

1. COMPETITION RULES

1.1 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- a) All matches under the jurisdiction of this Competition Administrator will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. This includes the Regular Season and Finals Series matches.
- b) The competition rules outlined below are in addition to those stipulated in the FIFA Laws of the Game. (www.fifa.com)
- c) Clubs, Players and Officials must comply with and agree to abide by the regulations of Football Federation Australia and Football Queensland and Mackay and Regional Football Zone, including;
 - i. National Registration Regulations;
 - ii. National Disciplinary Regulations;
 - iii. FFA Code of Conduct;
 - iv. Grievance Resolution Regulations;
 - v. Member Protection Policy;
 - vi. Mackay and Regional Football Zone Rules of Competition.

1.2 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Senior Divisions - Mens and Womens

- a) The composition of the Senior Divisions will be determined by the Competition Administrator on an annual basis following receipt of nominations from registered clubs. Where possible there will be a Premier, First, Second and Third Division for each gender.
- b) All participating clubs may field more than one team in any division other than Premier. In any seniors competition group (e.g. Men's seniors, Women's seniors) a Club must field a team in each division to be eligible to nominate a second team in a division. Acceptance of a second team will be at the discretion of the Competition Administrator.
- c) The Competition Administrator will determine the number of matches to be played in each division once the final composition is determined.
- d) The team finishing with the most points in each Division at the conclusion of the competition fixture season will be crowned Premiership winners.
- e) At the conclusion of the fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up.

Junior Divisions – Under 11 to Youth

- f) The composition of the Junior Divisions will be determined by the Competition Administrator on an annual basis following receipt of nominations from registered clubs and a series of grading matches. Where possible there will be a Premier, First, Second Division for each age group.
- g) Within each age group clubs may field more than one team in any Division irrespective of the number of teams they field in other Divisions of that age group. Each team must be able to field a full and separate compliment of members.
- h) Players may not play for another team in that Division from the same club. Clubs playing a player in both of its teams will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and may face disciplinary action and sanctions
- i) Players from a separate division in the age group may play into another of their club teams within the provision of Clause 2.6. (Player Registration and Eligibility)
- j) The Competition Administrator will determine the number of matches to be played in each division once the final composition is determined.

- k) The team finishing with the most points in each Division at the conclusion of the competition fixture season will be crowned Premiership winners.
- l) At the conclusion of the fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up.

Junior Divisions – Small Sided Football

- m) The age groups of Under 6 to Under 10 will play the Optus Small Sided Football formats as per the specifications and guidelines issued by Football Federation Australia and Football Queensland.
- n) Full details of formats and guidelines will be issued to clubs prior to the commencement of the playing season, once received from FFA and Football Queensland.

Additional Competitions

- o) The Competition Administrator may conduct additional competitions as it deems appropriate before, during or after the competition season, providing the rules for these competition prior to commencement.

1.3 COMPETITION DETAILS

Match Scheduling

- a) The Competition Administrator will arrange and publish the dates, times and venues of all matches, taking into account advice from host clubs on venue availability.
- b) Each club wishing to host Senior home games shall provide a minimum of two (2) Mens teams, with one being a Premier team, and one (1) Womens team and meet all requirements to host games.
- c) Home ground rights will be awarded at the discretion of the Competition Administrator.

Match Results

- d) The following points will be awarded for matches during the Regular Season.
 - Win = 3 points
 - Draw = 1 point
 - Loss = 0 points
 - Bye = 0 points
 - No Result = 0 points
- e) The team who accumulates the most points at the end of the regular season will be declared Premiers.

Duration of Matches – Senior

- f) All matches will be played over two halves of 45 minutes each.
- g) After normal time in each half, the referee may add on Injury/Stoppage Time as he/she sees fit.
- h) The half-time interval must be a minimum of five (5) minutes and no longer than ten (10) minutes in duration or as deemed by the referee.
- i) The referee has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

Duration of Matches – Junior

- j) In junior matches the following match duration will be played.
 - Under 6 to 10 game times shall be as per Small Sided Football Guidelines.
 - Under 11/12 shall consist of two halves of 30 minutes each.
 - Under 13/14 shall consist of two halves of 35 minutes each.
 - Under 15/16 shall consist of two halves of 40 minutes each.

- k) After normal time in each half, the referee may add on Injury/Stoppage time as he/she sees fit.
- l) The half-time interval must be a minimum of five (5) minutes and no longer than ten (10) minutes in duration or as deemed by the referee.
- m) The referee has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

Procedures to Determine Placings after Regular Season

- n) The position of each team at the conclusion of the regular season will be determined based on the following criteria;
 - i. Highest number of points accumulated during the Regular Season.
- o) If two (2) or more teams are level on points accumulated in any senior division, the following criteria shall be applied, in order, until one (1) of the teams can be determined as the higher ranked.
 - i. Highest goal difference;
 - ii. Highest number of goals scored;
 - iii. Highest number of points accumulated in matches between the teams concerned;
 - iv. Highest goal difference in matches between the teams concerned;
 - v. Highest number of goals scored in matches between the team concerned;
 - vi. Play off between the teams at time and venue as determined by Competition Administrator.
- p) If two (2) or more teams are level on points accumulated in any junior division, the following criteria shall be applied, in order, until one (1) of the teams can be determined as the higher ranked.
 - i. Highest goal difference;
 - ii. Highest number of goals scored;

If all things remain equal, the trophy or premiership shall be awarded to both teams.

Substitution of Players

- q) For all male senior Premier Division matches each team can make up to three (3) substitutions (including a goalkeeper), with no more than five (5) substitutes listed.
- r) For all other divisions, unlimited interchange will be permitted, with no more than five (5) substitute players permitted to be named on the team sheet.
- s) Only players' names listed on the team sheet are permitted to take part in the match.

1.4 APPLICATION FOR DEPARTURE FROM FIXTURES

- a) Any application for departure from fixtures shall be in writing to the Competition Administrator at least four (4) working days prior to the date scheduled. Each request will be determined on its merits.
- b) Any team with three or more players unavailable due to football representative duties approved by Mackay and Regional Football Zone will be entitled to have their match postponed. Applications must be made at least ten (10) working days prior to the scheduled fixture.

1.5 NON-PARTICIPATION IN A MATCH

- a) In the event that a home or visiting team is not ready to commence a match within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, the match will be deemed a forfeit and the opposing team shall be awarded the full points and be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0).
- b) Should a Club forfeit a match prior to kick-off, the opposing team shall be awarded the full points and be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0).

- c) Should a Club forfeit after a match has commenced, the opposing team shall be awarded the full points and be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0), or the actual goal difference, whichever is the greater.
- d) A Club who forfeits a match may also be subject to additional sanctions by the Competition Administrator and compensation of their opponents.

1.6 WITHDRAWAL FROM COMPETITION SEASON

- a) If any team in the competition withdraws during the fixture season, then the recorded results for that team will be deleted and a bye in the competition will be substituted.
- b) Results from completed rounds will stand and a bye substituted for any subsequent rounds.
- c) The club involved may also be subject to disciplinary action and sanction by the Competition Administrator.

1.7 DELAYED, POSTPONED AND CANCELLED MATCHES

- a) Matches may be postponed or delayed by the Competition Administrator as outlined in Clause 4.4 on advice from match officials, nominated representatives and venue clubs.
- b) The Competition Administrator reserves the right to reschedule all postponed matches at a place and time as it sees fit. Consideration will be taken as to where games were to be played.
- c) The Competition Administrator reserves the right to record any outstanding fixtures that have not been completed by no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of the fixture season as a 0-0 draw.

1.8 SUSPENDED OR ABANDONED MATCHES

- a) Once a match has commenced, the Match Referee has sole responsibility to determine if the match should be suspended or abandoned due to severe adverse weather conditions or matters that may compromise the safety of the participants of the match.

Request for Replay of Abandoned Match

- b) Should a fixture be abandoned the Competition Administrator shall take into consideration the following factors when considering a request for a replay:
 - i. Reasons why the fixture was abandoned
 - ii. Result of the game at the time of abandonment
 - iii. The impact on the final league standing of this fixture.
- c) Any Club who is found to be responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the abandonment of a fixture may be subject to disciplinary sanctions (i.e. loss of points and fines), to be determined by the Competition Administrator, not limited to the following.
- d) The Competition Administrator may decide to direct any of the following outcomes in the case of play abandonment due to the action of one or both teams:
 - i. That the match be replayed;
 - ii. The game be recorded as a 3-0 win in favor of the opposing team, unless the score at the time of abandonment was of a greater margin in favor of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team;
 - iii. The game be recorded as "NO RESULT";
 - iv. Impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club(s), player(s) and official(s).

1.9 FINALS SERIES DETAILS

Format

- a) The top four (4) teams at the conclusion of the Regular Season will participate in the Finals Series.
- b) The Finals Series format will be as follows
 - i. *Week 1*: Semi-Final - 1st v 2nd, Semi-Final - 3rd v 4th
 - ii. *Week 2*: Preliminary Final - Loser of 1st v 2nd v Winner of 3rd v 4th
 - iii. *Week 3*: Grand Final - Winner of 1st v 2nd Semi-Final v Winner of Preliminary Final
- c) The team who finished in the higher position at the conclusion of the Regular Season will be considered to be the home team for any Finals match.
- d) The selection of venues for all Finals Series matches, including the Grand Final, will be at the absolute discretion of the Competition Administrator and a decision to allocate will be made based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to venue availability, commercial, marketing and financial considerations.

Procedures to Determine the Winner of Senior Finals Series Matches

- e) If, at the conclusion of any match in the Finals Series, the scores between the teams are equal, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played. The conditions of FIFA Law 8 will apply.
- f) If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken, in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the match.

Procedures to Determine the Winner of Junior Finals Series Matches

- g) In the Semi Finals if scores are equal, the team in the higher position coming into the match shall progress through to the next match.
- h) In the Preliminary Final if scores are equal, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of ten (10) minutes will be played. If there is still no result, an extra two (2) equal periods of five (5) minutes will be played. If there is still no result, then the team with the highest points in the Premiership shall progress to the Grand Final.
- i) In all Junior Grand Finals, except Youth "Premier Division" if scores are equal, then two (2) equal periods of ten (10) minutes will be played. After extra time, if scores are still equal there will be joint winners declared.
- j) In Youth "Premier Division" if after full time scores are still equal then two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes of extra time each way shall be played in full. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken, in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the match.

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- a) Players participating in competitions under the jurisdiction of Mackay and Regional Football Zone may be registered as Amateur Players or Professional Players in line with the provisions established in the National Registration Regulations.
- b) Amateur Players are permitted to be registered at any time. However, amateur players are not permitted to re-register with another club within the Mackay and Regional Football Zone after 30 June each year. The Rules of Competition may also restrict a player's eligibility for Finals Series.
- c) Professional players may only be registered during one of the two Registration Periods each year. In 2010, the first period runs from 8 March to 15 April. The second period runs from 1 June to 30 June.
- d) The Competition Administrator may register a Professional Player outside the Registration Periods only if:
 - i. That Player is not currently bound by a Professional Player Contract.
 - ii. That Player is a goalkeeper and the Competition Administrator is satisfied that the Club has a justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence;
 - iii. The Competition Administrator is satisfied, in its absolute discretion, that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a Player is seeking registration arising out of the termination of the Participation Agreement of his former Club or he has terminated his Standard Player Contract for Just Cause.
- e) The registration of a Player with a Club is effective from the date of registration as entered on the Prescribed Forms submitted to the Competition Administrator. Unless cancelled earlier, registration is effective from the date of registration until 31st December 2010.

2.2 AMATEUR PLAYER REGISTRATION PROCESS

- a) When registering an Amateur Player for the season, the Club must lodge the following original signed documents if applicable:
 - i. Football Queensland 'Re-Registration Form' (for previously registered players);
 - ii. FFA Form NRR03 'Registration of Amateur Player' (for new players never previously registered);
 - iii. FFA Form NRR09 'Mutual Termination of Professional Player Contract' (for players currently registered as Professional with another Club);
 - iv. FFA Form NRR08 'Cancellation of Amateur Registration' and NRR 'Supplementary Registration' (for players currently registered as Amateur with another Club).
- b) Players are to sign the acknowledgement that they have sighted and accepted the Player Injury Insurance cover provided by Football Queensland.
- c) Football Queensland will request any International Transfer Certificates (ITC) necessary for Players that were last registered with an overseas Federation.
- d) On fulfillment of all requirements, the Player will be registered to the Mackay and Regional Football Zone.

2.3 PROFESSIONAL PLAYER REGISTRATION PROCESS

- a) When registering a Professional Player for the season, the Club must lodge the following original signed documents if applicable:
 - i. Standard Professional Player Contract (for all contracted players);

- ii. FFA Form NRR04 'Registration of Professional Player' (for all contracted players);
 - iii. FFA Form NRR09 'Mutual Termination of Professional Player Contract' (for players currently registered as Professional with another Club);
 - iv. FFA Form NRR08 'Cancellation of Amateur Registration' (for players currently registered as Amateur with another Club);
 - v. FFA Form NRR06 'Transfer or Loan of a Professional' (only where players to be loaned from existing club).
- b) Players are to sign the acknowledgement that they have sighted and accepted the Player Injury Insurance cover provided by Football Queensland.
 - c) Football Queensland will request any International Transfer Certificates (ITC) necessary for Players that were last registered with an overseas Federation.
 - d) On fulfillment of all requirements, the Player will be registered to the Mackay and Regional Football Zone.

2.4 PLAYER INSURANCE

- a) Player Accident and Associated Liability Insurance cover is taken out by Football Queensland. Policy details and claims procedures will be provided to all Clubs, Registered Players and Team Officials.
- b) All players must sign the acknowledgement that they have sighted and accepted the Player Injury Insurance cover provided by Football Queensland.

2.5 VISA PLAYERS

- a) If the player's country of birth is not Australia, clubs must check the Player's residential/visa status prior to registration. Clubs must abide by all appropriate regulations as advised by Football Federation Australia and Football Queensland.
- b) Football Queensland will request any International Transfer Certificates (ITC) necessary for Players that were last registered with an overseas Federation.
- c) Clubs are permitted to sign an unlimited number of visa players.

2.6 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

General

- a) The eligibility of a player to participate in matches under the jurisdiction of this Competition Administrator is finalised upon receipt and approval of all necessary forms and appropriate clearances by the Competition Administrator.
- b) A player is eligible to play in matches under the jurisdiction of this Competition Administrator, provided he / she is registered in line with Football Federation Australia National Registration Regulations, Football Queensland Registration Procedures and Mackay and Regional Football Zone Registration Procedures.
- c) A player is eligible to play in matches under the jurisdiction of this Competition Administrator, provided he / she is not under suspension by any Federation.
- d) A registered player is eligible to take part in matches under the jurisdiction of this Competition Administrator provided their name appears on the team sheet prior to the commencement of the match or by the conclusion of half-time as outlined in the Competition Rules.
- e) For matches using substitution rules, a player who is listed as a reserve and does not take the field is deemed not to have played.
- f) For matches using interchange rules, any player who is listed on the team sheet is deemed to have played.

Senior Competition

- g) Clubs may demote a maximum of three (3) players from the starting eleven (11) players from the previous higher division game, provided that no player shall be demoted more than one club team, ranked by division, at a time. This provision applies for all competition season and final series matches.
- h) In the event any team in the higher division has a bye, that club may demote a maximum of three (3) players in that instance from the starting eleven (11) players for the previous higher division game. This provision applies for all competition season and final series matches.
- i) A Player is deemed to be eligible to compete in the Finals Series for any division in which they have played at least three (3) games during the competition season. A player must first compete in the Semi-Final of the Division in which they have played the most games.
- j) If a player has played equal number of games in two or more divisions, they are then deemed eligible to play in all final series for those divisions no matter the order they are scheduled.

Junior Competitive

- k) Within each Junior Competitive age group the following rules apply:
 - i. A player may not play down into a lower division once they have played more than two fixture games (excluding grading rounds) in the higher division.
 - ii. A player may be promoted or demoted more than one division at a time.
- l) Between Junior Competitive age groups the following rules apply;
 - i. A player cannot play down into any age group lower than that for which the player qualifies.
 - ii. A player cannot play up, regularly or casually, into an age group which includes players more than two (2) years older than the player unless the player has been approved under the Football Queensland Player Age Policy provisions.
 - iii. There is no limit on the number of times that a player can sub up into any division of an age group above that player.
- m) A Player is deemed to be eligible to compete in the Finals Series for the highest division in which they have played at least three (3) fixture games. Such players are ineligible to play in a lower division final series, unless that player has played in their qualified division and that team eliminated from the finals series.

2.7 PLAYER INELIGIBILITY

- a) Any player not registered in line with Football Federation Australia National Registration Regulations, Football Queensland Registration Procedures and Guidelines and Mackay and Regional Football Zone Registration Procedures for the current season is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in any match.
- b) Any player under suspension by any Association/Federation will be deemed ineligible, and is not permitted to participate in any match until that suspension is served.
- c) Any player in breach of the regulations for Senior and Junior Competition matches as outlined in Clause 2.6 is considered ineligible.
- d) Any club is permitted to lodge a letter of protest regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player. The protest must be in writing under club letterhead and be forwarded to the Competition Administrator.
- e) The Competition Administrator reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player who participates in any of its competitions.

Penalties and Outcomes

- f) Any club who fields an ineligible player may be subject to disciplinary sanctions as determined by the Competition Administrator.

- g) If it is established that a player competing in any match was not legitimately registered or was ineligible to play, then the following will apply;
- i. The club found guilty shall forfeit any goals scored and points gained in that match and the points and match will be awarded to the opposing team.
 - ii. The game will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the final result was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team.
 - iii. The Competition Administrator may impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club or player.
- h) In the event that it is established that both clubs competing in any match fielded players who were not legitimately registered or were ineligible to play, then the following will apply;
- i. The match will be deemed as a 'NO RESULT', whereby, no points will be awarded.
 - ii. The Competition Administrator may impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending clubs or players.

3. DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

3.1 COMPETITION

- a) These Disciplinary Rules are set by Mackay and Regional Football Zone as the Competition Administrator and supplement the National Disciplinary Regulations in accordance with clause 1.2 of those Regulations.

3.2 SANCTIONS

- a) The application of sanctions to be issued to Participants for direct red cards will be in accordance with the range of sanctions outlined in the National Disciplinary Regulations. Where a Player receives an indirect red card, he will serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) match.
- b) A Player who accumulates the following number of yellow cards during the course of the Competition must serve the following Mandatory Match Suspension:
 - i. Four (4) yellow cards, equates to a one (1) match suspension;
 - ii. For every three (3) yellow cards thereafter, a two (2) match suspension.
(For example, two (2) match suspension for seven (7) yellow cards).
- c) A Player who accumulates the following number of yellow cards during the course of the Final Series must serve the following Mandatory Match Suspension:
 - i. Two (2) yellow cards, equates to a one (1) match suspension.
- d) A Player who accumulates the following number of direct red cards during the course of the Competition or the Final Series must serve the following Mandatory Match Suspensions, in addition to any sanction for the offence.
 - i. 1st occasion, equates to a one (1) match suspension;
 - ii. Any subsequent occasion, equates to a two (2) match suspension.

3.3 MISCONDUCT

- a) Clubs must ensure that their Participants do not engage in Team Misconduct. The Competition Administrator may, consistent with the FFA Statutes, sanction a Club whose Participants engage in Team Misconduct.
- b) Team Misconduct in relation to a Club is where:
 - i. Five (5) of its Players are cautioned during a sanctioned match;
 - ii. Three (3) of its Participants are sent off or expelled during a sanctioned match;
 - iii. Its Participants collectively show dissent towards a match official or collectively seek to intimidate, threaten or exert pressure on a match official to make or alter a decision; or
 - iv. Its Participants engage in a melee or brawl.

3.4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- a) The published FFA Code of Conduct aims to promote and strengthen the reputation of football in Australia by establishing a standard of performance, behaviour and professionalism for its participants and stakeholders.
- b) Any breach of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action and the imposition of sanctions by the Competition Administrator in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Code.

3.5 NOTIFICATION AND TIMEFRAMES

- a) The imposition of a mandatory match suspension is immediate. The Competition Administrator will send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Player or Team Official (through the Club) of the mandatory match suspension within three (3) days of the completion of the weekend. For the avoidance of doubt, the mandatory match suspension is effective regardless of whether or not the notice was received.
- b) If the Competition Administrator has determined that an Offence by a Player or a Team Official was such as to warrant a sanction in addition to the mandatory match suspension, a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Player or Team Official (through the Club) of the details of the Offence and of the disciplinary sanction imposed will be forwarded within three (3) days of the completion of the weekend.

3.6 TERMS OF SUSPENSION

- a) While serving a suspension, a Participant (player or team official) may not:
 - i. On the day of a Match, enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play, the Technical Area, the players' race, the dressing rooms or any other place within a venue where Participants are likely to assemble to prepare for that match;
 - ii. If attending a Match, be seated in an area normally reserved for Participants;
 - iii. Within one hour of the start of match from which the Participant is suspended and within one hour of the conclusion of the match from which the Participant is suspended have any contact with any media where the purpose of such contact is for it to be electronically broadcast to the public, including (but not limited to) participating in any post-match press conference and participating in television or radio interviews;
 - iv. Within one hour of the start of match from which the Participant is suspended and within one hour of the conclusion of the match from which the Participant is suspended have any contact with any Participant whilst that Participant is in an area listed within clause 3.6 a) i.
- b) Any suspension from the Finals Series (or the competition fixtures if not already served in the Finals series) will carry forward into the following season and will be served in competition fixtures.
- c) If a suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards the execution of the suspension. A bye or a match forfeited by the participant's team does not count towards the execution of the suspension.

3.7 DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES

- a) Except in the case of obvious error there is no appeal from a mandatory match suspension.
- b) A Club, Player or a Team Official may appeal the disciplinary sanction imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice by notifying the Competition Administrator in writing within seven (7) days after the date on which the Disciplinary Infringement Notice was received, outlining the reasons for the appeal and enclosing the Appeal Fee of \$100. This fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- c) An appeal from a Competition Administrator's disciplinary sanction must be heard by a Disciplinary Committee. When determining any appropriate sanction, a Disciplinary Committee may consider:
 - i. The nature and severity of the infringement;
 - ii. The offender's past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;
 - iii. The culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless);
 - iv. Any reasons prompting a the offender to commit an infringement;
 - v. The remorse of the offender; and
 - vi. Any extenuating circumstances.

3.8 SANCTIONS UNDER FFA STATUTES

- a) Subject to these Regulations, the following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed against a Club:
- i. a reprimand;
 - ii. a fine;
 - iii. place the Club on a bond;
 - iv. a deduction or loss of competition points;
 - v. ban on the registration or transfer of any Players for a specified period of time;
 - vi. annulment of registration of a Player;
 - vii. suspension from participation in matches;
 - viii. exclusion, suspension or expulsion from the Competition;
 - ix. playing a match without spectators or on neutral territory;
 - x. a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
 - xi. annulment of the result of the match; or
 - xii. such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes.
- b) Subject to these Regulations, the following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed against a Participant:
- i. a reprimand;
 - ii. a fine;
 - iii. return of award;
 - iv. place the individual on a bond;
 - v. ban on registration of Player with any Club for a specified period of time;
 - vi. annulment of registration of a Player;
 - vii. suspension from participation in matches;
 - viii. suspension or expulsion from the Competition;
 - ix. suspension or cancellation of licence or accreditation, including Licensed Player Agent's licence or coaching accreditation;
 - x. termination of registration or playing contract;
 - xi. a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
 - xii. a ban from entering a stadium;
 - xiii. ban on taking part in any football related activity; or
 - xiv. such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes.

4. FOOTBALL AND MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

4.1 FACILITIES / GROUND CONDITIONS

- a) Each club must take all reasonable steps to maintain its pitch in good condition throughout the season. The Competition Administrator may require a Club to take such steps as it may prescribe from time to time if it is not satisfied that the pitch is being maintained to an adequate and acceptable standard.
- b) The home club must ensure;
 - The ground is correctly marked, including the technical area, as per FIFA Laws of the Game;
 - It provides suitable goal nets, safely fastened to the ground and corner flags;
 - It provides toilets / dressing rooms for players and match officials that are hygienic and clean;
 - It has adequate toilet / refreshment / canteen facilities open to the public;
 - It provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators.
- c) Any club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be liable to disciplinary action by the Competition Administrator.

4.2 THE TECHNICAL AREA

- a) Each club must have Technical Areas clearly marked as stipulated by FIFA guidelines and provide sufficient seating to allow all personnel to be seated during the match.
- b) The technical area should be clearly marked out, extending no further than one (1) metre on either side (left and right) of the designated seating area (extra seats should be available for use in addition to permanent seating if necessary) and extends forward up to a distance of one (1) metre from the touch line.
- c) For all matches played during the Regular Season and Finals Series, a maximum of ten (10) persons are permitted to occupy the Technical Area for each Club during any fixture. This includes the five (5) named substitutes and up to five (5) registered Team Officials.
- d) Occupants of the Technical Area must be either a registered Player or a registered Team Official and wear the appropriate accreditation at all times.
- e) A Player or Team Official who is under suspension must not occupy a seat in the Technical Area.
- f) Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match and he must return to his position after giving these instructions.
- g) The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area, except in special circumstances, for example, a team physio or doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player.
- h) All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area, provided they are wearing bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to the team strip.
- i) All occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner. The referee has the right to eject any person from the technical area at any time as he/she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left to the referee's satisfaction.
- j) Smoking and drinking alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence is strictly prohibited. This includes the team bench within the technical area and all of its occupants.

4.3 LIGHTING

- a) Clubs wishing to host night fixtures during the season must submit field lighting audits as requested and have approval for competition play by the Competition Administrator.
- b) Recommendations for football field lighting detailed in the Australian Standard AS2560 Part 2.3 "Lighting for Football" includes; Minimum Service Illuminance Lux (Average) 100 and Minimum Uniformity Ratio (Min: Ave) 0.5 for Competition.

4.4 MEDICAL

- a) All clubs must provide spectator and player medical support service during scheduled matches.

Stretchers

- b) Clubs must ensure the availability of at least one stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use at all scheduled matches.
- c) Clubs must ensure that stretchers are placed inside the barrier/fence in a safe and accessible position to first aid staff.

Ambulance Access

- d) Unrestricted access to the field of play shall be provided for Ambulance vehicles when required and be clearly signed.

Water Bottles

- e) For safety reasons, water bottles are not to be thrown either on or off the field.

Blood Ruling

- f) In the event a player suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood, the match official will request that the injured player receive attention outside the field of play and only when he/she is satisfied that the injury or wound is safely covered and contained, will the player be permitted to rejoin the game.
- g) In the event the player's uniform or attire is splattered with blood, the referee will instruct that player to change his attire before being permitted to rejoin the game.
- h) Should the injured player be required to change his uniform, then the match official will show discretion in allowing the player to wear an alternative numbered shirt if necessary.

Heat Management Strategy

- i) When high temperatures occur on match day, the Match Referee, Club Officials or the Competition Administrator delegate may determine;
 - i. To play the match under standard conditions;
 - ii. To play the match with provision for extra breaks for consumption of fluid;
 - iii. To delay the match; or
 - iv. To postpone the match.
- j) The decision to incorporate these provisions should be based primarily on the assessment of the potential medical risk of playing in the heat to both the Players and Match Officials.
- k) All clubs, players and match officials are requested to please note the following when high temperatures occur on match day;
 - i. If the temperature is 32° or above, water bottles should be made available and placed along the sidelines to enable any player to take a drink during the course of the game; *and*
 - ii. If conditions are considered extreme by the match referee, he or she has discretion to allow a two (2) minute break during the course of each half.

Extreme Weather Conditions

- l) In extreme weather conditions, the Competition Administrator in conjunction with the appointed match official reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture.

- m) If the home club considers a ground inspection is required, they are to ring the nominated Competition Administrator representative before 8.00am. The name and contact details for the designated representative is to be advised at the commencement of the season.
- n) The Competition Administrator representative is to then meet with a club official and jointly inspect the field to ascertain a number of factors, which will include:
 - Is the ground considered safe for the players and the match to proceed?
 - If so, how many matches can be played, taking into account all factors including the likely weather conditions and the expected state of the ground?
- o) The designated representative will then reach a decision regarding the schedule of matches with the Competition Administrator responsible for advising the opposition club and appointed Referees in the event matches are to be postponed.
- p) Early morning inspections are only to be organised with the designated representative when conditions are such that there is doubt as to the safety of the ground. In cases of light rain only, the match referee will inspect prior to the match itself. Ground inspections for mid week matches will be arranged via the Competition Administrator.
- q) In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of a fixture through rain rendering grounds unplayable, all such fixtures shall be played or replayed at a time and under such conditions as the Competition Administrator shall determine, provided however, that any such fixture shall be played or replayed on the host club's ground's where possible.

4.5 TEAM OFFICIALS

- a) All Team Officials must be registered with the Competition Administrator. Upon registration, an Identification Card will be issued which must be worn when performing specified duties.
- b) All Team Officials must conduct themselves in accordance with the FFA Code of Conduct.
- c) The Competition Administrator may impose disciplinary action upon such persons and Clubs, where it is found that Team Officials have breached the Code of Conduct.
- d) Team officials are only covered by insurance provided the club has appointed and registered them. With regards to team trainers or medical staff, clubs should not use the services of any other person to treat players in regard to injuries, unless such persons have their own insurance coverage to safeguard themselves if any legal action is implemented as a result of treatment of injuries.
- e) Team Officials must remain within the Technical Area and are required to wear their Identification Card at all times. Team Officials not wearing the appropriate identification will not be permitted to be situated in the area during the match.
- f) Team officials are responsible for ensuring players behave in an appropriate manner at all times before, during and after any game.
- g) Team officials are not to argue or address any disagreements or comment direct to a referee. Any complaints should be directed to the Competition Administrator on club letterhead.
- h) A team official can only enter the field of play when the referee indicates to do so.

4.6 GROUND OFFICIALS

- a) It is the responsibility of the home club hosting senior matches to provide a Ground Official for all matches.
- b) Ground Officials must be in clearly identifiable uniform and must identify themselves to the appointed match official prior to each match.
- c) Ground Officials are to be visible at all times and one must be designated to provide an escort to all match officials before kick-off, at half time and full time.
- d) The ground official cannot be the coach or manager whose game is in progress on the park.

- e) The duties of the club ground official, on match days, are many and varied. The smooth running of the day calls for an efficient and vigilant ground official ready for whatever comes along. The ground official should
- Check the referees' room and make sure it is clean and comfortable.
 - Upon arrival of the referees, introduce themselves as the ground official in the event they need assistance.
 - If an official referee is not present, ensure that a referee is arranged either by the club or by consent of the two teams playing.
 - Ensure that 3 appropriate match balls are available for referees.
 - Ensure that the spectators' behavior is orderly and is not abusive to the referee or his assistants, player's or other spectators.
 - Direct and assist any ambulance if called to attend a player or any other person.
 - Be of assistance wherever possible.

4.7 MATCH DAY INFORMATION

Match Balls

- a) The Competition Administrator shall provide each host club with a quantity of match balls prior to the commencement of the season fixtures.
- b) The designated home team at each match shall ensure that three (3) match balls are supplied to the Match Official prior to the commencement of the match. All three balls shall be of the same brand and must be a licensed match ball of 'match ball' quality.
- c) Referees will report breaches of the match ball licensing arrangement to the Competition Administrator. Licensing regulations provide that any clubs that breach the licensing requirements may be liable for a fine for each breach

Playing Strips

- d) All clubs must nominate a "Home" and have available an "Alternate" strip. The alternate strip (shirts, shorts & socks) should not clash with their nominated "Home" strip. All gear ordered must have the "Q" logo attached by the manufacturing company. This should be requested when ordering.
- e) All first named clubs will be deemed the "Home" team and therefore will play in their nominated colours.
- f) In the event there is a clash of colours with the visiting team, it will be the responsibility of the visiting team to change into their alternative strip.
- g) Goalkeepers may wear any colour provided it does not clash with either team or referee/assistants.
NB: Goalkeepers MUST wear licensed strips (i.e. no replica strips allowed).
- h) Referees will report breaches of the apparel licensing arrangement to the Competition Administrator. Licensing regulations provide that any clubs that breach the apparel licensing requirements may be liable for a fine for each breach.
- i) Each club affiliated to Mackay and Regional Football Zone shall provide to the Competition Administrator the details and a photograph of their regular and alternate strips, (including socks), for approval and registration of colours. Approval must be given by the Competition Administrator prior to any club purchasing new strips. Failure to do so may render such strips unable to be worn.
- j) All playing strips must have numbers on the back of the jerseys with the exception of the non-competitive small sided football formats.

Player Equipment

- k) It is the match referee's responsibility to ensure all players taking the field of play are wearing equipment that is safe to themselves and other persons. All players must wear shin-guards whilst on the field of play.

Jewellery

- l) In accordance with FIFA 'Laws of the Game', a player is forbidden to wear any jewellery.

Alcohol

- m) It shall be the Host Club responsibility to enforce all Liquor Licensing requirements in the sale and consumption of alcohol.
- n) Should persons be seen to be in breach of these rules, the ground official should advise such person to conform to the rules immediately. Should such person/s refuse to adhere to that request, the ground official shall be at liberty to contact the police to have such person/s removed.

National Flags, Slogans, Emblems

- o) No club should display national flags, slogans or emblems at home venues under any circumstances, with the only exception being the Australian flag. Clubs will be allowed to dress/decorate their respective social clubs (internally) as they see fit provided flags, slogans or emblems are not visible from the playing arena.
- p) The Competition Administrator reserves the right to request the removal of any national flags or slogans at any time. The incorporation of national flags, slogans or similar emblems on any part of the player's attire or the uniform worn by a Club official is strictly prohibited.
- q) Clubs found to be in breach of this provision may be subject to disciplinary action and sanctions.

4.8 MATCH DAY TEAM SHEETS – COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

- a) On match day, both teams are required to complete an official team sheet prior to the commencement of any match.
- b) The team sheet must list all players taking part in the fixture and be provided to the match referee at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off.
- c) Officials must ensure that clubs do not list more than sixteen (16) players on the team sheet for any match.
- d) Where possible, all players must ensure that they have signed the team sheet before it is given to the match referee.
- e) In the event a player is unable to sign the team sheet prior to the start of the fixture, it is the responsibility of the club official to ensure that player is listed on the team sheet. That player then has until the conclusion of the half time interval to sign the team sheet and must do so in front of a match official.
- f) Should any listed player fail to sign the team sheet by the conclusion of the half time interval and participates in the fixture, then that player will be deemed to be in breach of the Rules of Competition and the club will be sanctioned as follows:
 - i. If it is established that the player was legitimately registered and was eligible to play, then the club may be fined for each offence, and the match result will stand.
 - ii. If it is established that the player was not legitimately registered or was ineligible to play, then the penalties for playing an ineligible player will apply
 - iii. In the event that both clubs are found to have failed to list a player who takes part in the same competition match, then both clubs will be disciplined and the match will be deemed 'NO RESULT'.
- g) In the event a club official approaches the match referee seeking to protest the fielding of an ineligible player, the referee should instruct the club official to lodge an official protest.
- h) At the conclusion of each match, the referee shall consult and confirm with his/her assistants prior to completing all copies of the Team Sheets, Referee Summary and any Send Off/Incident Report Forms.
- i) A Club Official must sign the team sheet once the referee has completed the team sheet.
- j) Team Sheets, Referee Summary & Send-Off/Incident Report Forms from the appointed match official will be accepted transcript. All decisions of the match referee regarding the facts connected with play (including whether a goal is scored or not and the result of the match) are considered final.

Club Responsibilities

It is the club's responsibility to ensure:

- k) It has minimum number of seven (7) players to commence the match;
- l) That it does not list more than sixteen (16) players on the team sheet;
- m) All players taking the field are eligible to play;
- n) All players taking the field of play are correctly listed on the team sheet in legible writing. If the players name is declared illegible by the Competition Administrator, that player may be deemed as "not played". If the said player receives a yellow/red card during the match then the club will be deemed to be in breach of the Rules of Competition in regards to Player Eligibility and the club may be subject to disciplinary action.
- o) All players taking the field of play have signed the team sheet;
- p) All players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time;
- q) All players wear the appropriate licensed apparel, before taking the field of play.
- r) That the details recorded on the completed team sheet are accurate and signed by a club official upon conclusion of the match.

4.9 TEAM SHEETS NON COMPETITIVE (U6 – U10)

- a) On match day, both teams are required to complete an official team sheet prior to the commencement of any match. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that all Coaches/Managers are advised of this.
- b) The team sheet must legibly list all players taking part in the fixture. Players are not required to sign the team sheet.
- c) The completed team sheet must be placed in the box located outside of the referee's room on conclusion of the match.

4.10 NON-ATTENDANCE OR UNAVAILABILITY OF MATCH OFFICIAL

- a) Should the appointed match official fail to honour his appointment, then the next most senior match official will be appointed to take charge of the fixture.
- b) In the event the appointed match official is late on arrival, then the replacement match official (as above) will take charge of the fixture until the appointed match official is ready to take over.
- c) In the event no registered match official is present to take charge of the match, then the designated "Home" club shall consult the visiting team and appoint a match official to take charge of the match. This match official has the same powers as a registered match official. The designated "Home" club shall be responsible for forwarding both team sheets to the Competition Administrator.
- d) All clubs are obligated to fulfill all fixtures regardless of whether the appointed match official is present to take charge. Should any club fail or refuse to participate in any fixture on the above grounds, then:
 - i. The match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team;
 - ii. Where the offence is committed by a senior team, the club will be fined per offence, and may be subject to further disciplinary action.
 - iii. In the event both teams refuse to play, the Competition Administrator reserves the right to award a 'NO RESULT', fine both clubs and take further disciplinary action.
- e) In circumstances where only one assistant referee has been appointed to a Seniors game, the designated 'home' team is obliged to provide a club assistant to assist the match referee.

4.11 MATCH OFFICIALS INFORMATION

Substitution of Players

- a) For all male senior Premier Division matches each team can make up to three (3) substitutions (including a goalkeeper), with no more than five (5) substitutes listed.
- b) For all other divisions, unlimited interchange will be permitted, with no more than five (5) substitute players permitted to be named on the team sheet.
- c) Only players' names listed on the team sheet are permitted to take part in the match.
- d) All substitutions/interchanges can only occur at a break in play with the approval of the referee and must take place at the halfway line.
- e) All substitutions/interchanges made at half time must enter the field from the half way on the referees signal just prior to kick off of the second half.
- f) All substitutes must be seated within the technical area.
- g) Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area, provided they are wearing bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to the team strip.

Team Sheets, Referee Summary and Send Off/Incident Report Forms

- h) At the conclusion of each match, the referee shall consult and confirm with his/her assistants prior to completing both Team Sheets and Send Off/Incident Report Forms.
- i) Referees must complete all aspects of the Team Sheet including all information pertaining to licensing requirements and, where requested, Player of the Year votes.
- j) Once completed, the referees must ensure that Team Sheets and any Send Off/Incident Report Forms are forwarded to the Competition Administrator through the appropriate channels. It is crucial that these forms reach the Competition Administrator by no later than two (2) working days after the weekend, i.e. by close of business, Tuesday.
- k) In the event a club official approaches the match referee seeking to protest the fielding of an ineligible player, the referee should instruct the club official to lodge an official protest. The referee should note this on the Team Sheet.
- l) The referee must check that clubs do not list more than sixteen (16) players on team sheet for any match.
- m) Please note that the Team Sheets, Referee Summary & Send-Off/Incident Report Forms from the appointed match official will be accepted transcript.

Player of the Year Votes

- n) At the conclusion of all senior Premier Division fixtures the referee is required to fill in and submit Player of the Year votes on the Team Sheet. All votes must be treated confidentially.
- o) In the U15/16 Premier Division, the opposing Coaches shall award Player of the Year points, on a 3/2/1 basis, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Game. This should be recorded on the team sheet. Failure to submit points for players of the opposing team may incur a fine and invalidate the teams Player of the Year points and therefore points submitted by the opposing team for that match will not be counted.

5. SCHEDULE OF FINES

Misconduct / Bringing the game into disrepute: *To be determined based on offence.*

Senior Competitions:

Laws and Order Bond: **\$1000 per club**

All disciplinary fines to be deducted from this bond and if exhausted before the season end, to be restored to the original level before the Club in question may compete in remainder of season fixtures. At the end of the season this bond would be refunded to the Club after any outstanding fines removed.

Playing of Ineligible player: **\$200.00**

Playing of Unregistered player: **\$500.00**

Team withdrawal - after publishing of fixtures - Premier League: **\$300.00**
All other divisions: **\$250.00**

Team Forfeit (less than 48 hours notice) Premier League: **\$400.00**
All other divisions: **\$250.00**

Please note, that if a team forfeits with at least 48 hours notice prior to scheduled kick off, there will be no fine. In all circumstances, when a team forfeits a fixture game without 48 hours notice, the opposition club will be eligible for reimbursement of gate fees paid by its players and officials. The Competition Administrator will refund the money to the club and arrange the payment of referees from the forfeit fine.

Illegible listed player incurring disciplinary sanction (Clause 4.8n): **\$100.00**

Failure to submit team sheet; **\$100.00**

Failure to submit Player of the Year Points: **\$50.00**

Junior Competitive Divisions:

Playing of Ineligible player: *To be determined based on offence.*

Playing of Unregistered player: **\$500.00**

Failure to submit team sheet; **\$50.00**

Failure to submit Player of the Year Points: **\$50.00**