

Competition Regulations

24 February 2018

The purpose of the Competition Regulations is to provide a system that sets out the procedures and guidelines for Capital Football competitions and related programs



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1 GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.1 Application and definitions

- 1.1.1 These Rules shall apply to all Junior and Senior Competitions, including Men's and Womens' Premier League, Men's and Womens State League and Men's and Womens Masters competition fixtures (such as league fixtures, cup games, representative fixtures, finals series and play-off matches) administered under the auspices of CF. These Rules also extend to Capital Football Futsal competitions.
- 1.1.2 If any provision of these Rules is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction then the remainder of these Rules and their application shall not be affected and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 1.1.3 Terms defined in the CF Constitution, CF Registration Regulations or the CF Disputes & Disciplinary Regulations shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.
- 1.1.4 Notwithstanding Rule 1.1.3, in these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

ACTFF means the ACT Football Federation

Amateur means any player that is not a Professional

Away team means the team listed second in the draw

Cancellation of Amateur Registration means when a Player changes Clubs during the season, the Player must De-register in MyFootballClub

CCL means Coordinator Community Leagues of CF

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of Capital Football

CF means Capital Football.

CFDDR means the CF Disputes & Disciplinary Regulations

Championship or Finals series means the matches played as part of the Finals series which is separate from the regular season competition.

CJL means Coordinator Junior Leagues of CF

CLSAC means Community League Standing Advisory Committee

Club means a football club registered with FFA and affiliated with Capital Football

Club Affiliation Criteria means any written criteria published by CF relating to the affiliation, amalgamation or merger of Clubs including but not limited to these Rules

Club Associate(s) means one or more of the following, whether individually or collectively:

- (i) Club Office Bearers;

- (ii) Club Officials (coach, team manager, anyone who is officially associated with the Club);
- (iii) Players of a Club;
- (iv) Members of a Club;
- (v) Supporters of a Club;
- (vi) a Club

Club Vested Official (CVO) means a person nominated by a Club to assist the Club in meeting its match day obligations

CM means Competition Manager of CF

Community Leagues means all State League and Masters fixtures including Capital League and Capital League Reserves for both Men and Women

Competition Season Matches means those matches included in regular season. Not including Finals (Championship) Series.

Contract means a law-binding, written agreement between a Professional Player and a Club

De-registration means the termination of a Player registration

Defunct Club means a Club whose affiliation with CF has been cancelled or revoked

DIAC means Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Disciplinary Committee means a CF Disciplinary Committee appointed by CF

Dual Registration means the process of registering and participating for multiple Clubs at the same time

Field means to record a Player's name on the Match Card

FIFA means Federation Internationale De Football Association

Fixture means a game of Football sanctioned by CF

FFA means Football Federation Australia

FFA Number means a Player's national registration number

FFA Statutes means FFA's Statutes including By-Laws, Constitution, Regulations, Policies and Procedures

FLA means Futsal League Administrator of CF

FFA means Football Federation Australia

Football Activities means any related training, trial matches, Competition Season Matches or Finals (Championship) Series Matches

Free Agent means a Professional Player whose contract has expired OR all Amateur Players

Grievance means any dispute or grievance arising in relation to these Regulations

Grievance Resolution Regulations means the FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations

Home Team means the team listed first on the draw

Incorporation means any Association that is Incorporated un the ACT Incorporation Act

Independent Match Observer means an independently appointed person to oversee designated football fixtures as required

International Club means a football club located outside the Commonwealth of Australia

International Transfer Certificate (ITC) means a certificate provided by one national Association to another to facilitate the transfer of a Player between countries

JL means Junior League Competition

JSAC means Junior League Standing Advisory Committee

Just Cause means legally entitled to terminate a Professional Player Contract

Loan means loaning a Player or Players to another club

Match Official means a referee, assistant referee, additional assistant referee, fourth official or Referee Assessor

Minor means a person under the age of 18 years

MyFootballClub (MFC) means the national database administered by FFA for the purposes of registering all participants in Football in Australia

MSS means the Minimum Security standards published by CF from time to time

National Association means a national football association that is a recognized FIFA member

National Registration Regulations (NRR) means the set of regulations that govern registrations throughout Football in Australia

NPL means National Premier League competition

NPLW means the National Premier League Women's

Player means a person who is, from time to time, registered to a club

Player Agent means a person licensed to act as a Player Agent by FIFA or FFA

Player Passport means the form of document that records each Player's club for which the Player has been registered since the season of their twelfth birthday

PLSAC means Premier League Standing Advisory Committee

PPS means the Player Points System

Professional Player means a Player who has a written agreement with a Club, under which the Player is paid to play football for that Club

RDM means the Referee Development Manager or his delegate

RSAC means the Referee's Standing Advisory Committee

Solidarity Contribution means the proportion of a Transfer Fee for a Player to be distributed to clubs involved in the educational and training of that Player.

Supplementary Registration means a registration that allows a player to play in two different competitions for two different Clubs

Team means a group of Players fielded by a Club to participate in a CF Fixture

Transfer means when a Professional Player, the current Club and the new Club agree to a Transfer Fee for the Player to move to the new Club in a Professional League whilst still contracted to the current Club

Transfer Fee means a sum of money, agreed upon by two Professional Clubs to compensate the transfer of a Player between the two Clubs

Tribunal means the CF Tribunal established under the CFDDR

Venue Manager means a CF staff member or person appointed to manage a venue as directed

1.1.5 For the purposes of these Rules:

- (a) The area within these Rules referred to as the "A.C.T." shall be the area controlled by CF as directed and approved by the FFA.
- (b) Where the terms "team" or "teams" are used, it is implied that the team or teams involved are under the control of and are the responsibility of their Club, and therefore any sanctions or penalties applied to a team or teams may also be applied to the Club.

1.1.6 The Club Affiliation Criteria will be determined by the CF Board.

1.1.7 In the case of a Regulation being interpreted in two or more different ways, CF reserves the right to determine which interpretation is valid. Any such determination is final and not subject to appeal

1.1.8 Subject to the CF Constitution and these Rules, the CM and/or CF Competitions staff shall have the power to determine and implement decisions regarding the control, administration and/or organisation of the CF Competitions.

- 1.1.9 Subject to the CF Constitution, and the application of the CF Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations nothing in these Rules shall prevent the CM from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by these Rules including but not limited to promotion, relegation, number of divisions and composition of teams.
- 1.1.10 In making a decision under Rules 1.1.7, 1.1.8 or 1.1.9, the CM should seek the advice of the PLSAC, CLSAC, JSAC and/or RSAC.
- 1.1.11 Where a Club considers that it can demonstrate that it has been unfairly and adversely affected by a decision made under Rules 1.1.8 or 1.1.9, it may seek an appeals hearing to review the decision. Any request to review a decision must be in writing, identify the decision being appealed and clearly state how the Club considers that it has been unfairly and/or adversely affected by the decision. Subject to clause 1.1.12 a request to review a decision will be dealt with in accordance with the CF Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations.
- 1.1.12 Where a review request qualifies for consideration, CF may in the first instance seek to resolve an agreeable outcome with the Club and any other person or entity effected by the decision under review.

1.2 Consequences of breach

- 1.2.1 In addition to any consequences stated in these Rules, any proven breach of or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement set out in these Rules will amount to misconduct and may be subject to the provisions of the CFDDR.
- 1.2.2 To avoid doubt, where these Rules do not specify the consequences of a breach or failure to comply with these Rules, such a breach or failure to comply will still amount to misconduct and may be subject to the provisions of the CFDDR.

1.3 Amalgamations and mergers of Clubs

- 1.3.1 Clubs must advise, and apply to, CF where two or more Clubs are proposing to amalgamate or merge. CF must be so advised before any formal meetings of the respective Club members are convened to address the issue in order to allow CF to be represented at such meetings.
- 1.3.2 All applications for Clubs to amalgamate or merge name must be made outside of the winter season, but not later than 1 December unless otherwise allowed by CF.
- 1.3.3 Where two or more Clubs wish to amalgamate or merge they shall:
- (a) Apply to CF in writing for approval to amalgamate or merge. The letter is to be signed for and on behalf of the amalgamating Clubs' Committees.
 - (b) Submit the name of the proposed new amalgamated Club and provide;
 - (i) A copy of the notice of General Meeting of both Clubs;
 - (ii) A copy of the signed record of attendance at the General Meetings of both Clubs, and

- (iii) A copy of the minutes of the General Meetings of both Clubs, signed by the Office Bearers of the Club which confirms the approval by Club members of the amalgamation.
 - (c) Submit a copy of the proposed Constitution, or, if the proposed new Club is intending to become an Incorporated Association, the proposed Statement of Purpose and Rules.
 - (d) Submit the names of the nominated Office Bearers.
 - (e) Upon the registration of an incorporation of any new entity to run the amalgamated or merged Club, if any, provide to CF a copy of a certificate of incorporation or other such documentation as CF may require in respect of that new entity.
- 1.3.4 Before amalgamation or merger is approved, all outstanding financial obligations and playing commitments of both Clubs to the CF must be fulfilled.
- 1.3.5 On approval, all players of amalgamating or merging Clubs shall be deemed to be players registered by CF as players of the newly formed Club.
- 1.3.6 Any newly amalgamated or merged Club must fulfill its commitments and be responsible for all the terms and conditions of any player agreements, current at the time of amalgamation or merger, previously made by any of the amalgamating or merging Clubs in regards to any player of the newly formed Club

1.4 Change of Club Name

- 1.4.1 Any club that wishes to change its registered Club name must provide the information required under Rule 1.4.3 in writing to CF and seek approval.
- 1.4.2 All applications for a change of Club name must be made outside of the winter season, but not later than 1 December unless otherwise allowed by CF. The name change application process will be in 2 parts.
- 1.4.3 Prior to CF ratification the Club must:
- (a) Submit on letterhead its request for a change of Club name
 - (b) Provide full disclosure of information including the reasons for the request
 - (c) Ensure that the 'name' is representative of the broader geographical area within which the Club is located and shall not make any reference to any ethnic name, slogan, sponsor or business. In addition, the 'name' shall not contain initials of any type that can be interpreted as non-representative of the geographical area
 - (d) Provide an alternative name that can be assessed, again with full disclosure as per '(b)' and that meets the requirements of '(c)' above.
- 1.4.4 After CF ratification, the Club must:
- (a) Provide a copy of the Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the Club during which the change of name was approved

- (b) Provide evidence of registration of the new Club (business) name with the appropriate entity.
- 1.4.5 CF will assess a change of name application only when all of the information required under Rule 1.4.3 has been provided. Where this information is provided, CF reserves the right to reject any application for a change of name as it sees fit and will provide the Club with reasons as to why their name change application was rejected.
- 1.5 FIFA Laws of the Game**
- 1.5.1 All matches under the jurisdiction of CF will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game unless otherwise stipulated in these Rules and will be played in compliance with FFA and CF Regulations, Rules and any other specified conditions and policies.
- 1.5.2 A copy of the FIFA Laws of the Game can be found on the FIFA website at www.fifa.com and a copy of these Rules can be found at www.capitalfootball.com.au.
- 1.6 Monies owing to CF**
- 1.6.1 All outstanding amounts owed to CF must be paid by a Club within 30 days of invoicing. For monies still owing after the expiry of 30 days from the date of invoicing a reminder notice will be sent to the Club requesting that they bring their accounts with CF into order within 21 days from the date of the reminder notice.
- 1.6.2 For monies still owing after a period of 90 days from the date of invoicing a notice will be sent to the Club stating they are un-financial and will be unable to accumulate any regular season points from that time in any grade or competition.
- (a) Clubs may enter into a written payment plan agreement with Capital Football to pay back those debts whose balance exceeds 90 days. A club entering into such an agreement will be determined to be financial and may continue to play for points provided they abide by the terms of the arrangement.
 - (b) A Club subjected to this penalty will be notified in writing as to when the deduction of points will take effect
 - (c) Clubs who are un-financial, and have not entered into an agreement with Capital Football will be ineligible for finals and unable to participate in cup competitions.
 - (d) Players may be prohibited from participation in any Capital Football competitions if they have individual outstanding amounts due to Capital Football.
- 1.6.3 Notwithstanding Rules 1.6.1 and 1.6.2, CF may in its absolute discretion either offset any transfer or compensation fees owed to CF by an unfinancial Club to the extent of amounts owing or expel a Club if it does not comply with these Rules.
- 1.6.4 Clubs who are in debt to CF where any of the debt amount is outstanding at any time after 31 October each year:
- (a) Shall lose their right of appeal on any matter

- (b) May at the absolute discretion of CF be suspended from all competitions in which that Club competes
- (c) Have any rights or privileges in the activities of CF relating to that Club's participation suspended until all debts and obligations have been discharged, except where a dispute over fees remains unresolved. The status of such a dispute will be determined by the PLSAC, CLSAC and/or JSAC .

1.6.5 Where a club has been suspended under Rule 1.6.4, the opposing team will be awarded a forfeit and the score will be recorded as 3-0.

1.7 Protection of important fixtures

1.7.1 Where an International, Interstate or A League/W League match is scheduled for the A.C.T, Capital Football may direct that no competition matches shall take place on that day.

1.8 Insurance

1.8.1 CF provides Insurance cover for Club associates registered with CF. Clubs must be affiliated at all times and claims can only be made in relation to sanctioned events.

1.8.2 All registered players taking the field of play (or training) will automatically be insured through CF's insurer (or as otherwise allowed by CF). The players' insurance will be collected by CF at the time of player registration (refer to the Summary of Cover as posted on CF Website for policy details).

- (a) Players who participate in competition fixtures without having their registration details updated relevant to their Club will be deemed to be uninsured.
- (b) The CF insurance policy will be null and void unless all players participating in football are legitimately registered or otherwise eligible to play competition matches.

1.9 Strict liability of Clubs

1.9.1 Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of Club Associates at or in the vicinity of any match or event in which a Club is engaged or is in attendance regardless of the responsibilities of any other person or entity in respect of that match or event.

1.10 Media comment and match day programs

1.10.1 Clubs and Club Associates must not make derogatory or detrimental comment(s) to the media or on social media platforms about CF or the performance of Match Officials. Any such complaints should be made in writing to CF. They also must not write a column for publication without first obtaining the approval of CF, provided that such approval shall not, at any time, be unreasonably withheld and shall be deemed to continue until withdrawn by CF.

1.10.2 Clubs and club associates are bound by CF's Social Media policy along with the FFA Spectator code of conduct.

1.10.3 Match Officials are prohibited from making any comment to the media in regard to any fixture of CF at any time.

1.10.4 A breach of Rule 1.10.1 may result in a fine at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules along with further disciplinary action as set out in the CFDDR.

1.10.5 All Premier League clubs must produce a match day program for each home NPL match. CF will supply a template for club use. Copies are to be made available at each match.

1.11 **Ground security**

1.11.1 The home Club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly behaviour of spectators and provide for the protection of Match Officials, players and other officials at CF fixtures.

1.11.2 Each CF affiliated Club is required to provide CVO and/or security and/or police or MSS as directed by CF or where the club believes the fixture requires such measures. The number of CVO required at each fixture and their responsibilities and roles are set out in Rule 3.5.

1.11.3 The CF Tribunal will take into account the security measures implemented by Clubs, when assessing any misconduct charges that may be brought before them.

1.11.4 It shall be the duty of both Clubs to maintain control of spectators, to prevent any disturbance and to generally assist Match Officials, CF staff and/or members of the PLSAC/CLSAC/JSAC in the preservation of order and good discipline at any match. Failure to do so shall result in the imposition of penalties and/or sanctions as CF sees fit.

1.11.5 Where a report is made to CF about spectator misbehaviour having a material effect on the result of a match and CF validates the report, the CM may declare the match result void and order the match to be replayed on such ground and on such date and on such conditions as the CM shall think proper. Additionally the CM can deduct a maximum of up to three (3) points from the offending club and/or impose such other sanctions as the CM assesses.

1.11.6 In the event of a match being abandoned due to field invasion the CM shall have the power to have the match replayed, to allow the result to stand, award a forfeit or declare the match a no result for either team. In determining sanctions the CM will consider any reports submitted by the Match Official or participating Clubs, with reports to be lodged with CF no later than 5:00pm of the second working day following the date of the match.

1.12 **Representative teams**

1.12.1 Any player registered in A.C.T. under the FFA National Registration rules will be eligible to represent A.C.T. in representative games, camps or tours and each such player will make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative matches, camps or tours when requested by CF.

1.12.2 All Clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours, when requested by CF.

1.12.3 Where a Club has three or more players from one team participating in a CF approved representative match, camp or tour which conflicts with a scheduled match of that team, it may seek the postponement of that fixture. CF shall determine the outcome

of that request in its absolute discretion and that decision cannot be appealed or reviewed.

1.13 Prohibited Items

- 1.13.1 Clubs, official(s), spectators and/or players under the jurisdiction of CF are prohibited from using and/or displaying in logos, letterheads, clothing (including playing strip), programs and/or newsletters, any of the following items:
- (a) National flags other than the Australian flag
 - (b) Banners, emblems, symbols or slogans which promote an offensive or a political objective or movement,
 - (c) Maps other than a map of a geographic area of Australia or part thereof.
- 1.13.2 All Clubs must have the prior written approval of CF before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan onto any Club logo or name, product or medium, including but not limited to playing strips, promotional material, newsletters, Club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, programs websites or any other form of communication.
- 1.13.3 Flares, fireworks, loud hailers or instruments prohibited by law are not permitted at any CF event. The lighting of flares or other flammable objects and or the throwing of objects is strictly prohibited in all CF sanctioned fixtures.
- 1.13.4 No Club may distribute, disseminate, broadcast or publish by any means whatsoever whether electronically or otherwise any material in a language other than English, without the prior written consent of CF to do so.
- 1.13.5 CF may request the immediate removal of any offending material without notice at any time.
- 1.13.6 Clubs will be held fully accountable for the actions of their Club Associates.
- 1.13.7 Each Club must take steps to ensure that its Club Associates are made aware of these prohibitions and do not breach these requirements, regardless of whether the Club is playing at home or away.
- 1.13.8 Clubs or Club Associates who are in breach of these Rules will be fined at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these Rules. In addition CF may deduct points from a team or teams or take further disciplinary action as it sees fit.

1.14 Racial and Religious Vilification Code

- 1.14.1 CF has endorsed a Racial and Religious Vilification Code for all Clubs and their players which forms part of these Rules. The Racial and Religious Vilification Code is displayed on the CF web site within the FFA National Member Protection Policy <http://www.capitalfootball.com.au>
- 1.14.2 Racial and religious vilification includes any act, otherwise than in private, which;
- (a) is reasonably likely, in all circumstances, to offend, insult, humiliate, or intimidate another person or a group of people

- (b) can be interpreted as pertaining to the race, religion, colour or national or ethnic origin of the other person or of some or all of the people in the group.

1.14.3 The Racial and Religious Vilification Code requires Clubs to:

- (a) ensure that players and Club Associates do not engage in racial and religious vilification against any person
- (b) continuously educate their players and Club Associates about racial and religious vilification
- (c) publish information on the subject of racial and religious vilification to players and Club Associates
- (d) use their best endeavours to ensure that all Club Associates act in a manner which is consistent with the objectives of the Racial and Religious Vilification Code
- (e) adopt an action plan, which is contained in the Racial and Religious Vilification Code.

1.14.4 Any person wishing to lodge a letter of complaint under the Racial and Religious Vilification Code, must address their correspondence to the Competitions Manager of CF within 7 days of the date of the alleged offence.

1.14.5 A conciliation hearing will then be convened to discuss and resolve the matter.

1.14.6 If, during the hearing, conciliation is not achieved, CF may lay charges of misconduct against those alleged to be responsible and refer the matter to the Tribunal.

1.15 **Inducements - player and match result**

1.15.1 Any Club official or player offering or receiving payment or any form of inducement from another club official or player to wrongfully affect the result of any competition match shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and liable to such penalty as the CM determines, including possible life suspension or match forfeiture. The payment of a win bonus to a player by his registered Club shall in no way contravene this Rule.

1.15.2 Any Club, official or player found guilty directly or indirectly of inducing or attempting to induce, a registered player of another Club to leave for any purpose whatsoever the Club for which he is registered during a current competition, shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and shall be liable to be expelled or otherwise dealt with by the CM.

1.15.3 Any Club or Club official found directly or indirectly involved in the unethical inducement of an entire premier league team to join their respective premier league Club from another premier league Club will be found guilty of misconduct, and will result in the following:

- (a) the guilty Club will be fined \$10,000;
- (b) the new team will commence the new season with a minus points tally. The minus points tally will relate directly to the games played in their respective division (i.e. 18 rounds: 18 games x -3 points = -54 points).

1.16 Property damage and ground cleanliness

- 1.16.1 Any Club found guilty of causing damage to property at any ground shall be required to pay the total cost of repairing such damage or the total cost of replacement of such property and shall be subject to other such penalties and/or sanctions as CF sees fit.
- 1.16.2 Home Clubs or other such Clubs designated by CF must collect litter and leave grounds, spectator areas, dressing rooms, toilets and pavilions in a satisfactory condition, empty all bins in to the supplied hopper or they shall pay cleaning costs and any further applicable sanction. When requested, clubs will assist CF to ensure the security of the Hawker Football Centre after a hire period.

1.17 Sponsorship, advertising and marketing

- 1.17.1 CF will seek to obtain sponsorships to assist with the funding of CF competitions and representative fixtures. All competing Clubs are bound by any sponsorship, licensing or marketing arrangements and consequent conditions introduced by CF in respect of the conduct of CF's competitions. Clubs may be required to display at grounds or on uniforms in all competitions, such badges and/or logos as determined by CF. The positioning of such signs, badges or logos shall be determined by CF.
- 1.17.2 Clubs or Club Associates who are in breach of this Rule will be fined at level BR3 for each match and/or instance under Schedule 1 of these Rules. Failure to comply with Rule 1.17.1 will also be subject to such action as determined by the CM.

1.18 Bonds and fines

- 1.18.1 The CM shall prior to the start of the season determine the Schedule of Fees and Fines for the impending season. Such changes will not come into force until two (2) weeks after approval.
- 1.18.2 Teams, players, Clubs or Club officials found guilty of breaking these Rules may have penalties and/or sanctions imposed upon them. Such penalties may be financial, the loss of competition points and/or suspension or expulsion from any competition.
- 1.18.3 Any monetary bond placed upon a participating Club by CF should be for a specific period of time and that period of time is decided upon by CF.
- 1.18.4 All fines imposed by these Rules must be paid within thirty (30) days of invoicing, except for fines dealing with individual suspended players. These fines must be paid either before the thirty (30) days or before the player is again eligible to play, whichever is the sooner.

1.19 Protests, disputes and misconduct

- 1.19.1 CF or the Disciplinary Committee may investigate any complaint of:
 - (a) Any breach of the Competition Rules
 - (b) Unsportsmanlike or unbecoming conduct against any Club, member or official thereof, player or coach
 - (c) Violence or threats of violence or intimidation; or

- (d) Conduct that brings, or may bring, the game into disrepute.
- 1.19.2 When CF or the Disciplinary Committee investigates any such complaint, written particulars may be given to Club(s) or the subject person of any complaint. Prior to any meeting being held the Club(s) or person shall be given an opportunity to appear before the CM or the Disciplinary Committee and to participate in the enquiry and to offer such defence or submissions as she or he thinks fit.
- 1.19.3 If CF or the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that any such complaint has been substantiated it may impose penalties as follows:
- (a) Suspension from CF for such period of time as may be determined or suspension from any competition conducted by or in conjunction with CF
 - (b) A fine in the case of a Club not exceeding \$10,000.00 or in the case of an individual not exceeding \$5000.00
 - (c) Expulsion from CF or from any competition conducted by or in conjunction with CF, subject to CF Board ratification.
- 1.19.4 Affiliation of CF shall constitute a binding agreement between CF and the respective Clubs. Clubs need to lodge within 72 hours of the incident of protest, all protests, claims and complaints to correct committees in writing accompanied by the required deposits. All correctly lodged protests, claims and complaints shall be heard and determined by the correct committees as quickly as possible and always before any delay or adjournment shall render ineffective in whole or part the nature of any such protest, claim or complaint.
- 1.19.5 If any dispute or disagreement arises between a Club and any of its players in respect of each other's obligations pursuant to a contract or agreement of a similar nature entered into between them, or as to the interpretation thereof, such dispute or disagreement may be referred by the Club or player to CF for determination.

1.20 **Independent Match Observer**

- 1.20.1 An Independent Match Observer can be appointed to any CF fixture. The Match observer will report on any event arising or relating to match day or operational regulations/rules.

2 COMPETITION ARRANGMENTS

2.1 Official fixtures

- 2.1.1 CF will strive to issue official fixture lists of all Competitions no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the first competition round.
- 2.1.2 Any disputes between two (2) or more Clubs as to the arrangement of fixtures shall be referred to the respective CF competitions staff member in the first instance. Where a dispute still exists the CM will decide the final course of action.
- 2.1.3 All rearrangements of fixtures by Clubs shall be submitted to and approved by the respective CF competitions staff member. Where a dispute remains the CM decision will be final and binding on all parties. A fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights provided that the lighting meets the requirements and that any alteration to the starting time has been given approval by the CM.
- 2.1.4 Notwithstanding any other Rule or Regulation, Capital Football reserves the right to alter or amend any fixture after the official fixture lists have been issued. Affected Clubs will be advised of alterations and amendments, when possible, at least seven (7) days prior to the timing of the scheduled or rescheduled fixture, whichever is/was to occur first.

2.2 Non-scheduled matches

- 2.2.1 Clubs shall not play or be involved in or give approval for any player, official and/or team to participate in any other matches within and/or outside the A.C.T that are not part of the scheduled CF Competitions unless they have first received approval from CF. Any Club or player found to be playing in an unauthorised competition will not be covered by CF insurance policy and the club and/or player face such action as determined by CF.
- 2.2.2 Any Club staging or taking part in any competition, tournament, friendly match, or match other than a CF official fixture, or which is not played under the jurisdiction of CF, shall notify CF in writing and complete and lodge the relevant documentation as required by CF.
 - (a) Fixtures between CF Clubs require at least seven days' notice
 - (b) Fixtures involving Clubs that are not CF affiliated Clubs will require sanctioning from the appropriate Association and such notice must be received by CF at least three working days prior to the scheduled kick off.
- 2.2.3 No Club shall promote a team to play or permit any of its players to play in any competition or with anybody not affiliated directly or indirectly with a FIFA-approved league, Association or Federation.
- 2.2.4 Any Club or Association affiliated with CF wishing to participate in any interstate or international matches, tournaments or events, must apply in writing to CF for prior approval. Fixtures involving interstate FFA approved clubs or associations require notice of at least one month for sanctioning.
- 2.2.5 For further information on matches played by CF affiliated Clubs, either interstate or overseas, please refer to the Capital Football Visiting Teams Policy.

2.3 Premier League

2.3.1 The Men's and Womens' Premier Leagues shall comprise of a number of Clubs as determined by CF at its absolute discretion.

- (a) Licenses for Premier League will be sought by CF from time to time
- (b) The CF Board or their appointed committee will be responsible for assessing all Premier League applications
- (c) In assessing Premier League applications, the CF Board or their appointed committee will take into account any mandatory licensing criteria required of Premier League Clubs
- (d) Under no circumstances shall any one club be represented more than once in any division of the Premier League.

2.3.2 Each Premier League Club shall:

- (a) Field:
 - (i) A Men's senior team (NPL), Premier League 20 (PL20), Premier League 18 (PL18), Premier League 16 (PL16), Premier League 14 (PL14) and Premier League 13 (PL 13) under the conditions specified by CF; and/or
 - (ii) A Womens' senior team (WNPL), Premier League Reserves(WNPLR) Premier League 17 (WNPL17), Premier League 15 (WNPL15) and Premier League 13 (WNPL13) under the conditions specified by CF.
- (b) Provide a ground for all home games that complies with the requirements of Rule 3.1.
- (c) Appoint and maintain a Media Liaison Officer
- (d) Provide CF with an email address of the Club Secretary or other official for the purposes of immediate communication
- (e) Make all registered players available for representative team duties and promotional activities in their local communities as and when requested by CF
- (f) Appoint coaches with minimum coaching qualifications as directed by FFA and as set out in the Premier League License criteria.

2.3.3 Premier League player eligibility

Men's Premier League

As long as they are age eligible, players are permitted to play in any of the 1stGrade, U20, U18, U16, U14 and U13 grades during the **regular** season.

- (a) To be age eligible for a PL20 team, all players (except the overage players) listed on the match card can turn no older than 20 in the calendar year of the competition (that is, do not turn more than 20 before 31 December 2018).

- (i) Clubs are permitted to play four (4) overage players in U20 in any given match. There is no age restriction in relation to the four overage players permitted on the match card
 - (ii) Where more than four overage players have been included on the match card for the one team, the match may be considered a forfeit with the offending team losing the match 3-0 (unless a satisfactory explanation is provided to CF for consideration).
- (b) To be age eligible for a PL18 team, all players must not turn older than 18 years of age before 31 December of the calendar year of the competition. To remove all doubt that is, a player who turns 17 or 18 in the year of competition is age eligible to play.
 - (c) To be age eligible for a PL16 team, all players must not turn older than 16 years of age before 31 December of the calendar year of competition and not be younger than 14 years of age on 1 January of the calendar year of competition. That is, players who turn 15 or 16 in the year of the competition are age eligible to play.
 - (d) To be age eligible for a PL14 team, all players must not turn older than 14 years of age before 31 December of the calendar year of competition and not be younger than 12 years of age on 1 January of the calendar year of competition. That is, players who turn 13 or 14 in the year of the competition are age eligible to play.
 - (e) To be age eligible for a PL13 team, all players must not turn older than 13 years of age before 31 December of the calendar year of competition and not be younger than 11 years of age on 1 January of the calendar year of competition. That is, players who turn 12 or 13 in the year of competition are age eligible to play.
 - (f) A player who is too young to play in the PL16, PL14 and PL13 competitions may be permitted to play in the competition where an assessment has been carried out by the CF Technical Director (or designated officer). A player may also be permitted to play (subject to a technical assessment) in a younger age group if it can be demonstrated a physical, psychological or technical exemption warrants it. The CF Technical director will be the final arbitrator on such requests.
 - (g) A player who turns 15 years of age or older shall be permitted to play in all higher age groups including NPL First Grade.
 - (h) To offset any physical disadvantage to players born in the last three (3) months of the year consideration will be given to playing down an age group under a Relative Age Effect (RAE) exemption. This only applies to the following competitions:
 - NPL13
 - NPL14
 - NPL16
 - (i) Only one (1) one player is able to be approved under this provision per team, per club.

- (j) Clubs must request an RAE assessment by CF and refer to Schedule 3.

Premier League Women's

- (a) There are no over age players permitted in the Women's PL17, Women's PL15 or Women's PL13 teams unless an RAE or special exemption has been issued.
- (b) For the Women's PL and Reserve grade players are permitted to play in both PL and Reserve Grade.
- (c) To offset any physical disadvantage to players born in the last three (3) months of the year consideration will be given to playing down an age group. This is only relevant to the NPLW13, NPLW15 and NPLW17 age groups. Only (1) One player is able to be approved under this provision per team, per club.
- (d) Clubs must request a *Relative Age Exemption* assessment by CF and refer to Schedule 3.

2.3.4 A Player Points System (PPS) will complement the Men's Premier League Licensing framework and will apply to each Premier League Club. The PPS requires each club to remain within the points cap when registering players for their squad for the season.

- (a) The mechanics of the PPS can be found in the PPS document available through CF. However the following definitions are applicable at all times:

AUSTRALIAN PLAYER

An Australian player is any player who is

- A citizen of Australia
- A permanent resident of Australia (where permanent resident means a person resident in Australia on a "permanent " visa class issued by the Australian Government , evidenced by either the persons Visa Grant notice or as a listed entitlement on the persons online Visa entitlement verification); or
- The holder of a subclass 200 refugee visa or a subclass 866 protection visa issued by the Australian Government.

VISA PLAYER

NPL Clubs are encouraged to refer to www.border.gov.au for further clarification regarding visas

For the purposes of the PPS, A New Zealand Citizen is classified as a Visa player unless he satisfies the definition of an Australian player.

Generally a player that comes to Australia under an International Transfer Clearance certificate will be a Visa player (unless he/she satisfies the Australian player definition)

The Player Points system will be administered by Capital Football in accordance with arrangements outlined by FFA.

- (b) The point cap in year 2018 will be 200 points for NPL clubs. The PPS will be reviewed at the end each NPL season.

2.3.5 Any breach of the PPS points cap or failing to apply the mechanics of the PPS correctly will result in a 3-0 forfeit result to the opposition for fielding an ineligible player.

Appeals or exemptions from any part of the PPS will be referred to the CM for review.

- (i) The CM (or designated officer) may direct that the appeal or exemption request be referred to a panel representing the Premier League clubs.
- (ii) The panel will review any PPS related matter for determination.

2.3.6 If a Club/team withdraws mid-season during the Premier League License period, for that season a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn team in the official fixture list, and all points along with goals scored (for & against) that team will be erased. The CF Board will decide whether to either replace the Club/team or continue the competition with the remaining Clubs.

2.3.7 Capital Football will use the following process when ranking the clubs for Club Championship Points.

NPL Men's

Grade	Points Multiplier
1 st Grade	Premiership Points x 10
U20	Premiership Points x 8
U18	Premiership Points x 6
U16	Premiership Points x 4
U14	Premiership Points x 2
U13	Premiership Points x 1

NPL Women's

Grade	Points Multiplier
1 st Grade	Premiership Points x 8
Reserves	Premiership Points x 6
U17	Premiership Points x 4
U15	Premiership Points x 2
U13	Premiership Points x 1

2.4 Community Leagues

2.4.1 The Community League competitions shall comprise of ten team divisions unless otherwise determined by CF. Where fewer or more than ten teams have been nominated for CF will endeavour to determine the competition in consideration of promotion/relegation principles and in consultation with affected Clubs. Nominations of multiple teams in any division by a club will be considered by CF in light of team numbers within each division.

2.4.2 Men's Community Leagues competitions will play each other on a home and away basis as determined by CF. Women's Community Leagues competitions will play at

cluster venues as determined by CF. A net roster is produced prior to the commencement of the cluster draws advising clubs of their responsibilities at cluster venues. Any club who fails to fulfil their net roster requirements will be sanctioned at level BR1 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

- 2.4.3 CF recommends that all coaches in the Community League competitions hold a minimum Senior Coaching Certificate.
- 2.4.4 Masters teams shall consist of veteran players who are 35 years of age or over by 31 December in the calendar year of competition. CF retains the right to allow an Under 35 age player to participate if it is in the interest of the competition and CF.
- 2.4.5 Over 45s players shall be players who have turned 45 years of age by 31 December in the calendar year of competition. CF retains the right to allow an Under 45 age player to participate if it is in the interest of the competition and CF.

2.5 Junior League

- 2.5.1 The CJL shall specify a date prior to the commencement of work to prepare draws by which clubs must have finalised their team nominations. Any request to withdraw a team or enter an additional team, or to change a nomination from one age group or division to another after this date may be fined at level BR4 under the Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 2.5.2 The age group in which a player is eligible to play shall be determined by his/her age at the beginning of the first day of January of the year of play. For example, a player who will turn 13 years old between 1 January and 31 December (inclusive) in that year is classified as an Under 13 player. Females playing in mixed gender teams may register for a team in an age group that is one (1) chronological year below their actual age group. No player shall play in any age group below his/her actual age group, except with the permission of the CJL. In considering requests for exemption from this rule the CJL will apply principles including disability or impairment, that there is no unfair advantage to the club requesting the exemption and no team shall be permitted to play more than two overage players.
- 2.5.3 Clubs are required to submit team nominations for Under 10 and older age groups by age group and preferred division to the CJL by a specified date prior to each season. The CJL will then allocate teams to divisions, having regard to the desirable sizes of those divisions. Teams will be allocated to divisions by the CJL with assistance from the JSAC after considering nominations.
- 2.5.4 Clubs may make written representation to the CJL within five (5) working days of an allocation under Rule 2.5.3 to which it objects. The CJL shall review any submission and may modify or confirm the allocation. A decision made following completion of this process shall be final. This Rule also applies to requests made after the season commences as well as those made prior to the season commencing. Nothing in the Rules obligates the CJL to accept a request if he/she judges it to be unacceptably disruptive to the draw.
- 2.5.5 The CJL, with help from the JSAC, will determine team allocations for the U12 to U18 competitions based on the following principles, after receiving team nominations from clubs:
 - (a) Division 1 competitions will endeavour to have a complete round of fixtures

- (b) Teams will be placed in divisions on merit
 - (c) Divisions are not limited to one (1) team per club
 - (d) Previous season performance will be taken into account
 - (e) Clubs may be requested to justify why a nominated team should remain in Division 1 if they were clearly uncompetitive at that level in the previous season
 - (f) Clubs may be requested to justify why a nominated team should remain in a lower division if they were clearly superior to the rest of the competition in the previous season
- 2.5.6 Re-grading of Junior League competitions will occur after Round 4 of each season.
- 2.5.7 Junior League teams will be considered to be re-graded by CF where:
- (a) it has won all of its games after Round 4 and has a Goal Difference of plus-20 or more; or
 - (b) it has lost all of its games after Round 4 and has a Goal Difference of minus-20 or less.
- 2.5.8 Where a Junior League team is re-graded under Rule 2.5.7 it will maintain all Competition Points and Goal Difference from the first 4 rounds of the season.
- (a) Where a team is re-graded under Rule 2.5.7 (a), the team will have 3 Competition Points erased from its season tally to ensure an even playing field in its new competition.
 - (b) Where a team is re-graded under Rule 2.5.7 (b), the team will have 3 Competition Points added to its season tally to ensure an even playing field in its new competition.
- 2.5.9 CF may consult the JSAC during the re-grading process.
- 2.5.10 Re-grading is unable to be appealed and any decision made by CF is at its absolute discretion.
- 2.5.11 Players wishing to play more than two (2) years above their correct age group must make a formal request on club letterhead to the CJL giving details of the request and including the following:
- (a) a statement by the club's coaching director or club president of the team the player wishes to join, assessing whether or not the player's skill level is appropriate for playing in the older age group and indicate that the request is for the development of the player and the nominated age group is the most appropriate one for this purpose,
 - (b) a statement from the player's parents acknowledging that they have been informed by the club of the physical, skill and emotional demands of playing in the higher age group, and consenting to their child playing in the nominated higher age group, and

- (c) If requested by CF, a medical/physiotherapist assessment completed by a qualified medical practitioner or physiotherapist which must state that in the assessor's opinion, the player is physically capable of playing in the higher age group.
- (d) Where the situation arises on match day that a temporary fill in player or players is/are required, who is/are not age eligible in accordance with Rule 2.5.6, the CJL must be notified by the club president prior to kick-off of the relevant fixture. The CJL must be provided with consent as listed within 2.5.6 (a), (b) and (c) within 2 business days of the fixture.
- (e) Failure to comply with Rule 2.5.6 will result in the relevant player being deemed ineligible.

2.5.12 Each club must submit to the CJL prior to Round 5 matches a team lists for all JL competitions (U12 and above) with full names, dates of birth and FFA numbers. Failure to meet the due date will may result in a sanction at level BR1 under Schedule 1 of these Rules per team. Each additional week will be considered a separate offence under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

2.6 Fair play (National Premier League)

2.6.1 At the conclusion of the season, the 'Fair Play Award' will be awarded to a Club. The award will be calculated as follows –

- (a) Each yellow card given to a player from within a Club during a season, will earn that club one point. A red card will earn three points;
- (b) The total number of points accumulated by each Club will be divided by the total number of teams;
- (c) The Club that derives the lowest number from this calculation will be declared the winner.

2.6.2 In the event of a draw, the award will be shared.

2.7 Competition nominations

2.7.1 Only CF affiliated Clubs are eligible to nominate a team or teams to participate in a CF Competition.

2.7.2 Each year CF shall call for nominations for all competitions for the following season. CF shall also set the closing date for these nominations.

2.7.3 All nominations shall be submitted on the official nomination form provided to Clubs by CF.

2.7.4 Nomination forms shall include the following information:

- (a) Division for which the nomination is being submitted;
- (b) Preferred home ground and training ground where the competition is played on a home and away basis;

- (c) Colours of the playing strip (shirt, shorts & socks) and alternate strip for all teams nominated; Capital Football reserves the right to reject a playing strip if it is **the same** as another team and/or stipulate provisions to apply where the strips are similar.
 - (d) Playing history of team and reason for nominating at the division level sought.
- 2.7.5 All nominations shall be inspected and vetted by the CM. Clubs that have provided inadequate information or information not in accordance with these Rules on the official nomination form shall be informed of such irregularities and shall be given seven (7) days in which to resubmit their nomination.
- 2.7.6 The CM reserves the right to determine the appropriate league of each nomination, by taking into account the previous season's results, playing strength of the Club, player movements and the formation of the division.
- 2.7.7 The CM reserves the right to reject team nominations.
- 2.7.8 Nominations received after the closing date will only be accepted at the discretion of the CM and placed into divisions as they might determine.
- 2.7.9 Applicants for all divisions must also comply with the assessment criteria as set out and amended by the CF from time to time.
- 2.7.10 Should a Club submitting a nomination form withdraw any team after a date to be set by the CM the club will be sanctioned at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

2.8 **Player Status-eligibility-identity**

- 2.8.1 Prior to competition of Week 3, clubs must assign every registered player into one of their teams and submit team lists.

For NPL and NPLWNPLW (all age groups) a team list containing the details of sixteen (16) players needs to be provided to the CM.

For Men's and Women's Community Leagues, a team list containing the details of at least fourteen (14) players needs to be submitted to the CCL. Masters players playing in State League can be listed in one Masters team and one State League team.

- (a) Clubs must supply updated lists when players are registered or deregistered during the season. The lists will be made available to all clubs.
 - (b) The lists will be used to determine the divisional rating of all players.
 - (c) Where a club fails to submit their playing lists CF shall fine a Club at level BR6 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and may impose other sanctions on the Club where appropriate
- 2.8.2 Players can only be assigned to one team except where:
- (a) A player is included on one Men's Community Leagues team list; or
 - (b) A player is included on one Men's Community Leagues team list and one Womens' Community Leagues, subject to eligibility; or

(c) A player is included on one Womens' Community Leagues team list

2.8.3 Once assigned to a team, all players are rated according to the division of the team. For the purpose of this Rule

(a) All Men's PL competitions will be regarded as one division, followed by the Men's' Capital League, Men's Capital League Reserves, etc.

(b) All Womens' PL competition will be regarded as one division, followed by Womens' State League 1, etc.

Men's League Ratings:

Premier and Premier League 20	Premier League
PL18 and PL16	Premier League
PL14 and PL13	Premier League
Capital League	Rating 1
Capital League Reserves	Rating 1
Division 1	Rating 2
Division 2	Rating 2
Division 3	Rating 3
Division 4	Rating 3
Division 5	Rating 4
Division 6	Rating 4
Division 7 and higher	Rating 5

Men's Masters League Ratings:

Masters Division 1	Rating M1
Masters Division 2	Rating M2
Masters Division 3	Rating M3
Masters Division O45	Unrated (age restrictions)

Womens' League Ratings:

NPLW and NPLWR	Premier League
NPLW17, NPLW15 and NPLW 13	Premier League

Division 1	Rating 1
Division 2	Rating 2
Division 3	Rating 3
Division 4	Rating 4
Division 5 or higher	Rating 5
Masters	Unrated (age restrictions)

- 2.8.4 Permitted player movement will be:
- (a) Men's Community Leagues players may only move down one divisional rating during the Competition Season
 - (b) NPL players are free to move between NPL competitions unrestricted (subject to any age restrictions).
 - (c) For Men's Community Leagues, each team is restricted to a maximum number of three (3) players that can play down in a single fixture.
 - (d) Community League players are free to play in higher divisions than their nominated grade. Once a player has played six (6) competition matches for a specific team in a divisional rating higher than their nominated grade the player will be registered to that specific team, and will not be permitted to play in any lower rated team for the remainder of the season in conjunction with Rule 2.8.4 (a) and (c).
- 2.8.5 Players who have entered the field of play in Premier League (all competitions) and Capital League will be taken to have played in that match. Those listed on the match card in Men's Capital League Reserves, State League and Masters will be deemed to have played in that match. Rule 3.3 refers to the recording of players on a match card.
- 2.8.6 Should a Club wish to have a Men's Community League player reclassified after week three of the season, the club shall submit a request in writing, on club letterhead, to the CM outlining the reasons why the player should be reclassified. Players will only be permitted to be reclassified once in a season.
- 2.8.7 In considering requests submitted under sub Rule 2.8.6, the CM shall have regard to the following principles:
- (a) That no significant disadvantage should accrue to other Clubs in the competition through the granting of the request;
 - (b) That the request is in the interest of the player involved.
- 2.8.8 Where two (2) teams from one Club are in the same division, players must be assigned to one particular team.
- (a) Where two (2) Community League teams from the one Club are in the same division a maximum of three players from one of those teams can play for the

other team for any fixture. Where the team also includes players playing down from other divisions in excess of that allowed in Competition Rule 2.8.5 the total number of players playing down and across in any one fixture is not to exceed the number allowed in Competition Regulation 2.8.4.

- 2.8.9 If a Club is found to have breached Rule 2.8.5 by CF or the opposing team they will be deemed to have played an ineligible player. The match will be awarded to the non-offending Club as a forfeit with the score line 3-0 and the offending Club may be fined at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of the Competition Rules.
- 2.8.10 No more than three (3) Community League players are allowed to play down one division that is below their given rating in any one game.
- 2.8.11 Junior League players are permitted to play in any division of the Premier League if age eligible
- 2.8.12 An eligible player is one who has completed the registration process and is registered in accordance with these Rules and who is not currently serving a suspension.
- 2.8.13 A player will be considered an ineligible player where he or she:
- (a) is not registered in accordance with Capital Football and the National Registration Regulations;
 - (b) plays for a club with which the player is not registered;
 - (c) plays without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required;
 - (d) plays while under suspension;
 - (e) plays for a club, team or in a competition when not permitted to do so under Competition Regulations (for example if he/she is “cup tied”);
 - (f) plays using a name that is not his/her own
 - (g) Any breach of the PPS, including but not limited to visa status, points cap failure to apply the mechanics of the PPS correctly.
 - (h) plays in an ineligible division or age grade
 - (i) plays below their player rating (NB: Does not apply if CF has granted an exemption)
- 2.8.14 It is the responsibility of a Club to ensure that they do not play ineligible players and check that all their players are registered through the MyFootballClub data base

Where a Club plays an ineligible player:

- (a) Any Club can make a claim on player ineligibility to CF irrespective of the fixture. Any claims for ineligibility must be received within two (2) business days of the final whistle of the match in question.
- (b) CF will consider a claim on player ineligibility made by a Match Official on the match card or in a match report. However, this Rule in no way is to be taken

as placing an obligation on Match Officials to check that all, or any, players are bona fide players

- (c) Any Club found guilty will be sanctioned and forfeit the game, with full points for the fixture awarded to their opponents and a 3-0 forfeit result recorded. The offending team shall also be subject to any additional disciplinary action as considered appropriate that is imposed by Capital Football.
 - (d) Any player who knowingly plays as an ineligible player may be suspended for up to four (4) matches
 - (e) Any participating Club or office holder of any such Club or any player or coach affiliated with any such Club who is found to have knowingly participated in any practice of playing an ineligible player may be disqualified by CF from football for life or be subject to such other punishment as may be determined by the CM to be appropriate, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.
 - (f) Where a club can prove to the satisfaction of CF that an administrative error resulted in rendering a player ineligible, CF may deem the player eligible.
- 2.8.15 CF officials may attend games and/or conduct random audits and checks of match cards or other game day material. Nothing in Rule 2.8.14 is to be taken to prevent CF from determining a player in a current or past game to be ineligible or from sanctioning a Club, Club Office Holder, CVO or player at any time in relation to playing an ineligible player.
- 2.8.16 Where both teams from the same match are in breach of player eligibility the match result will be determined as a No Result. The Club(s) shall also be fined at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, meet costs associated with the match or a greater amount as determined by the CM and, in addition, may have other disciplinary action imposed.
- 2.8.17 Prior to any match the managers of both teams shall complete an official match card as specified in these rules. At the same time, and if so requested by either manager, the manager of each team will present to the other manager player proof of identification of any player listed on the match card. Where a Club suspects any abnormality or breach of CF's Rules or Regulations, or where an opposing Club is unable to produce proof of identification, they shall:
- (a) Advise the opposing Club of their intention to report the matter to CF
 - (b) Make notification in the comments section of the match card of their intention to report the matter
 - (c) Submit a written report to CF within 3 days of the conclusion of the match
 - (d) Submit photographic evidence (if available) or supporting witness statements to support any abnormality.
- 2.8.18 Where an abnormality or breach of these Rules involves the true identity of a player participating in a fixture, the Club shall bring the matter to the attention of the Match Official and request that he report the abnormality to CF. The Match Official may also confirm that suitable identification was produced and recorded on a report to CF.

- (a) Any Club that fails to produce player proof of identification upon request from the opposing team manager, CF representative or match official shall be liable to a penalty as determined by the CM
 - (b) If a Club wishes to protest against an ineligible player, or protest against any aspect of the conduct of a match or dispute any details contained on a match card, they must write to the CM setting out details of the basis of the protest (supporting documents) within three (3) days of completion of the match.
- 2.8.19 Any team found guilty of playing a registered player who was not included on the match card at the commencement of the game will be fined at level BR7 under schedule 1 of these rules.
- 2.8.20 CF may grant permission to a club to field guest players in approved fixtures, in accordance with FFA National Registration Regulations.
- 2.9 Player movement for Premier League into Junior League.**
- 2.9.1 NPL18, NPL16, NPL14, NPL13, players can play in any age eligible competition at the Division 1 level.
- 2.9.2 NPLW17, NPLW15 or NPLW13 players can play in any age eligible competition at the Division 1 level.
- 2.9.3 NPL First Grade, NPL20, NPLW and NPLWR players cannot play in the JL regardless of being age eligible
- 2.9.4 A maximum of two (2) Junior Premier League players may be dropped into JL per week, per team (e.g. Two (2) PL U16 players play U16/1 and two (2) PL U16 players play U18/1). Where a team plays more than two PL players as per 2.9 or plays any PL player in any other JL competition the club will be sanctioned as if the players were deemed to be ineligible and a forfeit win will be allocated to the opposition. The offending club will be fined at level BR4 under the Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 2.9.5 Clubs who fail to advise the CJL prior to midday on the day preceding the relevant match that PL player/s will be dropped back to JL may be fined at level BR2 under the Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 2.9.6 There is no limit to the number of times a player can be dropped into JL excluding final series.
- 2.9.7 Clubs seeking to play a Premier League player in the JL outside of the approved pathway in 2.9.1, 2.9.2 and 2.9.3 must request an exemption on club letterhead to the CJL. Where no exemption is sought the club may be fined at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these rules. The CJL will release the exemption to the opposition upon request however is not obligated to do so prior to the start of the fixture.
- 2.9.8 Once a JL player plays more than ten (10) Junior Premier League games their status will change and they will be deemed a Premier League player.
- 2.9.9 At no stage can a Junior Premier League player play both for a Premier League club and a school in the Junior League, unless provided a dual registration by FFA.

2.10 Clubs removed or withdrawing from competitions

- 2.10.1 In the event of any Club withdrawing or being removed from a CF Competitions, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered competition/s to proceed
- (a) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn before the competition has started will be treated as a Bye unless CF decides to adjust the competition in some other way that will allow the competition to continue in a fair manner.
 - (b) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn during the first stage of a competition will be treated as a Bye with all points and goals (for and against) awarded in such matches that were played prior to the removal or withdrawal deleted and a Bye result recorded. A stage of a competition refers to a full round of competition fixtures.
 - (c) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn during a second or subsequent stage of a competition will be treated as a Bye in that stage with all points and goals awarded in matches played during that stage, but prior to the removal or withdrawal, deleted and a Bye result recorded. All points and goals awarded in matches involving the removed or withdrawn team in prior competition stages will stand.
- 2.10.2 In the event that a Club is forced to withdraw a team from a competition they will withdraw the team that plays in the lowest grade or division for the Club, excluding Masters, JL or Premier League teams or as directed by CM.
- 2.10.3 The CM has the authority to advise a Club as to which team will be withdrawn in the best interest of the competitions and where appropriate the CM shall fine a Club that has a team removed or withdrawn from a competition at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and may impose other sanctions on the Club where appropriate.

2.11 Other Competitions

- 2.11.1 CF may conduct other competitions before, throughout and after the conclusion of the playing season.
- 2.11.2 Rules for these competitions shall be set by the CM prior to their commencement but at all times shall be subject to the following rules:
- (a) No Club may enter more than one team in any competition except with the express permission of the CM.
 - (b) All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game and a result in knockout matches determined in accordance with Rule 5.3.
 - (c) Only players correctly registered with CF shall be eligible to play.
 - (d) Clubs participating in the FFA Cup shall be bound by the FFA Cup Competition regulations as promulgated from FFA.
- 2.11.3 ***Clubs playing players in other competitions who are ineligible to play are subject to sanctions and penalties as per these rules or in accordance with FFA Cup Competition regulations.***

3 FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Facilities/ground arrangements

- 3.1.1 Each Club must ensure that it complies fully with the criteria set out below.
- 3.1.2 CF shall approve all grounds for all matches sanctioned by CF and shall allocate Clubs a ground that conforms to the guidelines stated by the CM (PL criteria).
- 3.1.3 Any Club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be fined at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, suspended or have its home fixtures played away or at an alternate venue.
- 3.1.4 CF may grant special dispensation to Clubs who are in the process of upgrading their facilities in accordance with CF's requirements.
- 3.1.5 It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure they provide a safe environment for their members. To minimise risk and to prevent injury, football goals are to be constructed and installed to the correct safety standards. The main areas of concern are:
- (a) Securing and stability of the goal frame.
 - (b) Net fixings to the frame of the goal.
 - (c) The net itself.
- CF will compile a Net Duty roster for relevant competitions. Failure by a club to adhere to the roster will result in a fine at BR 4 under schedule 1 of these rules.
- 3.1.6 All football goals that are installed as a permanent structure on a football pitch must be properly secured, installed at the regulation width and height, as per the Laws of the Game, and should have no sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.
- 3.1.7 If a Club uses portable goals for training or competition, it must ensure that these goals conform to the current Standards Australia Handbook "Portable Football Goalposts – Manufacture, use and storage". The manufacturer of portable goals should provide the Club with a certificate of conformity.
- 3.1.8 Nets, ground and line markings.
- (a) Ground and line markings must be clear, accurate and within the dimensions specified in the Laws of the Game. Products such as agricultural limestone, water based spray paint or other similar material which will not endanger ground users or damage turf grasses are the only substances that should be used.
 - (b) To ensure the safety of all players, Match Officials and spectators, any Club found in breach, will not be able to play any home matches until the breach has been rectified or CF grants dispensation from these requirements.

- (c) In all matches sanctioned by CF the home team that plays in the last match of the day shall dress the ground and ensure adequate line-marking. All equipment needs to remain in place for the day. .
- (d) A home Club whose match is postponed/abandoned due to the use of prohibited substances for marking their grounds (as per 3.1.8 (a)) or fails to have the ground line marked appropriately, will forfeit the match and three (3) points will be awarded to the opposing team. The home Club will also incur a fine at level BR 4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules as set out in the CFDDR.

3.1.9 Pitch Exclusion Zone

- (a) All spectators and non-participants must be either behind barriers surrounding enclosed pitches or a minimum of three (3) metres away from all sidelines or five (5) metres from all goal lines at all matches. Such an area shall be termed the “pitch exclusion zone”.
- (b) On grounds which contain adjacent playing pitches and on which matches are being played side by side, no person other than the Match Officials and person previously approved by the CF shall be permitted to position themselves between these playing pitches during the progress of any match.
- (c) The only persons permitted within the pitch exclusion zone at any time during the progress of any match shall be:
 - (i) the competing players and reserves from each team;
 - (ii) the coach and manager;
 - (iii) the officiating referees and linesmen;
 - (iv) first-aid or emergency services personnel;
 - (v) nominated club officials wearing CF Official vests;
 - (vi) accredited media personnel;
 - (vii) ball kids;
 - (viii) CM or designated CF Staff.

3.1.10 Failure by CVO to ensure the above will result in fine at level BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and/or sanctions as determined by the CM.

3.1.11 Premier League – Preferred Requirements

For Premier League matches, the pitch must:

- (a) have a minimum length of 100 metres and a minimum width of 60 metres.
- (b) be rectangular and enclosed by a permanent fence (or barrier) secured to the ground, at a minimum height of 1.1 metres and at a minimum distance of three metres from the side lines and five metres from the goal lines, which has a limited number of lockable entrances

- (c) be an evenly grassed surface and well drained with all internal field markings marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game
 - (d) have goalposts, goal nets and corner flags of approved material, colour and dimensions as per the current Laws of the Game. Corner flags must not feature nationalistic emblems or reference
 - (e) have two associated benches/dugouts, each with adequate seating for eight people.
- 3.1.12 Premier League fixtures must provide amenities for players and Match Officials
- (a) the amenities must be in permanent building/s and must include two lockable changing/dressing rooms for players and one for Match Officials, with exclusive access to:
 - (i) a shower area with floors and walls of a minimum 1.2 metres that provide hot and cold showers.
 - (ii) Toilet facilities.
 - (b) No access is permitted to a Match Official's change room unless authorised by the Match Official
 - (c) A working mobile phone must be made available by both teams to the match referee if required.
- 3.1.13 All Premier League Clubs must have available at all home fixtures a designated First Aid Officer. The name of the First Aid Officer/Organisation in attendance must be recorded on the match card in the appropriate position. First aid can only be delivered by:
- (a) a person with a first aid certificate or higher qualification
 - (b) a Medical Practitioner
 - (c) a member of the St John's Ambulance Service (or equivalent).
- 3.1.14 Spectator amenities shall be fully enclosed with perimeter fencing, at least 1.8 metres high and include:
- (a) at least one toilet block for male and one for female patrons situated not more than 50 metres from the playing field
 - (b) a canteen/kiosk serving hot and cold drinks and snack foods compliant with all health and council regulations
 - (c) disabled toilet access (where installed).
- 3.1.15 Other amenities will include:
- (a) a media viewing area/room, providing unobstructed views of the playing arena and scoreboard (where installed),

- (b) a fully functional public address system that is audible to all parts of the venue, including social areas (where installed).
- (c) external signboard, displaying the names of teams playing (where installed).

3.1.16 **Community League Competitions – Essential Requirements**

For Community League fixtures, the pitch must:

- (a) have a minimum length of 90 metres and a minimum width of 45 metres
- (b) be evenly grassed surface with all internal field markings marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game CM can approve pitch markings which do not conform
- (c) have goalposts, goal nets and corner flags of approved material, colour and dimensions as per the current Laws of the Game. Corner flags must not feature nationalistic emblems or reference

3.1.17 Ground amenities and services should include:

- (a) access to toilet facilities and change rooms (where permanent buildings have been erected)
- (b) basic first aid equipment.

3.2 **Technical Area**

3.2.1 For Premier League and Finals fixtures in all competitions the home Club must clearly mark out the Technical Area as stipulated by FIFA guidelines.

- (a) Occupants of the Technical Area must be either a registered player or a registered Team Official and players must be clearly identifiable
- (b) A player or team official who is under suspension must not occupy a seat in the Technical Area.

3.2.2 For the Technical Area:

- (a) A maximum of nine (9) persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area, including the coach, assistant coach, the team manager, the substitutes and either a doctor or physiotherapist. Seating shall be supplied by the home team in sufficient quantity
- (b) All persons within the Technical Area must remain seated as per the Laws of the Game, except in special circumstances (for example, a physiotherapist or doctor exiting, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player)
- (c) As per Rule 3.4, substitutes are permitted to leave the Technical Area for the purposes of warming up

3.2.3 The Match Official may expel any person from the bench at any time as he or she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left the playing field to the Match Official's satisfaction.

3.3 Match cards - results

- 3.3.1 The home Club shall be responsible for the provision of the CF approved match cards which must be completed, in ink, in a legible manner by both teams. Failure to comply with this Rule on the part of the offending Club shall attract a fine at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- (a) Clubs must list on the match card all players (to a maximum of 16) taking part in a fixture (name, shirt number, FFA number), the CVO and full match details and must produce to the Match Official a match card, not less than 15 minutes before the commencement of any match.
 - (b) If a player is listed on the match card and did not take part in the fixture, the Match Official or the team manager is to mark "DNP" (did not play) on the match card.
 - (c) A player's Club will be guilty of misconduct if:
 - (i) a player listed on the match card is ineligible
 - (ii) a player who takes the field is not listed on the match card or is ineligible.
- 3.3.2 Both teams must ensure that the Match Official completes the match card after the game.
- (a) Representatives from each team must sign the match card at the conclusion of the fixture and should do so only after the appointed Match Official has recorded all outstanding details.
 - (b) Once signed by all parties at the conclusion of the fixture, each Club must take their copy of the match card.
- 3.3.3 Where a Club causes a match to be delayed due to incorrect completion of a match card, late production of a match card, player identification issues or similar administrative matters, the delay shall be reported by the Match Official to CF. The Club responsible shall attract a fine at level BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 3.3.4 Under no circumstances shall two (2) players playing in the same team at the same time be permitted to have the same shirt number.
- 3.3.5 Other than JL, Women's Community League and Premier League, all match cards (including any send off or incident reports) must be sent by the Match Official to the registered office of CF to arrive by COB on the second working day.
- (a) The home Club is responsible for the delivery of the original match card when the match does not have an appointed Match
 - (b) Failure to submit the match card within seven days from the completion of the match by the home team will result in a 3-0 win recorded to the away team and shall attract a fine at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

- (c) Both teams must enter the match records (as directed by CF) to the on-line results system no later than **2 days** after the conclusion of the last fixture of the day.

3.3.6 For Premier League, match cards must arrive by close of business second working day following the fixture.

In addition, Clubs:

- (a) must ensure that the match results, including goal scorers and time of goals scored, are communicated to the Competitions Manager competitions@capitalfootball.com.au and the Coordinator Digital Engagement media@capitalfootball.com.au no later than 60 minutes after the conclusion of the last fixture of the day

- (b) must enter the match records (as directed by CF) to the on-line results system no later than two (**2**) **days** after the conclusion of the last fixture of the day.

- (c) The following details must be captured for the NPL and NPLW competitions

- Starting eleven (11) including jersey numbers
- Substitutes including jersey numbers
- Captain of each team
- Coach of each team
- Goal scorers including goal type and time of goal
- Substitution including the player off/on and minute of substitution
- Disciplinary Statistics including yellow and red cards
- Penalty shoot-out results

3.3.7 Match cards from Womens' Community League should be delivered to the Venue Manager at the conclusion of the day's matches. If there is no Venue Manager present then the home team must communicate match results to CF (all competitions).

3.3.8 Match cards from JL are collected by a nominated representative (Club Points Registrar) from the Home Junior Club and are to be delivered to CF no later than COB Tuesday following the competition round.

3.3.9 Notwithstanding Rule 3.3.6, results of each Match may be communicated to CF by any of the following methods:

- (a) Facsimile: (02) 6260 4999
- (b) Email: relevant competitions staff member
- (c) On-line: <http://www.sportstg.com>

- 3.3.10 Clubs failing to notify CF of match results by the time stipulated or fail to have the match cards submitted on time may be fined at the level of BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules. Clubs who are regularly in breach of this rule may be referred to the CM with a view to imposing further sanctions.
- 3.3.11 When a match is forfeited the match card shall be endorsed accordingly by the Match Official.
- 3.3.12 Any Club Associate supplying false information shall be deemed to have been guilty of misconduct and dealt with under CFDDR.
- 3.3.13 Where a match result is in dispute or differs from the result posted electronically or the signed match card the CM will notify the respective Clubs who will be responsible for agreeing on the correct result and advising it to CM within three (3) working days of notification. Failure to agree on a result and advise CM within the specified time will lead to a no result being recorded for that game and no points being awarded.
- 3.3.14 For competitions with a substitute rule, players listed in the first eleven (11) spaces of the match card shall be deemed to have started in that match, unless otherwise indicated on the match card for all matches that have the substitution rule in place as stated in Rule 3.4.

3.4 Player Numbers and substitution/interchange

- 3.4.1 A match is to be played by two (2) teams in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than seven (7) players (fewer than five (5) players for U10 and U11 JL fixtures).
- 3.4.2 Premier League (NPL, NPL20, NPL18 & NPLW, NPLWR) and Men's Capital League fixtures are subject to the following substitution regulations:
 - (a) NPL Up to three substitutes are allowed
 - (b) NPL20, NPL18 Up to four substitutes are allowed
 - (c) Men's Capital League Up to five substitutes are allowed
 - (d) NPLW, NPLWR Up to five substitutes are allowed
- 3.4.3 For all other divisions the interchange rule applies. There is no limit to the number of interchanges.
 - (a) Substitutions and interchanges are only permitted at the half way line and when the Match Official has indicated that a change can be made.
 - (b) If the Match Official deems that a Club is contravening the spirit of the game by interchanging excessively to waste time the Match Official can refuse to allow an interchange and may caution the offending team if appropriate.
- 3.4.4 Substitutes may warm up outside of the Technical Area, provided they are wearing an alternative coloured uniform/bib to the team strip.

3.4.5 When warming up, substitutes must choose an area furthest from the opposing team or as advised by the appointed Match Official

3.4.6 Any Club who makes more substitutions than allowed under section 3.4.2 will forfeit the match resulting in a 3-0 score.

3.5 Club Vested Officials (CVO)/Security/Police

3.5.1 Clubs must provide for CVO to attend games. CF may increase the minimum number of CVO required for any fixture at any time, otherwise the minimum number of CVO that Clubs will be required to provide will be:

- (a) Three for Premier League Clubs and Men's Capital League
- (b) Two for NPLW, NPLWR, NPL20, NPL18 and all State League Division 1 Clubs (Men's and Womens)
- (c) One for all other divisions
- (d) Junior League fixtures should have a designated CVO at all fixtures from U12 and above.

3.5.2 Where two teams from different competitions play each other the number of CVO required from both clubs shall be the number required by the Club team of the higher competition.

3.5.3 Club Vested Officials must:

- (a) be in clearly identifiable officials vests and visible at all times
- (b) work together with the CVO from the opposition to deal with any disturbances that may arise, assist with the welfare of the Match Officials and escort dismissed players from the playing area.
- (c) ensure that the Spectator Code of Conduct is being adhered to by their own club Associates. If a Club Associate is not behaving in accordance with the code, the CVO may approach the person and remind them of their obligations.
 - i. If the matter is unable to be addressed, or the CVO is concerned for their own safety and wellbeing contact needs to be made with the Match Officials who can take the appropriate action which may include stopping the match until the incident has been dealt with satisfactorily.
 - ii. Where intervention from a club vested official or a match official may escalate a situation CVO should contact the Australian Federal Police.
- (d) take responsibility for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the ground until the time they depart the ground. As part of their responsibilities they must escort the Match Officials to and from the field of play at half time and full time

- (e) make sure unauthorised personnel are kept out of the Match Officials' change rooms
- (f) report to the Match Official fifteen minutes prior to kick off time of the matches. Failure by teams to observe this Rule shall attract a fine at level BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules
- (g) must have their name correctly (printed) entered on the match card. Failure by teams to observe this Rule shall attract a fine at level BR1 under Schedule 1 of these Rules for each irregularity on a match card.
- (h) must not remain in or around any designated Technical Area.

3.5.4 Clubs/Vested Match Officials may report incidents to CF as necessary.

3.5.5 All costs associated with the provision of CVO, if any, must be met by such parties as CF sees fit.

3.5.6 Match Officials should not leave their dressing rooms to enter the field of play, or leave the field to return to their rooms, until identifiable CVO are present.

3.5.7 Each Club must take every step to ensure that player change rooms are not accessed by unauthorised personnel. However, each team is responsible for the safety of their players' property and anything left in a change room is done so at the owner's risk.

3.5.8 A failure by a Club Associate to comply with rule 3.5 shall attract a fine at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

3.6 Match Balls

3.6.1 For the Premier League, (Men's and Women's), the home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with 3 match balls (CF approved) no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled fixture. For all other divisions each team (home and away) will supply one CF approved match ball.

3.6.2 At the conclusion of the game, the match balls will be returned to the relevant Club/s.

3.6.3 All NPL Clubs must use a licensed Match ball from one of CF's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by CF from time to time.

3.6.4 Any breach of the Match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to CF by the Match Official.

3.6.5 The following ball sizes must be used in the following competitions:

- (a) in Accordance with the Aldi MiniRoos Handbook
- (b) U12 – U13 Junior Competitions; NPL/WPL 13 - Size 4 ball
- (c) All other competitions - Size 5 ball

3.6.6 A failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine at level BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

3.7 Players Strip/Apparel

- 3.7.1 The playing colours of a Club in CF competitions shall be as nominated by the club and endorsed by CF. Failure of any team to play in their nominated strip may result in their Club being sanctioned.
- 3.7.2 All teams must nominate two entirely different “home” and “alternate” playing strips to avoid any potential colour clashes. Clubs may only play in their nominated Club strips.
- (a) No part of the alternate playing strip (shirts, shorts & socks) may be the same as the home playing strip (for instance, if a Club nominates white shorts for its home strip, it cannot nominate white shorts for its alternate strip).
 - (b) Predominantly black playing shirts (including goalkeepers) will not be permitted under any circumstances.
 - (c) All teams named first on the CF fixture shall be deemed the home team and will therefore play in their home strip.
 - (d) If there is a clash of colours at any match, it is the away team’s responsibility to change into an alternate strip (except Junior League competition fixtures where it is the Home teams’ responsibility to change strip). Visiting Clubs may be required to wear a combination of their home and alternate strips to ensure the clash is resolved.
 - (e) In the event of a Club fielding a team in colours similar to those of the opposing team, and where the home team raises the issue with the Match Official, or where the Match Official is of the opinion that confusion may arise, the Match Official may order the visiting Club to change its colours and refuse to allow the fixture to commence until a satisfactory change is made. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
 - (f) Team managers must check the apparel worn by their opponents on a weekly basis to avoid the likelihood of a clash in colour of playing of strips.
 - (g) Any tape or other material on/covering socks must be the same colour as the sock
 - (h) Undershorts must be colour of shorts and team must wear all the same colour
- 3.7.3 A Club may be penalised if:
- (a) A Match does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that such Club or team did not comply with rule 3.7.2 (e)
 - (b) a Club changes their home or alternate playing strip without CF’s prior written approval, and this change results in a match being postponed
- Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine at level BR6 under Schedule 1 of these Rules
- 3.7.4 Goalkeepers may wear any colour except black, provided it does not clash with either team or the Match Official. Any failure to do so must be reported to CF by the Match

Official and an offending Club may be fined at level BR6 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

3.7.5 All players are required to wear shin guards (that provide adequate protection) at all times whilst on the field of play. However a player losing footwear/shinguard accidentally can play on until the next stoppage.

3.7.6 FIFA 'Laws of the Game' state that players are forbidden to wear any equipment that may be dangerous to either the player themselves, or to another player. This includes, but is not limited to, jewelry and spectacles.

(a) All jewelry, including wedding bands and any studs, rings, bars or other body-piercing jewelry must be removed before a player enters the field of play. No taping of any type is permitted

(b) Any player wearing jewelry will be cautioned and removed from the field of play until the Match Official is satisfied that the player has removed the item in question. There are no exceptions to this rule

(c) Any player requiring vision correction should consider wearing contact lenses, or wear spectacles that:

(i) are firmly secured with a sports band or adjustable strap,

(ii) have purpose-designed and closely fitted curled ends on the arms, or

(iii) are specially designed protective sports glasses constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and no metallic parts.

3.8 **Stretchers/First Aid**

3.8.1 Each Home Club must allocate one stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use at all fixtures (Premier League mandatory). Clubs that fail to do so may be fined at level BR1 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

3.8.2 Each Club must ensure that stretchers are placed at the half way line (or appropriate place where it can be found easily) prior to the commencement of each fixture and that they remain inside the barrier/fence, in a safe and accessible position to first aid staff, for the duration of the match.

3.8.3 Wooden or canvas stretchers are prohibited. Clubs must ensure their stretchers comply with current Australian Standards.

3.8.4 It is recommended that Clubs have a person trained in first aid present during all matches (Premier League criteria).

3.8.5 Clubs must have procedures specific to their home ground complex, to assist ambulances reaching injured people with a minimum of delay. These procedures should include, but are not limited to:

a) Advice to the ambulance service of the best entry strategy to the complex; and

b) The deployment of personnel to guide the attending ambulance to the ambulance gateway and the position of the injured person.

- 3.8.6 The CJL will compile and distribute to JL clubs prior to the start of each season a list indicating, for each playing venue:
- a) Whether a qualified first aider will be routinely in attendance;
 - b) How any such person may be identified;
 - c) Where the required first aid kit and ice will be located; and
 - d) Ambulance attendance procedures.

3.9 Correspondence/Communication

- 3.9.1 All correspondence by CF to Clubs shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:
- (a) in the case of email or fax communication immediately;
 - (b) in the case of communication sent by mail 2 days after such communication was posted
- 3.9.2 Clubs must ensure that postal mailboxes, specified email accounts and the CF Website is checked regularly, and that any information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties.
- 3.9.3 All correspondence received by CF from Clubs must be on Club letterhead and signed by a Club official, or if sent by email, from the Club's email address as registered with CF.
- 3.9.4 All Clubs must have a designated active email address.

3.10 Lighting standards

- 3.10.1 Clubs wishing to play competition fixtures under lights must ensure that lighting complies with the guidelines as set out in the Australian Standards AS2560.2.3 - Guide to Sports Lighting Part 2.3 – Lighting for all Football codes.

3.11 Smoking/Drinking At League Venues

- 3.11.1 It is prohibited for anyone to smoke or consume alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence. This includes the team bench within the Technical Area and anywhere on or within ten metres of the touchline. Failure to comply with this Rule will render a fine at the level of BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and may be further penalised by CF
- 3.11.2 The Club must obtain a license as required under the Liquor Licensing Act to sell alcohol and must abide by those conditions as set out in the Liquor Licensing Act. Clubs are not permitted to sell drinks in glass containers. Failure to comply with this Rule will render a fine at the level of BR6 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and may be further penalised by CF.
- 3.11.3 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that smoking and drinking alcohol are confined to legitimate public areas (which includes non-smoking in permanent seating) at a distance no less than ten metres from the playing field.

- 3.11.4 If any person is in breach of this Rule, both the individual and if the person is a Club Associate, that person's Club, may be fined at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and face disciplinary action under the CFDDR.

4 FIXTURE DETAILS

4.1 Duration of Matches

4.1.1 The following match times will apply to the specified competitions.

All CF fixtures will be played over two periods of 45 minutes except the following:

- (a) PL13 will play two periods of 30 minutes
- (b) PL14 will play two periods of 35 minutes
- (c) Womens Community League will play two periods of 40 minutes
- (d) Aldi Miniroos will play as specified in the National Playing formats and rule handbook
- (e) JL match times vary dependent on age groups and are reflected at schedule 2.
- (f) The Match Official may cut short any match if in their opinion playing conditions compromise player safety and:
 - (i) to do so is in line with FIFA rules
 - (ii) They have consulted with the coaches of each participating team.
 - (iii) if the fixture will not be completed before the kick-off time for the following fixture

4.1.2 The half-time interval must be a minimum of five (5) minutes and no longer than 15 minutes in duration. The duration of the half-time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Match Official. JL fixtures including PL16, PL14 and PL13 will have a maximum duration of five minutes in competition fixtures.

4.1.3 The allowance for time lost is at the discretion of the Match Official and can only be applied to the last fixture of the day or as directed by CF. No allowance for time lost can be added to JL fixtures (including PL16, PL14 and PL13) except to extend time for the taking of a penalty kick at the end of each half. Allowance may be made in either half for all time lost through:

- (a) substitutions
- (b) assessment of injury to players
- (c) removal of injured players from the field of play for treatment
- (d) wasting time
- (e) any other cause.

4.1.4 Kick off times of all official matches shall be as determined by the CM and shall be detailed in the official fixture lists.

- 4.1.5 Matches will commence at the appointed time, or in the event of a match whose commencement is dependent upon the completion of the previous match, within ten minutes of the conclusion of the previous match (five (5) minutes for JL fixtures).
- (a) Where a match starts after the prescribed kick off time, the playing time of the match shall be reduced if at the Match Official's discretion the next match kick off would be delayed beyond the normal starting time. The match shall be played in two (2) equal periods.
 - (b) If a team fails to enter the field of play, or has an insufficient number of players for the match to proceed, after fifteen minutes of the programmed starting time (ten minutes for U10 and U11 JL fixtures), the referee shall inform both teams that the game has been called off, and notify CF in writing. A forfeit win will be awarded to the non-offending team. Where both teams are at fault the fixture will be deemed null and void (no result will be recorded).
 - (c) Failure to commence a fixture at the set times will result in a fine at level BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 4.1.6 CF may start matches from 9:00am for any daytime fixture which may include Saturday, Sunday or any Public Holiday.
- (a) Unless instructions have been issued by CF the last match of the day must start no later than 3:00pm for any daytime match.
 - (b) All other matches prior to this kick off time must be played in two (2) periods that shall allow the last match to kick off at the scheduled kick off time.

4.2 Abandoned Matches

- 4.2.1 A match card is required for abandoned matches.
- 4.2.2 Matches may only be abandoned by a decision of the Match Official. In the absence of a match official CF shall have the designated authority to recommend the abandoning of any fixture, competition and/or organise other fixtures or competitions as necessary in the interests of CF.
- 4.2.3** If 80 per cent or more of normal time of a match has been played, then the score at the time of abandonment will stand unless the matter is referred to CF.
- 4.2.4 If less than 80 per cent of normal time of a match has been played before the time of abandonment, the score at the time of the abandonment is null and void. The match may be replayed in full at a time to be determined by CF, however there is no obligation to do so.
- 4.2.5 The match will be abandoned if:
- (a) any Club has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA requirement of seven players.
 - (b) the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play.

- (c) the Match Official determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason, or
 - (d) the Match Official, in consultation with security staff, CF staff and ground officials, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.
- 4.2.6 If a Match is abandoned due to a matter set out in rule 4.2.4 (d) and CF or the Tribunal determines that one (or both) of the competing Clubs, or its Club Associates were directly responsible for the abandonment then one of the following outcomes may be imposed:
- (a) Match to be awarded as a “No Result”. In this situation, no points will be awarded to either team for that fixture
 - (b) Award Match result as 0-0 draw
 - (c) Award result 3–0 to the non-offending Club unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Club
 - (d) Match result to stand.
 - (e) One or both teams involved may be expelled from the competition.
- 4.2.7 Further any Club Associate responsible for the abandonment of a game will be fined at level BR6 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and may be guilty of misconduct and may be subject to further penalties under the CFDDR.
- 4.2.8 Home teams at non ACT Government owned grounds where practical shall inform visiting teams if their ground is closed. If the grounds are closed by Friday by ACT Sportsgrounds, then the CF Office shall publish a notice on its website and social media channels and advise the Match Officials of the cancellation of those fixtures.
- (a) In the event of all games in a competition round being cancelled, they shall be replayed on the first available wet weather allowance weekend. If no wet weather allowance weekends are available and an alternative date for these games cannot be supplied by either the Clubs or the CM, no points shall be awarded to any team and the games will not be replayed.
 - (b) In the event of some games being played and others not when the CM has not cancelled the games and ACT Sportsgrounds has not closed the grounds (or the game(s) are at grounds not under the control of ACT Sportsgrounds), the results for the played matches shall stand and the un-played games shall be played on the first available wet weather allowance weekend. If no wet weather allowance is available it is up to the Clubs involved to organise a new venue, date and time for the un-played match in accordance with this Rule. CF may at its discretion cancel all games if it is in the interest of the competitions and there is no time available to reschedule the un-played fixtures. It should be remembered that all games need the approval of the CM. If none of the possible options are taken up, the game will be classed as a ‘No Result’ and neither team will be awarded points.

4.3 Postponed Matches

- 4.3.1 Matches may only be postponed by the Match Official, the CM, CEO or a designated officer of CF (e.g. Venue Manager).
- 4.3.2 If a match is postponed, the home Club must notify the CF by the next working day after the scheduled match day.
- 4.3.3 Clubs shall be given fourteen (14) days to confirm a new date, time and venue for the match to be replayed from the date of the postponement and the match must be played prior to the final round of the regular season.
- (a) If clubs cannot reach an agreement CF will determine the new time and date for playing of a postponed match. Such decision is not open to appeal or review.
 - (b) Clubs are obliged to fulfill outstanding fixtures as determined by CF and any Club which fails to do so will automatically forfeit the match and may be further penalised.
 - (c) Any club failing to set a postponed fixture in accordance with this Rule will result in a fine at level BR3 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 4.3.4 Any fixture ordered by CF to be replayed must be completed by no later than one week before the conclusion of the playing season. CF may record the result of any match not completed within this time frame as a 'No-Result'.
- 4.3.5 Only officers of CF are permitted to approve the schedule or reschedule of any fixture. Any Club Associate or Club found guilty of rearranging a league fixture, or requesting the appointment of Match Officials outside a set kick-off time or date, will be fined at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and may be subject to further penalties and CF may record the final score of any such match as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.6 In the event of a blanket cancellation of games due to adverse ground or weather conditions in the final round of the season, NO GAMES will be replayed unless otherwise decided by CF.

4.4 Forfeits/Walk offs

- 4.4.1 Any Club that, without just cause, fails to fulfill an engagement to play one or more fixture/s on the appointed date and time and at the prescribed venue/s shall for each and every offence forfeit that fixture/s. The offending Club shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents relative to that fixture or fixtures. The offending Club may then be dealt with by the CM or Disciplinary Committee.
- 4.4.2 In the event of any team forfeiting its match the following procedure shall take effect:
- (a) Full points allocated for the match shall be forfeited to its opponents and the goals recorded according to three (3) goals scored by the team getting the points to nil (0) by the team who has forfeited.
 - (b) Clubs who advise CF in writing, at least five working days' notice that they will forfeit the match and will be fined at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

- (c) Clubs who fail to provide sufficient notice as set out in this Rule will be fined at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules; pay all appropriate Match Officials' fees, ground hire costs and pay compensation to opposing club as determined by the CM.
 - (d) In the event of a forfeit or walk off by a team once the fixture has commenced the allocation of any goal scorers will be determined by the CM.
- 4.4.3 Teams forfeiting on three (3) occasions without a satisfactory explanation shall be removed from the competition and may lose their affiliation to CF.
- 4.4.4 In the event of a walk-off by one club prior to the completion of a match, the team will be considered to have forfeited the match, and the club shall be liable to additional penalties and/or sanctions as the CM sees fit.
- 4.5 Matches Played for Double Points**
- 4.5.1 Matches played for double points will only be considered under the following circumstances:
- (a) Both teams involved must agree to play the single match for double points.
 - (b) Both teams involved in the matchup must have at least one additional remaining fixture against each other during the current season.
 - (c) The relevant matches must be within the same competition.
 - (d) Both teams must be unavailable for the same additional remaining fixture between both teams for reasons not listed under Rule 4.10.4.
- 4.5.2 A match designated for double points shall see the Match points listed in Rule 4.7 multiplied by two (2).
- 4.5.3 The designated remaining fixture between both teams will be deemed a No-Result.
- 4.5.4 Any recorded goal in a match played for double points will only count as one (1) goal when contributing towards a player's season tally of goals scored.
- 4.5.5 Any yellow and/or red carded shown to a player in a match played for double points will only count as one (1) card when contributing to a player's season tally of yellow and/or red card accumulation.
- 4.5.6 Men's and Women's Premier League matches are not open for consideration to be played for double points.
- 4.5.7 Matches may only be played for double points with approval by the CM. Any decision made by the CM is final and is not open to appeal.
- 4.6 Extreme Weather Conditions**
- 4.6.1 Refer to Capital Footballs Extreme Weather Policy.
- 4.7 Restrictions on Ground Usage**

4.7.1 CF may take whatever action is deemed necessary if a fixture or fixtures are affected by restrictions to the usage of grounds.

4.8 Match Points

4.8.1 In all competition fixtures, Match points will be awarded as follows:

- (a) WIN - Three Points
- (b) DRAW - One Point
- (c) LOSS - Nil Points
- (d) NO RESULT / WASHOUT - Nil Points for either team
- (e) BYE - Nil Points
- (f) FORFEIT - Three points

4.8.2 CF may record any fixture as a 'No Result'.

4.8.3 At the end of the season, all teams will be ranked from highest to lowest by virtue of the total number of points received. Determination for finals positions will be decided as per Rule 5.1.

4.9 Non-Participation in CF Fixture

4.9.1 Clubs are obliged to participate in fixtures as determined by the CF. Any Club which fails to do so will be penalised as follows and may also be subject to further sanction:

- (a) the Match will be awarded to the opposing team (as a 3-0 result),
- (b) a fine at level BR6 under Schedule 1 of these Rules will be served.
- (c) if both teams refuse to play, CF may award a 'No Result'.

4.10 Change of Fixture Requests

4.10.1 Change of venues will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Any application for a change of venue must be submitted to CF, on Club letterhead and signed by a Club official, no less than five working days prior to the match. CF will then consider the application and notify both Clubs of its decision.

4.10.2 Clubs requesting a fixture change must submit such a request to CF and the opposing club on Club letterhead and signed by the appropriate Club officer, 14 days prior to the scheduled date of the match for consideration. The request must be supported by the opposing club. Where CF grants such a postponement the match shall be played within the Rules governing postponed fixtures. Each team can only postpone three fixtures per season unless the CM grants the Club special permission due to exceptional circumstances.

4.10.3 Should an opposing Club be unable to recoup expenses resulting from a deferral, the CM shall determine the amount of compensation to be paid. Such compensation shall be the responsibility of the Club granted the deferral. Clubs will not be eligible to claim compensation for lost income or expenses for reusable items.

- 4.10.4 If the request involves International football fixtures, Music Festivals, weddings, baptisms, confirmations, Milestone Birthdays or any other social events CF may reject that request without further consideration.
- 4.10.5 Premier League Clubs requesting the rescheduling of a match or fixture will have the matter referred to the CM for determination. The CM will take into consideration details of the request, the advice of the PLSAC and the ongoing affect it may have on the Premier League competition as well as any affect a reschedule will have on the Premier League fixtures. Only where the CM considers the circumstances to be exceptional will matches or fixtures be rescheduled.
- 4.10.6 CF's decision in regards to rescheduling of league fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and shall not be appealable.

4.11 Admittance fees

- 4.11.1 Premier League Clubs may be provided with admittance passes to fixtures for the current season.
- (a) Admittance passes must be displayed upon entry to the home Club on the day of the match fixture
 - (b) Admittance passes are not season passes and only entitle the bearer admittance to the fixture in which that Club is participating.
- 4.11.2 No admission fees may be charged for Community League fixtures other than for finals fixtures. The maximum Community League finals series will be in line with Premier League admittance prices which are to be:
- | | |
|--|--------------|
| (a) Adults
(inclusive of GST) | Max. \$10.00 |
| (b) Students / Pensioners / Concession Holders
(inclusive of GST) | Max. \$5.00 |
| (c) Holders of current CF Passes and current FFA Passes | Free |
| (d) Current CF Special Pass Holders | Free |
| (e) Under 14 | Free |
| (f) Match Officials | Free |
| (g) Capital Football Life Members | Free |
| (h) Community League | Free |
- 4.11.3 Clubs may only charge admittance fees (GST Incl.) under Rule 4.10.2 if they are registered for GST.
- 4.11.4 In all cases where the costs of running the fixture are being met by CF, all gate takings shall be retained by CF.

- 4.11.5 Clubs shall be permitted to sell season tickets for their home fixtures. Club season tickets will only be valid for the Premier League home games of the Club that issued the tickets.
- 4.11.6 The Premier League Finals Day (Men's and Women's) along with the FFA Cup final match will be subject to an admission charge.
- 4.11.7 Community League Finals days may be subject to an admission fee
- 4.11.7 No admission fees may be charged for any JL fixtures.

4.12 Ticketing and refunds of money

- 4.12.1 This Rule is applicable to all CF Competition fixtures where admission fees are charged.
- 4.12.2 Clubs that charge admission fees must issue an admission ticket to the paying customer when the exchange of money is made.
- 4.12.3 Gate attendants or security staff whose role it is to collect the admission ticket must ensure that the ticket is torn in half and given back to the customer at the point of entry as proof of purchase.
- 4.12.4 Customers that present an authentic CF Media Pass, CF Special Pass or who are aged 14 years or younger, will be granted free entry and will not be issued an admission ticket.
- 4.12.5 It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that he or she retains proof of purchase.
- 4.12.6 This ticketing Rule is to be displayed at the ticket box at all venues where admission fees are charged.
- 4.12.7 Paying customers will be entitled to a full refund on the day of the game from the Club charging the admission fees provided the main fixture has been called off prior to the conclusion of the first half of the match for reasons of light failure or unsuitable ground conditions.
- 4.12.8 To be eligible to receive a full refund on the day of the game, the paying customer must present to the Club charging the admission fees the admission ticket (or part thereof) as proof of purchase.
- 4.12.9 If the main fixture is abandoned after the conclusion of the first half, then no refund will be given.
- 4.12.10 Admission fees must not exceed the fee structure set out in Rule 4.10.
- 4.12.11 Any Club who fails to abide by Rules 4.10 and/or 4.11 will be fined at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

4.13 Media and other passes

- 4.13.1 CF or FFA may issue fixture entry passes. No Club may refuse, without CF's prior written consent, entry to a holder of:
 - (a) a current CF or FFA media pass

- (b) a current CF special pass
- (c) a current FFA Gold Pass
- (d) a current VIP pass.
- (e) any FFA issued match pass
- (f) a Sportsradar pass

4.13.2 CF may withdraw a CF Media Pass at any time.

4.13.3 CF special passes are not valid for entry to non-CF sanctioned tournaments or fixtures.

5 FINALS (CHAMPIONSHIP) SERIES

5.1 Determination of positions for final (championship) series and PREMIERS

5.1.1 At the completion of the regular season the team which scores the highest number of points shall be declared **PREMIERS**

5.1.2 Should two (2) or more Teams in the same division at the completion of the regular season possess the same number of points then the team with the better goal difference shall be considered to be the higher.

Goal difference will be calculated as the number of goals scored against a team subtracted from the number of goals scored for the team. The higher positive figure goal difference shall be deemed the better the goal difference.

5.1.3 Where goal differences are equal, the team having scored the greater number of goals shall be considered the higher placed team.

5.1.4 If two (2) or more teams in the same grade or division have the same goal difference, and have scored the same number of goals, then the team which has the better head to head aggregate results during the regular season will be considered the higher.

5.1.5 Should the teams aggregate head to head result be level after all other considerations the teams will be declared Joint **PREMIERS**

5.1.6 There are no Finals Series fixtures for JL competitions outside of U16 and U18 age groups. At the completion of the JL the team finishing with the highest number of points in any division shall be declared **PREMIERS** of that division and the team next highest on points shall be declared the runners-up. Where a division is split to form a Premier draw and a Subsidiary draw, the **PREMIERS** and runners up for the division will come from the premier draw. Where two or more teams finish with the highest number of points at the end of the season they shall be declared joint **PREMIERS**, and no runners-up shall be declared. Where one team finishes as **PREMIERS**, but two or more teams finish equal second on points, the latter teams shall be declared joint runners-up.

5.2 Finals (Championship) Competition Format

5.2.1 The top four teams at the conclusion of the home and away season will progress to the Finals (Championship) Series. The finals series format will be released by CF prior to the commencement of the series however, NPL First Grade, NPL20, NPL18, all Men's Community League and Womens' Premier League finals series will be of a three week format found in the table below, unless otherwise directed by CF. NPL16, NPL14, NPL13, Women's Community League and U18 & U16 JL Finals Series will consist of a two week format found in the table below, unless otherwise directed by CF.

3 Week Format	Semi Finals	Preliminary Final	Grand Final
Teams Involved	Semi Final 1: 3 rd place vs 4 th place (in accordance with	Loser of Semi Final 2 vs Winner of Semi Final 1	Winner of Semi Final 2 vs Winner of Preliminary Final

	the league table and Rule 5) Semi Final 2: 1 st place vs 2 nd place		
2 Week Format	Semi Finals	Grand Final	
Teams Involved	Semi Final 1: 2 nd place vs 3 rd place (in accordance with the league table and Rule 5) Semi Final 2: 1 st place vs 4 th place	Winner of Semi Final 2 vs Winner of Semi Final 1	

- (a) Prior to the commencement of a competition other than Premier League, CF reserves the right to alter the number of teams that qualify for the finals series
- (b) Where CF has varied the number of finals series qualifying teams, CF may also vary the scheduling of games as well as game arrangements.

5.2.2 Host venues for the Finals (Championship) series will be determined at the absolute discretion of CF.

5.2.3 If any finals series fixture is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that fixture will be scheduled at an alternative day and alternative venue to be determined at the absolute discretion of CF.

5.3 Procedures to Determine the Winner of Matches in the Finals Series

5.3.1 All matches played in the finals series will be played over one leg.

5.3.2 If at the conclusion of any final, the scores between two (2) teams are tied, then extra time of 2 equal periods will be played.

- (a) For NPL, NPL20, NPL18, NPL 16, NPLW, NPLWR and NPLW 17 the play periods will be 15 minutes

- (b) For all other competitions, including NPL14, NPL 13 the play periods will be of 10 minutes

5.3.3 If scores are equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner of the Match.

5.3.4 The extra time and penalty kick arrangements will be consistent with those set out in the 'Procedures to determine the winner of a match' section of FIFA's Laws of the Game.

- 5.3.5 The winner of the Grand Final shall be deemed the **CHAMPIONS** for their division and grade.

5.4 **Substitution/Interchange Rules**

- 5.4.1 For all matches played during the finals series, the substitution and interchange Rule 3.4 applies.
- 5.4.2 The maximum number of substitutes permitted applies throughout the complete match including extra time, if any.
- 5.4.3 Teams wishing to make a substitution shall inform the 4th Match Official (if appointed) of the players involved in the substitution.

5.5 **Player Eligibility in the Finals**

Men's and Womens Premier Leagues

- 5.5.1 Players will be qualified and eligible for NPL or NPLW Finals (Championship) Series matches provided they are registered to their Club as of 30 June of the year the Competition is conducted.
- 5.5.2 In the NPL and NPLW, as long as a Player is age eligible, subject to Rule 5.5.3, they are permitted to play in any grade during the Finals (Championship) Series, subject to PPS provisions or any other eligibility criteria.
- 5.5.2 Players are also permitted to play up in any higher age grades of their club without affecting their eligibility to play in their registered age grade finals matches.
- 5.5.3 Players registered to NPLW and NPLWR are not permitted to play down into the U17-U13 age grades, regardless of being age eligible.

Community League and Junior League

- 5.5.4 To be qualified to play for a team in any Finals (Championship) Series Match in any Community League or Junior League competition, a Player must have played at least 5 Competition Season matches for that team.

Matches in the Finals (Championship) Series do not count towards the number of matches that a player has participated in for the purposes of Rule 2.8.4 (d).

Goalkeepers may be excluded from the total number of matches for the purposes of providing an exemption for a specialised position, applied for to CF on a case by case basis.

- (a) Players are permitted to play in a Finals (Championship) Series match in a higher division than the lowest division they have qualified for.
- (b) Players will not be eligible to represent any team or division in the finals series below the lowest one for which they have qualified for.
- (c) Players will not be eligible to represent another team from the same club in the same division during the Finals (Championship) Series, regardless whether they have qualified for that other team.

- (d) This Rule also applies where a team has been withdrawn during a competition season. The player will be qualified for finals for the team they have played the most games for, outside the withdrawn team.

5.5.5 A player who has qualified for more than one team or division in the finals series will be eligible to represent all teams they have qualified for.

- (a) Should a player play a Finals (Championship) Series match in a higher divisional rating in which they are not qualified, the player will be tied to that higher team for the remainder of the Finals (Championship) Series

5.5.6 The CM has the power to classify a player to a particular team or division if they believe it to be justified and appropriate.

5.5.7 A claim of player ineligibility can only be made to CF by the opposing club participating in the finals series of that division or grade. However, whilst a Match Official is not obliged to check that all players in a game are bona fide, if they are aware that an ineligible player is either on the match card or is playing in the game then they may bring the issue to the attention of CF.

5.6 Discipline

5.6.1 For all competitions there is no system for accumulation of yellow cards which may result in a mandatory match suspension for the relevant CF Finals (Championship) Series.

5.6.2 If a player receives a red card in the finals series, their Club will be notified of the player's suspension in writing within the terms of the CFDDR.

5.7 Trophies

5.7.1 Perpetual trophies awarded to Clubs are to be returned to CF by 31 July each year. This Rule also applies to pre-season competition trophies. Failure to return such trophies will result in a fine at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and costs to replace the trophy.

6 MATCH OFFICIALS

6.1 Match Officials - fees/appointments

- 6.1.1 The Match Official fees as set out in the CF website will apply but are subject to change at any time.
- 6.1.2 Unless otherwise stated, CF will invoice the Home team or organising club payment of all fees for Match Officials monthly after the completion of each fixture. Womens' State League and Masters are invoiced on a 50% share basis. Junior League competition fixtures are paid directly to the match official prior to kick off. Each team pays 50% of the designated fee (including appointed assistant referees).
- 6.1.3 The appointment of all Match Officials, except JL regular season Match Officials, to officiate at CF fixtures shall be vested in the RDM. The RDM is authorised to enlist the assistance of such persons as necessary and adopt such procedures as it deems most beneficial.
 - (a) The Evaluation Reports, as defined in these Rules, shall be used to assist the RDM in determining the selection of referees.

6.2 Assistant Match Officials

- 6.2.1 Two (2) Assistant Match Officials shall be appointed to a fixture, where possible, to assist the Match Official.
- 6.2.2 If insufficient Assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each team must nominate a person associated with the team who is available to assist the Match Official as an Assistant Referee. Failure to comply as of the commencement of the match will result in a fine at level BR3 to the offending team.
 - (a) Failure by a person associated with the team to assist the Match Official as an Assistant Referee for the entire duration required during the match may result in a fine at the level of BR3 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and may be further penalized by CF

6.3 Non-Attendance or unavailability of Match Official

- 6.3.1 If the designated Match Official fails to attend an assigned game, the next most senior Assistant Match Official (replacement) will take charge of the fixture unless the Assistant Match Official is not qualified through age or ability to referee the fixture.
- 6.3.2 If the Match Official is late arriving at a fixture, the replacement will take charge for the whole match.
- 6.3.3 If no registered Match Official is present to act as the replacement, the home Club must arrange the appointment of a person to act as Match Official for the fixture (Junior League fixtures the Home team must invite the Away team to arrange the appointment). Failure to comply with this Rule will render a fine at the level of BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and may be further penalised by CF
 - (a) It is recommended that the Club appointed match official should have sat a referee's information course within the last three (3) years

- (b) A Club appointed Match Official will have the power to sanction players in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

6.3.4 All clubs must fulfill all fixtures, regardless of whether or not the Match Official is present to take charge. Failure to do so may result in a fine and other sanctions.

6.4 Decisions of the Match Official

6.4.1 The decisions of the Match Official or Assistant Match Official about any incident or aspect of the game are final and cannot be disputed by any party. A Match Official may change a decision if he or she realises that decision to be incorrect, or on the advice of an Assistant Match Official, provided the play has not re-started.

6.5 Duties of a Match Official

6.5.1 Prior to the commencement of each match, the Match Official, or the Assistant Match Officials on behalf of the Match Official, must complete a pitch and facility inspection and then ensure that any abnormalities are reported to CF within two (2) working days.

6.5.2 A Match Official who has been appointed by CF to a match, shall without delay, report to CF any instance or instances of misconduct or foul play during the progress of the match which led to the dismissal of a player or players from the field of play.

- (a) The Match Official shall also report any instance of misconduct irrespective of whether such misconduct occurred before, during or after such match, and whether it shall have led to the player(s) being ordered from the field or not.
- (b) Any reports received by CF pursuant to this Rule shall be dealt with by the CM or referred by the CM to the Disciplinary Committee.

6.6 Match records

6.6.1 At the conclusion of each Match, the Match Official shall consult with his or her Assistant Match Officials and confirm the correctness of all match information before completing the match card. The Match Official must include:

- (a) names of the Match Officials
- (b) result of match
- (c) substitutions (time of substitution) for all competitions that implement the player substitution rule
- (d) the names of goal scorers (including the times of goals for Premier League)
- (e) cautions and send offs and any other match related reports.
- (f) significant injuries

6.6.2 Match cards and any required reports must be submitted to CF no later than COB two working days after the match date.

- 6.6.3 If a Club Official protests to the Match Official about the fielding of an ineligible player, the Match Official must instruct the Club official to lodge an official protest in accordance with the CFDDR.
- 6.6.4 The Match Official must ensure Clubs do not list more than 16 Players on a match card and not use more than 16 players.
- 6.6.5 Subject to any protest, the match cards received from the Match Official will be accepted as the accurate and official record of a match.

6.7 Player Safety and Blood Rule

- 6.7.1 It is the Match Official's responsibility to ensure that all players taking the field of play are wearing equipment that is safe to themselves and any other person.
- 6.7.2 If a player is wearing any equipment which may endanger him or herself, or any other player (see Rule 3.7) it is the Match Official's responsibility to ensure all such equipment is removed before the player enters the field of play.
- 6.7.3 The Match Official must ensure that any player who suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood leaves the ground immediately for the purpose of receiving medical attention outside the field of play.
- (a) The Match Official may allow the injured player to rejoin the game only after the Match Official is satisfied that the wound has been safely covered and contained
 - (b) If a Player's uniform or attire has blood spilt on it, the Match Official may require the player to change his or her attire before rejoining the game
 - (c) If the injured player is required to change his or her uniform, and a shirt displaying the same number as the original shirt is unavailable, the Match Official may in his or her discretion allow the player to wear an alternative numbered shirt
 - (d) Alternatively, in such circumstances, a team may replace the injured player in accordance with any applicable substitution/interchange rule.

6.8 Best and fairest votes

- 6.8.1 At the conclusion of each Premier League match, the Match Official must record the best and fairest votes on the match card.
- (a) Votes shall be cast in a 3-2-1 format with 3 votes given for the player adjudged by the Match Official to be the best and fairest in each match
 - (b) A player who receives a red card as defined in the CFDDR regardless of whether or not the penalty for that red card is reduced at the Tribunal shall be ineligible to win the award
 - (i) A player who has a red card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.

6.9 Referee Evaluation reports

6.9.1 The prime function of the Referee Evaluation report is to assess the performance of the Match Official and Assistant Match Officials. Referee Evaluation Reports are electronic and are available through the CF website.

6.9.2 Completing an evaluation report is **compulsory** for the following:

Premier League (Men's, NPL20, NPL18)
Women's Premier League, NPLWR, Capital League Men's

Completing an evaluation report is **optional** for the NPL 16's, NPL14s and NPL13s and the Capital League Reserves, each club that does not return any number of their reports in any one week may incur a fine at level BR1 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

- (a) All Men's League clubs across all the divisions have the option to complete an evaluation report for each referee of their Clubs' matches - home and away.
- (b) Referee Evaluation reports should be completed no later than Wednesday after the completion of the fixture.
- (c) All reports received by CF will be treated as strictly confidential between the person making the report, CF and members of the Referee's Technical Committee.

7 REGISTRATION

7.1 General Registration

- 7.1.1 All CF Affiliated Clubs must be registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations (NRR).
- (a) Registration may only be completed via the use of Prescribed Form NRR 02 – Application for Registration of Football Club
 - (b) Any newly affiliated CF Club must complete and lodge Prescribed Form NRR 02 – Application for Registration of Football Club prior to the commencement of their respective inaugural season.
- 7.1.2 ***In addition to any Sanctions*** set out in these Regulations, ***a failure to comply with or a breach of these Regulations will amount to Misconduct as defined in the CF Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.***
- 7.1.3 It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that a player's registration, re-registration and/or transfer forms have been correctly completed and lodged with CF by the relevant dates and times. CF is not responsible for any late, missing or incorrectly filed lodgments. Any player whose registration, re-registration and/or transfer forms have not been received per these Regulations before a weekend fixture will be deemed an ineligible player. CF, in conjunction with FFA, will maintain a complete list of all players registered with CF.
- 7.1.4 In the event of a player registration being found invalid due to an error on the part of CF or its agent or by any person/s issuing a clearance for such a registration, and where the error was unknown to the player and the club and in no way due to their actions, CF shall notify the player and the club and the player is an unregistered player from that time. In such cases, no retrospective action may be taken against the player or the club provided that the player shall not play until such time as the player can be correctly registered, as defined in these Regulations.
- 7.1.5 CF affiliated clubs are permitted to register a maximum of four (4) W-League players in MyFootballClub for outdoor football, per season.
- 7.1.6 Each team coach, qualified or unqualified, must be registered on MyFootballClub prior to the start of the respective season.

7.2 Player Status

- 7.2.1 Players who are registered with a Club shall be classified as either Amateur or Professional Players as defined below:
- (a) An Amateur Player is any Player that is not a Professional Player
 - (b) A Professional Player is a Player who has a written contract with a Club, in accordance with Rule 7.5
- 7.2.2 The status of each Player will be available in the Player's online registration database MyFootballClub.

7.3 Eligibility

7.3.1 Subject to these Regulations:

- (i) Amateur or Professional Players may play in the NPL
- (ii) Only Amateur Players may play in any other Competition administrated and operated by CF

7.3.2 A Player may only be registered with one (1) Club at any one time, in accordance with the FFA NRR and FIFA rules

7.3.3 Any player found to have knowingly signed registrations for more than one Club shall be considered an unregistered player and shall be subject to such penalties and/or sanctions as determined by CF. CF will also determine what, if any, action will be taken against the Clubs involved. In the event a Player signs registrations forms with more than one (1) Club, priority of registration shall be accorded to the Club who earliest in time obtained the Player's signature to a valid registration form.

7.3.4 A Player registered as a junior with a Club may only participate in senior competition at that Club, if the two Clubs are formally affiliated by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), unless the Player's registration is cancelled.

7.3.5 Payment of the appropriate CF Player registration fee will apply each time a player registers for a club throughout a season.

7.3.6 No Club shall enter into any Contract or Service Agreement with any player which prevents that player from playing or training with any approved Representative squad or Capital Football program, nor shall any Club actively prevent any Player from playing or training with any such squad.

7.3.7 CF may alter the Player registration fee at any point.

7.4 Amateur Players

7.4.1 An Amateur Player may not be paid for football activities or be paid or reimbursed for any expenses other than those set out in Rule 7.4.2.

7.4.2 Clubs may pay the following expenses to an Amateur Player; not exceeding the value of \$100 per week for:

- (a) Legitimate travel expenses to participate in football activities
- (b) Hotel expenses, namely necessary meals during the day and overnight accommodation during the actual and necessary absence from home for the purposes of football activities;
- (c) Player equipment (excluding footwear and goalkeeping gloves)

7.4.3 Clubs must keep complete records of all such payments made to Amateur Players and provide these upon CF request.

7.5 Professional Player Contract

- 7.5.1 All Professional Players must have a written contract with a Club as per the Prescribed Form NRR 05 – Professional Player Contract.
- 7.5.2 The original copy of each Professional Player Contract must be lodged with CF by the conclusion of the relevant Registration Period, failing which a Professional Player may not play until the next Registration Period.
- 7.5.3 A Professional Player and a Club may enter into a Contract if:
- (a) The Player does not have any current contract with another Club; or
 - (b) The Player has a current contract with another Club and the provisions of Rule 7.5.2 have been complied with.
- 7.5.4 Any Player in breach of Rule 7.5.3 will be deemed guilty of Misconduct under the CF Disputes a Disciplinary Regulations and any Professional Contract purportedly entered into in breach shall not be valid.
- 7.5.5 All parties to a Professional Contract must initial each page of the Professional Contract and any alterations or additions to the Professional Contract and sign the Professional Contract where indicated.
- 7.5.6 CF will provide a copy of the original contract to each Professional Player at the conclusion of the Registration Period.
- 7.5.7 CF will mail the contracts to the nominated address on *Page 1* of the Professional Contract lodged to CF.
- 7.5.8 Each Club party to the Professional Contract will also receive a copy of the Professional Contract in the mail to the registered Club mailing address, as listed with CF.
- 7.5.9 CF will not provide copies of Professional Contracts via fax or email.
- 7.5.10 In the event a Player or Club requests a copy of a Professional Contract of which they are party to at any other time, the copy of the Professional Contract may only be mailed to:
- (a) In the case of the Player; the nominated address on *Page 1* of the Professional Player Contract.
 - (b) In the case of the Club; the registered Club mailing address, as listed with CF
 - (c) Alternatively, a Player or Club may collect a copy of the Professional Contract in person at the CF offices. A current and valid proof of identification must be provided to a CF staff member at the time of collection.

7.6 Terms of Contract

- 7.6.1 The period of service shall be defined in the Professional Contract and must be no less than the period from the date of registration until the end of the current season.

- 7.6.2 In all cases the Professional Contract shall end within 30 days of the end of the final season of that Professional Contract.
- 7.6.3 A Professional Contract may be renewed at any point during the season, provided the Professional Contract is lodged prior to the end date of the Player's current Professional Contract.
- (a) Renewing a Professional Contract for a further season/s does not register that Player for the following season/s.
- 7.6.4 CF shall not be a party to nor shall it be liable or responsible for any debts or other financial obligations incurred by any party pursuant to a Professional Contract.
- 7.6.5 At the conclusion of the Professional Contract, the Professional Player will become a Free Agent.
- 7.6.6 If the parties to a Professional Contract agree to terminate the Professional Contract before it expires in the form of a Professional Player transfer, the maximum transfer fee will be:
- (a) 50 per cent of the total base salary which would otherwise be paid to the Professional Player during the remainder of the Professional Contract within 30 days of the agreed date of termination of the Professional Contract. Base Wage is not inclusive of any match bonus/es.
- (b) If a Professional Player enters into a Contract with another Club, that Club must forward the agreed transfer fee to CF within 30 days of entering into such Professional Contract.
- (c) All three (3) parties involved in the transfer must complete Prescribed Form NRR 06 – Application for Transfer or Loan of Professional
- 7.6.7 If the parties to a Professional Contract agree to terminate the Professional Contract before it expires and agree that no transfer fee will be set:
- (a) The parties must complete Prescribed Form NRR 09 – Mutual Termination of Professional Player Contract
- (b) The Player will then be deemed a Free Agent.
- 7.6.8 Agreement between the Club and Player which is not recorded on the Professional Contract and which have not been deposited with CF shall be ignored by CF for the purposes of these Regulations.

7.7 Player Registration – General

- 7.7.1 CF Registration Periods and other key dates for the 2018 season will be:
- (a) National Premier League
- (i) Preseason Registration Window
Opening Date – 1 January, 2018
Closing Date – 14 March, 2018

- (ii) Midseason Transfer Window
Opening Date – 12 June, 2018
Closing Date – 29 June, 2018
- (b) All other competitions
 - (i) Opening Date – 8 January
Closing Date – End of the Season
- 7.7.2 Other registration dates:
 - (i) Final date to lodge an ITC request – 31 May
 - (ii) Final date to de-register a player – 30 June
- 7.7.3 Subject to Rule 7.7.1 and 7.7.2, a Player may register with a Club provided such registration is done in accordance with these Regulations or the registration regulations of another state or Member Federation.
- 7.7.4 During the period 1 January to 31 October each year, a Player is deemed to be registered for the period, subject to these Regulations, and must abide by the FFA NRR.
 - (a) A Player may only be registered with one Club at any one time, unless an exemption for Dual Registration has been provided in accordance with Rule 7.7.6
 - (b) An Amateur Player or Professional Player can register for no more than three (3) Clubs in Australia and may only play matches for two (2) of those Clubs.
- 7.7.5 CF may in its absolute discretion, and only in special circumstances, provide an exemption for a Player to:
 - (a) Compete for a third Club during the period outlined in Rule 7.7.4;
 - (b) Hold Dual Registration
- 7.7.6 Any application for a Player registration exemption is to be requested via the Player Exemption Request Form. Player Exemption Request Forms may be submitted for:
 - (a) A Club seeking Deal Registration for a Player;
 - (b) A Club seeking registration on behalf of a Player for a third club in a single season;
 - (c) Any other reasonable request.
- 7.7.7 All paperwork under Rule 7.7.6 is to be lodged to CF before the close of the period in Rule 7.7.4.
- 7.7.8 If CF rules a Club becomes a Defunct Club, the following shall apply to all registered Players and any team in a CF competition from that Defunct Club:

- (a) As from the date of cancellation or revocation, all Amateur Players and Professional Players registered with the Defunct Club shall be deemed registered with CF.
- (b) CF shall have the same rights in respect of the Transfer of Professional Players, as the Defunct Club had until the date of cancellation or revocation and in those circumstances the Compensation Fee which would otherwise apply pursuant to 7.6.6 will be set in accordance with the FFA NRR.
- (c) The Compensation Fee shall belong to CF and shall be distributed in the following order:
 - (1) To offset against any monies owed to CF by the Defunct Club
 - (2) To pay any monies owed to the Players of the Defunct Club
 - (3) To pay any monies owed to any other Club by the Defunct Club
- (d) CF shall have the same rights in respect of Amateur Players changing Clubs in this circumstance.
- (e) The ability for an Amateur Player to change Clubs outside the period in Rule 7.7.4 solely at the discretion of CF.

7.7.9 A Professional Player may only register for a Club and such registration will only be valid after all requirements set out in these Regulations have been satisfied and the Player's registration has been processed in MyFootballClub.

7.7.10 All Professional Players must have an original NRR 05 – Professional Player Contract lodged to CF and in addition:

- (a) Professional Players with an FFA number wishing to register with a Club must register online through the MyFootballClub portal.
- (b) Any Professional Player who has not been assigned an FFA number wishing to register with a Club must apply for an FFA number through the MyFootballClub portal with CF in accordance with these Regulations. In this circumstance, a copy of proof of age and identity in the form of a Birth Certificate, Drivers Licence or Passport must be provided.

7.7.11 A Visa Player may be registered as a Professional Player.

7.8 Professional Player Transfers

7.8.1 A Professional Player may only transfer to another Club:

- (a) Within the periods in 7.7.1 (a)
- (b) If the Professional Contract has expired or been terminated by mutual agreement
- (c) All three (3) parties concerned, the former Club, the Player and the new Club, agree and sign Prescribed Form NRR 06 – Application for Transfer or Loan of Professional Player

(d) The requirements of Part B, Clause 3 are complied with.

7.8.2 A Club wishing to engage the services of a Professional Player must inform that Player's current Club in writing prior to entering any negotiations with that Player. Any Club breaching this Rule shall incur a fine at level BR7 of these Regulations.

7.9 Training Compensation

7.9.1 Clubs are entitled to compensation for the training and development of a Player as per the FFA NRR.

7.10 Amateur Player Registrations

7.10.1 Any player who does not have an FFA number must apply for an FFA number through MyFootballClub.

7.10.2 An Amateur Player may register for the first time in a season with any Club at any time during the season, subject to Rule 7.7.1 (a) and (b) with the period in Rule 7.7.4.

7.10.3 Amateur Players with an FFA number wishing to register for a Club must register through MyFootballClub.

7.10.4 The registration of an Amateur Player is effective from the date the registration is processed via MyFootballClub but is subject to Rules 7.10.2 and 7.10.3.

7.10.5 Failure to complete the process outlined in Rules 7.10.2 and 7.10.3 will result in the Player being deemed unregistered.

7.10.6 An Amateur Player may be de-registered upon request from a Club.

7.11 Amateur Players Changing Clubs During the Season

7.11.1 Unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, an Amateur Player is free to move to another Club during the period in Rule 7.7.4.

7.11.2 The registration of such a Player via MyFootballClub will be completed automatically once the following is finalised:

(a) The Players current Club completes the de-registration process through MyFootballClub.

(b) The Player registers with the new Club in MyFootballClub

(c) The Players current Club may seek payment by the Player of any outstanding monies which the Player owes the Club.

7.12 International Transfer Certificate

7.12.1 An International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is required for non-registered Players who wish to register with a Club. Players will require an ITC in the event they are presently registered with a Club or Clubs outside Australia, or do not hold an Australian Passport.

- 7.12.2 The procedure for requesting an ITC is done via MyFootballClub when registering the Player.
- 7.12.3 If an ITC has not been received within 30 days after the request through MyFootballClub, CF may, in its complete discretion, seek a provisional clearance from FFA. Such a clearance can only be issued by FFA to CF.
- 7.12.4 No request for an ITC will be accepted by CF after the final date to lodge an ITC request as outlined in Rule 7.7.2 (i).
- 7.12.5 If an ITC is issued after the close of the period in Rule 7.7.4 the Player may be registered.
- 7.12.6 No Player awaiting an ITC may participate in any football activities, excluding training, until an ITC has been received by CF and the Player has been registered in accordance with these Regulations.

7.13 Reacquisition of Amateur Status

- 7.13.1 Subject to these Regulations, a Professional Player may change their status to an Amateur Player by completing the Change of Status Pro Forma issued by CF.
- 7.13.2 A Player who has been registered as a Professional Player with CF, the A-League, the W-League or any other Member Federation will only be classified as an Amateur Player until 30 days from the day on which the Player last too the field in a match with the Club at which they were classified as a Professional Player.
- 7.13.3 A Player cannot participate in any match until the 30 days in Rule 7.13.2 has elapsed as determined by CF.
- 7.13.4 No Compensation is payable on the reacquisition of Amateur status.
- 7.13.5 If there is any reason to doubt a Player's status as an Amateur Player once regaining this status and playing for an Amateur Club, the Club with which the Player was last registered as a Professional Player may ask CF to investigate the matter. CF may, in its absolute discretion, determine what, if any, action is to be taken in response to such a request.

7.14 Termination of Playing Activity

- 7.14.1 A Professional Play who stops playing competitive football shall remain registered for a period of 30 months from the end of the season in which the Player stopped playing competitive football.
- 7.14.2 Upon expiry of a Professional Player's Contract, their Club may not claim any compensation for such a Player. Upon expiry of the Professional Contract, the Player is deemed a free agent.
- 7.14.3 Nothing in these Regulations shall prevent any player from moving to another Club in a purely non-playing capacity.
- 7.14.4 Should a non-playing Professional Player wish to resume playing football as a Professional Player, and registers to a new Club, and satisfies Rule 7.9, that Players former Club may be entitled to Training Compensation.

7.14.5 Other than as set out in Rule 7.9, a non-playing Professional Player's former Club is not entitled to Training Compensation.

7.15 Loan Players

7.15.1 Loaning of a Player to another Club is permitted only for Professional Players between Clubs in the National Premier League.

7.15.2 A Loan is subject to the same Rules that apply to the Transfer of a Professional Player, in addition to:

- (a) The minimum period of a Loan is the time between two periods listed in Rule 7.7.4;
- (b) A Loan continues in force until the expiry of the Loan Period determined in 7.15.2 (a), or if it is terminated earlier in accordance with the terms of the Loan or these Regulations;
- (c) A Club may not transfer or loan a Player who is on Loan to a third Club without the written authorization of the Player and the Club that released the Player;
- (d) On expiry or termination of the Loan, the Player's registration reverts back to the Club who originally loaned the Player out.

7.15.3 A Club may contract two (2) players on Loan. There is no restriction on the number of players that a Club can Loan out.

7.15.4 To complete a Loan, the following completed documents must be lodged with CF:

- (a) Prescribed Form 06 – Application for Transfer or Loan of Professional Player
- (b) Prescribed Form NRR 05 – Professional Player Contract – Loan Player

7.15.5 The Loan of an International Player must occur within the period in Rule 7.7.1 and will require an ITC.

7.15.6 The Loan of an Interstate Player must occur within the period in Rule 7.7.1.

7.15.7 Clubs must notify CF of the early termination of a Loan in writing:

- (i) Between the Club and the Loan Player in the form of NRR 09 – Mutual Termination of Professional Player Contract
- (ii) Between the Loaned Player and the Loan Club in the form of a letter indicating so.

7.16 Dual Registration

7.16.1 A Player can only be registered with one (1) Club at a time.

7.16.2 A Player registered with CF can play only for the Club nominated by that Player unless the Player is playing:

- (a) For a Representative team;

- (b) For an A-League or W-League Club as a replacement Player or is an A-League or W-League Player on Loan to a Club in accordance with A-League or W-League Competition Regulations;
- (c) For a Futsal Club for which the Player is also registered;
- (d) For a school team that is not a Club;
- (e) In a benefit, testimonial or charity match if that Player has written permissions from CF or FFA, as required;
- (f) In a trial match, provided the Player has their current Clubs written permission and plays no more than two (2) trial matches or such other number of matches specified in these Regulations; or
- (g) Any other exceptional circumstances approved by CF or FFA in its absolute discretion.

7.16.3 Representative squads from affiliated leagues playing in CF competition do not need to be registered with CF, however they must be registered with a Club in an affiliated league.

7.17 Tours (Domestic and Overseas)

- 7.17.1 A Tour may consist of, but is not limited to, a one-off exhibition match, a series of friendly matches or a tournament.
- 7.17.2 Any Tour undertaken by a Club must be sanctioned by CF. Clubs should be guided by and adhere to the Visiting Teams policy. This applies to both Domestic and Overseas (international) Tours. For overseas Tours, sanction MUST also be provided by FFA.
- 7.17.3 Clubs in A.C.T. and surrounds play under the jurisdiction of CF in the defined geographical area. Where a Club wishes to play outside this area of jurisdiction, a Club must seek approval from CF.
- 7.17.4 Tours to another country must also be sanctioned by CF and in addition by FFA as a Club is leaving the jurisdiction of FFA.
- 7.17.5 For a *Domestic Tour to be sanctioned*, the request must be completed and submitted to CF at least 3 weeks prior to the Domestic Tour, with the following;
 - a) Name, Club and FFA ID number for all Players travelling
 - b) Invitation /correspondence from the interstate club hosting the match or tournament
 - c) If the Tour involves more than one (1) match, a schedule of matches or tournament draw
 - d) *For Tours involving minors*, contact details for all adults travelling as coach, team manager or supervisors.

- e) For Tours involving minors, a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) proof must be provided for all adults travelling.
- 7.17.6 For an *Overseas Tour to be sanctioned*, the Overseas Tours Form needs to be completed and submitted to CF at least eight (8) weeks prior to the Overseas Tour, with the following:
- a) Name, Club and FFA ID number for all Players travelling
 - b) Invitation /correspondence from the international club /association hosting the match/ tournament
 - c) If the Tour involves more than one (1) match, a schedule of matches or tournament draw
 - d) Contact details for all travelling party, such as the Coach, team manager or supervisors.
 - e) For Tours involving minors, a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) proof must be provided for all adults travelling.
 - f) An Insurance Certificate of Currency (Proof of Insurance for all Participants)
 - g) Approval letters from the Players Club, if necessary
 - h) List of accommodation & mode of travel for Tours through multiple cities, including dates
- 7.17.7 Domestic Tour Applications received within three (3) Weeks of Departure will be charged a \$50.00 administration fee.
- 7.17.8 Overseas Tour Applications received within four (4) Weeks of Departure will be charged a \$100.00 administration fee.
- 7.17.9 For clubs that fail to complete the process for a Tour to be sanctioned, the following will apply;
- i) A Fine at BR2 for each team for a Domestic Tour
 - ii) A Fine at BR4 for each team for an Overseas Tour

7.18 **Registration of Coaches, Managers And Officials**

7.18.1 Coaches, managers and officials of Clubs must register in MyFootballClub each season.

7.19 **Scope of Capital Football Registration Regulations**

7.19.1 Where these rules are silent on any particular aspect of the game, then all Clubs shall first have regard to the NRR, then to the FFA Statues, By-Laws and Regulations, then to the CF Rules of Competition, Regulations and By-Laws and where applicable

the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), and then to the latest rules of the game as published by FIFA.

8. CODES OF BEHAVIOR

8.1 Australian Sports Commission Codes

8.1.1 The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) has produced the following 'Codes of Behaviour', which have been adopted not only by football, but also by most sports in Australia. These codes are deemed to be incorporated into these Rules and are outlined below. There are also FFA and CF policies in place that must be abided by.

8.2 General

8.2.1 It is vital that everyone involved in sporting activities, whether they are athletes, coaches, parents, officials or supporters, understand their responsibilities to ensure that all participants enjoy the sport.

8.2.2 It is strongly recommended that all players, parents, officials, coaches and members be given a copy of these codes by their Club, and that each Club ensures the codes are clearly displayed in their Clubrooms.

8.2.3 As well as reading and seeking to understand the instructions contained in the codes, CF asks all participants to recognise that there are underlying principles which extend beyond those specific instructions. No one must engage in violent acts, verbal abuse, offensive language or behaviour, or acts likely to incite others, including spectators, to engage in such behaviour, or any other conduct that is detrimental to the spirit or image of the game.

8.3 Players' Code of Conduct

Play by the Rules and in the spirit of fair play and abide by the Laws of the Game.

Do not argue abuse or address the Match Official.

Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.

Maintain your focus and work hard for yourself and your team.

Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your team or the opposition.

Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.

Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.

Play for your own enjoyment, and not just to please parents and coaches.

Remove all jewellery prior to training and match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you.

Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time.

8.4 Coaches' Code of Behaviour

Be reasonable in your demands on younger players' time, energy and enthusiasm.

Teach your players to abide by the rules and Laws of the Game.

Do not argue abuse or address the Match Official.

Ensure that equipment and facilities meet a reasonable safety standard and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.

Develop and enhance respect between players, opposition coaches and the decisions of the Match Official.

Follow the advice of a physician when determining the extent of a player's injury and beyond that, when players are returning from injury to training and match play.

Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices (refer to Coach Accreditation Criteria).

Remind all players to play within the spirit of the game at all times.

Ensure players are good sports and ensure each team member shakes the hand of their opponents at the conclusion of every match.

Do not smoke or consume alcohol from the team bench (Technical Area) or sideline.

Remember the actions of yourself and your team is reflective of the perception others take away with them.

8.5 Administrators' Code of Behaviour

Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating

Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs

Be tolerant and calm under pressure and approach problem solving in a supportive manner as members and players will expect you to set an example for others

Make every effort to educate persons who breach these guidelines from time to time

8.6 Match Officials' Code of Behaviour

The Match Official's code of behaviour is detailed in the CF Referee's Handbook.

8.7 Spectators' Code of Behaviour

It is important that all spectators at a CF approved fixture are able to enjoy the match in a safe and comfortable environment. Accordingly, each person present at a CF fixture must:

Respect the decisions of the Match Officials

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their race, colour, religion, language, and political views, national or ethnic origin.

Not engage in the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, team officials (including coaches) or players

Not engage in discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form whether lawful or otherwise, including but not limited to the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting;

Comply with CF's 'Conditions of Entry', at all venues, and any ticketing conditions.

Not carry, light or throw flares or missiles (including on to the field of play or at other spectators)

Not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority

Conduct themselves in a manner that enhances, rather than injures, the reputation and goodwill of CF, Football Federation Australia (FFA), and football generally.

Any person who does not comply with this Code or who in the opinion of CF causes or attempts to cause or is reasonably likely to cause a disturbance **may be evicted from the venue and banned from attending future matches held on behalf of CF, for a period of up to 2 years from when the eviction occurred.** Any offender who then breaches the ban order against them may be charged with trespass and subject to further penalties and sanctions, including the possibility of further legal action.

Where CF receives a complaint from a member of CF or a Club (no later than 72 hours following the match) concerning the conduct of a registered member with CF and such conduct was not subject of a report to CF by the Match Official the MLM may call on the member to answer a charge that the conduct complained of constitutes conduct contrary to the policy or prejudicial interests, welfare or image of CF or the game.

SCHEDULE 1 FEES AND FINES

Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, CF may impose a fine for misconduct for such amount as it sees fit.

In the case of breaches of these Rules these fines are in addition to any penalties or consequences set out in these Rules, the CFDDR or which are imposed as a consequence of any other charges which may arise from a breach of these Rules.

BREACHES OF RULES OF COMPETITION

(1 Penalty Unit shall be: \$30.00)

Offence Code	Penalty Units	Penalty Units	Penalty Units
	First Offence in relation to a Relevant Team in a Competition Season or Finals (Championship) Series	Second Offence in relation to a Relevant Team in a Competition Season or Finals (Championship) Series	Third or subsequent Offence in relation to a Relevant Team in a Competition Season or Finals (Championship) Series
BR 1	1	2	4
BR 2	2	4	8
BR 3	3	6	12
BR 4	4	8	16
BR 5	6	12	20
BR 6	12	24*	48*
BR 7	20	40*	80*

Notes:

- * in addition to the penalties above, CF may deduct 3 championship points from an offending team

SCHEDULE 2 JUNIOR LEAGUE MATCH KICK-OFF, DURATION AND BALL SIZE

Open	Girls	Kick off time	Ball Size	Length of Halves
U10	U10	11.30am	Size 4	25 minutes
U11	U11	12.30pm	Size 4	25 minutes
U12	U12	1.45pm	Size 4	30 minutes
U13	-	12.30pm	Size 4	30 minutes
U14	U14	1.45pm	Size 5	35 minutes
U15	-	3.10pm	Size 5	40 minutes
U16	U16	3.10pm	Size 5	45 minutes (Open) / 40 minutes (Girls)
U18	U18	3.10pm	Size 5	45 minutes (Open) / 40 minutes (Girls)

SCHEDULE 3 RELATIVE AGE EXEMPTIONS

RAE candidates may be considered if they are born within the last 3 months of the year (October - December) and have height and weight results assessed below the 50th percentile as listed in the following table:

Age Group	Height (cm) - 50th percentile		Weight (kg) - 50th percentile	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
12 years	150.90 - 154.30	153.40 - 156.50	40.14 - 43.32	43.54 - 46.49
13 years	157.80 - 161.90	158.90 - 159.30	46.38 - 49.89	48.53 - 50.12
14 years	166.00 - 168.90	161.00 - 161.60	53.52 - 56.81	51.94 - 52.96
15 years	170.80 - 173.10	162.20 - 164.00	57.72 - 61.35	52.84 - 56.25
16 years	173.30 - 175.70	162.80 - 162.50	62.71 - 66.11	54.65 - 55.59
17 years		162.20 - 163.30		55.46 - 57.89