



# **2025 MEN'S PREMIERSHIP COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

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# SECTION 1 | ORGANISATION AND ADMISSION

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## 1.1 Scope

- 1.1.1 These Regulations shall apply to the Men's Premier and District League Competitions, including league fixtures, cup games, finals series, and play-off matches administered under the auspices of Football South Coast (FSC).
- 1.1.2 Terms defined in the FSC Constitution, FSC Registration Regulations, or the FSC Disciplinary and Dispute Regulations shall have the same meaning in these regulations unless otherwise stated.
- 1.1.3 The FSC Board will have the power from time to time to review, alter, or rescind these regulations.
- 1.1.4 Subject to the FSC Constitution and these Regulations, the Competition Coordinator (CC) and Men's Premiership Football Council (MPFC) shall have the power to determine and implement decisions regarding the control, administration, and organisation as specified in 1.1.1.

## 1.2 Admission and Application

- 1.2.1 FSC, through its councils, shall call for applications for all competitions for the following season, with participation being on an annual basis unless otherwise specified.
- 1.2.2 For the avoidance of any doubt, the club has no right to any renewal or extension to participate in any future competition(s). FSC reserves the right to determine at its sole discretion whether any right to participate in competitions is renewed or extended.
- 1.2.3 The FSC Board, through the MPFC and CC, will be responsible for assessing all Premier and District League applications.
  - a) All applications shall be reviewed and assessed by the CC for completeness prior to review by the MPFC.
  - b) The recommendations of the MPFC for the competitions of the following season shall be forwarded for consideration and declaration to the FSC Board.
  - c) Once this process has been finalised, the declaration of leagues shall be communicated to clubs.
- 1.2.4 Applications to participate in all competitions administered within these regulations are to be made on the prescribed FSC documents and must comply with the assessment criteria as set out on the documents.
- 1.2.5 All applications must be fully completed and submitted by the document due date. Applications received after the closing date will only be accepted at the discretion of the MPFC and placed into leagues as determined by FSC.
- 1.2.6 Clubs that have provided inadequate information or incomplete applications as part of the participation document may be given five (5) business days in which to resubmit their application with 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 MPFC or FSC Board.
- 1.2.7 Competition nomination fees shall be set annually by FSC and be included on the participation application.
- 1.2.8 Clubs that are unfinancial or have outstanding debts at the time of application will not have their application considered.
- 1.2.9 FSC reserves the right to determine the appropriate league for each nomination by considering the previous season's results, playing strength of the club, ground criteria, disciplinary records, financial position, and the formation of the division.
- 1.2.10 FSC reserves the right to reject applications at its sole discretion.
- 1.2.11 The declaration of leagues shall rest solely with the FSC Board from year to year.

## 1.3 Confirmation of Leagues

- 1.3.1 FSC will conduct competitions in the following leagues and grades:
  - a) Illawarra Premier League – First Grade, Second Grade (All Age), and Youth Grade (Under 20)
  - b) Illawarra District League – First Grade, Second Grade (All Age) and Youth Grade (Under 20)

- 1.3.2 Composition of the Leagues, including a maximum number of teams per grade, will be determined by the FSC Board.

## **1.4 Special Circumstances**

- 1.4.1 Nothing in these Regulations will prevent the FSC Board from approving a course of action to meet special or unforeseeable circumstances not covered by the Regulations, including but not limited to promotion, relegation, the number of divisions, composition of fixtures, and teams in each division.
- 1.4.2 The decision by the FSC Board to review and consider special circumstances under this section is not subject to appeal or review.

## **1.5 Consequences of Breach**

- 1.5.1 In addition to any consequences stated in these competition regulations, any proven breach or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement will amount to misconduct and therefore be subject to the provisions of the FSC DDR. Potential sanctions may include loss of points from First Grade and/or financial penalties. Where the offences occur in final series matches, the offending side will be disqualified, and the opposing team will be awarded the win.
- 1.5.2 Where these competition regulations do not specify the consequences of breach or failure to comply, such infractions may still amount to misconduct and will be subject to the provisions of the FSC DDR.

## **1.6 Strict Liability of Clubs**

- 1.6.1 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 in attendance, regardless of the responsibilities attached to any person or entity in respect of such a match or event.

## **1.7 Outstanding Debts**

- 1.7.1 Subject to these competition regulations, all outstanding accounts owed to FSC, as well as annual nomination fees or the relevant portion thereof as authorised and determined by FSC, must be paid by the club within thirty (30) days of invoicing unless alternate arrangements have been provided and authorised.
- 1.7.2 Clubs that are 30+ days in arrears to FSC are subject to financial penalties as per the FSC Payment Policy.
- 1.7.3 Should the outstanding amount reach sixty (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/or Cup fixtures conducted by FSC or its governing body.
- 1.7.4 Notwithstanding articles 1.7.1, 1.7.2, and 1.7.3, FSC may at its absolute discretion expel a club from any competition if it does not comply with these competition regulations.
- 1.7.5 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. This includes monies which may have been incurred when an appeal or protest has been lodged.
- 1.7.6 Clubs that are not fully financial as of 31 October each year are subject to penalties, which may include points deductions for the following season and potentially the rejection of their application to participate in the competitions the following season.

## **1.8 Bonds and Fines**

- 1.8.1 FSC/MPFC shall, prior to the start of the season, determine the schedule of penalties for the impending season. Such penalty fee charges will not come into effect until two (2) weeks after approval, but in any case, before the competition commences the following year.
- 1.8.2 Clubs or club associates found guilty of breaching the Men's Competition regulations will have penalties and/or sanctions imposed on them. Such penalties may include financial penalties, imposed bonds, deduction of competition points, and/or expulsion from any competition, subject to the seriousness of the offence.
- 1.8.3 Any monetary bond placed upon a participating club by FSC, or its tribunals or councils shall be for a specific period, which is determined by FSC or its tribunals or councils.
- All fines imposed by these competition regulations must be paid within thirty (30) days of invoicing, including fines dealing with individual suspended players.

## **1.9 Protection of Important Fixtures**

- 1.9.1 No club or entrepreneur may stage a tournament in the region governed by FSC on a day on which an International or A-League fixture is scheduled to be played in the region, except with the written consent of FSC through its delegated council representatives.
- 1.9.2 Clubs will not be permitted to play rescheduled or friendly First Grade fixtures on days when FSC is hosting Cup Final and/or Finals Series matches, except with the written consent of FSC through its delegated councils.
- 1.9.3 Changes to the FSC/MPFC playing calendar shall limit the match day scheduling of fixtures at their discretion where other FNSW fixtures coincide with normal competitions and timing.
- 1.9.4 Where representative teams are playing at home, there will be no matches played in opposition (unless outside the 50km radius from the scheduled fixture venue).

## **1.10 Representative Teams**

- 1.10.1 Any player registered or affiliated with FSC under the FFA National Registration Regulations will be eligible to represent the region in representative matches, camps, or tours. Each player must make themselves available for training, preparation, and participation in representative matches, camps, or tours as requested by FSC.
- 1.10.2 All clubs must release players for training, preparation, and participation in representative matches, camps, or tours as requested by FSC without exception.
- 1.10.3 Where a club has three (3) or more players from one team participating in an 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(s). FSC, through its councils, shall determine the outcome of that request at its absolute discretion, and that decision shall not be subject to further review.
- 1.10.4 Players selected who are under the age of eighteen (18) at the time of selection will be required to supply FSC with a signed Player Consent Form from their parent/guardian.
- 1.10.5 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 while representing FSC.
- 1.10.6 Representative players will not play or train for their club seventy-two (72) hours immediately before the scheduled representative fixture.
- 1.10.7 Any player who does not make themselves available for any nominated representative match will be automatically stood down and prohibited from participating in any club fixture until after the representative fixture has been played.
- 1.10.8 Any players who do not make themselves available for any nominated representative match will also be subject to suspension from the next competition club match after the representative fixture.
- 1.10.9 Representative players who are injured or ill shall advise the nominated Team Manager as soon as practical after receiving the injury or becoming sick.
  - a) Players so afflicted shall continue to attend training sessions (where possible) to receive treatment or shall attend any other medical treatment the representative team sports trainer recommends.
  - b) FSC may, at its sole discretion, seek a medical certificate from the player.
- 1.10.10 Where a player selected in the representative team gets sent off before the game takes place, the player will serve his suspension in the 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.
- 1.10.11 Where a player has been selected in the representative team and receives a suspension through an accumulation of cautions, the player will serve their suspension in the next competition club match/s.

## **1.11 Change of Club Name**

- 1.11.1 Any club that wishes to change its registered club name must provide the information in clause 1.11.3 in writing to FSC for their consideration.
- 1.11.2 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.
- 1.11.3 Applications will be assessed as outlined below, and all aspects of these requirements must be adhered to when applications are lodged.
  - a) The club must submit its request for a change of club name on an official club letterhead.
  - b) Provide full disclosure of information, including the reasons for the request.

- c) The application should include an alternate name that can also be assessed, again with full disclosure as per item (b) as above.
  - d) Submit the new logo (if applicable) for FSC consideration and approval.
  - e) A copy of the minutes of the Special General Meeting of the club approving the change of name.
- 1.11.4 FSC, through its councils, will assess all change of name applications once the information above has been lodged, and it may reject any application at its sole discretion. No further correspondence will be considered about the rejection of the application.
- 1.11.5 Once FSC has approved the change of name, the club will be required to produce evidence showing the change of club name with the appropriate entity. Only on presentation of the relevant documentation shall FSC ratify and confirm the change of name.

## **1.12 Amalgamation and Merger of Clubs**

- 1.12.1 Amalgamation/mergers between clubs shall be formulated before 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.
- 1.12.2 Where two (2) or more clubs intend to amalgamate, they shall:
- a) Advise FSC before any formal meetings of the respective club members. FSC reserves the right to be represented at such meetings through a nominated representative (i.e., FSC Board member or FSC Councillor).
  - b) Apply to FSC in writing for its approval. The letter is to be signed for and on behalf of the amalgamating clubs' executive committees.
  - c) Submit the name of the proposed new amalgamated club and provide:
    - i) Notice of General Meeting of both clubs
    - ii) Signed record of attendance at the General Meetings of both clubs
    - iii) 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.
  - d) Provide the proposed constitution, or if the proposed new club intends to become an Incorporated Association, the proposed Statement of Purpose and Rules.
  - e) Provide 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.
  - f) Submit for consideration and approval to FSC the new club logo.
  - g) Upon incorporation, provide the registration of any new entity to run the amalgamated/merged club, as well as a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation or other documentation such as FSC may require in respect to that new entity.
- 1.12.3 Amalgamating/merging clubs may nominate the League or Division in which 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.
- 1.12.4 Before the amalgamation/merger is approved, all outstanding financial obligations and playing commitments of both clubs to FSC must be fulfilled.
- 1.12.5 The newly amalgamated/merged club must fulfill its commitment 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 amalgamation/merger.
- 1.12.6 After approval of amalgamation/merger, FSC may declare a vacancy or vacancies in the respective League or Division, which may be filled or left vacant at the discretion of FSC or its delegated representative council.
- 1.12.7 Club mergers are considered on their merits by FSC through its councils, where the purpose of the merger is to sustain two (2) clubs 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.
- 1.12.8 Should the merged clubs' amalgamation not succeed and a separation of clubs back to their original structure be required, both clubs shall start over as two (2) new entities and commence in a League decided at the sole discretion of FSC through its councils.



### **1.13 Disciplinary Sanctions and Proceedings**

- 1.13.1 All clubs, club associates, and/or match officials participating in any capacity at an FSC fixture or formal social event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the FSC DDR.
- 1.13.2 It is the Club's responsibility to ensure compliance with the Competition rules and DDRs.
- 1.13.3 A player who accumulates red/yellow cards during the competition must serve mandatory match suspensions as regulated by the FSC DDR.
  - a) Players sent off must not be named on the team sheet in any other game/grade for their club on match day or where a fixture is deferred, for any other club game that same round.
  - b) It is the club's sole responsibility to record and monitor all player/team official infringements and impose sanctions as per these competition regulations.

### **1.14 Club Meetings**

- 1.14.1 FSC, through its councils, will schedule meetings during the season to update clubs on administrative and coaching matters. These dates will be set and communicated to clubs before each season.
- 1.14.2 It is mandatory that clubs have at least one (1) club representative attend the designated club meetings.
- 1.14.3 Clubs that fail to have representation at a club meeting (including the Annual Meeting) will be fined as per BR4 Annexure 2 of these regulations, irrespective of whether an apology has been provided.
- 1.14.4 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.

### **1.15 Correspondence and Communication**

- 1.15.1 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.
- 1.15.2 All correspondence by FSC to clubs through its councils 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.
- 1.15.3 Clubs must ensure that postal mailboxes, specified email accounts, and the FSC website are checked regularly, and that the information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties.
- 1.15.4 All formal correspondence received by FSC through its councils from clubs must be on a club letterhead and signed by a club official, or if sent by email, from the club's FSC-registered email address.
- 1.15.5 All clubs must have a designated active primary email address that is provided to FSC at the time of application.
- 1.15.6 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 as Misconduct in the FSC DDR.

### **1.16 Media Comment**

- 1.16.1 Clubs and/or club associates must not make derogatory or detrimental comments to the media about FSC or the performance of match officials. All such complaints should be made in writing to FSC.
- 1.16.2 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.
- 1.16.3 All club and/or club associates must adhere to the FSC social media Policy.
- 1.16.4 All registered players are expected to sign off on the FSC social media Policy annually, with copies or evidence retained for presentation should a breach occur to verify implementation and communication of such policy.
- 1.16.5 A breach of any part of this section will result in disciplinary action from FSC as per the FSC DDR and these competition regulations.



## SECTION 2 | TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

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### 2.1 Men's Premiership Competitions

- 2.1.1 The Men's Premier and District League competitions shall consist of three (3) grades: First Grade, Second Grade, and Youth Grade (Under 20).
- a) In each of these grades, each team shall play its opponents twice on a home and away basis and in sequence as far as it is practical, with respective grounds being available that meet the criteria as determined by the MPFC.
  - b) FSC may alter the draw to include, but not limited to, formats including split rounds, split groups, and additional rounds in the event competitions are not conducive to a two-round competition draw.
- 2.1.2 All FSC fixtures are played in compliance with FFA, FNSW, and FSC regulations, along with other conditions and policies.
- 2.1.3 Clubs shall not play in or approve any player, official, or team to participate in any other matches that are not part of the scheduled FSC 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 before the scheduled date of each match.
  - b) Any club and/or player found to be playing in an unauthorised competition will not be covered by insurance, and the club and/or player may be subject to further action as determined by FSC, its council, or a tribunal.

### 2.2 Premiership Ranking

- 2.2.1 The team finishing with the highest number of points after the home and away season will be declared League Champions.
- 2.2.2 Where all competition games are completed and a team finishes the competition equal on points in any position on the table, the following criteria (in order and for First Grade only) shall be used to determine the higher ranked team where required:
- 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. Where the aggregate total is equal, away goals shall count as double.
  - d) If the above criteria are unable to separate the teams, a single playoff match at a neutral venue between the two teams shall take place, with the winner finishing higher on the table.
- 2.2.3 For Youth and Second Grade, the following criteria (in order) shall be used to determine the higher-ranked team where required:
- a) Head-to-head aggregate result. Where the aggregate total is equal, away goals shall count as double.
  - b) The team with the highest goal difference.
  - c) The team with the highest number of goals scored, then.
  - d) The team that scored the opening goal in the first competition fixture between the two teams.
- 2.2.4 Where a season is completed without all the competition games being played, positions on the table will be based on average points per game. Where teams are tied on average points, the following criteria (in order) shall be used to determine the higher-ranked team where required:
- a) Head-to-head aggregate result. Where the aggregate total is equal, away goals shall count as double.
  - b) The team with the highest goal difference
  - c) The team with the highest number of goals scored.
- If the above criteria are unable to separate the teams, a single playoff match at a neutral venue between the two teams shall take place, with the winner finishing higher on the table.

### 2.3 Club Championship Ranking

- 2.3.1 FSC, through its councils, is responsible for the determination of the Club Champions at the end of the regular Premier and District League season (excluding the Finals series).
- 2.3.2 At the end of the Championship season, the club that has accumulated the highest number of aggregate points as per the formula below will be declared the Club Champions for their respective league.

- a) First Grade points multiplied by three (3), plus.
  - b) Youth Grade multiplied by two (2), plus.
  - c) Second Grade points tally.
- 2.3.3 FSC provides prize money (as determined by FSC/MPFC) for the respective competition Club Champions.

## **2.4 Promotion and Relegation**

- 2.4.1 The First Grade District League Team/Club declared League Champion may be offered promotion to the Premier League in the following year, subject to the club meeting full Premier League criteria as directed by FSC/MPFC.
- 2.4.2 If the First Grade District League Team/Club declared League Champion declines promotion to the Premier League or does not satisfy the Premier League criteria, the position may be offered to the First Grade District League Team/Club Runner-Up at the discretion of FSC/MPFC, subject to satisfying the Premier League criteria.
- 2.4.3 If neither the First Grade District Team/Club League declared League Champion nor the First Grade District League Team/Club Runner-Up accepts or satisfies the requirements to the Premier League, the position may be offered to the First Grade Premier League team that finished last.
- 2.4.4 The First Grade Premier League club finishing in last position may be considered for relegation to the District League for the following year.
- 2.4.5 The First Grade District League Team/Club finishing in last position may be considered for relegation to the Community League (All Age 1) for the following year.
- 2.4.6 Promotion and relegation to and from the Premier, District and Community Leagues shall be by invitation at the sole discretion of FSC and subject to the respective promoted club to Premier or District League meeting full criteria as directed by FSC.
- 2.4.7 Promotion and relegation are subject to the club meeting criteria, including but not limited to all articles of the regulations, i.e., ground criteria, official FSC application documents, financial status, and any other criteria as determined by the FSC Board. It is noted that the respective criteria listed in Annexure 4 shall apply in their entirety for all considerations and deliberations by FSC through its councils.

## **2.5 Clubs Removed or Withdrawn**

- 2.5.1 In the event any participating club/team withdraws or is removed from either the 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 half of the competition will have all previous competition results annulled (i.e., points and goals deleted) and a Bye result recorded.
  - c) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn during the second half of the competition will be treated as a Bye in that stage of the competition. All previous competition results from the second half of that competition will be annulled (i.e., points and goals deleted) and a Bye result recorded. All results and points across the first half of the competition will stand.
- 2.5.2 Where appropriate, FSC, through its councils, may impose a penalty and/or fine to a club that has had a team removed or has withdrawn from the competition at BR5 Annexure 2 of these competition regulations and may impose other sanctions on the club under the FSC DDR.
- 2.5.3 Where a club or team has been suspended after the first full round of competition, for each match in which the team cannot participate due to suspension, the opposing team will be awarded a forfeit (3-0 result) or an average of the suspended team's goal difference at the time of suspension (whichever is greater).
- 2.5.4 Players from clubs or teams removed or withdrawn inside the transfer period will not be permitted to transfer to other clubs unless their club is fully financial with FSC.

## **2.6 Protests, Disputes, and Misconduct**

- 2.6.1 Protests must be lodged and received by FSC no later than two (2) business days after the match was played.
- 2.6.2 Protests will only be considered by FSC through its councils for obvious breaches/errors of the laws of the game that clearly had a material effect on the outcome of the match.

- 2.6.3 Protests as to the result of a match will not be considered by FSC in relation to disciplinary decisions of the match officials.
- 2.6.4 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 or the interpretation thereof, such dispute or disagreement will be referred by the club or player to FSC for determination by the relevant independent tribunal.
- 2.6.5 FSC or the FSC DDC may investigate any complaint of:
  - a) Any breach of these competition regulations
  - b) Unsportsmanlike or unbecoming conduct against any club or club associate or FSC official/representative
  - c) Violence or threats of violence or intimidation, or
  - d) Conduct that brings or may bring the game into disrepute.
- 2.6.6 Before the MPFC or FSC DDC investigates 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. The club person(s) concerned shall be given the opportunity to appear before the MPFC or a nominated tribunal to participate in the enquiry and to offer such defence or submissions as deemed necessary.
- 2.6.7 If the MPFC or FSC DDC is satisfied that any such complaint has misled the tribunal, it may impose penalties as per the FSC DDR.
- 2.6.8 All clubs, club associates, and/or match officials participating in any capacity at an FSC fixture or formal social event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the FSC DDC.
- 2.6.9 Where a club considers that it can demonstrate it has been unfairly and adversely affected by an FSC, CC, or MPFC decision made under these competition regulations, it may appeal to FSC to review the decision based on the following criteria.
  - a) To qualify for FSC consideration, review requests must first be lodged through Dribl and then followed up in writing, identifying the decision being appealed and clearly stating 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.

## **2.7 Player Numbers**

- 2.7.1 Each match shall consist of not more than eleven (11) starting players, one (1) of whom will be a goalkeeper.
- 2.7.2 All teams must comply with the starting 11 players at the commencement of each fixture and note accordingly on the team sheet. A forfeit will be regarded as a failure to comply with this requirement. Failure to comply shall result in an official warning in writing to the club.
  - a) For each occasion thereafter, the offending club shall be fined as per BR4 Annexure 2 of these competition regulations per team and shall result in a loss of a single point from the First Grade team, and this may place future club applications in jeopardy.
  - b) Where a club does not fulfill its obligations with respect to starting each match with 11 eligible players (this includes forfeits) on more than three (3) occasions for any team in a competition year, the executive of the club shall be required to appear before FSC to show just cause why they should not be withdrawn from the competition.
- 2.7.3 The maximum number of players per fixture shall be seventeen (17).
- 2.7.4 Matches with fewer than seven (7) players will either not start or be abandoned.
- 2.7.5 Clubs are permitted to have squad numbers and may range from 1 to 99.
- 2.7.6 All players (including the goalkeeper) taking the field must do so with their allocated number on the back of their playing strip. Failure to observe this shall result in the offending club being fined as per BR4 Annexure 2 of these competition regulations.

## **2.8 Substitutes**

- 2.8.1 For all fixtures, the following substitution regulations apply:
  - a) First and Second Grade – up to five (5) substitutions

- i. Six (6) substitutes can be listed as long as one (1) of the substitutes is named as a replacement goalkeeper (only). A sixth player cannot be listed to be used as a possible outfield player.
  - b) Youth Grade – Interchange
  - c) Cup and/or Finals fixtures only – an additional substitution opportunity per team is permitted in the extra time period (this applies to First and Second Grade only).
- 2.8.2 The maximum number of substitutes applies throughout the complete match (including extra time and penalty kicks – except in Cup or Finals matches). The replacement player must be one of the named substitutes from the team sheet.
- 2.8.3 Teams wishing to make a replacement shall inform the fourth match official (where appointed) of the players involved in that substitution.
- 2.8.4 All substitutes must be seated within the technical area.
- a) Substitutes may warm up outside the technical area provided they are wearing an alternate coloured vest to the team strip.
  - b) When warming up, substitutes should choose an area furthest from the opposing team or as advised by the appointed match official, closest to the technical area.
  - c) Clubs/teams not involved in the current fixture are not permitted to warm up inside the field perimeter fence unless otherwise authorised by FSC. This includes goalkeepers.
- 2.8.5 For all matches played during the Finals Series, the substitution regulations as per 2.8.1 also apply.
- 2.8.6 Any team that makes more substitutions than permitted as per 2.8.1 will automatically forfeit the match.

## 2.9 Players Playing in Multiple Grades

- 2.9.1 In any given same Competition Round, a player can play across multiple fixtures (in Youth Grade, providing they meet the Youth Grade Age Eligibility criteria, or are an overage Goalkeeper), compliant with Competition Rules as follows:
- a) If the matches are played on the same day, the player can start or be used as a replacement in each, or any, Grade.
  - b) If some matches in the same Round are played on different days/nights, then players can play in lower Grades on a previous day/night, starting the earlier match(s) if desired, and then go on to start/play in other higher Grades on subsequent days/nights.
  - c) As referenced in 5.6.9, a player who has started in First Grade in the same Round cannot play in either Youth or Second Grade in the same Round if the First Grade match has been played before the Youth or Second Grade match. This includes goalkeepers.
  - d) As referenced in 4.4.1, a starting Second Grade player who also started in First Grade in the same Round will not have that match count for Finals Series eligibility as they will effectively write themselves off in terms of the number of matches played and the fact that a player must play more Second Grade matches than First Grade matches to qualify by the number of matches played.
  - e) As referenced in 4.4.2, a starting Youth Grade player who also started in either First or Second Grade in the same Round will not have that match count as one of the minimum five (5) Youth Grade matches for Finals Series Eligibility.

## 2.10 Playing Colours

- 2.10.1 The playing colours of a club in FSC competitions shall be authorised by FSC at the time of nomination and through the club's competition application for the upcoming season.
- a) Clubs are required to have two (2) differing strips with contrasting colours to their playing shirt and socks. It may be necessary for clubs to wear a combination of their strip to avoid clashes with the opposition.
  - b) Changes to club colours must be approved by the relevant FSC council in writing before purchase.
- 2.10.2 All teams named first on the official FSC fixture schedule shall be deemed the home team and will therefore play in their home or first-choice playing strip.
- 2.10.3 Any team not playing in their registered colours shall result in the offending club being fined as per BR6 Annexure 2 of these competition regulations.

- 2.10.4 Goalkeepers must wear ALL Lime/Fluro Green shirts for home games and ALL Orange shirts for away games. Clubs that are found to have breached this requirement will be fined as per BR2 Annexure 2 of these competition regulations.
- 2.10.5 Clubs are required to confirm the strip worn by their opponents on a weekly basis to avoid the likelihood of a clash of strip colours before their next scheduled match.
- 2.10.6 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.
- 2.10.7 In the event of a colour clash, the visiting club shall change into a strip which does not include any of the basic colours (i.e., shirt and/or socks) of the home club. Failure to observe this shall result in the offending club being fined as per BR4 Annexure 2 of these competition regulations.
- 2.10.8 A club may be penalised pursuant to the FSS DDR if:
- a) A match does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that such a club or team failed to comply with Article 2.10.7.
  - b) A club changes its home or alternate strip without FSC's prior written approval, and this change results in a match being postponed.
- 2.10.9 Player shirt numbers must be a minimum of 22cm in height and be a contrasting colour to the playing shirt. The number must be clearly identifiable from afar.
- 2.10.10 It is optional to put player numbers on shorts and/or the front of the playing shirt. Where these are used, the number must coincide with the shirt number.

## **2.11 Match Balls**

- 2.11.1 In all participating Men's Premier and District League fixtures, the home or host club shall provide the appointed match official with three (3) match balls no later than fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled fixture.
- 2.11.2 FSC will supply match balls for all Cup Finals and Grand Finals.
- 2.11.3 All clubs must use the current licensed match ball as provided by FSC's ball manufacturer for that season.
- 2.11.4 Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements will result in a fine as per BR2 Annexure 2 of the competition regulations.

## **2.12 Ball Persons**

- 2.12.1 The home or host club on match days shall supply a minimum of two (2) competent ball persons (minimum 10 years old) suitably dressed for easy identification.
- 2.12.2 The colours worn by the ball persons shall be distinct from those worn by either the players or match officials.
- 2.12.3 The ball persons shall be positioned on each side of the field around the halfway line, with duties being to supply and retrieve the ball promptly when out of play. The ball persons are also required to provide the match balls both at half time and full time to the match officials.
- 2.12.4 Failure to comply with this clause will lead to a fine at BR4 Annexure 2 of the competition regulations.

## **2.13 Coaching Qualifications**

- 2.13.1 FSC requires coaches across all grades in the Premier and District League competitions to hold a minimum Foundation of Football Certificate (FFC).
- a) Where a coach is appointed/replaced after the season has commenced, they must hold or have held a FFC or higher qualification.
  - b) Special dispensation (after a written request has been made to the CC and an authorising response is received back) may be given to newly appointed/replacement coaches whose qualifications have expired on the provision that they complete the next available FFC course.
- 2.13.2 Where nominated coaches are unqualified, they will not be permitted to coach teams in the Men's Premiership.
- a) Provisional dispensation (after a written request has been made to the CC and an authorising response is received back) may be granted upon request when coaches are enrolled in a course during the regular season.

- b) Coaches will not be eligible for any FSC-issued ID cards until such a time as they are qualified.
- 2.13.3 Clubs are required to advise FSC in writing of any changes to their appointed coaches in a timely manner, i.e., within seven (7) days of the change in appointment.
- 2.13.4 Due to the current reclassification of the coaching courses, coaches with expired qualifications (minimum FFC) will be provisionally permitted to coach Men's Premiership teams.

## **2.14 Medical Coverage**

- 2.14.1 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 someone with a First Aid Certificate (or higher qualification), a Medical Practitioner (Doctor), or a St John's Ambulance Service (or equivalent) in attendance.
- 2.14.2 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.
- 2.14.3 Venues hosting any FSC Finals fixtures are required to have a defibrillator and a suitably trained person who can use it at the ground during match days.
- 2.14.4 Individual Clubs will be required to provide a qualified medical support person with Level One Sports Trainer accreditation (minimum) to their players on match days.
- 2.14.5 Clubs will not be required to appoint 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.
- 2.14.6 All sports trainers or physiotherapists must be registered with FSC through the National Registration System.
- 2.14.7 Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a fine as per BR4 Annexure 2 of these competition regulations.

## **2.15 Club Match Officials**

- 2.15.1 It is the responsibility of the host club to maintain an adequate degree of control over spectators and club officials, including their associates.
- 2.15.2 Premier and District League clubs must provide a minimum of four (4) home and away club officials to each fixture, who shall be identified on the team sheet.
- 2.15.3 Club match officials must:
  - a) Be 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 ground officials' reasonable directions, they should contact the home club representative for further assistance.
  - d) Contact the police or relevant emergency services for support in serious or escalated matters; and
  - e) 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 full time.
- 2.15.4 Match officials should not leave their change rooms or the field of play until identifiable club match officials are present to escort them on and off the field.
- 2.15.5 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.
- 2.15.6 A failure by a club to comply with any part of this regulation shall attract a fine at BR4 Annexure 2 of the competition regulations.



## **2.16 Trial Matches**

- 2.16.1 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.
- a) Clubs/teams from other associations will require approval from their own governing body on the appropriate form before the trial match(s) is sanctioned to proceed.
  - b) Trial matches in November and December will not be sanctioned.
  - c) Trial matches will not be sanctioned against domestic clubs or groups of players that are not affiliated through Football NSW or FFA.
- 2.16.2 Matches can only be conducted upon receipt of written approval from FSC through its councils or CC. Failure by the club to sanction a trial match in accordance with these competition regulations shall attract a fine at BR4 Annexure 2.
- 2.16.3 Fixtures involving FSC clubs will require at least five (5) days' notice where possible.
- 2.16.4 Match Officials will be appointed to all sanctioned local trial matches (where possible). Clubs will need to source volunteer match officials only in cases where FSC cannot supply officials.
- 2.16.5 Fees for games involving 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 (in cash) by the participating clubs to the match officials on the day of the match, except where FSC directs otherwise in writing.
- 2.16.6 All clubs participating in trial matches must complete a team sheet and provide it to FSC no later than 48 hours post-match.
- 2.16.7 No club shall promote a team to play or permit any of its players to play in a competition or with anybody not affiliated directly or indirectly with an Association or Federation.
- 2.16.8 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 will require at least ten (10) working days' notice for sanctioning.
- 2.16.9 Appearance of suspended players in trial matches is in accordance with the FSC DDR and at the discretion of FSC in writing.

## **2.17 Sponsorship, Advertising, and Marketing**

- 2.17.1 FSC will seek to obtain sponsorship or sponsors to assist with the funding of FSC's competitions and representative fixtures.
- 2.17.2 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.
- 2.17.3 Clubs may be required to display at the ground or on uniforms in all competitions such badges and/or logos as determined by FSC. The positioning of such signage, badges, or logos shall be determined by FSC.
- 2.17.4 Any FSC-sponsored signs and/or uniform decals will be at FSC's costs.
- 2.17.5 Clubs or club associates who are in breach of this requirement will be subject to such action as determined by FSC or MPFC at its sole discretion.



## SECTION 3 | VENUES

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### 3.1 Grounds

- 3.1.1 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 with the nominated criteria for the entire playing calendar as set out in Annexure 4 of these competition regulations.
- 3.1.2 The playing surface should be well-grassed, even, and not pose a risk to player or match official safety during a competition fixture.
- 3.1.3 Any club whose ground and/or facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be fined at BR6 Annexure 2 of the competition regulations, suspended, and/or have its home fixtures played away or at an alternate venue as determined by FSC at its sole discretion.
- 3.1.4 FSC, through its councils, may grant special dispensation to clubs who are in progress of upgrading their facilities in accordance with FSC's requirement however, this will be formally determined by FSC 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 of that 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.
- 3.1.5 Should any ground be deemed unacceptable or unavailable for use for any reason during a season, FSC reserves the right to set the most appropriate course of action to conclude the season, including but not limited to rescheduling matches to the "away club" venue, setting fixtures or matches to a neutral venue, or forfeiting the matches against the home club.
- 3.1.6 In all instances of article 3.1.2, any costs incurred in the rescheduling of fixtures or matches will be the responsibility of the original home club.
- 3.1.7 The unavailability of any ground due to neglect, non-payment of accounts or any other reason for which the home club is responsible will result in a forfeit against the home club.
- 3.1.8 In circumstances where nominated grounds are shared by junior, women's and/or Community League teams, the responsibility for the correction of fixture clashes between clubs shall rest with the CC.
- 3.1.9 Home or host clubs must collect litter and leave grounds, spectator areas, change rooms, toilets, and pavilions in a satisfactory condition.
  - a) An adequate number of bins should be provided, and these should be emptied regularly to avoid overflow.
  - b) All cleaning costs (including skip bins) are at the expense of the home or host club.

### 3.2 Playing Arena

- 3.2.1 All internal field markings shall be marked in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game and as per article 3.13 of these competition regulations.
- 3.2.2 The playing surface markings must fall between the following range:
  - a) Minimum length of ninety (90) metres to a maximum length of one hundred and twenty (120) metres.
  - b) Minimum width of sixty (60) metres to a maximum width of ninety (90) metres.
- 3.2.3 The field of play must be rectangular, fully enclosed and have an evenly grassed surface and be well drained.

### 3.3 Player and Match Official Amenities

- 3.3.1 It is the responsibility of the host club to always provide adequate, secure, and hygienic facilities for players and match officials.
- 3.3.2 Each venue is to have a minimum of two (2) players' and one (1) match official's lockable dressing room.
- 3.3.3 The change rooms should have exclusive access to:
  - a) A shower area finished in impervious material, providing both hot and cold water.
  - b) The players' change rooms must have a tiled shower area.
  - c) Toilet facilities (preferred)

- 3.3.4 All dressing room structures must be permanent buildings.
- 3.3.5 No access is permitted to the match official's change rooms unless authorised by the match officials or if accompanied by an FSC MPFC representative.

### **3.4 Spectator Amenities**

- 3.4.1 Grounds must have 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 (subject to change) and in Annexure 4 of these regulations.
- 3.4.2 Disabled toilet access (where installed)
- 3.4.3 Each venue is required to have a canteen/kiosk serving hot/cold drinks and snack foods compliant with all health and council regulations.

### **3.5 Public Address System**

- 3.5.1 All clubs are required to have a fully functional public address system that is audible to all parts of the venue.
- 3.5.2 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.

### **3.6 Signage**

- 3.6.1 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 are not limited to the following:
  - a) Conditions of entry i.e., FSC Spectator Code of Conduct
  - b) Admission prices
  - c) Responsible service to alcohol
  - d) First Aid Officer
  - e) Defibrillator signage
  - f) No smoking signage
- 3.6.2 FSC reserves the right to put up any additional ground signage as required for finals series matches.

### **3.7 Ground Security**

- 3.7.1 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.
- 3.7.2 In addition to article 3.7.1, the home club must take reasonable practical steps to ensure player change rooms are not accessed by unauthorised personnel and to safeguard the valuables of match officials.
- 3.7.3 Each team is responsible for the safety of their player's property. Anything left inside the change rooms is done so at the owner's risk.
- 3.7.4 It shall be the duty of both clubs to maintain control of spectators in order to prevent any disturbance amongst its spectators. Clubs are required to assist the MPFC, match officials or FSC staff in the preservation of order and discipline at any match. Failure to do so will result in the imposition of penalties and/or sanctions as FSC deem appropriate according to the FSC DDR.
- 3.7.5 A club may be required to provide additional club match officials and/or security/police as directed by FSC through its councils if it believes a particular fixture warrants such measures.
- 3.7.6 Where a report has been made to FSC about spectator misbehaviour having a material effect on the result of a match, FSC through its councils may declare the match null and 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 or tribunals shall determine any deductions due to the misbehaviour and a maximum of three (3) competition points from the offending club along with financial penalties may be imposed as deemed appropriate.
- 3.7.7 In the event of a match being abandoned due to a field invasion, FSC through its councils and tribunals shall have the power to:
  - a) Have the match replayed, or

- b) Allow the match result at the time to stand, or
- c) Award a forfeit if they so determine.
- 3.7.8 In determining sanctions, FSC through its councils will consider reports submitted by the match officials and participating clubs.
- 3.7.9 FSC's Disciplinary Review Committee and/or 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.

### **3.8 Property Damage**

- 3.8.1 Any club or club associate causing damage to property at any ground shall be required to pay the total cost of repairing such damage or the total cost of the replacement of such property and may be subject to other penalties and/or sanctions as per FSC DDR.
- 3.8.2 Offending clubs or teams have an obligation to report any damage as soon as possible to the home/host club ground match officials.

### **3.9 Prohibited Items**

- 3.9.1 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 newsletter content that is deemed by FSC to be offensive or inappropriate.
- 3.9.2 Flares, fireworks, loud hailer, air horns, or instruments prohibited by law are not permitted at any FSC event. The lighting and/or throwing of flares or other flammable objects is strictly prohibited in all FSC sanctioned fixtures.
- 3.9.3 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 FSC written consent.
- 3.9.4 All clubs must have prior written approval from FSC before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan to 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.
- 3.9.5 FSC may request the immediate removal of any offending material without notice at any time.
- 3.9.6 Each club must take steps to ensure that their club associates are made aware of these prohibitions and do not breach this requirement, regardless of whether the club is playing at home or away. Clubs will be held fully accountable for the actions of their club associates.
- 3.9.7 Clubs or club associates who are in breach of these competition regulations will be fined at BR7 Annexure 2. 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.

### **3.10 Lighting Standards**

- 3.10.1 Clubs wishing to play competition fixtures under lights must ensure that the lighting complies with the guidelines prepared by FSC.
- 3.10.2 Clubs are expected to provide an annual lighting certificate to verify that the average lighting reading exceeds the minimum league standards.
  - a) The lighting standard through a certificate will need to be re-evaluated every twelve (12) months. A lighting assessment and associated certificate for the following season cannot be conducted any earlier than August 1 of the preceding season. The Certificate associated with use for the following season must be submitted with the applicable next Season Application.
  - b) The minimum standard for Premier League and/or Cup fixtures is 120 Lux.
  - c) The minimum standard for District League fixtures is 100 Lux.
- 3.10.3 The lighting assessment shall be undertaken by an authorised lighting specialist and a certificate shall be supplied in accordance with AS 2560 1 Sports Lighting.
- 3.10.4 Any club that does not supply or has its certification expire shall be subject to additional consideration with regards to playing any night fixtures.
- 3.10.5 Clubs shall ensure that for training purposes, a minimum of 50 Lux is required for lighting.

- 3.10.6 A fixture may be played wholly or in part under flood lights, providing the lighting meets the requirements.

### **3.11 Stretcher**

- 3.11.1 Each host 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 placed between the technical areas prior to the commencement of the fixture. Clubs that fail to do so may be fined at BR1 Annexure 2 of the competition regulations.
- 3.11.2 The host 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 or fence in a safe and accessible position for first aid staff as required.
- 3.11.3 Clubs must ensure their stretchers comply with the current Australian standards. Wooden or canvas stretchers are prohibited.

### **3.12 Goal Posts, Nets and Corner Flags**

- 3.12.1 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 include:
- a) Construction of goal frames for either fixed or portable use
  - b) Security and stability of the goal frame
  - c) Net fixing to the frame of the goal
  - d) The net itself
- 3.12.2 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 IFAB Laws of the Game and should not have any sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.
- 3.12.3 Metal net hooks are not permitted and are unsafe for the securing of nets to goals. The prohibition of metal cup hooks is also outlined in Australian Standard AS4866.1-2007.
- 3.12.4 Where a club uses portable goal posts for training and competition, it must ensure that these goal posts conform to the current Australian Standards in relation to the manufacture and storage of goal posts. Clubs using portable goal posts are expected to have available on request a certificate of conformity from the manufacturer.
- 3.12.5 It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure they provide goal nets of an approved configuration that are secured by non-offending fixations that are not subject to causing player injury throughout any stage of a match.
- 3.12.6 Goal posts, nets and corner flags must be of approved material, colour and dimensions as per the IFAB Laws of the Game. Corner Flags must not feature nationalistic emblems or reference or be pointed at the top of the corner flag.

### **3.13 Line Marking**

- 3.13.1 Line markings need to fall in line with the IFAB 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 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 host club shall ensure line marking equipment remains available for all matches being played at the ground on the day.
- 3.13.2 A home club whose match is postponed/abandoned due to the use of prohibited substances for marking their grounds (as per article 3.13.1) 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. The home club will incur a penalty or fine (or both) at BR4 Annexure 2 of the competition regulations as set out in the FSC DDR.
- 3.13.3 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 councils grants dispensation from these requirements.

### **3.14 Field Exclusion Zone**

- 3.14.1 The technical area of the field and playing area shall be fenced off with a secure fence of material so as not to compromise player or spectator safety.
- 3.14.2 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 from the sidelines or three (3) metres from goal lines at all matches. Such an area will be determined as the field exclusion zone.
- 3.14.3 The only persons permitted within the field exclusion zone during the progress of any fixture shall be:
  - a) The competing players and substitutes from each team (as listed on the team sheet)
  - b) The coach and team manager
  - c) Fourth Official (where supplied)
  - d) First aid or emergency personnel
  - e) Nominated club officials wearing official FSC vests.
  - f) Accredited media personnel (i.e., photographers) wearing high visibility media vests.
  - g) Ball persons
- 3.14.4 Where matches are being played simultaneously on grounds that contain adjacent playing fields, no person other than the match officials and persons approved by FSC (as per article 3.14.3) shall be permitted to position themselves between the playing pitches during the progress of any match.
- 3.14.5 Failure by the host club officials to ensure compliance of the field exclusion zone will result in a fine at BR2 Annexure 2 of the competition regulations and/or sanctions as determined by the CC.

### **3.15 Technical Area**

- 3.15.1 Each ground must have two (2) coaches/substitutes benches/dugouts with adequate seating for up to ten (10) people. This can be of any configuration and must include additional seating where required.
- 3.15.2 Home clubs are required to clearly mark out the technical area as stipulated by the IFAB Laws of the Game. The technical area shall also have a one (1) metre line placed around the extent of the seating arrangements.
- 3.15.3 Only eligible Players, Coaches and Team Officials are allowed in the technical area during Matches.
- 3.15.4 Injured and/or suspended players are not permitted in the technical area at any time.
- 3.15.5 Except for one (1) person, all others must remain seated within the confines of the technical area. Exceptions may include special circumstances e.g., a sports trainer waiting for the match official's authorisation to enter the field of play to assess an injured player.
- 3.15.6 Registered players seated in the technical area must be clearly identifiable by wearing a high visibility vest of a contrasting colour to that of both teams.
- 3.15.7 The match official may expel any person from the technical area at any time as deemed necessary. The game will not resume until the expelled person has left the playing field and has moved to a point at least fifty (50) metres from the designated technical area.
- 3.15.8 The bench officials listed on the back of the team sheet must remain in the technical area during the match.

### **3.16 Smoking and Drinking at Venues**

- 3.16.1 Smoking, including vaping, is prohibited in spectator areas at public sports grounds and other recreational areas in NSW. Patrons wishing to smoke or vape must do so outside the ground.
- 3.16.2 It is prohibited for anyone to consume alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence. This includes the technical area and anywhere within two (2) metres of the playing surface as determined by the ground markings and playing field fencing.
- 3.16.3 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 that 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 to alcohol in English and then in any other language, as necessary.

- 3.16.4 Where a person is in breach of this competition regulation, both the individual and if the person is a club associate, that person's club, will be fined as per BR5 Annexure 2 and will be subject to further disciplinary action under the FSC DDR.

### **3.17 Match Day Audits**

- 3.17.1 FSC, MPFC or an appointed person may carry out match day audits to ensure match day compliance protocols are being followed.
- 3.17.2 A club representative must be made available to the match day Auditor to show them around as required.
- 3.17.3 Reports from the auditor shall ensure the findings and any other actions as required are communicated to all stakeholders.
- 3.17.4 Clubs are expected to address areas of non-compliance in an appropriate timeline or as defined by FSC through its councils.

## SECTION 4 | ELIGIBILITY

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### 4.1 Player Status and Eligibility

- 4.1.1 The ineligibility of players shall be defined by FSC from time to time.
- Players must be approved (i.e., made active) in the National Registration System for their current club to be eligible to play FSC competition matches.
  - It is the responsibility of the club to check and/or confirm with FSC that all their players are registered through the National Registration System.
- 4.1.2 Ineligible players include:
- Unregistered players (includes an incomplete registration e.g., pending payment, pending approval, as in 4.1.1 a) above)
  - Suspended players
  - A player who participates in a match and is not listed on the team sheet.
  - A player who is required to stand down due to an accumulation of cautions suspension but participates in a match.
  - A player that has been expelled from an earlier match but participates in a later match on the same day.
  - A ring in player (refer to article 4.1.5)
  - Any additional visa players registered by the club exceeding the prescribed maximum that are named on the team sheet.
  - Anyone added to the team sheet without the match official's approval after the match has commenced.
  - A player that has been deemed ineligible due to any article of these regulations or pursuant to the DDR.
- 4.1.3 Any team that fields an eligible player will automatically lose that match on forfeit and be fined as per BR5 Annexure 2.
- Additionally, the club, team official(s), or player(s) may be further sanctioned in accordance with the FSC DDR as misconduct.
  - For clarity, it is the club's absolute responsibility to ensure it fields eligible players in any match.
- 4.1.4 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.
- Both clubs will be fined as per BR5 Annexure 2
  - The clubs will incur any other costs associated with the match including that of fines issued by FSC through the MPFC or its tribunals.
- 4.1.5 A ring in is an ineligible player either because they are not registered, belong to another team, or are unable to play in a grade due to various reasons including age restraints, who have been asked by a club/team or another player to fill a spot on a team and knowingly participate.
- 4.1.6 Any club/team found guilty of playing a ring in will be sanctioned.
- Any player who knowingly plays as a ring in will be dealt with through the FSC DDR.
  - Any participating club, office holder, 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 MPFC or its tribunal where disqualification could be the overall outcome.
  - The offender shall also be subject to other punishment as determined by FSC through the MPFC or its tribunals which is thought to be appropriate having regard to all circumstances of the case.
  - Any club or team found guilty will be fined at BR7 Annexure 2 of the competition regulations.
- 4.1.7 Where a club suspects any abnormality or breach of these rules, they shall:
- Advise the opposing club of their intention to report the matter to FSC.
  - Make notification in the comments section of the team sheet of their intention to report the matter.
  - Submit a written report to FSC with supporting documents within 72 hours following the match.
  - Submit photographic/video evidence to support any abnormality.
  - Bring the matter to the attention of the match official and request they too provide a report to FSC.
- Any clubs that fail to produce proof of identification upon request shall incur a fine of BR7 Annexure 2.



## **4.2 Borrowing**

- 4.2.1 Players can be borrowed using the Dual Playing Procedure from Junior teams.
- a) The signed dual playing form must be submitted to FSC a minimum of three working days prior to any match.
  - b) Where the player is from the same club, the player can be borrowed through Dribl once authorisation has been given.
  - c) Where the player is from another club, written consent must be sourced from the CC before the player is permitted to play. The FSC issued letter in such cases must be shown to the opposition club representative and the match official (prior to the match). The players' name and shirt number must also be added to the disputes section in Dribl.
- 4.2.2 Community League players (from the same club) can be borrowed to a maximum of seven (7) occasions throughout the year.
- a) This includes finals series matches.
  - b) This excludes goalkeepers who can be borrowed without restriction.
- 4.2.3 Clubs cannot borrow a visa player if they already have the maximum quota.

## **4.3 Age Eligibility**

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 Players in the Men's Premiership must turn 17 years (minimum) in that competition year to be registered with the exception of up to three (3) players per club who can be turning 16 years of that competition year.
- 4.3.3 All players Under 18 (i.e., not yet 18 years) must provide FSC a signed Parent Consent Form prior to playing in any official FSC competition matches.

## **4.4 Eligibility for Players in Cup Competitions**

- 4.4.1 FSC may conduct annually a First Grade Preseason Cup competition along with the Bert Bampton and Youth Cup knockout for all clubs in the Men's Premiership. Each of these competitions will have its own competition regulations.
- 4.4.2 In the Youth (Bert Bampton) Cup knockout, the player participation age shall be Under 20 with no overage players permitted with the exception of the goalkeeper.
- 4.4.3 Players are not permitted to play for more than one (1) club in any single cup competition per season (includes preseason cup).
- 4.4.4 Players must be registered to participate in all Cup competitions. The exception to this rule is where clubs are permitted to use up to three (3) guest players during the preseason Cup competition.
- 4.4.5 Only players registered with FSC in accordance with these regulations may represent a club in cup fixtures.

## **4.5 Eligibility for Players in Finals Matches**

- 4.5.1 Players shall be eligible to play in Second Grade Finals fixtures if:
- a) They have started more Second Grade Premiership matches than First Grade during the season; or
  - b) Their club's First Grade have also qualified for the 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. The Youth Grade goalkeeper must be used before the First Grade goalkeeper. The eligibility of ALL non-qualified goalkeepers must be confirmed by FSC prior to the player being allowed to be named on the Team Sheet or in DRIBL to play; or
  - d) They have already participated in a Second Grade Finals fixture through subsection b) as above.
- 4.5.2 Players shall be eligible to play in Youth Grade Finals fixtures if:
- a) They qualify by age and have played in five (5) or more matches during the regular season where they have not started for any other grade in the same round; or

- b) They qualify by age and their club's First Grade have also qualified for the Finals and they have not played in that team (except as a replacement); or
- c) They are the club's Second or First Grade goalkeeper and the regular Youth Grade goalkeeper is unavailable or injured. The Second Grade goalkeeper must be utilised before the First Grade goalkeeper. The eligibility of ALL non-qualified goalkeepers must be confirmed by FSC prior to the player being allowed to be named on the Team Sheet or in DRIBL to play; or
- d) They have already participated in a Youth Grade Finals fixture through subsection b) as above; or
- e) They are registered as per the Dual Playing Procedure and have played in five (5) or more matches during the regular season where they have not started for any other grade in the same round.

4.5.3 Where an alternate goalkeeper is required due to unavailability or through injury as outlined in 4.4.1c and 4.4.2c, the club must provide evidence of unavailability or injury prior to any approval being granted. The goalkeeper being replaced must not be listed on the team sheet in such instances.

4.5.4 Failure to comply with this clause shall result in the offending club being fined at BR4 Annexure 2 and the match being awarded to the opponents where the non-offending team has lost the match.

## SECTION 5 | FIXTURES

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### 5.1 IFAB Laws of The Game

- 5.1.1 All FSC fixtures are played under the IFAB Laws of the Game unless otherwise specified in these competition regulations.
- 5.1.2 These competition regulations are in addition to those stipulated in the Laws of the Game.

### 5.2 Competition Points

- 5.2.1 In all participating Men's Premier and District League competition fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:
  - a) Win – three (3) points.
  - b) Draw – one (1) point.
  - c) Loss – no points
  - d) No Result – no points for either team
  - e) Bye – no points.
  - f) Forfeit – three (3) points and a 3-0 result (and/or greater number of goals difference is applicable after review by the FSC Competitions Coordinator at the end of the season after consideration of average goals conceded is applied) to the opposing team.
- 5.2.2 FSC reserves the right to record any fixture deemed appropriate as a "no result".

### 5.3 Match Commencement

- 5.3.1 It is the clubs' responsibility to ensure that the scheduled time of commencement is maintained for all competition fixtures where practicable.
- 5.3.2 Matches will commence at the scheduled time or in the event of a match whose commencement is dependent on the previous match within ten (10) minutes of the conclusion of the previous match.
- 5.3.3 Kick off times of all official matches shall be determined by the CC and be detailed on the official fixture list.
- 5.3.4 Teams are expected to take the field as soon as practicable and make allowances for pre-match formalities as directed by the match official.
- 5.3.5 Where a team fails to take the field or has insufficient numbers for the match to proceed after fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled kick off time, the match official shall inform both clubs/teams that the game has been called off and notify FSC in writing.
- 5.3.6 Failure to commence a fixture at the scheduled time will result in a fine at BR2 Annexure 2.
- 5.3.7 FSC may start matches from 9.00am for any daytime fixture which may include weekends or any public holiday.
- 5.3.8 Except where special instructions have been issued by the CC, the last match of the day must start no later than 3.00pm for any daytime fixture (only applies to venues without lighting) to ensure player safety.
  - a) All other matches prior to this scheduled starting time must be played in two equal periods that shall allow the last match to commence at the scheduled starting time.
  - b) Where a match starts after the prescribed schedule time, the playing time of the match shall be reduced at the match official's discretion where the next match's scheduled commencement would be delayed beyond the normal starting time. The match shall be played in two equal periods.

### 5.4 Duration of Matches, Added Time, and Extra Time

- 5.4.1 Subject to these competition regulations, all fixtures will be played over two equal periods of 45 minutes unless agreed otherwise between the match official and the participating teams prior to the commencement of the fixture.
- 5.4.2 The match official may cut short any fixture if in the match official's opinion, the playing conditions compromise player safety or otherwise only if:
  - a) It is in line with the IFAB Laws of the Game; and
  - b) The match official has consulted with the coaches of each of the participating teams.
- 5.4.3 Where a match starts later than the scheduled time, both halves may be reduced (equally) by the match official to ensure the game is completed prior to the next fixture (where applicable).

- 5.4.4 The half time interval must be a minimum of five (5) minutes and a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes from whistle to whistle. The half time interval may only be altered with the match official's consent.
- 5.4.5 Allowance is made in either half for all time lost through:
- a) Substitutions
  - b) Assessment of injury to players
  - c) Removal or injured players from the field for treatment
  - d) Time wasting
  - e) Any other cause at the sole discretion of the match official
- 5.4.6 If the duration of any match is unable to be completed due to serious injury, playing field conditions, extreme weather conditions, floodlight failure or any other reason, the game may be replayed, rescheduled for completion, or the match result awarded at the time of the suspension as determined by FSC through its councils and the CC.
- 5.4.7 Should scores be equal at the conclusion of a Cup or Finals match, extra time will be played as follows:
- a) First Grade – two periods of fifteen (15) minutes
  - b) Second and Youth Grade – two periods of ten (10) minutes

## **5.5 Rescheduling of Fixtures**

- 5.5.1 FSC, through its councils and the CC reserve the right to manage and control competition fixtures throughout the calendar year.
- 5.5.2 All clubs involved in a proposed fixture change must submit such requests to FSC through its councils on the appropriate electronic form within 14 days of the scheduled date of the match for consideration.
- 5.5.3 FSC will provide a minimum 14 days' notice on a match that FSC is rescheduling unless there are unforeseen circumstances.
- 5.5.4 Clubs requesting the rescheduling of a match or fixture will have the matter referred to FSC through its councils for determination.
- a) FSC 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 premiership league matches.
  - b) Only where FSC through its councils considers the circumstances to be exceptional, will matches be rescheduled.
- 5.5.5 If the fixture change request is determined by FSC to be frivolous e.g., wedding, baptism, confirmation, or another social event, FSC through its councils and CC will reject the request without further consideration.
- 5.5.6 The proposed relocation of any matches shall be immediately reported to FSC by the clubs concerned and approval must be granted prior to the fixture being officially rescheduled. This includes the proposed relocation of matches from ground one to ground two, etc.
- 5.5.7 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 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.
- 5.5.8 Any disputes between two (2) or more clubs with respect to the arrangement of fixtures shall be referred to and decided by the CC and/or MPFC at its sole discretion.
- 5.5.9 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.
- 5.5.10 FSC's decision regarding the rescheduling of league fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and shall not be subject to appeal or review.

## 5.6 Postponed Matches

- 5.6.1 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 negotiated with the club by the match official and/or CC 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 required to abide by this decision.
  - c) The club representative is to contact the CC immediately following the inspection to advise the outcome.
- 5.6.2 Where Premier/District League matches are postponed on the Saturday, they will automatically be rescheduled 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.
- 5.6.3 If games are unable to be played on any given round, the clubs are required to submit within three (3) business days the rescheduled fixture date/time which must be held within 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, or clubs cannot reach an agreement within the prescribed timeframe, the CC will reschedule the fixture at an appropriate venue which may be neutral and at the cost of the home club.
- 5.6.4 All rescheduled matches must be played prior to the final round of the regular season unless otherwise requested by the CC. FSC through its councils may record the result of matches not completed within this timeframe as a 'no result' with no points or goals awarded.
- 5.6.5 Clubs are required 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) and be subject to further penalties and/or fines as per the FSC DDR.
- 5.6.6 Any club failing to establish a postponed fixture in accordance with these competition regulations will result in a fine as per BR3 Annexure 2.
- 5.6.7 FSC through its councils and CC 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/date will be fined as at BR7 Annexure 2 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 awarded.
- 5.6.8 Clubs are encouraged to refer to the FSC Wet Weather Policy for further details on this process.
- 5.6.9 If a Youth/Second Grade match is postponed and/or subsequently played later than the First Grade match for that fixture, players who have started for their club in the First Grade game shall be ineligible to play in the Youth and/or Second Grade match for that same round.

## 5.7 Abandoned Matches

- 5.7.1 Matches in any cup or league fixture may only be abandoned by a decision of the match official.
- 5.7.2 The match shall be abandoned if:
- a) A team is reduced for any reason below the minimum IFAB Laws of the Game requirement of seven (7) players.
  - b) The venue lighting 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 determine that the conditions for the players, coaches, match officials and/or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.

- 5.7.3 Where a match is abandoned due to a matter set out in article 5.9.2 and FSC or the Match Review Committee/Tribunal determines that one (or both) of the competing clubs or its associates were responsible for the abandonment, then any of the following outcomes may be imposed:
- Match to be awarded as a 'no result'. In this situation, no points will be awarded to either team for that fixture.
  - Award the match as a 0-0 draw.
  - Award a forfeit 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.
  - Match result to stand.
- 5.7.4 Any club associate responsible for the abandonment of a match will be fined at BR6 Annexure 2 through their respective club. The person may also be found guilty of misconduct and may be subject to further penalties under the FSC DDR.
- 5.7.5 If 75% or more of the 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.
- 5.7.6 If less than 50% of normal time of a match has been played prior to an abandonment, the match shall be replayed entirely starting at 0-0. In this instance, team line ups are permitted to be changed for the rescheduled match.
- 5.7.7 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 abandonment.
- The same players on the team sheet must only be used during the rescheduled match (if not replayed in full). Previously made substitutions will stand in this case.
  - If a player is unavailable or has subsequently been suspended for a partly rescheduled match, they can only be replaced by a named substitute that was on the team sheet of the original match. This will count as a substitution.
  - Where the club has exhausted their allotted substitutions, the impacted team will play the remainder of the match with a reduced number of players.
  - Where the club already had a player(s) expelled, they will recommence the match with the same number of players reduced players on the field. The player(s) expelled cannot be replaced in this instance.

## **5.8 Extreme Weather Conditions**

- 5.8.1 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.
- 5.8.2 If the match official postpones, delays, or abandons any fixture due to extreme weather conditions, they are required to outline the reasons in writing to FSC within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.
- 5.8.3 Where the playing temperature is 32°C or above, water bottles must be made available and placed along the sidelines to enable any player to take a drink during the game.
- 5.8.4 Where the temperature reaches 37°C or above, the game will be suspended, postponed, or abandoned as per the FSC Hot Weather Policy.
- 5.8.5 Where conditions are considered hot by the match official, they may allow up to a two (2) minute break during each half to take 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.
- 5.8.6 In the event of lightning, the match official is required to suspend play if the time between seeing a lightning flash and hearing thunder is less than 30 seconds.
- Players and match officials must seek safety under appropriate shelter.
  - Play can only be resumed after a minimum of 30 minutes since the last thunder was heard.

## **5.9 Forfeits or Walk-Offs**

- 5.9.1 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.
- 5.9.2 Any club that without just cause, fails to fulfill an engagement to play the fixture(s) on the appointed date, time and venue shall for each offence forfeit that fixture.

- a) If the forfeit is requested inside 48 hours before the scheduled match, the offending club shall also be liable with a suitable payment to be determined by FSC in conjunction with the opposition club.
  - b) The offending club may be dealt with further by FSC through its councils or tribunals.
  - c) If both teams refuse to or do not play, FSC through its councils may award a 'no result'.
- 5.9.3 Matches shall start within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time. Any team that fails to begin a match within this period shall be considered to have forfeited the match.
- 5.9.4 In the event of any team forfeiting its match, the following procedure shall take effect:
- a) Points for that match shall be forfeited to the opponent with the score recorded as a 3-0 result (and/or greater number of goals difference is applicable after review by the FSC Competitions Coordinator at the end of the season after consideration of average goals conceded is applied) against the team that infringed.
  - b) Clubs who provide FSC with at least five (5) working days' notice in writing that they will be forfeiting a match will be fined at BR4 Annexure 2 of these regulations.
  - c) Clubs who fail to provide sufficient notice as set out in the article above, will be fined at BR5 Annexure 2 of these regulations plus, pay all appropriate match official fees, ground hire costs and compensation to the opposing club as determined by FSC through its council.
  - d) Clubs or teams forfeiting on three (3) occasions during the season without satisfactory explanation shall be removed from the competition and they may lose their affiliation to FSC.
- 5.9.5 In the event of a walk-off by one club prior to the completion of the 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 and tribunals deem appropriate.



## SECTION 6 | REGISTRATION

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### 6.1 Player Registration

- 6.1.1 All players must be registered via the National Registration System. The registration of a player with a club is effective from the date the individual is made active by the club and allocated to the respective team within the national online registration system.
- 6.1.2 The registration must be affected through the player self-registering via the National Registration System and the club accepting the player's registration.
- 6.1.3 If a player is registering to any club for the first time, that player must provide the club with evidence of name and age, by producing an original birth certificate, passport, drivers licence or similar form of identification. It is the club's responsibility to ensure this process is adhered to.
- 6.1.4 In the case of Professional Players, the original contract signed by the club and the player seeking to be registered must be lodged with FSC within the outlined registration windows or as prescribed by the CC.
  - a) The CC will send the player and the club an electronic copy of the contract once it has been acknowledged and confirmed by FSC.
  - b) Where clubs have not provided the Professional Player contract within the prescribed windows, FSC through their councils and the CC will deregister the player.
  - c) In such instances, the club will be fined at BR1 Annexure 2 for every player that does not conform to this article.
- 6.1.5 For further details around the registration process, these rules will refer to the FSC Registration Regulations and the FFA National Registration Regulations.

### 6.2 Playing Roster

- 6.2.1 Each Premier and District League club is permitted a maximum of 50 active squad players at any given time.
  - a) Player(s) must be deregistered to make way for any additional or new players when the maximum number of squad players has been reached.
  - b) Clubs breaching this requirement will be considered to have used ineligible players.
- 6.2.2 The maximum number of professional players for Premier League clubs is twenty (20). There is no requirement to have professional players.
- 6.2.3 Professional players are not permitted in District League.

### 6.3 Professional Player Disputes

- 6.3.1 A professional player or club will have the right to lodge a grievance in writing with FSC through its councils in which either party disputes a player's contract and/or matters arising from it.
- 6.3.2 FSC through its councils will recognise grievances made by players against clubs or clubs against players regarding the terms and conditions as stipulated on contracts which have been lodged with FSC.
- 6.3.3 FSC through its councils will only recognise grievances by players against clubs for monies in arrears for a period of not more than one (1) year from the date the contract was lodged.
- 6.3.4 Where a tribunal proves that a club failed to honour its contract with the player, the club will be given 14 days to fulfill its obligations to the player of all outstanding monies and disbursements.
- 6.3.5 Where it has been 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 within 14 days of the outcome. FSC will forward such payments on to the entitled player(s).
- 6.3.6 Where the club fails to effect full payment of monies or disbursements due to the player within 14 days, the following action shall 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

## **6.4 Player Inducements**

- 6.4.1 Any club official, player's agent or player offering or receiving payment or any form of inducement to or from any member, official, player 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.
- 6.4.2 The payment of a standard match payment nominated in a player's contract to a player by their registered club shall in no way contravene this clause.
- 6.4.3 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.
- 6.4.4 All third party payments to players on contracts must be disclosed and clearly documented in the contract.

## **6.5 Player Insurance**

- 6.5.1 All players playing or training must be insured through FNSW insurance. The player's insurance will be collected by FSC at the time of player registration.
- 6.5.2 Only competition/trial matches and/or training that is sanctioned will be covered for player insurance.
- 6.5.3 Players who participate in competition and/or trial 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 player.
- 6.5.4 The 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.

## **6.6 Loan Players**

- 6.6.1 Loan players are only permitted for professional players in the Premier League.
- 6.6.2 A professional player on loan may only occur within the nominated registration period as per the FSC Registration Regulations.
- 6.6.3 A lone 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 has been terminated earlier in accordance with the terms of the loan player's engagement contract or these competition 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 agreement, the registration immediately reverts back to the club from which the registration was transferred.
  - e) Clubs can only register one loan player at a time.
- 6.6.4 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 number of players that can be loaned out.
- 6.6.5 To complete the loan of a player on contract, all three parties concerned (i.e., the registered club, the player, and the loan club) must agree to a player loan on the prescribed NRR06 form. Where the loan agreement is in the form of a loan contract, the prescribed NNR05 form must also be completed.
- 6.6.6 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.
- 6.6.7 The loan of an interstate player must occur within the relevant registration period and will require documentation as per these competition regulations.

## **6.7 Australian and Visa Players**

- 6.7.1 It is solely the club's responsibility to confirm player citizenship upon registration.
- 6.7.2 If a player was previously registered with another National Association, the provisions of the IFAB Regulations for the status and transfer of players must be complied with, including the receipt by FFA of a valid ITC from that National Association.
- 6.7.3 A visa player is defined as a player holding an international visa who is registered to a club.
  - a) A New Zealand citizen is classified as a visa player unless he satisfies the definition of an Australian player.
  - b) FSC clubs are encouraged to refer to Home Affairs Immigration website for further clarification regarding visas.
- 6.7.4 An Australian Player is any Player who is:
  - a) A citizen of Australia.
  - b) A Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means 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
  - c) The holder of a refugee visa, humanitarian visa or protection visa issued by the Australian government.
- 6.7.5 Clubs are permitted to register a maximum of two (2) visa players per club in any given season. If the visa player leaves for any reason, additional or replacement visa players are not permissible.
- 6.7.6 Clubs can only borrow a visa player from Juniors or Community League as part of the Dual Playing Procedure if they have not already exhausted their maximum quota. Once this player is used, he will be considered a visa player.
- 6.7.7 For all other visa player requirements, refer to section 8 of the FSC Registration Regulations.
- 6.7.8 Clubs in breach of this requirement will be considered to have used an ineligible player.
- 6.7.9 Where a visa player leaves the club to play in a higher league i.e. State or National competitions or is moving from District League to Premier League, the club can still register another visa player within the registration periods.

## **6.8 Long Term Player Injuries**

- 6.8.1 An injury is classified as long term if a player is unable to play due to injury for a minimum of 6 weeks.
- 6.8.2 If a Player is suffering from a Long-Term Injury, a Club may apply to Football South Coast to remove that Player's name from the Player Roster and replace that player with an eligible Replacement Player.
- 6.8.3 This may be done outside of the Player registration windows as dictated in the Competition Regulations (for goalkeepers only).
- 6.8.4 A Club must formally write to FSC and attach supporting medical evidence. Football South Coast may approve or not approve the application or require further evidence, including (but not limited to) a report from a qualified medical practitioner as described in the Medical Practitioners Act 2008.
- 6.8.5 During the course of the season each Club will only be permitted to apply to Football South Coast to remove or replace a maximum of three (3) players from their squad.
- 6.8.6 Once a player is removed from the club's Player Roster due to a Long-Term Injury, the player is not eligible to play for the Club in any capacity for a minimum of 6 weeks from the date of removal from the Roster.

# SECTION 7 | MATCH SHEETS, REPORTING AND MATCH OFFICIALS

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## 7.1 Digital Match Sheets

- 7.1.1 All digital match sheets must be completed online via Dribl.
- 7.1.2 Both clubs must make their player selection and confirm the opposition club in Dribl no later than ten (10) minutes prior to kick off.
- 7.1.3 Clubs are required to note the correct shirt number of each player in Dribl. This information appears automatically next to the player's name on the digital match sheet.
- 7.1.4 Changes to the digital match sheet will be permitted anytime until five (5) minutes prior to kick off. Any changes beyond this point must be authorised by the match official(s).
- 7.1.5 At the completion of the match, the match official is to enter the match data which includes: the scores, cautions, send offs, substitutions, player of the year points and any other match incident that is deemed worthy of inclusion in the post-match reporting.
- 7.1.6 Both clubs must, within thirty (30) minutes of the match, validate the match official's data to ensure all records are accurate. If a discrepancy is identified by either club that cannot be resolved on the day of the match, notification must be issued to FSC via the protest option on Dribl and accompanied by an email to the CC within 24 hours post-match. FSC will review and adjudicate on the alleged discrepancy within a workable time frame.
- 7.1.7 Where a volunteer official is appointed, it is the responsibility of the home club to complete the match sheet inside 24 hours.
- 7.1.8 When a match is forfeited, the digital match sheet will be endorsed by the match official.
- 7.1.9 Each team must nominate four (4) jacketed officials on the team sheet under the officials tab.
- 7.1.10 A player listed on the digital match sheet in Youth Grade will be deemed to have participated in that match.
- 7.1.11 A suspended player will automatically be recorded as stood down where that player does not appear on the match sheet.
- 7.1.12 Where a club causes a match to be delayed due to incompleteness of a digital match sheet, the delay shall be reported by the match official to FSC by the referee or Match Commissioner. The club responsible may attract a fine at BR4 Annexure 2.
- 7.1.13 Under no circumstances shall two (2) players playing in the same team at the same time be permitted to have the same shirt number.
- 7.1.14 Any club associate supplying false or misleading information shall be guilty of misconduct and dealt with under the FSC DDR.
- 7.1.15 Failure by teams to complete the digital match sheet in accordance with these competition regulations shall attract a fine at BR2 Annexure 2.

## 7.2 Match Records

- 7.2.1 After each match, the match officials shall consult with each other 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
  - d) Goal scorers
  - e) Time of the goals
  - f) Cautions, send offs and any other match related records.
  - g) Player of the match (3-2-1)
  - h) Submit and close the team sheet on Dribl once all information has been completed.
- 7.2.2 Match results and reports must be completed inside 24 hours post-match.
- 7.2.3 If the club official protests to the match official about the fielding of an ineligible player, the match official must lodge an official protest through Dribl.

- 7.2.4 The match official must ensure the team sheet is completed as per article 7.1.2
- 7.2.5 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(s) with no subsequent additions.
- 7.2.6 Where subsequent additions or changes by the match official are made after the team sheet is completed, the CC must advise the club(s) accordingly to ensure they are aware of the changes and have the ability to lodge a grievance as per the FSC DDR.

### **7.3 Results of Matches**

- 7.3.1 It is vital for administrative purposes that all match results are correctly and accurately reported to FSC through its delegated representative in a timely manner and to further support ongoing requirements of a disciplinary nature.
- 7.3.2 Subject to these competition regulations, results of each match must be entered directly by the match officials or clubs (where no match official has been appointed) online through the designated competition portal.
- 7.3.3 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.
- 7.3.4 It is the home club's responsibility to enter the results online in a timely manner (where no match official has been appointed).
  - a) Home clubs (where no match official has been appointed) must ensure the match results for all grades are electronically entered into the competition portal no later than 90 minutes after the conclusion of the last fixture of the day.
  - b) Clubs that fail to enter results as per this requirement will be fined at BR2 Annexure 2.

### **7.4 Match Official Fees and Appointments**

- 7.4.1 Match official fees are structured and aligned to the Football NSW fee structure which are subject to review and change on an annual basis. FSC through its councils will communicate the fee structure in writing to the relevant clubs/teams prior to the commencement of the playing season via the CC.
- 7.4.2 Unless otherwise stated, payment of all match fees for match officials must be made via the home or host club. FSC will invoice the home or host club monthly for all games played in the preceding month.
  - a) The club taking the gate will be responsible for the match official fees.
  - b) FSC will be responsible for the match official fees for all Finals Series fixtures and/or matches where FSC take the gate.
- 7.4.3 Where a match official only partly fulfills their appointment, their match payment shall be pro-rated.
- 7.4.4 The appointment of match officials to FSC matches shall be vested in the Referees Council.
- 7.4.5 Club evaluation reports may be used to assist the Referees Council in selecting match officials.

### **7.5 Assistant Match Officials**

- 7.5.1 The Referees Council, through their delegated representative shall solely appoint assistant match officials to Men's Premiership competition matches on a level based on a match official's grading and availability.
- 7.5.2 A maximum of two (2) assistant match officials shall be appointed to a fixture to assist the match official during competition matches.
- 7.5.3 A fourth official may be appointed during Finals Series games (including cup competitions).
- 7.5.4 Where insufficient assistant match officials have been appointed, each club/team is responsible for providing a volunteer assistant match official to assist the match official and to ensure the fixture 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) A volunteer assistant match official must be over 16 years of age.
  - c) All instructions from the main match official to the club volunteer assistant match officials shall be complied with where practical based on the availability of the individual to fulfill the nominated instructions.

## **7.6 Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Officials**

- 7.6.1 Where the appointed match official (referee) fails to honour their appointment, the next most senior match official (replacement) will replace and take charge of the match unless that match official is not qualified through age or does not have the ability to officiate the match.
- 7.6.2 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, the 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.
- 7.6.3 If the match official is late arriving to the match, the replacement as per article 7.6.1 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 ready to take the field and control the balance of the match.
  - b) If the replacement is an authorised match official, the late-arriving match official may take over the assistant match official duties from a junior match official or club volunteer when they are ready.
- 7.6.4 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 that fixture.
- a) It is recommended that the volunteer match official should have completed the FSC run volunteer course within the last two (2) years.
  - b) A volunteer match official (centre referee) must be over 18 years of age, and an Assistant Referee (AR) must be over 16 years of age.
  - c) A club-appointed match official will have the authority to sanction players in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 7.6.5 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.

## **7.7 Decisions of the Match Official**

- 7.7.1 The decisions of the match official or their assistant about any fact connected with a play are final and cannot be disputed by any party.
- 7.7.2 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.
- 7.7.3 There are no provisions for a match official to use any form of video replays for decisions during a match.

## **7.8 Duties of the Match Official**

- 7.8.1 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.
- 7.8.2 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 by FSC through its councils pursuant to these competition regulations shall be dealt with by the CC in the first instance before being referred (if necessary) to the Match Review Committee for further consideration and/or an 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.
- 7.8.3 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/team's official/spectators(s) e.g. coach being removed from the technical area.

## SECTION 8 | TICKETING, AWARDS, PRIZEMONEY AND DISTRIBUTION

### 8.1 Admittance to Fixtures

- 8.1.1 All clubs are required to abide by the entry admission protocols established below to ensure a consistent approach across the football community.
- 8.1.2 FSC through its councils designate maximum entry fees and charges that are subject to review from time to time. In all instances, FSC 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 oriented environment.
- 8.1.3 Participating Premier and District League clubs are provided with the following admittance passes for the current league season.
- a) 50 player passes.
  - b) 10 club committee/sponsor passes
  - c) Coach, team manager and sports trainer pass.
  - d) 2 club executive passes
- 8.1.4 All passes must be displayed upon entry to the visiting club on the day of the match fixture.
- 8.1.5 The pass only entitles the bearer to admittance where a name is printed on the pass. The pass is not transferrable.
- 8.1.6 Maximum admittance prices for league fixtures will be as follows:

	Premier League	District League
Adults	\$10.00	\$10.00
Students, pensioners, or concession holders	\$7.00	\$7.00
Holders of Official FSC passes or current FFA passes	Free	Free
Current FSC sponsor pass holders or gold passes	Free	Free
Under 16	Free	Free
Match Officials	Free	Free
FSC Life Members	Free	Free

- 8.1.7 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) Preseason Cup matches (where played)
  - b) Bert Bampton/Youth Cup, Semi's and Final
  - c) Premier and District League Finals Series matches.
- 8.1.8 For preseason, cup (where played) and Finals Series matches (excluding Grand Finals at WIN Stadium), FSC will determine the player pass system which may include the distribution of passes or gate admission lists.
- a) Where players and/or officials are not listed on the club's admission list or do not provide the pass in use, the club to which they are associated will be invoiced for their entry fee.
  - b) Clubs are allocated specific ticketing for Grand Final fixtures at WIN Stadium (where applicable).
  - c) FSC, through its councils, will determine from year to year the number of passes issued per club/team.
- 8.1.9 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 league matches of the club whose tickets were distributed and cannot be used for any other match sanctioned and/or managed by FSC through its councils.
  - b) Club issued season tickets cannot be used for preseason, cup and/or Finals Series matches or other matches involving other clubs hosted at the club venue.

### 8.2 Media and Other Passes

- 8.2.1 FSC media passes are issued to FSC match reporters and official photographers.
- 8.2.2 FSC through its councils may withdraw an FSC media pass at any given time as it deems necessary.
- 8.2.3 No club has the right to refuse entry to a holder of the below passes without prior FSC 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
- 8.2.4 FSC special passes are not valid for entry to non-FSC sanctioned tournaments or fixtures.
- 8.2.5 Any club who fails to abide by clauses 8.1 and 8.2 respectively shall be fined at BR7 Annexure 2.

### **8.3 Ticketing and Refunds**

- 8.3.1 This clause is applicable to all FSC competition fixtures where admission fees are charged.
- 8.3.2 Clubs that charge admission fees must provide an admission ticket to the paying customer when the exchange of money is made.
- 8.3.3 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. This excludes Finals Series fixtures.
- 8.3.4 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.
- 8.3.5 Where the main fixture has been called off prior to the conclusion of the first half for light failure or unsuitable ground conditions, paying customers will be entitled to a full refund from the home club.
  - a) To be eligible for a 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) that was issued upon entry to the ground as proof of purchase.
  - b) For all other instances of match abandonment before half time, it will be up to the club to determine whether a refund will be provided.
  - c) A ground announcement must be made to make customers aware of this option in this instance.
- 8.3.6 If the main fixture is abandoned after the conclusion of the first half for any reason, refunds are not applicable.
- 8.3.7 Admission fees must not exceed the fee structure set out by FSC through its councils as per article 8.1.6.

### **8.4 Player Awards**

- 8.4.1 There shall be a player of the year award for both Premier and District League competitions (across all three grades) with the points and voting system to be determined by the MPFC on an annual basis.
- 8.4.2 There shall be a goalkeeper award for both Premier and District League (First Grade only) with the points and voting system to be determined by the MPFC on an annual basis.
- 8.4.3 There shall be a top goal scorer award for both Premier and District League competitions (across all three grades) for the player with the highest goal tally across the season.
  - a) Preseason, Finals Series and/or Cup game goals are not included as part of this tally.
  - b) Where there is a tie, the players tied will be declared joint winners.

### **8.5 Trophies**

- 8.5.1 Perpetual trophies as awarded throughout the season are to be returned to the FSC office by 31 August of each year.
  - a) This regulation also applies to preseason cup competitions.
  - b) Failure to return such trophies will result in a fine at BR4 Annexure 2 of the competition regulations in addition to any costs for the trophy (if deemed necessary).
- 8.5.2 Any official FSC trophies lost or damaged shall be paid for by the club responsible.

### **8.6 Fair Play Award**

- 8.6.1 FSC through its councils is responsible for the determination of the Club Fair Play Award as at the end of the regular Premier and District League playing season (excluding Finals Series matches).
- 8.6.2 At the end of the Championship (regular) 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 respective league.
  - a) Red cards multiplied by five (5), plus
  - b) Yellow cards multiplied by one (1), equals the final points tally.
- 8.6.3 FSC through its councils may provide prizemoney (as determined annually by FSC) for the respective Fair Play club recipients.

## **8.7 Prizemoney**

- 8.7.1 FSC through its council provides prizemoney for the following competitions:
- a) Premier and District League
  - b) Bert Bampton / Youth Cup
  - c) Preseason Cup (where played)
- 8.7.2 Prizemoney is reviewed annually by FSC through its councils and is subject to change from time to time.
- 8.7.3 The notification of applicable prizemoney will be communicated to clubs in each respective League by FSC.
- 8.7.4 The distribution of prize money is provided within 30 days of completion of the competition and will be applied as credit to the club.

## SECTION 9 | FINALS SERIES

### 9.1 Finals Format

- 9.1.1 At the conclusion of the season, the top five (5) placed teams as per section 2.2 will play a finals series to determine the Premier and District League Grand Final winners.
- 9.1.2 The Men's Premiership Finals Series will consist of a four (4) week format with the top five (5) teams, unless otherwise directed by its councils.

Week	Final	Fixture
1	Elimination Final	Fourth (4 <sup>th</sup> ) v Fifth (5 <sup>th</sup> )
	Qualification Final	Second (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) v Third (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
2	Major Semi-Final	First (1 <sup>st</sup> ) v Winner Qualification Final
	Minor Semi-Final	Winner Elimination Final v Loser Qualification Final
3	Preliminary Final	Loser Major Semi Final v Winner Minor Semi Final
4	Grand Final	Winner Major Semi Final v Winner Preliminary Final

- 9.1.3 Host venues for finals fixtures will be determined at the absolute discretion of the MPFC during the season.
- 9.1.4 If any Finals Series fixture is postponed, abandoned, or cancelled, that fixture will be rescheduled to an alternate day and at an alternate venue as determined at the absolute discretion of FSC through its councils. Any dispensation or compensation considerations shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis by FSC through its councils and is not subject to appeal or review.

### 9.2 Determining the Winner of Cup and Finals Series Matches

- 9.2.1 All matches played across the Finals Series will be played over a single leg.
- 9.2.2 If at the end of any Cup or Finals Series match, the scores between the two teams are tied, then two equal periods of extra time shall be played.
- First Grade – two equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes
  - Second and Youth Grade - two equal periods of ten (10) minutes
  - The conditions of Law 7 of the IFAB Laws of the Game apply.
- 9.2.3 If the scores are equal at the end of the extra time period, penalty kicks (in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game) shall determine the winner of the match.
- 9.2.4 If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond control and not the direct result of actions by either team, the result will be decided by the drawing of lots by the match official in the presence of the two (2) team captains.
- 9.2.5 If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed through the fault of a club/team, the match will be deemed forfeited against that club/team.

### 9.3 Discipline

- 9.3.1 Any player who accumulates two (2) yellow cards in the Finals Series will be automatically suspended from their club's next scheduled finals fixture. This additionally includes any other club fixtures played on the same day.
- 9.3.2 Yellow cards accrued throughout the regular competition (excluding Finals Series) shall be expunged at the completion of the last round of fixtures.
- 9.3.3 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.
- 9.3.4 Suspensions accrued through the Finals Series will carry over to the following season where the player's club/team has been eliminated or the series is complete (where applicable).

### 9.4 Eligibility for Players in Finals Matches

- 9.4.1 Refer to section 4.4 for criteria.

# ANNEXURE 1 | DEFINITIONS

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**Article |** means a clause of these competition regulations.

**Away Club |** means the club not playing the fixture or match at its home ground and/or appearing second on the fixture list in the event a match is conducted at a neutral venue.

**Board |** means the directors of Football South Coast appointed or elected from time to time.

**CC |** means the Competition Coordinator as appointed by Football South Coast.

**Championship |** means the final series conducted at the completion of the Premiership in accordance with the FSC competition regulations.

**Club |** means the entity formed for the purpose of playing football in competitions.

**Club Official |** means any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of a club or centre (whether paid or unpaid), including directors, representatives, and volunteers.

**Club Associate |** refers to one or more of the following (whether individually or collectively): Club Office Bearer, Club Official, Player, club member, supporter of the club, or club.

**Coach |** Any person with the required qualifications registered with Football South Coast to control football teams' training and match performance.

**Competitions |** means any or all of the football matches or competitions conducted by Football South Coast.

**Constitution |** means the established precedents as per the constitution of Football South Coast.

**Cup |** means a tournament or event conducted by Football South Coast which includes, but not limited to, the preseason Cup, Bert Bampton Cup and Youth Cup.

**Executive |** refers to the President, Secretary and/or Treasurer of each club.

**FFA |** means Football Federation Australia which is the governing body for football in Australia.

**Field of Play or Playing Area |** means the field of play and any perimeter area between the line markings of the pitch and the spectator area.

**Finals Series |** means the series that is played after the league season involving the highest ranked teams as per these regulations.

**Fixture |** means a meeting of clubs as scheduled in all grades applicable.

**FNSW |** refers to Football NSW who is the state's governing body.

**FSC |** refers to Football South Coast, the governing body of football in the region sanctioned by FNSW.

**FSC DDC |** refers to the FSC Dispute and Disciplinary Commissioner as appointed from FSC from time to time.

**FSC DDR |** means the Football South Coast Disciplinary Regulations.

**Goal Difference |** is calculated by subtracting goals against from goals for in a Competition.

**Ground |** is the venue where the match is conducted.

**Head to Head |** means a method which a council can elect to use to determine the league ranking.

**Home Club |** means the club playing the fixture or match at its home ground and/or appearing first on the fixture list in the event a match is conducted at a neutral venue.

**Host Club |** means the club hosting the fixture or match at its home ground when two neutral teams are playing.

**IFAB** | refers to the International Football Association Board who serve the world of football as the independent guardian of the Laws of the Game.

**Just Cause** | means a legally sufficient reason.

**Laws of the Game (LOTG)** | means the official laws of the game of football as promulgated by IFAB.

**League** | means a competition conducted by Football South Coast, i.e. Premier and/or District League.

**Match** | means any match played in a Football South Coast competition, cup, premiership, other event or tournament under Football South Coast's control.

**Match Official** | means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official or anyone else who assumes responsibility in connection with a match.

**Misconduct** | has the meaning given to it as defined in the FSC Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations.

**MPFC** | refers to the Men's Premiership Football Council as elected by the clubs. The council oversees men's football.

**Official** | means a club official, match official or team official.

**Participation Agreement** | means the document completed by the club or team on acceptance to the competition.

**Participant** | means a player, official or spectator.

**Player** | means any person who participates in a match.

**Preseason Cup** | means fixtures or matches played as part of a competition prior to the commencement of the regular league season.

**Premiership** | means the round robin matches (both home and away) that a team competes in during a season in accordance with the Football South Coast competition regulations.

**Professional Player** | means a player registered with a football club under a written contract to play football for reward other than payment for sundry expenses such as travelling to and from a football activity. Every other player is an amateur player.

**Representative Team** | means a team representing a State or Territory, a region or an institute that participates in a competition.

**Round** | means a series of fixtures scheduled by Football South Coast.

**Season** | means from the commencement of a Football South Coast competition to the conclusion of a Football South Coast competition unless otherwise directed by Football South Coast.

**Spectator** | means a person who attends a match.

**Suspension** | means a suspension applicable under or issued pursuant to the FSC Dispute and Disciplinary Regulations.

**Team** | means an individual group of players and officials submitted by a club to represent the club in a competition.

**Team Official** | means any person involved with the management, preparation, or participation of a team (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff, other support staff or any other person acting for or on behalf of a club, centre, or association member.

**Team Manager** | any person registered with Football South Coast to organise and/or control the team's administrative and logistical obligations.

**Trial Match** | means any match played by two clubs which does not form part of a Football South Coast competition, Cup, Premiership, other event, or tournament but has been sanctioned by Football South Coast.

**Tribunal** | means the committee appointed by FSC to settle any dispute and/or disciplinary matter(s).

## ANNEXURE 2 | FINES

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In the case of breaches to the competition regulations, these fines are in addition to any penalties or consequences set out in the FSC DDR which may be imposed as a further consequence to any other charge which may arise from a breach of these competition regulations.

Unless otherwise specified in these competition regulations, FSC through its councils may impose a fine for misconduct for such an amount deemed to be appropriate under the FSC DDR.

Each penalty unit shall be worth \$25.00.

<b>Offence Code</b>	<b>Penalty Units</b> (First offence)	<b>Penalty Units</b> (Second offence)	<b>Penalty Units</b> (Third or subsequent offence)
BR1	1	2	4
BR2	2	4	8
BR3	3	6	12
BR4	4	8	16
BR5	6	12	20
BR6	12	24*	48*
BR7	20	40*	80*

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

## ANNEXURE 3 | REFERENCES

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[FSC Constitution](#)

[FSC Disciplinary and Dispute Regulations](#)

[FSC Registration Regulations](#)

[FSC Invoice Payment Policy](#)

[FSC Social Media Policy](#)

[FFA National Registration Regulations](#)

[Bert Bampton and Youth Cup Regulations](#)

[FSC Dual Playing Procedure](#)

[IFAB Laws of the Game](#)

[FSC Wet Weather Procedure](#)

[FNSW Hot Weather Policy](#)

[FNSW Lightning Policy](#)

[NRR06 Transfer or Loan of Professional](#)

[Home Affairs \(Immigration\)](#)



## ANNEXURE 4 | GROUND CRITERIA

### General

CRITERIA	PREMIER LEAGUE	DISTRICT LEAGUE
<b>Enclosed ground</b>   The ground must be fully enclosed around the facility and secure on match day (minimum 1.8-metre-high fencing in safe condition).	Preferred	Preferred
<b>Field of play fence</b>   Perimeter fence in good safe condition (1 metre high and minimum 2 meters from the sideline to ensure player safety).	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Players and match officials' race</b>   Secure private access (minimum 1.1 metres high and 1.5 metres wide) that players and match officials can transfer from change rooms to the field of play.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Players and match official security</b>   There must be a minimum of two (2) home club officials to escort match officials to and from the field of play. Fines shall apply for non-compliance.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Ground Markings</b>   Must conform to the IFAB LOTG, be neat and clubs can only use authorised substances for such markings.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Ticket box</b>   Must be suitably weatherproof. Can be portable.	Preferred	Preferred
<b>Sheltered accommodation</b>   In suitable proximity to the playing field perimeter to observe fixtures during inclement and wet weather. Mandatory 200 standing, ratio compliance with local council distance (min 80 sq. metres).	Preferred	Preferred
<b>Open seating</b>   In a safe, good, and clean condition. Minimum 400 (PL) and 200 (DL).	Preferred	Preferred
<b>Dug outs and substitutes bench</b>   Minimum seating for ten (10) people. Can be single seats.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Playing surface</b>   The size of the playing area shall be 90-100 metres long and 60-70 metres wide. It needs to be safe and well grassed.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Technical area marked</b>   To be marked one (1) metre from either side of the seating/dugout and extend forward up to one (1) metre from the perimeter of the field.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Ground officials</b>   Four (4) home and away club officials should be supplied all wearing the FSC approved vests.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Long term lease</b>   Current written agreement on the use of the facility to be provided to the MPFC with application. Ground must be available for matches as scheduled by the MPFC. Failure to have the ground available shall result in matches being played at an alternate venue as determined by FSC.	Mandatory	Preferred
<b>Scoreboard</b>   Visible and updated during matches.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Canteen</b>   Fully stocked with hot and cold food/drinks. Should be clean and tidy.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Defibrillator</b>   The club must have a working defibrillator in a convenient and easy to access location with adequate signage and trained personnel.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Code of conduct signs displayed</b>   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.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Public address system</b>   Operational and audible over the ground on match days with First Grade goal scorer announcements.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Stretcher</b>   As a minimum, to be located by the field of play near the technical area for use as required by the match/ground officials.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Flood Lights</b>   Minimum 120 Lux (PL) and 100 Lux (DL) for all competition matches. Lights must be compliant with relevant Australian standards.	Preferred	Preferred
<b>First aid kit</b>   Must be fully stocked and made available in the canteen (category III type or equivalent).	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Public liability insurance</b>   Current certificate to be provided with the application.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Accredited RSA officers</b>   RSA officers only are permitted to serve alcohol and RSA signage to be displayed in prominent locations adjacent to the place of service.	Mandatory	Mandatory

## Amenities

CRITERIA	PREMIER LEAGUE	DISTRICT LEAGUE
<b>Secure dressing rooms</b>   No equipment to be stored in rooms on match day	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Hot and cold water</b>   Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of teams showering	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Male toilets</b>   Minimum two (2) for PL and one (1) for DL cubicle(s) and a 1.2 metre urinal (or equivalent) maintained in a clean and hygienic manner on match days.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Female toilets</b>   Minimum two (2) cubicles maintained in a clean and hygienic manner on match day with the appropriate provisions for sanitary hygiene and receptacles.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Cleanliness</b>   The amenities need to be clean and tidy whilst regularly being disinfected.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Change room seating</b>   Minimum seating for 16 players	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Massage table</b>   Safe and clean	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Showers</b>   Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of participating teams.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Whiteboard in change rooms</b>   Each change room shall contain a whiteboard.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Hangers</b>   Minimum 16.	Mandatory	Mandatory

## Match Officials Room

CRITERIA	PREMIER LEAGUE	DISTRICT LEAGUE
<b>Secure dressing rooms</b>   No equipment to be stored in rooms on match day	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Hot and cold water</b>   Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of match officials	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Toilets</b>   Any upgrade must include toilet installation if not already available inside match officials change rooms.	Preferred	Preferred
<b>Showers</b>   Operationally satisfactory and clean with plenty of storage capacity to adequately supply on match day to cover the number of match officials.	Mandatory	Mandatory
<b>Table</b>   For the completion of team sheets and reports.	Mandatory	Mandatory