area for foldable chairs for 50 persons for other fields	NE	Bench seats or tiered seating for 100 persons on main field, bench seating or area for foldable chairs for 50 persons for other fields	NE	Bench seating or area for foldable chairs for 50 persons per field	NE	-	Grandstand or tiered seating, bench seating is preferred with some covered.

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