**Having considered the rule changes and interpretations that the AFL has announced for the 2019 season, the USAFLUA recommends the following regarding 2019 USAFL-sanctioned matches:**

**AFL 2019 Rule Changes and Interpretations:**

*Traditional Playing Positions at Centre Bounce*

* Implementation of a traditional set up at center bounces – Clubs must have six Players inside both 50-Metre arcs, with one Player required to be inside the Goal Square. Four Midfield Players are positioned inside the Centre Square with the Wingmen required to be placed somewhere along the Wing.

The USAFLUA recommends that this rule **NOT** **BE** adopted.

*Kick-Ins*

* For Kick-Ins from a Behind, a Player will no longer need to kick to himself to Play On out of the Goal Square.
* Following a Behind, the man on The Mark will be positioned 10 meters from the top of the Goal Square (currently 5 meters).

The USAFLUA recommends that this rule **BE** adopted.

*Marks / Free Kicks:*

* For all Defenders who take a Mark or gain a Free Kick within 9 meters of their own Goal, the man on The Mark for the attacking team will be brought in line with the top of the Goal Square.

The USAFLUA recommends that this rule **BE** adopted.

*Runners and Water Carriers*

* Team Runners may only enter the Playing Surface once a goal has been kicked and must exit the Playing Surface before play recommences.
* Water Carriers are not permitted to enter the Playing Surface during live play.

The USAFLUA recommends that this rule **NOT** **BE** adopted.

*Umpire Contact*

* Players will be prohibited from setting up behind the Umpire at each Centre Bounce.

The USAFLUA recommends that this rule **BE** adopted.

*50-Metre Penalty*

* Stricter on the infringing player, allowing the Player with the ball to advance The Mark by 50 meters without the infringing player delaying the game.
* In addition, the Player with the Football will be able to play on during the advancement of the 50-Metre Penalty.

 The USAFLUA recommends that this rule **NOT** **BE** adopted.

*Kicking for Goal post-siren – Centre of Goal Line*

* A Player who has been awarded a Mark or Free Kick once play has ended will now be able to kick across their body using a Snap or Check-side Kick. The Player shall dispose of the Football directly in line with the man on The Mark and the Goal.

The USAFLUA recommends that this rule **NOT** **BE** adopted.

*Marking Contest*

* ‘Hands in the Back’ rule interpretation to be repealed, allowing a Player to place his hands on the back of his opponent to protect his position in a Marking contest but not to push the Player in the back.

The USAFLUA recommends that this rule interpretation **BE** adopted.

*Ruck Contests – Prior Opportunity*

* A Ruck Player who takes possession of the Football while contesting a bounce or throw up by a field Umpire or a boundary throw in by a boundary Umpire, will not be regarded as having had Prior Opportunity. Where there is uncertainty over who is the designated Ruck, the Ruck for each Team will continue to nominate to the field Umpire.

The USAFLUA recommends that this rule interpretation **BE** adopted.

**After reviewing the 2018 season, the USAFLUA felt additional emphasis and clarification is needed on two rules and therefore recommends the league add the two following rule clarifications to the Rules page on the USAFL League for all 2019 USAFL-sanctioned matches:**

**Existing Rule Clarifications:**

*Abusive language*

* The USAFLUA reminds clubs that abusive language towards umpires will not be tolerated. A player using abusive language towards an umpire will be disciplined. Umpires also have the right to discipline abusive language towards an opponent, teammate, coach, spectator, or any other person(s) before, during, and after a match.

*Third Person up in the Ruck rule:*

* The USAFLUA reminds players that the USAFL has not adopted the “third man up” rule in ruck contests. However, any normal ruck infringements will continue to be penalized.