



**CAPITAL  
FOOTBALL**

**COMPETITION  
REGULATIONS:  
2021 NPL**

**20/04/2021**

**FINAL VERSION**

# VERSION CONTROL

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	RATIONALE
Draft V1	16/12/2020	Capital Football	Updated for 2021 season
Draft V2	28/01/2021	Capital Football	Updated based on feedback for 2021 season
Final V1	11/02/2021	Capital Football	Updated Substitution & Championship Eligibility Regulations.
Final V2	25/02/2021	Capital Football	Updated Coaching Requirements & u23 Overage Player requirements
Final V3	29/04/2021	Capital Football	Updated to provide clarification on player participation in Postponed matches

# CONTENTS

VERSION CONTROL .....	2
SECTION 1: GENERAL.....	6
1 Scope and Application .....	6
2 Consequences for Breach .....	6
3 Disciplinary Sanctions and Proceedings.....	6
4 Confirmation of Leagues / Age Grades .....	7
5 Monies Owing to CF .....	7
6 Change of Club Playing Name or Club Logo.....	8
7 Amalgamation of Clubs.....	8
8 Strict Liability of Clubs.....	9
9 Protection of Important Fixtures.....	9
10 Special Consideration .....	9
11 Unforeseeable Circumstances.....	10
SECTION 2: COMPETITION.....	11
1 Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game.....	11
2 Competition System .....	11
3 Match Schedule and Kick Off Times.....	11
4 Duration of Match.....	12
5 Added Time.....	12
6 Extra Time.....	13
7 Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks.....	13
8 Competition Points .....	14
9 Premiership Rankings.....	14
10 Championship Series.....	14
11 Clubs / Teams Removed or Withdrawn from Competitions.....	15
12 Promotion and Relegation from 2021 to 2022 .....	16
13 Forfeits .....	17
14 Postponed Matches .....	18
15 Abandoned Matches .....	19
16 Protests .....	20
17 Extreme Weather Conditions .....	20
18 Wet Weather Affected Matches .....	20
19 Hot Weather Affected Matches .....	21
20 Rescheduling of Matches due to Adverse Weather and Ground Unavailability .....	21
21 Match Deferments.....	22
22 Trial Periods.....	22
23 Trial Matches .....	22
24 Overseas Tours and Travel .....	22

25	Interstate Tours and Travel.....	23
26	Representative.....	23
SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY & MOVEMENT .....		24
1	Age Eligibility.....	24
2	Eligibility and Ineligibility of Participants .....	24
3	Eligibility & Player Movement in Premiership Matches.....	25
4	Eligibility of Players in Championship Matches .....	27
5	Relative Age Effect (RAE).....	29
SECTION 4: REGISTRATION.....		31
1	Player Status.....	31
2	Amateur or Professional Player .....	31
3	Reacquisition of Amateur Status .....	31
4	Registration Periods.....	31
5	Registrations Outside Registration Periods.....	31
6	Registration Processes.....	32
7	Submission of Registrations .....	34
8	Priority of Registration.....	35
9	Player Registration in the Case of Amalgamation of Clubs.....	35
10	Player Registration in the Case of Teams Withdrawing from Competition.....	35
11	Player Deregistration .....	36
12	Professional Player Transfer, Compensation & Disputes.....	36
13	Loan Players .....	36
14	Visa Players.....	36
15	Guest Players .....	37
16	Player Rosters .....	37
17	Player Points System (PPS).....	37
18	Coaching Requirements .....	37
SECTION 5: MATCH DAY.....		40
1	Match Balls .....	40
2	Warming Up .....	40
3	Technical Area .....	40
4	Substitution and Interchange .....	41
5	Playing Strips / Clash of Colours .....	43
6	Ball Persons.....	43
7	Player Mascots .....	44
8	Club Vested Officials.....	44
9	Match Commissioners .....	46
10	Identification.....	46
11	Team Sheets.....	47
12	Online Results Entry .....	49

13	Result of the Match .....	50
14	Cautions, Expulsions and Temporary Dismissals .....	51
15	Ground, Facilities and Pitch Requirements .....	51
16	Smoking and Drinking of alcohol at Venues .....	52
17	Ticketing.....	53
18	Security / Police .....	54
19	Medical.....	55
SECTION 6: MATCH OFFICIALS .....		56
1	Match Official Appointments .....	56
2	Match Official Powers, Duties and Obligations.....	56
3	Match Official Fees .....	56
4	Referee Vested Officials .....	57
5	Attendance of Match Officials .....	57
6	Non-attendance of Match Officials.....	57
7	Temporary Dismissals .....	58
8	Cautions and Expulsions for Team Officials .....	59
SECTION 7: AWARDS .....		60
1	Trophies, Medals and Shields .....	60
2	Perpetual Trophy Ownership .....	61
3	Award Calculations and Criteria .....	61
SCHEDULE 1: DEFINITIONS .....		64
SCHEDULE 2: ADDITIONAL RULES - CUA.....		66
1	Scope and Interpretation.....	66
2	Fees, Charges and Fines.....	66
3	Championship Matches .....	66
4	Age Eligibility.....	66
SCHEDULE 3: PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM.....		67
1	General PPS Information .....	67
2	PPS .....	67
3	General Definitions .....	67
4	Explanatory Notes.....	67
SCHEDULE 4: PENALTIES AND FEES .....		68
1	Offences and Penalties.....	68
2	Administration Fees .....	69

# SECTION 1: GENERAL

## 1 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- 1.1 Federation Australia (FA) has granted ACT Football Federation (ACTFF) trading as Capital Football (CF) a mandate to be responsible for the organisation, promotion and regulation of football in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and surrounding regions.
- 1.2 CF will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties, and not subject to challenge or appeal.
- 1.3 If any provision of these Regulations is held invalid or unenforceable then the remainder of these Regulations shall continue to be valid and enforceable.
- 1.4 These Regulations apply to participants in the following competitions (the competitions) unless stated otherwise:
  - a) National Premier Leagues CF Women's (NPL Women's);
  - b) National Premier Leagues 1 CF Men's (NPL1 Men's);
  - c) National Premier Leagues 2 CF Men's (NPL2 Men's);
  - d) National Premier Leagues 1 CF Youth (NPL1 Youth);
  - e) National Premier Leagues 2 CF Youth (NPL2 Youth).
- 1.5 Clubs, Players and Team Officials must comply with and agree to abide by the regulations of FA and CF, including but not limited to:
  - a) FA National Registration Status and Transfer Regulations;
  - b) FA National Disciplinary Regulations;
  - c) FA Code of Conduct;
  - d) FA Grievance Resolution Regulations;
  - e) FA Member Protection Framework;
  - f) FA Integrity Framework;
  - g) Capital Football Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations.
- 1.6 CF may from time to time make variations to these Regulations.
- 1.7 Any capitalised terms used in these Regulations will have the meaning given to them in Schedule 1.

## 2 CONSEQUENCES FOR BREACH

- 2.1 Any breach of these Regulations or failure to comply with any direction given by CF may result in the imposition of a penalty issued by CF under these Regulations or other sanctions pursuant to the CF Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations (DDR).

## 3 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

- 3.1 All Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Match Officials, spectators or any person participating at a CF Match or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the DDR.

## 4 CONFIRMATION OF LEAGUES / AGE GRADES

4.1 CF will conduct competitions in the following Leagues and age grades:

League	Abbreviation	Age Grades
National Premier Leagues CF Women's	NPL Women's	U13, U15, U17, Reserve Grade, First Grade
National Premier Leagues 1 CF Men's	NPL1 Men's	U23, First Grade
National Premier Leagues 2 CF Men's	NPL2 Men's	U23, First Grade
National Premier Leagues 1 CF Youth	NPL1 Youth	U13, U14, U16, U18
National Premier Leagues 2 CF Youth	NPL2 Youth	U13, U14, U16, U18

4.2 Composition of the Leagues, including maximum numbers of Teams per age grade, will be determined by CF.

## 5 MONIES OWING TO CF

5.1 Monies owing by a Club:

- a) All amounts owed by a Club to CF must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice being issued by CF.
- b) For monies still owing after 30 days from the date of invoicing, a reminder notice will be sent to the Club.
- c) 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 age grade or League.
  - i) Clubs may request a payment plan with CF to pay back those debts that remain unpaid beyond 90 days from invoicing. Where a payment plan is agreed to by CF;
    - A. The Club entering the agreement will be determined to be financial and may continue to play for points provided they abide by the terms of the arrangement.
    - B. Where an agreement is not complied with, any points accumulated by the Club (in any age grade or League) from 90 days from the date of the invoice/s to which the agreement relates will be deducted and removed.
  - ii) A Club subjected to this penalty will be notified in writing as to when the deduction of points will take effect.
  - iii) Clubs who are unfinancial, and have not entered into an agreement with CF, will be ineligible for finals and unable to participate in any Cup competitions.
- d) Notwithstanding Section 1, Article 5.1 a) & b), CF may in its absolute discretion, either offset any transfer or compensation fees owed to CF by an unfinancial Club to the extent of the amounts owing or expel a Club if it does not comply with these Regulations.
- e) Clubs who are in debt to CF, where any of the debt amount is outstanding at any time after 31 October each year:
  - i) May at the absolute discretion of CF, be suspended from all competitions in which that Club competes;

- ii) 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.

- f) Where a Club has been suspended under Section 1, Article 5.1 e) ii), the opposing team will be awarded a forfeit and the score will be recorded as 3-0.

#### 5.2 Monies owing by an Individual:

- a) All amounts owed by an individual to CF must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by CF in relation to that amount.
- b) For monies still owing after the expiry of 30 days from the date of invoicing, individuals will be deemed ineligible for participation in any CF competitions.

## **6 CHANGE OF CLUB PLAYING NAME OR CLUB LOGO**

### 6.1 Change of Club Playing Name:

- a) Any Club that wishes to change its registered Club playing name must seek approval by providing the information required under Section 1, Article 6.1 b) in writing to CF.
- b) Prior to CF ratification the Club must:
  - i) Submit on Club letterhead its request for a change of Club playing name;
  - ii) Provide full disclosure of the reasons for the requested change;
  - iii) Ensure the 'name' is consistent with the 'FA Inclusivity Principles for Club Identity';
  - iv) Provide a copy of the minutes of the meeting (general or committee) of the Club during which the change of playing name was discussed.
- c) CF will assess a change of name application only when all of the information required under Section 1, Article 6.1 b) has been provided. Where this information is provided, CF reserves the right to reject any application for a change of playing name as it sees fit and will provide the Club with reasons as to why their playing name change application was rejected.

### 6.2 Change of Club Logo:

- a) Any Club that wishes to change its Club logo must seek approval by providing the information required under Section 1, Article 6.2 b) in writing to CF.
- b) The logo change application process will be as follows:
  - i) Submit on Club letterhead its request for a change of Club logo;
  - ii) Provide full disclosure of the reasons for the requested change;
  - iii) Provide the current Club logo along with the proposed new Club logo.

## **7 AMALGAMATION OF CLUBS**

7.1 Clubs must advise, and apply to, CF where two or more Clubs are proposing to amalgamate.

7.2 Where two or more Clubs wish to amalgamate, they shall:

- a) Apply to CF in writing for approval to amalgamate. The letter is to be signed by the amalgamating Clubs' committees.



- b) Submit the name of the proposed new amalgamated Club and provide:
    - i) A copy of the notice of general meeting of both Clubs;
    - ii) A copy of the signed record of attendance at the general meetings of both Clubs;
    - iii) A copy of the minutes of the general meetings of both Clubs, signed by the office bearers of the Club which confirms the approval by Club members of the amalgamation.
  - c) Submit a copy of the proposed Constitution, or, if the proposed new Club is intending to become an incorporated association, the proposed statement of purpose and rules.
  - d) Submit the names of the nominated office bearers.
  - e) Upon the registration of an incorporation of any new entity to run the amalgamated 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.
- 7.3 Before amalgamation is approved, all outstanding financial obligations and playing commitments of both Clubs to CF must be fulfilled.
- 7.4 On approval, all Players of amalgamating Clubs shall be deemed to be Players registered by CF as Players of the newly formed Club.
- 7.5 Any newly amalgamated Club must fulfil its commitments and be responsible for all the terms and conditions of any Player agreements, current at the time of amalgamation, previously made by any of the amalgamating Clubs in regards to any Player of the newly formed Club

## **8 STRICT LIABILITY OF CLUBS**

- 8.1 Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its Club associates, officials and spectators at or in the vicinity of any competition match, sanctioned match, or non-CF event in which a Club is engaged or is in attendance, regardless of the responsibilities attaching to any other person or entity in respect of such match or event.
- 8.2 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.

## **9 PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT FIXTURES**

- 9.1 Where an international, interstate or A-League / Westfield W-League Match is scheduled for the ACT or surrounding region, CF may determine that no competition fixture or sanctioned match shall take place at the same time.

## **10 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION**

- 10.1 CF will have the power to consider special circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the Regulations should it be clear those special considerations are in the interests of the game.
- 10.2 The decision by CF to review and consider special circumstances under this section is not subject to appeal or review.

## **11 UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES**

11.1 Nothing in these Regulations will prevent CF from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by the Regulations, including but not limited to promotion, relegation, number of divisions and composition of teams.

# SECTION 2: COMPETITION

## 1 MATCHES PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- 1.1 All matches under the jurisdiction of these Regulations will be played in accordance with FA and CF regulations, codes and directives, and under the IFAB Laws of the Game 2020/21, unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations.

## 2 COMPETITION SYSTEM

- 2.1 All Leagues (as listed in Section 1, Article 4) will consist of two stages:
- a) Premiership:
    - i) Consisting of home and away matches or any other League format as approved by CF.
  - b) Championship:
    - i) Consisting of knockout matches in a format approved by CF.

## 3 MATCH SCHEDULE AND KICK OFF TIMES

- 3.1 CF will communicate the official match schedule for all Leagues.
- 3.2 CF will determine the venue of all Premiership, Championship and Cup Matches.
- 3.3 Final Match dates and kick-off times for all Matches will be determined by CF.
- 3.4 CF may start matches from 8:30am 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) equal 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.
- 3.5 CF may also schedule midweek evening Matches to accommodate Premiership and Championship washed out or deferred matches, as well as any Cup competitions.
- 3.6 Clubs will not arrange other Matches until after the official Matches are settled, nor improperly interfere with other Clubs home competition Matches.
- 3.7 Any disputes between two (2) or more Clubs as to the arrangement of Matches will be referred to and decided by CF. Any determination made by CF is final and not subject to appeal.
- 3.8 Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, CF reserve the right to alter or amend any Match after it has been nominated in the official Match schedule. The alterations could be to the date, venue, kick-off times or a combination of all providing the Clubs involved are given seven (7) days prior notice from the original scheduled date.
- 3.9 Failure to commence a Match at the scheduled times may result in a fine as outlined in Schedule 4 of these Regulations.

3.10 Teams must be ready to begin play by the scheduled kick off time.

- a) If both teams are not ready to begin playing fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick off time the Referee may determine the competition Match as abandoned in accordance with Section 2, Article 15.
- b) In circumstances where both teams, the Referee and CF representative agree the Match may commence up to thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled kick off time, provided it does not delay the kick off of subsequent competition Matches, either at that ground, or to which the Referee is also appointed on that day.

## 4 DURATION OF MATCH

4.1 Duration of Premiership Matches will be as follows for the respective age grades of the Leagues:

Age Grade	Duration of Match	Half Time	Minimum Time Allocated per Match
First Grade	Two periods of 45 minutes	A maximum of 15 minutes	135 minutes
Reserve Grade	Two periods of 45 minutes	A maximum of 15 minutes	135 minutes
U23	Two periods of 45 minutes	A maximum of 15 minutes	135 minutes
U18	Two periods of 45 minutes	A maximum of 15 minutes	135 minutes
U17	Two periods of 45 minutes	A maximum of 15 minutes	135 minutes
U16	Two periods of 40 minutes	A maximum of 10 minutes	105 minutes
U15	Two periods of 40 minutes	A maximum of 10 minutes	105 minutes
U14	Two periods of 35 minutes	A maximum of 10 minutes	95 minutes
U13	Two periods of 35 minutes	A maximum of 10 minutes	95 minutes

4.2 The Referee may cut short any competition Match (including reducing the length of each half before the commencement of the competition Match) if in the Referee's opinion playing conditions compromise Player safety or to prevent the delay to the commencement of any subsequent competition Match from its scheduled kick off time only if:

- a) It is in line with the IFAB Laws of the Game;
- b) the Referee has consulted with the coaches of each participating Team before the start of the Match.

4.3 The Referee is the sole arbiter of time, and no protest may be lodged against the time as recorded by the Referee.

## 5 ADDED TIME

5.1 In Premiership Matches, the Referee will play additional "injury and stoppage time" at the conclusion of each half in First Grade matches only.

- a) In a First Grade Premiership Match, should a delay be experienced (e.g. a serious injury to a Player that requires the suspension of play while the Player is treated or transported from the venue) the referee will record the lapsed time and ensure it is added to the match duration. If the elapsed time between suspension of play and recommencement of play is longer than thirty (30) minutes the Referee will postpone the Match and it will be replayed at a later date in accordance with these Regulations.

- b) For clarity, in all age grades other than First Grade, should a delay be experienced (other than that detailed in Section 2, Article 14), the Referee will continue to keep the official time of the Match and blow full time when the Match duration has expired. At this point the result of the Match will stand.
- 5.2 In Championship Matches, the Referee will play additional “injury and stoppage time” at the conclusion of each half of normal time, and each half of extra time in First Grade Matches only.
- 5.3 In grand final Matches, the Referee will play additional “injury and stoppage time” at the conclusion of each half of normal time, and each half of extra time in all age grades.
- 5.4 In accordance with Section 2, Article 5.1 & 5.2, added time will be at the discretion of the Referee.

## **6 EXTRA TIME**

- 6.1 There will be no extra time played in CF Premiership Matches in the event scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time.
- 6.2 Should scores be equal at the conclusion of a Championship Match, extra time will be played as follows:

<b>Age Grade</b>	<b>Duration of Extra Time</b>
First Grade	Two Periods of 15 minutes
Reserve Grade	Two Periods of 15 minutes
U23	Two Periods of 15 minutes
U18	Two Periods of 15 minutes
U17	Two Periods of 15 minutes
U16	Two Periods of 10 minutes
U15	Two Periods of 10 minutes
U14	Two Periods of 10 minutes
U13	Two Periods of 10 minutes

- 6.3 For all Championship Matches where extra time is required:
  - a) There will be an interval of a maximum of five (5) minutes before the commencement of extra time;
  - b) There will be an interval of a maximum of two (2) minutes between the whistle ending the first period of extra time and the whistle starting the second period of extra time.

## **7 DETERMINING THE WINNER BY PENALTY KICKS**

- 7.1 If the result of a Championship Match is still a draw after the two (2) periods of extra time, alternate kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

## 8 COMPETITION POINTS

8.1 Points will be allocated as follows for all Premiership Matches:

Result	Competition Points Awarded
Win	Three (3) points
Draw	One (1) point for each Team
Loss	Zero (0) Points
Bye	Zero (0) Points
Forfeit (Team Forfeiting)	Zero (0) Points
Forfeit (Team being forfeited against)	Three (3) Points and three (3) Goals
No Result	Zero (0) Points and zero (0) Goals for each Team

8.2 CF reserves the right to record a competition Match as a 'no result' if the circumstances require or as a result of a breach of these Regulations.

## 9 PREMIERSHIP RANKINGS

9.1 CF will use the following process when determining the ranking of Teams within each age grade:

- a) Greater number of points obtained in all Premiership Matches;
- b) If two (2) or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above criteria, their place will be determined as follows:
  - i) Greater goal difference resulting from all Premiership Matches;
  - ii) Greater goals scored from all Premiership Matches;
  - iii) Greater number of points obtained in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head);
  - iv) Greater number of goals scored in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head);
  - v) Greater number of goals scored in away Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head);
  - vi) Team with the lowest number of Red Cards (direct and indirect) received in all Premiership Matches;
  - vii) Team with the lowest number of Yellow Cards (including TDs) received in all Premiership Matches;
  - viii) A play-off Match between the Teams concerned under arrangements approved by CF.

## 10 CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

10.1 The format of the Championship series in all Leagues (as listed in Section 1, Article 4), will be at the sole and absolute discretion of CF.

10.2 All Championship series Matches will be played in accordance with the knockout system, single match, in a venue to be chosen by CF.

10.3 For purposes of allocating a home Team, the Team appearing first in the format below will be considered the home Team for each respective Match in the Championship series.

10.4 The following format will be used for the Championship series Matches of the NPL Women, NPL1 Men, NPL2 Men, NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth competitions:

Round	Match Number	Title	Teams
1	1	Major Semi Final	1st v 2nd
	2	Minor Semi Final	3th v 4th
2	3	Preliminary Final	Loser Match 1 v Winner Match 2
3	4	Grand Final	Winner Match 1 v Winner Match 3

## 11 CLUBS / TEAMS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWN FROM COMPETITIONS

11.1 In the event of any Club / Team being removed or withdrawing from the competitions, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered competitions to proceed:

- a) Removed or withdrawing before the competition has started:
  - i) All Matches involving a Club / 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) Removed or withdrawing during first round of a competition:
  - i) For all opposing Clubs / Teams that have played the removed or withdrawn Club / Team (for the complete first round), points and goals against the withdrawn Club / Team will be deleted from their records and will be credited with a bye result;
  - ii) Clubs / Teams that have not played the removed or withdrawn Club / Team will obtain a bye result;
  - iii) A round of a competition refers to a full complement of competition Matches, where each Club / Team plays each other an equal number of times.
- c) Removed or withdrawing during the second or subsequent round of a competition:
  - i) All points and goals acquired will be retained by opposing Teams for the completed first round (or second round if fully completed and a third round forms a part of the competition);
  - ii) Points and goals acquired against the withdrawn Club / Team will be lost and bye results will be credited for Matches that were played prior to the removal or withdrawal;
  - iii) For all opposing Clubs / Teams that have played the removed or withdrawn Club / Team (during a second or subsequent incomplete round), points and goals against the withdrawn Club / Team will be deleted from their records and will be credited with a bye result.

11.2 Any Player or Team Official infringements (i.e. red / yellow cards) in all Matches involving a removed or withdrawn Club / Team, will be upheld.

## **12 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION FROM 2021 TO 2022**

### 12.1 NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's:

- a) There will be the application of promotion and relegation between the NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's competitions from the end of the 2021 season.
- b) The mechanism for promotion and relegation will be:
  - i) The Club finishing last in the NPL1 Men's First Grade at the conclusion of the Premiership Matches, will have its First Grade and U23 Teams relegated to NPL2 Men's for the 2022 season;
  - ii) The Club finishing first in the NPL2 Men's First Grade at the conclusion of the Premiership Matches, will have its First Grade and U23 Teams promoted to NPL1 Men's for the 2022 season.

### 12.2 NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth:

- a) There will be the application of promotion and relegation between the NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth competitions from the end of the 2021 season.
- b) The mechanism for promotion and relegation will be:
  - i) Club Championship rankings, applying a non-weighted model, where all points from all teams are aggregated.
  - ii) The Club highest in ranking in the NPL2 Youth Club Championship will be eligible for promotion into NPL1 Youth based on results at the conclusion of the Premiership Matches; and
  - iii) The Club lowest in ranking in the NPL1 Youth Club Championship will be eligible for relegation into NPL2 Youth based on results at the conclusion of the Premiership Matches.
  - iv) Where two or more clubs are on equal Club Championship points at the end of the Premiership Matches, the following process will be applied to determine their ranking.
    - A. The Club with the greater goal difference resulting from all Premiership Matches will finish higher. If the Clubs remain equal then;
    - B. The Club with the greater number of goals scored from all Premiership Matches will finish higher. If the Clubs remain equal then.
    - C. The Club with the greater number of points obtained in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head) will finish higher. If the Clubs remain equal then;
    - D. The Club with the greater number of goals scored in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head) will finish higher. If the Clubs remain equal then;
    - E. The Fair Play Award calculations will be applied to determine their ranking, with the Club that receives the fewest number of Fair Play Award penalty points for the Premiership Season in NPL2 Youth will be eligible for promotion into NPL1 Youth; and
    - F. The Fair Play Award calculations will be applied to determine their ranking, with the



Club that received the highest number of Fair Play Award penalty points for the Premiership Season in NPL1 youth will be eligible for relegation into NPL2 Youth.

G. If the clubs cannot be separated after points A – F then the Clubs will be ranked via the drawing of lots.

## **13 FORFEITS**

13.1 A Team will be deemed to have forfeited a Match when:

- a) They fail to fulfill an engagement to play a Match on the appointed date, time or venue; or
- b) They refuse or fail to begin a Match fifteen (15) minutes after the stipulated kick-off time; or
- c) They field less than seven (7) of their registered Players at the start of any Match; or
- d) At any point during the Match they cannot field at least seven (7) of their registered Players; or
- e) An ineligible Player as defined in these Regulations participates in the Match; or
- f) Any other scenario within the Regulations or the DDR that stipulates a forfeit of the Match.

13.2 In the event of any Team forfeiting its Match, the following procedure will take effect:

- a) Three (3) points and three (3) goals will be allocated for the Match to the opposition Team, with the offending team receiving zero (0) points and zero (0) goals, unless the goal difference for the Team receiving the forfeit is greater than three (3), in which case the score will remain the same, with goal scorers for the offending team to be removed;
- b) Where a forfeit has been applied:
  - i) the statistics (goal scorers and Matches played) of the non-offending Team will be retained; and
  - ii) the statistics (goal scorers and Matches played) of the offending Team will be removed;
- c) Where a forfeit has been applied, red cards will be retained and yellow cards will be removed, for both the offending and non-offending team;
- d) The offending Team will be fined the prescribed amount as outlined in Schedule 4 of these Regulations;
- e) Where the offending Clubs is the away Club, they will be liable to pay compensation to the opposing Club for any reasonable expenses incurred and such compensation will be determined by CF;
- f) Where a Match is forfeited within 24 hours of the scheduled kick off time, the offending Club is required to pay all appropriate Match Officials fees, whether they were the home or away Club for the Match.

13.3 In the event a Team should forfeit a second Match during the season, the offending team will be deducted a further three (3) competition points, in addition to the procedure outlined in Section 2, Article 13.2.

13.4 In the event a Team should forfeit a third Match during the season, the Club involved will be required to show cause as to why they should not be expelled from the competition, in addition

to the procedure outlined in Section 2, Article 13.2 & 13.3, any Club without a satisfactory explanation may also lose their affiliation to CF.

- 13.5 Should a Team forfeit its last scheduled Premiership Match without prior written advice from CF permitting the Match to be rescheduled, the Team that causes the Match to be forfeited will not be eligible to participate in the Championship series.
- 13.6 Should a Club forfeit all scheduled Matches in one round (e.g. the NPL1 Men's U23 and First Grade Matches in round 5), the Club will be guilty of misconduct and sanctioned in accordance with the DDR and fined the prescribed amount as outlined in Schedule 4 of these Regulations.
- 13.7 On the competition ladder, a forfeit will count as a Match played.

## **14 POSTPONED MATCHES**

- 14.1 Matches may only be postponed by the Referee or CF.
- 14.2 A Match may be postponed if:
  - a) the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Referee it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;
  - b) the Referee determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
  - c) A significant injury occurs where a Player cannot be moved and an ambulance is required to attend, with the delay being longer than thirty (30) minutes.
- 14.3 In the event of any Match not being played over which neither Club has any control:
  - a) The Match must be played within fourteen (14) days of the first postponement;
  - b) Clubs will be given forty-eight (48) hours after the postponement to determine the new date, time and venue;
  - c) If Clubs cannot reach an agreement, or fail to comply, CF will determine the new date, time and venue to play the postponed Match. Such decision is not open to appeal or review.
- 14.4 After the commencement of the Match, should play be postponed due to any reason as outlined in Section 2, Article 14.2, and the Match cannot be completed in full, the following principles will apply:
  - a) If eighty percent (80%) or more of normal time of a Match has been played, then the score at the time of postponement may stand;
  - b) If the Match is postponed prior to half time and CF has approved the Match to be rescheduled, then the Match is to be replayed in full;
  - c) If the Match is postponed at or after half time and prior to eighty percent (80%) or more of normal time of a Match being played, and CF has approved the rescheduled Match, the Match will recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full. In this circumstance, the following is to occur:
    - i) In the event a match is postponed in accordance with 14.2 (a) or 14.2 (b) the Match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the Match was initially postponed unless a Player has received a suspension in Matches conducted between the postponed Match and the rescheduling of that Match.

- ii) In the event a match is postponed in accordance with 14.2 (c) the Match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes as when the Match was initially postponed:
  - A. with the exception of the injured Player referenced in 14.2 (c) who may be replaced by another Eligible Player, if the injured Player provides a medical certificate or similar document stating they are unfit to participate in the rescheduled match;
  - B. with the exception of a Player who has received a suspension in Matches conducted between the postponed Match and the rescheduling of that Match.
- iii) Should a Player have received a suspension in a Match conducted between the postponed Match and the rescheduling of that Match that Player:
  - A. Will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled Match;
  - B. Will not be able to count the Match as a stand down in relation to any Match suspension;
  - C. The Club will not be permitted to replace the Player on the team sheet;
  - D. If the Player was on the field of play at the time of the postponement the Player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the team sheet as long as the team has available substitutions as per the Regulations;
  - E. If the Player was a substitute the number of available Players to substitute will decrease and the Player cannot be replaced.
- iv) No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the team sheet;
- v) The Teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was postponed;
- vi) Players sent off during the postponed Match cannot be replaced;
- vii) CF will endeavour to appoint the same Match Officials to the completion of the Match, however may appoint replacements at its discretion;
- viii) The Match Official is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged against the actual elapsed time as recorded by the Match Official.

14.5 Where a fixture is incorrectly reported as abandoned by the Referee where circumstances show clearly that the Match was actually postponed, CF will treat the Match as postponed.

## **15 ABANDONED MATCHES**

15.1 Matches may only be abandoned by a decision of the Referee. In the absence of a Referee, CF shall have the designated authority to recommend the abandoning of any Matches as deemed necessary by CF.

15.2 A Match may be abandoned if:

- a) It is determined that the conditions for Players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- b) Both teams refuse or fail to begin a Match fifteen (15) minutes after the stipulated kick-off time.

15.3 In cases where a Match has been abandoned by the Referee, the Disciplinary Committee may investigate the circumstances of the abandonment and impose such penalties as it deems fit

on Clubs, Club Officials, Players and/or spectators adjudged to be associated with the abandonment.

- 15.4 When a Match is not played or abandoned for any reason over which neither Club was responsible, the Match will be replayed on a date to be arranged at the earliest reasonable opportunity by CF, in accordance with these Regulations.
- 15.5 Should a Club, Club Official, its Players or spectators be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Club to the opposition.
- 15.6 Should both Clubs be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will not be replayed and the outcome of the Match will be recorded as a no Match result in accordance with Section 2, Article 8.

## **16 PROTESTS**

- 16.1 Protests must be lodged and received by CF no later than two (2) business days after the Match was played.
- 16.2 Protests will only be considered by CF for obvious breaches/errors of the IFAB Laws of the Game. For clarity, the decisions of the Referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether a goal is scored and the result of the Match, are final and cannot be protested.
- 16.3 No protests as to the result of a Match will be considered by CF in relation to disciplinary decisions of the Match Officials.
- 16.4 Protests must be accompanied by an administration fee as outlined in Schedule 4, in order to be considered. The administration fee must be lodged together with the written protest. A refund will apply at the discretion of CF if a protest is upheld.
- 16.5 A decision by CF, in respect of a protest is final and binding on the parties and not subject to challenge or appeal.

## **17 EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

- 17.1 Clubs should refer to the [Capital Football Extreme Weather Policy](#) for information about extreme weather conditions.

## **18 WET WEATHER AFFECTED MATCHES**

- 18.1 In all instances, where rain preceding a Match raises fair doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the following rules are to apply:
  - a) Day/s prior to the scheduled Match day:
    - i) The home Club:
      - A. Contact CF if they believe their ground will not be fit for play on the scheduled Match day.
  - b) Day of the scheduled Match/es:
    - i) The home Club is to:
      - A. Inspect their ground two (2) hours before the first scheduled kick off and should they believe the ground is not fit for play, contact the CF competitions after hours phone (6189 2229).

Please note: the Club may also be requested to email photos of the affected areas

of the pitch to [teamsheets@capitalfootball.com.au](mailto:teamsheets@capitalfootball.com.au).

B. CF will advise the home Club of the appropriate next steps.

ii) Should Section 2, Article 18.1 b) i) A. not occur:

A. The Match Official is to inspect the ground prior to the scheduled kick off and decide whether the Match can take place.

B. Should the Match Official deem the Match unable to be played, they will advise the home Club of the decision, along with contacting the CF Appointments phone.

C. The home Club is required to contact the CF competitions after hours phone (6189 2229) and advise of the decision.

c) Where grounds are deemed not fit for play by either the home club, ACT Sport and Recreation, the venue operator or the match referee, upon notification to the CF competitions after hours phone, CF will update the [Inclement Weather](#) page on the CF website.

## **19 HOT WEATHER AFFECTED MATCHES**

19.1 When high temperatures occur on Match day, the Referee and/or CF may determine:

a) To play the Match under standard conditions;

b) To play the Match with provision for 'drinks' breaks; or

c) To delay or postpone the Match.

i) Should a 'drinks' break be implemented, it will be halfway through each half and each for a duration of 1 minute.

19.2 If in accordance with the [Capital Football Extreme Weather Policy](#), it is deemed that the temperature is too high for the Match to either be played or continue to be played, the Referee and Clubs will consult with CF prior to Matches being postponed.

## **20 RESCHEDULING OF MATCHES DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER AND GROUND UNAVAILABILITY**

20.1 Rescheduling of Matches affected by adverse weather or ground unavailability will be arranged by the relevant Clubs in the first instance.

20.2 Matches are to be rescheduled, subject to ground availability and weather conditions, to be played within fourteen (14) days of the original scheduled date.

20.3 Clubs will be given forty-eight (48) hours after the postponement to determine the new date, time and venue.

20.4 The home Club is required to submit the [Match Alteration Form](#) after confirming details with the away Club.

20.5 Failure to comply with Section 2, Article 20.2 & 20.3, may result in CF determining the new date, time and venue to play the Postponed Match. Such decision is not open to appeal or review.

20.6 A change of grounds is to be permitted for good reason (i.e. venue becomes unavailable or adverse weather) up to the Thursday evening prior to weekend Matches, or at least two (2) days before mid-week Matches. In circumstances where such change is required, the following

should occur:

- a) The home Club is to notify the away Club that a change is required;
- b) The home Club is required to submit the [Match Alteration Form](#), outlining the new Match details;
- c) The home Club is to contact CF to advise of the alteration.

## **21 MATCH DEFERMENTS**

21.1 A Club may seek CF permission to have Matches deferred in the following cases:

- a) When an epidemic affects the availability of Players;
- b) When three (3) or more Players from one (1) Team are involved in CF approved representative Match / duties (including training camps or official training sessions) or National Team representative Match / duties (including training camps or official training sessions);
- c) In circumstances which CF at its discretion consider of sufficient weight to merit a deferral.

21.2 Clubs seeking to defer Matches in regards to Section 2, Article 21.1 b) & c), must submit their request in writing to CF giving a minimum 14 days' notice of the date on which deferment will be sought.

## **22 TRIAL PERIODS**

22.1 Official Trial Periods will be communicated to Clubs in each respective League prior to the season commencing.

22.2 Trials are to conclude by the identified finish date. No trials are to be conducted prior to the advertised dates. Failure to comply with the advertised dates may result in sanctions or penalties as determined by CF in its absolute discretion.

## **23 TRIAL MATCHES**

23.1 Clubs will not arrange trial Matches without first submitting the [Trial Match Request Form](#) to CF at least five (5) business days prior to the requested trial Match date.

23.2 The Match then can only be conducted upon receipt of written approval from CF.

23.3 Payment for Referees at trial Matches will be fifty percent (50%) of the normal fee for the highest graded Team participating.

23.4 For approved trial matches where CF appoint the match officials, all match officials' fees will be paid by CF directly to the match officials and the Club who submitted the trial match for approval will be invoiced the match officials' fees.

23.5 Appearance of suspended Players in trial Matches is in accordance with the DDR.

23.6 Clubs are required to submit the [Trial Match Request Form](#) for any Matches hosted against an interstate team. For any Matches played away against interstate teams, please refer to Section 2, Article 25.

## **24 OVERSEAS TOURS AND TRAVEL**

24.1 This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.

## **25 INTERSTATE TOURS AND TRAVEL**

- 25.1 Clubs in the ACT and surrounds play under the jurisdiction of CF within the defined geographical area. Where a Club wishes to play outside this area of jurisdiction, a Club must seek approval from CF.
- 25.2 Clubs wishing to arrange interstate tours and travel must obtain the written approval of CF no less than three (3) weeks prior to departure.
- a) The interstate tours and travel should not interfere with Matches of other Clubs in CF competitions.
  - b) Any competition Matches that conflict with an interstate tour or travel, must be played prior to the interstate travel and be arranged fourteen (14) days in advance by the departing Team/ Club.
  - c) Failure to do so may result in the interstate tour and travel not being sanctioned by CF and forfeits will apply to Matches that interfere with competition Matches.
- 25.3 Clubs are required to submit the [Interstate Tours and Travel Form](#) in order to obtain approval from CF.
- 25.4 Should a Club submit the form less than three (3) weeks prior to departure, it will incur an administration fee as outlined in Schedule 4.
- 25.5 Should a Club fail to submit the form and receive approval, the Club will be fined the prescribed amount as outlined in Schedule 4.

## **26 REPRESENTATIVE**

- 26.1 Any Player registered in the ACT under the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations (NRSTR) will be eligible to represent ACT in representative Matches, camps or tours, or be eligible to be selected to participate in a CF development program.
- a) Each such Player will make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative Matches, camps, tours or development programs, when requested by CF.
  - b) All Clubs must release Players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative Matches, camps, tours or development programs, when requested by CF.

# SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY & MOVEMENT

## 1 AGE ELIGIBILITY

1.1 The following table details the birth dates applicable to the age grades of the Leagues. Players must be within these ranges in order to be eligible for registration:

Age Grade	Birth Date
U23	For Players born on or after 1 January 1998
U18	For Players born on or after 1 January 2003
U17	For Players born on or after 1 January 2004
U16	For Players born on or after 1 January 2005
U15	For Players born on or after 1 January 2006
U14	For Players born on or after 1 January 2007
U13	For Players born on or after 1 January 2008

1.2 A participant who registers themselves or another person(s) in the incorrect age grade is deemed to have committed Misconduct and may be dealt with pursuant to the DDR.

1.3 A Club may be held vicariously liable for an offence committed under Section 3, Article 1.2 by one of its Officials or Players and may be dealt with pursuant to the DDR.

1.4 Specific age eligibility requirements for Canberra United Academy (CUA) are outlined in Schedule 2.

## 2 ELIGIBILITY AND INELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

2.1 Eligible Participants:

a) An eligible Participant is one that meets all registration requirements within these Regulations and is not ineligible according to any article of these Regulations.

2.2 Ineligible Participants include:

a) A Player not registered in the National Registration System to the Club in which they have participated with;

b) Suspended Participants;

c) A Player who plays without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required, unless communicated otherwise;

d) A Participant who is required to stand down for receiving a suspension as a result of caution accumulation;

e) A Player who is required to stand down for receiving a suspension as a result of TD accumulation;

f) A Participant that has been expelled from a Match or suspended as a result of caution accumulation on the day/s prior to a Match but prior to receiving their notice of suspension, in accordance with the DDR;

g) A Participant that has been expelled from a Match on the same day as the Match but participated earlier in the day;



- h) A Participant that is deemed ineligible due to any article of these Regulations or pursuant to the DDR.
- 2.3 A Team will automatically lose a Match on forfeit if an ineligible Player participates in the Match.
- 2.4 Additionally, the Club, Team Official/s and / or Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the DDR.
- 2.5 Any Player who knowingly plays as an ineligible Player may be suspended for up to four (4) matches and further sanctions may be applicable under the DDR.
- 2.6 For clarity, it is the Clubs absolute responsibility to ensure that it fields eligible Players in any Match.
- 2.7 Where a Club plays an ineligible Player:
  - a) Any participating Club can make a claim on Player ineligibility to CF. Any claims of ineligibility must be received within two (2) business days of the final whistle of the match in question.
    - i) If CF finds that a Club has played an ineligible Player outside of the timeline in Section 3, Article 2.7 a) then the Club and Player may still be sanctioned in accordance with the DDR and Section 3, Article 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 of these Regulations.
- 2.8 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.

### **3 ELIGIBILITY & PLAYER MOVEMENT IN PREMIERSHIP MATCHES**

- 3.1 For all Leagues:
  - a) Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) team sheets on any Match day;
  - b) Exemptions that can be requested:
    - i) Where it is identified that a female Player would benefit from participating in the NPL1 Youth/NPL2 Youth competition.
      - A. The Club's Technical Director must submit the [Exemption Form](#) for any females to participate in any age grade of the NPL1 Youth/NPL2 Youth competition.
      - B. This will be reviewed by the CF Technical Director, or their nominee with exemptions provided on a case by case basis.
    - ii) Where it is identified that a female Player from a Club would benefit from participating in the NPL1 Youth/NPL2 Youth competition as well as the NPL Women's competition for the same Club.
      - A. The Club's Technical Director must submit the [Exemption Form](#) for any females to participate in NPL1 Youth/NPL2 Youth and NPL Women's competitions.
      - B. This will be reviewed by the CF Technical Director, or their nominee with exemptions provided on a case-by-case basis.
    - iii) Where it is identified that a Player under the age of sixteen (16) would benefit from participating in the NPL1 Men's or NPL2 Men's competitions.

- A. The Club's Technical Director must submit the [Exemption Form](#) for any Player under the age of sixteen (16) to participate in the NPL1 Men's or NPL2 Men's competitions.
- B. This will be reviewed by the CF Technical Director, or their nominee with exemptions provided on a case by case basis.
- iv) Where it is identified that a Player is going to play three (3) or more years above their correct age group in NPL1 Youth, NPL2 Youth and NPL Women's Youth age grades. The following is required for CF to consider the exemption:
  - A. The Club's Technical Director must submit the Exemption form for any Player going to play three (3) or more years above their correct age group.
  - B. A statement by the Club's Technical Director, assessing whether the Players' skill level and mentality is appropriate for playing in the older age group, indicating that the request is for the development of the Player and advising that the nominated age group is the most appropriate one for this purpose;
  - C. A statement from the Players parent/s acknowledging that they have been informed by the Club of the physical, skill and emotional demands of playing in the higher age group, and consenting to their child playing in the nominated higher age group; and
  - D. At CF's discretion, they may send an appropriate CF staff member to assess the Player in question in the requested age grade to determine the approval of the request.

3.2 For NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's (First Grade and U23):

- a) Provided they are age eligible as prescribed under Section 3, Article 1.1, Players are permitted to play in either the First Grade or U23 age grades during the Premiership;
- b) NPL1 Men's Clubs are permitted to list on the team sheet up to four (4) overage First Grade Players in U23 in any given Match (please note these Players are still required to be registered in the First Grade team);
- c) NPL2 Men's Clubs are permitted to list on the team sheet up to four (4) overage First Grade Players in U23 in any given Match (please note these Players are still required to be registered in the First Grade team);
- d) The minimum age to participate in these competitions is 16 years, unless an exemption has been provided by CF;
- e) Provided they are age eligible as prescribed under Section 3, Article 1.1, Players are permitted to play down into the NPL1 Youth or NPL2 Youth competitions;
- f) NPL1 Men's/NPL2 Men's registered Players are not permitted to play in the Junior League (JL) or Senior League (SL) competitions;
- g) Players who have entered the field of play in NPL1 Men's/NPL2 Men's competitions will be deemed to have played in that Match.

3.3 For NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth (U18, U16, U14 and U13):

- a) Provided they are age eligible as prescribed under Section 3, Article 1.1, Players are permitted to play in any NPL1 Youth or NPL2 Youth age grades during the Premiership;

- b) Provided they are age eligible as prescribed under Section 3, Article 1.1 and Section 3, Article 3.1 b) ii) Players are permitted to play in NPL1 Men's/NPL2 Men's (First Grade or U23 age grades) during the Premiership;
- c) NPL1 Youth/NPL2 Youth registered Players are not permitted to play in the JL or SL competitions;
- d) JL Players are permitted to play in NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth competitions, subject to any age restrictions and pending any reclassification criteria (as outlined in the [2021 Junior League Competition Regulations](#)).
- e) Players listed on the team sheet in NPL1 Youth/NPL2 Youth competitions will be deemed to have played in that Match.

#### 3.4 For NPL Women's (First Grade, Reserve Grade, U17, U15 and U13):

- a) Provided they are age eligible as prescribed under Section 3, Article 1.1, Players are permitted to play in any NPL Women's age grades during the Premiership;
- b) The minimum age to participate in senior competitions (First Grade and Reserve Grade) is 16 years, unless an exemption has been provided by CF;
- c) NPL Women's registered Players are not permitted to play in any NPL1 Men's/NPL2 Mens or NPL1 Youth/NPL2 Youth competition, unless an exemption has been provided;
- d) NPL Women's registered Players are not permitted to play in the Junior League or Senior League competitions;
- e) Players who have entered the field of play in NPL Women's First Grade and Reserve Grade competitions will be deemed to have played in that Match;
- f) Players listed on the team sheet in NPL Women's U17, U15 and U13 competitions will be deemed to have played in that Match.

## 4 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS IN CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

### 4.1 For NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's:

- a) First Grade:
  - i) Provided they meet minimum age eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 3, Article 3.2 d), and Players have played a minimum of eleven (11) matches in First Grade across the Premiership season, they are permitted to play in the First Grade Championship Series for the Club with which they are registered;
    - A. If a Player has transferred to a different club during the mid season transfer window, Players must have played a minimum of seven (7) First Grade matches for their new Club, while still meeting the requirements as per Section 3, Article 4.1 a) i).
  - ii) Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) team sheets on any Match day.

- b) U23's:
  - i) Provided they are age eligible as prescribed under Section 3, Article 1.1 and Players have played a minimum of eleven (11) matches in U23's across the Premiership season, they are permitted to play in the U23's Championship Series for the Club with which they are registered;
    - A. If a Player has transferred to a different club during the mid season transfer window, Players must have played a minimum of seven (7) U23's matches for their new Club, while still meeting the requirements as per Section 3, Article 4.1 b) i).
  - ii) An overage Player is only eligible to play in an U23's Championship Match, if they have played a minimum of eleven (11) U23's matches during the Premiership season;
    - A. If a Player has transferred to a different club during the mid season transfer window, Players must have played a minimum of seven (7) U23's matches for their new Club, while still meeting the requirements as per Section 3, Article 4.1 b) i).
  - iii) Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) team sheets on any Match day.

4.2 For NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth (U18, U16, U14 and U13):

- i) Provided they are age eligible as prescribed under Section 3, Article 1.1 and Players have played a minimum of eleven (11) matches in a specific age grade across the Premiership season, they are permitted to play in the specified age grade or higher Championship series for the Club with which they are registered;
- ii) If a Player has transferred to a different club during the mid season transfer window, Players must have played a minimum of seven (7) matches in the specified age grade for their new Club, but still meet the requirements as per Section 3, Article 4.2 a).
- b) Should a Player be age eligible as prescribed under Section 3, Article 1.1 for an age grade lower than the age grade in which they qualify for in the Championship series, they are not permitted to play in the lower age grade.
- c) Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) team sheets on any Match day.

4.3 For NPL Women's:

- a) First Grade:
  - i) Provided they meet minimum age eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 3, Article 3.4 b), and Players have played a minimum of eleven (11) matches in First Grade across the Premiership season, they are permitted to play in the First Grade Championship Series for the Club with which they are registered;
    - A. If a Player has transferred to a different club during the mid season transfer window, Players must have played a minimum of seven (7) First Grade matches for their new Club, while still meeting the requirements as per Section 3, Article 4.1 a) i).
  - ii) Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) team sheets on any Match day.

- b) Reserve Grade:
- i) Provided they meet minimum age eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 3, Article 3.4 b), and Players have played a minimum of eleven (11) matches in Reserve Grade across the Premiership season, they are permitted to play in the Reserves Championship Series for the Club with which they are registered;
    - A. If a Player has transferred to a different club during the mid season transfer window, Players must have played a minimum of seven (7) Reserve Grade matches for their new Club, while still meeting the requirements as per Section 3, Article 4.1 b) i).
  - ii) Provided they meet minimum age eligibility criteria as prescribed under Section 3, Article 3.4 b), and Players have played a minimum of eleven (11) matches in their registered age grade (i.e. U17) for their currently registered Club, they are permitted to play in the First Grade and/or Reserve Grade Championship series for the Club with which they are registered ;
    - A. If a Player has transferred to a different club during the mid season transfer window, Players must have played a minimum of seven (7) matches in their registered age grade (i.e. U17) for their new club, while still meeting the requirements as per Section 3, Article 4.3 b) ii).
  - iii) Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) team sheets on any Match day.
- c) U17, U15 and U13:
- i) Provided they are age eligible as prescribed under Section 3, Article 1.1 and Players have played a minimum of eleven (11) matches in a specific age grade across the Premiership season; they are permitted to play in the specified age grade or higher Championship series for the Club with which they are registered.
    - A. If a Player has transferred to a different club during the mid season transfer window, Players must have played a minimum of seven (7) matches in the specified age grade for their new Club, but still meet the requirements as per Section 3, Article 4.2 a).
  - ii) Should a Player be age eligible as prescribed under Section 3, Article 1.1 for an age grade lower than the age grade in which they qualify for in the Championship series, they are not permitted to play in the lower age grade.
  - iii) Except in the case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) team sheets on any Match day.

## **5 RELATIVE AGE EFFECT (RAE)**

5.1 RAE will apply to the following age grades for the 2021 NPL season:

- a) NPL1 Youth & NPL2 Youth – U13, U14, U16;
- b) NPL Women’s – U13, U15, U17.

- 5.2 RAE candidate players must be born within the last three (3) months of the year (October – December) and have height and weight results below the 50th percentile as listed in the following table:

50th Percentiles				
Age Grade	Female		Male	
	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)
U13	158	46	157	46
U14	N/A		164	52
U15	162	52	N/A	
U16	N/A		174	62
U17	163	55	N/A	

- 5.3 For clarity, in order to submit an RAE request for any Player, they must be born in the last three (3) months of the year and not exceed both the maximum height and weight as outlined in the table above. The application must show how the player would be negatively affected by playing in their actual age grade due to developmental obstacles attributable to their month of birth and their height/weight.
- 5.4 RAE candidates may also be considered under special circumstances, for goalkeepers only, if they are born within the first 9 months of the year (January – September). However, their height and weight results must be below the 50th percentile as listed in the table above. Any such application will be reviewed by the CF Technical Director or their nominee.
- 5.5 RAE candidate players who received RAE status for the 2020 season, must not have played in more than 50% of their clubs matches, in their actual age grade, during the 2020 season.
- 5.6 Once a Club has submitted an [RAE request form](#) for a Player (please note that it must be submitted by the Club's Technical Director), it will be reviewed against the criteria outlined in Section 3, Article 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5, and if it meets this criteria, it will be subject to final approval by the CF Technical Director or their nominee.
- 5.7 Clubs are limited to the number of RAE players in accordance with the below quota:
- NPL1 Youth & NPL2 Youth – maximum of three (3) approved RAE players per club; with a maximum of one (1) approved RAE player in the U13, U14 and U16 age grades.
  - NPL Women's – maximum of three (3) approved RAE players per club; with a maximum of one (1) approved RAE player in the U13, U15 and U17 age grades.
- 5.8 The Club Technical Director must submit a [mid-season assessment](#) on any player from their Club who has been granted RAE status for the 2021 NPL season, which must be submitted between Rounds 10-12 of the competition. Failure to submit this mid-season assessment will result in the RAE status of the player being revoked.
- 5.9 Should any RAE approved players be found to have played in 5 or more of their clubs matches from Rounds 1-10, in their actual age grade, during the 2021 season, will have their RAE status revoked.
- 5.10 Each approved RAE Player may be subject to review throughout the season by the CF Technical Director or their nominee.

# SECTION 4: REGISTRATION

## 1 PLAYER STATUS

- 1.1 All Players in NPL competitions must be registered as Amateur Players.
- 1.2 Clubs are required to ensure each Player has self-registered on the National Registration System as an Amateur.

## 2 AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL PLAYER

- 2.1 This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.

## 3 REACQUISITION OF AMATEUR STATUS

- 3.1 A Player registered as a Professional Player in another competition, cannot re-register as an Amateur Player until at least thirty (30) days after his or her last Match as a Professional Player.
- 3.2 A Player registered to a Standard Player Contract with an A-League or Westfield W-League club in the 2020/2021 season may re-register as an Amateur Player immediately after his or her last Match as a Professional Player on the condition that the playing contract with their associated club has ended. This is subject to the Club submitting a written request to CF and CF approving that request in its absolute discretion.

## 4 REGISTRATION PERIODS

- 4.1 Any Player Registration or Loan to a Club may only occur within the registration periods. CF Registration periods for the 2021 season will be as follows:

Period	League	Open	Close
Pre-season	NPL1 Men's	From 1 December 2020	11:59, 28 March 2021
	NPL2 Men's	From 1 December 2020	11:59, 28 March 2021
	NPL Women's	From 1 December 2020	11:59, 28 March 2021
	NPL1 Youth	From 1 December 2020	11:59, 14 March 2021
	NPL2 Youth	From 1 December 2020	11:59, 14 March 2021
Mid-season	NPL1 Men's	7 June 2021	11:59, 30 June 2021
	NPL2 Men's	7 June 2021	11:59, 30 June 2021
	NPL Women's	7 June 2021	11:59, 30 June 2021
	NPL1 Youth	7 June 2021	11:59, 30 June 2021
	NPL2 Youth	7 June 2021	11:59, 30 June 2021

## 5 REGISTRATIONS OUTSIDE REGISTRATION PERIODS

- 5.1 An exemption may be provided by CF to a Club to register a Player outside of the registration period.
- 5.2 CF may approve an exemption for a Player to register outside of the registration periods if:
  - a) That Player is/was a A-League / Westfield W-League Player during the 2020/21 season as defined in the A-League / Westfield W-League Contract Regulations;
  - b) That Player is a goalkeeper and CF has been satisfied that the Club has a justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence;

- c) That Player is returning from a major injury and CF has been satisfied that the Club has provided appropriate evidence;
  - d) At the commencement of the season, a team has registered less than fourteen (14) Players, and has contacted the Competition Manager via email prior to the pre-season registration period closing to advise;
  - e) During the season, a team's numbers are reduced as a result of season ending injuries, to less than fourteen (14) Players, and the Club has provided appropriate evidence.
- 5.3 Any Club seeking an exemption must submit their request via the [Player Exemption Request Form](#).
- a) CF may request further documentation from the Player's current or previous Club for a Player exemption request to proceed.
  - b) Players will only be granted special exemption, in accordance with Section 4, Article 5.2, under the following circumstances:
    - i) Prior to the mid-season transfer period, a Player has NOT been registered to any other team within the NPL during the 2021 Season;
    - ii) The Player is registered and active in the National Registration System before 30 June, 2021;
    - iii) CF is satisfied in its absolute discretion that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a Player terminated his/her Professional Player Contract for just cause.
  - c) CF shall determine applications made under this clause in its sole discretion and such determinations are not subject to appeal whether under these Regulations or otherwise.

## **6 REGISTRATION PROCESSES**

### 6.1 Players:

- a) A Player may only be registered with one (1) Club in each form of the game (i.e. eleven-a-side football) at any one time, in accordance with the NRR.
  - i) 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 a A-League / Westfield W-League Club as a replacement Player in accordance with A-League / Westfield 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 their Club, CF or FA, 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 FA in its absolute discretion.



- b) A Player can register for no more than three (3) Clubs in Australia and may only play Matches for two (2) of those Clubs during that season, in each form of the game.
- c) Amateur Players:
  - i) All Amateur Players must be registered via the National Registration System.
  - ii) The Player must self-register via the National Registration System and the Club then approve that Player's registration.
  - iii) The registration of an Amateur Player with a Club is effective from the date the individual is made active by the Club.
  - iv) If a Player is registering to any Club for the first time, that Player must provide the Club with evidence of name and age, by producing an original birth certificate, passport, drivers licence or similar form of identification. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure this process is adhered to, including that the Player is eligible to play in the age grade to which he/she has been registered.
- d) Professional Players:
  - i) This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.
- e) International Players:
  - i) An International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is required for all Players over the age of 10 who wish to register with a Club and:
    - A. Who were last registered with a Club outside of Australia (current or otherwise);
    - B. Where CF is satisfied that an ITC should be requested for the Player, based on the standard of Club the Player intends to register with or the level of competition.
  - ii) For the avoidance of doubt, Section 4, Article 6 e) i), applies to:
    - A. Australian and non-Australian citizens;
    - B. Amateur Players.
  - iii) An ITC is requested by the Player at the time of registration in the National Registration System.
  - iv) ITC for minors:
    - A. This process applies to any minor Player, being a Player aged 10 to 18 years seeking to register to play football in Australia at any level, who is;
      - 1. A foreign national (including refugees) seeking to register in Australia, irrespective of whether they were registered to play football in their previous country or not;
      - 2. An Australian minor who is returning to Australia after having played abroad;
      - 3. A minor born in a country other than Australia and is registering to play football for the first time.

- B. There are six applications forms that address the specific requirements of each Minor ITC Application type. These forms must be fully completed and returned to CF, together with all necessary documents supporting the application. For more information on the application forms and relevant documentation, please refer to the “2021 Guide to International Transfer Certificates”.
  - v) ITC for Amateur Adults:
    - A. A scanned copy of the Player’s passport must be submitted to CF in order for the ITC to be requested.
    - B. If an ITC has not been received within seven (7) days after it was requested by FA, CF may, in its complete discretion, seek a provisional ITC from FA, and clearance may only be issued by FA to CF.
  - vi) ITC for Professional Adults:
    - A. This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.
  - f) Dual registration:
    - i) Should a club wish to submit a request for dual registration, they are to contact CF, who will provide guidance on process and the lodgement of the application to FA.
    - ii) No Player is permitted to dual register, unless prior approval has been issued by FA and CF.
- 6.2 Club and Team Officials:
- a) All Club and Team Officials (including but not limited to coaches, managers, physiotherapists and Club committee members), are required to register via the National Registration System.
  - b) The Club and Team Officials must self-register via the National Registration System and the Club then approve that individual’s registration.
  - c) All Club and Team Officials must ensure they meet the relevant child protection requirements.

## **7 SUBMISSION OF REGISTRATIONS**

- 7.1 All registrations must be submitted via the National Registration System and a passport style photo (head and shoulders ONLY) is to be uploaded into the Player, Club Official or Team Officials profile within the communicated registration periods.
- 7.2 All Clubs must submit registrations for all Player’s, Club Official’s or Team Official’s as listed in these Regulations.
- 7.3 All registrations during advertised registration dates must be submitted to CF no later than 11:59pm on Wednesday prior to the weekends Matches, in order to be eligible for that weekend.
- 7.4 On the Closing Date of each registration period; registrations must be lodged by no later than 11.59pm of the specified date.

## **8 PRIORITY OF REGISTRATION**

- 8.1 In the event of a Player signing registration for more than one (1) Club, priority of registration will be accorded to the Club who earliest in time, all things being equal, obtained the Player's signature to a valid registration form.
- 8.2 If a Player has self-registered through the National Registration System, the first registration recorded in that system will be granted priority.
- 8.3 Any Player found to have wilfully registered or signed registration forms for more than one (1) Club, or a Club found to have knowingly induced a Player to register or sign a registration form with that Club, in the knowledge that the Player has previously registered or signed a registration form with another Club, will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and will be liable to sanction by CF.

## **9 PLAYER REGISTRATION IN THE CASE OF AMALGAMATION OF CLUBS**

- 9.1 Where an amalgamation/merger takes place between two Clubs, the following will apply to registered Players of such Clubs:
  - a) Professional Player registrations will be carried over to the new Club;
  - b) Amateur Player registrations will automatically cease and the Club will be required to re-register Amateur Players within the applicable squad maximums;
  - c) Should an amalgamation occur post the registration period, CF will decide on a solution, in its absolute discretion, to be in the best interests of the competition;
  - d) All disciplinary cautions incurred by Players will be carried forward if Players move to another Club;
  - e) All suspensions incurred by Players will be carried forward if Players move to another Club.

## **10 PLAYER REGISTRATION IN THE CASE OF TEAMS WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITION**

- 10.1 When a Club is declared defunct by CF or is expelled from membership of or affiliation to CF, the following will apply to registered Players of such Clubs:
  - a) As from the date of the Club being declared defunct or expelled, the Professional Players of any such Club will be deemed to be registered with CF;
  - b) CF will have the same rights in respect of the transfer of registration of all such Professional Players as such Clubs had until the date of the Club being declared defunct or expelled;
  - c) CF will determine the compensation (transfer fee) applicable for the transfer of such registration, to the Club which said Professional Player wishes to transfer. The fee will be set in accordance with the NRR and where relevant these Regulations.
- 10.2 The transfer fee in relation to such transfers must be paid to CF and will, in order of priority, be distributed in the following manner:
  - a) To pay any outstanding monies owed to CF by the defunct or expelled Club;
  - b) To pay any outstanding monies owed to the Players of the defunct or expelled Club;
  - c) To pay any monies outstanding to any member Club or affiliated Club.

## **11 PLAYER DEREGISTRATION**

### 11.1 Amateur:

- a) Unless otherwise stated in these Regulations, an Amateur Player is free to move to another Club during the Registration Period, in accordance with Section 4, Article 4.
- b) An Amateur Player may be deregistered by applying to deregister via the National Registration System, which will notify the Club of the Player's intention to deregister.
- c) If a Club no longer wants an Amateur Player to play for their Club, that Club must apply to deregister that Player via the National Registration System, which will notify the Player of the Club's intention to deregister the Player.
- d) The deregistration is effective:
  - i) When the other party (i.e. Club or Player as the case may be) has confirmed the cancellation via the National Registration System, and CF has processed the cancellation via the National Registration System; or
  - ii) After seven (7) days from the date the Player or Club requested the deregistration via the National Registration System, CF can process the cancellation via the National Registration System, unless a grievance has been initiated with CF in accordance with DDR and the Amateur Player will not be deregistered until the processes promulgated by the DDR have been exhausted or terminated.

### 11.2 Professional:

- a) This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.

## **12 PROFESSIONAL PLAYER TRANSFER, COMPENSATION & DISPUTES**

12.1 This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.

## **13 LOAN PLAYERS**

13.1 This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.

## **14 VISA PLAYERS**

14.1 A visa Player is defined as a Player who does not have current Australian Citizenship or approved Australian Permanent Residency.

14.2 If a Club wants to register a visa Player as a Professional, that Club must ensure it meets all the legal requirements pertaining to the obtaining and maintaining of a valid visa or work permit for that visa Player, including where applicable, a letter of endorsement from FA, the payment of any minimum salary and any sponsorship requirements.

14.3 The maximum number of visa Players are as defined in the Player Points System (Section 4, Article 17), but for clarity, each NPL1 and NPL2 Club will be permitted to:

- a) register two (2) visa Players into their First Grade Player Roster;
  - i) A Club's First Grade Player Roster is permitted to have a maximum of 23 Players in accordance with Section 4, Article 17
- b) list two (2) visa Players per Match on their First Grade team sheet.

## 15 GUEST PLAYERS

15.1 This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.

## 16 PLAYER ROSTERS

16.1 For the 2021 season, the following are the maximum number of Players for each League and age grade:

League	Age Grade	Squad Total	Maximum Professional Players
NPL1 Men's & NPL2 Men's	First Grade & U23 combined	40	20 of 40
NPL Women's	First Grade & Reserve Grade combined	40	20 of 40
	U17	16	0
	U15	16	0
	U13	18	0
NPL1 Youth & NPL 2 Youth	U18	16	0
	U16	16	0
	U14	16	0
	U13	18	0

16.2 All Clubs are required to maintain a [Player roster](#) for each team.

16.3 The Player roster must list all currently registered Players, which must be updated and sent to CF any time changes occur.

## 17 PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM (PPS)

17.1 CF will not be utilising the PPS in its entirety as outlined by FA, for CF 2021 NPL competitions.

17.2 Clubs participating in FA Competitions (i.e. FFA Cup Round of 32 and NPL Finals Series) are required to follow the PPS as outlined by FA.

17.3 In the NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's competitions, Clubs are required to adhere to the following aspects of the PPS:

- a) At all times during the 2021 NPL season, a Club must include a minimum of 20 Players and may include a maximum of 23 Players on its First Grade Player roster;
- b) All Players must be registered to the appropriate age grade. Any Player born prior to 1 January 1998 must be included on his NPL Club's First Team Player roster;
- c) Clubs are required to meet the requirements for visa players as outlined in Section 4, Article 14.

## 18 COACHING REQUIREMENTS

18.1 Technical director:

- a) Appointment of a technical director per NPL Club is mandatory;
- b) The technical director cannot be an NPL1 or NPL2 First Grade coach;
- c) All technical directors are to be registered through the National Registration System;
- d) All technical directors must meet the minimum coaching qualifications as outlined in Section 4, Article 18.4.

## 18.2 Head coach:

- a) Appointment of individual head coaches in all age grades and all competitions is mandatory;
- b) All head coaches are to be registered through the National Registration System;
- c) All head coaches must meet the minimum coaching qualifications as outlined in Section 4, Article 18.4.

## 18.3 Assistant coaches and goalkeeper coaches:

- a) Appointment of assistant coaches and goalkeeper coaches to all competitions is optional;
- b) Should either be appointed they must meet the minimum coaching qualifications as outlined in Section 4, Article 18.4 and be registered on the National Registration System.

## 18.4 Minimum coaching qualifications:

- a) Following are the minimum coaching qualifications required for each respective competition and age grade:

Age Grade	Coach Category	2021	2022	2023
N/A	Technical Director	AFC/FA B Licence	AFC/FA B Licence (working towards AFC/FA A Licence)	AFC/FA A Licence
	Goalkeeper Coach	AFC/FA Level 1 GK Licence	AFC/FA Level 1 GK Licence	AFC/FA Level 1 GK Licence
<b>NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's</b>				
First	Head Coach	AFC/FA B Licence	AFC/FA B Licence	AFC/FA A Licence
	Assistant Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Senior (Part 1)	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA B Licence
U23	Head Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Senior	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA B Licence
	Assistant Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Senior (Part 1)	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA C Licence
<b>NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth</b>				
U13-U18	Head Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Youth	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA C Licence
	Assistant Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Youth (Part 1)	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA C Licence
<b>NPL Women</b>				
First	Head Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Senior	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA B Licence
	Assistant Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Senior (Part 1)	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA C Licence
Reserve	Head Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Senior	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA C Licence
	Assistant Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Senior (Part 1)	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA C Licence
U13-U17	Head Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Youth	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA C Licence
	Assistant Coach	AFC/FA C Licence – Youth (Part 1)	AFC/FA C Licence	AFC/FA C Licence

- b) Please note:
- i) An accredited coach is one who has completed all required assessments and successfully gained AFC/FA certification. This accreditation must be current and valid. Proof of certification will be required. This coach will be issued an ID card.
  - ii) Should the minimum requirements not be met the following sanctions may apply:
    - A. Unaccredited coaches will not be allowed to enter the Technical Area and will not be issued an ID card;
    - B. Clubs that do not have a suitably qualified technical director may be fined (as outlined in Schedule 4) the cost of the relevant course fee that the club can access to offset fees for their coach to attend a future coaching course.
    - C. Teams that do not have suitably qualified head coaches may start the season on a minus three (3) point penalty and a fine (as outlined in Schedule 4) 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.
  - iii) Should a coach have commenced the relevant course, but not yet completed all their requirements to obtain certification, they will receive a provisional ID card for one (1) year only. Should they still not have completed the relevant requirements by the commencement of the 2022 season, they will not be issued with any ID card for the 2022 season.

# SECTION 5: MATCH DAY

## 1 MATCH BALLS

- 1.1 The home Team (that being the first team listed on the draw) will supply three (3) first class footballs of the same brand, colour and weight for all Premiership Matches. At the conclusion of the game, the Match balls will be returned to the relevant Team.
- 1.2 Clubs are to ensure that Match balls provided are of a suitable quality and any Match balls damaged during a Match are to be replaced by the Club who provided the damaged Match ball.
- 1.3 Match balls are to be provided to the Match Officials no later than thirty (30) minutes before kick-off.
- 1.4 Failure to supply Match balls will result in a fine in accordance with Schedule 4.
- 1.5 CF will supply footballs for all Championship Matches.
- 1.6 CF may from time to time stipulate a particular make of football to be used in a particular League or age grade.
- 1.7 CF will supply an allocation of Match balls to each Club prior to the commencement of the season, should a Club not have sufficient Match balls to supply in accordance with Section 5, Article 1, they will be required to purchase additional Match balls of the same make.
- 1.8 The following sizes of footballs are applicable to the different age grades:

Age Grade	Size
U13	4
U14 and older	5

## 2 WARMING UP

- 2.1 The home Club, in conjunction with the Referee and/or CF Representative, where applicable, may determine if warm-up on the pitch is to be allowed as well as the location of the warm-up. This decision must consider time constraints, the weather and ensure such action does not cause detrimental impact to the quality of the playing surface for the Match.
- 2.2 During play, a maximum of five (5) Players from each Team may warm up at the same time, assisted by two (2) Team Officials, without a ball (except for the goalkeeper), in the identified warm-up area within the pitch perimeter fence.
- 2.3 The identified warm-up area is located behind the goal line nearest to the Teams own technical area. Should this space be deemed not suitable at a particular ground by the Referee, the secondary identified warm-up area is located along the touch line beside the Teams technical area, provided the substitutes are wearing bibs that are clearly contrasting, in accordance with Section 5, Article 3.5.

## 3 TECHNICAL AREA

- 3.1 For Matches, in all competitions, the home Club must clearly mark out the technical area as stipulated in the IFAB Laws of the Game.



- 3.2 Seating will be supplied and placed in position by the home Club in sufficient quantity to seat nine (9) people from each Team.
- 3.3 Only currently registered and eligible Players, Coaches and Team Officials are allowed in the technical area during Matches. For clarity, a Player or Team Official who is under suspension must not occupy a seat in the technical area.
- 3.4 All Team Officials in the technical area must wear their identification card at all times.
- 3.5 All Players in the technical area must wear a bib that contrasts with the colours worn by Players of both Teams, Match Officials and the bibs of the opposing Team.
- 3.6 All Team Officials in the technical area must wear clothing that contrasts with the kit of the Players and Match Officials on the pitch. Should their clothing clash they are required to wear a bib that does not clash with the colours of the Players and Match Officials
- 3.7 Registered Team Officials must be listed on the Team Official List specific to the Match they are in the Technical Area for.
- 3.8 For the Technical Area:
  - a) A maximum of five (5) substitutes who are listed as substitutes on the team sheet for that Match are permitted;
  - b) A maximum of four (4) Team Officials (such as the coach, assistant coach, team manager, physiotherapist), who are listed on the Team Officials list for that Match are permitted;
  - c) Seating shall be supplied by the home Team for nine (9) persons;
  - d) All persons within the technical area must remain seated as per the IFAB Laws of the Game, except in special circumstances with the Match Official's permission;
- 3.9 As per Section 5, Article 2.2, substitutes are permitted to leave the Technical Area for the purposes of warming up;
- 3.10 Occupants of the technical area are subject to the authority of the Referee at all times.

## **4 SUBSTITUTION AND INTERCHANGE**

- 4.1 Substitution:
  - a) The procedure for substitution is outlined in the IFAB Laws of the Game.
  - b) Any substitute not named on the team sheet prior to the Match may not take part in the Match.
  - c) For First Grade of the NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's each Team may, at its discretion, substitute five (5) Players across three (3) opportunities during a Match, including extra time.
    - i) Substitutions made at half time do not count towards the three (3) substitution opportunities.
  - d) For U23's of the NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's each Team may, at its discretion, substitute four (4) Players at any time during a Match.
  - e) For First Grade and Reserve Grade of the NPL Women's each Team may, at its discretion, substitute five (5) Players at any time during a Match.
  - f) Once a Player is substituted, they cannot return to the field of play to participate in the

Match.

- g) Substitute Players cannot be used to replace any Player who has been dismissed from the Match by the Match Official.
- h) Only Players that take the pitch are deemed to have participated in the Match.
- i) During the Championship series, in the NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's First Grade only, should a match go to extra time, one (1) additional opportunity will be permitted, if players are available (whether or not the team has already used the full number of opportunities in accordance with Section 5, Article 4.1 c))
- j) During the Championship Series, in the NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's U23 grade, should a Match go to extra time, one (1) additional substitute will be permitted (whether or not the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes in accordance with Section 5, Article 4.1 and d)).
- k) Any Club who makes more substitutions than allowed under Section 5, Article 4, will forfeit the Match, in accordance with Section 2, Article 13, regardless of whether the Match Official permits the substitution during the Match.

#### 4.2 Interchange:

- a) For NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth (U18, U16, U14, U13) and NPL Women's (U17, U15, U13) competitions unlimited interchange applies.
- b) Following is the procedure and rules for the unlimited interchange of Players:
  - i) The "interchange zone" will be an area one (1) metre either side of the half-way line.
  - ii) An interchange is one which is made when the ball is out of play, and for which the following conditions will be observed:
    - A. The Referee gives permission;
    - B. The Player leaving the field will do so from the touch line, crossing over at the sector called the interchange zone;
    - C. The Referee may request that the Player leaving the field do so by the nearest boundary line rather than the interchange zone. If the Player leaving the field does not comply the Referee will then caution the Player;
    - D. The Player entering the field will also do so from the interchange zone, but not until the Player leaving the field has passed completely over the touch line;
    - E. A named substitute will be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the Match Official whether called upon to play or not;
    - F. The interchange is completed when the Player who was off the field, enters the field.
  - iii) The number of interchanges made during a Match is unlimited. A Player who has been replaced may return to the field for another Player.
  - iv) If during an interchange, an interchange Player enters the field before the replaced Player has completely left it, the Match Official will ensure the replaced Player leaves the field, then caution the interchange Player and then restart the Match.
  - v) If during an interchange, an interchange Player enters the field from a place other than

the interchange zone, the referee will caution the offending Player.

- vi) The interchanging of Players will cease at the completion of normal and extra time.
- vii) With the exception of an interchange for a goalkeeper who is unable to continue, only Players who are on the field of play or are temporarily off the field of play (e.g. injury or adjusting equipment) at the end of the Match are eligible to take penalty kicks.
- viii) A goalkeeper who is unable to continue during the penalty kicks is able to be replaced.
- c) Interchange Players cannot be used to replace any Player who has been dismissed from the Match by the Referee.
- d) A Referee may decline the interchange of Players in the last ten (10) minutes of the Match, if they deem that a Club is contravening the spirit of the game by deliberately delaying play.
- e) Any Player listed on the team sheet is deemed to have participated in the Match, unless crossed off.

## **5 PLAYING STRIPS / CLASH OF COLOURS**

### 5.1 Playing strips:

- a) The playing strips of a Club in CF competitions shall be as nominated by the Club prior to the commencement of the competition and endorsed by CF.
- b) All teams must nominate two (2) entirely different main and alternate playing strips to avoid any potential colour clashes. Clubs may only play in their nominated Club strips, unless otherwise approved by CF.
  - i) No part of the alternate playing strip may be the same as the main playing strip.
- c) CF will pre-determine the playing strips to be worn by all Clubs for all Premiership and Championship Matches.

### 5.2 Clash of colours:

- a) In the event that the Referee deems there to be a clash of colours with the pre-determined strip, the away Team is required to change into an alternate strip. Away Clubs may be required to wear a combination of their main and alternate strips to ensure the clash is resolved.
- b) In the case of goalkeeper's colours clashing with either the opponent's field Players, goalkeeper or the Match Official's kit, the referee will determine which keeper will change, always keeping in mind the principle that the away Team should change.
- c) In the case of a combination of main and alternate strip colours of both teams clashing with the Match Officials, the Referee will determine the final colours to be worn by all Players and Match Officials.

## **6 BALL PERSONS**

### 6.1 Premiership Matches:

- a) Where possible, for all NPL1 Men's and NPL Women's First Grade Premiership Matches, it is recommended that the home Club provides eight (8) ball persons.

### 6.2 Championship Matches:

- a) Where possible, for all NPL1 Men's and NPL Women's First Grade semi finals and preliminary finals, it is recommended that the home Club provides eight (8) ball persons;
- b) For all NPL1 Men's (U23 and First Grade) and NPL Women's (Reserve and First Grade) Grand Finals, all teams must supply four (4) ball persons.

6.3 Ball person requirements:

- a) Ball persons may be 12-15 years of age;
- b) Ball persons are to wear colours (i.e. a bib) that are distinct from those worn by the Players of both Teams and the Match Officials.

6.4 Regulations in Section 5, Article 6 may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Should this happen, CF will communicate any changes as required.

## 7 PLAYER MASCOTS

7.1 For all NPL1 Men's (U23 and First Grade) and NPL Women's (Reserve and First Grade) Grand Finals, all teams must supply eleven (11) Player mascots.

7.2 Player mascots are to be 5-11 years of age and to wear the Club's playing strip.

7.3 Where regional teams qualify for the grand final, they can seek assistance from CF in sourcing Players to act as Player mascots in accordance with Section 5, Article 7.1.

7.4 Regulations in Section 5, Article 7 may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Should this happen, CF will communicate any changes as required.

## 8 CLUB VESTED OFFICIALS

8.1 Clubs must provide the following minimum number of Club Vested Officials (CVO) for each Premiership and Championship Match:

Age Grade	Quantity
First Grade	Three (3) per team
Reserve Grade / U23 / U18 / U17	Two (2) per team
U16 / U15 / U14 / U13	One (1) per team

- a) CF reserves the right to increase the minimum number of CVO that each Team must provide for any Match.
- b) Should a Club be found not to provide the specified number of CVO for a Match, they will incur a fine in accordance with Schedule 4.

8.2 The CVO must:

- a) Wear the identifiable numbered vests supplied by CF and be 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 FA Spectator Code of Behaviour 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 addressed, 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 Officials may escalate a situation, the CVO should contact the Australian Federal Police or NSW 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.
  - i) 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, unless a Match commissioner or security are appointed to the Match.
  - ii) Make sure unauthorised personnel are kept out of the Match Officials change room.
- e) Must have their name correctly and clearly printed on the team sheet.
- f) Must not remain in or around the technical area/s, or inside the pitch perimeter fence, unless directed by the Match Officials.

8.3 CVO may report incidents to CF as necessary.

## **9 MATCH COMMISSIONERS**

9.1 CF may appoint Match commissioners to scheduled Premiership and Championship Matches.

9.2 A Match commissioner is an independent person who is appointed to observe the Match.

9.3 The Match commissioner will escort the Match Officials to and from the field of play prior to the game, and at both half and full time, unless security is appointed to the Match.

9.4 A Match commissioner is required to submit a report to CF on the Club's compliance with the Regulations and ground compliance.

9.5 Should a Match commissioner report non-compliance, the Club may be sanctioned in accordance of the DDR.

## **10 IDENTIFICATION**

10.1 Players:

- a) Player identification sheets are to be made available to the opposing Team manager for perusal prior to the commencement of the Match.
- b) Players for any Team that are not included on the Player identification sheets are not permitted to take the field of play.
- c) Any Team who cannot produce at least seven (7) Players that appear on the Player identification sheets for any Match will not have enough eligible Players to commence the Match and will be deemed to have forfeited the Match.
  - i) The referee is to report the reason for the forfeit on the team sheet and submit it to CF, signed by both Team managers.
- d) Opposing Team managers are responsible for sighting the Player identification sheets prior to the Match. Should a Team suspect the opposition of replacing any Player between the initial identification sheet check and the commencement of either the first or second half, the following procedure must be followed:
  - i) The manager of the Team suspecting a breach informs the manager of the opposing Team that he / she wishes to check the identity of the specific Player/s;
  - ii) The Team managers of both Teams, along with the referee and 4th Official (should a 4th Official be appointed) check the identity of the Player/s in question against the Player identification sheet and the team sheet, on the field of play before the Player/s

leaves the field of play at either the half time interval or conclusion of the Match;

- iii) Should it be determined that the Team has fielded an ineligible Player, CF is to be contacted immediately for further guidance to determine if the Match is to continue or if it will be immediately forfeited in favour of the Team that did not breach the regulation;
  - iv) If CF is unable to be contacted the Match should proceed and the Match Officials are to submit incident reports post-Match through the incident report procedure.
  - v) Should it be determined that both teams fielded an ineligible Player CF will determine whether the Match is to be replayed, void and if any sanction should be imposed on the Clubs, Club Officials and / or Players involved;
  - vi) Should any Team Official or Player refuse to follow the above procedure the Match will immediately be forfeited to the opposing Team to the Official or Player that has refused to co-operate;
  - vii) In all cases the referee will report the incident to CF.
- e) Any Club, Team Official and / or Player that is found to have breached this article may be sanctioned pursuant to the DDR.
  - f) Failure of Teams to produce Player identity sheets on request will result in a fine in accordance with Schedule 4.

#### 10.2 Team Officials:

- a) All registered Coaches and Team Officials will be issued identification passes.
- b) Only registered coaches and Team Officials in receipt of their official CF identification pass will be permitted entry into the technical areas (team benches), field of play, dressing rooms and tunnel in any approved CF Match.
- c) Only the official CF identification pass embossed with the correct year of competition will be eligible for use in that season.
- d) From the time of entry to the ground, coaches and Team Officials are required to have their official CF identification pass clearly displayed on a lanyard on the outside of their clothing.
- e) Prior to kick-off the 4th Official, or should a 4th Official not be appointed the Referee, is required to check the technical area of both Teams and request any non-playing individual without an official CF identification pass to leave the technical area. Should the individual refuse the Match will immediately be forfeited to the Team that has not breached the Regulation. Any individual that causes a forfeiture in this regard may be further sanctioned pursuant to as per the DDR.
- f) Failure to comply with any part of this article will result in a fine in accordance with Schedule 4.

## 11 TEAM SHEETS

11.1 All team sheets for all Matches are to be completed online via SportsTG.

11.2 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 as outlined in Schedule 4.

- 11.3 When making their Player selection, Clubs are required to note the shirt number of each Player in SportsTG. This information will then appear automatically on the team sheet next to the Players name.
- a) No Players from the same Team will be permitted to wear the same number on their playing strip.
  - b) All Players must have a shirt number listed on the team sheet that corresponds with the number on their shirt.
- 11.4 The home, or first listed Team will be responsible for printing and providing team sheets from SportsTG on Match day. A failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine as outlined in Schedule 4.
- 11.5 Both Teams are required to double check that the information on the team sheet is correct and if required make manual amendments to the information. Once both Teams have confirmed the information is correct, they are required to hand the team sheet to the Referee / Club Referee Coordinator at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick off time.
- 11.6 Both teams are required to complete a Team Official List (ensuring any person/s who are in the technical area are listed) and provide this to the Referee / Club Referee Coordinator at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick off time.
- 11.7 Changes to the team sheet will be permitted any time until five (5) 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 team sheet. The formerly starting Player may then be listed as a substitute. However, no other Player may be added to the team sheet to replace any Player.
  - b) Should a listed substitute Player be removed from the team sheet, the Team will not be permitted list another Player on the team sheet and the number of available substitutes will be decreased by one (1).
- 11.8 A maximum of sixteen (16) Players per Team are permitted to be listed on the team sheet.
- 11.9 All age grades team sheets, signed by the respective Team Officials, must be emailed by the home Club to [teamsheets@capitalfootball.com.au](mailto:teamsheets@capitalfootball.com.au) to arrive no later than 5:00pm Monday following the weekend's Match, or 24 hours following a mid-week Match. If CF does not receive the team sheets as specified above, the home Team will be fined as outlined in Schedule 4.
- a) If CF does not receive the team sheets as specified in Section 5, Article 11.9, the home Team will be fined as outlined in Schedule 4.
  - b) If CF does not receive the team sheets within seven (7) days of the Match, the home Team will be deemed to have forfeited those Matches, in accordance with Schedule 2, Article 13.
  - c) Where a team sheet is not provided to CF (i.e. has been lost), in accordance with Section 5, Article 11.9, the home Club is deemed to have forfeited the Match, in accordance with Section 2, Article 13.
- 11.10 Each Team is required to submit their own team officials list via email to [teamsheets@capitalfootball.com.au](mailto:teamsheets@capitalfootball.com.au) to arrive no later than 5:00pm Monday following the weekend's Match, or 24 hours following a mid-week Match. If CF does not receive the team



official list as specified above, the Team will be fined as outlined in Schedule 4.

11.11 Both Teams are required to complete the [Referee Evaluation Form](#) by no later than 5:00pm Monday following the weekend's Match, or 24 hours following a mid-week Match.

11.12A Team Official from each Team is to sign the team sheet at the completion of the Match to confirm the information listed is correct, including:

- a) Half time and full time scores;
- b) Goal scorers are marked against the correct Player;
- c) Disciplinary sanctions listed are marked against the correct Player.

11.13 Clubs must indicate all up-graded and over-age Players on the team sheet by marking the registered age grade against all up-graded and over-age Players.

11.14 Regardless of the competitions, no Player is permitted to be listed on more than two (2) team sheets on any Match day, however goalkeepers are exempt from this rule.

11.15A Club who fails to list a Player as stood down on the team sheet will be fined as outlined in Schedule 4, if that Player does not appear on the team sheet that Player will be deemed as stood down providing the Player meets the registration requirements.

11.16 If a Player who is registered in accordance with these Regulations is not listed on the team sheet prior to the Match and then participates in the Match, the following shall apply for U13's, U14's, U15's, U16's, U17's and U18's Matches only:

- a) The Club will be fined as outlined in Schedule 4;
- b) For persistent and repeated offences CF may take any further action that it deems necessary.

## **12 ONLINE RESULTS ENTRY**

12.1 For all Premiership and Championship Matches the home Team is responsible for entering the half time and full time results of the Match/s online into SportsTG no later than forty-five (45) minutes following the completion of the final Match of the day.

12.2 Each Club is responsible for entering their own manual amendments and Player Match statistics into SportsTG within twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of the Match.

- a) Manual amendments include:
  - i) Players added onto the team sheet;
  - ii) Players crossed off the team sheet;
  - iii) changes to shirt numbers.
- b) Player Match statistics include the following:
  - i) goal scorers;
  - ii) cautions (yellow cards);
  - iii) expulsions (red cards);
  - iv) substitutions (U23's, Reserve Grade and First Grade competitions only).

12.3 Any Team that fails to comply with Section 5, Article 12, will be fined as outlined in Schedule 4.

## 13 RESULT OF THE MATCH

- 13.1 The Referee will complete the team sheet at the conclusion of the Match. A Team Official from each Team is then required to check the information listed and sign the team sheet signifying that all details are correct. By signing the team sheet, the Team Official is acknowledging that the data recorded, including but not limited to; Players and Match Officials listed, Players cautioned or expelled, goal scorers, substitutions and half time and full time scores are all correct.
- 13.2 There will be no appeal against the score line shown, goal scorers, substitutions or the recipients of yellow and red cards issued on a team sheet once it has been signed post Match.
- 13.3 If the Team Official disagrees with any details on the team sheet (either their own or their opposition's), they must:
- a) Check with the Referee to confirm if an error was made in inputting the information onto the team sheet;
  - b) If unable to be resolved with the Match Officials, the Team Official is to refrain from signing the team sheet and instead write the word 'dispute' in this section of the team sheet;
  - c) The Club must then lodge a [Club Incident Report](#) within twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of the Match, explaining specifically what they are disputing on the team sheet.
- 13.4 Only the following information on a team sheet can be disputed in accordance with Section 5, Article 13.3:
- a) Goal scorers;
  - b) Substitutions;
  - c) Yellow cards (only in reference to who the yellow card was issued to);
  - d) Temporary dismissal (only in reference to who the temporary dismissal was issued to);
  - e) Red card (only in reference to who the red card was issued to);
  - f) Half time/full time score;
  - g) Player eligibility.
- 13.5 Team sheet disputes will only be investigated by CF in the following circumstances:
- a) The team sheet and the [Club Incident Report](#) are submitted in accordance with the timelines specified in Section 5, Article 11.9 and Section 5, Article 13.3c) of these Regulations; and
  - b) The following evidence is submitted by the Club in support of its request for an investigation:
    - i) Team sheet;
    - ii) Video and/or photographic evidence;
    - iii) Statutory declaration; and
    - iv) Any other information accepted from the Club at the discretion of CF.
- 13.6 CF reserves the right to amend the team sheet and it will only be amended if CF is satisfied that there was no malice or intent to gain an advantage.

13.7 CF's decision on a team sheet dispute is final and is not appealable.

## **14 CAUTIONS, EXPULSIONS AND TEMPORARY DISMISSALS**

14.1 For information on the application of cautions, expulsions and temporary dismissals please refer to the DDR.

14.2 Clubs will receive the following automatic fines (as outlined in Schedule 4):

- a) When five (5) or more Player's/Team Official's from the same Team receive a caution/temporary dismissal in the same Match;
- b) When three (3) or more Player's/Team Official's from the same Team are sent off in the same Match.

14.3 For the avoidance of doubt, these fines are payable in addition to any sanctions imposed against Clubs or their Players pursuant to the DDR.

## **15 GROUND, FACILITIES AND PITCH REQUIREMENTS**

15.1 It is the responsibility of all Clubs to:

- a) Provide a venue that complies with the minimum requirements for CF competitions as prescribed and promulgated by CF from time to time;
- b) Provide a safe environment for Players, Match Officials, Club Officials and spectators;
- c) Ensure that the facilities and equipment are clean and fit for purpose;
- d) Ensure that all applicable State/Territory government statutory and other requirements have been met in respect of their facilities, including but not limited to:
  - i) Legitimate approved use of the facility by the owner or land manager;
  - ii) Requirements under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Food Act 1984 and Building Act 1993;
  - iii) Have up to date liquor licence (RSA) and food handling certificates.

15.2 All Clubs will be required to nominate to CF a suitable ground/s to be used by their NPL teams for the season. All grounds are subject to approval by CF.

- a) Should any ground be deemed unacceptable for use for any reason during a season, CF reserves the right to set the most appropriate course of action to conclude the season, including but not limited to rescheduling Matches to the "away Club" venue, setting Matches to a neutral venue, or forfeiting the Matches against the home Club.
- b) In all instances of Section 5, Article 15.2, any costs incurred in the rescheduling of Matches will be the responsibility of the original home Club.
- c) Unavailability of any ground due to neglect, non-payment of accounts or any other reason for which the home Club is responsible will result in a forfeit against the home Club.

15.3 Ground Set Up:

- a) Line markings must be clear, accurate and within the dimensions specified below:
  - i) For First Grade, Reserve Grade and U23's Matches a minimum length of 100 metres and a minimum width of 60 metres is required;

- ii) For U13, U14, U15, U16, U17 and U18 Matches a minimum length of 90 metres and a minimum width of 45 metres is required.
- b) In all Matches sanctioned by CF the home Club shall dress/undress the ground and ensure adequate line-marking, nets are attached to the goals and the ground behind the goal and that corner flags are in place. All equipment needs to remain in place for the day.
- c) A home Club whose Match is postponed/abandoned due to failing to have the ground line marked or dressed appropriately, will forfeit the Match.

#### 15.4 Goals:

- a) 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 IFAB Laws of the Game, and should have no sharp edges protruding that may cause injury;
- b) If a Club uses portable goals for competition, it must ensure that the 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.

#### 15.5 Property damage and ground cleanliness:

- a) 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;
- b) 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.

## 16 SMOKING AND DRINKING OF ALCOHOL AT VENUES

#### 16.1 Smoking:

- a) Participants and spectators must adhere to the smoking guidelines for individual venues where they exist;
- b) Alternatively, it is prohibited for anyone to smoke within 10 metres of the field of play, change rooms, spectator amenities and canteen facilities.

#### 16.2 Drinking:

- a) The following conditions will apply to Club’s seeking permission to sell alcoholic beverages at fixtures under the auspices of CF:
  - i) The Club must obtain a license as required under the Liquor Licensing Act to sell alcohol, must abide by those conditions as set out in the Liquor Licensing Act, and supply to CF a copy of their license;
  - ii) The point of sale must be separate to other food or beverage, and to an area in which minors are restricted;
  - iii) Consumption must be restricted to an area that is not in the vicinity of the Player’s race or team benches;
  - iv) Under no circumstances must alcohol be served to people who are intoxicated;

- v) Clubs are not permitted to sell any drinks (including alcohol) in glass containers;
  - vi) No Club is entitled to sell alcohol, or to allow it to be consumed at their ground without the consent, in writing, of CF;
  - vii) The sale, provision of, or consumption of alcohol is not permitted during any U13's, U14's, U15's, U16's, U17's or U18's Matches under the control of CF;
  - viii) No Club may permit the sale or consumption of alcohol at their ground where the conditions listed above have not been met in their entirety;
  - ix) Clubs are obligated to adhere to all items above regardless of any conflicting allowance granted within the liquor License.
- b) Participants and spectators must adhere to any alcohol guidelines for individual venues where they exist.

16.3 Should any person not adhere to any part of Section 5, Article 16 of these Regulations, both the individual and if the person is a Club Associate, that person's Club, may be fined in accordance with Schedule 4 of these Regulations, and face disciplinary action under the DDR.

## 17 TICKETING

17.1 Ticketed Leagues:

- a) Tickets may only be sold for attendance at the following Leagues and grades:
  - i) First Grade and U23 of the NPL1 Men's;
  - ii) First Grade and U23 of the NPL2 Men's;
  - iii) First Grade and Reserve Grade of the NPL Women's;
- b) Federation Cup Finals
- c) FFA Cup Preliminary Rounds

17.2 Ticket operations:

- a) Where a Match is held directly before a ticketed Match, ticket sales are permitted to commence at half time in the Match prior;
- b) Where no Match is held directly before a ticketed Match, ticket sales are permitted to commence from two (2) hours before the scheduled kick off time.

17.3 Ticket prices:

- a) Following are the maximum ticket prices that Clubs may charge for entry to Matches:

League	Adult	Student / Concession*
NPL1 Men's	\$10.00	\$5.00
NPL2 Men's	\$10.00	\$5.00
NPL Women's	\$10.00	\$5.00

*\* Includes students / concessions / pensioners / defence – relevant identification must be shown*

- b) Attendance for all children under the age of 14 will be free.
- c) Players, Team Officials and Match Officials participating in the Match in which their Team is competing will be afforded complimentary entry.

- d) In all cases where the costs of running the Matches are being met by CF, all gate takings shall be retained by CF.

#### 17.4 Ticket refunds:

- a) Section 5, Article 17.4 is applicable to all CF competition Matches where entry fees are charged.
- b) Clubs that charge entry fees must issue a ticket to the paying customer when the exchange of money is made.
- c) 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.
- d) Customers that present an authentic CF Media Pass or who are aged 14 years or younger, will be granted free entry and may not be issued an admission ticket.
- e) It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that they retain proof of purchase. This note is to be displayed at the ticket box at all venues where entry fees are charged.
- f) Paying customers will be entitled to a full refund on the day of the game from the Club charging the entry 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.
- g) To be eligible to receive a full refund on the day of the game, the paying customer must present to the Club charging the entry fees the admission ticket (or part thereof) as proof of purchase.
- h) If the last Match of the day is abandoned after the conclusion of the first half, then no refund will be given.
- i) Entry fees must not exceed the fee structure set out in Section 5, Article 17.3.

## 18 SECURITY / POLICE

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 Each CF affiliated Club is required to provide the mandatory CVO complement as per Section 5, Article 8 of these Regulations.
- 18.3 If directed by CF, security and/or police may be required and/or where the club believes the fixture requires such measures.
- 18.4 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, CF may declare the Match result void and order the Match to be replayed on such ground / date / conditions as CF shall think proper. Additionally, CF can deduct a maximum of up to three (3) points from the offending club and/or impose such other sanctions as CF assesses.
- 18.5 In the event of a Match being abandoned due to field invasion CF 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, CF will consider any reports submitted by the Match Officials 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.

## 19 MEDICAL

### 19.1 Medical coverage:

- a) Clubs will be required to provide medical coverage to Players on Match days in compliance with the minimum standards contained in the following table:

Age Grade	2021	2022	2023
<b>NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's</b>			
First	Level 2 Sports Trainer	Physiotherapist	Physiotherapist
U23	Level 2 Sports Trainer	Physiotherapist	Physiotherapist
<b>NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth</b>			
U18	First Aid Certificate	Level 1 Sports Trainer	Level 1 Sports Trainer
U16	First Aid Certificate	Level 1 Sports Trainer	Level 1 Sports Trainer
U14	First Aid Certificate	Level 1 Sports Trainer	Level 1 Sports Trainer
U13	First Aid Certificate	Level 1 Sports Trainer	Level 1 Sports Trainer
<b>NPL Women</b>			
First	Level 2 Sports Trainer	Physiotherapist	Physiotherapist
Reserve	Level 2 Sports Trainer	Physiotherapist	Physiotherapist
U17	First Aid Certificate	Level 1 Sports Trainer	Level 1 Sports Trainer
U15	First Aid Certificate	Level 1 Sports Trainer	Level 1 Sports Trainer
U13	First Aid Certificate	Level 1 Sports Trainer	Level 1 Sports Trainer

- b) Clubs will not be required to appoint separate individuals to each age grade within a League. The requirement is to ensure adequate medical coverage is provided, which by way of example, could be provided by a “team” of sports trainers shared across all age grades at a Club.
- c) All first aiders, sports trainers and physiotherapists must be registered with their Club through the National Registration System.
- d) Failure to comply with the above minimum standards will result in a fine in accordance with Schedule 4.

### 19.2 Stretcher / defibrillator:

- a) Each Club is required to ensure that a functional stretcher is provided for all home Matches in each age grade;
- b) It is recommended that all Clubs have a defibrillator available for all home Matches in each age grade;
- c) Wooden or canvas stretchers are prohibited. Clubs must ensure their stretchers comply with current Australian standards;
- d) The Club must ensure that stretchers are placed at the half way line prior to the commencement of each Match and that they remain inside the barrier/fence (where applicable), in a safe and accessible position, for the duration of the Match.

### 19.3 Concussion policy:

- a) Each Club is required to refer to the [Concussion Policy](#) as outlined on the CF website as required.

# SECTION 6: MATCH OFFICIALS

## 1 MATCH OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

- 1.1 The appointment of all Match Officials officiating at CF fixtures shall be vested in the Referees Development Manager (RDM). The RDM is authorised to enlist the assistance of such persons as necessary and adopt such procedures as it deems most beneficial.

## 2 MATCH OFFICIAL POWERS, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

- 2.1 The Match Officials are required to carry out all duties, responsibilities and obligations as contained within the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 2.2 Unless otherwise stated, the Referee shall be the sole arbiter as to whether a game will proceed, having regard to the condition of the ground, the weather at the time of inspection and the projected weather forecast.
- 2.3 The Referee may postpone or abandon a Match in accordance with any relevant articles of these Regulations.
- 2.4 At the conclusion of each Match, the Referee shall consult with their other Match Officials, where appointed, and confirm the accuracy of all Match information before completing and signing the team sheet.
- 2.5 Match Officials are required to submit the necessary send off reports and incident reports as per the DDR.

## 3 MATCH OFFICIAL FEES

- 3.1 Prior to the commencement of a competition, CF will communicate to all Clubs and Referees the approved Match Officials fees for that particular season. These fees will come into effect immediately and are subject to change at any time.
- 3.2 Unless otherwise stated, for Premiership Matches, CF will invoice the home Team for all fees for Match Officials monthly after the completion of each round.
- 3.3 Match Officials fees for all Championship Matches will be paid directly by CF to the Referees.
- 3.4 In the case of forfeits, postponements and abandonments, where a Team is deemed to be at fault, the Match Officials fees will be due and payable by that Team.
- 3.5 Where Matches are postponed and abandoned through no fault of either Team the Match Officials fees are payable by CF.
- 3.6 Match Officials are entitled to receive one hundred percent (100%) of their Match fee if they submit a Match Official claim form in the event that:
  - a) Match Officials attend the ground to find the Match postponed prior without being notified by CF;
  - b) Match Officials attend the ground and prior to the commencement of the Match, the Match is forfeited, postponed or abandoned;
  - c) After the commencement of the Match, the Match is abandoned;
  - d) Match Officials attend the ground to find a Club has forfeited the Match. CF will then invoice the offending Club to recoup those costs.



## **4 REFEREE VESTED OFFICIALS**

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the home Club to provide a Referee Vested Official for their home Matches.
- 4.2 The Referee Vested Official will be solely responsible for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the ground, until they depart the ground.
- 4.3 The Referee Vested Official must:
  - a) Wear the official Referee Vested Official and be visible at all times;
  - b) Liaise with CF in the event of the non-attendance of a Match Official;
  - c) Escort the Match Officials to and from the field of play prior to the game, and at both half and full time;
  - d) Support and assist Match Officials as requested;
  - e) Make sure unauthorised personnel are kept out of the Match Officials change room;
  - f) Work together with the CVO's to deal with any disturbances that may arise.
  - g) Report any incidents of misconduct to CF, particularly incidents of misconduct towards Match Officials, which may require a formal incident report to CF.

## **5 ATTENDANCE OF MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 5.1 Match Officials appointed to First Grade, Reserve Grade or U23's Matches must arrive at the ground no later than 45 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off of their first appointment.
- 5.2 Match Officials appointed to all other age grades must arrive at the ground no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off of their first appointment.

## **6 NON-ATTENDANCE OF MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 6.1 If the Referee fails to honour their appointment, the next most senior Match Official (Replacement) will take charge of the Match.
- 6.2 If the Referee is late arriving at a Match, the Replacement will take charge until the Referee is ready to take over.
- 6.3 In First Grade, Reserve Grade and U23's, the Match is only to proceed with the appointed Match Officials, or a person approved by CF prior to the start of the Match.
- 6.4 In U13's, U14's, U15's, U16's, U17's and U18's Matches, if no registered Match Official is present to act as the Replacement ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the Match, both Clubs shall agree on a person to act as the Referee for the Match. If, by the scheduled kick off time, no agreement can be reached, the home Club must appoint a person to act as the Referee for the Match.
- 6.5 If the Match does not kick off fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick off time due to the absence of a Referee, the home Club will be deemed to have forfeited the Match.
- 6.6 If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each team must provide an assistant Match Official. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with Schedule 4.
- 6.7 All Clubs must fulfill all Matches, regardless of whether or not the CF appointed Referee is present to take charge. Failure to do so may result in sanctions being applied.

## **7 TEMPORARY DISMISSALS**

- 7.1 Temporary dismissals will be in effect in all First Grade, Reserve Grade and U23's competition Matches.
- 7.2 A temporary dismissal occurs when a Player shows dissent towards a Match Official and is punished by an immediate 'suspension' from participating in the next part of the Match.
- 7.3 Temporary dismissals may be issued to Players (including goalkeepers) only during:
  - a) First half;
  - b) Second half;
  - c) First half of extra time in a Championship series Match;
  - d) Second half of extra time in a Championship series Match.
- 7.4 Temporary dismissals may not be issued:
  - a) To substitutes, substituted players or team officials;
  - b) Before the match, during half time or after the match;
  - c) Between the end of a match and the start of extra time, during half time of extra time or after the end of extra time (including during kicks from the penalty mark) of a Championship series match.
- 7.5 An act of dissent committed by participants mentioned in Section 6, Article 7.4 a). or during the periods in Section 6, Article 7.4 b). and Section 6, Article 7.4 c). will be punished with a caution (yellow card only) to the guilty party.
- 7.6 The Referee will indicate a temporary dismissal by showing the yellow card to the Player and clearly pointing with both arms to the temporary dismissal area.
- 7.7 The temporary dismissal period is 10 minutes which begins when play restarts after the Player has left the field of play.
- 7.8 For First Grade and any match where 'additional time' is being played, the temporary dismissal period will take into account any time 'lost' for stoppages that the referee may allow at the end of the half (e.g. substitution, injury etc).
- 7.9 The temporary dismissal area is the Player's own technical area for the duration of the dismissal period, unless 'warming up' (under the same conditions as a substitute).
- 7.10 Once the temporary dismissal period has been completed, the Player can return from the touchline with the Referee's permission, which can be given while the ball is in play. The Referee has the final decision as to when the Player can return.
- 7.11 A temporarily dismissed Player cannot be substituted until the end of the temporary dismissal period (but not if the team has used all its permitted substitutes).
- 7.12 If a temporary dismissal period has not been completed at the end of the first half (or the end of the second half when extra time is to be played), the remaining part of the temporary dismissal period is served from the start of the second half (or start of extra time).
- 7.13 A Player who is still serving a temporary dismissal at the end of extra time of a Championship series match is permitted to participate in kicks from the penalty mark.

- 7.14 A temporarily dismissed Player who commits a cautionable or sending-off offence during their temporary dismissal period will take no further part in the Match and may not be replaced or substituted.
- 7.15 A Player who has received a caution and then receives a temporary dismissal can continue playing after the end of the temporary dismissal period.
- 7.16 A Player who receives a second temporary dismissal in the same Match will serve the second temporary dismissal period and will take no further part in the Match.
- 7.17 After the end of the second temporary dismissal period the Player:
- a) May be replaced by a named substitute (but not if the team has used all its permitted substitutes).
  - b) May not be replaced or substituted if the Player also received a caution in the same Match
- 7.18 A Player who receives a second caution in the same Match will be sent off and takes no further part in the Match and may not be replaced or substituted.

## **8 CAUTIONS AND EXPULSIONS FOR TEAM OFFICIALS**

- 8.1 The Referee may take action against Team Officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and can issue a warning or a yellow card for a caution or a red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surrounds (including the technical area).
- 8.2 If the offender cannot be identified, the senior Coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.
- 8.3 If a medical Team Official commits a sending-off offence, they may remain in the technical area if the Team has no other medical person available, and act if a Player needs medical attention.

# SECTION 7: AWARDS

## 1 TROPHIES, MEDALS AND SHIELDS

1.1 CF will present the following medals, trophies and shields:

- a) Premiership winners:
  - i) Perpetual trophy for all age grades;
  - ii) Replica trophy for all age grades;
  - iii) 20 medals for all age grades;
  - iv) Any requests for medals above the allocated number may be purchased at a cost to the Club.
- b) Championship winners:
  - i) Perpetual trophy for all age grades;
  - ii) Replica trophy for all age grades;
  - iii) 20 medals for all age grades;
  - iv) Any requests for medals above the allocated number may be purchased at a cost to the Club.
- c) Championship runners up:
  - i) 20 medals for all age grades;
  - ii) Any requests for medals above the allocated number may be purchased at a cost to the Club.
- d) Player of the Match (First Grade grand final for NPL1 Men's, NPL2 Men's and NPL Women's only):
  - i) 1 medal.
- e) Grand final Match Officials:
  - i) 4 medals for each age grade.
- f) Club Championship winners (NPL1 Men's, NPL2 Men's, NPL Women's, NPL1 Youth, NPL2 Youth):
  - i) Perpetual shield for each League;
  - ii) Plaque for winners.
- g) Fair play award (NPL1 Men's, NPL2 Men's, NPL Women's, NPL1 Youth, NPL2 Youth):
  - i) Perpetual shield for each League;
  - ii) Plaque for winners.
- h) Golden boot award:
  - i) Trophy/Plaque for award winners in all age grades.
  - ii) Player of the year:

- i) Trophy/plaque for award winners in all age grades.
- j) Coach of the year (NPL1 Men's, NPL2 Men's, NPL Women's):
  - i) Trophy/plaque for award winners.
- k) Referee of the year (NPL Men's, NPL Women's):
  - i) Trophy/plaque for award winners.

## 2 PERPETUAL TROPHY OWNERSHIP

- 2.1 All perpetual trophies / shields remain the property of CF.
- 2.2 CF will retain possession of the perpetual trophy / shield immediately following the prize giving ceremony.
- 2.3 Should a perpetual trophy / shield be lost or damaged whilst under the care or custody of a Club, the latter shall refund to CF the cost of thorough repair or replacement in addition to any other penalty which CF may impose.

## 3 AWARD CALCULATIONS AND CRITERIA

- 3.1 Club championship:
  - a) The Club Championship award is presented to the Club in each League (NPL1 Men's, NPL2 Men's, NPL Women's, NPL Youth), based on the total number of points accumulated by each of their teams.
  - b) NPL1 Men's and NPL2 Men's Club Championship points are attributed as follows:

Age Grade	Points Multiplier
First Grade	Premiership points x 1
U23's	Premiership points x 1

- c) NPL Women's Club Championship points are attributed as follows:

Age Grade	Points Multiplier
First Grade	Premiership points x 1
Reserve Grade	Premiership points x 1
U17	Premiership points x 1
U15	Premiership points x 1
U13	Premiership points x 1

- d) NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth Club Championship points are attributed as follows:

Age Grade	Points Multiplier
U18	Premiership points x 1
U16	Premiership points x 1
U14	Premiership points x 1
U13	Premiership points x 1

### 3.2 Fair play:

- a) The Fair play award is presented to the Club whose teams in each League (NPL1 Men's, NPL2 Men's, NPL Women's, NPL1 Youth and NPL2 Youth) receive the fewest number of penalty points during the Premiership Season.
- b) Penalty points are accrued according to the following:

Offence	Points
Each single yellow card issued to either a Player or Team Official	1 point
Each temporary dismissal issued	2 points
Each indirect red card issued (i.e. two yellow cards in a Match to a single Player)	3 points
Second temporary dismissal in a Match to a single Player	4 points
Each direct red card issued	5 points
Each non-playing official sent from the technical area	5 points
Five or more Players receiving a caution or temporary dismissal in a single Match	7 points*
Three or more Players / Team Officials sent off in a single Match	10 points*

*\* these points are in addition to the penalty points received for the individual offence*

### 3.3 Golden boot:

- a) The golden boot is awarded to the highest goal scorer in each age grade at the conclusion of the Premiership season.

### 3.4 Player of the year:

- a) All Clubs are required to nominate one (1) Player per Team within their Club, with the exception of First Grade Teams where they must nominate two (2) Players per Team;
- b) All Clubs will then be required to vote (3,2,1) for the nominated Players in each age grade;
- c) Clubs are not permitted to vote for their own Players;
- d) The Player with the highest number of votes received in each age grade will be deemed the Player of the year;
- e) Should there be two Players on an equal number of votes received, they will be classed as joint winners;
- f) Should three (3) or more Players be on an equal number of votes received, the Player with the most three (3) votes received will be deemed the Player of the year;
- g) Should three (3) or more Players receive the same number of three (3) votes, a re-vote will take place for those Players;
- h) Should a Club not vote during the voting process, then their Players will be ineligible to receive the award.

### 3.5 Team of the year:

- a) All First Grade Clubs are required to submit eleven (11) Players as their Team of the year in the following format:
  - i) Goalkeeper x 1
  - ii) Defenders x 4
  - iii) Midfielders x 3

iv) Forwards x 3

- b) Clubs are permitted to name up to three (3) Players from their own Club should they wish;
- c) The Players with the highest number of votes at each position will be named in the Team of the year.

### 3.6 Coach of the year:

- a) All Clubs are required to nominate one (1) coach within their Club;
- b) All Clubs will then be required to vote (3,2,1) for the nominated coaches;
- c) Clubs are not permitted to vote for their own coaches;
- d) The coach with the highest number of votes received will be deemed the coach of the year;
- e) Should there be two coaches on an equal number of votes received, they will be classed as joint winners;
- f) Should three (3) or more coaches be on an equal number of votes received, the coach with the most three (3) votes received will be deemed the coach of the year;
- g) Should three (3) or more coaches receive the same number of three (3) votes, a re-vote will take place for those coaches;
- h) Should a Club not vote during the voting process, then their coaches will be ineligible to receive the award.

### 3.7 Referee of the Year:

- a) All Clubs are required to vote (3,2,1) for the nominated Referees;
- b) The Referee with the highest number of votes received will be deemed the Referee of the year;
- c) Should there be two Referees on an equal number of votes received, they will be classed as joint winners;
- d) Should three (3) or more Referees be on an equal number of votes received, the Referee with the most three (3) votes received will be deemed the Referee of the year;
- e) Should three (3) or more Referees receive the same number of three (3) votes, a re-vote will take place for those Referees.

# SCHEDULE 1: DEFINITIONS

**A-League / Westfield W-League** means the national men's and women's football competitions conducted in Australia under the control of FA.

**ACT Football Federation (ACTFF)** means the ACT Football Federation.

**Amateur** means any Player that is not a Professional.

**Australian Capital Territory (ACT)** means the federal territory of Australia containing the Australian capital city of Canberra and some surrounding townships.

**Capital Football (CF)** means CF trading as ACT Football Federation which is the governing body for football (including Futsal) in the ACT and surrounding regions.

**Capital Football Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations (DDR)** means the CF Disputes & Disciplinary Regulations.

**Championship** means the final series conducted at the completion of the Premiership in accordance with the Capital Football Competition Regulations.

**Club or Clubs** means:

- a) a body corporate or incorporated association recognised by CF and having the following characteristics:
  - i) It organises teams to participate in competitions sanctioned by CF or FA;
  - ii) All members of its teams are entitled to club membership;
  - iii) Club members (or their parent or guardian) may vote in an election for any club officeholders; or
- b) any legal entity deemed to be a Club by CF.

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

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

**Constitution** means the ACT Football Federation Constitution as amended from time to time, and a reference to a particular article of the Constitution.

**Cup** means a tournament or event conducted by CF which includes, but not limited to, the Federation Cup.

**Disciplinary Committee** means a Disciplinary Committee appointed by CF, in accordance with the DDR.

**FFA Cup** means the national Club competition staged by, or under the control of, FA between A-League, State league and grassroots Clubs, currently known as the FFA Cup (or as otherwise notified by FA.)

**FA** means Football Australian Limited ACN 106 478 068.

**FIFA** means Federation Internationale De Football Association.



**IFAB Laws of the Game** means the official laws of the game of football as promulgated by IFAB.

**Junior League (JL)** means the junior grassroots competitions delivered by CF.

**Leagues** means a competition conducted by CF comprised of specific gender and age grades, as declared by the Board.

**Match or Matches** means any match played in a Competition, Cup, Premiership, other event or tournament under CF's control.

**Match Official or Match Officials** means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, club referee coordinator or referee assessor.

**National Premier Leagues (NPL)** means the premier competitions delivered by CF.

**National Registration Status & Transfer Regulations (NRSTR)** means the set of regulations that govern registrations throughout Football in Australia.

**National Registration System (NRR)** means the national database administered by FA for the purposes of registering all participants in Football in Australia.

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

**Player or Players** means any person who participates in a Match (irrespective of whether he or she is registered with FA, junior or senior or an Amateur or Professional).

**Player Points System (PPS)** means FA's system for the calculation of a Club's Player points as outlined in Schedule 3 and as promulgated by FA from time to time.

**Premiership** means the round robin Matches (both home and away) that a Team competes in during a Season in accordance with the CF Competition Regulations.

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

**Professional Player Contract** means the written contract (Prescribed Form NRR05 – Professional Player Contract) signed by the Club and the Player and submitted to CF.

**Referee** means the Match Official with the primary responsibility of officiating a Match in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

**Regulations** means these CF Competition Regulations.

**Senior League** means the senior grassroots competitions delivered by CF.

**Team or Teams** means an individual group of Players and Officials submitted by a Club to represent the Club in a Competition.

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

# SCHEDULE 2: ADDITIONAL RULES - CUA

## 1 SCOPE AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 Schedule 1 is to be read in conjunction with the remainder of the Regulations, and does not constitute the complete regulations applicable to CUA teams participating in the competitions.
- 1.2 Schedule 1 is specific to CUA only.

## 2 FEES, CHARGES AND FINES

- 2.1 CUA Players, Coaches and officials will be liable for the same fees, charges and fines applicable to the competitions in which they compete / participate.

## 3 CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

- 3.1 CUA teams entered into CF competitions will be eligible to compete in Championship Series Matches.

## 4 AGE ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 The following table details the birth dates applicable to the age grades for CUA. Players must be within these ranges in order to be eligible for registration:

Age Grade	Birth Date
First Grade (U18)	For Players born on or after 1 January 2003
Reserve Grade (U17)	For Players born on or after 1 January 2004
U17 (U15)	For Players born on or after 1 January 2006
U15 (U13)	For Players born on or after 1 January 2008
U13 (U12)	For Players born on or after 1 January 2009

# **SCHEDULE 3: PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM**

## **1 GENERAL PPS INFORMATION**

1.1 This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.

## **2 PPS**

2.1 This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.

## **3 GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

3.1 This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.

## **4 EXPLANATORY NOTES**

4.1 This section is not applicable for the 2021 season.

# SCHEDULE 4: PENALTIES AND FEES

## 1 OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

1.1 Set out below are the range of penalties which may be imposed by CF in relation to breaches of these Regulations.

1.2 CF may exercise its discretion as it deems fit in relation to the imposition of the penalty. The decision of CF shall be final and there shall be no right of appeal.

Section	Article	Offence	Sanction	
2	3.9	Failure to commence a Match at the scheduled times	\$50	Per offence
2	13.2	Team forfeiting its Match	\$500	Per offence
2	13.6	Club forfeiting all Matches in a League in one Round	\$1000	Per offence (plus individual team fines)
2	24.4	Failure to submit Overseas Tours and Travel Form and receive CF approval	\$200	N/A for 2021
2	25.5	Failure to submit Interstate Tours and Travel Form and receive CF approval	\$100	Per offence
4	12.1 b)	Failure to inform a Player's current Club in writing prior to entering any negotiations with that Player	\$500	N/A for 2021
4	18.4 b)	Failure to provide suitably qualified technical director	Cost of relevant course fee	Per Club
4	18.4 c)	Failure to provide suitably qualified head coach	Cost of relevant course fee	Per coach
5	1.4	Failure to supply Match balls	\$50	Per offence
5	8.1 b)	Failure to provide the specified number of CVO for a Match	\$50	Per offence
5	10.1 f)	Failure of Teams to produce player identity sheets on request	\$100	Per offence
5	10.2	Failure to comply with Team Official identification processes	\$100	Per offence
5	11.2	Failure to enter player selection in SportsTG by specified deadline	\$25	Per offence
5	11.4	Failure to printing and providing team sheets from SportsTG on Match day	\$50	Per offence
5	11.9	Failure to submit team sheets to CF by specified deadline	\$50	Per offence
5	11.10	Failure to submit team official list to CF by specified deadline	\$50	Per offence
5	11.15	Failure to list a player as stood down on the team sheet	\$25	Per offence
5	11.16	Failure to list a player on the team sheet	\$25	Per offence
5	12.3	Failure to enter match results online into SportsTG as specified	\$50	Per offence
5	14.2 a)	When five (5) or more Player's/Team Official's from the same Team receive a caution/temporary dismissal in the same Match	\$100	Per offence
5	14.2 b)	When three (3) or more Player's/Team Official's from the same Team are sent off in the same Match	\$150	Per offence
5	16.3	Failure to adhere to smoking and drinking requirements as specified	\$100	Per offence
5	19.1	Failure to comply with minimum medical coverage standards	\$50	Per offence
6	6.6	Failure to provide an assistant Match Official as needed	\$50	Per offence

## 2 ADMINISTRATION FEES

2.1 Set out below are the administration fees as outlined in these Regulations:

Section	Article	Administration Requirement	Sanction	
2	16.4	Administration fee for protest	\$150	Per protest
2	24.3	Administration fee for lodging Overseas Tours and Travel Form less than eight (8) weeks prior to departure	\$100	N/A for 2021
2	25.4	Administration fee for lodging Interstate Tours and Travel Form less than three (3) weeks prior to departure	\$50	Per lodgement