

# 2019 National Premier League Competition Regulations

30 January 2019

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



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# 1 GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

## 1.1 Application and definitions

1.1.1 These Rules shall apply to all NPL1, NPL2, NPLW & NPLY competition fixtures (such as league fixtures, representative fixtures, finals series and play-off matches) administered under the auspices of CF.

1.1.2 If any provision of these Rules is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction then the remainder of these Rules and their application shall not be affected and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1.1.3 Terms defined in the CF Constitution, CF Registration Regulations or the CF Disputes & Disciplinary Regulations shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.

1.1.4 Notwithstanding Rule 1.1.3, in these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

**Abandoned Match** means Matches which commence, but do not complete the normal time of a Match

**ACTFF** means the ACT Football Federation

**Amateur** means any player that is not a Professional

**Away team** means the team listed second in the draw

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

**CEO** means the Chief Executive Officer of Capital Football

**CF** means Capital Football and includes the members of the Capital Football Board, its Members, Members of Standing Advisory Committees and persons engaged or employed by Capital Football

**CFDDR** means the CF Disputes & Disciplinary Regulations

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

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

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

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

- (i) Club Office Bearers;
- (ii) Club Officials (coach, team manager, anyone who is officially associated with the Club);

- (iii) Players of a Club;
- (iv) Members of a Club;
- (v) Supporters of a Club;
- (vi) a Club

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

**CM** means Competition Manager of CF

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

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

**De-registration** means the termination of a Player registration

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

**DIAC** means Department of Immigration and Citizenship

**Disciplinary Committee** means a CF Disciplinary Committee appointed by CF

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

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

**Field of Play (FOP)** means the area of the field that a match is played on.

**FIFA** means Federation Internationale De Football Association

**Fixture** means a game of Football sanctioned by CF

**FFA** means Football Federation Australia

**FFA Number** means a Player's national registration number

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

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

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

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

**Grievance Resolution Regulations** means the FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations

**Home Team** means the team listed first on the draw

**Incorporation** means any Association that is Incorporated under the ACT Incorporation Act

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

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

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

**Just Cause** means legally entitled to terminate a Professional Player Contract

**Loan** means loaning a Player or Players to another club

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

**Minor** means a person under the age of 18 years

**Play Football** means the national database administered by FFA for the purposes of registering all participants in Football in Australia

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

**National Association** means a national football association that is a recognised FIFA member

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

**NPL** means National Premier League competition

**NPLW** means the National Premier League Woman's competition

**NPLY** means the National Premier League Youth competition

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

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

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

**PLSAC** means Premier League Standing Advisory Committee

**Postponed Match** means Matches which do not commence

**PPS** means the Player Points System

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

**RAE** Relative Age Exemption

**RDM** means the Referee Development Manager or their delegate

**RSAC** means the Referee's Standing Advisory Committee

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

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

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

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

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

**Tribunal** means the CF Tribunal established under the CFDDR

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

1.1.5 For the purposes of these Rules:

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

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

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

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

1.1.9 Subject to the CF Constitution, and the application of the CF Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations nothing in these Rules shall prevent the CM from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by these Rules

including but not limited to promotion, relegation, number of divisions and composition of teams.

- 1.1.10 In making a decision under Rules 1.1.7, 1.1.8 or 1.1.9, the CM may seek the advice of the PLSAC or RSAC.
- 1.1.11 Where a Club considers that it can demonstrate that it has been unfairly and adversely affected by a decision made under Rules 1.1.8 or 1.1.9, it may seek an appeals hearing to review the decision. Any request to review a decision must be in writing, identify the decision being appealed and clearly state how the Club considers that it has been unfairly and/or adversely affected by the decision. Subject to clause 1.1.12 a request to review a decision will be dealt with in accordance with the CF Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations.
- 1.1.12 Where a review request qualifies for consideration, CF may in the first instance seek to resolve an agreeable outcome with the Club and any other person or entity effected by the decision under review.

## 1.2 **Consequences of breach**

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

## 1.3 **Amalgamations and mergers of Clubs**

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

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

#### **1.4 Change of Club Name**

- 1.4.1 Any club that wishes to change its registered Club name must provide the information required under Rule 1.4.3 in writing to CF and seek approval.
- 1.4.2 All applications for a change of Club name must be made outside of the winter season, but not later than 1 December unless otherwise allowed by CF. The name change application process will be in 2 parts.
- 1.4.3 Prior to CF ratification the Club must:
- (a) Submit on letterhead its request for a change of Club name
  - (b) Provide full disclosure of information including the reasons for the request
  - (c) Ensure that the 'name' is compliant with the FFA National Club Identity Policy
  - (d) Provide an alternative name that can be assessed, again with full disclosure per 1.4.3 (b) and that meets the requirements of 1.4.3 (c) above.
- 1.4.4 After CF ratification, the Club must:
- (a) Provide a copy of the Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the Club during which the change of name was approved
  - (b) Provide evidence of registration of the new Club (business) name with the appropriate entity.
- 1.4.5 CF will assess a change of name application only when all of the information required under Rule 1.4.3 has been provided. Where this information is provided, CF reserves the right to reject any application for a change of name as it sees fit and will provide the Club with reasons as to why their name change application was rejected.



## 1.5 **FIFA Laws of the Game**

- 1.5.1 All matches under the jurisdiction of CF will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game unless otherwise stipulated in these Rules and will be played in compliance with FFA and CF Regulations, Rules and any other specified conditions and policies.
- 1.5.2 A copy of the FIFA Laws of the Game can be found on the FIFA website at [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com) and a copy of these Rules can be found at [www.capitalfootball.com.au](http://www.capitalfootball.com.au).

## 1.6 **Monies owing to CF**

- 1.6.1 All outstanding amounts owed to CF must be paid by a Club within 30 days of invoicing. For monies still owing after the expiry of 30 days from the date of invoicing a reminder notice will be sent to the Club requesting that they bring their accounts with CF into order within 21 days from the date of the reminder notice.
- 1.6.2 For monies still owing after a period of 90 days from the date of invoicing a notice will be sent to the Club stating they are un-financial and will be unable to accumulate any regular season points from that time in any grade or competition.
- (a) Clubs may enter into a written payment plan agreement with Capital Football to pay back those debts whose balance exceeds 90 days. A club entering into such an agreement will be determined to be financial and may continue to play for points provided they abide by the terms of the arrangement. Where an agreement is not complied with any points accumulated by the club in any competition (or grade) from the date 90 days from the date of the invoice or invoices to which the agreement relates will be deducted and removed
  - (b) A Club subjected to this penalty will be notified in writing as to when the deduction of points will take effect
  - (c) Clubs who are un-financial, and have not entered into an agreement with Capital Football, will be ineligible for finals and unable to participate in cup competitions.
  - (d) Players will be deemed ineligible for participation in any Capital Football competitions if they have individual outstanding amounts due to Capital Football.
- 1.6.3 Notwithstanding Rules 1.6.1 and 1.6.2, CF may in its absolute discretion either offset any transfer or compensation fees owed to CF by an un-financial Club to the extent of amounts owing or expel a Club if it does not comply with these Rules.
- 1.6.4 Clubs who are in debt to CF where any of the debt amount is outstanding at any time after 31 October each year:
- (a) Shall lose their right of appeal on any matter
  - (b) May at the absolute discretion of CF be suspended from all competitions in which that Club competes

- (c) Have any rights or privileges in the activities of CF relating to that Club's participation suspended until all debts and obligations have been discharged, except where a dispute over fees remains unresolved.
- 1.6.5 Where a club has been suspended under Rule 1.6.4, the opposing team will be awarded a forfeit and the score will be recorded as 3-0.
- 1.7 Protection of important fixtures**
- 1.7.1 Where an International, Interstate or A League/W League match is scheduled for the A.C.T or surrounding region, CF may direct that no competition matches shall take place on that day.
- 1.8 Insurance**
- 1.8.1 CF provides Insurance cover for Club associates registered with CF. Clubs must be affiliated at all times and claims can only be made in relation to sanctioned events.
- 1.8.2 All registered players taking the field of play (or training) will automatically be insured through CF's insurer (or as otherwise allowed by CF). The players' insurance will be collected by CF at the time of player registration.
- (a) Players who participate in competition fixtures without having their registration details updated relevant to their Club will be deemed to be uninsured.
  - (b) The CF insurance policy will be null and void unless all players participating in football are legitimately registered or otherwise eligible to play competition matches.
- 1.9 Strict liability of Clubs**
- 1.9.1 Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of Club Associates at or in the vicinity of any match or event in which a Club is engaged or is in attendance regardless of the responsibilities of any other person or entity in respect of that match or event.
- 1.10 Media comment and match day programs**
- 1.10.1 Clubs and Club Associates must not make derogatory or detrimental comment(s) to the media or on social media platforms about CF or the performance of Match Officials. Any such complaints should be made in writing to CF. They also must not write a column for publication without first obtaining the approval of CF, provided that such approval shall not, at any time, be unreasonably withheld and shall be deemed to continue until withdrawn by CF.
- 1.10.2 Clubs and Club Associates are bound by CF's Social Media policy along with the FFA Spectator Code of Behaviour and Code of Conduct.
- 1.10.3 Match Officials are prohibited from making any comment to the media in regard to any fixture of CF at any time.
- 1.10.4 A breach of Rule 1.10 may result in a fine at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, along with further disciplinary action as set out in the CFDDR.

1.10.5 All NPL clubs must produce a match day program for each home NPL & NPLW First Grade matches. CF will supply a template for club use. Copies are to be made available at each match.

#### 1.11 **Ground security**

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

1.11.2 Each CF affiliated Club is required to provide the mandatory CVO complement as per Rule 3.7 of these Competition Regulations.

If directed by CF, security and/or police may be required and/or where the club believes the fixture requires such measures.

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

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

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

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

#### 1.12 **Representative teams and development programs**

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

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

1.12.3 Where a Club has three or more players from one team participating in a CF approved representative match, camp or tour which conflicts with a scheduled match of that team, it may seek the postponement of that fixture. CF shall determine the outcome of that request in its absolute discretion and that decision cannot be appealed or reviewed.

### 1.13 **Prohibited Items**

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

### 1.14 **Racial and Religious Vilification Code**

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

- 1.14.3 The Racial and Religious Vilification Code requires Clubs to:
- (a) ensure that players and Club Associates do not engage in racial and religious vilification against any person
  - (b) continuously educate their players and Club Associates about racial and religious vilification
  - (c) publish information on the subject of racial and religious vilification to players and Club Associates
  - (d) use their best endeavours to ensure that all Club Associates act in a manner which is consistent with the objectives of the Racial and Religious Vilification Code
  - (e) adopt an action plan, which is contained in the Racial and Religious Vilification Code.
- 1.14.4 Any person wishing to lodge a letter of complaint under the Racial and Religious Vilification Code, must address their correspondence to the CF Member Protection Information Officer within 7 days of the date of the alleged offence.
- 1.14.5 A conciliation hearing will then be convened to discuss and resolve the matter.
- 1.14.6 If, during the hearing, conciliation is not achieved, CF may lay charges of misconduct against those alleged to be responsible and refer the matter to the Tribunal.
- 1.15 Inducements - player and match result**
- 1.15.1 Any Club Associate or Player offering or receiving payment or any form of inducement from another Club Associate or Player to wrongfully affect the result of any competition match shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and liable to such penalty as the CM determines, including possible life suspension or match forfeiture. The payment of a win bonus to a player by his registered Club shall in no way contravene this Rule.
- 1.15.2 Any Club, Club Associate or Player found guilty directly or indirectly of inducing or attempting to induce, a registered Player of another Club to leave for any purpose whatsoever the Club for which they are registered during a current competition, shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and shall be liable to be expelled or otherwise dealt with by the CM.
- 1.15.3 Any Club or Club Associate found directly or indirectly involved in the unethical inducement of an entire NPL/NPLW team to join their respective NPL/NPLW Club from another NPL/NPLW Club for the next season will be found guilty of misconduct, and will result in the following:
- (a) the guilty Club will be fined \$10,000;
  - (b) the new team will commence the new season with a minus points tally. The minus points tally will relate directly to the games played in their respective division (i.e. 18 rounds: 18 games x -3 points = -54 points).

**1.16 Property damage and ground cleanliness**

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

**1.17 Sponsorship, advertising and marketing**

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

**1.18 Bonds and fines**

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

**1.19 Protests, disputes and misconduct**

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

- (d) Conduct that brings, or may bring, the game into disrepute.
- 1.19.2 When CF or the Disciplinary Committee investigates any such complaint, written particulars may be given to Club(s) or the subject person of any complaint. Prior to any meeting being held the Club(s) or person shall be given an opportunity to appear before the CM or the Disciplinary Committee and to participate in the enquiry and to offer such defence or submissions as she or he thinks fit.
- 1.19.3 If CF or the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that any such complaint has been substantiated it may impose penalties as follows:
- (a) Suspension from CF for such period of time as may be determined or suspension from any competition conducted by or in conjunction with CF
  - (b) A fine in the case of a Club not exceeding \$10,000.00 or in the case of an individual not exceeding \$5,000.00
  - (c) Expulsion from CF or from any competition conducted by or in conjunction with CF, subject to CF Board ratification.
- 1.19.4 Affiliation of CF shall constitute a binding agreement between CF and the respective Clubs. Clubs need to lodge within 72 hours of the incident of protest, all protests, claims and complaints to correct committees in writing accompanied by the required deposits. All correctly lodged protests, claims and complaints shall be heard and determined by the correct committees as quickly as possible and always before any delay or adjournment shall render ineffective in whole or part the nature of any such protest, claim or complaint.
- 1.19.5 If any dispute or disagreement arises between a Club and any of its players in respect of each other's obligations pursuant to a Professional Player Contract of a similar nature entered into between them, or as to the interpretation thereof, such dispute or disagreement may be referred by the Club or player to CF for determination.
- 1.20 **Independent Match Observer**
- 1.20.1 An Independent Match Observer can be appointed to any CF fixture. The Match observer will report on any event arising or relating to match day or operational regulations/rules.

## **2 COMPETITION ARRANGMENTS**

### **2.1 Official fixtures**

- 2.1.1 CF will issue official fixture lists of all NPL1, NPL2, NPLW & NPLY Competitions no later than 31 January of the calendar year in which the Competitions will take place.
- 2.1.2 Any disputes between two (2) or more Clubs as to the arrangement of fixtures shall be referred to the CM. Any determination made by the CM is final and not subject to appeal.
- 2.1.3 All rescheduling of fixtures by Clubs shall be submitted to and approved by the CM via the prescribed form. Where a dispute remains the CM decision will be final and binding on all parties. A fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights provided that the lighting at the venue meets the requirements and that any alteration to the starting time has been given approval by the CM.
- 2.1.4 Notwithstanding any other Rule or Regulation, Capital Football reserves the right to alter or amend any fixture after the official fixture lists have been issued. Affected Clubs will be advised of alterations and amendments, when possible, at least seven (7) days prior to the timing of the scheduled or rescheduled fixture, whichever is/was to occur first.

### **2.2 Non-scheduled matches**

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



## 2.3 National Premier League

2.3.1 The NPL1 & NPL2 competitions shall comprise of a number of Clubs as determined by CF at its absolute discretion.

- (a) Applications for NPL2 may be sought by CF from time to time.
- (b) The CF Board or their appointed committee will be responsible for assessing all NPL2 applications.
- (c) In assessing NPL2 applications, the CF Board or their appointed committee will take into account any mandatory licensing criteria required of NPL Clubs.
- (d) Under no circumstances shall any one club be represented more than once in any division of NPL1 & NPL2.
- (e) The Club that finishes in last position in the 2019 NPL1 First Grade competition shall be relegated to the NPL2 competition in the 2020 season. This is inclusive of NPL1 First Grade and U 20's.

2.3.2 Each NPL1 & NPL2 Club shall:

- (a) Field:
  - (i) A First Grade team and an U20 under the conditions specified by CF;
- (b) Provide a ground for all home games that complies with the requirements of Rule 3.1.
- (c) Appoint and maintain a Media Liaison Officer.
- (d) Provide CF with an email address of the Club Secretary or other officials for the purposes of immediate communication.
- (e) Appoint coaches with the minimum coaching qualification as directed by CF.

### 2.3.3 Player Points System (PPS)

2.3.4 CF application of PPS to CF delivered competitions:

- (a) the PPS will not apply to CF administered and operated competitions such as League Matches and Finals series,
- (b) Clubs need to comply with PPS requirements when competing in FFA administered and operated competitions such as FFA Cup and NPL Finals Series.
- (c) Clubs will need to submit a compliant PPS Roster to CF once at the semi final stage of the Federation Cup.
- (d) For the purposes of participating in the FFA NPL finals series an FFA compliant PPS roster must be submitted to CF once the NPL1 Champion has been determined.

- (e) Clubs will only be permitted to field two (2) visa players during CF administered and operated competitions. Clubs are to identify current visa players on the PPS.
  - (f) A visa player/s is defined as a new player/s or known player/s to CF administered and operated competitions who does not have current Australian citizenship or FFA approved residency
- 2.3.5 PPS mechanics can be found in Schedule 2 of these Regulations.
- 2.3.6 **Player status, eligibility and identity.**
- 2.3.7 Permitted player movement will be:
- (a) NPL1 & NPL2 players are free to move between NPL and NPLY competitions within their own club unrestricted, subject to any age restrictions.
  - (b) NPL Senior Players are not permitted to play in any Community League competition nor Junior League competition.
  - (c) NPLY players are not permitted to play in Junior League or Community League competitions.
- 2.3.8 As long as they are registered and eligible, players are permitted to play in the First Grade and/or U20 competition
- (a) To be age eligible for an NPL U20 team, all players (except eligible overage players) listed on the match card must not turn older than 20 years of age on or before December 31 of the competition year.
    - (i) Clubs are permitted to play four (4) overage players in any given NPL20 match. There is no age restriction in relation to the four overage players permitted on the match card.
    - (ii) Where more than four (4) overage players in NPL1 or NPL 2 have been included on the match card for the one Team, the Match will be considered a forfeit with the offending team losing the match 3-0.
- 2.3.9 Players who have entered the field of play in NPL1 & NPL2 competitions will be taken to have played in that match.
- 2.3.10 An eligible player is one who has completed the registration process, is registered in accordance with these Rules, and who is not currently serving a suspension.
- 2.3.11 A player will be considered an ineligible Player where the Player:
- (a) is not registered in accordance with CF and the National Registration Regulations;
  - (b) plays for a Club with which the Player is not registered;
  - (c) plays without an ITC, where one is required;
  - (d) plays while under suspension;

- (e) plays for a Club, Team or in a competition when not permitted to do so under Competition Regulations; or
  - (f) plays using a name that is not their own.
- 2.3.12 It is the responsibility of a Club to ensure that they do not play any ineligible Players and check that all their Players are registered through the Play Football data base.
- 2.3.13 Where a Club plays an ineligible player:
- (a) any Club can make a claim on Player ineligibility to CF irrespective of the fixture. Any claims for ineligibility must be received within two (2) business days of the final whistle of the match in question.
  - (b) CF will consider a claim on Player ineligibility made by a Match Official on the match card or in a match report. However, this Rule in no way is to be taken as placing an obligation on Match Officials to check that all, or any, Players are eligible Players.
  - (c) any Club found guilty will be sanctioned and forfeit the game, with full points for the fixture awarded to their opponents and a 3-0 forfeit result recorded. The offending Team shall also be subject to any additional disciplinary action as considered appropriate that is imposed by CF.
  - (d) any Player who knowingly plays as an ineligible Player may be suspended for up to four (4) matches.
  - (e) any participating Club or Club Associate of any such Club or any Player affiliated with any such Club who is found to have knowingly participated in any practice of playing an ineligible Player may be disqualified by CF from football for life or be subject to such other punishment as may be determined by the CM to be appropriate, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.
  - (f) Where a club can prove to the satisfaction of CF that an administrative error resulted in rendering a player ineligible, CF may deem the Player eligible.
- 2.3.14 CF officials may attend games and/or conduct random audits and checks of match cards or other game day material. Nothing in Rule 2.3.10 is to be taken to prevent CF from determining a Player in a current or past Match to be ineligible or from sanctioning a Club, Club Office Holder, CVO or Player at any time in relation to playing an ineligible Player.
- 2.3.15 Where both teams from the same match are in breach of Player eligibility, the Match result will be determined as a No Result. The Clubs shall also be fined at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, meet costs associated with the Match or a greater amount as determined by the CM and, in addition, may have other disciplinary action imposed.
- 2.3.16 Prior to any match the managers of both teams shall complete an official match card as specified in these rules. Prior to the Match, if so, requested by either manager, the manager of each team will present to the other manager proof of identification of any Player listed on the match card. Where a Club suspects any abnormality or breach

of CF's Rules or Regulations, or where an opposing Club is unable to produce proof of identification, they shall:

- (a) Advise the opposing Club of their intention to report the matter to CF.
- (b) Make notification in the comments section of the match card of their intention to report the matter.
- (c) Submit a written report to CF within two (2) business days of the conclusion of the match.
- (d) Submit photographic evidence (if available) or supporting witness statements to support any abnormality.

2.3.17 Where an abnormality or breach of these Rules involves the true identity of a Player participating in a fixture, the Club shall bring the matter to the attention of the Match Official and request that they report the abnormality to CF. The Match Official may also confirm that suitable identification was produced and recorded on a report to CF.

- (a) Any Club that fails to produce Player proof of identification upon request from the opposing team manager, CF representative or Match Official shall be liable to a penalty as determined by the CM
- (b) If a Club wishes to protest against an ineligible Player, or protest against any aspect of the conduct of a match, or dispute any details contained on a match card, they must write to the CM setting out details of the basis of the protest within two (2) business days of completion of the Match.

2.3.18 Any Team found guilty of playing a registered Player who was not included on the match card at the commencement of the game will be fined at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these rules.

2.3.19 CF may grant permission to a club to field guest Player/s in approved Matches, in accordance with FFA National Registration Regulations.

### **2.3.20 Clubs or Teams removed or withdrawing from competitions**

2.3.21 In the event of any Club or Team withdrawing or being removed from a CF Competition, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered competition/s to proceed

- (a) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn before the competition has started will be treated as a Bye, unless CF decides to adjust the competition in some other way that will allow the competition to continue in a fair manner.
- (b) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn during the first round of a competition will be treated as a Bye with all points and goals (for and against) awarded in such matches that were played prior to the removal or withdrawal deleted and a Bye result recorded. A round of a competition refers to a full complement of competition fixtures, where each team plays each other an equal number of times.

- (c) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn during a second or subsequent round of a competition will be treated as a Bye in that round, with all points and goals awarded in matches played during that stage, but prior to the removal or withdrawal, deleted and a Bye result recorded. All points and goals awarded in matches involving the removed or withdrawn team in prior competition rounds will stand.

2.3.22 The CM has the authority to advise a Club as to which team will be withdrawn in the best interest of the competitions and, where appropriate, the CM shall fine a Club that has a team removed or withdrawn from a competition at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, and may impose other sanctions on the Club where appropriate.

## **2.4 National Premier League Women's**

2.4.1 The NPLW shall comprise of a number of Clubs as determined by CF at its absolute discretion.

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

2.4.2 Each NPLW Club shall:

- (f) Field:
  - (i) A First Grade team (NPLW) and an NPLW Reserves team (NPLWR), an NPLW U17 team (NPLW17), an NPLW U15 team (NPLW15), and an NPLW U13 team (NPLW13) under the conditions specified by CF;
- (g) Provide a ground for all home games that complies with the requirements of Rule 3.1.
- (h) Appoint and maintain a Media Liaison Officer.
- (i) Provide CF with an email address of the Club Secretary or other officials for the purposes of immediate communication.
- (j) Appoint coaches with the minimum coaching qualification as directed by CF.

### **2.4.3 Player Eligibility**

2.4.4 To be age eligible for the NPLW17 competition, Players must not turn older than 17 years of age on or before 31 December of the calendar year of competition.

2.4.5 To be age eligible for the NPLW15 competition, Players must not turn older than 15 years of age on or before 31 December of the calendar year of competition.

- 2.4.6 To be age eligible for the NPLW13 competition, Players must not turn older than 13 years of age on or before 31 December of the calendar year of competition.
- 2.4.7 There are no over-age players permitted in the NPLW17, NPLW15 or NPLW13 teams unless, RAE or special exemption has been issued by CF.
- 2.4.8 To offset any physical disadvantage to Players consideration will be given to playing down an age group. This is only relevant to the NPLW17, NPLW15 or NPLW13 competitions. Only (1) One player is able to be approved under this provision per team, per club unless additional special exemptions have been issued by CF.
- (a) Clubs must request a Relative Age Exemption assessment by CF and refer to Schedule 3 of these Rules.

#### **2.4.9 Player Status-eligibility-identity**

- 2.4.10 Permitted Player movement will be:
- (d) NPLW players are free to move between NPLW competitions unrestricted, subject to any age restrictions.
- (e) NPLW registered players are not permitted to play in any NPL1 & NPL2, NPLY competition, Community League competition nor Junior League competition.
- 2.4.11 Players who have entered the field of play in NPLW competitions will be taken to have played in that match.
- 2.4.12 An eligible Player is one who has completed the registration process and is registered in accordance with these Rules and who is not currently serving a suspension.
- 2.4.13 A Player will be considered an ineligible Player where the Player:
- (g) is not registered in accordance with Capital Football and the National Registration Regulations;
- (h) plays for a Club with which the Player is not registered;
- (i) plays without an ITC, where one is required;
- (j) plays while under suspension;
- (k) plays for a Club, Team or in a competition when not permitted to do so under Competition Regulations;
- (l) plays using a name that is not their own; or
- 2.4.14 It is the responsibility of a Club to ensure that they do not play ineligible players and check that all their players are registered through the Play Football data base
- 2.4.15 Where a Club plays an ineligible player:
- (g) any Club can make a claim on Player ineligibility to CF irrespective of the fixture. Any claims for ineligibility must be received within two (2) business days of the final whistle of the match in question.

- (h) CF will consider a claim on Player ineligibility made by a Match Official on the match card or in a match report. However, this Rule in no way is to be taken as placing an obligation on Match Officials to check that all, or any, Players are eligible Players.
- (i) any Club found guilty will be sanctioned and forfeit the game, with full points for the fixture awarded to their opponents and a 3-0 forfeit result recorded. The offending Team shall also be subject to any additional disciplinary action as considered appropriate that is imposed by CF.
- (j) any Player who knowingly plays as an ineligible Player may be suspended for up to four (4) matches.
- (k) any participating Club or Club Associate of any such Club or any Player affiliated with any such Club who is found to have knowingly participated in any practice of playing an ineligible Player may be disqualified by CF from football for life or be subject to such other punishment as may be determined by the CM to be appropriate, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.
- (l) Where a club can prove to the satisfaction of CF that an administrative error resulted in rendering a player ineligible, CF may deem the Player eligible.

2.4.16 CF officials may attend games and/or conduct random audits and checks of match cards or other game day material. Nothing in Rule 2.4.12 is to be taken to prevent CF from determining a player in a current or past Match to be ineligible or from sanctioning a Club, Club Office Holder, CVO or Player at any time in relation to playing an ineligible Player.

2.4.17 Where both teams from the same match are in breach of Player eligibility, the Match result will be determined as a No Result. The Club(s) shall also be fined at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, meet costs associated with the Match or a greater amount as determined by the CM and, in addition, may have other disciplinary action imposed.

2.4.18 Prior to any match the managers of both teams shall complete an official match card as specified in these rules. At the same time, and if so requested by either manager, the manager of each team will present to the other manager proof of identification of any Player listed on the match card. Where a Club suspects any abnormality or breach of CF's Rules or Regulations, or where an opposing Club is unable to produce proof of identification, they shall:

- (c) Advise the opposing Club of their intention to report the matter to CF.
- (e) Make notification in the comments section of the match card of their intention to report the matter.
- (f) Submit a written report to CF within two (2) business days of the conclusion of the match.
- (g) Submit photographic evidence (if available) or supporting witness statements to support any abnormality.

2.4.19 Where an abnormality or breach of these Rules involves the true identity of a Player participating in a fixture, the Club shall bring the matter to the attention of the Match Official and request that he report the abnormality to CF. The Match Official may also confirm that suitable identification was produced and recorded on a report to CF.

- (a) Any Club that fails to produce Player proof of identification upon request from the opposing team manager, CF representative or Match Official shall be liable to a penalty as determined by the CM.
- (b) If a Club wishes to protest against an ineligible player, or protest against any aspect of the conduct of a match or dispute any details contained on a match card, they must write to the CM setting out details of the basis of the protest (supporting documents) within two (2) business days of completion of the Match.

2.4.20 Any Team found guilty of playing a registered Player who was not included on the match card at the commencement of the game will be fined at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these rules.

2.4.21 CF may grant permission to a club to field guest Player/s in approved Matches, in accordance with FFA National Registration Regulations.

#### **2.4.22 Clubs or Teams removed or withdrawing from competitions**

2.4.23 In the event of any Club or Team withdrawing or being removed from a CF Competition, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered competition/s to proceed

- (d) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn before the competition has started will be treated as a Bye, unless CF decides to adjust the competition in some other way that will allow the competition to continue in a fair manner.
- (e) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn during the first round of a competition will be treated as a Bye with all points and goals (for and against) awarded in such matches that were played prior to the removal or withdrawal deleted and a Bye result recorded. A round of a competition refers to a full complement of competition fixtures, where each team plays each other an equal number of times.
- (f) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn during a second or subsequent round of a competition will be treated as a Bye in that round, with all points and goals awarded in matches played during that stage, but prior to the removal or withdrawal, deleted and a Bye result recorded. All points and goals awarded in matches involving the removed or withdrawn team in prior competition rounds will stand.

2.4.24 The CM has the authority to advise a Club as to which team will be withdrawn in the best interest of the competitions and, where appropriate, the CM shall fine a Club that has a team removed or withdrawn from a competition at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, and may impose other sanctions on the Club where appropriate.



## **2.5 National Premier League Youth**

2.5.1 The NPLY shall comprise of a number of Clubs as determined by CF at its absolute discretion.

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

### **2.5.2 Each NPLY Club shall:**

- (a) Field:
  - (i) A NPLY U18 Team (NPL18), NPLY U16 Team (NPL16), NPLY U14 Team (NPL14), and NPLY U13 (NPL13).
- (b) Provide a ground for all home games that complies with the requirements of Rule 3.1.
- (c) Provide CF with an email address of the Club Secretary or other officials for the purposes of immediate communication.
- (d) Appoint coaches with the minimum coaching qualification as directed by CF.

### **2.5.3 Player Eligibility**

- 2.5.4 To be age eligible for the NPLY18 competition, Players must not turn older than 18 years of age on or before 31 December of the calendar year of competition.
- 2.5.5 To be age eligible for the NPL16 competition, Players must not turn older than 16 years of age on or before 31 December of the calendar year of competition.
- 2.5.6 To be age eligible for the NPL14 competition, Players must not turn older than 14 years of age on or before 31 December of the calendar year of competition.
- 2.5.7 To be age eligible for the NPL13 competition, Players must not turn older than 13 years of age on or before 31 December of the calendar year of competition.
- 2.5.8 There are no over-age players permitted in the NPL18, NPL16, NPL14 or NPL13 teams unless an RAE or special exemption has been issued by CF.
- 2.5.9 To offset any physical disadvantage to Players consideration will be given to playing down an age group. This is only relevant to the NPL18, NPL16, NPL14 or NPL13 competitions. Only (1) One player is able to be approved under this provision per team, per club unless additional special exemptions have been issued by CF

- (a) Clubs must request a Relative Age Exemption assessment by CF and refer to Schedule 3 of these Rules.
- 2.5.10 Female Players registered to NPLY Teams are permitted and eligible to be one (1) year older than those listed in Rules 2.5.4, 2.5.5, 2.5.6 and 2.5.7.
- 2.5.11 Player Status-eligibility-identity**
- 2.5.12 Permitted Player movement will be:
- (a) NPLY players are free to move between NPLY and NPL competitions unrestricted, subject to any age restrictions.
  - (b) NPLY players are not permitted to play in Junior League or Community league teams.
  - (c) Junior League Players are permitted to play in NPLY competitions, subject to any age restrictions and pending any reclassification criteria.
- 2.5.13 Players listed on the match card in NPLY competitions will be taken to have played in that match.
- 2.5.14 An eligible Player is one who has completed the registration process and is registered in accordance with these Rules and who is not currently serving a suspension.
- 2.5.15 A Player will be considered an ineligible Player where the Player:
- (a) is not registered in accordance with Capital Football and the National Registration Regulations;
  - (b) plays for a Club with which the Player is not registered;
  - (c) plays without an ITC, where one is required;
  - (d) plays while under suspension;
  - (e) plays for a Club, Team or in a competition when not permitted to do so under Competition Regulations; or
  - (f) plays using a name that is not their own
  - (g) It is the responsibility of a Club to ensure that they do not play ineligible players and check that all their players are registered through the Play Football data base.
- 2.5.16 Where a Club plays an ineligible player:
- (a) any Club can make a claim on Player ineligibility to CF irrespective of the fixture. Any claims for ineligibility must be received within two (2) business days of the final whistle of the match in question.
  - (b) CF will consider a claim on Player ineligibility made by a Match Official on the match card or in a match report. However, this Rule in no way is to be taken as placing an obligation on Match Officials to check that all, or any, Players are eligible Players.

- (c) any Club found guilty will be sanctioned and forfeit the game, with full points for the fixture awarded to their opponents and a 3-0 forfeit result recorded. The offending Team shall also be subject to any additional disciplinary action as considered appropriate that is imposed by CF.
  - (d) any Player who knowingly plays as an ineligible Player may be suspended for up to four (4) matches.
  - (e) any participating Club or Club Associate of any such Club or any Player affiliated with any such Club who is found to have knowingly participated in any practice of playing an ineligible Player may be disqualified by CF from football for life or be subject to such other punishment as may be determined by the CM to be appropriate, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.
  - (f) Where a club can prove to the satisfaction of CF that an administrative error resulted in rendering a player ineligible, CF may deem the Player eligible.
- 2.5.18 CF officials may attend games and/or conduct random audits and checks of match cards or other game day material. Nothing in Rule 2.5.14 is to be taken to prevent CF from determining a player in a current or past Match to be ineligible or from sanctioning a Club, Club Office Holder, CVO or Player at any time in relation to playing an ineligible Player.
- 2.5.19 Where both teams from the same match are in breach of Player eligibility, the Match result will be determined as a No Result. The Club(s) shall also be fined at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, meet costs associated with the Match or a greater amount as determined by the CM and, in addition, may have other disciplinary action imposed.
- 2.5.20 Prior to any match the managers of both teams shall complete an official match card as specified in these rules. At the same time, and if so requested by either manager, the manager of each team will present to the other manager proof of identification of any Player listed on the match card. Where a Club suspects any abnormality or breach of CF's Rules or Regulations, or where an opposing Club is unable to produce proof of identification, they shall:
- (a) Advise the opposing Club of their intention to report the matter to CF.
  - (b) Make notification in the comments section of the match card of their intention to report the matter.
  - (c) Submit a written report to CF within two (2) business days of the conclusion of the match.
  - (d) Submit photographic evidence (if available) or supporting witness statements to support any abnormality.
- 2.5.21 Where an abnormality or breach of these Rules involves the true identity of a Player participating in a fixture, the Club shall bring the matter to the attention of the Match Official and request that he report the abnormality to CF. The Match Official may also confirm that suitable identification was produced and recorded on a report to CF.

- (a) Any Club that fails to produce Player proof of identification upon request from the opposing team manager, CF representative or Match Official shall be liable to a penalty as determined by the CM.
  - (b) If a Club wishes to protest against an ineligible player, or protest against any aspect of the conduct of a match or dispute any details contained on a match card, they must write to the CM setting out details of the basis of the protest (supporting documents) within two (2) business days of completion of the Match.
- 2.5.22 Any Team found guilty of playing a registered Player who was not included on the match card at the commencement of the game will be fined at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these rules.
- 2.5.23 CF may grant permission to a club to field guest Player/s in approved Matches, in accordance with FFA National Registration Regulations.
- 2.5.22 Clubs or Teams removed or withdrawing from competitions**
- 2.5.23 In the event of any Club or Team withdrawing or being removed from a CF Competition, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered competition/s to proceed
- (a) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn before the competition has started will be treated as a Bye, unless CF decides to adjust the competition in some other way that will allow the competition to continue in a fair manner.
  - (b) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn during the first round of a competition will be treated as a Bye with all points and goals (for and against) awarded in such matches that were played prior to the removal or withdrawal deleted and a Bye result recorded. A round of a competition refers to a full complement of competition fixtures, where each team plays each other an equal number of times.
  - (c) All matches involving a team that has been removed or withdrawn during a second or subsequent round of a competition will be treated as a Bye in that round, with all points and goals awarded in matches played during that stage, but prior to the removal or withdrawal, deleted and a Bye result recorded. All points and goals awarded in matches involving the removed or withdrawn team in prior competition rounds will stand.
- 2.5.24 The CM has the authority to advise a Club as to which team will be withdrawn in the best interest of the competitions and, where appropriate, the CM shall fine a Club that has a team removed or withdrawn from a competition at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, and may impose other sanctions on the Club where appropriate.

### 3 FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

#### 3.1 Facility and ground arrangements

- 3.1.1 Each Club must ensure that it complies fully with the criteria set out below.
- 3.1.2 CF shall approve all grounds for all matches sanctioned by CF and shall allocate Clubs a ground that conforms to the guidelines stated by the CM.
- 3.1.3 Any Club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be fined at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, suspended, or have its home Matches played away or at an alternate venue.
- 3.1.4 CF may grant special dispensation to Clubs who are in the process of upgrading their facilities in accordance with CF's requirements.
- 3.1.5 It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure they provide a safe environment for their members. To minimise risk and to prevent injury, football goals are to be constructed and installed to the correct safety standards. The main areas of concern are:
- (a) securing and stability of the goal frame.
  - (b) net fixings to the frame of the goal.
  - (c) the net itself.
- 3.1.6 All football goals that are installed as a permanent structure on a football pitch must be properly secured, installed at the regulation width and height, as per the Laws of the Game, and should have no sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.
- 3.1.7 If a Club uses portable goals for competition, it must ensure that these goals conform to the current Standards Australia Handbook "Portable Football Goalposts – Manufacture, use and storage". The manufacturer of portable goals should provide the Club with a certificate of conformity.
- 3.1.8 Nets, ground and line markings.
- (a) Ground and line markings must be clear, accurate and within the dimensions specified in the Laws of the Game. Products such as agricultural limestone, water based spray paint or other similar material which will not endanger ground users or damage turf grasses are the only substances that should be used.
  - (b) To ensure the safety of all players, Match Officials and spectators, any Club found in breach, will not be able to play any home matches until the breach has been rectified or CF grants dispensation from these requirements.
  - (c) In all matches sanctioned by CF the home team that plays in the last match of the day shall dress the ground and ensure adequate line-marking. All equipment needs to remain in place for the day. .
  - (d) A home Club whose match is postponed/abandoned due to the use of prohibited substances for marking their grounds, as per 3.1.8 (a), or fails to have the ground line marked appropriately, will forfeit the match and three (3)

points will be awarded to the opposing team. The home Club will also incur a fine at level BR 4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

### **3.2 Pitch Exclusion Zone**

3.2.1 All spectators and non-participants must be either behind barriers surrounding enclosed pitches or a minimum of three (3) metres away from all sidelines or five (5) metres from all goal lines at all matches. Such an area shall be termed the Pitch Exclusion Zone.

3.2.2 On grounds which contain adjacent playing pitches and on which Matches are being played side by side, no person other than the Match Officials and person previously approved by the CF shall be permitted to position themselves between these playing pitches during the progress of any match.

3.2.3 The only persons permitted within the pitch exclusion zone at any time during the progress of any match shall be:

- (a) the competing Players and reserves from each team;
- (b) the coach and manager;
- (c) the officiating referees and linesmen;
- (d) first-aid or emergency services personnel;
- (e) nominated club officials wearing Club Vested Official vests;
- (f) accredited media personnel;
- (g) ball kids;
- (h) CM or designated CF Staff.

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

### **3.3 Field of Play (FOP) Requirements**

3.3.1 The Field of Play must:

- (a) For Senior matches have a minimum length of 100 metres and a minimum width of 60 metres.
- (b) For NPLY, NPLW up to U/17 matches have a minimum length of 90 metres and a minimum width of 48 metres.
- (c) be rectangular and enclosed by a permanent fence or barrier secured to the ground, at a minimum height of 1.1 metres and at a minimum distance of three metres from the side lines and five metres from the goal lines, which has a limited number of lockable entrances.
- (d) be an evenly grassed surface and well drained with all internal field markings marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

- (e) have goalposts, goal nets and corner flags of approved material, colour and dimensions as per the current Laws of the Game. Corner flags must not feature nationalistic emblems or reference.
  - (f) have two associated benches/dugouts, each with adequate seating for nine people.
- 3.3.2 All Senior and Youth Matches must provide amenities for Players and Match Officials
- (a) the amenities must be in permanent building/s and must include two separate lockable changing/dressing rooms for Players, and one for Match Officials, each with exclusive access to:
    - (i) a shower area with floors and walls of a minimum 1.2 metres that provide hot and cold showers.
    - (ii) Toilet facilities.
  - (b) No access is permitted to a Match Official's change room unless authorised by the Match Official.
  - (c) A working mobile phone must be made available by both teams to the match referee if required.
- 3.3.3 All Clubs must have available at all home fixtures a designated First Aid Officer. The name of the First Aid Officer/Organisation in attendance must be recorded on the match card in the appropriate position. First aid can only be delivered by:
- (a) a person with a first aid certificate or higher qualification.
  - (b) a Medical Practitioner.
  - (c) a member of the St John's Ambulance Service (or equivalent).
- 3.3.4 Spectator amenities shall be fully enclosed with perimeter fencing, at least 1.8 metres high and include:
- (a) at least one toilet block for male and one for female patrons situated not more than 50 metres from the playing field.
  - (b) a canteen/kiosk serving hot and cold drinks and snack foods compliant with all health and council regulations.
  - (c) disabled toilet access.
- 3.3.5 Other amenities will include:
- (a) a media viewing area/room, providing unobstructed views of the playing arena and scoreboard.
  - (b) a fully functional public address system that is audible to all parts of the venue, including social areas.
  - (c) external signboard, displaying the names of teams playing.

### **3.4 Technical Area**

- 3.4.1 For Matches, in all competitions, the home Club must clearly mark out the Technical Area as stipulated by FIFA guidelines.
- (a) Occupants of the Technical Area must be either a registered Player or a registered Team Official.
  - (b) Players must be clearly identifiable.
  - (c) Registered Team Officials must display appropriate accreditation at all times.
  - (d) A Player or Team Official who is under suspension must not occupy a seat in the Technical Area.
- 3.4.2 For the Technical Area:
- (a) a maximum of nine (9) persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area, including the coach, assistant coach, the team manager, the substitutes and either a doctor or physiotherapist. Seating shall be supplied by the home team in sufficient quantity.
  - (b) all persons within the Technical Area must remain seated as per the Laws of the Game, except in special circumstances with the Match Official's permission.
  - (c) as per Rule 3.4, substitutes are permitted to leave the Technical Area for the purposes of warming up.
- 3.4.3 The Match Official may expel any person from the bench at any time as the Match Official sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left the playing field to the Match Official's satisfaction.

### **3.5 Match cards and results**

- 3.5.1 All match cards for all Senior Matches are to be completed online via SportsTG.
- 3.5.2 The away, or second listed team must make their player selection in SportsTG by 2:00pm on the Friday prior to the scheduled weekend Match, or 2:00pm the day prior to a midweek Match. A failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine at level BR1 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 3.5.3 Clubs are required to note the shirt number of each Player in SportsTG. This information will appear on the match card next to the Players name.
- (a) No players from the same Team will be permitted to wear the same number on their playing strip.
- 3.5.4 The home, or first listed, Team will be responsible for printing and providing match cards from SportsTG on the day of the Match. A failure to provide a printed match card on the day of a Match will result in a fine at level BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 3.5.5 Any changes to the Player selection post the Friday deadline must be manually noted on the printed copy of the team sheet.



- 3.5.6 The printed match card must be handed to the Match Official at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.
- 3.5.7 Changes to the match card will be permitted any time until ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time, at which the following shall apply:
- (a) Should a listed Player be removed from the starting line-up, that Player may only be replaced by a Player listed as a substitute on the match card. The formerly starting Player may then be listed as a substitute. However, no other Player may be added to the match card to replace any Player.
  - (b) Should a listed substitute Player be removed from the match card, the Team will not be permitted list another Player on the Match Card and the number of available substitutes will be decreased by one (1).
- 3.5.8 The numbers on the back of a Player's jersey will correspond with the numbers listed on the match card provided to the Match Official prior to the commencement of the Match. There are no changes to any Players assigned numbers from ten (10) minutes prior to or during a Match.
- 3.5.9 A maximum of sixteen (16) Players per Team are permitted to be listed on the match card.
- 3.5.10 The home, or first listed, Team must complete the prescribed Home Team Post-Match Form by no later than 5:00pm on the Tuesday following a weekend Match, or 48 hours following a midweek Match. A failure to comply will result in a fine at level BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules. The Home Team Post-Match Form shall include:
- (a) Match Details.
  - (b) Document Submission:
    - (i) Officials in the Technical Area.
    - (ii) Match Card.
  - (c) Referee Evaluation Form.
- 3.5.11 The away, or second listed, Team must complete the prescribed Away Team Post-Match Form by no later than 5:00pm on the Tuesday following a weekend Match, or 48 hours following a midweek Match. A failure to comply will result in a fine at level BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules. The Away Team Post-Match Form shall include:
- (a) Match Details.
  - (b) Referee Evaluation Form.
- 3.5.12 Where a match card is not provided to CF under Rule 3.5.10 the home Team is deemed to have forfeited the Match.
- 3.5.13 A Club Associate from each Team shall sign the match card at the completion of the Match to confirm the information listed is correct, including listed:

- (a) Players.
- (b) Match Officials.
- (c) Stood down Players.
- (d) halftime and fulltime scores.

3.5.14 A Player taking the field in a Senior Match is deemed to have participated in the Match.

3.5.15 Any Club Associate supplying false information shall be deemed to have been guilty of misconduct and dealt with under CFDDR.

3.5.16 Players listed in the first eleven (11) spaces of the match card shall be deemed to have started in that Match, unless otherwise indicated on the match card.

### **3.6 Player Numbers and substitution/interchange**

3.6.1 A Match is to be played by two (2) teams in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. A Match may not start, or continue, if either team consists of fewer than seven (7) players.

3.6.2 All Matches are subject to the following substitution regulations:

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) NPL & NPLW             | Up to three substitutes are allowed |
| (b) NPL20 & NPLWR          | Up to four substitutes are allowed  |
| (c) NPLY & NPLW up to U/17 | Unlimited interchange               |

3.6.3 Substitutions are only permitted at the half way line and when the Match Official has indicated that a change can be made.

- (a) If the Match Official deems that a Club is contravening the spirit of the game by interchanging excessively to waste time, the Match Official can refuse to allow an interchange and may caution the offending team if appropriate.

3.6.4 Substitutes may warm up outside of the Technical Area, provided they are wearing an alternative coloured uniform/bib to the team strip.

- (a) When warming up, substitutes must choose an area furthest from the opposing team or as advised by the appointed Match Official.

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

### **3.7 Club Vested Officials (CVO)/Security/Police**

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

- (a) Three (3) for NPL & NPLW Matches.

- (b) Two (2) for NPL 18, NPL 20 & NPLWR Matches.
- (c) One (1) for all other matches.

3.7.2 The CVO must:

- (a) be in clearly identifiable officials vests and visible at all times.
- (b) work together with the CVO from the opposing Club to deal with any disturbances that may arise, assist with the welfare of the Match Officials and escort dismissed Players from the Pitch Exclusion Zone.
- (c) ensure that the FFA Spectator Code of Behavior is being adhered to by their own Club Associates. If a Club Associate is not behaving in accordance with this code, the CVO may approach the person/s and remind them of their obligations:
  - (i) If the matter is unable to be address, or the CVO is concerned for their own safety and wellbeing, contact needs to be made with the Match Officials who may take the appropriate action, including stopping the match until the incident has been dealt with satisfactorily.
  - (ii) Where intervention from the CVO or Match Official may escalate a situation, the CVO should contact the Australian Federal Police.
- (d) take responsibility for the Match Officials, from the time the Match Officials arrive at the venue until the time the Match Officials depart the venue. The CVO must escort the Match Officials to and from the field of play prior to the game, and at both half and full time.
- (e) make sure unauthorized personnel are kept out of the Match Officials change room.
- (f) report to the Match officials no later than fifteen minutes prior to kick-off time of the match.
- (g) must have their name correctly and clearly printed on the match card.
- (h) must not remain in or around the Technical Area/s, unless directed by the Match Officials.

3.7.3 CVO may report incidents to CF as necessary.

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

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

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

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

### **3.8 Match Balls**

- 3.8.1 For all NPL Matches, the home Club shall provide the appointed Match Official with 3 CF approved match balls no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled fixture.
- 3.8.2 At the conclusion of the game, the match balls will be returned to the relevant Club.
- 3.8.3 All NPL Clubs must use a licensed match ball from CF's licensed ball manufacturer, as advised by CF from time to time.
- 3.8.4 Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to CF by the Match Official.
- 3.8.5 An approved size 5 ball must be used in all matches from Under 14 and above.  
An approved size 4 ball must be used for all Under 13 matches
- 3.8.6 A failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine at level BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

### **3.9 Players Strip/Apparel**

- 3.9.1 The playing colours of a Club in CF competitions shall be as nominated by the club and endorsed by CF. Failure of any team to play in their nominated strip may result in their Club being sanctioned.
- 3.9.2 All teams must nominate two (2) entirely different home and alternate playing strips to avoid any potential colour clashes. Clubs may only play in their nominated Club strips.
  - (a) No part of the alternate playing strip may be the same as the home playing strip.
  - (b) Predominantly black playing shirts, including goalkeepers, will not be permitted under any circumstances.
  - (c) All teams named first on the CF fixture shall be deemed the home team and will therefore play in their preferred home strip.
  - (d) If there is a clash of colours at any match, it is the away team's responsibility to change into an alternate strip. Visiting Clubs may be required to wear a combination of their home and alternate strips to ensure the clash is resolved.
  - (e) In the event of a Club fielding a team in colours similar to those of the opposing team, and where the home team raises the issue with the Match Official, or where the Match Official is of the opinion that confusion may arise, the Match Official may order the visiting Club to change its colours and refuse to allow the fixture to commence until a satisfactory change is made. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
  - (f) Team managers must refer to the CF supplied Strip Report to ensure there is no risk of a strip clash.

- (g) Any tape or other material on/covering socks must be the same colour as the sock.
- (h) If worn, undershorts must be colour of shorts and a Team must wear all the same colour.

3.9.3 A Club may be penalised if:

- (a) a Match does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that such Club or team did not comply with rule 3.9.2 (e) or 3.9.2 (f).
- (b) a Club changes their home or alternate playing strip without CF's prior written approval, and this change results in a match being postponed.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine at level BR6 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

3.9.4 Goalkeepers may wear any colour except black, provided it does not clash with either team, including the opposition goalkeeper, or the Match Official. Any failure to do so must be reported to CF by the Match Official and an offending Club may be fined at level BR6 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.

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

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

- (a) All jewellery, including wedding bands and any studs, rings, bars or other body-piercing jewellery must be removed before a player enters the field of play. No taping of any type is permitted.
- (b) Any player wearing jewellery will be cautioned and removed from the field of play until the Match Official is satisfied that the player has removed the item in question. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- (c) Any player requiring vision correction should consider wearing contact lenses, or wear spectacles that:
  - (i) are firmly secured with a sports band or adjustable strap,
  - (ii) have purpose-designed and closely fitted curled ends on the arms, or
  - (iii) are specially designed protective sports glasses constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and no metallic parts.

### **3.10 Stretchers/First Aid**

- 3.10.1 Each home Club must allocate one stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use at all fixtures. Clubs that fail to do so may be fined at level BR1 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 3.10.2 Each home Club must ensure that stretchers are placed at the half way line prior to the commencement of each fixture and that they remain inside the barrier/fence, in a safe and accessible position to first aid staff, for the duration of the match.
- 3.10.3 Wooden or canvas stretchers are prohibited. Clubs must ensure their stretchers comply with current Australian Standards.
- 3.10.4 It is mandatory that Clubs have a person trained in first aid present during all matches.
- 3.10.5 Clubs must have procedures specific to their home ground complex, to assist ambulances reaching injured people with a minimum of delay. These procedures should include, but are not limited to:
  - (a) advice to the ambulance service of the best entry strategy to the complex; and
  - (b) the deployment of personnel to guide the attending ambulance to the ambulance gateway and the position of the injured person/s.

### **3.11 Correspondence/Communication**

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

### **3.12 Lighting standards**

- 3.12.1 Clubs wishing to play competition fixtures under lights must ensure that lighting complies with the guidelines as set out in the Australian Standards AS2560.2.3 - Guide to Sports Lighting Part 2.3 – Lighting for all Football codes.
- 3.12.2 Clubs must provide CF with a valid Illumination Report that satisfies the guidelines. Illumination Reports remain valid for a period of two (2) years from date of issue.

### 3.13 Smoking/Drinking At League Venues

- 3.13.1 It is prohibited for anyone to smoke or consume alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence. This includes the team bench within the Technical Area and anywhere on or within ten metres of the Pitch Exclusion Zone.
- 3.13.2 It is prohibited to smoke within the confines of an enclosed stadium venue.
- 3.13.3 The Club must obtain a license as required under the Liquor Licensing Act to sell alcohol and must abide by those conditions as set out in the Liquor Licensing Act. Clubs are not permitted to sell drinks in glass containers. Failure to comply with this Rule will render a fine at the level of BR6 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and may be further penalised by CF.
- 3.13.4 If any person is in breach of this Rule, both the individual and if the person is a Club Associate, that person's Club, may be fined at level BR5 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and face disciplinary action under the CFDDR.

## 4 FIXTURE DETAILS

### 4.1 Duration of Matches

- 4.1.1 All Matches will be played according to the following table:

2 x equal periods of 45 minutes	NPL1, NPL2, NPL18, NPL16, NPLW, NPLWR, NPLW17
2 x equal periods of 40 minutes	NPLW15
2 x equal periods of 35 minutes	NPL14
2 x equal periods of 30 minutes	NPL13

The Match Official may cut short any match if in their opinion playing conditions compromise player safety and:

- (i) to do so is in line with FIFA Rules.
  - (ii) the Match Official has consulted with the coaches of each participating team.
  - (iii) if the Match will not be completed before the kick-off time for the following Match.
- 4.1.2 The half-time interval must be a minimum of ten (10) minutes and no longer than fifteen (15) minutes in duration. The duration of the half-time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Match Official.
- 4.1.3 The allowance for time lost is at the discretion of the Match Official and can only be applied to the last fixture of the day or as directed by CF. Allowance may be made in either half for all time lost through:

- (a) substitutions.
  - (b) assessment of injury to players.
  - (c) removal of injured players from the field of play for treatment.
  - (d) wasting time.
  - (e) any other cause that the Match Official deems appropriate.
- 4.1.4 Kick-off times of all official Matches shall be as determined by the CM and shall be detailed in the official fixture lists.
- 4.1.5 Matches will commence at the appointed time, or in the event of a Match whose commencement is dependent upon the completion of the previous Match, within ten (10) minutes of the conclusion of the previous Match.
- (a) Where a Match starts after the prescribed kick off time, the playing time of the Match shall be reduced if, at the Match Official's discretion, the next Match kick off would be delayed beyond the normal starting time. The Match shall be played in two (2) equal periods.
  - (b) If a team fails to enter the field of play, or has an insufficient number of players for the Match to proceed, after fifteen minutes of the programmed starting time, the Match Officials shall inform both teams that the Match has been abandoned, and notify CF in writing. A forfeit win will be awarded to the non-offending team.
    - (i) Where both teams are at fault the Match will be deemed null and void and a No-Result will be recorded.
  - (c) Failure to commence a Match at the set times will result in a fine at level BR2 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 4.1.6 CF may start matches from 9:00am for any daytime Match which may include Saturday, Sunday or any Public Holiday.
- (a) Unless instructions have been issued by CF, the last Match of the day must start no later than 3:00pm for any daytime Match
  - (b) All other Matches prior to this kick off time must be played in two (2) periods that shall allow the last Match to kick off at the scheduled kick off time.
  - (c) Matches may be played at night under lights, at approved venues supported by the appropriate LUX certification.

## **4.2 Abandoned Matches**

- 4.2.1 A match card is required for Abandoned Matches.
- 4.2.2 Matches may only be abandoned by a decision of the Match Official. In the absence of a Match Official, CF shall have the designated authority to recommend the abandoning of any fixture, competition and/or organise other fixtures or competitions as necessary in the interests of CF.



- 4.2.3** If 80 per cent or more of normal time of a Match has been played, then the score at the time of abandonment may stand.
- 4.2.4 A Match will be abandoned if:
- (a) any Club has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA requirement of seven players,
  - (b) the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play,
  - (c) the Match Official determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason, or
  - (d) the Match Official, in consultation with security staff, CF staff and/or ground officials, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.
- 4.2.5 If a Match is abandoned due to a matter set out in rule 4.2.4, one of the following outcomes may be imposed:
- (a) Match to be awarded as a “No Result”. In this situation, no points will be awarded to either team for that fixture.
  - (b) Award Match result as 0-0 draw.
  - (c) Award Match result as 3–0 to the non-offending Club, unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Club.
  - (d) Match result to stand.
  - (e) One or both Teams involved may be expelled from the competition.
  - (f) Match to be continued from the time at which the original Match was abandoned. In the event a Match is continued in accordance with the Rule:
    - (i) The score at the time of abandonment remains the score at the time the Match recommences;
    - (ii) Only Players listed on the Match Card for the initial Match between the two Teams will be eligible to compete in the continued Match, unless CF determines that additional Players are eligible; and
    - (iii) CF will determine what, if any, substitutions are permitted for each Team during the continued Match, taking into consideration the number of substitutions made by each respective Team in the Match before it was originally abandoned.
- 4.2.6 Any Club Associate responsible for the abandonment of a game will result in the relevant Club being fined at level BR6 under Schedule 1 of these Rules, and may be guilty of misconduct and may be subject to further penalties under the CFDDR.

### **4.3 Postponed Matches**

- 4.3.1 Matches may only be postponed by the Match Official, the CM, CEO or a designated officer of CF.
- 4.3.2 If a match is postponed, the home Club must notify the CF by the next working day after the scheduled match day.
- 4.3.3 Clubs shall be given forty-eight (48) hours to confirm a new date, time and venue for the match to be replayed from the date of the postponement, and the Postponed Match must be played prior to the final round of the regular season.
- (a) If clubs cannot reach an agreement CF will determine the new time and date for playing of a Postponed Match. Such decision is not open to appeal or review.
  - (b) Clubs are obliged to fulfill outstanding fixtures as determined by CF and any Club which fails to do so will automatically forfeit the match and may be further penalised.
  - (c) Any club failing to set a postponed fixture in accordance with this Rule will result in a fine at level BR3 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- 4.3.4 Any fixture ordered by CF to be replayed must be completed by no later than one week before the conclusion of the playing season. CF may record the result of any match not completed within this time frame as a 'No-Result'.
- 4.3.5 Only officers of CF are permitted to approve the schedule or reschedule of any fixture. Any Club Associate or Club found guilty of rearranging a league fixture, or requesting the appointment of Match Officials outside a set kick-off time or date, the Club will be fined at level BR7 under Schedule 1 of these Rules and may be subject to further penalties and CF may record the final score of any such match as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.6 Home teams at non ACT Government owned grounds shall, where practical, inform visiting teams if their ground is closed. If the grounds are closed by Friday by ACT Sportsgrounds, then the CF Office shall publish a notice on its website and social media channels and advise the Match Officials of the cancellation of those fixtures.
- (a) In the event of all Matches in a competition round being postponed, they shall be replayed on the first available wet weather allowance weekend. If no wet weather allowance weekends are available, and an alternative date for these Matches cannot be supplied by either the Clubs or the CM, no points shall be awarded to any team and the games will not be replayed.
  - (b) In the event of some Matches being played and some others not when the CM has not Postponed the games and ACT Sportsgrounds has not closed the grounds (or the Match(es) are at grounds not under the control of ACT Sportsgrounds), the results for the played Matches shall stand and the un-played Matches shall be played on the first available wet weather allowance weekend. If no wet weather allowance is available, it is up to the Clubs involved to organise a new venue, date and time for the un-played match in accordance with this Rule.

- (c) CF may, at its discretion, cancel all games if it is in the interest of the competitions and there is no time available to reschedule the un-played fixtures. All games need the approval of the CM. If none of the possible options are taken up, the game will be classed as a 'No Result' and neither team will be awarded points.

4.3.7 In the event of a blanket cancellation of Matches due to adverse ground or weather conditions in the final round of the season, no Matches will be replayed, unless otherwise decided by CF.

4.3.8 In the event a Match is postponed due to the error of a Club, the Match may be awarded a 3-0 result to the non-offending Club.

#### **4.4 Forfeits/Walk offs**

4.4.1 Any Club that, without just cause, fails to fulfill an engagement to play one or more Match/es on the appointed date and time and at the prescribed venue/s shall, for each and every offence, forfeit the Match/es. The offending Club shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents relative to that Match or Matches. The offending Club may then be dealt with by the CM or Disciplinary Committee.

4.4.2 In the event of any team forfeiting its Match the following procedure shall take effect:

- (a) Full points allocated for the Match shall be forfeited to its opponents and the goals recorded according to three (3) goals scored by the team getting the points to nil (0) by the team who has forfeited.
- (b) Clubs who advise CF in writing, at least five working days' notice that they will forfeit the Match and will be fined at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules.
- (c) Clubs who fail to provide sufficient notice as set out in this Rule will be fined at level BR4 under Schedule 1 of these Rules; pay all appropriate Match Officials' fees, ground hire costs and pay compensation to opposing club as determined by the CM.
- (d) In the event of a forfeit or walk off by a team once the Match has commenced the allocation of any goal scorers will be determined by the CM.

4.4.3 Teams forfeiting Matches on three (3) occasions without a satisfactory explanation may be removed from the competition, and may lose their affiliation to CF.

4.4.4 In the event of a walk-off by one Club prior to the completion of a match, the team will be considered to have forfeited the match, and the Club shall be liable to additional penalties and/or sanctions as the CM sees fit.

- (a) The Match result will be recorded 3–0 to the non-offending Club, unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Club.

#### **4.5 Extreme Weather Conditions**

4.5.1 Refer to Capital Footballs Extreme Weather Policy.

#### **4.6 Restrictions on Ground Usage**

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

#### **4.7 Match Points**

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

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

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

4.7.3 At the end of the season, all teams will be ranked from highest to lowest by virtue of the total number of points received. Where Teams are tied on the number of points accrued, table position will be determined by the higher Goal Difference. Determination for finals positions will be decided as per Rule 5.1.

#### **4.8 Non-Participation in CF Fixture**

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

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

#### **4.9 Change of Fixture Requests**

4.9.1 Change of venues will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Any application for a change of venue must be submitted to CF, on Club letterhead and signed by a Club Official, no less than five (5) working days prior to the match. CF will then consider the application and notify both Clubs of its decision.

4.9.2 Clubs requesting a Match change must submit such a request to CF via the prescribed form, signed by the appropriate Club Associate, at least 14 days prior to the scheduled date of the Match for consideration. The request must be supported by the opposing club. Where CF grants such a reschedule, the Match shall be played within the Rules governing Postponed Matches. Each Team can only reschedule three (3) Matches per season, unless the CM grants the Team special permission due to exceptional circumstances.

- 4.9.3 Should an opposing Club be unable to recoup expenses resulting from a reschedule, the CM shall determine the amount of compensation to be paid. Such compensation shall be the responsibility of the Club granted the deferral. Clubs will not be eligible to claim compensation for lost income or expenses for reusable items.
- 4.9.4 If the request to reschedule involves International football fixtures, Music Festivals, weddings, baptisms, confirmations, Milestone Birthdays or any other social events, CF may reject that request without further consideration.
- 4.9.5 CF's decision in regards to rescheduling of Matches will be final and binding on all parties and shall not be appealable.

**4.10 Admittance fees**

4.10.1 NPL Senior Clubs may be provided with admittance passes to fixtures for the current season.

- (a) Admittance passes must be displayed upon entry to the home Club on the day of the match fixture
- (b) Admittance passes are not season passes and only entitle the bearer admittance to the fixture in which that Club is participating.

4.10.2 The maximum NPL Senior admittance prices are:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| (a) Adults  | \$10.00 |
| (b) Students / Pensioners / Concession Holders          | \$5.00  |
| (c) Holders of current CF Passes and current FFA Passes | Free    |
| (d) Current CF Special Pass Holders                     | Free    |
| (e) Under 14  | Free    |
| (f) Match Officials                                     | Free    |
| (g) Capital Football Life Members                       | Free    |

4.10.3 Clubs may only charge admittance fees (GST Incl.) under Rule 4.10.2 if they are registered for GST.

4.10.4 In all cases where the costs of running the fixture are being met by CF, all gate takings shall be retained by CF.

4.10.5 Clubs shall be permitted to sell season tickets for their home fixtures. Club season tickets will only be valid for the NPL home games of the Club that issued the tickets.

4.10.6 The NPL and NPLW Senior Finals Series Matches will be subject to an admission charge.

#### **4.11 Ticketing and refunds of money**

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

#### **4.12 Media and other passes**

- 4.12.1 CF or FFA may issue fixture entry passes. No Club may refuse, without CF's prior written consent, entry to a holder of:
  - (a) a current CF or FFA media pass.
  - (b) a current CF special pass.
  - (c) a current FFA Gold Pass.
  - (d) a current VIP pass.
  - (e) any FFA issued match pass.
  - (f) a Sportsradar pass.

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

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

## 5 FINALS (CHAMPIONSHIP) SERIES

### 5.1 Determination of positions for Final (Championship) Series and Premiers

- 5.1.1 At the completion of the regular season the team which scores the highest number of points shall be declared Premiers
- 5.1.2 Should two (2) or more Teams in the same division at the completion of the regular season possess the same number of points then the team with the higher Goal Difference shall be considered to be the higher.
- (a) Goal Difference will be calculated as the number of goals scored against a Team subtracted from the number of goals scored for the Team. The higher figure Goal Difference shall be deemed higher.
- 5.1.3 Where Goal Differences are equal, the Team having scored the greater number of goals shall be considered the higher placed Team.
- 5.1.4 If two (2) or more Teams in the same grade or division have the same Goal Difference, and have scored the same number of goals, then the team which has the better head to head aggregate results during the regular season will be considered the higher.
- 5.1.5 Should the Teams aggregate head to head result be level after all other considerations the teams will be declared Joint Premiers

### 5.2 Finals (Championship) Competition Format NPL1 NPL2 & NPLW

- 5.2.1 The top four (4) Teams of NPL1, NPL2 & NPLW at the conclusion of the home and away season will progress to the Finals (Championship) Series. The Finals (Championship) Series format will be released by CF prior to the commencement of the series however, Finals (Championship) Series will be of a three (3) week format, found in the table below, unless otherwise directed by CF.

	Elimination and Qualifying Finals	Preliminary Final	Grand Final
<b>Teams Involved</b>	<p><b>Elimination Final:</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> place vs 4<sup>th</sup> place (in accordance with the league table and Rule 5)</p> <p><b>Qualifying Final:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> place vs 2<sup>nd</sup> place</p>	Loser of Qualifying Final vs Winner of Elimination Final	Winner of Qualifying Final vs Winner of Preliminary Final



## 5.2 Finals (Championship) Competition Format NPLY

- 5.2.1 The top four (4) Teams at the conclusion of the home and away season will progress to the Finals (Championship) Series. The Finals (Championship) Series format will be released by CF prior to the commencement of the series however, NPLY Finals (Championship) Series will be of a two (2) week format, found in the table below, unless otherwise directed by CF.

	Elimination and Qualifying Finals	Grand Final
Teams Involved	<p><b>Semi Final 1:</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> place vs 3<sup>rd</sup> place (in accordance with the league table and Rule 5)</p> <p><b>Semi Final 2:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> place vs 4<sup>th</sup> place</p>	Winner of Semi Final 1 vs Winner of Semi Final 2

- (a) Prior to the commencement of a competition other than NPL1, CF reserves the right to alter the number of teams that qualify for the finals series.
- (b) Where CF has varied the number of finals series qualifying teams, CF may also vary the scheduling of games as well as game arrangements.
- 5.2.2 Host venues for the Finals (Championship) series will be determined at the absolute discretion of CF.
- 5.2.3 If any finals series fixture is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that fixture may be scheduled at an alternative day and alternative venue to be determined at the absolute discretion of CF.

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

- 5.3.1 All Matches played in the Finals (Championship) Series will be played over one leg.
- 5.3.2 If at the conclusion of any Finals (Championship) Series Match, the scores between two (2) Teams are tied, then extra time of 2 equal periods will be played.
- (a) For NPL, NPL20, NPL18, NPLW, NPLWR & NPLW17 the play periods will be 15 minutes.
- (b) All other grades shall be 10 minutes.
- 5.3.3 If scores are equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken to determine the winner of the Match.
- 5.3.4 The extra time and penalty kick arrangements will be consistent with those set out in the 'Procedures to determine the winner of a match' section of FIFA's Laws of the Game.

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

#### **5.4 Substitution/Interchange Rules**

- 5.4.1 For all matches played during the Finals (Championship) Series, the substitution and interchange Rule 3.6.2 applies.
- 5.4.2 The maximum number of substitutes permitted applies throughout the complete match including extra time, if any.
- 5.4.3 Teams wishing to make a substitution shall inform the 4<sup>th</sup> Match Official (if appointed) of the players involved in the substitution.

#### **5.5 Player Eligibility in the Finals (Championship) Series**

- 5.5.1 Players will be qualified and eligible for the Finals (Championship) Series Matches provided they are registered to their Club as of 30 June of the year the Competition is conducted.
- 5.5.2 As long as a Player is age eligible, subject to Rule 2.5.14, they are permitted to play in any grade during the Finals (Championship) Series, subject to PPS provisions or any other eligibility criteria.

#### **5.6 Discipline**

- 5.6.1 For all competitions there is no system for accumulation of yellow cards which may result in a mandatory match suspension for the relevant CF Finals (Championship) Series.
- 5.6.2 If a player receives a red card in the Finals (Championship) Series, their Club will be notified of the player's suspension in writing within the terms of the CFDDR.

#### **5.7 Trophies**

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

## **6 MATCH OFFICIALS**

### **6.1 Match Officials - fees/appointments**

- 6.1.1 The Match Official fees as set out in the CF website will apply, but are subject to change at any time.
- 6.1.2 Unless otherwise stated, CF will invoice the home Team for of all fees for Match Officials monthly after the completion of each fixture.
- 6.1.3 The appointment of all Match Officials officiating at CF fixtures shall be vested in the RDM. The RDM is authorised to enlist the assistance of such persons as necessary and adopt such procedures as it deems most beneficial.
  - (a) The Evaluation Reports, as defined in these Rules, shall be used to assist the RDM in determining the selection of Match Officials.

### **6.2 Assistant Match Officials**

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

### **6.3 Non-Attendance or unavailability of Match Official**

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

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

#### **6.4 Decisions of the Match Official**

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

#### **6.5 Duties of a Match Official**

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

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

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

#### **6.6 Match records**

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

- (a) names of the Match Officials.
- (b) result of Match.
- (c) substitutions (time of substitution).
- (d) the names of goal scorers (including the times of goals).
- (e) cautions and send offs and any other Match related reports.
- (f) significant injuries.

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

6.6.3 If a Club Official protests to the Match Official about the fielding of an ineligible Player, the Match Official must instruct the Club official to lodge an official protest in accordance with the CFDDR.

6.6.4 The Match Official must ensure Clubs do not list more than 16 Players on a match card and not use more than 16 players.

6.6.5 Subject to any protest, the match cards received from the Match Official will be accepted as the accurate and official record of a Match.

## **6.7 Player Safety and Blood Rule**

6.7.1 It is the Match Official's responsibility to ensure that all Players taking the field of play are wearing equipment that is safe to themselves and any other person.

6.7.2 If a Player is wearing any equipment which may endanger him or herself, or any other Player (see Rule 3.9.6) it is the Match Official's responsibility to ensure all such equipment is removed before the Player enters the field of play.

6.7.3 The Match Official must ensure that any Player who suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood leaves the ground immediately for the purpose of receiving medical attention outside the field of play.

- (a) The Match Official may allow the injured Player to rejoin the game, only after the Match Official is satisfied that the wound has been safely covered and contained.
- (b) If a Player's uniform or attire has blood spilt on it, the Match Official may require the Player to change his or her attire before rejoining the game.
- (c) If the injured Player is required to change his or her uniform, and a shirt displaying the same number as the original shirt is unavailable, the Match Official may in his or her discretion allow the Player to wear an alternative numbered shirt.
- (d) Alternatively, in such circumstances, a Team may replace the injured Player in accordance with any applicable substitution rule.

## **6.8 Best and fairest votes**

6.8.1 At the conclusion of each NPL Senior Match, the Match Official must record the best and fairest votes on the match card.

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

## **6.9 Referee Evaluation reports**

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

6.9.2 Completing an evaluation report is compulsory for NPL & NPLW Senior Competitions:

- (a) Referee Evaluation reports should be completed no later than Wednesday after the completion of the fixture.
- (b) All reports received by CF will be treated as strictly confidential between the person making the report and CF.

## **6.10 Temporary Dismissal**

- 6.10.1 Temporary dismissals will be in effect in NPL1, NPL1 U20, NPL2, NPL2 U20, NPLW and NPLWR competition matches for dissent towards a match official.
- 6.10.2 Temporary dismissals apply to all players (including goalkeepers) but not for cautionable offences (YCs) committed by a substitute or substituted player.
- 6.10.3 The player that has received a temporary dismissal is not allowed to be replaced during the dismissal period. The player can only re-enter the field on the permission of the Match Official at the completion of a 10 minute dismissal period.
- 6.10.4 If the temporary dismissal period is not completed in the first half the remaining time will be completed at the beginning of the second half.
- 6.10.5 The Match Official will be the sole time keeper of the dismissal period.
- 6.10.5 A player receiving a temporary dismissal is required to remain seated in the technical area for the duration of the dismissal period.
- 6.10.6 A player who receives a second temporary dismissal in the same match will serve the temporary dismissal period and will take no further part in the match. The player may be replaced by a substitute at the end of the second temporary dismissal period if the player's team has not used its maximum number of substitutes however player who has also received a caution (YC) in the same match may not be replaced or substituted.
- 6.10.8 If a player receives a second temporary dismissal and has been cautioned previously in the same match, they may not be replaced by a substitute at the completion of the temporary dismissal period.
- 6.10.9 If a player receives a temporary dismissal in a Championship series match during extra time and the final whistle occurs prior to the dismissal period elapsing, that player will be allowed to participate in a penalty shootout.
- 6.10.10 A temporarily dismissed player who commits a cautionable (YC) or sending-off (RC) offence during their temporary dismissal period will take no further part in the match and may not be replaced or substituted.

## **6.11 Yellow and red cards for team officials**

- 6.11.1 The occupants of the Technical Area must behave in an appropriate manner
- 6.11.2 Infringements to the laws of the game by a team official will result in the issuing of yellow and red cards at the discretion of the Match Official.

## 7 REGISTRATION

### 7.1 General Registration

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

### 7.2 Player Status

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

### 7.3 Eligibility

- 7.3.1 Subject to these Regulations:
- (a) Amateur or Professional Players may play in the NPL Senior competitions.

- 7.3.2 A Player may only be registered with one (1) Club at any one time, in accordance with the FFA NRR and FIFA rules.
- 7.3.3 Any Player found to have knowingly signed registrations for more than one Club shall be considered an unregistered Player and shall be subject to such penalties and/or sanctions as determined by CF. CF will also determine what, if any, action will be taken against the Clubs involved. In the event a Player signs registrations forms with more than one (1) Club, priority of registration shall be accorded to the Club who earliest in time obtained the Player's signature to a valid registration form.
- 7.3.4 A Player registered as a junior with a Club may only participate in senior competition at that Club, if the two Clubs are formally affiliated by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), unless the Player's registration is cancelled.
- 7.3.5 Payment of the appropriate CF Player registration fee will apply each time a Player registers for a Club throughout a season.
- 7.3.6 No Club shall enter into any Contract or Service Agreement with any player which prevents that Player from playing or training with any approved Representative squad or Capital Football program, nor shall any Club actively prevent any Player from playing or training with any such squad.
- 7.3.7 CF may alter the Player registration fee at any point.

#### **7.4 Amateur Players**

- 7.4.1 An Amateur Player may not be paid for football activities or be paid or reimbursed for any expenses other than those set out in Rule 7.4.2.
- 7.4.2 Clubs may pay the following expenses to an Amateur Player; not exceeding the value of \$110 per week for:
- (a) Legitimate travel expenses to participate in football activities;
  - (b) Hotel expenses, namely necessary meals during the day and overnight accommodation during the actual and necessary absence from home for the purposes of football activities;
  - (c) Player equipment (excluding footwear and goalkeeping gloves).
- 7.4.3 Clubs must keep complete records of all such payments made to Amateur Players and provide these upon CF request.

#### **7.5 Professional Player Contract**

- 7.5.1 All Professional Players must have a written contract with a Club as per the Prescribed Form NRR 05 – Professional Player Contract.
- 7.5.2 The original copy of each Professional Player Contract must be lodged with CF by the conclusion of the relevant Registration Period, failing which a Professional Player may not play until the next Registration Period.
- 7.5.3 A Professional Player and a Club may enter into a Contract if:



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

## **7.6 Terms of Contract**

- 7.6.2 The period of service shall be defined in the Professional Contract and must be no less than the period from the date of registration until the end of the current season.
- 7.6.3 In all cases the Professional Contract shall end within 30 days of the end of the final season of that Professional Contract.
- 7.6.4 A Professional Contract may be renewed at any point during the season, provided the Professional Contract is lodged prior to the end date of the Player's current Professional Contract.
- (a) Renewing a Professional Contract for a further season/s does not register that Player for the following season/s.
- 7.6.5 CF shall not be a party to now shall it be liable or responsible for any debts or other financial obligations incurred by any party pursuant to a Professional Contract.

- 7.6.6 At the conclusion of the Professional Contract, the Professional Player will become a Free Agent.
- 7.6.7 If the parties to a Professional Contract agree to terminate the Professional Contract before it expires in the form of a Professional Player transfer, the maximum transfer fee will be:
- (a) 50 per cent of the total base salary which would otherwise be paid to the Professional Player during the remainder of the Professional Contract within 30 days of the agreed date of termination of the Professional Contract. Base Wage is not inclusive of any match bonus/es.
  - (b) If a Professional Player enters into a Contract with another Club, that Club must forward the agreed transfer fee to CF within 30 days of entering into such Professional Contract.
  - (c) All three (3) parties involved in the transfer must complete Prescribed Form NRR 06 – Application for Transfer or Loan of Professional.
- 7.6.8 If the parties to a Professional Contract agree to terminate the Professional Contract before it expires and agree that no transfer fee will be set:
- (a) The parties must complete Prescribed Form NRR 09 – Mutual Termination of Professional Player Contract.
  - (b) The Player will then be deemed a Free Agent.
- 7.6.9 Agreement between the Club and Player which is not recorded on the Professional Contract and which have not been deposited with CF shall be ignored by CF for the purposes of these Regulations.

## **7.7 Player Registration – General**

- 7.7.2 CF Registration Periods and other key dates for the 2019 NPL season will be:
- (a) Preseason Registration Window  
Opening Date – 1 December, 2018  
Closing Date – 29 March, 2019
  - (b) Midseason Transfer Window  
Opening Date – 11 June, 2019  
Closing Date – 27 June, 2019
- 7.7.3 Other registration dates:
- (i) Final date to lodge an ITC request – 31 May
  - (ii) Final date to de-register a player – 30 June
- 7.7.4 Subject to Rule 7.7.1 and 7.7.2, a Player may register with a Club provided such registration is done in accordance with these Regulations or the registration regulations of another state or Member Federation.

- 7.7.5 During the period 1 January to 30 days following the season completion each year, a Player is deemed to be registered for the period, subject to these Regulations, and must abide by the FFA NRR.
- (a) A Player may only be registered with one Club at any one time, unless an exemption for Dual Registration has been provided in accordance with Rule 7.7.6.
  - (b) An Amateur Player or Professional Player can register for no more than three (3) Clubs in Australia and may only play matches for two (2) of those Clubs.
- 7.7.6 CF may in its absolute discretion, and only in special circumstances, provide an exemption for a Player to:
- (a) Compete for a third Club during the period outlined in Rule 7.7.4;
  - (b) Hold Dual Registration.
- 7.7.7 Any application for a Player registration exemption is to be requested via the Player Exemption Request Form. Player Exemption Request Forms may be submitted for:
- (a) a Club seeking Dual Registration for a Player;
  - (b) a Club seeking registration on behalf of a Player for a third club in a single season;
  - (c) any other reasonable request.
- 7.7.8 All paperwork under Rule 7.7.6 is to be lodged to CF before the close of the period in Rule 7.7.4.
- 7.7.9 If CF rules a Club becomes a Defunct Club, the following shall apply to all registered Players and any team in a CF competition from that Defunct Club:
- (a) As from the date of cancellation or revocation, all Amateur Players and Professional Players registered with the Defunct Club shall be deemed registered with CF.
  - (b) CF shall have the same rights in respect of the Transfer of Professional Players, as the Defunct Club had until the date of cancellation or revocation and in those circumstances the Compensation Fee which would otherwise apply pursuant to 7.6.6 will be set in accordance with the FFA NRR.
  - (c) The Compensation Fee shall belong to CF and shall be distributed in the following order:
    - (i) To offset against any monies owed to CF by the Defunct Club.
    - (ii) To pay any monies owed to the Players of the Defunct Club.
    - (iii) To pay any monies owed to any other Club by the Defunct Club.
  - (d) CF shall have the same rights in respect of Amateur Players changing Clubs in this circumstance.

- (e) The ability for an Amateur Player to change Clubs outside the period in Rule 7.7.4 solely at the discretion of CF.
- 7.7.10 A Professional Player may only register for a Club and such registration will only be valid after all requirements set out in these Regulations have been satisfied and the Player's registration has been processed in Play Football.
- 7.7.11 All Professional Players must have an original NRR 05 – Professional Player Contract lodged to CF and in addition:
  - (a) Professional Players with an FFA number wishing to register with a Club must register online through the Play Football portal.
  - (b) Any Professional Player who has not been assigned an FFA number wishing to register with a Club must apply for an FFA number through the Play Football portal with CF in accordance with these Regulations. In this circumstance, a copy of proof of age and identity in the form of a Birth Certificate, Drivers Licence or Passport must be provided.
- 7.7.12 A Visa Player may be registered as a Professional Player.

## **7.8 Professional Player Transfers**

- 7.8.2 A Professional Player may only transfer to another Club:
  - (a) Within the periods in 7.7.1 (a).
  - (b) If the Professional Contract has expired or been terminated by mutual agreement.
  - (c) All three (3) parties concerned, the former Club, the Player and the new Club, agree and sign Prescribed Form NRR 06 – Application for Transfer or Loan of Professional Player.
  - (d) The requirements of Part B, Clause 3 are complied with.
- 7.8.3 A Club wishing to engage the services of a Professional Player must inform that Player's current Club in writing prior to entering any negotiations with that Player. Any Club breaching this Rule shall incur a fine at level BR7 of these Regulations.

## **7.9 Training Compensation**

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

## **7.10 Amateur Player Registrations**

- 7.10.2 Any Player who does not have an FFA number must apply for an FFA number through Play Football.
- 7.10.3 An Amateur Player may register for the first time in a season with any Club at any time during the season, subject to Rule 7.7.1 (a) and (b) with the period in Rule 7.7.4.

- 7.10.4 Amateur Players with an FFA number wishing to register for a Club must register through Play Football.
- 7.10.5 The registration of an Amateur Player is effective from the date the registration is processed via Play Football but is subject to Rules 7.10.2 and 7.10.3.
- 7.10.6 Failure to complete the process outlined in Rules 7.10.2 and 7.10.3 will result in the Player being deemed unregistered.
- 7.10.7 An Amateur Player may be de-registered upon request from a Club.

### **7.11 Amateur Players Changing Clubs During the Season**

- 7.11.2 Unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, an Amateur Player is free to move to another Club during the period in Rule 7.7.4.
- 7.11.3 The registration of such a Player via Play Football will be completed automatically once the following is finalised:
  - (a) The Players current Club completes the de-registration process through Play Football.
  - (b) The Player registers with the new Club in Play Football.
  - (c) The Players current Club may seek payment by the Player of any outstanding monies which the Player owes the Club.

### **7.12 International Transfer Certificate**

- 7.12.2 An International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is required for non-registered Players who wish to register with a Club. Players will require an ITC in the event they are presently registered with a Club or Clubs outside Australia, or do not hold an Australian Passport.
- 7.12.3 The procedure for requesting an ITC is done via Play Football when registering the Player.
- 7.12.4 If an ITC has not been received within 30 days after the request through Play Football, CF may, in its complete discretion, seek a provisional clearance from FFA. Such a clearance can only be issued by FFA to CF.
- 7.12.5 No request for an ITC will be accepted by CF after the final date to lodge an ITC request as outlined in Rule 7.7.3 (i).
- 7.12.6 If an ITC is issued after the close of the period in Rule 7.7.4 the Player may be registered.
- 7.12.7 No Player awaiting an ITC may participate in any football activities, excluding training, until an ITC has been received by CF and the Player has been registered in accordance with these Regulations.

### **7.13 Re-acquisition of Amateur Status**

- 7.13.2 Subject to these Regulations, a Professional Player may change their status to an Amateur Player by completing the Change of Status Pro Forma issued by CF.

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

#### **7.14 Termination of Playing Activity**

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

#### **7.15 Loan Players**

- 7.15.2 Loaning of a Player to another Club is permitted only for Professional Players between Clubs in the NPL.
- 7.15.3 A Loan is subject to the same Rules that apply to the Transfer of a Professional Player, in addition to:
- (a) The minimum period of a Loan is the time between two periods listed in Rule 7.7.4;
  - (b) A Loan continues in force until the expiry of the Loan Period determined in 7.15.2 (a), or if it is terminated earlier in accordance with the terms of the Loan or these Regulations;
  - (c) A Club may not transfer or loan a Player who is on Loan to a third Club without the written authorization of the Player and the Club that released the Player;

- (d) On expiry or termination of the Loan, the Player's registration reverts back to the Club who originally loaned the Player out.
- 7.15.4 A Club may contract two (2) players on Loan. There is no restriction on the number of players that a Club can Loan out.
- 7.15.5 To complete a Loan, the following completed documents must be lodged with CF:
- (a) Prescribed Form NRR 06 – Application for Transfer or Loan of Professional Player.
  - (b) Prescribed Form NRR 05 – Professional Player Contract – Loan Player.
- 7.15.6 The Loan of an International Player must occur within the period in Rule 7.7.1 and will require an ITC.
- 7.15.7 The Loan of an Interstate Player must occur within the period in Rule 7.7.1.
- 7.15.8 Clubs must notify CF of the early termination of a Loan in writing:
- (a) Between the Club and the Loan Player in the form of NRR 09 – Mutual Termination of Professional Player Contract.
  - (b) Between the Loaned Player and the Loan Club in the form of a letter indicating so.

#### **7.16 Dual Registration**

- 7.16.2 A Player can only be registered with one (1) Club at a time.
- 7.16.3 A Player registered with CF can play only for the Club nominated by that Player unless the Player is playing:
- (a) for a Representative team;
  - (b) for an A-League or W-League Club as a replacement Player or is an A-League or W-League Player on Loan to a Club in accordance with A-League or W-League Competition Regulations;
  - (c) for a Futsal Club for which the Player is also registered;
  - (d) for a school team that is not a Club;
  - (e) in a benefit, testimonial or charity match if that Player has written permissions from CF or FFA, as required;
  - (f) in a trial match, provided the Player has their current Clubs written permission and plays no more than two (2) trial matches or such other number of matches specified in these Regulations; or
  - (g) any other exceptional circumstances approved by CF or FFA in its absolute discretion.

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

### **7.17 Tours (Domestic and Overseas)**

7.17.2 A Tour may consist of, but is not limited to, a one-off exhibition match, a series of friendly matches or a tournament.

7.17.3 Any Tour undertaken by a Club must be sanctioned by CF. Clubs should be guided by and adhere to the Visiting Teams policy. This applies to both Domestic and Overseas (international) Tours. For overseas Tours, sanction MUST also be provided by FFA.

7.17.4 Clubs in A.C.T. and surrounds play under the jurisdiction of CF in the defined geographical area. Where a Club wishes to play outside this area of jurisdiction, a Club must seek approval from CF.

7.17.5 Tours to another country must also be sanctioned by CF and in addition by FFA as a Club is leaving the jurisdiction of FFA.

7.17.6 For a Domestic Tour to be sanctioned, the request must be completed and submitted to CF at least 3 weeks prior to the Domestic Tour, with the following;

- a) Name, Club and FFA ID number for all Players travelling.
- b) Invitation /correspondence from the interstate club hosting the match or tournament.
- c) If the Tour involves more than one (1) match, a schedule of matches or tournament draw.
- d) For Tours involving minors, contact details for all adults travelling as coach, team manager or supervisors.
- e) For Tours involving minors, a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) proof must be provided for all adults travelling.

7.17.7 For an Overseas Tour to be sanctioned, the Overseas Tours Form needs to be completed and submitted to CF at least eight (8) weeks prior to the Overseas Tour, with the following:

- a) Name, Club and FFA ID number for all Players travelling.
- b) Invitation /correspondence from the international club /association hosting the match/ tournament.
- c) If the Tour involves more than one (1) match, a schedule of matches or tournament draw.
- d) Contact details for all travelling party, such as the Coach, team manager or supervisors.
- e) For Tours involving minors, a Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) proof



must be provided for all adults travelling.

- f) An Insurance Certificate of Currency (Proof of Insurance for all Participants).
- g) Approval letters from the Players Club, if necessary.
- h) List of accommodation & mode of travel for Tours through multiple cities, including dates.

7.17.8 Domestic Tour Applications received within three (3) Weeks of Departure will be charged a \$50.00 administration fee.

7.17.8 Overseas Tour Applications received within four (4) Weeks of Departure will be charged a \$100.00 administration fee.

7.17.9 For clubs that fail to complete the process for a Tour to be sanctioned, the following will apply;

- (a) A Fine at BR2 for each team for a Domestic Tour.
- (b) A Fine at BR4 for each team for an Overseas Tour.

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

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

7.18.2 Coaching accreditation requirements can be found in Schedule 4

#### **7.19 Scope of Capital Football Registration Regulations**

7.19.1 Where these rules are silent on any particular aspect of the game, then all Clubs shall first have regard to the NRR, then to the FFA Statues, By-Laws and Regulations, then to the CF Rules of Competition, Regulations and By-Laws and where applicable the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), and then to the latest rules of the game as published by FIFA.

## **8 CODES OF BEHAVIOR**

### **8.1 Australian Sports Commission Codes**

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

### **9.2 General**

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

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

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

### **9.3 Players' Code of Conduct**

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

Do not argue abuse or address the Match Official.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **9.4 Coaches' Code of Behaviour**

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

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

Do not argue abuse or address the Match Official.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **9.5 Administrators' Code of Behaviour**

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

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

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

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

## 9.6 Match Officials' Code of Behaviour

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

## 9.7 Spectators' Code of Behaviour

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

Respect the decisions of the Match Officials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SCHEDULE 1 FEES AND FINES

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

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

### BREACHES OF RULES OF COMPETITION

(1 Penalty Unit shall be: \$30.00)

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

Notes:

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

## SCHEDULE 2 PPS MECHANICS

### 1. Player Mechanics

Player Category	Points Adjustment	Criteria
<b>Youth Player</b>	-1 for each year the Player is under 23 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Youth Player is 22 years of age, or younger, as at 31 December of the current NPL season</li> <li>• In relation to a Player's age, one point is deducted from the Player's points value for each year the Player is under 23 years of age as at 31 December of the current NPL season</li> <li>• The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points</li> </ul>
<b>Visa Player</b>	+10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Visa Player is any Player who is not an Australia Player</li> <li>• Ten Points is added to a Player's points value if that Player is a Visa Player</li> <li>• A Visa Player will only incur a maximum of twenty (20) points on a Player Roster and will not otherwise be subject to the Switching Player category</li> <li>• A Visa Player may still benefit from other categories of the PPS, such as Youth Player, Homegrown Player or Loyalty Player.</li> <li>• A Club can have a maximum of two (2) Visa Players on the Player Roster at any one time</li> </ul>
<b>Homegrown Player</b>	-1 for each season registered with the NPL Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Homegrown Player is a Player that has been registered for any period during a season with their Club's Age-Eligible Team/s (NPL13 – NPL20)</li> <li>• One point is deducted from the Player's points value for each season the Player was registered with their Club's Age Eligible Team/s</li> <li>• The maximum reduction to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points</li> </ul>

<b>Loyalty Player</b>	-1 for each continuous complete season with the NPL Club's First Grade Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Loyalty Player is a Player that has registered for their NPL Club's First Grade Team for at least five (5) continuous season</li> <li>• One (1) point is deducted from a Player's points value for each season, commencing from their fifth continuous season, in which the Player is registered for the NPL Club's First Team</li> </ul>
<b>Switching Player</b>	+5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five points are added to a Player's points value if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the Player was registered as a Professional Player with their previous Club (does not apply to a Club's nominated Australian Marquee Player); or</li> <li>○ the Player was registered in the NPL as an amateur with the Player's previous Club and played 10 or more games in that Club's First Team in the Player's most recent NPL season (unless the Player's last registration was with a National Elite Pathway Team)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	+3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three points are added to a Player's points value if the Player was registered in the NPL as an amateur with the Player's previous Club and played in less that 10 games in that Club's First Team in the most recent NPL season (unless the Player's last registration was with a National Elite Pathway Team)</li> </ul>
	+2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two points are added to a Player's points value if the Player is an Australian Player and the Player's last registration was as an amateur with an overseas Club</li> </ul>
	+1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One point is added to a Player's points value if the Player was last registered with a National Elite Pathway Team and registers for a NPL Club other than their Club of Origin (the Club the Player was registered with prior to that National Elite Pathway Team)</li> </ul>

<b>Pathway Player</b>	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No points are added to, or deducted from, a Player's points value only by virtue of that Player having left an NPL Club to join a National Elite Pathway Team and having returned to the same NPL Club</li> </ul>
<b>Australian Marquee Player</b>	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Australian Marquee Player is an Australian Player that was registered as a Professional Player for a Hyundai A-League Club or an overseas Club immediately prior to registering with the NPL Club</li> <li>The Australian Marquee Player will only incur a maximum of 10 points on a Player Roster and will not otherwise be subject to the Switching Player category.</li> <li>An Australian Marquee Player may still benefit from other categories of the PPS, such as Youth Player, Homegrown Player or Loyalty Player</li> <li>A Club can have one Player on its Player Roster nominated as its Australian Marquee Player at any one time</li> </ul>



## 2. Club Mechanics

Club Category	Points Adjustment	Criteria
<b>Youth Player Advancement</b>	-3 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three points may be deducted from a Club's Points Total for each Player that is signed by a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams (NPL13 – NPL20)</li> <li>• The points deduction will only apply for one NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season</li> </ul>
<b>First Team Player Advancement</b>	-8 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eight points may be deducted from a Club's Points Total for each Player that is signed by a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster</li> <li>• The points deduction will only apply for one NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season</li> </ul>
<b>Promoted Club</b>	-20 per Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any Club that is promoted from NPL2 to NPL1 will have a bonus twenty (20) points added to their Points Cap</li> <li>• This points bonus only applies for the Club's First season of promotion into the NPL1 competition</li> </ul>

### **3. General Definition and Notes**

#### **3.1 First Team**

3.1.1 First Team means the NPL Club's senior team participating in the NPL.

#### **3.2 First Team Player Roster**

3.2.1 First Team Player Roster means the roster of Players for a NPL Club's First Team maintained in accordance with the Player Points System and any other NPL competition regulations provided by the applicable Member Federation.

#### **3.3 National Elite Pathway Team**

3.3.1 A National Elite Pathway Team is a team which participates in the National Elite Pathway, as determined by the FFA Technical Department and the Member Federations from time to time. Points are credited for the movement of Players through the National Elite Pathway.

3.3.2 For the purposes of the PPS, a team is a National Elite Pathway Team if they are one of the following:

- (a) Hyundai A-League Club including Academy team's participating in the NPL and or, the Hyundai A-League Team;
- (b) Foxtel Y-League team;
- (c) National Training Centre team (full-time programs only), or;
- (d) FFA Centre of Excellence.

#### **3.4 NPL**

3.4.1 NPL means the national men's second tier club competition staged in each Member Federation in Australia and includes the NPL Finals Series.

#### **3.5 NPL Club Age-Eligible Teams**

3.5.1 NPL Club Age-Eligible teams are the teams that sit below the NPL Club First Team as determined by each Member Federation. For clarity:

- (a) where NPL Competitions commence from Under 12s, these include Under 12s through to Under 20s
- (b) where NPL Competitions commence from Under 13s, these include Under 13s through to Under 20s

#### **3.6 NPL Club**

3.6.1 NPL Club means any entity admitted by a Member Federation to field a team in the NPL.

#### **3.7 NPL Finals Series**

3.7.1 NPL Finals Series is the national eight (8) team knockout competition staged by, or under the control of, FFA between the State Premiers of each Member Federation's National Premier League and is comprised of the Elimination Finals, Semi Finals and Grand Final or any other configuration as determined by FFA from time to time.

### **3.8 PPS or Player Points System**

3.8.1 PPS or Player Points System means the system for calculating NPL Club's player points as set out in Schedule C of the NPL Finals Series – Competition Regulations and in this document.

### **3.9 Points Cap**

3.9.1 Points Cap means the permitted total value of a NPL Club's Points Total, as determined by the Member Federation, in consultation with FFA, up to a maximum of 200 points.

### **3.10 Points Total**

3.10.1 Points Total means the sum of all points attributed to all Players on a NPL Club's First Team Player Roster at any given time.

### **3.11 Promoted Club**

3.11.1 A Promoted Club means:  
(a) a club promoted into the NPL from a lower tier competition, including a lower division of the NPL or,  
(b) is an entity granted a licence to participate in the NPL for the first time.

### **3.12 State Premiers**

3.12.1 State Premiers means the NPL Club who is premier of the relevant Member Federation's NPL Regular Season by being top of the table at the end of the NPL Regular Season.

### **3.13 NPL Club First Team Player Roster Requirements**

3.13.1 At all times during a NPL season, a NPL Club must include a minimum of 20 Players on its First Team Player Roster and may include a maximum of 23 Players on its First Team Player Roster.

3.13.2 A NPL Club may promote a Player from its NPL Age-Eligible Teams to play for its First Team up to a maximum of 40% of matches throughout a NPL season without being required to include such Player on the First Team Player Roster. In order for such Player to be eligible to play in more than 40% of the matches in the NPL season, the Player must be included on the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.

3.13.3 For the purposes of the PPS, playing in a match is defined as taking the field of play (i.e. in the starting 11 or entering the field as a substitute). For the avoidance of doubt, it will not constitute playing a match if the Player remains on the bench and does not enter the field of play.

3.13.4 All Players must be registered to the appropriate age-category (where applicable). Any Player who during the NPL 2019 Season exceeds the age-limit for the oldest NPL Age-Eligible Team at an NPL Club (e.g. U20), must be included on his NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.

### 3.14 Youth Player

3.14.1 Please refer to the table below in respect to the relevant point deductions in the Youth Player category:

Player's age as at 31 December in current NPL season	Point/s Deduction
22 years of age	-1
21 years of age	-2
20 years of age	-3
19 years of age	-4
18 years of age and younger	-5

### 3.15 Homegrown Player

3.15.1 A Player does not need to register in continuous seasons in a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams to be eligible for Homegrown Player points. For example:

- (a) For a Player who was registered for the NPL Club in the U14s and U16s but was not registered with the NPL Club in the U18s to U20s, a total of two (2) points will be deducted from the Player's points value for the current season.

3.15.2 A Player is eligible for Homegrown Player points at the same time as being eligible for Loyalty Player points. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is eligible to receive a points deduction as a Homegrown Player where that Player was registered to the NPL Club's Age Eligible Teams, prior to that NPL Club being granted an NPL licence.

- (a) Example: Prior to Club A being granted a licence to participate in the NPL, John Smith is registered to the age-eligible teams of Club A between 2010 and 2013 in the state league competition. On that basis, a total of four (4) points will be deducted from his points value for the current season.

### 3.16 Loyalty Player

3.16.1 A Player is registered with a NPL Club's First Team in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (continuous seasons). If also registered in 2019, the Player will be eligible to receive their first point reduction of one (1) point as a Loyalty Player in the 2018 season.

3.16.2 If a Player is not registered with any Club for a season and subsequently returns to their last NPL Club, the number of continuous seasons of registering for that NPL Club will be deemed to be continuous. For example:

- (a) A Player was registered with the same NPL Club in 2015, 2016 and 2017 (continuous seasons), however was not registered with any Club in 2018. If the Player registers with that NPL Club in 2019, it will be deemed to be his fourth continuous season with that NPL Club.

3.16.3 Should a Player move into a National Elite Pathway Team, the determination of the continuous seasons of service will not be deemed to have ceased if they return to

their previous NPL Club. During the Player's time in the National Elite Pathway Team, the calculation of continuous seasons of service will be suspended. For example:

- (a) Player John Smith of NPL Club A has been part of the First Team squad for three (3) continuous seasons. He then moves to a Hyundai A-League Club for two (2) years and then at the completion of his stint with that Hyundai A-League Club, he returns to NPL Club A. This season with NPL Club A will be deemed his fourth continuous season.

### 3.17 Switching Player

- 3.17.1 In the event that a Player is a Switching Player, he can only be classified in one (1) category (e.g. a Player cannot incur Switching Player points in two (2) different categories).
- 3.17.2 For the purposes of Switching Player points, played means taking the field of play (i.e. part of the starting eleven or taking the field as a substitute).
- 3.17.3 Where a Player was registered with a NPL Club (**Former NPL Club**) and subsequently registers with a Club that does not participate in the NPL, A-League or FYL (**non-NPL Club**); and
  - (a) having not played for the non-NPL Club in a competitive match seeks to register with a subsequent NPL Club (**Subsequent NPL Club**);
  - (b) the Member Federation or FFA may attribute Switching Player Points for that Player upon registration with the Subsequent NPL Club as if the Player had transferred directly from the Former NPL Club to the Subsequent NPL Club.
- 3.17.4 The Subsequent NPL Club may apply to FFA or the Member Federation (whichever is applicable) to justify the reasons as to why Switching Player points should not apply.
- 3.17.5 The Member Federation has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply where the Member Federation is the Competition Administrator.
- 3.17.6 FFA has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply in the event that the NPL Club qualifies for the national NPL Finals Series.
- 3.17.7 Switching Player points also apply for mid-season registrations and transfers, including a Player promoted from a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Team.
- 3.17.8 Where a Player is promoted from a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Team (or equivalent) to a NPL Club's First Team Player Roster during the season, Switching Player Points will be applied where the Player's registration immediately prior (e.g. earlier in the 2018 season) or in the previous NPL season was with another NPL Club.

### 3.18 Pathway Player

- 3.18.1 A Pathway Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (other than the Switching Player category). For example, a Pathway Player is eligible for Loyalty Player points and Homegrown Player points.

3.18.2 A Player who departs a NPL Club for a National Elite Pathway Team and returns to the same NPL Club will be classified as a Pathway Player provided the Player has remained within the National Elite Pathway for the duration of their absence from the relevant NPL Club.

- (a) Example of Eligible Pathway Player
  - 2016 - Registered with United FC (NPL Club)
  - 2017 - Registered with Perth Glory (FYL)
  - 2018 - Registered with Brisbane Roar (A-League)
  - 2019 - Registered with United FC (NPL Club)
- (b) Example of Ineligible Pathway Player
  - 2016 - Registered with United FC (NPL Club)
  - 2017 - Registered with Perth Glory (FYL)
  - 2018 - Registered with Thailand FC (Overseas)
  - 2019 - Registered with United FC (NPL Club)
- (c) October 2018 9

### 3.19 Australian Marquee Player

3.19.1 An Australian Marquee Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (e.g. Homegrown Player) but will not be subject to the Switching Player category:

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b) below, a Player may only be categorised as an Australian Marquee Player in their first season with the NPL Club and for one (1) season only in their career for that NPL Club. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is not able to be an Australian Marquee Player in their second season in the NPL with that NPL Club.
- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) immediately above, if a Player is categorised as an Australian Marquee Player for an NPL Club, they then transfer as a professional to a Hyundai A-League Club or overseas Club and then subsequently returns to the NPL and seeks to register for an NPL Club (either the same or different NPL Club), they are eligible to be categorised as an Australian Marquee.

### 3.20 Points Deduction – Youth Player Advancement

3.20.1 Example: A NPL Club has an U14 team Player and an U20 team Player signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have:

- (a) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from this season's Points Total;
- (b) three (3) points deducted (-3 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or
- (c) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from next season's Points Total.

### 3.21 Points Deduction – First Team Player Advancement

3.21.1 Example: A NPL Club has two (2) First Team Players signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have:

- (a) sixteen points deducted (-16 points) from this season's Points Total;
- (b) eight (8) points deducted (-8 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or
- (c) sixteen points deducted (-16 points) from next season's Points Total.

**3.22 Points Deduction – Promoted Club**

- 3.22.1 This category applies to Clubs promoted into the NPL or an entity granted a licence to participate in the NPL for the first time. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first season following promotion into, or being granted a licence to participate in, the NPL.

### SCHEDULE 3            RELATIVE AGE EXEMPTIONS

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

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



**SCHEDULE 4**

**COACHING REQUIREMENTS**

<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<p><b>National Premier League 1 &amp; 2 – Men</b></p> <p><b>NPL Technical Director</b> - AFC/FFA “B” Licence. The <i>(Technical Director cannot be an NPL 1st Grade coach)</i></p> <p><b>NPL 1st Grade Coach</b> - AFC/FFA “B” licence</p> <p><b>NPL Grade 20</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Senior Licence</p> <p><b>NPL Grade 13 – 18</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Youth Licence</p> <p><b>National Premier League – Women</b></p> <p><b>NPLW 1st Grade Coach</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Senior licence</p> <p><b>NPLW Reserve Grade</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Senior Licence</p> <p><b>NPLW Grade 13 – 17</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Youth Licence</p> <p><b>Each Club must have one GK Coach with at least AFC/FFA Level 1 GK License.</b></p>	<p><b>National Premier League 1 &amp; 2 – Men</b></p> <p><b>NPL Technical Director</b> - AFC/FFA “B” Licence, working towards AFC/FFA A License. <i>(The Technical Director cannot be an NPL 1st Grade coach)</i></p> <p><b>NPL 1st Grade Coach</b> - AFC/FFA “B” licence</p> <p><b>NPL Grade 20</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Senior Licence</p> <p><b>NPL Grade 13 – 18</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Youth Licence</p> <p><b>National Premier League – Women</b></p> <p><b>NPLW 1st Grade Coach</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Senior licence</p> <p><b>NPLW Reserve Grade</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Senior Licence</p> <p><b>NPLW Grade 13 – 17</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Youth Licence</p> <p><b>Each Club must have one GK Coach with at least AFC/FFA Level 1 GK License.</b></p>	<p><b>National Premier League 1 &amp; 2 – Men</b></p> <p><b>NPL Technical Director</b> - AFC/FFA “A” Licence. <i>(The Technical Director cannot be an NPL 1st Grade coach)</i></p> <p><b>NPL 1st Grade Coach</b> - AFC/FFA “A” licence</p> <p><b>NPL Grade 20</b> - AFC/FFA “B” Senior Licence</p> <p><b>NPL Grade 13 – 18</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Youth Licence</p> <p><b>National Premier League – Women</b></p> <p><b>NPLW 1st Grade Coach</b> - AFC/FFA “B” Senior licence</p> <p><b>NPLW Reserve Grade</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Senior Licence</p> <p><b>NPLW Grade 13 – 17</b> - AFC/FFA “C” Youth Licence</p> <p><b>Each Club must have one GK Coach with at least AFC/FFA Level 1 GK License.</b></p>

**\*\* An accredited coach is one who has completed all required assessments and successfully gained AFC/FFA certification. This accreditation must be current and valid. Proof of certification will be required.**

**Should the minimum requirements not be met the following sanctions may apply:**

- **Unaccredited coaches will not be allowed to enter the Technical Area**
- **Teams that do not have suitably qualified coaches may start the season on a minus three (3) point penalty and a fine equivalent to the cost of the relevant course fee that the club can access to offset fees for their coach to attend a future coaching course.**