



2026 FOOTBALL SOUTH COAST MEN'S AND WOMEN'S COMPETITION REGULATIONS

PREMIER LEAGUES

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SECTION 1 | ORGANISATION AND ADMISSION

1.1 SCOPE

- 1.1.1 These regulations shall apply to the Men's and Women's Premier League competitions, including league, cup, and finals series fixtures as administered under the auspices of Football South Coast (FSC).
- 1.1.2 The 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 Manager (CM), in consultation with the relevant Football Council, shall have the power to determine and implement decisions regarding control, administration, and organisation as specified in 1.1.1.

1.2 ADMISSION AND APPLICATION

- 1.2.1 FSC 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, in consultation with the relevant football council, whether any right to participate in competitions is renewed or extended.
- 1.2.3 The FSC Board, through the relevant football council in consultation with the CM, will be responsible for assessing all Men's and Women's Premier League applications.
 - a) All applications shall be reviewed and assessed by the CM for completeness before review by the relevant football council.
 - b) The recommendations of the relevant football council for the competitions of the following season shall be forwarded for consideration and declaration directly 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 forms and must comply with the assessment criteria as set out in 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 FSC Board. Late applications may be placed into other leagues as determined by FSC.
- 1.2.6 Clubs that have provided inadequate information or incomplete applications as a 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 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 relevant council 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 unless alternate arrangements have been pre-approved by FSC at the time of the application.

- 1.2.9 FSC reserves the right to determine the appropriate league for each nomination by considering the previous season's results, the playing strength of the club, ground criteria, disciplinary records, financial position, and the formation of the division(s).
- 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 COMPOSITION OF LEAGUES

- 1.3.1 FSC will conduct Premier League competitions in the following leagues and grades:
 - a) Premier League 1 – First Grade, Second Grade (All Age), and Youth Grade (Under 20)
 - b) Premier League 2 – First Grade, Second Grade (All Age) and Youth Grade (Under 20)
 - c) Premier League 3 – First Grade, and Second Grade (All Age)
 - d) Women's Premier League – First Grade, and Second Grade (All Age)
- 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 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 shall, before the start of the season, determine the schedule of penalties for the ensuing season.
- 1.8.2 Clubs or club associates found guilty of breaching these Competition regulations will have penalties and/or sanctions imposed on them. Such penalties may include financial penalties, imposed bonds, the 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 relevant football councils shall be for a specific period, which is determined by FSC.

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 a Cup Final and/or Finals Series matches, except with the written consent of FSC through its relevant councils.
- 1.9.3 Changes to the FSC playing calendar shall limit the match day scheduling of fixtures at their discretion, where other FNSW fixtures coincide with normal competitions and timing.

1.10 CHANGE OF CLUB NAME AND/OR LOGO

- 1.10.1 Any club that wishes to change its registered club name or logo must provide the information in clause 1.10.3 in writing to FSC for its consideration.
- 1.10.2 All applications for a change of club name and/or logo 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.
- 1.10.3 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 or logo 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 (where 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 and/or logo.
- 1.10.4 FSC will assess all 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.

- 1.10.5 Once FSC has approved the change of name and/or logo, the club will be required to produce evidence showing the changes with the appropriate entity. Only on presentation of the relevant documentation shall FSC ratify and confirm the changes.

1.11 AMALGAMATION AND MERGER OF CLUBS

- 1.11.1 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.
- 1.11.2 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) This process will need to be formalised, and a single constitution prepared as an incorporated company with the NSW department responsible.
 - 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.
- 1.11.3 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.
- 1.11.4 Before the amalgamation/merger is approved, all outstanding financial obligations and commitments of both clubs to FSC must be fulfilled.
- 1.11.5 The newly amalgamated/merged club must fulfil its commitment and be responsible for all terms and conditions of any contracted / professional player agreements with each of the amalgamating/merged clubs that are current at the time of amalgamation/merger.
- 1.11.6 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 representative council.
- 1.11.7 Club mergers are considered on their merits by FSC, 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.
- 1.11.8 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.

1.12 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

- 1.12.1 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.
- 1.12.2 It is the Club's responsibility to ensure compliance with these Competition regulations and DDRs.
- 1.12.3 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 listed on the match 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.

1.13 CLUB MEETINGS

- 1.13.1 FSC will schedule meetings during the season to update clubs on administrative and competition matters. These dates will be set and communicated to clubs before each season.
- 1.13.2 It is mandatory that clubs have at least one (1) club representative attend the designated club meetings.
- 1.13.3 Club representatives who cannot physically attend a club meeting are expected to liaise with the Competition Manager (within five days of the scheduled meeting) to explore alternate options, e.g. teleconference.
- 1.13.4 Clubs that fail to have representation at a club meeting (including the Annual Club Meeting) will be fined as per BR4 Annexure 2 of these regulations, irrespective of whether an apology has been provided.
- 1.13.5 Attendance at the Annual Club Meeting will be for those clubs that form part of the Premier League competitions for the following season, as per the Declaration of Leagues.

1.14 CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

- 1.14.1 All correspondence by FSC to clubs shall be deemed to have been received by the club as follows:
 - a) In the case of electronic media, immediately after transmission.
 - b) In the event of communication sent by post, two (2) days after such communication was posted.
- 1.14.2 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.
- 1.14.3 All formal correspondence received by FSC 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.
- 1.14.4 All clubs must have a designated active primary email address that is provided to FSC at the time of application.
- 1.14.5 FSC has the authority to take action against clubs or individuals if it determines and confirms, according to the FSC DDR, that inappropriate dissemination of classified information constitutes Misconduct.
- 1.14.6 Clubs are expected to respond to FSC requests promptly where reasonable, specific due dates have been outlined.

1.15 MEDIA COMMENT

- 1.15.1 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.
- 1.15.2 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.

- 1.15.3 All club and/or club associates must adhere to the FSC social media Policy.
- 1.15.4 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.
- 1.15.5 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

2.1 COMPETITIONS

- 2.1.1 The Men's Premier League 1 and 2 competitions shall consist of three (3) grades: First Grade, Second Grade, and Youth Grade (Under 20).
- 2.1.2 The Men's Premier League 3 and Women's Premier League competitions shall consist of two (2) grades: First Grade and Second Grade.
 - 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 FSC.
 - 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.
- 2.1.3 All FSC fixtures are played in compliance with FA, FNSW, and FSC Competition Regulations, along with other conditions and policies.
- 2.1.4 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 Premier League competitions unless they have first received written approval from FSC.
 - 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 relevant council, or a tribunal.

2.2 PREMIER LEAGUE 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 (where applicable) 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 average goal difference
 - c) The team with the highest average number of goals scored.
 - 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.

2.3 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RANKING

- 2.3.1 FSC is responsible for the determination of the Club Champions at the end of the regular Premier 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 (where applicable) multiplied by two (2), plus.
 - c) Second Grade points tally.
- 2.3.3 Where all competition games for a particular grade have not been completed, each club will have averages applied to maintain consistency across all competitions.
- 2.3.4 Where two or more clubs are tied, the ranking will be determined as follows:
- a) Head-to-head aggregate points (with weighting as per 2.3.2)
 - b) Head-to-head goal difference
 - c) Head-to-head goals scored
 - d) Should these all be equal, clubs will be declared joint champions.
- 2.3.5 FSC provides prize money as determined for the respective competition Club Champions.

2.4 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- 2.4.1 The Men's First Grade League Champion may be offered promotion the following year, subject to the club meeting League criteria as determined by FSC.
- 2.4.2 If the respective Men's League Champion declines promotion or does not satisfy the League criteria, the position may be offered to the First Grade League Runner-Up at the discretion of FSC in consultation with the relevant council, subject to satisfying the League criteria.
- 2.4.3 The Men's First Grade club finishing in last position may be considered for relegation to the division below (within the Premier League) for the following year.

2.5 CLUBS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWN

- 2.5.1 In the event any participating club/team withdraws or is removed from any of the Premier League competitions, 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.
 - d) Where there are two or fewer catch-up games from the first half of the competition, and these cannot be played due to withdrawal or removal, the fixture(s) will be considered a forfeit.
- 2.5.2 Where appropriate, FSC 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).
- 2.5.4 Players from clubs or teams removed or withdrawn inside the transfer period will be permitted to transfer to other clubs unless their current club is not fully financial with FSC.

2.6 PROTESTS, DISPUTES, AND MISCONDUCT

- 2.6.1 Protests must be lodged by the Club Executive 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 for obvious breaches/errors of the laws of the game that clearly had a material effect on the outcome of the match, e.g. a team scored a decisive goal whilst playing with an additional player on the field.
- 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 Where a club wishes to dispute official match sheet records, a dispute must be lodged through the competition management system, i.e. Dribl, no later than two (2) business days after the match was played, e.g. incorrect goal scorer, or player listed not on the match sheet.
- a) FSC will, in the first instance, check with the appointed match official.
 - b) FSC may, at its discretion, seek further evidence from the club(s).
- 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 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 allowed to appear before a nominated tribunal to participate in the enquiry and to offer such defence or submissions as deemed necessary.
- 2.6.7 If the 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 DDR.
- 2.6.9 Where a club considers that it can demonstrate it has unfairly and adversely been affected by an FSC decision made under these Competition Regulations, it may appeal to the FSC Board to review the decision based on the following criteria.

- a) Requests must be lodged in writing within seven (7) days after the final notification has been received for the respective tribunal, identifying the decision being appealed and clearly stating how the club has been unfairly and adversely affected by the decision.
- b) Where an agreeable outcome cannot be resolved, the Grievance process as per 8.3 of the FSC DDR should be followed.

2.7 TEAM 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 starting 11 players at the commencement of each fixture and record them accordingly on the match sheet.
 - a) A dispute must be recorded before the completion of the match where any listed starting players failed to commence the fixture.
 - b) Any non-compliance shall result in the offending club being fined as per BR4 Annexure 2 of these competition regulations.
 - c) 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.
 - d) 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 shall place future club applications in jeopardy.
 - e) Where a club does not fulfil 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 across all competitions 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 in accordance with BR4 Annexure 2 of these competition regulations.

2.8 SUBSTITUTES

- 2.8.1 For all fixtures, the following substitution regulations apply:

League	First Grade	Second Grade	Youth Grade
Premier League 1	5	5	Interchange
Premier League 2	5	5	Interchange
Premier League 3	5	Interchange	Not applicable
Women's Premier League	5	Interchange	Not applicable

- a) For all non-interchange competitions, 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 as a possible outfield player. Where used, the replacement goalkeeper must be clearly identified on the match sheet.
- b) Where interchange is used, a replacement goalkeeper is optional.
- c) Cup and/or Finals fixtures only – an additional substitution opportunity per team is permitted in the extra time period.

- 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 match 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, 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 ACROSS MULTIPLE GRADES

- 2.9.1 In any given same Competition Round, a player can play across multiple fixtures, compliant with these 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) 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) 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.
 - e) 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 lime/fluro green shirts for home games and orange shirts for away games.
- a) Clubs should also have an alternate grey shirt for goalkeepers. This should be used where there are clashes across primary shirt colours. This shirt can be used as either home or away in such cases.

- b) 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 weekly 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 FSC 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 and Women's Premier 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 currently licensed match ball provided by FSC's ball manufacturer for that season.
- 2.11.4 Any breach of 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 to supply and retrieve the ball promptly when out of play. They are also required to provide the match balls 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 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 CM 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 Premier League competitions. Provisional dispensation (after a written request has been made to the CM and an authorising response is received back) may be granted upon request when coaches are enrolled in a course during the regular season.
- 2.13.3 Clubs are required to advise FSC in writing of any changes to their appointed coaches promptly, i.e., within seven (7) days of the change in appointment.

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 to 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 All FSC Premier League 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.
- 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 any of these requirements 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 League clubs must provide a minimum of four (4) home and away club officials to each fixture, who shall be identified on the match 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 the 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 unless otherwise directed by FSC.
- 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 within 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) are 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. 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 practicable.
- 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 match sheet and provide it to FSC upon request.
- 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 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 in consultation with the relevant council.

SECTION 3 | VENUES

3.1 GROUNDS

- 3.1.1 All participating Premier League clubs have an absolute responsibility to ensure that the criteria for the ground and facilities are in accordance with the nominated criteria 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, e.g. free of any divots, holes, or damage.
- 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 in consultation with the relevant council.
- 3.1.4 FSC may grant special dispensation to clubs that are in the process 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 the 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 in accordance with Annexure 4, will result in a forfeit against the home club.
- 3.1.8 In circumstances where nominated grounds are shared, the responsibility for the correction of fixture clashes between clubs shall rest with the CM.
- 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, have an evenly grassed surface and be well drained.
- 3.2.4 A fence (or barrier) around the field is to be secured to the ground with a minimum height of one metre and at least two metres distance from the sideline and at least three metres from the goal lines. This includes any temporary fencing.

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' changing 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 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 Competition Regulations.
- 3.4.2 Disabled toilet access (where installed)
- 3.4.3 Each venue requires a canteen/kiosk serving hot/cold drinks and snack foods compliant with all health and local government (LGA) council regulations during match days where two or more games are played.

3.5 PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

- 3.5.1 All Premier League 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 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 of 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 its players' property. Anything left inside the change rooms is done at the owner's risk.
- 3.7.4 It shall be the duty of both clubs to maintain control of spectators to prevent any disturbance amongst their spectators. Clubs are required to assist the respective council, 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 deems 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 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 may declare the match null and void.
- a) For the rescheduled match to be played, the nominated ground, date and conditions as the CM considers appropriate shall be advised in writing to the clubs involved.
 - b) FSC, in consultation with the relevant council, shall determine any deductions due to 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 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.
- 3.7.8 In determining sanctions, FSC 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 practicable to the home/host club's 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 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 hailers, 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 any 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, 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 its 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 a bi-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 twenty-four (24) months. The Certificate associated with use must be current for any night games to be approved.
 - b) The minimum standard for Men's Premier League 1 and Women's Premier League and/or Cup fixtures is 120 Lux.
 - c) The minimum standard for Men's Premier League 2 and 3 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 regarding 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, provided the lighting meets the requirements.

3.11 STRETCHER

- 3.11.1 Each host club must allocate one (1) suitable stretcher for first aid and emergency use at all participating Premier League fixtures. The stretcher is to be placed between the technical areas

before 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 before 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 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.
 - a) The preference is for all Premier League matches to have a box net configuration.
 - b) Net tears must be repaired before fixtures.
- 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 water-based spray paint or other similar material that 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 CM, 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). The home club will incur a penalty or fine (or both) at BR4 Annexure 2 of these 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.

3.14 FIELD EXCLUSION ZONE

- 3.14.1 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.
- 3.14.2 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 match 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
- 3.14.3 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.
- 3.14.4 Failure by the host club officials to ensure compliance with the field exclusion zone will result in a fine at BR2 Annexure 2 of the Competition Regulations and/or sanctions as determined by the CM.

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.
- 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 person expelled 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 match 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 grounds.
- 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 or temporary barriers.

- 3.16.3 The club must obtain a liquor license as required under the Liquor Licensing Act 2007 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 to undertake and/or hold a current RSA license who is present at the ground during the nominated fixtures.
 - d) Clubs are to utilise the public address system to communicate the requirements associated with the responsible service of alcohol 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 COMMISSIONERS

- 3.17.1 FSC may carry out match-day audits through Match Commissioners or relevant football councillors to ensure compliance protocols are being followed.
- 3.17.2 A club representative must be made available to the Match Commissioner or relevant football councillors to show them around as required.
- 3.17.3 Reports from the Match Commissioner or relevant football councillors shall ensure the findings and any other actions as required are communicated to all stakeholders.
- 3.17.4 Match Commissioner fees will be invoiced to the home club.
- 3.17.5 Clubs are expected to address areas of non-compliance in an appropriate timeline or as defined by FSC.

SECTION 4 | ELIGIBILITY

4.1 PLAYER STATUS AND ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1.1 The ineligibility of players shall be defined by FSC from time to time.
- a) 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.
 - b) 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:
- a) Unregistered players (including an incomplete registration, e.g., pending payment, pending approval, as in 4.1.1 a) above)
 - b) Suspended players
 - c) A player who participates in a match and is not listed on the match sheet.
 - d) A player who is required to stand down due to an accumulation of cautions suspension but participates in a match.
 - e) A player who has been expelled from an earlier match but participates in a later match on the same day.
 - f) A ring in player (refer to article 4.1.5)
 - g) Any additional visa players registered by the club exceeding the prescribed maximum that are named on the match sheet.
 - h) Anyone added to the match sheet without the match official's approval after the match has commenced.
 - i) A player that has been deemed ineligible due to any article of these Competition Regulations or pursuant to the FSC DDR.
- 4.1.3 Any team that fields an ineligible player will automatically lose that match on forfeit and be fined as per BR5 Annexure 2.
- a) Additionally, the club, team official(s), or player(s) may be further sanctioned in accordance with the FSC DDR for misconduct.
 - b) 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.
- a) Both clubs will be fined as per BR5 Annexure 2
 - b) The clubs will incur any other costs associated with the match, including those of fines issued by FSC through its relevant football councils 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 has been asked by a club/team or another player to fill a spot on a team and knowingly participates.
- 4.1.6 Any club/team found guilty of playing a ring-in will be sanctioned.
- a) Any player who knowingly plays as a ring-in will be dealt with through the FSC DDR.
 - b) Any participating club, office holder, player, or coach affiliated with any such club who is found guilty of knowingly participating in any practice of ringing in shall be brought before FSC through the relevant football council or its disciplinary tribunal, where disqualification could be the overall outcome.
 - c) The offender shall also be subject to other punishment as determined by FSC through its tribunals, which is thought to be appropriate, having regard to all circumstances of the case.
 - d) Any club or team found guilty will be fined at BR7 Annexure 2 of the Competition Regulations.
- 4.1.7 Where a club suspects of any abnormality or breach of these rules, it shall:

- a) Advise the opposing club of their intention to report the matter to FSC.
- b) Make a notification under disputes in Dribl of their intention to report the matter.
- c) Submit a written report to FSC with supporting documents within 72 hours following the match.
- d) Submit photographic/video evidence to support any abnormality.
- e) Bring the matter to the attention of the match official and request they too provide a report to FSC.
- f) 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 (3) working days before 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 CM before the player is permitted to play. In such cases, the FSC-issued letter must be shown to the opposition club representative and the match official (before the match). The players' names and shirt numbers must also be added to the disputes section in Dribl.
- 4.2.2 Community League players (from the same club) can be borrowed for 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 Where applicable, Youth Grade (Under 20's) shall consist of players 20 years of age or under before 31 December in that competition year. The exception is the goalkeeper, who can be overage.
- 4.3.2 Players in Premier League competitions must turn 17 years (minimum) in that competition year to be registered, except for up to three (3) players per club who can turn 16 years in that competition year.
- 4.3.3 All players under 18 (i.e., not yet 18 years) must provide FSC with a signed Parent Consent Form before playing in any official FSC competition matches.

SECTION 5 | FIXTURES

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 Premier 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 to the non-offending 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 club’s responsibility to ensure that the scheduled commencement time 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 last game.
- 5.3.3 Kick-off times of all official matches shall be determined by the CM 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 When 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 Any club responsible for 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 9.00 am for any daytime fixture, which may include weekends or any public holiday.
- 5.3.8 Except where special instructions have been issued by the CM, the last match of the day must start no later than 3.00 pm for any daytime fixture (only applies to venues without lighting) to ensure player safety.
 - a) All other matches before 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) When 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

- 5.4.1 Subject to these Competition Regulations, all fixtures will be played over two equal periods of 45 minutes unless agreed between the match official and the participating teams before 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 When a match starts later than the scheduled time, both halves may be reduced (equally) by the match official to ensure the game is completed before 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 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.
- 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/or Youth Grade – two periods of ten (10) minutes

5.5 RESCHEDULING OF FIXTURES

- 5.5.1 FSC reserves the right to manage and control competition fixtures throughout the year's calendar.
- 5.5.2 All clubs involved in a proposed fixture change must submit such requests to FSC 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 of 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 for determination.
 - a) FSC will take into consideration details of any request and the ongoing effect it may have on the respective Premier League competition, and any effect a rescheduled match will have on other Premier League matches.
 - b) Only when FSC considers the circumstances to be exceptional, will matches be rescheduled.
- 5.5.5 If FSC determines the fixture change request to be frivolous e.g., wedding, baptism, confirmation, or another social event, FSC 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 before the match, unless there are extenuating circumstances.
 - b) FSC will then consider the application and notify both clubs of its decision.
 - c) The result of the deliberation by FSC 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 CM at their sole discretion.

- 5.5.9 Notwithstanding any other competition rule, the CM 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 FSC Wet Weather policy is to be applied.
- 5.6.2 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 before the third to last round).
- a) The CM will determine the appropriate timeframe for rescheduled fixtures across the last three rounds.
 - b) Should no correspondence be received, or clubs cannot reach an agreement within the prescribed timeframe, the CM will reschedule the fixture at an appropriate venue, which may be neutral and at the cost of the home club.
- 5.6.3 All rescheduled matches must be played before the final round of the regular season unless otherwise requested by the CM. FSC may cancel matches not completed within this timeframe as a 'no result' with no points or goals awarded.
- 5.6.4 Clubs are required to fulfil 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.
- 5.6.5 Any club failing to establish a postponed fixture in accordance with the wet-weather policy and/or these Competition Regulations will result in a fine as per BR3 Annexure 2.
- 5.6.6 FSC 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 per BR7 Annexure 2 and may be subject to further penalties under the FSC DDR.
 - b) In addition to the above, FSC may record the final score of any such match as a 'no result' with no points or goals awarded.

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, in consultation with the club and ground officials, determines that the conditions for the players, coaches, match officials and/or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.
- 5.7.3 Where a match is abandoned due to a matter set out in article 5.7.2, and FSC or the Match Review Committee/Tribunal determines that one (or both) of the competing clubs or its associates was responsible for the abandonment, then any of the following outcomes may be imposed:
- a) Match to be awarded as a 'no result'. In this situation, no points will be awarded to either team for that fixture.

- b) Award a forfeit result to the non-offending club unless the score at the time of the abandonment was greater than three goals and in favour of the non-offending club.
 - c) 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 (i.e. 68 minutes) 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 a match has been abandoned during the first half, 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 before 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.
 - a) The same players on the match sheet must only be used during the rescheduled match (if not replayed in full). Previously made substitutions will stand in this case.
 - b) 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 match sheet of the original match. This will count as a substitution.
 - c) Where the club has exhausted their allotted substitutions, the impacted team will play the remainder of the match with a reduced number of players.
 - d) Where the club had a player(s) expelled, they will recommence the match with the same number of players, i.e. 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 The Football NSW Extreme Heat and/or Lightning policies should be applied in each respective circumstance.

5.9 FORFEITS OR WALK-OFFS

- 5.9.1 Clubs requesting a forfeit must lodge the request through Dribl in the first instance and then follow this up with a written explanation to the CM.
- 5.9.2 Any club that, without just cause, fails to fulfil 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, the relevant football council, or their disciplinary tribunals.
 - c) If both teams refuse to or do not play, FSC 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.
 - 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 Competition Regulations.
 - c) Clubs who fail to provide sufficient notice as set out in 5.9.1 and 5.9.2 inclusive will be fined at BR5 Annexure 2 of these Competition Regulations, plus pay all appropriate match official fees, ground hire costs and compensation to the opposing club as determined by FSC through its relevant football council.
 - d) Clubs or teams forfeiting on three (3) occasions during the season without satisfactory explanation shall appear before the relevant Football Council to determine as to why they should not be removed from the competition, and they may lose their affiliation to FSC or place their future application to participate in the preceding year competition in jeopardy.
- 5.9.5 In the event of a walk-off by one club before 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 and their disciplinary tribunals deem appropriate.

SECTION 6 | REGISTRATION

6.1 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 6.1.1 All players must be registered via the National Online 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 Online Registration System and the club accepting the player's registration.
- 6.1.3 If a player is registering with 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, driver's 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 CM.
 - a) It is the club's responsibility to provide each professional player with a copy of their contract in its entirety, with signatures and initials on all pages, by the Club and the Player.
 - b) Where clubs have not provided the Professional Player contract within the prescribed windows, FSC, through their councils and the CM, 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 these Competition Regulations.
- 6.1.5 For further details around the registration process, these rules will refer to the FSC Registration Regulations and the FA National Registration Regulations.

6.2 PLAYING ROSTER

- 6.2.1 Each Men's Premier League 1 and 2 club is permitted a maximum of 50 active squad players at any given time.
- 6.2.2 The Men's Premier League 3 and Women's Premier League clubs are permitted up to 40 squad players under the prescribed conditions.
 - a) A maximum of 35 squad players with the option to borrow from the Community League. Once the club has exceeded this, they are considered to have forfeited the borrowing provisions, even if they have fewer than 35 players in their squad.
 - b) A maximum of 40 squad players with no Community League borrowing provisions.
- 6.2.3 Player(s) must be deregistered to make way for any additional or new players when the maximum number of squad players has been reached. Clubs breaching this requirement will be considered to have used ineligible players.
- 6.2.4 The maximum number of professional players for the Men's Premier League 1 clubs is twenty (20). There is no requirement to have professional players.
- 6.2.5 Professional players are not permitted in the Men's Premier League 2, Men's Premier League 3 and Women's Premier League competitions.
- 6.2.6 There is no provision to loan players across any of the Premier League competitions.
- 6.2.7 Clubs are permitted a maximum of three (3) squad players aged sixteen (16), i.e. turn 16 in that calendar year.

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 in which either party disputes a player's contract and/or matters arising from it.
- 6.3.2 Before escalating the grievance to FSC, the matter must have been attempted to be resolved in writing between the club and player.
- 6.3.3 FSC will recognise grievances made by players against clubs or clubs against players regarding the terms and conditions stipulated on contracts which have been lodged with FSC. All relevant correspondence must accompany the grievance.
- 6.3.4 FSC 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.
- 6.3.5 Where a disciplinary tribunal proves that a club failed to honour its contract with the player, the club will be given 14 days to fulfil its obligations to the player of all outstanding monies and disbursements.
- 6.3.6 Where it has been established by the disciplinary 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 to the entitled player(s).
- 6.3.7 If the club does not pay all money or expenses owed to the player within 14 days, FSC will take the following action:
 - a) The offending club will not be permitted to register any further players.
 - b) 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 determines, 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 they are registered shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and shall be liable to be expelled from the existing competition for the remainder of the playing season 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 Football NSW insurance.
- 6.5.2 Only competition/trial matches and/or training that is sanctioned will be covered for player insurance.

6.6 AUSTRALIAN AND VISA PLAYERS

- 6.6.1 It is solely the club's responsibility to confirm player citizenship upon registration.
- 6.6.2 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 FA of a valid International Transfer Clearance (ITC) from that National Association.
- 6.6.3 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 they satisfy the definition of an Australian player.
 - b) FSC clubs are encouraged to refer to the Home Affairs Immigration website for further clarification regarding visas.
- 6.6.4 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.
- 6.6.5 All Premier League Clubs are permitted to register a maximum of two (2) visa players per squad in any given season.
- a) If the visa player transfers within Australia to a higher league inside the registration window, they can be replaced with another visa player.
 - b) If the player leaves for any other reason, additional or replacement visa players are not permissible.
- 6.6.6 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, they will be considered a visa player in the squad.
- 6.6.7 For all other visa player requirements, refer to section 8 of the FSC Registration Regulations.
- 6.6.8 Clubs in breach of this requirement will be considered to have used an ineligible player.

6.7 LONG-TERM INJURIES

- 6.7.1 An injury is classified as long-term if a player is unable to play due to injury for a minimum of six (6) weeks.
- 6.7.2 If a player is suffering from a long-term injury, a Club may apply to FSC to remove that player’s name from the player roster and replace that player with an eligible replacement player.
- 6.7.3 This may be done outside of the player registration windows as dictated in these Competition Regulations (for goalkeepers only).
- 6.7.4 A Club must formally write to FSC and attach supporting medical evidence. FSC may approve or reject the application or require further evidence, including (but not limited to) a report from a qualified medical practitioner as described in the Health Practitioners Act NSW 2009.
- 6.7.5 During the season, each Club will only be permitted to apply to FSC to remove or replace a maximum of three (3) players from their squad. Any numbers above three (3) shall be considered on their merits by the CM and applied where practicable to not disadvantage the Club.
- 6.7.6 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 (42 days) from the date of removal from the Roster.

SECTION 7 | MATCH SHEETS, REPORTING AND MATCH OFFICIALS

7.1 DIGITAL MATCH SHEETS

- 7.1.1 All clubs must use the nominated online match sheet program for all official fixtures. In the event of technical or access issues with the program, FSC permits the use of hard copy paper match sheets as an emergency workaround. Failure to comply with this requirement shall attract a fine at BR2 Annexure 2.
- 7.1.2 Both clubs must make their player selection and confirm the opposition club in Dribl no later than ten (10) minutes before kick-off.
- 7.1.3 Clubs are required to note the following on the match sheet:
 - a) Starting lineup
 - b) Substitutes
 - c) Coaches and Managers
 - d) Designated goalkeeper and substitute goalkeeper (if used)
 - e) Team Captain
 - f) Minimum of four Ground Officials
 - g) Any match sheet issues through the disputes section
- 7.1.4 Changes to the digital match sheet will be permitted anytime until five (5) minutes before kick-off. Any changes beyond this point must be authorised by the match official(s).
- 7.1.5 After 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 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 CM within 24 hours post-match. FSC will review and adjudicate the alleged discrepancy within a reasonable time frame.
- 7.1.7 Where a volunteer official is appointed, it is the responsibility of the home club to complete the match sheet within 24 hours.
- 7.1.8 When a match is forfeited, the digital match sheet will be endorsed by the match official.
- 7.1.9 A player listed on the digital match sheet in any Grade with interchange will be deemed to have participated in that match.
- 7.1.10 A suspended player will automatically be recorded as stood down where that player does not appear on the match sheet. It is the club's responsibility to ensure compliance where match sheets do not automatically or accurately reflect the suspension status.
- 7.1.11 Where a club causes a match to be delayed due to the incompleteness of a digital match sheet, the delay shall be reported by the match official to FSC or Match Commissioner. The club responsible may attract a fine at BR4 Annexure 2.
- 7.1.12 Under no circumstances shall two (2) players playing in the same team at the same time be permitted to have the same shirt number.
- 7.1.13 Any club associate supplying false or misleading information shall be guilty of misconduct and dealt with under the FSC DDR.

- 7.1.14 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) Times of all relevant records
 - f) Cautions, send offs and any other match-related records.
 - g) Player of the match (3-2-1)
 - h) Submit and close the match sheet on Dribl once all information has been completed.
- 7.2.2 Match results and reports must be completed within four (4) hours post-match.
- 7.2.3 The match official must ensure the match sheet is completed as per article 7.2.1
- 7.2.4 Subject to any protest or dispute, the match records received from the match official will be accepted as the accurate and official record of the match.
- 7.2.5 Where subsequent additions or changes by the match official are made after the match sheet is completed, the CM 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 promptly, 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 before the commencement of each season. FSC will also communicate to all clubs where there are changes to this process from time to time.
- 7.3.4 It is the home club's responsibility to enter the results online promptly (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 is subject to review and change on an annual basis. FSC will communicate the fee structure in writing to the relevant clubs/teams before the commencement of the playing season via the CM.
- 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 fulfils their appointment, their match payment shall be prorated.
- 7.4.4 FSC shall be responsible for the assignment of match officials to all FSC fixtures.
- 7.4.5 Club evaluation reports may be used to assist FSC in selecting match officials.

7.5 ASSISTANT MATCH OFFICIALS

- 7.5.1 FSC shall appoint assistant match officials to the Men's and Women's Premier League 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 fulfil the nominated instructions.
 - d) Where clubs use an accredited match official not appointed through FSC, the volunteer official must wear a coloured official vest.
 - e) Clubs that fail to comply with this requirement will be fined at BR2 Annexure 2.

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 are 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 arrives late at 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 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) 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.

- b) Where clubs use an accredited match official not appointed through FSC, the volunteer official must wear a coloured official vest.
 - c) Where two Assistant Referees are required, each club shall supply one assistant.
 - d) Clubs that fail to comply with this requirement will be fined at BR2 Annexure 2.
- 7.6.5 A club-appointed match official will have the authority to sanction players in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 7.6.6 All clubs must fulfil 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.
- 7.6.7 Only accredited and authorised match officials will be permitted to use FSC-issued electronic communication devices.

7.7 DECISIONS OF A 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 unless there is a case of mistaken identity.
- 7.7.2 A match official may change the 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 A MATCH OFFICIAL

- 7.8.1 Before 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 to a match shall report to FSC any instance(s) of misconduct or foul play during the progress of the match that led to the dismissal of a player(s) from the field of play.
- a) Any reports received by FSC pursuant to these Competition Regulations shall be dealt with by the CM in the first instance before being referred (if necessary) to the Match Review Committee for further consideration and/or an FSC disciplinary tribunal.
 - b) The match official shall also report any instance of misconduct irrespective of whether such misconduct occurred before, during or after such a 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, e.g. the coach being removed from the technical area.

SECTION 8 | TICKETING, AWARDS, AND PRIZE MONEY

8.1 ADMISSION 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 designates maximum entry fees 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 The Men's Premier League 1 and 2 clubs are provided with the following admittance passes for the current league season.
- a) 10 club volunteer passes
 - b) 2 club executive passes
- 8.1.4 Players, coaches and Team Officials are required to display their Dribl 'Membership Card' profile to gatekeepers where applicable.
- 8.1.5 All passes must be displayed upon entry to the visiting club on the day of the match fixture.
- 8.1.6 The pass only entitles the bearer to admittance where a name is printed on the pass. The pass is not transferable.
- 8.1.7 Maximum admission prices for league fixtures will be as follows:

	Men's PL 1 and 2	Men's PL 3
Adults	\$10.00	\$5.00
Students, pensioners, or concession holders	\$7.00	\$5.00
Holders of Official FSC passes, or current FA 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

- 8.1.8 Admission fees are not applicable for the following:
- a) Women's Premier League
 - b) Trial matches
 - c) Single lower-grade matches
 - d) Rescheduled matches resumed following abandonment
- 8.1.9 In all cases where FSC meets the costs of running the fixture, all gate takings shall be retained by FSC. This applies to:
- a) Preseason Cup matches (where played)
 - b) Bert Bampton/Youth Cup, Semis and Final
 - c) Premier League Finals Series matches.
- 8.1.10 For preseason, Cup (where played) and Finals Series matches, FSC will determine the player pass system, which may include the distribution of tickets, 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 (where applicable).
 - c) FSC will determine from year to year the number of passes issued per club/team.

- 8.1.11 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.
 - 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 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 following passes without prior FSC written consent.
- a) A current FSC, FNSW or FA 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, fixtures and finals series matches (including Grand Finals).
- 8.2.5 Any club that fails to abide by clauses 8.1 and 8.2, respectively, shall be fined at BR7 Annexure 2.

8.3 TICKETING AND REFUNDING

- 8.3.1 This clause applies 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 who 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 before 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 to receive a full refund on the day of the match, the paying customer must present to the host club or the club charging the admission fees for 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, as per article 8.1.7.

8.4 PLAYER AWARDS

- 8.4.1 There shall be a Player of the Year award for all Premier League competitions (across all grades), with the points and voting system to be determined by the respective council on an annual basis.
- 8.4.2 There shall be a Goalkeeper award across all First Grade Premier League competitions, with the points and voting system to be determined by the respective council, on an annual basis.
- 8.4.3 There shall be a top goal scorer award for all Premier League competitions (across all 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 This is only applicable to the Men's Premier League 1 and 2 competitions.
- 8.6.2 FSC is responsible for the determination of the Club Fair Play Award as at the end of the regular Premier League playing season (excluding Finals Series matches).
- 8.6.3 At the end of the Championship (regular) season, the club that has accumulated the lowest number of aggregate points as per the formula below 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.
- 8.6.4 FSC may provide prize money (as determined annually by FSC) for the respective Fair Play Club recipients.

8.7 PRIZEMONEY

- 8.7.1 FSC, through its council, provides prize money for the following competitions:
 - a) Men's Premier League 1
 - b) Men's Premier League 2
 - c) Bert Bampton / Youth Cup
- 8.7.2 FSC will cover the 2027 nomination fee for the First-Grade League winner in Premier League 3.
- 8.7.3 Prize money is reviewed annually by FSC and is subject to change from time to time.
- 8.7.4 The notification of applicable prize money will be communicated to clubs in each respective League by FSC.
- 8.7.5 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 Men's Premier League 1 season, the top five (5) placed teams as per section 2.2 will play a finals series to determine the Grand Final winners.

9.1.2 The Men's Premier League 1 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 th) v Fifth (5 th)
	Qualification Final	Second (2 nd) v Third (3 rd)
2	Major Semi-Final	First (1 st) 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 At the conclusion of the season for all Men's (excluding Premier League 1) and Women's Premier League competitions, the top four (4) placed teams as per section 2.2 will play a finals series to determine the Grand Final winners.

9.1.4 The Men's and Women's Premier League Finals Series (excluding Men's Premier League 1) will consist of a three (3) week format with the top four (4) teams, unless otherwise directed by its councils.

Week	Final	Fixture
1	Elimination Final	Third (3 rd) v Fourth (4 th)
	Qualification Final	First (1 st) v Second (2 nd)
2	Preliminary Final	Loser Qualification Final v Winner Elimination Final
3	Grand Final	Winner Qualification Final v Winner Preliminary Final

9.1.5 Host venues for finals fixtures will be determined at the absolute discretion of FSC during the season.

9.1.6 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. Any dispensation or compensation considerations shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis by FSC and are not subject to appeal or review.

9.2 DETERMINING THE WINNER OF THE CUP AND THE FINALS SERIES MATCHES

9.1.1 All matches played across the Finals Series will be played over a single leg.

9.1.2 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.

a) First Grade – two equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes

b) Second and Youth (where applicable) Grade - two equal periods of ten (10) minutes

c) The conditions of Law 7 of the IFAB Laws of the Game apply.

9.1.3 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.

9.1.4 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 a coin toss from the match official in the presence of the two (2) team captains.

- 9.1.5 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 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 after 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

- 9.4.1 All Premier League squad players are eligible to play First Grade in the Finals series.
- 9.4.2 Players shall be eligible to play in Second Grade Finals fixtures if:
- a) They have started more Second Grade Premier League matches than First Grade during the season; or
 - b) Their club's First Grade team has also qualified for the Finals, and they were not a (First Grade) starter in the current and/or previous Finals series rounds.
 - 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 (where applicable) 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 Match sheet or in DRIBL to play; or
 - d) They have already participated in a Second Grade Finals fixture through subsection b) as above.
- 9.4.3 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 has 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 Match 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.
- 9.4.4 Where an alternate goalkeeper is required due to unavailability or through injury as outlined in 9.4.2c and 9.4.3c, 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 match sheet in such instances.
- 9.4.5 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.

ANNEXURE 1 | DEFINITIONS

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.

CM | means the Competition Manager as appointed by Football South Coast.

Championship | means the final series conducted at the completion of the Premier League 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 is not limited to, the Bert Bampton Cup, Julie Porter Cup and/or Youth Cup.

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

FA | 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, which 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 by 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 that FSC 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, 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.

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.

Premier League | 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, 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

In the case of breaches of 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 that may arise from a breach of these competition regulations.

Unless otherwise specified in these competition regulations, FSC 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.

Offence Code	Penalty Units (First offence)	Penalty Units (Second offence)	Penalty Units (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

[FSC Constitution](#)

[FSC Disciplinary and Dispute Regulations](#)

[FSC Registration Regulations](#)

[FSC Invoice Payment Policy](#)

[FSC Social Media Policy](#)

[FA National Registration Regulations](#)

[Bert Bampton and Youth Cup Regulations](#)

[Julie Porter 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	MPL1	MPL2	MPL3	WPL
Enclosed ground The ground must be fully enclosed around the facility and secure on match day (minimum 1.8-metre-high fencing in safe condition).	Mandatory (pending exemptions)	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred
Field of play fence Perimeter fence in good, safe condition (1 metre high and minimum 2 meters from the sideline to ensure player safety).	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Players and match officials' race Secure private access (minimum 1.1 metres high and 1.5 metres wide) that players and match officials can transfer from the change rooms to the field of play.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Players and match official security There must be a minimum of one (1) home and away club official to escort match officials to and from the field of play. Fines shall apply for non-compliance.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Ground Markings Must conform to the IFAB LOTG, be neat, and clubs can only use authorised substances for such markings.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Ticket box Must be suitably weatherproof. Can be portable.	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred
Sheltered accommodation 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).	Mandatory	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred
Open seating In a safe, good, and clean condition. Minimum 400 (MPL1) and 200 (all other competitions).	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred
Dug outs and substitutes bench Minimum seating for ten (10) people. Can be single seats.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Playing surface 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	Mandatory	Mandatory
Technical area 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	Mandatory	Mandatory
Ground officials Four (4) home and away club officials must be supplied with all wearing FSC-approved vests.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Long-term lease Current written agreement on the use of the facility to be provided to FSC with the application. Ground must be available for matches as scheduled by the CM. Failure to have the ground available shall result in matches being played at an alternate venue as determined by FSC.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Preferred	Mandatory
Scoreboard Visible and updated during matches.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Preferred	Mandatory
Canteen Fully stocked with hot and cold food/drinks. It should be clean and tidy.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Defibrillator The club must have a working defibrillator in a convenient and easy-to-access location with adequate signage and trained personnel.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Code of conduct signs displayed 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	Mandatory	Mandatory
Public address system Operational and audible over the ground on match days with First Grade goal scorer announcements.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Preferred	Mandatory

Stretcher 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	Mandatory	Mandatory
Flood Lights MPL1 and WPL (120 Lux), MPL2 and MPL3 (100) minimum. Lights must be compliant with relevant Australian standards. Certification is provided biannually.	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred
First aid kit Must be fully stocked and made available in the canteen (category III type or equivalent).	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Public liability insurance Current certificate to be provided with the application.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Accredited RSA officers RSA officers only are permitted to serve alcohol, and RSA signage is to be displayed in prominent locations adjacent to the place of service.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory

AMENITIES

Criteria	MPL1	MPL2	MPL3	WPL
Secure dressing rooms No equipment to be stored in rooms on match day	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Hot and cold water Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of teams showering	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Male toilets Minimum two (2) cubicle(s) for MPL1 and WPL, and one for MPL2 and MPL3, and a 1.2 metre urinal (or equivalent) maintained cleanly and hygienically on match days.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Female toilets Minimum two (2) cubicles (MPL3 – minimum one) maintained cleanly and hygienically on match day with the appropriate provisions for sanitary hygiene and receptacles.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Cleanliness The amenities need to be clean and tidy whilst regularly being disinfected.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Change room seating Minimum seating for 16 players	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Massage table Safe and clean	Mandatory	Mandatory	Preferred	Mandatory
Showers Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of participating teams. Any upgrade must include female-friendly cubicle-type installations.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Whiteboard in change rooms Each change room shall contain a whiteboard.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Preferred	Mandatory
Hangers Minimum 16	Mandatory	Mandatory	Preferred	Mandatory

MATCH OFFICIALS ROOM

Criteria	MPL1	MPL2	MPL3	WPL
Secure dressing rooms No equipment to be stored in rooms on match day	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Hot and cold water Operationally satisfactory with plenty of storage capacity to ensure adequate supply on match day to cover the number of match officials	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Toilets Any upgrade must include toilet installation if not already available inside the match officials' change rooms.	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred	Preferred
Showers Operationally satisfactory and clean with plenty of storage capacity to adequately supply on match day to cover the number of match officials. Any upgrade must include female-friendly cubicle-type installations.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Preferred	Mandatory
Table For the completion of match sheets and reports.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Preferred	Mandatory