



FOOTBALL SOUTH COAST

MEN'S PREMIERSHIP 2020 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

Version Control

Version	Date	Revision By	Revision Details
1.0	February 2015		Original Document
1.1	May 2015	Men's Football Council	Some minor wording adjustments
1.2	November 2015	Men's Football Council	Annual Review
1.3	February 2016	Men's Football Council	New/adjusted 2.2.1 (b), 2.4, 5.7.2, 5.8.6.
1.4	January 2017	Men's Football Council	Annual Review
1.5	January 2018	Men's Football Council	Annual Review
1.6	February 2019	Men's Football Council	New/Adjusted 1.19.3, 2.2.1, 2.3.3, 3.8.3, 4.8.2 and 7.4.1
1.7	January 2020	Men's Football Council	Referenced changes to new All Age Grade

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1. General Matters Relating to all Competitions

1.1 Application

- 1.1.1 These Competition Rules shall apply to the Men's Premier and District League Competitions only and are administered under the auspice of FSC.
- 1.1.2 If any provision of these Rules and Regulations is held invalid or unenforceable by a Court in NSW, then the remainder of these Competition Rules and Regulations and the application thereof, shall not be affected thereby and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the full extent of the law.
- 1.1.3 Terms defined in the FSC Constitution, FSC Registration Regulations or the Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations shall have the same meaning in these Competition Rules and Regulations unless otherwise stated.
- 1.1.4 For the purposes of these Competition Rules, and Regulations the following expressions shall apply:
 - a) The area within these Competition Rules and Regulations referred to as the "Illawarra", shall be the area controlled by FSC as directed and approved by FNSW and FFA.
 - b) Where the terms "team(s)" are used, it is implied that the team(s) involved are under the control of and are the responsibility of their club, and therefore, any sanctions or penalties applied to a team may also be applied to a club in the Men's Premiership Competitions.
- 1.1.5 The qualifying criteria for clubs to affiliate with FSC will be set out in the FSC Constitution. The criteria is determined by the FSC Board and outlined in the FSC Constitution.
- 1.1.6 Nothing in these Competition Rules and Regulations shall prevent the Competition Coordinator and Men's Football Council from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by these Competition Rules and Regulations concerning promotion, relegation, number of divisions and the composition of teams in each division.
- 1.1.7 Subject to the FSC Constitution and these Competition Rules and Regulations, the CC and MFC shall have the power to determine and implement decisions regarding the control, administration and organisation of the relevant league competitions.
- 1.1.8 Where a club considers that it can demonstrate it has been unfairly and adversely affected by a FSC or CC and MFC decision made under sub clauses 1.1.5, 1.1.6 or 1.1.7 of these Competition Rules and Regulations, it may appeal to FSC to review the decision in writing based on the following criteria.
 - a) To qualify for FSC consideration, review requests must be in writing, identify the decision being appealed and clearly state how the club has been unfairly and adversely affected by the decision.
 - b) Where a review request qualifies for consideration, FSC will in the first instance seek to resolve an agreeable outcome with the club.
 - c) Where an agreeable outcome cannot be resolved, the Grievance process as per 8.3 of the FSC DDR should be followed.

1.2 Definitions

1.2.1 Notwithstanding rule 1.1.3 in these rules, the following definitions will apply:

Word/Term	Definition
Australian Player	An Australian player is any player who is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A citizen of Australia; • A Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident mean a person residing in Australia on a “Permanent” visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the person’s Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the person’s online Visa Entitlement Verification); or • The holder of a subclass 200 refugee visa or a subclass 866 protection visa issued by the Australian Government.
CC	Competition Coordinator
Club	A football club which is registered with FFA and is affiliated with Football South Coast
Club Affiliation Criteria	Any written criteria published by FSC relating to the affiliation, amalgamation, or merger of clubs including but not limited to these rules
Club Associate(s)	One or more of the following, whether individually or collectively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club office bearers; • Club officials (coach, team manager, or anyone who is officially associated with the club); • Players of the club; • Members of the club; • Supporters of the club; • A club
FFA	Football Federation Australia
FNSW	Football New South Wales
FSC	Football South Coast
FSC DDC	Football South Coast Disciplinary and Disputes Commissioner
FSC DDR	Football South Coast Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations
Match Official	A referee, assistant referee, fourth official or referee assessor
Men’s Premiership Competition	Premier League and District League
MFC	Men’s Football Council
MSR	Minimum Security Requirements published by FSC from time to time
PPS	Player Points System
RC	Referees Council
Tribunal	FSC Tribunal established under FSC DDR
Visa Player	A visa player is defined as a player holding an international visa selected to the team squad list

1.3 Consequences of Breach

- 1.3.1 In addition to any consequences stated in these competition rules, any proven breach of or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement set out in these Competition Rules and Regulations will amount to misconduct and may be subject to the provisions of the FSC DDR, including potential sanctions, loss of points from the first grade and financial penalties.
- 1.3.2 To avoid doubt, where these Competition Rules and Regulations do not specify the consequences of a breach or failure to comply, such breaches or failures will still amount to misconduct and will be subject to the provisions of the FSC DDR.

1.4 Playing Colours

- 1.4.1 The playing colours of a club in FSC competitions shall be as authorised by FSC at the time of nomination, through its Councils and in line with the club's competition application for the upcoming season. Changes to club colours must be approved by the relevant FSC Council in writing prior to purchase.
- 1.4.2 In the event of a colour clash, the visiting club shall change into a playing strip which does not include any of the basic colours (i.e. shirt and/or shorts) of the home club. Failure to observe this requirement, shall result in the offending club being fined as per BR6 Schedule 1 of these competition rules.
- 1.4.3 Goalkeepers are to wear Lime or Fluro Green shirts for home games and Orange for away games.
- 1.4.4 Any team not playing in their registered colours (including the designated goalkeeper colours) shall result in the offending club being fined as per BR6 Schedule 1 of these competition rules.
- 1.4.5 The determination of a colour clash shall rest solely with the match official in charge on the day of the match and clubs shall comply with any direction to change. Failure to comply with match official direction shall be reported on the team sheet and be subject to further consideration of bringing the game into disrepute and the FSC DDR accordingly by the CC.

1.5 Lighting Standards

- 1.5.1 Clubs wishing to play competition fixtures under lights must ensure that lighting complies with the guidelines prepared by FSC (refer to Schedule 2.0).
- 1.5.2 All scheduled competition night matches shall be subject to approval by FSC through the Competition Coordinator, and in line with the FNSW guidelines along with the provision of a lighting certificate supplied to FSC annually (each calendar year), to verify compliance by an authorised company / individual to meet guideline criteria.

1.6 FSC Invoices

- 1.6.1 Subject to these competition rules, all outstanding accounts owed to FSC, as well as annual application fees or the relevant portion thereof as authorised and determined by FSC, must be paid by a club within thirty (30) days of invoicing unless alternate arrangements have been provided and approved.
- 1.6.2 Clubs that are 30+ days in arrears to FSC are subject to financial penalties as prescribed in the FSC Payment Policy.
- 1.6.3 Should the outstanding amount reach 60 days and remain unpaid, the club (i.e. all grades) will not accrue any points for each week the debt remains outstanding. This shall apply to all competition and cup matches conducted by FSC or its governing body.
- 1.6.4 Notwithstanding rules 1.6.1, 1.6.2 and 1.6.3, FSC may in its absolute discretion expel a club from any competition if it does not comply with these Competition Rules and Regulations.

- 1.6.5 Clubs are required to pay in full all outstanding accounts owing to FSC on or before 31 October each year, excluding application fees for the following playing season that must be paid. This includes monies which may have been incurred when an appeal or protest has been lodged.

1.7 Protection of Important Fixtures

- 1.7.1 No club or any entrepreneur may stage a tournament in the Region governed by FSC on a day which an A-League fixture is scheduled to be played in the Region, except with the written consent of FSC through its delegated council representatives.
- 1.7.2 Where an International or an Intra-State match is scheduled for the Region, FSC through its Councils may at its sole discretion direct, that NO FSC competitions matches shall take place on that day.
- 1.7.3 Changes to FSC/MFC playing calendar within the Region shall limit the match day scheduling of fixtures at their discretion, where other FNSW fixtures coincide with normal competitions and timing.

1.8 Non-Scheduled (Trial/Friendly) Matches

- 1.8.1 Any club staging or taking part in any competition, tournament, friendly match, or any other match which does not form part of the FSC schedule of matches, or which is played under the jurisdiction of FSC, shall notify FSC in writing and complete and lodge the relevant documentation as required and have the nominated fixture(s) sanctioned by FSC accordingly.
- 1.8.2 Fixtures between FSC clubs require at least seven (7) days' notice where possible. Match officials will be appointed to all sanctioned trial matches (where possible). Clubs will need to source their own match officials only in cases where FSC cannot supply officials.
- 1.8.3 Fixtures involving non FSC clubs will require sanctioning from the appropriate FSC council and such notice must be received by FSC at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled kick off.
- a) Visiting teams from other associations will require approval from their own governing body on the appropriate approval form before the trial match(s) are sanctioned to proceed.
- b) Trial matches will not be sanctioned against domestic clubs or groups of players, that are not affiliated through FNSW or FFA.
- 1.8.4 Matches can only be conducted upon receipt of written approval from FSC through its councils or through the CC. Failure by the club to sanction a trial game in accordance within these Competition Rules and Regulations shall attract a fine at BR4 under Schedule 1.
- 1.8.5 Fees for games involving only FSC clubs will be as per the circular issued at the commencement of the season.
- a) Payment for match officials at trial games will be determined by the relevant association and/or the respective council.
- b) All fees are to be paid by the participating clubs to the match officials on the day of the match, except where FSC directs otherwise in writing.
- 1.8.6 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.
- 1.8.7 Any FSC club wishing to participate in any interstate or international matches, tournaments or events, must apply in writing to FSC for prior approval. Fixtures involving interstate FFA approved clubs or Associations require at least ten (10) working days' notice for sanctioning.

1.8.8 Appearance of suspended players in trial games is in accordance with the FSC DDR and at the discretion of FSC in writing.

1.9 Insurance of Players

1.9.1 All players taking the field of play (or training) must be insured through FSC's Insurer (or as otherwise authorised by FSC). The player's insurance will be collected by FSC at the time of player registration.

1.9.2 Players who participate in competition fixtures without having their registration details updated, relevant to their club, will be deemed ineligible for insurance claims and all expenses incurred are to be addressed by the participating club and the player.

1.9.3 The FSC insurance policy shall be rendered null and void unless all players participating in football are legitimately registered from the previous year or otherwise eligible to play competition matches.

1.10 Strict Liability of Clubs

1.10.1 Each club shall be responsible for the conduct of all club associates at, or near any match or event in which a club is engaged or is in attendance regardless of the responsibilities attached to any person or entity in respect of such a match or event.

1.11 Media Comment

1.11.1 Clubs and/or club associates must not make derogatory or detrimental comment(s) to the media about FSC or the performance of match officials. Any such complaints should be made in writing to FSC.

1.11.2 Clubs and/or club associates must not give cause to write a column for publication (electronic or print media) without first obtaining the approval of FSC where it could be determined as bringing the game into disrepute, provided such approval shall not, at any time, be unreasonably withheld and shall be deemed to continue until withdrawn by FSC.

1.11.3 Match officials are prohibited from making any comment to the media (social or print) regarding any FSC fixture(s) at any time. Any such complaints should be made in writing to FSC in the first instance and addressed according to the FSC DDR requirements.

1.11.4 All ground announcements relating to the match must be made in English. Community social announcements may be made in any other language provided they are first made in English.

1.12 Social Media

1.12.1 All Clubs and club associates must adhere to the [FSC Social Media Policy](#).

1.12.2 A breach of this policy will result in disciplinary action from FSC, as per the FSC DDR and in line with clause 1.12.1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations.

1.12.3 All registered players are expected to sign off on the FSC Social Media Policy as per 1.12.1 and copies retained for presentation should a breach occur to verify implementation and communication of the FSC Social Media Policy.

1.13 Change of Club Name / Amalgamation and Merger of Clubs

1.13.1 Any club that wishes to change its registered club name, must provide the information in clause 1.13.3 in writing to FSC for their consideration.

1.13.2 All applications for a change of club name must be made outside the competition season (at the time of application) and no later than 31 October each year unless otherwise authorised by FSC.

1.13.3 Applications will be assessed in two (2) parts as outlined below and it is imperative that all aspects of these requirements are adhered to when applications are lodged.

Part A – Prior to FSC Ratification

- a) The club must submit on a letterhead, its request for a change of club name;
- b) Provide full disclosure of information including the reasons for the request;
- c) It is imperative that the application for change of name includes an alternative name that can be assessed, again with full disclosure as per item (b) and (c) as above.
- d) Submit the new logo (if applicable) for FSC consideration and approval.

Part B – Once the Change of Name has been ratified by the club, it will provide to FSC:

- a) A copy of the minutes of the Special General Meeting of the club, approving the change of name.

1.13.4 Where two (2) or more clubs intend to amalgamate, FSC is to be advised prior to any formal meetings of the respective club members. FSC reserves the right to be represented at such meetings through a nominated representative (FSC Board member or FSC Council member).

1.13.5 FSC through its councils will assess all change of name applications when the above information has been lodged with FSC and it may reject any application for a change of name, at its sole discretion. No further correspondence will be considered with regards to a rejection of an application by FSC or its nominated delegated councils.

1.13.6 Once FSC, through its councils, have approved the change of name, it will be a requirement for the club to produce evidence of registration of the new club (business) name with the appropriate entity to FSC. Only on presentation of the relevant document, shall FSC ratify the change of name and advise the MFC.

1.13.7 Amalgamation/mergers between clubs shall be formulated prior to 31 October annually and duly provided for consideration by FSC or its delegated representatives. Applications received after 31 October may be considered by FSC at its absolute discretion.

1.13.8 Where two (2) or more clubs wish to amalgamate, they shall:

- a) Apply to FSC in writing for its approval for such amalgamation. The letter is to be signed for and 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;
 - 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 executive Office Bearers. There must be only one (1) contact point for each executive i.e. President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- e) Submit the new logo for FSC consideration and approval.

- f) Upon incorporation, provide the registration of any new entity to run the amalgamated/merged club as well as a copy of a Certificate of Incorporation or other such documentation as FSC may require in respect to that new entity.
- 1.13.9 Amalgamation/merging clubs may nominate the League or Division in which they wish to participate provided it is a League or Division in which one of the amalgamating/merging clubs would have been eligible to participate in the season immediately following the amalgamation/merger.
- 1.13.10 Before the amalgamation/merger is approved, all outstanding financial obligations and playing commitments of both clubs to FSC must be fulfilled.
- 1.13.11 The newly amalgamated/merged club must fulfill its commitments and be responsible for all terms and conditions of any player agreements with each of the amalgamating/merged clubs that are current at the time of the amalgamation/merger.
- 1.13.12 After approval of amalgamation/merger, FSC through its councils shall declare a vacancy or vacancies in the respective League or Division and this vacancy or vacancies may be filled or left vacant at the discretion of FSC or its delegated representative council.
- 1.13.13 Club mergers are considered on their merits by FSC through its councils where the purpose of the merger is to sustain two (2) clubs in participating in FSC sanctioned leagues however, further mergers of the same merged club shall be at the sole discretion of FSC without any obligation to accept or approve.
- 1.13.14 Should the merged clubs' amalgamation not succeed and a separation of clubs back to the original structure is required, both clubs shall start over as two (2) new entity clubs and commence in a league decided at the sole discretion of FSC through its councils.

1.14 Ticketing and Refunds

- 1.14.1 This clause is applicable to all FSC competition fixtures where admission fees are charged.
- 1.14.2 Clubs that charge admission fees must supply an admission ticket to the paying customer when the exchange of money is made.
- 1.14.3 Customers that present an authentic FSC Media Pass, FSC Special Pass (including Life Membership passes) or are aged 16 years or younger, will be granted free entry and will not be issued an admission ticket for FSC sanctioned matches, excluding all finals series fixtures.
- 1.14.4 It is the customer's responsibility to ensure they retain proof of purchase. Failure to retain match day admission tickets may result in the host club requesting further payment.
- 1.14.5 On presentation of the original admission ticket, paying customers will be entitled to a full refund from the home club on the day of the game provided the main fixture has been called off prior to the conclusion of the first half of the match for reason of light failure or unsuitable ground conditions.
- 1.14.6 To be eligible to receive a full refund on the day of the match, the paying customer must present to the host club or the club charging the admission fees, the original admission ticket (or part thereof) as proof of purchase that was issued when entering the ground.
- 1.14.7 If the main fixture is abandoned after the conclusion of the first half, then no refund will be given.
- 1.14.8 Admission fees must not exceed the fee structure set out by FSC through its councils that are subject to review and change from time to time (refer to clause 4.12.3).

1.15 Ground Security

- 1.15.1 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 officials at all sanctioned FSC fixtures.
- 1.15.2 Each FSC club is required to provide club match officials and/or security/police minimum security requirements (MSR) as directed by FSC / FSC Councils if the club believes the fixture requires such measures.
- 1.15.3 FSC Disciplinary Review Committee and Tribunals will consider the adequacy of security measures implemented by clubs when assessing any misconduct charges that may be brought before them and accordingly make recommendations or provide direction to upgrade security measures going forward based on the outcome of any misconduct charges.
- 1.15.4 In addition to clause 1.15.1, each club must take reasonably practical steps to ensure player change rooms are not accessed by unauthorised personnel and to safeguard the valuables of match officials.
- 1.15.5 The visiting team is responsible for the valuables of its players and valuables that are left in change rooms are done so at their own risk.
- 1.15.6 It shall be the duty of both clubs to maintain control of spectators, to prevent any disturbance amongst its spectators and to generally assist the MFC, match officials or FSC staff in the preservation of order and good discipline at any match. Failure to do so will result in the imposition of penalties and/or sanctions as the MFC deem appropriate according to the FSC DDR.
- 1.15.7 Where a report has been made to FSC about spectator nominated misbehaviour having a material effect on the result of the match, FSC through its Councils may declare the match and the result to be void.
 - a) For the rescheduled match to be played, the nominated ground, date and conditions as the CC considers appropriate shall be advised in writing to the clubs involved.
 - b) FSC, through its Councils / Tribunals shall determine any deductions due to the misbehaviour and a maximum of three (3) competition points from the offending club along with any financial penalties deemed appropriate.
- 1.15.8 In the event of a match being abandoned due to field invasion; FSC, through its Councils and Tribunals shall have the power to:
 - a) Have the match replayed; or
 - b) Allow the match result to stand, or
 - c) Award a forfeit if they so determine.
- 1.15.9 In determining sanctions, FSC, through its Councils and Tribunals will consider any reports submitted by the match officials or participating clubs, with reports to be lodged to FSC no later than 5.00pm on the second working day following the date of the match (electronic or hard-copy).

1.16 Representative Teams

- 1.16.1 Any player registered or affiliated with FSC under the FFA National Registration rules will be eligible to represent the region in representative matches, camps or tours and each such player must make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative matches, camps or tours when requested by FSC.
- 1.16.2 All clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours, when requested by FSC without exception.

- 1.16.3 Where a club has three (3) or more players from one team participating in a FSC approved representative match, camp or tour which conflicts with a scheduled match of that team, it may request in writing for a postponement of that fixture. FSC, through its councils shall determine the outcome of that request in its absolute discretion and that decision shall not be subject to further review.
- 1.16.4 Players selected that are under the age of eighteen (18) years, will be required to supply FSC with a letter of consent from their parent/guardian.
- 1.16.5 A player in a team representing FSC must accept all reasonable directions of the team management or other FSC officials and must not engage in any public acts of misconduct or unruly public behaviour whilst representing FSC.
- 1.16.6 Representative players will not play in any club matches, seventy-two (72) hours immediately prior to the representative match being played.
- 1.16.7 Any player who does not make themselves available for any representative match nominated, will be automatically stood down and prohibited from participating in any club fixture until after the representative fixture has been played.
- 1.16.8 Players who are selected in the first representative team match must make themselves available for all representative matches. Any player not fulfilling their representative team obligations will be suspended for the next competition club match after the representative match.
- 1.16.9 When the representative teams are playing at home, there will be no matches played in opposition (unless outside a 50km radius from the scheduled fixture venue).
- 1.16.10 When the representative teams are playing away, all representative matches will go on as scheduled unless a team has three (3) or more players on representative duty. The exception is where FSC provides written approval, as per 1.16.3.
- 1.16.11 Representative players who are injured, or are ill, shall advise the representing Team Manager as soon as practical after receiving the injury or becoming sick. Players so afflicted shall attend training sessions, whenever possible, to receive treatment or shall attend any other medical treatment the representative team sports trainer may recommend. FSC may at its sole discretion seek a medical certificate from the player.
- 1.16.12 Where a player has been selected in the representative team and gets sent off prior to the game taking place, the player will serve his suspension in his next club match/s (non-representative game) unless it is a serious offence as determined in the FSC DDR. This is to be determined by the FSC Tribunals.
- 1.16.13 Where a player has been selected in the representative team and receives a suspension through yellow cards, the player will serve their suspension in his next competition club match/s.

1.17 Prohibited Items

- 1.17.1 Clubs, officials, spectators and/or players under the jurisdiction of FSC are prohibited from using and/or displaying in logos, letterheads, clothing (including the playing strip), programs and/or newsletters content that is deemed by FSC to be offensive or inappropriate.
- 1.17.2 Flares, fireworks, loud hailers or instruments prohibited by law are not permitted at any FSC event. The lighting of flares or other flammable objects and/or the throwing of objects is strictly prohibited in all FSC sanctioned fixtures.
- 1.17.3 No club may distribute, disseminate, broadcast or publish by any means whatsoever whether electronically or otherwise any material in another language other than English, without the prior written consent of FSC to do so.

- 1.17.4 All clubs must have the prior written approval of FSC 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, club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, website or any other form of communication.
- 1.17.5 FSC may request the immediate removal of any offending material without notice at any time.
- 1.17.6 Each club must take steps to ensure that its club associates are made aware of these prohibitions and do not breach this requirement, regardless of whether the club is playing home or away. Clubs will be held fully accountable for the actions of their club associates.
- 1.17.7 Clubs or club associates who are in breach of these Competition Rules and Regulations will be fined at level BR7 under Schedule 1, of the Men's Premiership Competition Rules and Regulations (Annexure A). In addition, FSC through its Tribunals, reserves the right to deduct points from a club, team or teams or take further disciplinary action identified in the FSC DDR that is amended from time to time.

1.18 Racial and Religious Vilification Code

- 1.18.1 FSC has endorsed a Racial and Religious Vilification Code for all clubs and their players (referred to in these rules as Racial and Religious Vilification Code) which forms part of these competition rules. Refer also to the FSC DDR.
- 1.18.2 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; and
 - b) Is done because of the race, colour or national/ethnic origin of the other person or other people in the group.
- 1.18.3 The Racial and Religious Vilification Code requires clubs to:
- a) Ensure the players and club associates do not engage in racial and religious vilification against any person,
 - b) Use their best endeavours to educate their players and club associates about Racial and Religious Vilification,
 - c) Publish information about racial and religious vilification to players and club associates, and
 - d) Use their best endeavours to ensure that all club associates act in a manner which is consistent with the objectives of the Racial Vilification Law in Australia.
 - e) Adopt an action plan, which is contained in the Racial Vilification Law of Australia.
- 1.18.4 Any person wishing to lodge a letter of complaint under the Racial and Religious Vilification Code, must address their correspondence to the FSC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) within seven (7) days of the date of the alleged offence.
- 1.18.5 If conciliation is not achieved, then FSC may lay charges of misconduct against those alleged to be responsible and refer the matter to the Tribunal after consultation with the FSC DDC and/or CC.

1.19 Player Inducements

- 1.19.1 Any club official, player's agent or player offering or receiving payment or any form of inducement to or from any member or an official or player of any member, or any club official or player receiving or seeking any payment or other form of inducement from any other person or organisation to wrongfully affect the result of any competition match shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and be liable to such penalty as the FSC DDR determine, including possible life suspension.

- 1.19.2 The payment of a standard match payment nominated in the player's contract to a player by their registered club, shall in no way contravene this clause.
- 1.19.3 Any club, official, player's agent or player found guilty directly or indirectly of inducing or attempting to induce a registered player from another club for any purpose whatsoever; the club for which he is registered shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and shall be liable to be expelled from or otherwise dealt with under the FSC DDR.
- 1.19.4 All third-party payments to players on contracts must be disclosed and clearly documented in the contract.

1.20 Property Damage / Ground Cleanliness

- 1.20.1 Any club or club associate 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 penalties and/or sanctions as the FSC DDR determine.
- 1.20.2 Home clubs or other such clubs designated by FSC, must collect litter and leave grounds, spectator areas, dressing rooms, toilets and pavilions in a satisfactory condition, empty all bins in the supplied hopper or they shall pay the cleaning costs, as directed by FSC through the CC.

1.21 Sponsorship, Advertising and Marketing

- 1.21.1 FSC will seek to obtain a sponsorship or sponsors to assist with the funding of Football South Coast's competitions and representative fixtures.
- 1.21.2 All competing clubs are bound by any sponsorship, licensing or marketing arrangements and consequent conditions introduced by FSC in respect of the conduct of FSC's competitions.
- 1.21.3 Clubs may be required to display at grounds or on uniforms in all competitions, such badges and/or logos as determined by FSC. The positioning of such signs, badges or logos shall be determined by FSC.
- 1.21.4 Any FSC sponsored signs and uniform decals will be at FSC cost.
- 1.21.5 Clubs or club associates who are in breach of this requirement will be subject to such action as determined by FSC / MFC at its sole discretion.

1.22 Bonds and Fines

- 1.22.1 FSC / MFC shall prior to the start of the season determine the Schedule of Penalties for the impending season. Such penalty fee changes will not come into force until two (2) weeks after approval, but in any case, prior to the competition commencing the following year.
- 1.22.2 Clubs or club associates found guilty of breaking the Men's Competition Rules and Regulations will have penalties and/or sanctions imposed on them. Such penalties may include financial, imposed bonds, deduction of competition points and/or suspension or expulsion from any competition, subject to the seriousness of the offence.
- 1.22.3 Any monetary bond placed upon a participating club by FSC or its Tribunals or Councils, shall be for a specific period which is decided upon by FSC or its Tribunals or Councils.
- 1.22.4 All fines imposed by these competition rules must be paid within thirty (30) days of invoicing, including fines dealing with individual suspended players.

1.23 Protests, Disputes and Misconduct

- 1.23.1 The MFC or FSC DDC may investigate any complaint of:
- a) Any breach of these Competition Rules and Regulations
 - b) Unsportsmanlike or unbecoming conduct against any club or club associates or FSC officials/representatives
 - c) Violence or threats of violence or intimidation, or
 - d) Conduct that brings or may bring the game into disrepute.
- 1.23.2 Before the MFC or FSC DDC investigate any such complaint, written particulars of the complaint are to be given to the club or any person concerned prior to any meeting being held, and the club or person/s concerned shall be given an opportunity to appear before the MFC, or nominated Tribunal to participate in the enquiry and to offer such defence or submissions as deemed necessary.
- 1.23.3 If the MFC or the FSC DDC is satisfied that any such complaint has misled the Tribunal, it may impose penalties as per the FSC DDR.
- 1.23.4 Affiliation of FSC shall constitute a binding agreement between FSC and the respective clubs to refer within seventy-two (72) hours of the incident of protest, all protests, claims and complaints to correct committees in writing accompanied by the required deposits.
- 1.23.5 All correctly lodged protests, claims and complaints shall be heard and determined by FSC through its councils and Tribunals in a timely manner and where practical before any delay or adjournment shall render ineffective in whole or part the nature of any such protest, claim or complaint.
- 1.23.6 If any dispute or disagreement arises between a club and any of its players in respect to each other's obligations pursuant to a contract entered between them, or as to the interpretation thereof, such dispute or disagreements will be referred by the club or player to FSC for determination by the relevant independent Tribunal.

1.24 Match Day Audits

- 1.24.1 FSC / MFC or an appointed person shall carry out match day audits to ensure match day compliance protocols are being followed.
- 1.24.2 Reports from the appointed person representing MFC shall ensure the stated findings and any other action as required are communicated to all interested parties.

1.25 Disciplinary Sanctions and Proceedings

- 1.25.1 All clubs and club associates, match officials participating in any manner at an FSC fixture, match or formal social event, will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the FSC DDR.
- 1.25.2 A player who accumulates yellow cards during the competition must serve mandatory match suspensions, as regulated by the FSC DDR.
- a) It is the club's sole responsibility to record and monitor all player/team official infringements and impose sanctions as per these Competition Rules and Regulations.
 - b) It is the team manager's responsibility to sign the team sheet at the end of a fixture and to record yellow card and red card infringements from the team sheet.
 - c) Once the team sheet has been signed by both clubs and submitted, any issues arising with respect to mistaken identity will need to be formally validated by the club to the complete satisfaction of FSC through its Councils.

1.25.3 A player who accumulates red cards during the competition must serve mandatory match suspensions, as regulated by the FSC DDR.

1.26 Club Meetings

1.26.1 The MFC will hold regular club and club coaching and management staff meetings throughout the competition year. These dates will be set and communicated to the clubs, prior to each commencing season.

1.26.2 It is mandatory that all Men's clubs (District and Premier league) have a club representative at each of the designated club meetings.

1.26.3 Clubs that do not have representation at a club meeting (includes the Annual Meeting) will be fined as per BR4 Schedule 1 of these rules, irrespective if an apology has been provided.

1.26.4 Attendance at the Annual Club Meeting will be for those clubs that form part of the Premier or District League for the following season, as per the Declaration of Leagues.

2. Competition Structure

2.1 General Information

- 2.1.1 These Competition Rules and Regulations shall apply to all FSC Premier and District League competition fixtures (including league fixtures, cup games, finals series and play-off matches). FSC will provide the official fixture list as soon as practicable in accordance with these Competition Rules and Regulations.
- 2.1.2 All FSC fixtures are played under the FIFA Laws of the Game, unless otherwise specified in these Competition Rules and Regulations, and will be played in compliance with FFA, FNSW and the FSC regulations and other specified conditions and policies.
- 2.1.3 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 Region, that are not part of the scheduled competitions unless they have first received written approval from FSC and its councils.
- a) Such requests shall be in writing no less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled date of each match and where appropriate, the visiting team's policy should be adhered to.
 - b) Any club or player found to be playing in an unauthorised competition will not be covered by the FSC insurance policy and the club and/or player may be subject to further action as determined by FSC or its council or Tribunal.
- 2.1.4 FSC shall provide the finals series championship draw no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first round of the final series competition.
- 2.1.5 Any disputes between two (2) or more clubs, as to the arrangement of fixtures shall be referred to and decided by the CC / MFC at its sole discretion.
- 2.1.6 Relocation of any matches for any reason whatsoever shall be immediately reported to FSC by the clubs concerned and approved prior to the fixture being relocated officially.
- 2.1.7 All rearrangements of fixtures by clubs shall be submitted to and approved by the CC. A fixture may be played wholly or in part under flood lights, providing the lighting meets the requirements and that any alteration to the starting time has been given due to approval and notice to the opposing club.
- 2.1.8 Notwithstanding any other competition rule, the CC reserves the right to alter or amend any fixture after it has been nominated in the official fixture list and shall provide seven (7) days prior written notice to all parties concerned with the changes where practical.

2.2 Men's Premier League and District League Competitions

- 2.2.1 The Premier and District League competitions shall consist of three (3) grades, First Grade, Second Grade and Youth Grade (Under 20's)
- a) Youth Grade (Under 20's) shall consist of players 20 years of age or under prior to 31 December in that competition year. The exception is the goalkeeper who can be overage. Players must turn a minimum of 17 years of age in that competition year to be registered, with the exception being a maximum of three (3) players per club who can be turning 16 years of age in that competition year.
 - b) For players under the age of 17 to be selected in First Grade, a consent form must be completed by the parent/guardian and an assessment carried out by an FSC authorised person (FSC Technical Director/delegate) with subsequent written FSC approval prior to selection.

- c) In First Grade, Second Grade and Youth Grade (Under 20's), each team shall play its opponents twice on a home and away basis and in the sequence as far as it is practicable with respective grounds being available that meet the criteria as determined from time to time by the MFC.
 - d) The MFC may alter the draw to include, but not limited to formats including split rounds, split groups and additional rounds in the event of competitions comprising teams not conducive to a two (2) round competition draw.
- 2.2.2 FSC require that all coaches in the Premier and District League competitions hold a minimum Senior License.
- a) Where a coach is appointed/replaced after the season has commenced, they must hold or have held a Senior License or higher qualification.
 - b) Special dispensation can be given to newly appointed/replacement coaches whose qualifications have expired on the provision that they complete the next available Senior License course.
 - c) Clubs are required to advise FSC through its Councils in writing of any changes to their appointed coaches in a timely manner or within seven (7) days of the change in appointment.
- 2.2.3 The team finishing with the highest amount of points at the conclusion of the home and away season will be crowned League Champions.
- 2.2.4 Where a team finishes the competition equal on points in any position on the table, the following shall be used to determine the higher ranked team where required in order:
- a) The team with the highest goal difference
 - b) The team with the highest number of goals scored, then
 - c) Head to head aggregate result.
 - d) Where the aggregate total is equal, away goals shall count as double.
 - e) If by chance, the above does not separate the teams, a playoff match between the two teams shall take place with the winner finishing higher on the table.
- 2.2.5 At the conclusion of the season, the top five (5) placed teams will play a finals series to determine the Premier and District League Grand Final winners.
- 2.2.6 All clubs competing in FSC sanction competitions in Premier and District League must fulfil their obligations with their respective teams. All teams must comply with the starting eleven (11) players at the commencement of each fixture and noted accordingly on the team sheet. Failure to comply with the match starting with the nominated eleven (11) player in the first instance, shall result in an official warning in writing to the club and for each occasion thereafter, per team, shall result in a loss of a single point from the first-grade team and placing their future applications in jeopardy
- 2.2.7 Where a club does not fulfil its obligations with respect to starting each match with eleven (11) eligible players on more than three (3) occasions for any team in a competition year, the executive of the club shall be required to appear before a FSC to show just cause, why they should not be withdrawn from the competition entirely.

2.3 Promotion and Relegation

- 2.3.1 The First Grade District League declared League Champion shall be offered promotion to Premier League in the following year subject to the club, meeting full Premier League criteria by 31 January of the new competition year unless directed otherwise by FSC / MFC.
- 2.3.2 If the First Grade District League declared League Champion declines promotion to Premier League or does not satisfy the Premier League criteria, the position may be offered to the First Grade District League Runner-Up at the discretion of FSC / MFC subject to satisfying the Premier League criteria.
- 2.3.3 The First Grade Premier League club finishing in last position shall be considered for relegation to District League for the following year and the First Grade District League Club finishing in last position shall be considered for relegation to Community League for the following year.
- 2.3.4 If neither the First Grade District League declared League Champion nor First Grade Runner-Up accept or satisfy the requirements to Premier league, the position shall be offered to the First Grade Premier League team finishing last.
- 2.3.5 Promotion and relegation to and from the Premier League shall be by invitation at the sole discretion of FSC through its council and that the respective promoted club to Premier League meeting full criteria by 31 January each year, unless directed otherwise by FSC through its councils
- 2.3.6 If two (2) or more teams finish on equal points in last position, the following sequence shall determine last position:
- a) Least goal difference
 - b) Least goals scored
 - c) Most goals against
 - d) Head to head aggregate result
 - e) Away goals shall be multiplied by two (2) head to head is equal
 - f) If all the above is equal, the losing club in an aggregate home and away playoff between the two (2) clubs shall determine last position and potential relegation.
- 2.3.7 Promotion and relegation is subject to the club's meeting criteria including but not limited to all articles of the regulations, the ground criteria, official FSC application documents, and any other criteria as determined by the Board. It is noted that the respective criteria listed in Annexure B & C shall apply in its entirety for all considerations and deliberations by FSC through its Councils.

2.4 Player of the Year

- 2.4.1 There shall be a player of the year award in both Premier League and District League (all three Grades) with the points and voting system to be determined by the MFC on an annual basis.
- 2.4.2 There shall be a First-Grade goalkeeper award in both Premier League and District League with the points and voting system to be determined by the MFC on an annual basis

2.5 Admission and Application to Men's Premiership Competitions

- 2.5.1 Each year, FSC, through its councils shall call for applications for all competitions for the following season. Participation in the competitions is on an annual basis unless otherwise specified.
- 2.5.2 For the avoidance of doubt, the club agrees that it has no right to any renewal or extension to participate in any future competition(s), and FSC has the right to determine in its sole discretion whether any right to participate in any competition(s) is renewed or extended.

- 2.5.3 The FSC Board through their nominated council (MFC) will be responsible for assessing all Premier and District League applications. The recommendations of the MFC shall be forwarded to FSC for consideration and declaration of the competitions for the following year shall be communicated to the participating clubs after the declaration has been finalised
- 2.5.4 Applications to participate in all competitions administered within these Competition Rules and Regulations are to be made to FSC on the prescribed FSC documents and submitted by the date on the document.
- 2.5.5 FSC will distribute the prescribed documents in the year preceding each season.
- 2.5.6 Application forms shall include but not limited to the following information:
- a) Division/League for which the nomination is being submitted
 - b) Preferred home ground and training ground
 - c) Colours of the first choice and alternate strips (shirt, shorts and socks)
 - d) Club executives and contact details
- 2.5.7 All applications shall be reviewed and assessed by the CC initially for completeness prior to presentation to the next MFC scheduled meeting.
- 2.5.8 Clubs that have provided inadequate information or information that is not in accordance with these Competition Rules and Regulations, including the actual participation document shall be informed of such irregularities and shall be given seven (7) days in which to resubmit their application in full compliance.
- a) Where irregularities have not been duly addressed within the allocated timeframe on the resubmitted documentation, FSC, through its councils shall determine the validity of the application at its sole discretion.
 - b) Penalties or sanctions may be imposed on clubs for the season in which they are applying should applications be incomplete or of concern to the MFC or FSC Board.
- 2.5.9 Competition admission fees shall be set annually by FSC / MFC and included on the application form.
- 2.5.10 Clubs will only be eligible to nominate teams in the FSC competitions if they are a current financial participant of FSC and have their application for league participation with FSC accepted by the MFC as per the FSC constitution.
- 2.5.11 The MFC and FSC reserve the right to determine the appropriate league of each nomination, by considering the previous season's results, playing strength of the club, disciplinary records, financial position and the formation of the division.
- 2.5.12 The MFC and FSC reserve the right to reject applications at its sole discretion.
- 2.5.13 Applications received after the closing date will only be accepted at the discretion of the MFC and placed into leagues as determined by the MFC.
- 2.5.14 Applications for all competitions must comply with the assessment criteria as set out and amended by FSC through the MFC from time to time.
- 2.5.15 The declaration of the leagues shall rest solely with the FSC Board from year to year.

2.6 Player Status, Eligibility and Identity

- 2.6.1 The ineligibility of players shall be defined by FSC from time to time.
- a) It is the responsibility of the club to check with FSC that all their players are registered through the Play Football portal (FFA National website system).

- b) Ineligible players include;
 - i) Unregistered players
 - ii) Suspended players
 - iii) A player who participates in a match but is not listed on the team sheet
 - iv) A player who is required to stand down due to suspension (including accumulation of cautions) but participates in a match
 - v) A player that has been expelled from an earlier match but participates in a later match on the same day
 - vi) A player that has been deemed ineligible due to any article of these regulations or pursuant to the FSCDDR
 - vii) A ring-in player (refer to 2.6.2)
 - viii) Any excess visa players signed by the club over the three (3) permitted and either play or are named on the team sheet.
 - ix) Players added to the team sheet without the referee's approval after the match has commenced
 - x) Players under 18 that have not provided FSC a Player Consent Form.
 - c) Any team that fields an ineligible player will automatically lose that match on forfeit and be fined as per BR5 of Schedule 1.
 - d) Additionally, the club, team official(s), or player(s) may further be sanctioned in accordance with the FSC DDR as misconduct.
 - e) For clarity, it is the club's absolute responsibility to ensure it fields eligible players in any match.
 - f) Where both teams from the same match are in breach of player eligibility, the match result will be determined as a "no result" with neither team being awarded any points.
 - i) The clubs will be fined as per BR5 of Schedule 1
 - ii) The clubs will also incur any other costs associated with the match or a greater amount as determined by FSC through the MFC / Tribunals in addition to another other disciplinary action imposed.
- 2.6.2 A "ring in" is an ineligible player, either because they are not registered, belong to another team or are unable to play in that grade due to various reasons including age restraints, but who has been asked by a club/team or another player to fill a spot on a team and knowingly participate when they are ineligible to do so.
- 2.6.3 Any club/team found guilty will be sanctioned.
- a) Any player who knowingly plays as a ring in will be suspended for a minimum of four (4) matches.
 - b) Any participating club or office holder of any such club or any player or coach affiliated with any such club who is found guilty to have knowingly participated in any practice of ringing-in shall be brought before FSC through the MFC or Tribunal of its choosing, where disqualification could be the overall outcome.
 - c) The offender shall also be subject to other punishment as may be determined by FSC through the MFC or Tribunal which is thought to be appropriate having regard to all the circumstances of the case.
 - d) Any club/team found guilty will be fined at BR7 Schedule 1 of the competition rules.
- 2.6.4 Prior to any match, the team managers of both teams shall complete an official team sheet as specified in section 3.7 in these Competition Rules and Regulations.

- 2.6.5 Where a club suspects any abnormality or breach of these rules, they shall:
- a) Advise the opposing club of their intention to report the matter to FSC
 - b) Make notification in the comments section of the team sheet of their intention to report the matter
 - c) Submit a written report to FSC (with supporting documents) within seventy-two (72) hours following the match
 - d) Submit photographic / video evidence to support any abnormality
 - e) Bring the matter to the attention of the match official and request that they also report the abnormality to FSC.
- 2.6.6 Any club that fails to produce proof of identification upon request shall attract a fine as per BR4 of Schedule 1 of the competition rules.
- 2.6.7 All clubs are to ensure that they start the competition fixtures with a minimum of eleven (11) players and assigned accordingly on the team sheet. Those Clubs found not to have complied with starting the fixture with eleven (11) eligible players shall be subject bringing the game into disrepute and sanctioned accordingly under the FSC DDR.

2.7 Clubs Removed or Withdrawing from Competitions

- 2.7.1 In the event, any participating club withdraws or is removed from FSC Men's competitions (Premier or District League), the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered competitions 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;
 - 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 played prior to the removal or withdrawal deleted from the records and a Bye result recorded.
 - c) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn during the second or subsequent stage of a competition will be treated as a Bye in that stage of the competition, with all points and goals awarded in such matches played during that stage prior to the removal or withdrawal deleted from the records and a Bye result recorded. All points and goals awarded in matches involving the removed or withdrawn team in prior competition stages, will be stricken from the records and considered null and void.
- 2.7.2 Where appropriate, FSC, through its councils may impose a penalty or fine (or both) to a club that has had a team removed or has withdrawn from a competition at BR5 Schedule 1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations and may impose other sanctions on the club where appropriate under the FSC DDR.
- 2.7.3 Where a club has been suspended after the first full round of the competition, all matches involving that the club shall affect positional standings with the respective competition.
- a) For each match in which the team cannot participate because of suspension in the second round, the opposing team will be awarded a forfeit and will record a 3-0 score or an aggregate score.

3. Fixture Requirements

3.1 Facilities and Ground Arrangements

- 3.1.1 Each club must ensure that it complies fully with the ground criteria schedule for their respective competition in which they have applied for and been accepted throughout the course of the entire playing calendar for that year as noted in Annexures B and C of these Competition Rules and Regulations.

- 3.1.2 FSC, through its councils shall approve all grounds for all matches sanctioned by FSC and shall allocate clubs a ground that conforms to Annexures B and C of these competition rules that are subject to change from time to time. Changes are undertaken after an annual review by FSC through its councils and notification of change is provided to the clubs in a written format from the Competitions Coordinator.
- 3.1.3 Any club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified, may be fined at BR6 Schedule 1 of the competition rules, suspended and/or have its home fixtures played away or at an alternate venue as determined by FSC through its council, at its sole discretion.
- 3.1.4 FSC, through its councils may grant special dispensation to clubs who are in the process of upgrading their facilities in accordance to FSC's requirement however this will be formally determined by FSC through its councils and advised accordingly in writing to the respective club seeking dispensation.
- a) All dispensation timeframes to upgrade facilities shall have a maximum period placed on the club and in any case, shall not exceed three (3) months from the start of the competition or 30 June of the playing year.
 - b) All dispensation toward facility upgrades during the season shall take into consideration potential impact on the competition playing calendar, wet weather and impact on other matches where grounds are either unavailable or are a shared facility.

3.2 Goalposts and Nets

- 3.2.1 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) Construction of goal frames for either fixed or portable use
 - b) Securing and stability of the goal frame
 - c) Net fixings to the frame of the goal
 - d) The net itself.
- 3.2.2 All football goal posts that are installed as a permanent structure on a football field 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.
- 3.2.3 Where a club used portable goal posts for training or competition, it must ensure that these goal posts conform to the current Standards Australia handbook "Portable Football Goalposts – manufacture and storage".
- a) The manufacturer of portable goals is expected to provide the club with a certificate of conformity
- 3.2.4 It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that they provide goal nets of an approved configuration that are secured by non-offending fixations that are not subject to cause player injury throughout the match at any stage.

3.3 Ground and Line Marking

- 3.3.1 The playing surface should be well grassed, even and not pose a risk to player or match official safety during a competition match.
- 3.3.2 Line markings need to fall in line with the FIFA Laws of the Game specifications and dimensions.

- a) Line marking products such as agricultural limestone or 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 for line marking.
 - b) Ground markings must be adequate, clear and accurate.
 - c) In all matches sanctioned by the CC, the home club shall ensure line marking equipment remain available for all matches being played at that ground on the day.
- 3.3.3 To ensure the safety of all players, match officials and spectators, any club found in breach will not be able to play any more home games until the breach has been rectified or FSC, through its council's grants dispensation from these requirements.
- 3.3.4 A home club whose match is postponed/abandoned due to the use of prohibited substances for marking their grounds (as per 3.3.2.a), or fails to have the ground line marked appropriately, will forfeit the match(s) 3-0 and three (3) points will be awarded to the opposing team.
- a) The home club will incur a penalty or fine (or both) at BR4 of Schedule 1 of the competition rules as set out in the FSC DDR.

3.4 Field Exclusion Zone

- 3.4.1 The technical area of the field and playing surface shall be fenced off with a secure fence of material so as not to compromise player or spectator safety.
- 3.4.2 All spectators and non-participants must be either behind the designated security barriers surrounding the field or behind temporary exclusion zones which are a minimum of two (2) metres away from all sidelines or three (3) metres away from all goal lines at all matches. Such an area will be determined as the field exclusion zone.
- 3.4.3 On grounds that contain adjacent playing fields and on which matches are being played side by side simultaneously, no person other than the match officials and persons approved by FSC shall be permitted to position themselves between the playing pitches during the progress of any match.
- 3.4.4 The only persons permitted within the field exclusion zone during the progress of any match shall be:
- a) The competing players and reserves from each team (as listed on the team sheet)
 - b) The coach and team manager
 - c) First Aid or emergency services personnel
 - d) Nominated club officials wearing official FSC vests
 - e) Accredited media personnel wearing high visibility media vests
 - f) Ball person(s) wearing suitable high visibility vests
- 3.4.5 Failure by the host club officials to ensure compliance of the field exclusion zone will result in a fine at BR2 of Schedule 1 of the competition rules and/or sanctions as determined by the Competition Coordinator.

3.5 Men's Premiership Mandatory Requirements

- 3.5.1 All participating Men's Premier and District league clubs have an absolute responsibility to ensure that the criteria for the ground and facilities are in accordance to the nominated criteria.
- 3.5.2 **Playing Arena**

- a) All internal field markings shall be marked in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the game and as per 3.3.2 of these Competition Rules and Regulations. The playing surface markings must fall between the following range:
 - i) Minimum length of ninety (90) metres to a maximum length of one hundred (100) metres
 - ii) Minimum width of sixty (60) metres to a maximum width of seventy (70) metres
- b) The field of play must be rectangular, fully enclosed and have an evenly grassed surface and be well drained.
- c) A permanent fence (or barrier) around the field to be secured to the ground with a minimum height of 1 metre and at two (2) metres in distance from the side lines and at least three (3) metres from the goal lines.
- d) Goal posts, goal nets and corner flags must be of approved material, colour and dimensions as per the FIFA Laws of the Game. Corner flags must not feature nationalistic emblems or reference or be pointed at the top of the corner flag.
- e) Two (2) coaches/substitutes benches/dugouts with adequate seating for up to a maximum of ten (10) people. This can be of any configuration including undercover protection for players and additional seating to cover coaching staff.
- f) The substitutes bench/seating area shall also have a one (1) metre line placed around the extent of the seating arrangements to be known as the technical area.

3.5.3 Player and Match Official Amenities

It is the responsibility of the host club to always provide adequate, secure and hygienic facilities for players and match officials. To facilitate this outcome, clubs are to comply with the following criteria:

- a) Two (2) players' and one (1) match official's lockable dressing room with exclusive access to:
 - i) A shower area, floors and walls to 1.2 metres, finished in impervious material, providing hot and cold showers.
 - ii) The designed player's dressing room must have a tiled and/or stainless-steel shower area.
 - iii) Toilet facilities (preferred)
- b) All clubs must have available at all home fixtures a designated First Aid Officer. The name of the First Aid Officer in attendance must be displayed in the canteen for public reference in the case of an injury to a spectator. The provision of first aid can be achieved by the following means:
 - i) Qualified person with a First Aid Certificate or higher qualification,
 - ii) A Medical Practitioner (Doctor) at the ground, or
 - iii) Having a St Johns Ambulance Service (or equivalent) in attendance at matches.
- c) All dressing room structures must be permanent buildings
- d) No access is permitted to the match official's dressing room unless authorised by the match officials at any time or accompanied by an FSC Council representative.
- e) A working mobile phone must be readily available by the host club should the need arise to call for Emergency Services, FSC communications or spectator unrest requiring additional support by Police.

3.5.4 Spectator Amenities

- a) Spectator amenities shall be fully enclosed with perimeter fencing at least 1.8 metres high around the entire ground for Premier League clubs. This is a preferred standard for District League clubs.
- b) At least one (1) toilet block for male and female patrons situated not more than fifty (50) metres from the playing field. The configuration of the toilet arrangements is defined within the application for the playing year that is subject to change from time to time (refer to Annexures B and C).
- c) A canteen/kiosk serving hot/cold drinks and snack foods compliant with all health and council regulations including the display of designated signage as determined by the Local Government Area Council Regulations E.g. Responsible Service to Alcohol and No Smoking signage.
- d) Disabled toilet access (where installed).

3.5.5 Public Address System

All clubs need to have a fully functional public-address system that is audible to all parts of the venue.

3.5.6 Ground Signage

All clubs are responsible for the display of nominated signage as directed from time to time by FSC through its councils pertaining to crowd behaviour and conditions of entry that may include, but is not limited to the following:

- a) Conditions of Entry
- b) Responsible Service to Alcohol
- c) Admission Prices
- d) No Smoking signage
- e) First Aid Officer
- f) Defibrillator signage

3.6 Technical Area

3.6.1 Participating Men's Premier and District League clubs must clearly mark out the Technical Area as stipulated by FIFA guidelines.

- a) A maximum of 10 persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area. Seating shall be supplied by the home team in sufficient quantity.
- b) Occupants within the technical area must either be a registered player or registered team official on the team sheet for that fixture.
- c) Except for one (1) person, all others must remain seated within the confines of the Technical Area. Exceptions include cases of special circumstances e.g. physical trainer entering the field of play with the match official's permission to assess an injured player.
- d) Injured or suspended players are not permitted in the technical area at any time.

3.6.2 Registered players seated in the technical area must be clearly identifiable with high visibility vests of a contrasting colour.

3.6.3 The match official may expel any person from the technical area at any time as they deem necessary. The game will not recommence until that expelled person has left the playing field to the match officials' satisfaction i.e. at least fifty (50) metres from the designated technical area.

3.7 Team Sheets

- 3.7.1 The home club shall be responsible for the provision of team sheets and is required to complete the top generic part i.e. date, teams, round, and venue, etc. Failure to comply with this requirement on the part of the home club shall attract a fine at BR2 Schedule 1 of these competition rules.
- 3.7.2 The team sheet must be completed in ink and be legible by both teams. It is the home club's responsibility to supply the team sheet book and usually they complete their section first.
- a) Clubs must list on the team sheet correctly all players taking part in the fixture i.e. FFA number, shirt number, name, club match officials and full match details. Failure to comply with this requirement on the part of the home club shall attract a fine at BR2 Schedule 1 of these competition rules.
 - b) The maximum number of players on a team sheet is sixteen (16) in ALL Grades except for Youth Grade whose maximum is seventeen (17).
 - c) The team sheet is to be provided to the match official no less than fifteen (15) minutes before the commencement of that match.
 - d) Clubs are not permitted to change the team sheet without the match official's approval once the match has commenced. This player will be deemed ineligible as per 2.6.1.
 - e) Players/Officials stood down must be noted at the back of the team sheet. Failure to comply with this requirement shall attract a fine at BR2 Schedule 1 of these competition rules.
- 3.7.3 Both teams must ensure that the match official completes a team sheet after the game.
- a) Representatives from each team must sign the team sheet after the fixture and should only do so after the appointed match official has recorded all outstanding details.
 - b) Once signed by all parties, each club must take their copy of the team sheet.
 - c) Unsigned team sheets shall attract a fine at BR2 Schedule 1 of these competition rules.
- 3.7.4 Where a club disputes the final details on the team sheet e.g. goal-scorer, identity of sanctioned player, etc. the club shall be required to lodge a dispute with the Competition Coordinator within seventy-two (72) hours from the conclusion of the fixture. The club representative is not required to sign the team sheet in this case.
- 3.7.5 Where a club causes a match to be delayed due to incorrect completion of a team sheet, late production of a team sheet, player identification or similar administrative matters, the delay shall be reported by the match official to FSC on the back of the team sheet. The club responsible may attract a fine at BR4 under Schedule 1 of the competition rules.
- 3.7.6 Under no circumstances shall two (2) players playing in the same team at the same time be permitted to have the same shirt number.
- 3.7.7 All team sheets (including any send off or incident reports) must be sent by the match official to the registered FSC office to arrive by 10.00am on the second working day following the fixture.
- a) Where the match does not have an appointed match official, the home club is responsible for the delivery of the original team sheet.
 - b) Failure to submit a team sheet within seven (7) days from the completion of the match by the home team will result in a 3-0 win to the away team (unless the score was greater) and shall attract a fine as per BR4 in Schedule 1 of the competition rules.

- 3.7.8 When a match is forfeited, the team sheet shall be endorsed accordingly by the match official.
- 3.7.9 Any club associate supplying false information shall be deemed to have been guilty of misconduct and dealt with under the FSC DDR.
- 3.7.10 Players listed in the first eleven (11) spaces of the team sheet shall be deemed to have started in the match unless otherwise indicated in the team sheet.
 - a) Where a player listed as a starting player is not involved in the match, the match official shall make a note on the team sheet.
- 3.7.11 Failure by teams to complete a team sheet in accordance with these Competition Rules and Regulations shall attract a fine at BR2 under Schedule 1.

3.8 Player Numbers and Substitutions / Interchange

- 3.8.1 A match is to be played by two (2) teams which at the commencement of the match each team shall consist of not more than eleven (11) starting players, one (1) of whom is the goalkeeper.
 - a) A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than seven (7) players.
- 3.8.2 Player numbers can be 1 to 51.
 - a) All goalkeepers taking the field must do so with an allocated number on the back of their playing strip.
- 3.8.3 For all Premier and District League fixtures, the substitution Laws of the Game apply as follows:
 - a) First Grade – up to three (3) substitutes
 - b) Second Grade – up to four (4) substitutes
 - c) Youth Grade – interchange (unlimited substitutions)
- 3.8.4 All substitutes must be seated within the technical area.
 - a) Substitutes may warm up outside the technical area, providing they are wearing an alternative coloured vest to the team strip and they have advised the match official on the technical area side who has authorised it.
 - b) When warming up, substitutions may choose an area furthest from the opposing team or as advised by the appointed match official on the technical area side.
- 3.8.5 Any club who makes more substitutions than permitted as per 3.8.3 will incur a 3-0 forfeit result.

3.9 Club Match Officials

- 3.9.1 It is the responsibility of the host club to maintain an adequate degree of control over spectators and club officials including their associates.
- 3.9.2 Premier League and District League clubs must provide a minimum of four (4) home club and four (4) away club match (ground) officials to each fixture.
- 3.9.3 Club match officials must:
 - a) Be in clearly identifiable official vests as supplied by FSC,
 - b) Be visible at all times, and

- c) Ensure that, at all times, spectators abide by the FSC Spectator Code of Conduct. If spectators are behaving badly contrary to the Code of Conduct, a jacketed official must, if it is safe to do so, remind spectators of their obligations under the Code of Conduct and issue any reasonable directions to those Spectators, including a direction to leave the venue. If those spectators fail to comply with the jacketed official's reasonable directions, they should contact the home club representative for further assistance. If required, the home club official is to contact the police or relevant emergency services for support; and
- d) Be responsible for the welfare of the officiating 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 the commencement, at half time and at the conclusion of games.

- 3.9.4 Match officials should not leave their dressing rooms to enter the field of play or leave the field to return to the dressing rooms until identifiable club match officials are present to escort them on and off the field.
- 3.9.5 Home club officials will be responsible for making sure unauthorised personnel are kept out of the match official's dressing room.
- 3.9.6 Each team is responsible for the safety of their player's property. Anything left in the dressing room is done so at the owner's risk.
- 3.9.7 FSC may increase the minimum club match official arrangements for any fixture at any time. All associated costs for additional arrangements must be met by the host club.
- 3.9.8 A failure by a club associate to comply with rule 3.9 shall attract a fine at BR4 under Schedule 1 of the competition rules.

3.10 Match Balls

- 3.10.1 In all participating Men's Premier and District League fixtures, the home/host club shall provide the appointed match official with three (3) match balls (FSC approved) no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the scheduled fixture.
- 3.10.2 At the conclusion of the game, the match balls will be returned to the home club by the match officials.
- 3.10.3 All clubs must use the current licensed match ball as provided by FSC's ball manufacturer for that season.
- 3.10.4 Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FSC by the match official on the team sheet.
- 3.10.5 Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine at BR2 under Schedule 1 of the competition rules.

3.11 Players Strip / Apparel / Jewellery

- 3.11.1 The club must ensure that a player shall not wear or use any equipment or apparel that is dangerous to themselves or another player during a match as defined in the Laws of the Game.
- 3.11.2 Clubs may only play in their registered and approved club strips.
 - a) Participating Premier and District League clubs must have two (2) different strips to avoid any potential colour clashes on the day of the match. The alternate playing strip (including shirt and socks) must not be the same as their nominated home/main playing strip.
 - b) All teams named first on the FSC fixture schedule shall be deemed the home team and will therefore play in their home/main strip.

- 3.11.3 Where there is a clash of colours at any match, it is **the visiting team's responsibility** to change into an alternate strip which has been approved and registered by FSC through its councils.
- a) Visiting clubs may be required to wear a combination of their main and alternate strips to ensure the color clash is resolved.
 - b) In the event of a club fielding a team in colours close to those of the opposing team and in the opinion of the match official deems to be a clash of colours, the match official may direct the visiting club to change its colours and refuse to allow the fixture to commence until a satisfactory change is made.
 - c) Failure to comply with this competition rule will result in a fine at BR6 under Schedule 1 of the competition rules. Where there is a repeat of the same non-compliance throughout the season the club is subject to further sanctions and penalties under the FSC DDR for misconduct 1
 - d) Team Managers must check the apparel worn by their opponents on a weekly basis to avoid the likelihood of a clash of playing strip colours before the next scheduled match.
- 3.11.4 A club may be penalised pursuant to the FSCDDR 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 the competition rule 3.11.3.
 - b) A club changes their home or alternate playing strip without FSC's prior written approval, and this change results in a match being postponed.
- 3.11.5 All players are required to wear shin guards that are covered entirely by their stocking, made of suitable approved material and provide a reasonable degree of protection at all times whilst on the field of play.
- 3.11.6 FIFA Laws of the Game state that players are forbidden to wear any equipment that may be dangerous to either the player or another player. This includes but is not limited to, jewellery and spectacles.
- 3.11.7 All jewellery, including wedding bands, studs, rings, bars or other body-piercing jewellery must be removed before a player enters the field of play. No taping of any type over jewellery is permitted.
- 3.11.8 Any player wearing jewellery may 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 exemptions to this rule.
- 3.11.9 Any player requiring vision correction should consider wearing contact lenses, or wear spectacles that:
- a) Are firmly secured with a sports band or adjustable strap,
 - b) Have purpose designed and closely fitted curled ends on the arms, or
 - c) Are specially designed protective sports glasses constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and limited metallic parts.

3.12 Stretchers / First Aid

- 3.12.1 Each home club must allocate one stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use at all participating Men's Premier and District League fixtures. The stretcher is to be in place between the two (2) technical areas prior to the commencement of the fixture. Clubs that fail to do so may be fined at BR1 under Schedule 1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations.
- 3.12.2 Each club must ensure that the stretcher is placed at the halfway line prior to the commencement of each fixture and that it remains along the barrier/fence in a safe and accessible position for first aid staff during the match(s).

- 3.12.3 Wooden or canvas stretchers are prohibited. Clubs must ensure their stretchers comply with current Australian standards.
- 3.12.4 It is mandatory that all participating Men's Premier and District League clubs have a person trained in first aid present (with current qualifications) during all matches. Refer to 3.5.3 b) for further expectations.

3.13 Results of Matches

- 3.13.1 It is vital for administrative purposes that all match results are correctly and accurately reported to FSC through its delegated representatives in a timely manner and to further support ongoing requirements of a disciplinary nature.
- 3.13.2 Subject to these Competition Rules and Regulations, results of each match must be entered directly by clubs online through the designated competition portal.
- 3.13.3 FSC shall provide clubs with appropriate access and contact details prior to the commencement of each season. FSC will also communicate to all clubs where there are any changes to this process from time to time.
- 3.13.4 It is the home club's responsibility to enter the results on an ongoing basis and in a timely manner.
 - a) Home clubs must ensure the match results for all grades are electronically entered into the competition portal (as per 3.13.2) no later than ninety (90) minutes after the conclusion of the last fixture of the day.
- 3.13.5 Clubs that fail to enter the results of any match by the time stipulated shall be fined at BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations.

3.14 Correspondence / Communication

- 3.14.1 It is important that an effective communication channel is established between FSC through its councils and the relevant clubs participating in matches approved and sanctioned by FSC.
- 3.14.2 All correspondence by FSC through its councils to clubs shall be deemed to have been received by the club as follows:
 - a) In the case of electronic media, immediately after transmission.
 - b) In the event of communication sent by surface mail, two (2) days after such communication was posted.
- 3.14.3 Clubs must ensure that postal mailboxes, specified email accounts and the FSC website are checked regularly and that any information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties.
- 3.14.4 All formal correspondence received by FSC through its councils from clubs must be on club letterhead and signed by a club official, or if sent by email, from the clubs FSC registered email address.
- 3.14.5 All clubs must have a designated active electronic email address that is provided at the time of application for the following playing calendar year for all correspondence.
- 3.14.6 All club correspondence is deemed confidential and is not to be distributed to unauthorised parties. FSC may at its discretion act against clubs or individuals as it sees fit where inappropriate dissemination has been determined and verified under the FSC DDR - Misconduct.

3.15 Smoking / Drinking at League Venues

- 3.15.1 Section 6A of the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 makes several outdoor public places smoke free. Smoking is banned in spectator areas at public sports grounds and other recreational areas in NSW. However, smoking is only banned when an organised sporting event is being held.
 - a) Patrons wishing to smoke must do so outside the sports ground

- 3.15.2 It is prohibited for anyone to consume alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence. This includes the team bench within the technical area and anywhere on or within two (2) metres of the playing surface as determined by ground markings and playing field fencing.
- 3.15.3 The club must obtain a liquor license as required under the Liquor Licensing Act to sell alcohol and abide by those conditions as set out in the Liquor Licensing Act.
- a) Clubs are not permitted to sell drinks in glass containers of any description.
 - b) Clubs are to ensure that the appropriate signage is displayed in prominent locations where the responsible service of alcohol is being undertaken in line with the Liquor Licensing Act NSW.
 - c) Clubs are to have a nominated person each year undertake and/or hold a current RSA license that is present at the ground during the nominated fixtures.
 - d) Clubs are to utilise the public-address system to communicate the requirements associated with the responsible service of alcohol, firstly in English and then in any other languages consistent with the home venue.
- 3.15.4 Where any person is in breach of this Competition Rule, both the individual and if the person is a club associate, that person's club, will be fined at BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations and will be subject to further disciplinary action under the FSC DDR.

3.16 Ball Persons

- 3.16.1 The home club on match day shall supply a minimum of two (2) responsible ball persons (minimum 10 years old) suitably dressed for easy identification.
- 3.16.2 The ball persons shall be positioned on each side of the field around the halfway line of the field with duties being to supply and retrieve the ball promptly when the ball is out of play.
- 3.16.3 The colours worn by ball persons shall be distinct from those worn by either the players or match officials and approved by FSC.
- 3.16.4 Failure to comply with this clause will render a fine at BR4 under Schedule 1 of the competition rules.

4. Fixture Details

4.1 Duration of Matches

4.1.1 Periods of play

- a) Subject to these Competition Rules and Regulations, all fixtures will be played over two (2) equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes unless agreed otherwise between the match official and the two (2) participating teams prior to the commencement of the fixture.
- b) The match official may cut short any match if in the match official's opinion, the playing conditions compromise player safety or otherwise only if:
 - i) It is in line with the Laws of the Game; and

- ii) The match official has consulted with the coaches of each of the participating teams.
- c) If the duration of any match is reduced in total time by 25% or more due to serious injury, playing field conditions, extreme weather conditions, floodlight failure or any other reason preventing the match from being completed, then the game may be replayed, or the match result awarded at the time of the suspension of the match, as determined by FSC through its councils and the Competitions Coordinator.

4.1.2 **Half time interval**

- a) The half time interval must be a minimum of five (5) minutes and a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes in duration.
- b) The duration of the half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the match official.

4.1.3 **Allowance for time lost**

- a) Allowance is made in either half for all time lost through:
 - i) Substitution(s)
 - ii) Assessment of injury to players
 - iii) Removal of injured players from the field of play for treatment
 - iv) Time wasting
 - v) Any other cause
- b) The allowance for time lost is at the sole discretion of the match official.

4.1.4 **Match Commencement**

It is the club's responsibility to ensure that the scheduled time of commencement is maintained on a weekly basis for all competition matches where practicable. The following is the club's responsibility to ensure the outcome of matches is consistent with but not limited to the following:

- a) Matches will commence at the appointed time or in the event of a match whose commencement is dependent on the completion of the previous match, within ten (10) minutes of the conclusion of the previous match.
- b) Kick off times of all official matches shall be as determined by the Competition Coordinator and shall be detailed in the official fixture list.
- c) Where a team fails to enter the field of play or has insufficient players for the match to proceed after fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time, the match official shall inform both clubs/teams that the game has been called off and notify the FSC office in writing.
- d) Failure to commence a fixture at the scheduled times will result in a set fine at BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations.
- e) FSC may start matches from 9.00am for any daytime fixture which may include Saturday, Sunday or any Public Holiday.
- f) Except where special instructions have been issued by the Competition Coordinator or are contained in other Competition Rules and Regulations, the last match of the day must start no later than 3.30pm for any daytime match (only applies to venues without lighting) to ensure player safety during the match.
 - i) All other matches prior to this scheduled starting time must be played in two (2) equal periods that shall allow the last match to commence at the scheduled starting time.

- ii) Where a match starts after the prescribed scheduled time, the playing time of the match shall be reduced at the match official's discretion, where the next match scheduled commencement would be delayed beyond the normal starting time. The match shall be played in two (2) equal periods.

4.2 Abandoned Matches

- 4.2.1 It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure that all matches are played within the timeframes of the normal playing calendar for all competitions. FSC, through its councils shall ensure where practical, that any abandoned matches are duly considered, and rescheduling shall take place in line with all other policies.
- 4.2.2 Matches in any cup or league fixture may only be abandoned by a decision of the match official.
- 4.2.3 The match shall be abandoned if:
 - a) Any club has its players reduced for any reason below the minimum Laws of the Game requirement of seven (7) players
 - b) The lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the match official, it is impossible or unsafe to play
 - c) The match official determines the playing conditions have become unsafe or unmanageable for any reason
 - d) The match official, in consultation with the club and ground officials determines that the conditions for the players, coaches, match officials and/or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.
- 4.2.4 Where a match is abandoned due to a matter set out in rule 4.2.3 and FSC or the Match Review Committee/Tribunal determines that one (or both) of the competing clubs, or its club associates were directly responsible for the abandonment, then any 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 the result of the match as 0-0 draw.
 - c) Award a 3-0 result to the non-offending club unless the score at the time of the abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending club.
 - d) Match result to stand.
- 4.2.5 Any club associate responsible for the abandonment of a match will be fined at BR6 of Schedule 1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations. The person may also be found guilty of misconduct and is subject to further penalties under the FSC DDR.
- 4.2.6 If 75% or more of normal time of a match has been played, then the score at the time of the abandonment will stand unless the matter is referred to FSC for further consideration.
- 4.2.7 If less than 50% of normal time has been played, the match shall be replayed entirely starting at 0-0. In this instance, team line ups are permitted to be change for the rescheduled match.
- 4.2.8 If 50% or more but less than 75% of normal time has been played prior to an abandonment, the game shall be rescheduled from the minute it was abandoned and the score remains as it was at the time of the abandonment.
 - a) The same players on the team sheet must only be used during the rescheduled match (if not replayed in its entirety). Previously made substitutions will stand in this case.
 - b) If a player is unavailable for a partly rescheduled match, they can only be replaced by a named substitute that was on the team sheet on the original match. This will count as a substitution.

- c) Where the club has exhausted their allotted substitutions, the impacted team will play the remainder of the match with a reduced number of players as they have utilised their allotted number of substitutes originally.
- d) Where the club already had a player(s) sent from the field, they will recommence the match with the same number of reduced players on the field. The player(s) sent off cannot be replaced in this instance.

4.3 Postponed Matches

4.3.1 Where there has been wet weather and/or doubt over the playing conditions of the ground, the following steps need to be undertaken:

- a) A field inspection shall take place at a time to be negotiated with the club by the match official and/or Competition Coordinator and/or FSC through its councils to determine whether the pitch is safe and fit for matches.
- b) The match official will advise the club how many (if any) matches can be played. The decision of the match official after consultation with the club representative on match day is final and clubs are expected to abide by this decision.
- c) The club representative is to contact the Competition Coordinator immediately following the inspection to advise the outcome.

4.3.2 Where Premier/District League matches are postponed on the Saturday, they will automatically be scheduled for the following day (Sunday) pending ground availability and if in the match official's opinion, the pitch may be fit for play if no further rain is forecast.

- a) The match official shall further inspect the pitch the following day.
- b) The match official will also decide how many matches (if any) can be played on the day.

4.3.3 If games are unable to be played that round, the clubs are expected to put in writing within three (3) business days the rescheduled fixture date/time which must be held within twenty-one (21) days of the scheduled date (for fixtures prior to Round 19).

- a) The CC will determine the appropriate timeframe for rescheduled fixtures after Round 18.
- b) Should no correspondence be received within the prescribed timeframe, the Competition Coordinator will reschedule the fixture at an appropriate venue, which may be neutral and at the cost of the home club.
- c) Where competing clubs cannot reach an agreement, FSC through its councils and Competition Coordinator shall determine the new time/date for playing of a postponed match. Such decision for the new arrangements is not subject to correspondence being received, considered or appealed and no costs shall be accepted by FSC or its councils for the rescheduled fixture.

4.3.4 All rescheduled matches must be played prior to the final round of the regular season unless otherwise requested by the Competition Coordinator.

- a) FSC through its councils may record the result of any match not completed within this timeframe as a "no result" with no points or goals awarded.

4.3.5 Clubs are expected to fulfill outstanding fixtures as determined by FSC and its council and any club which fails to do so shall automatically forfeit the match(s), have a 3-0 score line recorded against it to the opposing team and be subject to further penalties and fines (or both) under the FSC DDR.

- 4.3.6 Any club failing to establish a postponed fixture in accordance with these Competition Rules and Regulations will result in a fine as per BR3 under Schedule 1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations.
- 4.3.7 FSC through its councils and Competition Coordinator are required to approve the schedule or rescheduling of any fixture.
- a) Any club associate or club found guilty of rearranging a league fixture, or requesting the appointment of match officials outside set scheduled commencement times or date, will be fined as per BR7 under Schedule 1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations and may be subject to further penalties under the FSC DDR.
 - b) In addition to the above, FSC through its councils may record the final score of any such match as a “no result” with no points or goals recorded.
- 4.3.8 Refer to the [FSC Weather Policy](#) for further details on this process.
- 4.3.9 If a Second Grade or Reserve Grade match is postponed and/or subsequently played later than the First-Grade match of that fixture, players who have started for their club in the First-Grade game shall be ineligible to play in the All Age/Reserve Grade match for that fixture.
- a) This does not apply to Youth Grade players that are age qualified.

4.4 Forfeits / Walk offs

- 4.4.1 It is the club’s responsibility to ensure that all matches are played at the scheduled time and that all practical steps are taken to ensure matches are played in both the spirit of the game and in line with the Laws of the Game.
- 4.4.2 Any club that, without just cause, fails to fulfill an engagement to play the fixture(s) or any of them on the appointed date, time and venue(s), shall for each offence forfeit that fixture.
- a) The offending club shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents relative to that fixture(s).
 - b) The offending club may be dealt with by FSC, through its councils and Tribunals.
- 4.4.3 Matches shall start within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time. Any team that fails to begin a match after this period shall have forfeited the match.
- 4.4.4 When a match starts later than the scheduled time, shorter time shall be played as determined by the match official. Two (2) equal halves shall be played.
- 4.4.5 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 score recorded as 3-0 against the team that has infringed.
 - b) Clubs who provide FSC at least five (5) working days-notice in writing that they will be forfeiting a match will be fined at BR4 under Schedule 1 of the competition rules.
 - c) Clubs who fail to provide sufficient notice as set out in the above point (4.4.5 b) will be fined at BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations, plus pay all appropriate match officials fees, ground hire costs and pay compensation to the opposing club, as determined by FSC through its council.
 - d) Clubs or teams forfeiting on three (3) occasions without a satisfactory explanation, shall be removed from the competition and may lose affiliation to FSC.

4.4.6 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 FSC through its councils or Tribunals deem appropriate.

4.5 Extreme Weather Conditions

4.5.1 FSC and/or the match official may postpone, delay or abandon any fixture due to extreme weather conditions that may endanger participants such as but not limited to excessive heat/humidity or inclement weather.

4.5.2 If the match official postpones, delays or abandons any fixture due to extreme weather conditions, the match official must outline the reasons in writing to FSC within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the fixture.

4.5.3 Where the playing temperature is 32 degrees Celsius or above, water bottles must be made available and placed along the sidelines to enable any player to take a drink during the game.

4.5.4 Where the temperature reaches 37 degrees Celsius or above, the game will be stopped, postponed or abandoned as per the [FSC Hot Weather Policy](#).

4.5.5 Where conditions are considered hot by the match official, they may allow up to a two (2) minute break during each half to take on additional fluids to minimise the overall impact on heat stress for players and their ultimate safety. The time lost through this contingency should be added to each half.

4.6 Restrictions on Ground Usage

4.6.1 FSC, through its councils reserve the right to have matches played at alternative venues or facilities where access to home ground is controlled by other parties not associated with FSC or its councils.

4.7 Match Points

4.7.1 In all participating Men's Premier and District League competition fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

Win - Three (3) points

Draw - One (1) point

Loss - Nil (0) points

No result - Nil (0) points for either team

Bye - Three (3) points

Forfeit - Three (3) points and goals as per these Competition Rules and Regulations.

4.7.2 FSC reserves the right to record any fixture deemed appropriate as a "no result".

4.8 Club Championship Ranking

4.8.1 FSC, through its councils is responsible for the determination of the Club Champions as at the end of the normal Premier and District League playing seasons (excluding the Finals Series).

4.8.2 At the end of the Championship season, the club that has accumulated the highest number of aggregate points as per the below formula, will be declared the Club Champions of its competition.

a) First Grade points multiplied by three (3), plus

b) District League Youth Grade and Premier League Second Grade points multiplied by two (2), plus

c) District League Second Grade and Premier League Youth Grade points multiplied by one (1) equals the final points tally.

4.8.3 FSC, through its council provides prizemoney (as determined annually by FSC/MFC) for the respective competition Club Champions.

4.9 Fair Play Award

4.9.1 FSC, through its councils is responsible for the determination of the Club Fair Play Award as at the end of the normal Premier and District League playing season (excluding the Finals Series).

4.9.2 At the end of the Championship season, the club that has accumulated the lowest number of aggregate points as per the below formula, will be declared the Fair Play Award winner for its League.

- a) Red cards multiplied by five (5), plus
- b) Yellow cards multiplied by one (1), equals final points tally.

4.9.3 FSC, through its council provides prizemoney (as determined annually by FSC/MFC) for the respective League Fair Play recipients.

4.10 Non-Participation in FSC Fixture

4.10.1 Clubs are obliged to participate in fixtures as determined by FSC through its councils. Any club which fails to do so, shall be penalised as follows and may be subject to further sanction under the FSCDDR.

- a) The match will be awarded to the opposing team as a 3-0 forfeit and a fine at BR5 under Schedule 1 of the competition rules imposed.
- b) If both teams refuse to play, FSC, through its councils may award a “no result”.

4.11 Change of Fixture Requests

4.11.1 FSC, through its councils reserve the right to manage and control competition fixtures and normal playing matches through the calendar year.

4.11.2 Change of venues will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

- a) Any application for a change of venue must be submitted to FSC on the appropriate form and signed by a club official from both clubs, no less than five (5) working days prior to the match.
- b) FSC, through its councils will then consider the application and notify both clubs of its decision.
- c) The result of the deliberation by FSC through its councils is not subject to appeal or review and will be considered final.

4.11.3 All clubs involved in a proposed fixture change(s) must submit such a request to FSC through its councils on the appropriate electronic form within fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled date of the match for consideration.

4.11.4 If the request is determined by FSC through its councils to be frivolous e.g. weddings, baptisms, confirmations or other social events, FSC, through its councils and Competition Coordinator will reject that request without further consideration.

4.11.5 Clubs requesting the rescheduling of a match or fixture will have the matter referred to FSC through its councils for determination.

- a) FSC, through its councils will take into consideration details of any request and the ongoing effect it may have on the respective Men’s Premier and District League competition and any effect a rescheduled match will have on other Premier and District League matches.

b) Only where FSC through its councils considers the circumstances to be exceptional will matches or fixtures be rescheduled.

4.11.6 FSC's decision regarding rescheduling of league fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and shall not be subject to appeal or review. FSC will provide a minimum of fourteen (14) days' notice on a match that FSC are rescheduling unless unforeseen circumstances or it is match in the later rounds of the competition.

4.12 Admittance to Fixtures

4.12.1 FSC, through its councils designate minimum entry fees and charges that are subject to review from time to time. In all instances, FSC through its councils is mindful of providing the football community with an opportunity to attend matches in a cost-effective manner that further supports a safe and family orientated environment.

4.12.2 Participating Premier and District League clubs may be provided with admittance passes for the current season for club officials and sponsors providing they have correctly registered with the FSC office prior to the commencement of the season.

a) These passes must be displayed upon entry to the visiting club on the day of the match fixture.

b) These are general admission season passes and only entitle the bearer whose name appears on the pass, admittance to the fixture in which that club is participating.

4.12.3 Maximum admittance prices will be as follows:

	Premier League	District League
Adults	\$7.00 (GST inclusive)	\$6.00 (GST inclusive)
Students / Pensioners / Concession holders	\$5.00 (GST inclusive)	\$4.00 (GST inclusive)
Holders of current FSC passes and current FFA passes	Free	Free
Current FSC sponsors Pass holder or Gold Passes	Free	Free
Under 16	Free	Free
Match Officials	Free	Free
Football South Coast Life Members	Free	Free

4.12.4 Clubs may only charge the full amount (GST inclusive) if they are registered for GST.

4.12.5 In all cases where the costs of running the fixture are being met by FSC, all gate takings shall be retained by FSC. This applies to:

- a) Pre-season Cup matches
- b) Bampton/Youth Cup Semi Finals and Grand Final
- c) Premier and District League Finals Series matches

4.12.6 Clubs shall be permitted to engage in the sale of season tickets for home fixtures to their supporters.

- a) Season tickets shall only be used for home Premier and District League matches of the club whom such tickets were distributed and not for any other match sanctioned and managed by FSC through its councils.
- b) Season tickets cannot be used for pre-season, cup and/or Finals series matches.

4.13 Media and Other Passes

4.13.1 All clubs are to abide by the entry admission protocols established below to ensure a consistent approach across the football community.

4.13.2 FSC through its councils may withdraw an FSC Media Pass at any given time.

4.13.3 No club has the right to refuse entry to a holder of the below passes without FSC's prior written consent:

- a) A current FSC, FNSW or FFA Media Pass
- b) A current FSC Special Pass i.e. Gold Pass
- c) FSC approved Life Member

4.13.4 FSC Special Passes are not valid for entry to non-FSC sanctioned tournaments or fixtures.

4.13.5 FSC shall request team lists from clubs participating in the preseason cup and/or Finals series as a mandatory requirement.

4.13.6 Any club who fails to abide by clauses 4.12 and 4.13 respectively shall be fined at BR7 under Schedule 1 of these Competition Rules and Regulations.

5. Finals Series

5.1 FIFA Laws of the Game

- 5.1.1 All matches under the jurisdiction of FSC through its councils will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 5.1.2 The Competition Rules and Regulations outlined below are in addition to those stipulated in the Laws of the Game.
- 5.1.3 A copy of the Laws of the Game can be found on the FIFA website at www.fifa.com and a copy of the Men's Competition Rules and Regulations can be found under Resources/Library on the Football South Coast website.

5.2 Finals Competition Format

- 5.2.1 The top five (5) teams at the end of the home and away season will progress to the Finals Series in both Premier and District League.
- 5.2.2 Host venues will be determined at the absolute discretion of the MFC during the season.
- 5.2.3 If any Finals Series fixture is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that fixture will be rescheduled on an alternate day and at an alternate venue to be determined at the absolute discretion of FSC through its councils. Any dispensation or compensation considerations shall be assessed on a case by case situation by FSC through its councils and is not subject to appeal or review.

5.3 Procedures to Determine the Winner of Cup and Finals Series Matches

- 5.3.1 All matches played in the Finals Series will be played over a single leg.
- 5.3.2 If, at the end any Cup or Finals Series match, the scores between the two (2) teams are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played for First Grade fixtures. Two (2) equal periods of ten (10) minutes will be played for all other Premier and District League fixtures (where applicable). The conditions of FIFA Law 7 apply.
- 5.3.3 If the scores are equal at the end of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken (in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game) to determine the winner of the match.

5.4 Substitution Rules

- 5.4.1 For all matches played during the Finals Series, the substitution rule as per 3.8.3 applies.
- 5.4.2 The maximum number of substitutes applies throughout the complete match (including extra time and penalty kicks). The replacement player must be one of the substitutes selected on the team sheet.
- 5.4.3 For Finals series matches only (excludes matches with interchange), an additional substitute per team is permitted in the extra time period (where played).
- 5.4.4 Teams wishing to make a substitution shall inform the fourth match official (where appointed) of the players involved in the substitution.

5.5 Discipline

- 5.5.1 Any player who accumulates two (2) yellow cards in the Finals Series will be suspended from their club's next scheduled finals fixture.
- 5.5.2 Yellow cards accrued through the regular competition (excluding Finals Series) shall be expunged at the completion of the last round of fixtures.

5.5.3 If a player receives a red card in the Finals Series, the club will be notified of the player's suspension in writing within the terms of the FSC DDR.

5.6 Eligibility of Players for Finals Matches

5.6.1 Players shall be eligible to play in Second Grade Semi Finals, Finals, Grand Finals of such fixtures if:

- a) They have started more Second Grade Premiership matches than First Grade during the season, or
- b) Their club's First Grade has also qualified for the Semi Finals, Finals or Grand Finals and they have not played in that team (except as a replacement), or
- c) They are the club's First or Youth Grade goalkeeper and the regular Second Grade goalkeeper is unavailable or injured (with the Youth Grade goalkeeper to be utilised first before the First Grade goalkeeper is eligible to be played in front of the Youth Grade goalkeeper). This includes replacing the Second Grade goalkeeper, or
- d) They have played in the Second Grade Semi Final, Final and/or Grand Final through subsection b) above.

5.6.2 Players shall be eligible to play Youth Grade Semi Finals, Finals, Grand Finals of such matches if:

- a) They qualify by age and have played in five (5) of more matches during the regular season and they have not started for any other Grade in the same round, or
- b) They qualify by age and their club's First and/or Second Grade has also qualified for the Semi Finals, Finals and/or Grand Finals and they have not played in that team (except as a replacement), or
- c) They are the club's Second Grade or First Grade goalkeeper and the regular Youth Grade goalkeeper is unavailable or injured (with the All Second Grade goalkeeper to be utilised first before the First Grade goalkeeper is eligible to be played in front of the All Second Grade goalkeeper). This includes replacing the Youth Grade goalkeeper, or
- d) They are registered in their club's Under 18 team and they are registered as per the dual playing procedure, or
- e) They have played in the Youth Grade Semi Final, Final and/or Grand Final through subsection b) above.

5.6.3 Failure to comply with this clause shall result in the offending club being fined at BR4 under Schedule 1 of the competition rules and the match being awarded to the opponents where the non-offending team has lost the match.

5.7 Determination of Positions for Finals Series

5.7.1 FSC through its councils shall ensure that a determination is made for club/team eligibility for the Finals Series and advise the clubs/teams in writing in advance of the Finals Series.

5.7.2 Should two (2) or more teams in the same grade or Division (having completed the competition) possess the same number of points, the team with the greater goal difference shall be the higher position for the Finals Series.

5.7.3 In all cases where goal difference is considered, the following shall be used in the determination of positions:

- a) Number of goals against subtracted from the number of goals for (goal difference)
- b) The highest resultant positive figure goal difference shall be deemed the best goal difference

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

- 5.7.5 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 greater head to head aggregate results during the regular season will be considered the higher placed team.
- 5.7.6 Where all the above requirements are determined to be equal, this shall result in both teams participating in a one match play-off mid-week to determine the higher position.

5.8 Trophies

- 5.8.1 Perpetual trophies awarded to clubs are to be returned to the FSC office by 31 August each year.
- a) This rule also applies to pre-season cup competitions.
 - b) Failure to return such trophies will result in a fine at BR4 under Schedule 1 of the competition rules plus replacement costs for the trophy (if deemed necessary).

6. Match Officials

6.1 Match Officials Fees / Appointments

- 6.1.1 Match official fees are structured and aligned to the FNSW fee structure which is subject to review and change on an annual basis. FSC through its councils, will communicate the fees structure in writing to the relevant clubs/teams prior to the commencement of the playing season via the Competition Coordinator.
- 6.1.2 The match official fees as set out on the FSC website will apply although, they are subject to change on an annual basis via FNSW of which FSC is affiliated and aligned to.
- 6.1.3 Unless otherwise stated, payment of all match fees for match officials must be made via the home team. FSC will invoice the home team or organising club monthly, for all games played in the preceding month.
- 6.1.4 The appointment of all match officials (referees and assistant referees) to officiate at FSC matches shall be vested in the Referees Council, who shall be authorised to enlist the assistance of such persons (Referee Appointments Officer) and adopt such procedures, as it shall deem most beneficial in the making of such appointments.
 - a) Club evaluation reports may be used to assist the Referees Council in determining the selection of match officials.

6.2 Assistant Match Officials

- 6.2.1 The Referees Council in consultation with the Referee Appointments Officer, shall solely appoint assistant match officials to all competition matches played in Premier and District League level based on the grading and availability to officiate at any time throughout the playing year.
- 6.2.2 A maximum of two (2) assistant match officials shall be appointed to a fixture to assist the match official during the competition matches.
 - a) A fourth official may be appointed during Finals Series games in Premier League and District League.
- 6.2.3 Where insufficient assistant match officials have been appointed, each club/team must provide a volunteer assistant match official to assist the match official and to ensure the game is played.
 - a) Where the match is short one (1) assistant match official, the home club/team is responsible for providing a volunteer assistant match official.
 - b) All instructions from the main official to the club volunteer assistant match officials shall be complied with where practical based on the ability of the individual to fulfill the nominated instructions.

6.3 Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official

- 6.3.1 Where the appointed match official fails to honour their appointment, the next most senior match official (replacement) will take charge of the match unless, the replacement match official is not qualified through age or doesn't have the ability to referee the match.
- 6.3.2 Consideration should also be given to the development of match officials in senior grades whereby cadets may be called upon from time to time to assist on lines that may not have the experience to officiate and control the match. Where this is the case, club officials are to ensure adequate discussions with players is undertaken to support the match official during the control of the match and those cadets who are undertaking officiating roles.
- 6.3.3 If the match official is late arriving to a match, the replacement will take charge for the whole match.
 - a) In the case of a junior match official or club volunteer, they shall officiate until such time the appointed match official is dressed and ready to take the field to control the balance of the match.

- 6.3.4 Where no registered match official is present to act as a replacement, the home club must arrange the appointment of a person to act as a match official for the match.
- a) It is recommended that the volunteer match official should have attended the volunteer's official information workshop within the last two (2) years or has just retired from playing the game to ensure they are conversant with the Laws of the Game.
 - b) A club appointed match official will have the authority to sanction players in accordance with the Laws of the Game, as would an appointed match official.
- 6.3.5 All clubs must fulfill fixtures regardless of whether the match official is present to take charge or not. Failure to do so will result in a fine and other action as deemed appropriate under the FSC DDR.

6.4 Decisions of the Match Official

- 6.4.1 The decisions of the match official or assistant match official about any fact connected with the play are final and cannot be disputed by any party.
- 6.4.2 A match official may change a decision if they realise that the decision is incorrect or on the advice of the assistant match official provided play has not already restarted.

6.5 Duties of the Match Official

- 6.5.1 Prior to the commencement of each match, the match official must complete a field and facility inspection and ensure that any anomalies are reported to FSC within two (2) working days.
- 6.5.2 A match official who has been appointed by FSC to a match shall without delay, report to FSC any instance(s) of misconduct or foul play during the progress of the match which led to the dismissal of a player(s) from the field of play.
- a) Any reports received through FSC through its councils pursuant to this competition rule shall be dealt with by the Competition Coordinator in the first instance before being referred (if necessary) to the Match Review Committee for further consideration and/or FSC Tribunal.
 - b) 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 led to the player(s) being ordered from the field or not.
- 6.5.3 The match official has a mandatory responsibility to advise the applicable club where an incident report is being sent to FSC in relation to misconduct during the match by that club/teams official/spectator(s) e.g. coach being removed from the technical area.

6.6 Match Records

- 6.6.1 After each match, the match official shall consult with their assistant match officials and confirm all match information before completing the match records. Match officials must complete the following:
- a) Names of the match officials
 - b) Result of the match
 - c) Substitutions (on and off)
 - d) Goal scorers
 - e) Time of goals (First Grade only)

- f) Cautions, send offs and any other match related reports
 - g) Assessment of ground facilities
 - h) Rating the performance of the goalkeeper(s) (First Grade only)
 - i) Player of the match (3-2-1)
 - j) Sign the team sheet once all information has been completed
- 6.6.2 Match results and reports must be submitted to FSC by 10.00am on the second working day after the match date.
- 6.6.3 If the 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 FSC DDR.
- 6.6.4 The match official must ensure the team sheet is completed as per rule 3.7.2.
- 6.6.5 Subject to any protest, the match records received from the match official will be accepted as the accurate and official record of the match, as signed by the club official with no subsequent additions. Where subsequent additions or changes by the match official are made after signing by the club(s), the CC must advise the club(s) accordingly, to ensure that the club(s) is aware of changes and has the ability to lodge a grievance as per the FSC DDR.

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 to any other person.
- 6.7.2 If a player is wearing any equipment which may endanger themselves or any other player, it is the match official's responsibility to ensure 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 to receive medical attention outside the field of play.
- 6.7.4 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.
- 6.7.5 Where a player's uniform or attire has blood spilt on it, the match official shall require the player to change their attire before rejoining the game.
- 6.7.6 Where the injured player is required to change their uniform and the shirt displaying the same number is not available, the match official shall at their discretion allow the player to wear an alternative numbered shirt.
- a) Where this is the case, the new number shall be recorded on the match official's personal record and transferred to the team sheet at the next interval.
 - b) Alternatively, in such circumstances, a team may replace the injured player in accordance with clause 3.8.3 where all substitutions have not already been exhausted.

7. Registration

7.1 Professional Player Disputes

- 7.1.1 FSC through its councils will recognise complaints made by players against clubs or clubs against players, regarding the terms and conditions as stipulated in a contract between them of which has been lodged with FSC through its councils.
- 7.1.2 A professional player or a club, will have the right to lodge a complaint in writing with FSC through its councils in which either seeks a tribunal hearing concerning any disputes about a player's contract and matter arising out of it.
- 7.1.3 FSC through its councils will only recognise complaints by players against clubs for monies in arrears for a period of not more than one (1) year from the date the complaint is lodged.
- 7.1.4 Where before the tribunal, it is proved that a club has failed to honour its contract with the player, then the tribunal will provide the club within fourteen (14) days the outcome of their determination and the club shall within seven (7) days fulfill its obligations towards the player of all outstanding monies and disbursements.
- 7.1.5 Where it is established by the tribunal that monies are owed to a player by the club with whom the player is registered, such monies will be paid to FSC through its councils within the seven (7) day period. FSC through its councils will forward such payment on to the player(s) entitled to receive the monies and disbursements.
- 7.1.6 Where the club fails to effect full payment of monies and disbursements due to the player within the seven (7) day prescribed period, the following action will be taken by FSC through its councils:
- a) Withdraw all administrative services from the offending club
 - b) The offending club will not be permitted to register any further players
 - c) The offending club will be sanctioned in accordance with the FSC DDR

7.2 Loan Players

- 7.2.1 A professional player on loan to an FSC club may only occur within the nominated registration period as per FSC Registration Regulations
- 7.2.2 Loan players are only permitted for professional players in the Premier league
- 7.2.3 A loan player is subject to the same rules that apply to the transfer of a player with the following additional rules:
- a) The minimum period of a loan is the time between two (2) registration periods
 - b) Once accepted, a loan player will continue in force until the expiry date of the period of the loan timeframe (unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with the terms of the loan player's engagement contract or these Competition Rules and Regulations)
 - c) A club that has accepted a professional player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer that professional to a third club without the written authorisation of the club that released the professional on loan and the professional player themselves.
 - d) On termination of the loan player agreement, the registration reverts immediately back to the club from which the registration was transferred.
 - e) Premier League players can only register one loan player at a time.
- 7.2.4 Clubs may only receive a maximum of two (2) players on loan over the course of the playing season however, there are no restrictions on the timing or the number of players that can be loaned out by a club.

- 7.2.5 To complete the loan of a player on contract, all three (3) parties concerned (the present club, the player and the loan club) must agree to a player loan on the prescribed NRR06 form – Application for Transfer or Loan of Professional player. A loan agreement in the form of loan contract, the prescribed NRR05 form – Professional Player Contract must also be completed.
- 7.2.6 The loan of an international player must occur within the relevant registration period and will require an International Transfer Certificate (ITC). Clubs must still ensure they comply with Section 7 of the FSC Registration Regulations.
- 7.2.7 The loan of an interstate player must occur within the relevant registration period and will require documentation in accordance with these competition rules.

7.3 Visa Players

- 7.3.1 Clubs are permitted a maximum of three (3) visa players per club in **any** season. If a visa player leaves for any reason, albeit a club or player choice, an additional visa player on top of the three (3) visa players is not permissible.
- 7.3.2 A visa player is defined as a player holding an international visa selected to the team squad list:
 - a) A New Zealand citizen is classified as a visa player unless he satisfies the definition of an Australian player
 - b) Please refer to the [Department of Immigration and Border Protection](#) website for further clarification regarding the status of citizens in Australia.
- 7.3.3 A visa player that does not meet the definition and Competition Rules and Regulations is deemed to be ineligible. Refer to 2.6.1 for penalties.
- 7.3.4 Clubs can only borrow a Visa player from Juniors or Community League if they have not exhausted their maximum quota. Once this player is used once, he will be considered a used Visa player as per 7.3.1.
- 7.3.5 For all other visa player requirements, refer to Section 8 of the FSC Registration Regulations.
- 7.3.6 Clubs in breach of this requirement will be considered to have used an ineligible player.

7.4 Maximum Playing Rosters

- 7.4.1 Following are the maximum permissible players that can be registered at any one time for each league. Contained in the table are the maximum permissible professional players allowed in each team. All other players must be registered as amateur players.

League	Grade	Maximum Squad Number	Minimum Professionals	Maximum Professionals
Premier League	First Grade, Second and Youth Grade	50	0	20
District League	First, Second and Youth Grade	50	0	12

7.5 Minimum Coaching Requirements

- 7.5.1 Following are the minimum coaching qualifications required by coaches for each respective league and grade of the competitions:

League	Grade	Minimum Coaching Accreditation
Premier League	First Grade, Second and Youth Grade	Senior License
District League	First, Second and Youth Grade	Senior License

7.6 Medical Coverage

7.6.1 Clubs will be required to provide qualified medical support to players on match days in compliance with the minimum standards contained in the following table:

League	Grade	Minimum Accreditation
Premier League	All	Level One Sports Trainer
District League	All	Level One Sports Trainer

7.6.2 Clubs will not be required to appoint separate individuals to each grade within a league. The requirement is to ensure adequate qualified sports medical support is provided, which by way of example could be provided by a “team” of sports trainers shared across all grades at a registered club with FSC that is nominated on the application for the upcoming season and its acceptance is granted by FSC through its councils.

7.6.3 All sports trainers and physiotherapists must be registered with FSC through its councils as noted on nomination and participating agreements and acknowledged through the My Football Club website system.

7.6.4 Failure to comply with this requirement of registration shall result in a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per breach.

7.7 Eligibility of Players in Cup Competitions

7.7.1 The Bert Bampton/Youth Cup knockout competition shall be conducted annually for all clubs in First and Youth grades as determined by FSC MFC.

7.7.2 In the Youth (Bert Bampton) Cup knockout, no overage players will be permitted to play in this competition except for the goalkeeper, however players participation age shall be Under 20 for both Premier and District League.

7.7.3 No player will be permitted to play for more than one (1) club in any single cup competition per season (including pre-season cup competitions)

7.7.4 Preseason Competitions

a) Member clubs will only be allowed to play those players in the preseason competition if they have an active registration in My Football Club and in the case of professionals, lodged all necessary documents (contracts) with FSC through its councils, a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of the match that the player has been selected to take part in.

b) The exception to this rule will be that member clubs shall be allowed to play a maximum of three (3) nominated “guest” players during the preseason cup group stage matches who do not need to be registered.

7.7.5 Each club may list a maximum or three (3) “guest” players on the team sheet during the group stage of the preseason cup.

- a) These guest players must have been registered in the previous competition year under FFA/FNSW/FSC jurisdiction to be eligible to play under this rule exception.
- b) The names, FFA number and/or date of birth, last club played for of the nominated guest player(s) must be advised to FSC through its council office a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of the match the player is selected to take part in.
- c) When completing the team sheet, these guest player's names need to be noted **in red ink** and the word "guest" marked in the column for the FFA number.
- d) All other players used in these matches must be currently registered players with FNSW/FSC.
- e) Only FSC registered players may be used in the Finals matches.
- f) A guest player must not take the field for more than one (1) club in the preseason cup.

7.7.6 Only players registered with FSC through its councils in accordance with these Competition Rules and Regulations may represent a club in cup fixtures.

8. Codes of Behaviour

The Australian Sports Commission has produced the following “Codes of Behaviour” which have been adopted not only in football, but also most other sports in Australia. These codes are deemed to be incorporated into these competition rules and are outlined below. There are also FFA, FNSW and FSC policies in place that must be abided by.

8.1 General

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.

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 club rooms.

As well as reading and seeking to understand the instructions contained in these codes, FSC through its council request that all participants 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.

8.2 Behaviour of Players, Coaches, Club Officials, Team Officials and Supporters

- a) All clubs and Club Associates shall be responsible at all times for their conduct and must adhere to the FFA Code of Conduct as adopted by FSC and FNSW.
- b) Penalties shall apply for breaching the specific codes and sanctions.

8.3 Spectator’s Code of Behaviour

It is important that all spectators at an FSC approved fixture can enjoy the match in a safe and comfortable environment.

8.3.1 Accordingly, each person present at an FSC match must:

- a) Respect the decisions of the match officials;
- b) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their race, colour, religion, language, political views and national or ethnic origin.
- c) Not engage in the use of violence in any form whether it is by other spectators, team officials (including coaches) or players;
- d) 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;
- e) Comply with FSC’s “Conditions of Entry”, at all venues and any ticketing conditions;
- f) Not carry, light or throw flares or missiles (including on to the field of play or at other spectators);
- g) Not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority; and
- h) Conduct themselves in a manner that enhances, rather than injures the reputation and goodwill of FSC, FFA and football generally.

- 8.3.2 Any person who does not comply with this code or who, in the opinion of FSC 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 FSC through its councils for a period of up to five (5) years from when the eviction occurred.
- 8.3.3 Any offender who then breaches a ban order against them may be charged with trespass and subject to further penalties and sanctions, including the possibility of further legal action.
- 8.3.4 Where FSC through its councils receives a complaint from a member of FSC or a club (no later than seventy-two (72) hours following the match) concerning the conduct of a registered member with FSC and such conduct was not subject of a report to FSC through its councils by the match official, FSC through its councils or tribunals may call on the member to answer a charge that the conduct complained of constitutes contrary conduct (refer to FSC DDR).

Schedule 1 – Fees and Fines

Fines for Men’s League Competitions

NOTES

- Each penalty unit shall be worth \$25.00
- Unless otherwise specified in these competition rules, FSC through its councils may impose a fine for misconduct for such an amount deemed to be appropriate under the FSC DDR.

In the case of breaches of these Competition Rules and Regulations, these fines are in addition to any penalties or consequences set out in the relevant competition rules, the FSC DDR or which are imposed as a consequence of any other charges which may arise from a breach of these Competition Rules and Regulations.

Breaches of Competition Rules

Offence Code	Penalty Units First offence in relation to a relevant team in a Competition Season or Finals Series	Penalty Units Second offence in relation to a relevant team in a Competition Season or Finals Series	Penalty Units Third or subsequent offence in relation to a relevant team in a Competition Season or Finals 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*

*In addition to the penalties set out above, FSC may deduct three (3) competition points from the relevant team.

Schedule 2 – Competition Lighting Criteria

1. All night fixtures played in the region must comply with guidelines established by FSC accordingly.
2. Clubs are to provide an **annual lighting certificate** at the time of application to verify that the average lighting reading **exceeds** the minimum league standard, as required by the below FSC guidelines:
 - a) The minimum standard for Premier League fixtures is one hundred and twenty (120) Lux
 - b) The minimum standard for District League fixtures is one hundred (100) Lux
3. The lighting survey shall be undertaken by an authorised lighting specialist and a certificate supplied in accordance with AS 2560.1 Sports Lighting.
4. The Competition Coordinator shall receive the **lighting certificate with the application** for the following competition year to allow for any additional considerations and to schedule night fixtures in advance for the playing calendar of the following year.
5. Any club not supplying a lighting certificate within the appropriate timeframe shall be subject to additional consideration with regards to playing any night fixtures during the following playing season.
6. Clubs shall ensure that for ball and physical training purposes, adequate lighting is supplied to ensure player safety. Accordingly, the lights utilised shall need to be a minimum fifty (50) Lux as determined by AS 2560.1 and FSC guidelines.

Annexure A – Men’s League

FINALS SERIES

All Men’s Finals Series matches will consist of a four (4) week format with the top five (5) teams unless otherwise directed by FSC through its councils.

Week	Match Number	Fixture
1	A	4 th v 5 th
	B	2 nd v 3 rd
2	C	Winner A v Loser B
	D	1 st v Winner B
3	E	Winner C v Loser D
4	F	Winner D v Winner E

Annexure B – Premier League Ground Criteria

Criteria	Standard	Comment
Enclosed ground	Mandatory	The ground must be fully enclosed around the facility and secure on match day (minimum 1.8-metre-high fencing in safe condition).
Field of play fence	Mandatory	Perimeter fence in good safe condition, 1-metre high and 2.0 metres away from the sideline to ensure player safety.
Players and match Officials Race	Mandatory	Secure private access (minimum 1.1 metres high and 1.5 metres wide) that players and match officials can transfer from change rooms to field of play.
Players and match official security	Mandatory	There must be a minimum of two (2) home club officials to escort match officials on to and off the field of play at all times. Fines shall apply for non-compliance.
Ticket box	Mandatory	Must be suitably weatherproof. Can be portable.
Sheltered accommodation	Mandatory (200) standing, ratio compliance with local council ordinance (min. 80 square metres)	In suitable proximity to the playing field perimeter to observe fixtures during inclement and wet weather
Open seating	Mandatory (400)	In a safe, good and clean condition
Dug outs or substitute bench	Mandatory	Minimum seating for ten (10) people. Can be single seats.
Playing surface	Mandatory	Size of playing area shall be 90-100 metres long and 60-70 metres wide
Technical area marked	Mandatory	To be marked 1 metre from either side of the seating/dugout and extend forward up to one (1) metre from the perimeter of the field.
Ground officials	Mandatory	4 home club, 4 away club and must be identifiable by wearing FSC supplied/approved vests
Long term lease	Mandatory	Current written agreement on the use of facility to be provided to Men's Football Council with application
Score boards	Mandatory	Visible and updated during matches
Canteen	Mandatory	Fully stocked with hot and cold food/drinks
Code of conduct signs displayed	Mandatory	Two (2) signs which are clearly visible on match day are required for display at the point of entry to the ground and at the canteen.
Public address system	Mandatory	Operational and audible over the ground on match day with First Grade goal scorer announcements.

Male toilets	Mandatory	Minimum two (2) cubicles and 1.2 M urinal (or equivalent) maintained in a clean and hygienic manner on match day.
Female toilets	Mandatory	Minimum two (2) cubicles maintained in a clean and hygienic manner on match day with appropriate provisions for sanitary hygiene and receptacles.
Stretcher	Mandatory	Near the field of play adjacent to the technical area for use as required by the match officials
Lights (optional)	Minimum 120 Lux for competition matches	Compliant with relevant Australian standards (AS 2560.2.3). All clubs are required to provide an annual lighting certificate with their application for the following season or consideration to play night matches. No night matches will be scheduled at grounds without the correct documentation.
First Aid kit	Mandatory	Must be fully stocked and made available in the canteen (category III type of equivalent).
Public Liability Insurance	Mandatory	Current certificate to be provided with application
Accredited RSA Officers	Mandatory	RSA officers only to serve alcohol and RSA signage to be displayed in prominent locations adjacent to place of service.

Amenities		
Secure dressing rooms	Mandatory	No equipment is to be stored in rooms on match day
Hot and cold water	Mandatory	Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of teams showering.
Toilets	Preferred	Clean and maintained on match day
Seating	Mandatory	Minimum for 16 players
Rubbing bench	Mandatory	Safe and clean
Showers	Mandatory	Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of teams participating in matches.
Dressing room whiteboard	Mandatory	Each change room shall contain a whiteboard, marker and cleaning implements
Hangers	Mandatory	Minimum 16

Match Official Room		
Secure dressing room	Two (2) - Mandatory	No equipment is to be stored in rooms on match day.
Hot and cold water	Mandatory	Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match to cover the number of match officials.
Toilets	Preferred	Any upgrade must include for toilet installation if not already available inside Match Officials rooms.
Showers	Mandatory	Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of match officials
Table	Mandatory	For the completion of team sheets and reports

Annexure C – District League Ground Criteria

Criteria	Standard	Comment
Enclosed ground	Preferred	Preferred but not mandatory
Field of play fence	Mandatory	Perimeter fence in good safe condition, 1-metre high and 2.0 metres away from the sideline to ensure player safety.
Players and match Officials Race	Mandatory	Secure private access (minimum 1.1 metres high and 1.5 metres wide) that players and match officials can transfer from change rooms to field of play.
Players and match official security	Mandatory	There must be a minimum of two (2) home club officials to escort match officials on to and off the field of play at all times. Fines shall apply for non-compliance.
Ticket box	Preferred	Preferred but not mandatory
Sheltered accommodation	Preferred	Preferred but not mandatory
Open seating	Mandatory (200)	In a safe, good and clean condition
Dug outs or substitute bench	Mandatory	Minimum seating for ten (10) people. Can be single seats.
Playing surface	Mandatory	Size of playing area shall be 90-100 metres long and 60-70 metres wide
Technical area marked	Mandatory	To be marked one (1) metre from either side of the seating/dugout and extend forward up to one metre from the perimeter of the field.
Ground officials	Mandatory	4 home club, 4 away club and must be identifiable by wearing FSC supplied/approved vests
Long term lease	Preferred	Ground must be available for matches as scheduled by the Men's Football Council. Failure to ground being available shall result in matches being played at an alternate venue as determined by FSC through its councils.
Score boards	Mandatory	Visible and updated during matches
Canteen	Mandatory	Fully stocked with hot and cold food/drinks
Code of conduct signs displayed	Mandatory	Two (2) signs which are clearly visible on match day are required for display at the point of entry to the ground and at the canteen.
Public address system	Mandatory	Operational and audible over the ground on match day with First Grade goal scorer announcements.
Male toilets	Mandatory	Minimum one (1) cubicle and 1.2 M urinal (or equivalent) maintained in a clean and hygienic manner on match day.

Female toilets	Mandatory	Minimum two (2) cubicles maintained in a clean and hygienic manner on match day with appropriate provisions for sanitary hygiene and receptacles.
Stretcher	Mandatory	Near the field of play adjacent to the technical area for use as required by the match officials
Lights (optional)	Minimum 100 Lux for competition matches	Compliant with relevant Australian standards (AS 2560.2.3). All clubs are required to provide an annual lighting certificate with their application for the following season or consideration to play night matches. No night matches will be scheduled at grounds without the correct documentation.
First Aid kit	Mandatory	Must be fully stocked and made available in the canteen (category III type of equivalent).
Public Liability Insurance	Mandatory	Current certificate to be provided with application
Accredited RSA Officers	Mandatory	RSA officers only to serve alcohol and RSA signage to be displayed in prominent locations adjacent to place of service.

Amenities		
Secure dressing room	Two (2) - Mandatory	No equipment is to be stored in rooms on match day
Hot and cold water	Mandatory	Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of teams participating in matches.
Toilets	Preferred	Clean and maintained on match day
Seating	Mandatory	Minimum for 16 players
Rubbing bench	Mandatory	Safe and clean
Showers	Mandatory	Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of teams participating.
Dressing room whiteboard	Mandatory	Each change room shall contain a whiteboard, marker and cleaning implements
Hangers	Mandatory	Minimum 16

Match Official Room		
Secure dressing room	Mandatory	No equipment is to be stored in rooms on match day.
Hot and cold water	Mandatory	Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match to cover the number of match officials.
Toilets	Preferred	Any upgrade must include for toilet installation if not already available inside Match Officials rooms.
Showers	Mandatory	Clean and workable
Table	Mandatory	For the completion of team sheets and reports