

Community Football Laws of the Game Changes & Interpretations for 2021

Rule Change/Interpretation and Application	Senior Men	Senior Women	Youth	Juniors
<p>Player 'Standing The Mark': The defending Player will be permitted zero lateral movement and minimal vertical movement on The Mark once the umpire has communicated 'STAND'. If the defending player moves off The Mark in any direction prior to 'Play On' being called, a 50-metre penalty will apply. As well as, once the controlling umpires communicates 'STAND' the defensive team is unable to substitute the Player on The Mark.</p>	✓	✓	X	X
<p>Players Standing 15m back from a Kick-In from a behind: The Mark shall be set at 15 metres from the centre of the top of the goal square (24m from the goal line) towards the centre of the ground at Kick Ins. This was previously set at 10 metres. <i>*This will only be applied to competition that utilise a full size playing field</i></p>	✓	✓	✓*	X

FAQ'S

Player Standing The Mark:

QUESTION:	ANSWER:
"Once a player has marked the football". Is it intended to only apply to "marks" or will it also apply to "free kicks".	<i>This rule will be adopted for all set kicks situations (Marks & Free Kicks)</i>
Players will no longer be allowed "any lateral movement". How is it currently being applied in any elite level comps/practice matches etc?	<i>In the current Laws Of The Game 2021 booklet states, in section 19.2: A Fifty Metre Penalty will be awarded if the field umpire is of the opinion that any player from the opposing team 'has moved off the mark' The player having zero lateral movement from the spot of the mark and will give away a 50m penalty.</i>
If a player marks the ball with no defender in close proximity, he can presumably play on with no man on the mark. What if a player marks the ball with a defender say 4 metres away (and behind where the mark would be) and the offensive player chooses to immediately play on, can that defender 4 meters away immediately move?	<i>If the player who marks the football and shows no intent to stop, the umpire will communicate 'play on' as normal. If the player marks the football and decides to take a few steps forward with the intent to 'play on' and decides to stop, the umpire can call 'play on' as the player has shown no initial intent to stop.</i>
If a player is kicking for goal (or in any circumstance for that matter), can the defending team choose to not put someone on the mark and have their players standing behind it, and does this allow them to move.	<i>Yes the defending team can choose not to put someone on the mark. However if they elect to do this, the defensive player needs to be outside the 5m protected area behind the mark and outside of the 10m protect area of the mark.</i>
The player standing the mark will only be allowed to jump up and down on the spot. We've seen for decades the scenario (eg kicking at goal) where a defending player moves back several metres behind the mark and runs directly toward the mark as the player takes a shot. Is this still allowed if the defender runs straight and doesn't deviate laterally?	<p><i>If a player is kicking for goal, the defending player will not be allowed to move backwards off the mark to then rush up to the mark as the player kicking for goal approaches. Once the umpire has called 'Stand' the player on the mark is stuck to that position.</i></p> <p><i>Jumping up & down only, expectation is the player on the mark only faces the kicker & jumps up & down on the spot.</i></p>
If a offensive or defender comes into the defensive exclusion zone, it's a re-set of the play. Those exclusion zones will invariably cross over at times. What rule is invoked if another defending player runs within say 1m of the man on the mark and the player with the ball also happens to be within 5m of this. Is it a 50m penalty or a play reset?	<i>In this situation the umpire would re-set the mark and clear out the protected area behind the defensive player on the mark.</i>

Who chooses the man on the mark. If three defenders are in a contest, can the defending team choose which one they stand the mark?

The defending team can choose the person who stands the mark. Once someone from the defending team has chosen to stand the mark, that is when the umpire will communicate 'Stand' and that player will no longer be able to move. All players must vacate the protected area.

Players Standing 15m back from a Kick-In from a behind:

QUESTION:

ANSWER:

Does the player on the mark have to stand on the spot?

If the defending player stands on the 15m spot on a kick-in the 'Stand' rule applies and that player must not move from that spot until the umpire calls 'Play On'

If the defending player stands behind the 15m (16m +) spot on the ground, they are permitted to move laterally. The 'Stand' rule does not apply in this situation.

What does the Protected area on a Kick-In look like?

With the implementation of this new position, the protected area for a kick-in will now be 15m back from the top of the goal square & out to the behind posts and back down to the goal line. 'This protected area is only applicable to AFL NSW/ACT community football competitions where a full sized field is used'.