



COMPETITION REGULATIONS

COMPETITION FOOTBALL

2016

NSFA Regulations

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2.1 INTRODUCTION

These regulations apply equally to all Competition football age groups unless otherwise stated.

2.2 FOOTBALL COMMITTEES

- a) The following committees shall be empowered to deal with all competition matters pertaining to the relevant competitions (subject to the authority of the Board): -
 - i) Men's Football Committee – all Men's football over the age of 18;
 - ii) Junior Football Committee – all Junior Mixed football from Under 12 to Under 18;
 - iii) Girls/Women's Football Committee – all female-only football from Under 14 to Over 45. BOD 02/16

2.3 TEAM/SQUAD NOMINATION

- a) Each committee shall publish a closing date for the entry of teams into its competitions.
- b) Details of the number of teams entered in each group must be submitted by each club on the club registration system by the published date. Each entry shall indicate which division the club is requesting the team be placed in.
- c) Following the closing date for entries, each committee shall meet as soon as practicable to arrange suitable competitions for each age group. Each committee shall publish these competitions and allow a period of time, as determined and published by each committee, for clubs to raise objections. Once objections have been considered the decision of the relevant committee is final.
- d) Each team/squad entry must include the name and contact details of team/squad manager, coach and assistants.
- e) In Men's football, the committee may invite team entries for, or may later form teams into, quasi-squads. A quasi-squad comprises two teams from different clubs who are paired to play in divisions that are in squad format. BOD 02/16
- f) Each club must supply the name of the club's Referee Liaison Officer who will be the club's point of contact for all matters relating to Referees and Club Officials, including NSFA's multi-year plan to increase the number of KDFRA referees.
- g) All clubs entering a team in Junior Mixed Under 12 Division One and/or Junior Mixed Under 13 Division One must ensure that the team coach has satisfied the minimum coaching requirements as outlined in Section 2.3.1 of these Regulations and that the coach of the club's highest ranked team in Junior Mixed Under 10 and Under 11 holds at least a FFA Skill Training Certificate or an Advanced FFA C Licence (Youth) or higher. BOD 02/16
- h) Each club with a squad or team in Men's football is required to supply at least the minimum specified number of referees who are current members of KDFRA or who have committed to qualifying as KDFRA members early in the season. Nominated referees must be eighteen (18) years of age or older. BOD 02/16
- i) The minimum number of referees required is calculated as follows: -
 - i) Premier League – no requirement;
 - ii) Men's All Age Division Two and Three– no requirement;
 - iii) All other Men's squads – two per squad;
 - iv) All Men's single teams – two per team;
- j) Squad/team nominations for Men's football competitions must be accompanied by a bond of \$500. The bond will be refunded by deduction from the second invoice of fees upon squad fulfilling all of the requirements relating to referees in these Regulations. BOD 02/16
- k) Penalties for non-compliance with requirements in relation to referees are set out in Section 2.21.5 of these Regulations. BOD 02/16
- l) The minimum number of players to be registered in a team is thirteen (13). The minimum number of players to be registered in a squad is twenty-six (26).

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- m) There is no maximum number of players to be registered in either a team or a squad.

2.3.1 Minimum Coaching Requirements BOD 02/16

Clubs entering teams into the following divisions and age groups must comply with the following Minimum Coaching requirements and accreditation: -

- a) For Junior Mixed Under 12 Division One and/or Under 13 Division One, and Girls Under 14 Diamond League: -
 - i) The Club agrees that team(s) will be trained and play in a manner consistent with the FFA national curriculum; and
 - ii) The Coach must attend a pre-season workshop to be conducted by the NSFA Technical Director.
- b) The coach of the Girl's Under 14 Diamond League must have achieved a FFA Skill Training Certificate and/or a FFA Game Training Certificate, or an Advanced 'C' Licence (Youth) or higher; and
- c) The coaches of the Junior Mixed Under 12 Division One and/or Under 13 Division One must have achieved a FFA Skill Training Certificate and/or a FFA Game Training Certificate, or an Advanced 'C' Licence (Youth) or higher.

2.3.2 Grading

Teams/squads are subject to grading by the relevant committee. The basis of grading is typically (but not limited to) the following: -

- a) Previous year's performances;
- b) Information provided by clubs;
- c) Promotion/relegation criteria;
- d) Junior Mixed Under 12 teams will participate in a grading process determined by the Junior Football Committee. At the end of the grading process the Junior Football Committee will place teams into divisions. BOD 02/16

2.3.2.1 Re-grading BOD 02/16

There is no re-grading in Men's football divisions and Women's All Age football. Re-grading will only occur in Junior Mixed football, Girl's football and Women's football, other than All Age, at the discretion of the relevant committee. BOD 02/16

2.3.3 Promotion & Relegation BOD 02/16

- a) In Women's football, Promotion and Relegation will affect the top team of each Division and bottom team of each Division. However due to changes in the number and composition of teams from season to season the promotion or relegation of a team will be at the discretion of the Girls/Women's Football Committee. BOD 02/16
- b) In Men's football, squads/teams are subject to promotion and relegation between divisions from year to year in the following manner, subject to (d) below: -
 - i) The clubs in squad divisions whose First Grade team finished in the bottom two positions in their divisions in the previous year may be relegated to the next lower division.
 - ii) The clubs in squad divisions whose First Grade team finished in the top two positions in their division in the previous year may be promoted to the next higher division.
 - iii) Further promotions may be granted if positions are available.
 - iv) Any club with two teams in a single team division that finished in the top two positions of that division may be invited to form squads to be promoted.
 - v) New teams may be placed in the lowest division.
- d) In Men's football, promotion/relegation decisions per (b) above are subject to the following: -

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- i) There may be no more than one squad from any one (1) club in Premier League.
- ii) There may not be more than three (3) squads from any one (1) club in any other division of ten (10) or fewer squads.
- iii) All decisions as to the composition of divisions, including promotion or relegation of squads or teams, are subject to the discretion of the Men's Football Committee.

2.4 LATE TEAM/SQUAD ENTRY OR WITHDRAWAL

- a) Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the relevant committee, and must be accompanied by a late entry fee as prescribed in Section 2.21.1 of these Regulations.
- b) Withdrawals must be made in writing and are subject to a withdrawal fee as prescribed in Section 2.21.1 of these Regulations.

2.5 COMPETITIONS

The following competitions are available for entry provided sufficient entries are received: - BOD 02/16

2.5.1 Junior Mixed Competitions

- a) Under 12s – league format;
- b) Under 13s – league format; an additional Sunday-only competition will be offered in 2016; BOD 02/16
- c) Under 14s – league format;
- d) Under 15s – league format;
- e) Under 16s – league format;
- f) Under 17s – league format;
- g) Under 18s – league format;
- h) Treasurer's Shield – Under 13s and Under 14s; knockout format;
- i) Vice President's Shield – Under 15s and Under 16s; knockout format;
- j) President's Shield – Under 18s; knockout format.

Fixtures for the above a) – g) are scheduled on Saturdays and/or Sundays at the discretion of the Junior Football Committee.

Fixtures for h) – j) are scheduled on Sundays. Fixtures may also be scheduled on Friday or Saturday nights.

2.5.2 Men's Competitions

- a) Premier League and All Age – two-team squads or single teams: league format;
- b) Over 35s – two-team squads or single teams: league format;
- c) Over 45s – two-team squads or single teams: league format;
- d) NSFA Cup – single teams: knockout format;
- e) NSFA Rick Close Cup (Over 35s) – single teams: knockout format;
- f) NSFA Under 21 Challenge Cup – single teams: knockout format.

Fixtures for the above a) – c) are normally scheduled on Saturday afternoons and Sundays at the discretion of the Men's Football Committee.

Fixtures for d) – f) are normally scheduled on Sundays.

Fixtures for a) – f) may be scheduled on Saturday mornings, weeknights (including Friday), Saturday nights or public holidays. BOD 02/16

2.5.3 Girls/Women's Competitions

- a) Under 14 Girls' – single teams: top division Diamond League: league format BOD 02/16
- b) Under 16 Girls' – single teams: league format;
- c) Under 18 Girls' – single teams: league format;
- d) All Age Women's – two-team squads (if sufficient entries) or single teams: league format;
- e) Over 35 Women's – single teams: league format;

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- f) Over 45 Women's Masters – single teams: league format; (refer Section 2.6 l) iii) of these Regulations). BOD 02/16
- g) Over 30 Women's – 6-a-side teams: league format;
- h) GWFC Shield – Girls' Under 16s and Under 18s not entered into State Cup: knockout format. BOD 02/16

Fixtures for a) to g) above are scheduled on Sundays. Fixtures for h) are scheduled on Saturday afternoons. Some fixtures may be scheduled on Friday nights or Saturdays. Fixtures for i) may be scheduled on Friday nights, Saturdays or, if feasible, Sundays when State Cup is scheduled. BOD 02/16

2.5.4 Club Championship

In addition to these competitions, NSFA will award a Club Championship to recognise the aggregate league performance of the winning club's teams. The eligibility conditions and calculation methodology will be set by the Board and published on the NSFA website - nsfa.asn.au before the start of the season.

2.6 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Subject to dispensation that may be granted by the relevant committee, the following criteria define player eligibility: -

- a) Players must be properly registered, in accordance with the provisions of NSFA Competition Regulations – Participant Registration (available on the NSFA website) – nsfa.asn.au
- b) Players under suspension are not eligible to play until their suspension is served.
- c) Players may not play in a lower division within their age-group in which they are registered.
- d) Persons of either gender may play in Junior Mixed and Men's football. Only female players may play in Girls' and Women's football.
- e) Where clubs have more than one (1) team/squad in a division or a knock-out competition players may not play for more than one (1) team in that division or competition, even if they are registered in a different age group.
- f) Players may play up to six (6) matches in a higher division than that in which they are registered and continue to play in their registered team/squad. In Men's football this only applies within the age group in which the player is registered, and between Over 45 Division Two (and lower) and Over 35 Division One.
- g) Female players may play in a Junior Mixed team from the same club as that with which they are registered provided they are age eligible (refer Section 2.6.1 for exceptions). BOD 02/16
- h) Junior players must meet the age criteria of the competition in which they are playing. Age Eligibility document can be found on the NSFA website - nsfa.asn.au
- i) No junior player shall play in an age group more than two (2) years higher than they are qualified for, unless they have been granted dispensation by the relevant committee (refer Section 2.6.3 b) of these Regulations). BOD 02/16
- j) Junior players may not play in a lower age group than that in which they are registered, even if they meet age requirements.
- k) Junior Mixed players may play in a higher age group (or competition) than that in which they are registered provided that they meet the age requirements. However Division One players from a lower age group may only play Division One of the next highest age group within the Junior Mixed competition.
- l) Players registered in teams playing in Sunday-only Junior Mixed football competitions may only substitute for Division One and Two teams in the same age-groups playing in Saturday Junior Mixed football competitions, provided they are otherwise age-eligible. BOD 02/16
- m) No players registered in a team in a Saturday Junior Mixed football Division One competition shall play for a team playing in a Sunday-only Junior Mixed football competition of the same age-group. BOD 02/16

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- n) Junior Girls may play in a higher age group than that in which they are registered provided that they meet age requirements and with the following exceptions: -
 - i) No more than two (2) Girls' Under 14 Diamond League players will be permitted to play in a team in any division of Girls' Under 16; and, BOD 02/16
 - ii) A player registered in Girls' Under 18 Division One will only be permitted to play in Division One or Division Two of Women's All Age. BOD 02/16
- o) To be eligible to play in Men's Over 35 or Women's Over 35, players must be 35 years of age or older on or before December 31 of the current year. BOD 02/16
- p) To be eligible to play in Men's Over 45 or Women's Over 45, players must be 45 years or older on or before December 31 of the current year (subject to Section 2.6 s) iii) of these Regulations). BOD 02/16
- q) No player shall play in Men's or Women's All Age competitions if he/she is fifteen (15) years of age or younger on the day of the match, unless he/she has been granted dispensation by the relevant committee (refer Section 2.6.3 of these Regulations).
- r) Players registered in Men's All Age or Women's All Age competitions may play in age-restricted competitions, provided they meet the age requirements. In Women's competitions they may not play in a division that is lower than the one in which they are registered. For example, a player registered in Women's All Age Division One may not play in Division Two of Women's Over 35's.
- s) Players registered in Men's or Women's Over 35 or Over 45 may play in All Age and Over 35 without restriction, with the following exceptions: -
 - i) Players registered in Women's Over 35 Division One may not play in Women's All-Age Division Three or lower;
 - ii) Players registered in Men's Over 35 Division One may not play in Men's Over 45 division Two or lower.
 - iii) Players may register to play in Women's Over 35 Masters division if they are aged between forty (40) and forty-five (45) years of age provided they have not played in a Women's Division One team in the previous season.

2.6.1 Borrowing Players

- a) A girl registered for an NSFA club in the Girl's football competition may be borrowed by another NSFA club to play in the Junior Mixed football competition provided that: -
 - i) She is age-eligible;
 - ii) The club for which she is currently registered does not enter teams in the relevant age group in Junior Mixed football competition;
 - iii) The club for which she is currently registered has given permission via the club secretary, in writing, for her to be borrowed by the other club.
 - b) A girl registered for an NSFA club in the Junior Mixed football competition may be borrowed by another NSFA club to play in the Girl's football competition provided that: -
 - i) She is age-eligible;
 - ii) The club for which she is currently registered does not enter teams in the relevant age group in Girls' football competition;
 - iii) The club for which she is currently registered has given permission via the club secretary, in writing, for her to be borrowed by another club.
 - c) A girl registered for an NSFA club in the Junior Mixed football competition may be borrowed by another NSFA club to play in the Diamond League competition provided that: -
 - i) She is age-eligible;
 - ii) The club for which she is currently registered has given permission via the club secretary, in writing, for her to be borrowed by another club.
- As Diamond League is a development league, she may play in that league even if her Junior Mixed football competition club offers teams in the relevant age group.

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- d) A girl registered for an NSFA club in the Girls' football competition may be borrowed by an official NSFA Development squad to play in the Junior Mixed football competition provided that: -
 - i) She is age-eligible;
 - ii) The club for which she is registered has given permission via the club secretary, in writing, for her to be borrowed by the official NSFA Development Squad.
- e) Where two single teams from different clubs have joined together to form a quasi-squad to play in a squad division, all players registered in one team may be borrowed by the other team at any time. BOD 02/16
- f) A player registered in a Women's Over 35 or Over 45 Masters team may be borrowed by a team playing in the Women's Over 30 6-a-side competition, and vice versa, provided that: -
 - i) The club for which she is registered does not enter a team in the relevant age group;
 - ii) The club for which she is currently registered has given permission via the club secretary, in writing, for her to be borrowed by another club;
 - iii) The club for which she is currently registered has given permission via the club secretary, in writing. BOD 02/16
- g) In all instances above the borrowed player's name, ID number and registered club must be handwritten on the relevant match sheet.

2.6.2 Eligibility for Finals Matches

- a) For a player to be eligible to play in Reserve Grade in divisions with squads and/or quasi-squads his or her name must be indicated on match cards as having played in five (5) of the last seven (7) Reserve Grade competition matches played. BOD 02/16
- b) Other than in Men's football, for a player to be eligible to play in the finals of any division his or her name must be indicated on match cards as having played in three (3) of the last (5) competition matches for that team or squad.

2.6.3 Dispensation

- a) Applications for dispensation may be made using the prescribed form to the relevant committee no later than seven (7) days before the intended match and must include: -
 - i) The player's name and ID number;
 - ii) The playing history of the player;
 - iii) The reason for the application;
 - iv) Any information from third parties that the relevant committee may require in order to reach a decision.
- b) Any player wishing to play or register in a team in Junior Mixed or Girl's football who is more than two (2) years above the age group for which he/she is eligible may apply to the relevant committee for dispensation. He/she may be required to attend a training session with a suitable Northern Tigers team in order to be assessed by a suitably qualified coach as to his/her ability to play in the higher age group. If approved the player's parent or guardian is required to sign a consent form. The relevant form can be found on the NSFA website – nsfa.asn.au BOD 02/16
- c) Any player wishing to play or register in a team in Men's or Women's All Age football who has not yet turned sixteen (16) years of age may apply to the relevant committee for dispensation. He/she may be required to attend a training session with a suitable Northern Tigers team in order to be assessed by a suitably qualified coach as to his/her ability to play in the higher age group. If approved the player's parent or guardian is required to sign a consent form. The relevant form can be found on the NSFA website – nsfa.asn.au BOD 02/16

2.6.3.1 Relative Age Effect BOD 02/16

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- a) The Relative Age Effect (RAE) principle allows for players born in the last three (3) months of the year, up to the age of sixteen (16), to offset any physical disadvantage to players born in the earlier months of the year by applying for dispensation to play down an age group. BOD 02/16
- b) Players who are born in the first nine (9) months of the year who have height and weight results below the 50th percentile as listed by Football NSW may apply for dispensation to play down an age group. Such players will be required to attend a training session with a suitable Northern Tigers team in order to be assessed by a suitably qualified coach as to their suitability to play in the lower age group.
- c) No team shall have more than four (4) players who are permitted to play in the lower age group under clause a) and b) above.

2.7 MATCH CARDS

- a) All matches must have a match card – including friendly matches.
- b) Each team is required to print a match card from the club registration system which shall include the names and ID numbers of all registered players in the team/squad. Match cards must clearly indicate which players are taking part, either by inserting shirt numbers only for those taking part, or by crossing out the pre-printed names of those NOT taking part.
- c) Any other amendments to the match card, including the listing of borrowed players, must be completed by hand in ink.
- d) In matches with substitutes (as opposed to interchange) the match card must clearly identify the substitutes to distinguish them from the starting 11.
- e) Players indicated on the match card as taking part in the match shall be deemed to have taken part in the match, whether they took to the field or not. BOD 02/16
- f) Only eligible players may play, or appear on the match card as having played, in the match.
- g) If a player's ID number is missing and the player is deemed to have played in the match, a fine is applicable. If a player's name is missing from the match card and the player is deemed to have played in the match, the offending team will lose any points earned in that match. If no points earned then a fine will be applicable.
- h) Alterations to the match card are not permitted after the match has commenced.
- i) Only players listed on the match card prior to the commencement of the match may play in the match.
- j) Managers must sign each match card confirming ID acceptance prior to commencement of any game. If the opposing manager does not produce the approved ID sheet upon request then the manager should mark the match in dispute and follow the procedure set out in Section 2.7.1 of these Regulations.
- k) Managers may list players who are not present at the start of the match; however the opposing manager must be given the opportunity to perform ID checks before players take the field.
- l) Both match cards, once completed, must be given to the match referee no later than five (5) minutes before the published commencement of the match.
- m) Winning managers (or home managers in the case of a draw) must return the match cards to the NSFA office no later than 5pm on the Wednesday following the match, using one of the following methods: -
 - i) Posting, hand delivering or faxing the original to the NSFA office; or,
 - ii) Emailing to matchcards@nsfa.asn.au; or,
 - iii) Posting in Dropbox®; or
 - iv) If relevant committee requires, via the club recorder who will in turn forward the original or a legible copy to the office.
- n) All match cards sent by email or Dropbox® must be saved in a pdf file and must comply with the following protocol:- BOD 02/16
 - i) Match cards must be named as the following: Division Grade Date (2014MMDD) Home Team v Away Team (team you are submitting on behalf of in capitals). For example "MAA4 Res 20130721 Northbridge v LANE COVE"

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- ii) Each match card must be saved as an individual pdf file. Multiple match cards may not be saved within one pdf file.
- iii) If the manager elects to send match cards via Dropbox© he/she must send an email to <mailto:matchcards@nsfa.asn.au> advising that he/she has put match cards in Dropbox©.
- o) In the event that an emailed or Dropbox© match card is received which does not comply with the protocol described in n) above, it will be returned to the sender and a fine issued to the club as per the regulations. Failure to provide the NSFA office with a correctly named match card file by the deadline prescribed in m), above, will result in the same penalties as failing to lodge a hard copy match card.

2.7.1 Matches in Dispute

Managers are encouraged to settle any dispute at the game. However if this is not possible a manager may mark the match card “Match in Dispute” at the conclusion of any match if his/her club wishes to dispute the result due to an alleged breach of the competition rules.

The dispute procedure is as follows: -

- a) The disputing manager must, on the day of the match, notify the Age Group Co-ordinator or Division Liaison that the club will be disputing the match;
- b) The disputing manager must submit a report in writing, using the prescribed form to the relevant committee via their club secretary within seven (7) days of the match detailing the circumstances surrounding the dispute and citing the NSFA Regulations or FIFA Laws of the Game that allegedly have been breached;
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- c) The parties will be notified of the dispute and the relevant committee shall consider the dispute and determine what action will be taken to resolve the matter.
- d) If the relevant committee determines to refer the matter to a hearing the parties will be notified of the time and place when the hearing will take place. The parties may make written submissions to the committee and/or make personal representations at the committee hearing.
- e) The relevant committee may seek further evidence from additional sources.
- f) Following the committee hearing, the parties will be notified of the result and of their right of protest.

Note: The relevant committee may also initiate proceedings without a “Match in Dispute” where a breach of the rules is evident.

2.8 DUTIES OF TEAM MANAGERS

Team managers shall perform the following duties on match days: -

- a) Home team manager to ensure that alternate strip is available in the event of a clash.
- b) Check playing field for safety – ensure no safety hazards.
- c) Check that gates permitting ambulance entry to field are unlocked. If they are locked make every reasonable effort to rectify the situation.
- d) Home team manager to ensure that the technical area is marked out as per FIFA Laws of the Game. BOD 02/16
- e) Both managers to introduce themselves to the referee and assist the referee as requested.
- f) Provide officials in accordance with Section 2.12 of these Regulations, if no qualified referees are present.
- g) Provide an approved, legible printed copy of team photos in order to identify players.
- h) Perform a photo ID check and sign your opponent’s match card in the designated space prior to the commencement of the match.
- i) Ensure players are correctly attired.
- j) Provide an approved, licensed, properly inflated match ball prior to game start.
- k) Ensure cleanliness of venue.

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- l) Ensure players sent from the field leave the vicinity of the field.
- m) Ensure alcohol is not present.
- n) The manager of the winning team, or in the case of a draw the home team must collect the match cards from the referee at the conclusion of the match. He/she must ensure that match cards are returned by the published deadline. Fines will be issued for cards received after the published deadline. BOD 02/16
- o) For all competitions both team managers must notify results by entering the result on his/her club's website within twenty four (24) hours of the match. BOD 02/16

2.9.1 Forfeit with Notice

- a) Where a team forfeits a match, the opposition shall be awarded a 3-0 win.
- b) Where both teams forfeit a match, neither team shall be awarded any goals or competition points.
- c) Where a team forfeits a match in relation to a round which (for that entire division) is postponed, the match will be rescheduled at a later date.

2.9.2 Forfeit with Notice

- a) All forfeits must be notified to the Association on the published Forfeit Form at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of the fixture. The form is available on the NSFA website – nsfa.asn.au.
- b) In squad divisions, no First Grade fixture may be forfeited without a corresponding forfeit in the Reserve Grade fixture. This restriction does not apply to a quasi-squad. BOD 02/16
- c) Clubs forfeiting after 4pm of the last working day in any week must advise the opposition Club Secretary, KDFRA and the Association.
- d) A team that forfeits must, nonetheless, fulfil any refereeing/assistant refereeing duties that it has in relation to other games.

2.9.3 Forfeit without Notice

- a) Where a team has not reported to the referee by the scheduled kick-off or does not have the required minimum number of players present (as per Section 2.13.5 a) of these Regulations), ten (10) minutes grace may be claimed and must be allowed. After the ten (10) minutes grace period has passed a team failing to report to the referee shall automatically forfeit to its opponents, provided that the opponents have reported in good order to the referee.
- b) Forfeiting teams will be penalised as per these Regulations.

2.9.4 Ineligible Players

- a) Any team playing an ineligible player shall be deducted any points earned in that match and/or fined as per Section 2.21.4 a) of these Regulations.
- b) If it is proved that the club has wilfully sanctioned such practice, the offending club or team shall be suspended from further participation in the Association's competitions or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the relevant committee. BOD 02/16

2.9.5 Consecutive Forfeits

Teams forfeiting on consecutive occasions without good reason may be removed from the competition at the discretion of the relevant football committee.

2.9.6 Point Deduction

When a Reserve Grade fixture is forfeited in a squad division, the First Grade team will have one point deducted per forfeit. This does not apply to quasi-squads. BOD 02/16

2.10 COMPETITION DRAW BOD 02/16

Competition draws will be published on the NSFA website – nsfa.asn.au

- a) Each competition committee shall determine how much of the season draw for its respective competitions will be published at any one time.
- b) Changes to the draw will only be permitted at the discretion of the relevant committee.
- c) Clubs may request a change to a published fixture by completing a Fixture Change Request Form which can be found on the NSFA website – nsfa.asn.au. The club making the request must *obtain* written agreement to the proposed change from the opposition club. The relevant committee reserves the right to deny the request at its discretion. If both clubs cannot agree to the proposed change of fixture then the match will be played at the time and place indicated in the published draw.
- d) A football committee may change the date and/or time of a published fixture at any time. However if the proposed change occurs within fourteen (14) days of the date of the published fixture both teams affected must agree to the change.
- e) A football committee may change the venue of a fixture at any time without the agreement of both clubs. However, if the changed fixture is moved to a time when a club has booked the ground for a club activity (e.g. training), then the club that has booked the ground must give permission for the match to proceed.

2.11 ABANDONED/CANCELLED/RESCHEDULED MATCHES

2.11.1 Abandoned / Cancelled matches

- a) All matches must be played, except where abandoned or cancelled by: - BOD 02/16
 - i) The NSFA office; or
 - ii) The relevant football committee; or
 - iii) The referee appointed to control the match.
- b) Abandoned/Cancelled matches may be rescheduled at the discretion of the relevant football committee.
- c) A round that is cancelled before the June long-weekend may be made up on or before the June long-weekend. A round that is cancelled due to weather or other circumstances on or after the June long-weekend may be made up before or after the previously advertised competition end date.

2.11.2 Rescheduled matches

When grounds are closed on a match day, the relevant Football Committee may reschedule fixtures to different venues and/or times on the same day. Preference in the use of grounds that are open may be given to particular divisions or teams. This means that a match may be moved or cancelled even if the ground on which it was due to be played is open; and conversely, that a match may go ahead at a different time and/or location even if the ground on which it was due to be played is closed.

Changes to fixtures will be recorded on the NSFA website - nsfa.asn.au BOD 02/16

2.12 REFEREES

2.12.1 Provision of referees and assistant referees

- a) All matches must have a referee and two assistant referees. BOD 02/16
- b) Referees are appointed to a match by KDFRA, who may also appoint one or two assistant referees to the match. BOD 02/16
- c) KDFRA may appoint officials to a home match of the club that nominated them. However, where it is practicable (and taking into account an official's notified playing commitments), officials may be appointed to other matches. BOD 02/16

2.12.2 Process in the absence of one or more match officials

To the extent that match officials have not been appointed by KDFRA, or the nominated officials do not arrive, or, for other reasons, are not able to officiate, the following must occur: - BOD 02/16

- a) In squad and/or quasi-squad divisions in Men's football, the home squad or quasi-squad team must appoint a Referee and each team must provide one assistant referee. BOD 02/16
- b) In single-team divisions in Men's football, the home team must provide a referee plus two assistant referees to the alternate fixture.
- c) An "alternate fixture" for a 1pm game means the Men's 3pm fixture on the same field and vice versa for the 3pm fixture. For matches played at other times, "alternate fixture" may mean the Men's fixture immediately before or after the match. If there is an odd number of Men's matches on the same field, team managers should confer to make special arrangements for each match to be covered. BOD 02/16
- d) In Men's football in the event that there is no alternate fixture, the home team must provide a referee to referee its own match and each team must provide one assistant referee.
- e) In Men's football, if the home team or squad fails to provide any person to referee when required by these Regulations to do so, the away team may claim a forfeit, but only if this is done prior to the match starting. BOD 02/16
- f) For Women's, Junior Mixed and Junior Girls' Football, the home team must provide a person to referee the match and another person to act as an assistant referee. The away team must provide a second assistant referee. If the home team fails to appoint a referee then the away team may provide one, but this should be noted on the match cards.
- g) Only one person should referee the entire match. Refereeing duties may only be shared between two (2) or more persons, if either the KDFRA-appointed referee arrives after the match has started or the starting referee is unable to continue through illness or injury. BOD 02/16

2.13 LAWS OF THE GAME – MODIFICATIONS

2.13.1 The Field of Play

On fields where combined soccer/rugby style goalposts are used, the ball shall be considered out-of-play if it touches any part of the rugby-specific sections of the goalposts.

2.13.2 The Ball

An approved Size 4 ball shall be used in Under 12 & Under 13 matches.

An approved Size 5 ball shall be used in matches from Under 14 to Over 45.

2.13.3 The Duration of Play

- a) Under 12s – 50 minutes (25 mins per half).
- b) Under 13-14s – 60 minutes (30 mins per half).
- c) Under 15-16s – 70 minutes (35 mins per half).
- d) Under 17-18s – 90 minutes (45 mins per half).
- e) Under 21s – 90 minutes (45 mins per half).
- f) All Age, Over 35, Over 45 – 90 minutes (45 minutes per half).
- g) Women's Over 30 – 50 minutes (25 minutes per half).
- h) The half-time interval shall not exceed five (5) mins in any match.
- i) It may be necessary to reduce the halves of a delayed start game, so that it concludes within the allotted time.
- j) Allowance for time lost may only be played in the First Grade fixture of Men's football in which, at the referee's discretion, time may be added at the end of each half to allow for substitutions, assessment and removal of injured players, time wasting or any other cause. BOD 02/16

- k) A game is not considered valid if less than two-thirds of the game is completed. (e.g. 40 minutes of a 60-minute match; 60 minutes of a 90-minute match)

2.13.4 The Players' Equipment

- a) No jewellery of any kind is permitted except for medical alert bracelets and necklaces which must be taped securely to the wrist or chest.
- b) Plaster or similar rigid casts are not permitted.
- c) All equipment, including glasses, is subject to the referee's authority as per the Laws of the Game. However NSFA strongly recommends safety glass be used where spectacles are needed. BOD 02/16

2.13.5 The Number of Players

- a) The minimum number of eligible registered players to start and complete a match is seven (7).
- b) A maximum of sixteen (16) players from each team (plus any who are, or will be aged sixty (60) or over by the end of the calendar year) may take part in a match. BOD 02/16
- c) Men's Premier League (First Grade only), and NSFA Cup semi-finals and final; up to five (5) substitutions are permitted. Once substituted, a player cannot return to the match.
- d) Interchange shall apply in all other competitions. Players who have been interchanged during a match may still take further part in the match, provided that they have not been sent off. BOD 02/16

2.13.6 The Corner Kick

In Under 12s, if the minimum distance of the corner flag from the penalty area is greater than seven (7) metres then corner kicks shall be taken from an imaginary arc centred on a point on the goal line seven (7) metres from the penalty area. It is the home team manager's responsibility to ensure this is marked with cones, before the game. BOD 02/16

2.13.7 25 Metre Rule – Playing Out from the Back

In Under 12's and Under 13's goal kicks are taken from within the goal area. However the following conditions apply: -

- a) All opponents must stay behind the twenty five (25) metre line which shall be marked by cones or similar. It is the responsibility of the home team manager to ensure the distance is marked prior to the start of the match. BOD 02/16
- b) Goalkeepers shall take goal kicks and should pass the ball to a teammate standing outside the penalty area.
- c) Opponents may only enter the twenty five (25) metre zone when the defender has taken his/her first touch.
- d) Long kicks or throws by goalkeepers are to be discouraged unless there is a purposeful distribution (e.g. counter attack)

2.13.8 Extra time in Knockout matches/Finals Series matches

- a) Where a match requires a result and the scores are level at the conclusion of normal time, two additional periods of extra time must be played, provided that there is sufficient light. The golden goal rule applies (i.e. a team scoring a goal in extra time wins the match), but if no goal is scored then kicks from the penalty mark will decide the winner.
- b) The length of each period of extra time depends on the normal duration of the match, as follows:
 - i) For games of 90 minute normal duration – 15 minutes;
 - ii) For games of less than 90 minutes normal duration – 10 minutes.

2.14 WINTER 6-A-SIDE BOD 02/16

- a) Men's Over 35/45 matches will be played on Sunday mornings.
- b) Women's Over 30 matches will be played on Saturday afternoons.
- c) Matches will be played under NSFA 6-a-side rules with the following exceptions: -
 - i) Field Size – Maximum length sixty (60) metres: maximum width forty (40) metres.
 - ii) Duration of matches – fifty (50) minutes (two (2) halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each).
 - iii) The half time interval shall not exceed five (5) minutes.

2.15 COMPETITION POINTS AND TABLES

- a) Competition points shall be awarded as follows: -
 - i) Win = 3 points;
 - ii) Draw = 1 point;
 - iii) Loss = 0 points;
- b) Team positions in competition tables shall be ordered by: -
 - i) Competition points; then
 - ii) Goal Difference ('goals scored' minus 'goals conceded'); then
 - iii) Goals Scored
- c) The team in first position at the end of the competition shall be declared the competition winner.
- d) At the end of the competition, teams shall compete in a finals series, time permitting.
- e) Competition tables will be published on the NSFA website – nsfa.asn.au

2.16 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

The winners of Division One in each age group shall be invited to represent NSFA in the Football NSW Champion of Champions tournament held in September/October, with the following exceptions: -

- a) Where NSFA does not offer a competition in a particular age group, the relevant football committee may call for nominations from eligible clubs to enter in that age group, or enter a composite team if Football NSW rules allow. If more than one club nominates for a particular age group then the relevant committee will conduct a play-off to determine which club will represent NSFA. (see Section 2.16.1 of these Regulations)
- b) Where NSFA has invited a club from another association to enter its competitions and that club wins Division One, the relevant committee may nominate the highest placed NSFA-affiliated club to represent the Association at the tournament in that age group.
- c) Where NSFA has formed a combined competition with another affiliated association, the relevant committee may nominate the highest placed NSFA-affiliated club in the combined competition to represent the Association at the tournament in that age group. BOD 02/16
- d) Where a club does not meet the criteria set down by Football NSW for entry to the competition. In such circumstances the relevant committee may offer the position to the next highest placed eligible team at their discretion. BOD 02/16

2.16.1 Champion of Champions Play-Offs

Where two (2) clubs nominate to represent the NSFA in an age group the relevant committee shall conduct a play-off over two (2) matches to determine the winning club. The procedure for the matches is as follows: -

- a) Matches will be played on a "Home and Away" basis. Matches will be played on each club's normal home ground if available.
- b) Normal NSFA Competition Regulations apply.

- c) The relevant football committee shall determine which club is the “Home” team in the first match. The “Home” team in the first match becomes the “Away” team in the second match.
- d) If combined scores from the two matches are level at the end of normal time of the second match, the team that scored the most goals when playing “Away” shall be the winner. If “Away” goals are equal extra time shall be played in accordance with Section 2.13.8 of these Regulations. If the scores are still level after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will determine the winner in accordance with the procedures described in FIFA Laws of the Game.

2.17 CLUB STRIPS

- a) All clubs must provide current photographs and descriptions of approved strips at the time of application for affiliation each year. These photographs will appear on the web site.
- b) Only approved strips shall be worn in any match. Clubs will have one approved strip and one approved alternate strip.
- c) If a home team’s approved shirt clashes with the opposition’s approved shirt, the home team must wear its approved alternate shirt.
- d) All shirts must be permanently numbered – tape is not acceptable. The numbers must correspond to the match card.
- e) Approved club strip and colours - refer to website for list – www.nsfa.asn.au

2.18 GROUND DRESSING

Clubs will be assigned grounds which they are responsible for dressing. The football committees will determine which ground(s) each club will be responsible for before the start of each season. Dressing clubs must: -

- a) Ensure that fixed goal posts are properly anchored in the ground. If posts are not permanently fixed clubs must anchor the posts with either metal spikes or pegs or sand bags as per the NSFA Goal Post Policy (available on NSFA website – www.nsfa.asn.au)
- b) Fix nets securely and safely to both sets of goals and place corner posts with a flag at the top in each corner of the ground. Posts may also be placed one (1) metre from the sideline level with the half way line. Referees will not referee matches if posts are not present in all four (4) corners of the field.
- c) Ensure that the technical area is marked out (either by ground marking or cones). BOD 02/16
- d) Ensure that dressing rooms are open and are clean and tidy.
- e) Unlock the emergency gate to allow access by ambulance if required.
- f) Remove nets and corner posts, close dressing rooms and relock emergency gate at the end of the day.
- g) Report any damage or rubbish to NSFA as soon as possible.

2.19 TROPHIES

- a) Trophies shall be awarded to players in winning teams in each grade of competition football.
- b) Prizes may be awarded for other achievements within Association competitions (including to players in runner up teams or in winning teams in finals series) as determined by the Board at the beginning of each season.

2.19.1 Perpetual Trophies

- a) Where a shield, cup or other trophy is in existence for annual competition it shall be handed to the appropriate winner by the Association at the end of the season, or as soon as practicable thereafter.
- b) All perpetual cups, trophies and the like shall remain the property of the Association.

- c) All perpetual trophies shall be returned to the Association before May 1st each year, or upon demand by the Association. Failure to return trophies by any club by this date will render it liable to the penalties as prescribed in Section 2.21.7 of these Regulations.
- d) All trophies must be returned in good condition. The holders of trophies shall be held liable for full replacement value of the trophies damaged or lost whilst in their possession. The NSFA will engrave all trophies once they have been returned. BOD 02/16

2.20 SPECIAL TIME REQUESTS (JUNIOR MIXED ONLY)

Special Time Requests may be granted to clubs meeting the following criteria:

- a) Playing time requests may be accepted for: -
 - i) Friday evening;
 - ii) Saturday 8:30am;
 - iii) Saturday late morning (usually 11:20am onwards).For playing time request options i) and iii), specific times cannot be requested. Actual times allotted will depend on other Special Time Requests and available grounds.
- b) For playing time request options (i) and (ii) a minimum of five (5) players in any team must be subject to an inability to otherwise participate in a team before a Special Time Request application will be granted.
- c) For playing time request option iii) a minimum of eight (8) players in any team must be subject to an inability to otherwise participate in a team before a Special Time Request application will be granted.
- d) Proof of need for request: -
 - i) Where the request is made necessary for school reasons or preferences a statement from the Principal of the school must be provided for each player involved.
 - ii) Where the request is based on religious requirements a statement from an official of the religious institution must be provided for each player involved.
- e) All Special Time Requests must be submitted on the approved NSFA form which is available on the NSFA website – nsfa.asn.au
- f) Special Time Requests must be made to the Junior Football Committee prior to the draw being completed.
- g) Any Special Time Requests not able to be scheduled on a Saturday due to a shortage of grounds will be played on a Sunday on a date and at a time determined by the Junior Football Committee.
- h) If there is a conflict between two Special Time Requests then the two teams must negotiate an agreeable time on the same weekend that fits in with available grounds. If agreement cannot be reached then the decision reverts to the Junior Football Committee by the Monday prior to the scheduled match.
- i) Special Time Requests may not apply to finals series games.

2.21 SCHEDULE OF FEES, FINES & PENALTIES

In this Regulation, “loss of points” means that no points are awarded to the offending team for the relevant match; and, for knock-out games, the offending team loses the match. “Deduction of points” means removal of points not relating to any specific match. The amount of points deducted is at the discretion of the relevant committee. BOD 02/16

2.21.1 Team Entry Fees

- a) Late entry (after the date advised by the Board for nominations) – 10% of entry fee.
- b) Withdrawal fee (prior to draw finalisation) – 10% of team entry fee.
- c) Late withdrawal fee (fewer than thirty (30) days prior to start of season) – 50% of team fees.

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- d) Late withdrawal fee (between seven (7) – fourteen (14) days of Gala Day) – \$300.
- e) Late withdrawal fee (seven (7) days prior to Gala Day) – \$500.
- f) Withdrawal fee (on the day – Gala Day) \$500.
- g) Late withdrawal fee from Cups/Shields (after draw publication) – \$200.

2.21.2 Forfeits

- a) Late forfeit fee (within forty-eight (48) hours of date of match) – \$50 & additional KDFRA costs.
- b) Late forfeit fee (without notifying opposition team and/or KDFRA) Competition
 - i) First offence – \$200 + ground and referee costs.
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence – \$400 + ground and referee costs.
- c) Subsequent offences may result in additional fines, deduction of points and/or suspension from the competition.

2.21.3 Match Cards/ID Checks

- a) Failure to complete match card by stipulated time: (refer 2.7.1): -
 - i) First offence – \$50.
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence – \$100 plus loss of points.
- b) Failure to provide printed electronic match card before match: -
 - i) First offence – \$25.
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence – \$50 + loss of points.
- c) Failure to lodge match card by 5:00pm on Wednesday following the match: - \$25
- d) Failure to lodge match card within fourteen (14) days of match (match card deemed lost):
 - i) First offence – \$100.
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence – \$100 + loss of points.
- e) Failure to use the protocol outlined in Section 2.7 n) of these regulations when submitting match cards by email or Dropbox: -
 - i) First offence - \$25;
 - ii) Second offence - \$50;
 - iii) Third offence - \$100 + loss of points.
- f) Incorrect information (names, shirt numbers, ID numbers) – \$10 per offence, maximum \$50 per match card.
- g) Missing ID number – \$10 per offence, maximum \$50.
- h) Player's name missing – \$50.
- i) Failure to verify opposing player IDs – \$50.
- j) Failure to provide ID sheet when requested – \$100.

2.21.4 Players

- a) Ineligible players in a match – loss of points and/or \$50 fine per ineligible player deemed to have played in the match.
- b) Players playing two (2) years over their eligibility: -
 - i) First offence – \$50.
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence – \$100 and/or loss of points.
- c) Playing under an alias name – refer to P & D Committee.
- d) Incorrect strip – team not wearing approved strip: -
 - i) First offence – \$100 + letter of reprimand.
 - ii) Second offence – between \$300 and \$500 + cited by relevant committee
 - iii) Third/subsequent offence – between \$500 and \$800 + loss of points.

2.21.5 Referees

- a) In Men's football: -
 - i) Failure to provide names in accordance with Section 2.3(h) of these Regulations when nominating squads or teams – rejection of the nomination.

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- ii) Failure to ensure that a Referee is available for a home game - \$50 per person + loss of points.
- iii) Second failure to ensure that a Referee is available for a home game - \$100 per person + deduction of points.
- iv) Subsequent failure to ensure that a Referee is available for a home game – fines not exceeding \$1000 per person + deduction of points and further penalties that may include exclusion from the remainder of the competition.
- b) In other competitions: -
 - Failure to supply officials when required: -
 - i) First offence – \$50
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence – \$100

2.21.6 Results

Failure to notify match results by the stipulated time – \$50 fine and/or loss of points.

2.21.7 Trophies

Failure to return perpetual trophy by stipulated time – \$100 + replacement cost.

2.21.8 Grounds

- a) Failure to provide at least four (4) corner flags* – \$200.
- b) Failure to provide nets* – \$25.
- c) Failure to open emergency access – \$100.
- d) Failure to open dressing sheds (where available) – \$25.
- e) Recurring failure to dress grounds may result in heavier fines, loss of points and/or suspension from a competition.
- f) Failure to remove rubbish and/or clean ground and dressing rooms after match:-
 - i) First Offence - \$100.00
 - ii) Second Offence - \$200.00
 - iii) Third & subsequent offence – loss of points and/or exclusion from the remainder of the competition. BOD 02/16

* Note: Corner flags and nets must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

2.22 ISSUING OF FINES AND PENALTIES

- a) Fines and penalties will be issued by the NSFA office within twenty-one (21) days of the offence or receipt of the match card.
- b) Clubs who wish to dispute a fine or penalty must apply in writing to the relevant committee within seven (7) days of receiving fine notice.



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