

Rule Changes and Interpretations for 2019

Bring the Ball Back into Play Following a Behind

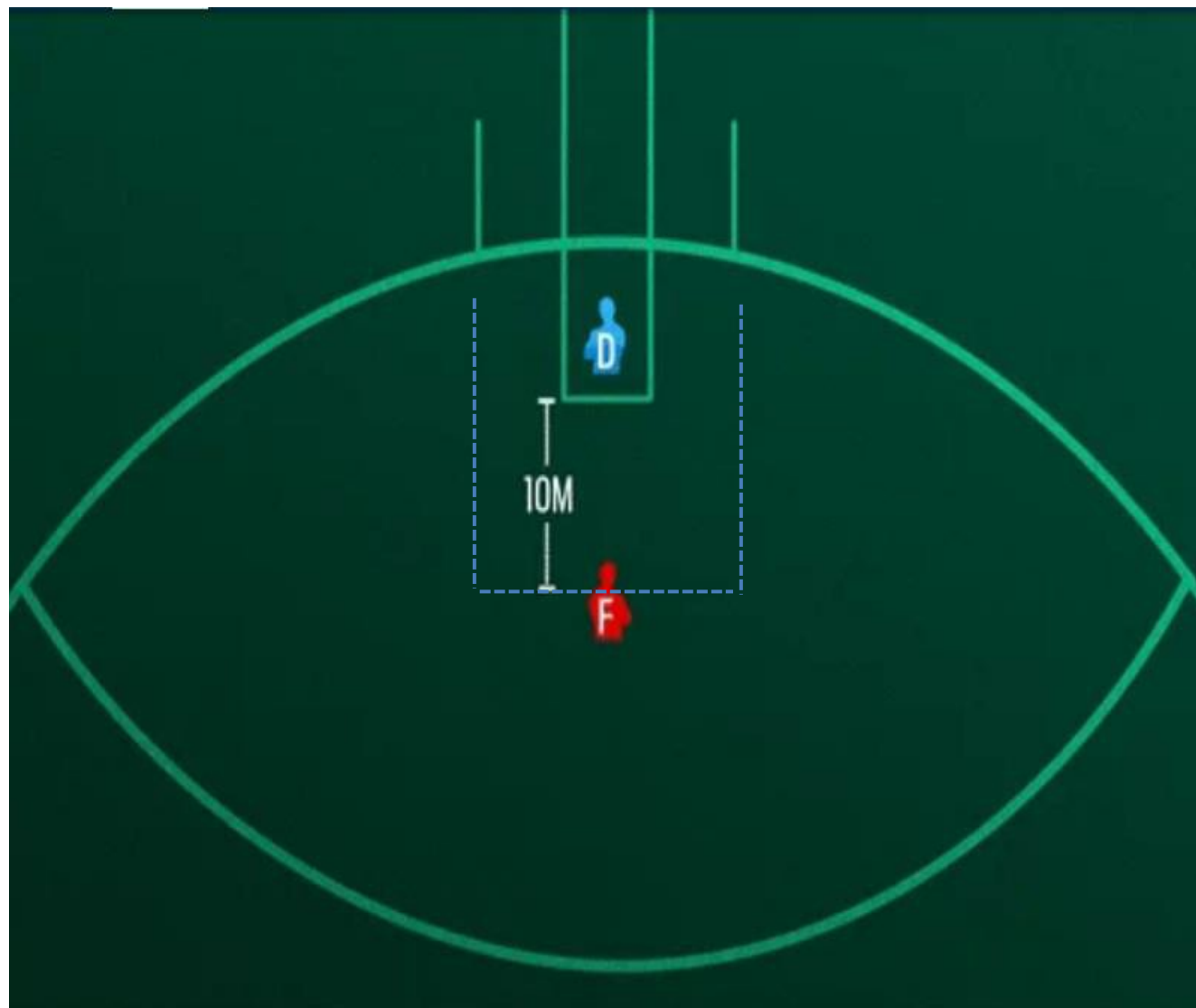
For a kick-in from a behind, a player will no longer need to kick the ball to them self to play on out of the goal square. Play-on is called when the defending player crosses any of the goal square lines or after 8 to 10 seconds.

Additionally, following a behind, the player on the mark will be positioned at least 10 metres from the top of the goal square (currently 5 metres).

- The player bringing the ball back into play must be within the goal square prior to recommencing play. Must start with both feet in the goal square (The umpire will reset if this does not occur)
- All players must make an effort to leave the protected area after a behind is scored.
- A player can bring the ball back into play from within the goal square by a kick only from within the square or run out of the square and kick or handball.

Questions

1. How quickly can the player kick the ball in? As soon as the goal umpire has signaled, the player can bring the ball back in to play as above.
2. Must the kicker start in the goal square? Yes, the player must initially start with both feet in the goal square with the ball in their possession.
3. Can a player handball from within the goal square? No – reset if handballed
4. How far can the kicker run with the football? 15 metres from where they exit the goal square, before having to dispose or bounce the ball.
5. The protected area for kick-ins? The protected area is 19.2 x 19m (from point post to point post out to the player on the mark. See diagram below).
6. Will a free kick remain for a kick in that goes out of bounds without being touched by any player? Last Possession out of bounds rule applies
7. What is the penalty for an infringement by the player on the mark, an opposition player in protected area or by a player prior to kick in? A 50-metre penalty would be implemented by advancing the mark by 50m to 69 metres from the goal line.
8. What happens if a player changes direction within the goal square prior to the umpire's call of play on? This is not play on.
9. What happens if a player accidentally fumbles or drops the ball which goes out of the goal square? The umpire will call play on.



Marks / Free Kicks to Defenders Close to Goals:

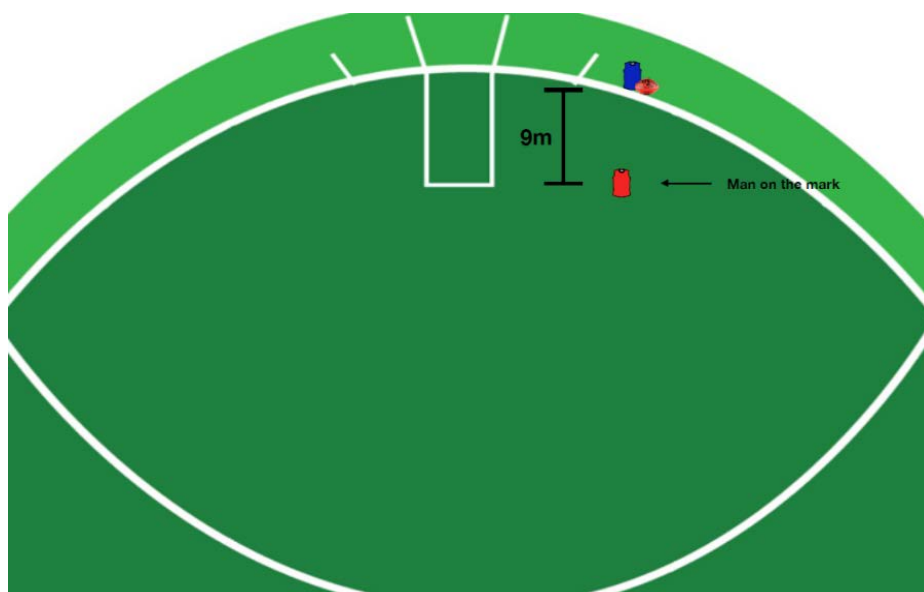
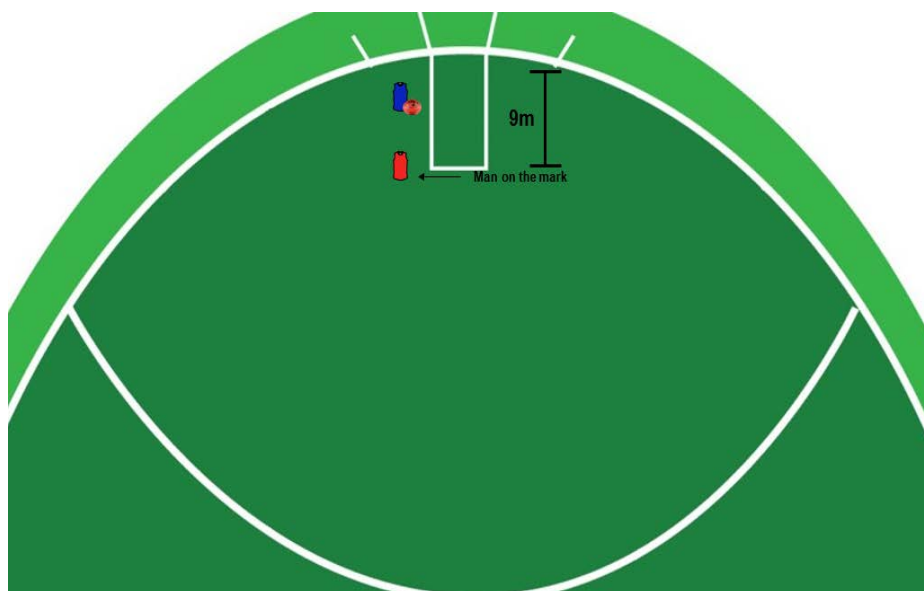
For all defenders who take a mark or gain a free kick within 9 metres of the goal line, the player on the mark for the attacking team will be brought back in line with the top of the goal square.

The player standing the mark must be positioned 9m from the goal line (the top of the goal square used as a reference).

The line of the mark will come directly up the ground until in line with the kick off line.

Questions

1. Why has the rule changed for a mark or free kick deep in defensive 50? To provide the player in possession with more space to move and a greater opportunity to kick the ball more effectively off multiple steps. It also opens up other areas of the ground.
2. Do the normal Player on the Mark rules and protected area apply? Yes.



50-Metre Penalty

A Stricter approach towards the infringing team who is attempting to delay the game by not allowing the player with the ball to advance unimpeded.

The 5m protected area surrounds the player in possession of the football during the entire advancement of the penalty.

In addition, the player awarded the 50-metre penalty may elect to play on at any time during the advancement. The umpire will call play on. Any defending players inside the 5m protected area must be actively leaving the area, following an opponent, or passive.

If the player does not play on immediately then the umpire will advance the mark by 50 metres.

Any player can stand the mark if they do not interfere with the player receiving the 50m penalty. If the player who is awarded the 50m penalty is interfered with while advancing the mark a further 50m penalty will be awarded.

Questions

1. Why has this interpretation changed? To provide more options and protection for the attacking player who has been infringed against, prior to and during the advancement of the 50m penalty.
2. When does the attacking player in receipt of the 50m penalty, get called to play on? The infringed player will be called to play on if they clearly deviate off the line of the mark prior to the umpire blowing time on and advancing the mark.
3. If the player elects to play on who can tackle the player? Once the umpire has called "play on" any opposition player can tackle.

Ruck Contests – Prior Opportunity

A ruck who takes possession of the ball while contesting a ball up or boundary throw in will not be regarded as having had prior opportunity.

The current holding the ball rule will apply in this situation and the ruck must make a genuine attempt to dispose of the ball if tackled.

No nominations are required prior to a ruck contest and the third person up is allowed.

Marking Contest

The 'Hands in the back' interpretation in a marking contest has been repealed.

In the Marking Contest, a player can protect their space, stop a player from coming back on them by putting their hands in the opponents back.

Free kicks will be paid for pushes, bumps, blocks, holds or deliberate interference with the arms of an opposition player in marking contests.

Umpires will be looking for two actions, an obvious push, block or bump to move a player out of the contest before attempting to mark the football.

