



OFF-SEASON BEHAVIOUR POLICY - JUNIOR COMPETITION

For: FSC CLUB MEMBERS EXPRESSING INTEREST TO ENTER TEAMS IN JUNIOR COMPETITION.	FSC-050	Issued: Oct 2023
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Purpose

Football South Coast has a strategic vision to be an inclusive football community united in excellence. This policy is designed to provide a club member agreed framework to ensure the balance between community values and player development is reached across our region.

The policy is designed to promote both values and development in our football community. Member clubs are able to and are encouraged by Football South Coast to create programs for the development of their registered players. This needs to be balanced with protective mechanisms to ensure development is always occurring in a responsible manner and that all clubs are operating on an even playing field.

If a member club is in doubt about whether what they are proposing in the off-season is acceptable, the member club should contact the Junior Council for guidance to ensure that what is proposed is acceptable and not detrimental to other members of the football community.

Scope

The policy applies to all Junior Clubs and Teams who participate or expressed interest to participate in the FSC Junior Competition.

Off Season is defined as the period from the last match in the Junior Competition (usually the last game of the finals season) to the 31st December.

Standards of Behaviour

The policy requires the following standards of behaviour to be met by member clubs:

Advertising

1. Advertising for players is to be appropriate, accurate and within a reasonable geographic zone for the club, emphasising the values and benefits of the club, without referencing promises which cannot always be met, or which are not community spirited, (such as advertising for division 1 players or teams or advertising promises which cannot be measured, such as 'best coaches').
2. For the opening of the registration window in January, clubs may commence advertising from **the first Monday in Term 4 of the school year** and may include
 - a) When registrations are open, and the platform being used (Play Football);
 - b) Where registrations will be held in the new year (if applicable);
 - c) The age groups that a Club is seeking to enter teams (It should not advertise specific divisions);
 - d) Registration fees;
 - e) Contact email address for further enquiries.



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“Off Season” Activities (Period – End of Winter Season to 31 December)

Any participation in tournaments, proposed by a club must be sanctioned by FSC and FNSW

Extended Training

The only teams which are automatically sanctioned to extend training after the last match of the Junior Competition are those teams participating in the FNSW Champion of Champions and the sanctioning concludes when they have participated in their last match.

Sanctioning for other teams to extend training will only be considered by FSC from the date set by FNSW (currently 1st November) and the Club will need to make an application to FSC.

Under no circumstances can teams have any internal training, kick arounds, team meetings, etc. unless the event has been sanctioned.

Clubs must not advertise or commence extended training or off-season activities unless they have the endorsement of FSC and FNSW.

Where an above event is sanctioned then the only players who will be permitted to participate are those who were **registered with the club for that winter season**. The activities must not include any players who were not registered with the club during the regular season.

Please note: Forming teams which participate in local Summer Football competition is permitted and does not need individual sanctioning. However, Clubs who are hosting/organising a Summer Football competition must submit application to both FSC and FNSW. Players participating must register through Play Football.

Sanctioning

To participate in other football activities or for a team to extend training, a club must:

- Write to FSC outlining the activity and get written endorsement from FSC and then,
- Where applicable, get approval from Football NSW. This will be via submitting the appropriate [FNSW online Sanction](#) form along with any documentation they request.

New Season

From January 4, training, kick-arounds can commence but only with players who are registered with the Club. Under no circumstances can unregistered players or players registered to another club participate in club training, grading or play in trial matches.

As there are no official “trials” permitted in junior competition, players must be registered to a club for that club to form teams. Where it is required by a club to grade teams, this can occur after the “official” registration day set by FSC.



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Note well: There is a restriction on the number of “movement” players a team can have registered, and should a team breach this registration requirement may result in a penalty outlined in the Competition Rules which include but are not limited to:

- Deregistering the excess players;
- The Team not being permitted to play in the competition they applied for unless they participate for 0 points;
- No participation in FNSW competitions or tournaments.

Policy Breach Sanctions Available to FSC

If a member club fails to act in a manner consistent with the above requirements, then at the sole discretion of FSC, the club as a whole or breach affected team(s) within the club may not be invited to participate in FNSW State Cup or Champion of Champions Competition in the season of, or following, the policy breach.

Further FSC may impose some or all of the following sanctions:

Team Offences:

- Loss of competition points for the offending team (deduction amount at discretion of FSC).
- An offending team shall not play for competition points for a defined period within the season following occurrence of the breach.
- Football South Coast may determine in their discretion not to accept a nomination for an offending team into the forthcoming FSC Junior Council competition.

Club Offences (including team offences):

- A team or teams from an Offending Club shall not be sanctioned to participate in other football tournaments.
- The offending club will be placed onto a bond of an amount up to \$1,000 (conditional and based on the type/seriousness of the current breach).
- Football South Coast will not accept nominations from the offending club into the forthcoming FSC Junior Council competition.

This is required in order to ensure there is a sanction available in the event the behaviour of administrators within a club is outside of member agreed values and therefore impacting on the ability of other member clubs to recruit players when they are operating within the established rules of the football community.