



**CAPITAL  
FOOTBALL**

**COMPETITION  
REGULATIONS:  
2025 SENIOR LEAGUES**

# VERSION CONTROL

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	RATIONALE
Draft V1	15/12/2020	Capital Football	Updated for 2021 season
Final	12/02/2021	Capital Football	Updated for 2021 season
Draft V1	22/10/2021	Capital Football	Updated for 2022 season
<b>Final</b>	21/03/2022	Capital Football	Updated for 2022 season
<b>Final V2</b>	22/04/2022	Capital Football	Updated COVID protocols
<b>Final V3</b>	15/07/2022	Capital Football	Amended Articles – Match Officials Amended Definitions
<b>Final V4</b>	23/12/2022	Capital Football	Updated for 2023 season. - Key Amendments document to be made available on CF website.
<b>Final V5</b>	21/02/2023	Capital Football	Minor changes to Permitted Player Movement
<b>Final V6</b>	14/04/2023	Capital Football	Additions to Electronic Team Sheets – re timing of submission before a match.
<b>Final V7</b>	11/05/2023	Capital Football	Addition of Abandoned Matches Regulations, Section 2 Article 8.7
<b>Final V8</b>	02/08/2023	Capital Football	Final Series & Championship Section 2 Article 15
<b>Draft V2</b>	21/12/2023	Capital Football	Draft regulations for 2024 season
<b>Final V9</b>	20/02/2024	Capital Football	Final Regulations for 2024 season
<b>Final V10</b>	10/04/2024	Capital Football	Section 5 Article 9.6 Updated Masters League maximum number in match sheet
<b>Final V11</b>	22/04/2024	Capital Football	Schedule 4- Registered player movements in Capital League Open
<b>Final V12</b>	March 2025	Capital Football	Section 2 Article 10.2: Change of timeline for rescheduling matches from 7 days to 10 days due to weather events or ground closures.  Awards Section Removal: The Awards section has been removed from all regulations (including Junior, Senior, & NPL/CPL), as it will now be covered in an Awards Framework document.  Inclusion of new slide tackle ruling for Master's League Women's (MLW).

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# SECTION 1: PREAMBLE

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Football is governed and regulated internationally by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). Football operates in accordance with Laws of the Game (**Laws**) published by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).
- 1.2 The game of Football is defined by its Laws and the sport of Football is governed and administered by policies, codes, rules, and regulations (**Statutes**). The Laws and Statutes address issues of fairness, competitiveness, proper conduct, integrity, administrative effectiveness, and compliance.
- 1.3 These Competition Regulations outline the Laws, rules and regulations applicable to the Senior League competitions under the jurisdiction of Capital Football.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Definitions of important words and phrases are set out in **Schedule 1**.
- 2.2 Any capitalised terms used in these Regulations will have the meaning given to them in **Schedule 1**.

## 3 AUTHORITY

- 3.1 The Australian Member of FIFA is Football Australia (FA).
- 3.2 The ACT Football Federation Limited is a company established in the Australian Capital Territory (**ACT**), trading as Capital Football (**CF**). Two of the objects of CF are to be the Member of FA with respect to Football in the ACT and surrounding regions and to govern, administer and regulate Football in the ACT and the surrounding regions.
- 3.3 FA has accepted CF as a Member and granted it a mandate to govern, administer and regulate Football in the ACT and surrounding regions.
- 3.4 Participants must comply with FA and CF Statutes and in participating in or being associated with the Leagues agree to do so.
- 3.5 In addition to complying with Commonwealth and ACT laws and regulations, and with its own Constitution, CF must, under Section 7.2(a) of its [Constitution](#), promulgate and comply with FA Statutes.
- 3.6 Under Section 7.2(b) of its [Constitution](#), CF must promulgate and enforce IFAB's [Laws of the Game](#).
- 3.7 CF is governed under its [Constitution](#) by a Board of Directors. The Board is given the authority and power to manage CF's business under Section 11.1 of its [Constitution](#). This power includes the regulation and governance of Football and of Football Related Activities.

- 3.8 Under Section 12.11 of its [Constitution](#), CF's Board may delegate powers to a person or persons, or to a Committee or Committees consisting of persons it thinks fit.
- 3.9 Persons and Committees to whom powers are delegated by CF's Board include managers and administrators employed by the Board to manage its Football business on its behalf (**Management**) and disciplinary and appeal committees (**Tribunals**) appointed to assist with and administer the governance and regulation of Competitions and Participants.
- 3.10 Under Sections 13.1 and 13.2 of its [Constitution](#), CF's Board appoints a CEO and may determine that the CEO holds certain powers and authorities.
- 3.11 In approving and promulgating these Regulations, CF's Board appoints the CEO as the Leagues Administrator and delegates to the CEO and Management the administration, interpretation, amendment from time to time, and enforcement of the Regulations.
- 3.12 The interpretation or application of these Regulations by the CEO as Leagues Administrator will be final, binding on all Participants, and not subject to challenge or appeal.
- 3.13 If any Section, Sub-Section or Article of these Regulations is found to be of no effect it can be separated and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining Sections, Sub-Sections or Articles.

## 4 SCOPE

- 4.1 These Regulations are supplementary to FA's Statutes.
- 4.2 These Regulations apply to the competitions under the control of Capital Football designated as Capital Football Leagues (**Leagues**), specifically:
- a) Capital League Opens
  - c) Men's Masters League
  - d) Capital League Women's
  - e) Women's Masters League

## 5 SCHEDULES

- 5.1 These Regulations include the following Schedules:
- a) Schedule 1 – Definitions
  - b) Schedule 2 – Eligibility Criteria for League Participation
  - c) Schedule 3 – League Relegation and Promotion
  - d) Schedule 4 – Permitted Player Movement
  - e) Schedule 5 – Fees and Sanctions

## **6 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE DETERMINATIONS**

- 6.1 In applying the Regulations, Management has authority to consider special circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the Regulations in the interests of Football.
- 6.2 Fairness, competitiveness, competition integrity and player development may be elements in any special circumstance determination.
- 6.3 A determination by Management under this special circumstance provision is not subject to appeal or review and need not be made public where privacy is also an element of the consideration.
- 6.4 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 scheduling, promotion, relegation, number of divisions and composition of Teams.

## **7 PURPOSE**

- 7.1 The purpose of these Regulations is to:
  - a) Provide a protocol which sets out procedures, guidelines and sanctions for any Participant, Club or Match Official who is involved with the activities associated with the Senior Leagues.
  - b) Ensure that all Clubs, Participants and Match Officials observe the Regulations.
  - c) Ensure that football is played competitively and fairly in accordance with principles of true sportsmanship and in accordance with the Regulations.
  - d) Provide a safe and secure environment for everyone involved in Football Related Activities.



# SECTION 2: LEAGUES, COMPETITIONS & MATCHES

## 1 STRUCTURE

- 1.1 A League consists of:
  - a) A defined Season with at least one Cycle of Matches
  - b) A defined Pre-Season
  - c) A set of Clubs declared by the Board to compete in each League
  - d) A set of age graded Competitions
  - e) A schedule of Matches to determine the Premiership Club (Premiership Matches)
  - f) Scheduled Matches,
  - g) Rounds of Matches,
  - h) Re-scheduled Matches,
  - i) Cycles of Matches
- 1.2 Leagues may include a Finals Series to determine a Championship Club.
- 1.3 Clubs may be eligible to have Teams participate in a League based on the Criteria set out in **Schedule 2**.
- 1.4 The Board determines, at its sole discretion, which Clubs may participate in a League.
- 1.5 The Board will declare the set of Clubs to participate in a League anytime up to 30 November in the year preceding the proposed League Season.
- 1.6 The Board determines, at its sole discretion, whether a Final Series will be held as part of a Season.
- 1.7 The structure of Leagues in 2025 will be as follows:

League	Abbreviation	Divisions
Capital League Women's	CLW	As per competition structure
Capital League Open	CLO	As per competition structure
Master's League Women's	MLW	As per competition structure
Masters League Men's	MLM	As per competition structure

- 1.8 Composition of the Leagues, including maximum numbers of Teams per divisions or age-grade, will be determined by CF.
- 1.9 Relegation from and Promotion into a League will be determined by competition points and processes outlined in **Schedule 3**.
- 1.10 Teams in Capital League Open Division 1 and Division 2 must be nominated as a pairing team.

## **2 MATCHES PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

- 2.1 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, unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations.

## **3 SEASON & SCHEDULES**

- 3.1 Management has authority to determine the start and end dates of a Season in consultation with the ACT Government.
- 3.2 Management has authority to identify and approve venues for League matches in consultation with the ACT Government and private venue owners.
- 3.3 Management has authority to allocate venues owned by the ACT Government and placed under its direction by the ACT Government to Clubs for individual matches and for training purposes, and to determine the date and time of matches.
- 3.4 Normal match times in a Round commence from 8.30am and end with the last match to commence at 3.00pm.
- 3.5 Matches may be scheduled after 5.00pm only where venues provide lighting at equal to or more than 100 LUX levels appropriate for the level of competition in line with Australian Standards.
- 3.6 CF has authority to alter or amend the scheduling of any Match, including the date, venue, kick off times, or a combination of these elements, after scheduling has been published or notified.
- 3.7 Management may take into consideration scheduled or announced international, national, interstate, or A-Leagues Matches, when scheduling Matches or in determining whether Matches need to be rescheduled.

## **4 PRE-SEASON & TRIALS**

- 4.1 Management will set a start and end date for a Pre-Season period (dates can be found within the 2025 Competitions Calendar)
- 4.2 No Trials are to be held before the promulgated Pre-Season and Trials commencement date.
- 4.3 Clubs must advise Management using the approved online form of proposed Trial dates and Trial and 'friendly' match dates with the Pre-Season seven (7) days prior to commencement.
- 4.4 Trial and Friendly matches can only be conducted with written approval from Management, and approval may be declined or withdrawn where:
  - a) Match Officials cannot be appointed.
  - b) A proposed Match is deemed, at Management's sole discretion, to be high risk.
  - c) For any other reason determined appropriate by Management

## 5 START & DURATION OF MATCHES

- 5.1 Teams must be ready to begin play by the scheduled kick off time and Teams may be sanctioned where a Match does not commence at the scheduled time.
- 5.2 If both Teams are not ready to begin playing fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick off time, the Referee may abandon the Match.
- 5.3 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 grounds to which the Referee is also appointed on that Matchday.
- 5.4 The duration of matches will be:

Age Grade	Duration of Match	Half Time
Capital League Women's	Two periods of 45 minutes	A maximum of 10 minutes
Capital League Open	Two periods of 45 minutes	A maximum of 10 minutes
Master's League Women's	Two periods of 45 minutes	A maximum of 10 minutes
Masters League Men's	Two periods of 45 minutes	A maximum of 10 minutes

- 5.5 The Referee is the sole arbiter of time, and no protest may be lodged or will be accepted against the time as applied or recorded by the Referee.
- 5.6 The Referee may cut short any Match (including reducing the length of each half before the commencement of the 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; and
  - b) The Referee has consulted with the coaches of each participating Team before the start of the Match.

## 6 ADDED TIME/STOPPAGE TIME

- 6.1 There is no added/stoppage time in premiership and championship Senior League Matches.

## 7 EXTRA TIME & PENALTY KICKS

- 7.1 Premiership Matches do not require a result that determines an outright winner on the day: at the conclusion of normal time, a Match result can be a draw.
- 7.2 There will be no extra time played in Premiership Matches in the event scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time.
- 7.3 The result of Final Series Matches must be decided on the day of the Match: an outright winner is required, and the Match cannot end in a draw.

- 7.4 Should scores be equal at the conclusion of a Championship Match, extra time will be played as follows:

Age Grade	Duration of Extra Time
Capital League Women's	Two periods of 10 minutes
Capital League Open	Two periods of 10 minutes
Master's League Women's	Two periods of 10 minutes
Masters League Men's	Two periods of 10 minutes

- 7.5 For all Championship Matches where extra time is required:
- There will be an interval of a maximum of five (5) minutes before the commencement of extra time, and
  - 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.
  - 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 Laws.

## 8 ABANDONED MATCHES

- 8.1 A Match may be abandoned by a Referee or, in the absence of a Referee, the Home Club: Consistent with Section 2 Article 5.2, where both Teams are not ready to play within 15 minutes of the scheduled commencement time.
- 8.2 Where the conditions for Play for Participants are unsafe for any reason
- 8.3 Where a Participant is responsible for the abandonment of a Match, sanctions may be imposed, or the matter referred to a Tribunal.
- 8.4 Where a Participant is found to be responsible for the abandonment of a Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Participant's Club
- 8.5 Where a Match is abandoned for reasons outside the control of the Clubs involved, the Match will be rescheduled.
- 8.6 After the commencement of the Match, should play be postponed due to any reason as outlined in Section 2 Article 10, and the Match cannot be completed in full, the following principles will apply:
- If eighty percent (80%) or more of normal time of a Match has been played, then the score at the time of postponement will stand.
  - 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.
  - If the Match is postponed at or after half time and prior to eighty percent (80%) 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) 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) Should a Player have received a suspension in a Match conducted between the postponed Match and the rescheduling of that Match:
  - A. The Player will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled Match.
  - B. The Player 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.
- iii) No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the Team sheet.
- v) Players sent off during the postponed Match cannot be replaced.
- d) CF will endeavour to appoint the same Match Officials to the completion of the Match, however, may appoint replacements at its discretion.

## **9 WEATHER EVENTS & GROUND CLOSURES**

- 9.1 Matches may be rescheduled if rain or high temperatures make playing or continuing a Match unsafe (*refer to the laws of the game*).
- 9.2 Matches may be rescheduled where a government department or authority closes a ground or grounds for any reason.
- 9.3 Consistent with Section 2 Article 9.2, a Referee may determine that a venue is unsafe for a Match to be played.
- 9.4 Where a Referee determines that a Match cannot be played for safety reasons, they must advise both teams/Clubs and contact Management by phone immediately they make that decision.
- 9.5 Where a Home Club believes its venue is unsafe for play it must contact Management at the time that assessment is made and seek a decision on the rescheduling of the Match.
- 9.6 Management may seek photographic evidence to be emailed by a Club justifying its assessment that a venue is unsafe for a Match to be played.
- 9.7 Management may determine, at its sole discretion, whether a venue is unsafe for a Match to be played or may be played under restrictions or at another venue, and may determine:
  - a) Whether in the case of high temperature, whether a Match is played with drink breaks,

- b) Whether a Match is moved to a different venue on the same day
- c) To reschedule the Match

9.8 Where Management determines that weather requires a Match to be rescheduled, it will advise the Clubs involved and provide details on the CF 'Inclement Weather' website.

## 10 RESCHEDULING OF MATCHES

10.1 Matches may be rescheduled for the following reasons:

- a. Abandonment not resulting in a forfeit.
- b. Ground closures by a government department or authority
- c. Postponement due to weather conditions
- d. Approval by Management of a request from a Club or Clubs

10.2 Where a Match cannot be played because of a weather event or ground closure, the Clubs involved have ten (10) days to reach agreement and submit the details of the proposed rescheduling for consideration and approval by Management.

10.3 Where Clubs are unable to agree on the details of a rescheduling of a game within ten (10) days, Management will determine those details.

10.4 Where a Club or Clubs seek to have a Match re-scheduled for reasons other than a weather event or ground closure, they must submit details on the approved [Match Alteration Form](#).

10.5 The grounds upon which a Club may seek to have a match rescheduled include the loss of three (3) or more players to representative duties in sanctioned Matches or programs.

10.6 In any submission for a game to be rescheduled under Section 2 Article 10.5, a Club must provide documentary evidence relating to Player absences and show that it does not have the ability to bring age-eligible players into the Team to field the Team for the scheduled Match.

10.7 Management may, in its sole discretion, decline a request for a Match to be rescheduled, including in the case where both Clubs support the request.

10.8 Rescheduled matches must not be played after the last round of the season prior to the Championship Series (e.g. playing a rescheduled match between the last round and the semi-finals).

10.9 Where Management decides that a Match is to be rescheduled, it will provide the clubs seven (7) days' notice of the details of a rescheduled match, except in cases involving:

- a. Decisions or action by a government department or authority or FA
- b. A risk of Matches not being conducted before Season completion or delivery of a Final Series
- c. Agreement between both Clubs and Management

10.10 Notwithstanding Section 2 Articles 9 & 10, if a Club requests a reschedule and is successful, the Club to ask for the reschedule will pay all fees associated with the rescheduled fixture.

- a. If both clubs request the reschedule, it is up to Management to decide on the split of fees.

## 11 FORFEITS

11.1 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 (PlayFootball) / mapped (Dribl) or eligible borrowed 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 (PlayFootball) / mapped (Dribl) or eligible borrowed 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 Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations that stipulates a forfeit of the Match.

11.2 If any Team forfeits its Match:

- a. Three (3) points and three (3) goals will be allocated for the Match to the opposition Team, with the forfeiting Team receiving zero (0) points and three (3) goals against, 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 forfeiting Team to be removed.

11.3 Where a Match is forfeited or has been deemed as a forfeit by CF:

- a. The statistics (goal scorers and Matches played) of the non-offending Team will be retained; and
- b. The statistics (goal scorers and Matches played) of the offending Team will be removed.
- c. The offending Club will be fined the prescribed amount in **Schedule 5**.
- d. In the case that the match is forfeited within 24 hours on the scheduled Match, the offending Club will be required to pay all Match Official fees for the Match.  
In the case that the match is forfeited within 24 hours and the offending Club is the Away Club, the Club will be required to pay all appropriate Match Official fees and be fined an additional \$125 by CF, such fine amount to be paid to the Home Club by CF.

11.4 In the case of a second Match forfeit, Section 2 Articles 11.2 and 11.3 a), b), c), d) and e) apply.

11.5 In the case of a third and further Match forfeits by a Team, for each forfeit:

- a. In addition to the loss of points for the Match, an additional three (3) points will be deducted from the table, and
- b. Section 2 Articles 11.3 a), b), c), d) and e) apply.
- c. The Team will be ineligible to participate in any Final Series for the season.

- d. The Club will be ineligible for promotion from that League to a higher League notwithstanding its position on the competition points table at the end of the season.
- e. The Club will be asked to 'show cause' as to why it should participate in that League in the following season.

11.6 In the case that a Team forfeits its last Match of the premiership round (i.e., round 18), that Team will be ineligible to participate in the Final Series.

11.7 In the case that a Club forfeits all scheduled Matches in a League in a Round:

- a. Section 2 Articles 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5 and 11.6 apply to each of the Teams as appropriate.
- b. The Club will be fined the additional prescribed amount in **Schedule 5**.

11.8 A forfeit will count as a match played.

## 12 TEAM OR CLUB REMOVED OR WITHDRAWN

12.1 In the case that a Club withdraws a Team or has a Team removed from an age grade or division in a League after the League is declared, during the Pre-Season, or after the Season has commenced, all Matches not played will be deemed a forfeit and Section 2 Articles 11.2 to 11.8 inclusive will apply to the Matches, the Team, and the Club.

## 13 COMPETITION POINTS

13.1 Points will be awarded for Premiership Matches as follows:

Result	Points Awarded
Win	Three (3)
Draw	One (1) point for each Team
Loss	Zero (0)
Bye	Zero (0)
Forfeit 1	Zero (0) to forfeiting team, three (3) points awarded to the opponent team. The forfeiting team may be fined \$125.
Forfeit 2	Minus Three (3) to forfeiting team, three (3) points awarded to the opponent's team. The forfeiting team may be fined \$300
Forfeit 3 and more	Minus Six (6) points to forfeiting team, and three (3) points awarded to the opponent team. The forfeiting team may be fined \$500, the team including all players may be disqualified from participating in the final series in all divisions or age-grades and be disqualified from promotion to a higher league the following season.

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



## 14 DETERMINING PREMIERSHIPS

- 14.1 At the end of a Season, the winner of the Premiership in each age grade will be determined by the greater number of points obtained from all Premiership Matches.
- 14.2 If two (2) or more Teams have an equal number of points at the end of a Season, the Premiership will be determined as follows:
- Greater goal difference resulting from all Premiership Matches, or if still equal, then,
  - Greater goals scored from all Premiership Matches, or if still equal, then,
  - Greater number of points obtained in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head-to-head) or if still equal, then,
  - Greater number of goals scored in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head-to-head) or if still equal, then,
  - Greater number of goals scored in away Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head-to-head) or if still equal, then,
  - Team with the lowest number of Red Cards (direct and indirect) received in all Premiership Matches, or if still equal, then,
  - Team with the lowest number of Yellow Cards (including Temporary Dismissals) received in all Premiership Matches, or if still equal, then,
  - A play-off Match between the Teams under arrangements approved by CF.
- 14.3 Notwithstanding Section 2 Articles 14.2, if a season is abandoned from round fourteen (14) or later, the first step in determining the Premiership will be the use of the Points per Match ratio.

## 15 FINALS SERIES & CHAMPIONSHIP

- 15.1 If the Board determines that a Premiership Season will be followed by a Final Series and Championship in any League, that Series will be played by the teams finishing 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the Season as follows:

Round	Match Number	Title	Teams
1	1	Semi Final 1	1st v 4th
	2	Semi Final 2	2nd v 3rd
2	3	Grand Final	Winner Match 1 v Winner Match 2

- 15.2 For the purposes of allocating a home Team, the Teams finishing the Season first and second will be deemed the Home Team in their respective Matches.

## 16 ABANDONED SEASON

- 16.1 The Board, in its sole discretion, may decide if a Season must be abandoned.
- 16.2 If a Season is abandoned from round thirteen (13) or earlier, a Premiership will not be awarded, and promotion and relegation will not occur.

16.3 If a Season is abandoned from round fourteen (14) or later, the Premiership will be determined in each age grade using the criteria and steps outlined in Section 2 Article 14.2.

## **17 OVERSEAS & INTERSTATE TOURS**

17.1 Clubs wishing to arrange interstate or overseas tours and travel for football activities must obtain the written approval from Management not less than eight (8) weeks prior to proposed departure for overseas travel and three weeks (3) prior to interstate travel.

17.2 Tours and travel should not interfere with scheduled Matches in CF competitions. Any competition Matches that conflict with a proposed tour or travel must be played prior to the travel.

17.3 If it is not possible to reschedule matches, Management may not approve the request and forfeits will apply to Matches not played.

## **18 REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS**

18.1 Any Player registered in the ACT will be eligible to represent the ACT in representative Matches, camps, or tours, or be eligible to be selected to participate in a CF development program.

18.2 Each selected Player must make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative Matches, camps, tours, or development programs, when requested by Management.

18.3 Clubs must release Players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative Matches, camps, tours, or development programs, when requested by CF.

## **19 NOMINATIONS**

19.1 Only CF affiliated Clubs are eligible to nominate a Team or Teams to participate in SL competitions.

19.2 Each year CF will call for nominations for all competitions for the upcoming season as well as set a deadline for nominations according to the key dates and timelines document.

19.3 All nominations are to be submitted to CF and Clubs must include all relevant information required in the nomination process.

19.4 CF reserves the right to reject Team nominations.

19.5 Nominations received after the closing date will only be accepted at the discretion of CF and placed into divisions as CF determines.

## 20 PROTESTS

- 20.1 Protests must be lodged and received by CF no later than two (2) business days after the Match was played.
- 20.2 Protests will only be considered by CF for obvious breaches or 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.
- 20.3 No protests as to the result of a Match will be considered by CF in relation to disciplinary decisions of the Match Officials.
- 20.4 Protests must be accompanied by an administration fee as outlined in **Schedule 5** 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.
- 20.5 A decision by CF in respect of a protest is final and binding on the parties and not subject to challenge or appeal.

## 21 GRADING

- 21.1 CF reserves the right to determine the appropriate division of each Team nomination by considering the previous season's results, playing strength of the Team, Player movements and the formation of the division.
- 21.2 CF will consider historic League tables, along with the skill level and competition level identified by the Club for each Team to finalise Team grading.
- 21.3 Any Teams that are re-graded after the season has commenced will only be moved in place of a bye, or with a swap with a Team in the respective higher/lower divisions. Regraded Teams will retain their points and goal difference.
- 21.4 Grading of Teams is at the discretion of CF and cannot be appealed.

## 22 SLIDE TACKLE (2025 IMPLEMENTATION)

- 22.1 No slide tackles are allowed (including Goalkeepers) in Master's League Women's Competitions.
  - a) A slide tackle occurs when two or more players are challenging for the ball and any of them 'slide' for the ball. Any challenge not made on two feet is to be considered a slide tackle.
- 22.2 Slide tackles are permitted in Capital League Opens (CLO), Capital League Women's (CLW), and Master's League Men's (MLM).

# SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY & MOVEMENT

## 1 ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY

- 1.1 An eligible Participant is a person who meets all the registration and eligibility requirements within these Regulations and who is not ineligible according to any article within these Regulations.

## 2 INELIGIBILITY TO PLAY

- 2.1 A person is ineligible to play if:
  - a. They are not registered or correctly registered in the National Registration System and mapped in Dribl to the Club with which they are playing for.
  - b. They are suspended under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations
  - c. They have received a Red Card or have accumulated the number specified in these Regulations of Yellow Cards that results in a suspension in a match or matches notwithstanding that they have not received formal notification of a suspension from Management.
  - d. They play without an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) where one is required, unless having received prior and written approval from Management.
  - e. They are deemed ineligible due to any article in these Regulations or in the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.
  - f. A Participant that has been sent off or suspended from a Match is unable to participate or play on the same weekend and/or following matches on the same day (according to the DDR).
- 2.2 It is the responsibility of the Club and of the Team Officials to ensure that only eligible Players participate in a match and that an Ineligible Player does not.
- 2.3 A Match in which an Ineligible Player participates, irrespective of whether they take the field or for the duration of their participation, may be deemed a forfeit.
- 2.4 Where an Ineligible Player participates in a match, the Club, Team Official/s and / or the Player may be guilty of a breach of these Regulations and liable for sanction under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.
- 2.5 A 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 Where an Ineligible Player participates in a Match:
  - a. The opposing Club in the Match may lodge a claim with Management to have it deem the game a forfeit.
  - b. Any claim under Section 3 Article 2.6 a) must be received by Management within two (2) business days of the of the Match in question.
  - c. Notwithstanding that a Club does not make a claim regarding the participation of an Ineligible

Player in a team fielded by an opposing Club, Management will, where it becomes aware of the breach, deem the game to be a forfeit.

2.7 An administrative error by Management regarding eligibility may be defence by a Player, Team Official or Club under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations but will not result in the Match in which an Ineligible Player participated being deemed a forfeit.

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

3.1 Player movement between National Premier Leagues (NPL) / Capital Premier Leagues (CPL) and Senior Leagues (SL):

- a) At no stage can any NPL or CPL Player participate in any division across the SL competitions.
- b) At no stage can any SL Player participate in any division across the NPL or CPL competitions unless the player is a goalkeeper and has received an exemption from CF in writing.
  - i) A Goalkeeper in SL who participates in any division across the NPL or CPL competitions, that plays more than nine (9) NPL matches, will have their status reclassified to an NPL or CPL Bonafide player.

3.2 Player movement between Junior League (JL) and SL:

- a) At no stage can any registered SL Player participate in any division across the JL competitions, regardless of age eligibility.
- b) JL Players can play up into SL competitions as long as they are age eligible.
- c) Any JL Player playing more than nine (9) SL Matches will have their status reclassified to a bona fide SL Player.

3.3 Permitted Player movement within SL competitions is defined in **Schedule 4**

3.4 Player Reclassification:

- a) Upon playing their tenth (10th) competition Match in a division higher than their registered Team, as outlined in **Schedule 4**, that Player will be reclassified to the Team where the tenth (10th) competition Match was played.
- b) Should Section 3 Article 3.4 a) occur, the Player will only be permitted to play in any lower rated Team for the remainder of the season, in conjunction with **Schedule 4**.

3.5 If a Club is found to have breached Section 3 Article 3.3, they will be deemed to have played an ineligible Player and will lose that Match on a forfeit and Section 2 Article 11 will be applied.

3.6 Where two (2) Teams from the same Club are in the same division, Players must be assigned only to one team.

3.7 Where two (2) Teams from the same Club are in the same division, no Player can play for the other Team in any Match.

3.8 Where the teams are paired in CLO Division 1 and Division 2, then those players can only play with their paired team from the club.

3.9 Registered and mapped players in NPLM, NPLB, NPLW, NPLG, CPLM Teams may not play in Senior, Masters, or Junior League Matches.

## 4 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS IN CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

- 4.1 To be qualified to play for a Team in any Championship Match, the Player must have played in seven (7) Premiership Matches for that Team.
- 4.2 Players may then participate in any division higher than the division they have qualified for.
- 4.3 A Player who has qualified for more than one Team or division in the Championship Series will be eligible to represent all Teams they have qualified for.
  - a) CF will communicate all eligible Players to the respective Clubs, prior to the commencement of the Championship Series.
  - b) Should a Club question the number of games a Player has participated in, they are to send through Team Sheets to CF to show seven (7) Premiership Matches have been participated in by the Player.
- 4.4 Should Clubs wish to seek an exemption, they will need to do so via email to the CF Competitions team explaining why the Player should be eligible to play. CF will then make a final determination on eligibility.
- 4.5 Junior League Players are permitted to play up in the SL finals series with the permission of their Parent/Guardian if they meet the requirements of Section 3 - Article 4.1.
- 4.6 Except in the case of a Goalkeeper, a Club may not appoint a Player to more than two (2) Matches on a day in a Final Series.

## 5 AGE ELIGIBILITY & PLAYER EXEMPTIONS

- 5.1 Capital League Women's, and Capital League Open:
  - a) The minimum age to participate in SL competitions is 16 years of age or over by 31 December in the calendar year of the competition.
  - b) Clubs / Teams are permitted to request an age exemption by completing the [Exemption Form](#).
  - c) Each Team is permitted up to two (2) underage Players, in accordance with Section 3 Article 5.1 a). Should exceptional circumstances permit, CF may provide approval to exceed this number.
- 5.2 Masters League Women's and Master's League Men's - O35's competitions:
  - a) Teams shall consist of Players who are 35 years of age or over by 31 December in the calendar year of the competition.
  - b) Clubs / Teams are permitted to request an age exemption by completing the [Exemption Form](#).
  - c) Each Team is permitted up to two (2) underage Players, in accordance with Section 3 Article 5.2 a). Should exceptional circumstances permit, CF may provide approval to exceed this number.
- 5.3 Masters League Men's - O45's competitions:

- a) Teams shall consist of Players who have turned 45 years of age by 31 December in the calendar year of the competition.
- b) Clubs / Teams are permitted to request an age exemption by completing the [Exemption Form](#).
- c) Each Team is permitted up to three (3) underage Players, in accordance with Section 3 Article 5.3 a). Should exceptional circumstances permit, CF may provide approval to exceed this number.

5.4 Masters League Men's – O55's competitions:

- a) Teams shall consist of Players who have turned 55 years of age by 31 December in the calendar year of the competition.
- b) Clubs / Teams are permitted to request an age exemption by completing the [Exemption Form](#).
- c) Each Team is permitted up to four (4) underage Players, in accordance with Section 3 Article 5.4 a). Should exceptional circumstances permit, CF may provide approval to exceed this number.

# SECTION 4: REGISTRATION

## 1 COMPETITION & PLAYER STATUS

- 1.1 Capital Football Leagues are Amateur Leagues.
- 1.2 All Players registering to play in Capital Football Leagues must register as Amateur Players in the National Registration System.
- 1.3 Clubs are responsible to ensure that their Players are registered as Amateur Players in the National Registration System.
- 1.4 A Player registered as a Professional Player in another competition cannot re-register as an Amateur Player in a Capital Football League until at least thirty (30) days after their last Match as a Professional Player.
- 1.5 A Player registered to a Standard Player Contract with an A-League Club may re-register as an Amateur Player immediately after their last Match as a Professional Player where the playing contract with their Club has ended.

## 2 REGISTRATION PERIODS

- 2.1 A Player registration with, or loan to, a Club must occur for all Leagues for 2025 in the following periods:

Competition	Open	Close
Capital League Women's	January 2025	30 June 2025
Capital League Men's	January 2025	30 June 2025
Master's League Women's	January 2025	30 June 2025
Masters League Men's	January 2025	30 June 2025

## 3 REGISTRATION OUTSIDE THE REGISTRATION PERIODS

- 3.1 A Club may make a submission to Management seeking the registration of a Player into an SL Team outside the registration periods specified in Section 4 Article 2.1.
- 3.2 Management may approve an exemption for a registration outside of the registration periods in any one of the following situations:
  - a) The Player is a foreign Player with appropriate documentation
  - b) The Player is a goalkeeper
  - c) The Player is returning from a documented major injury
  - d) In the case where the request is after the mid-season period, the Player was not registered with any other SL Team during the season,



- e) The registration is for a Player into a Team that, at the commencement of the season, had less than fourteen registered Players, and the Club had formally notified Management of that situation prior to commencement of the season.
  - f) A Team's registered Player numbers are reduced to less than fourteen (14) Players during the season because of documented season-ending injuries.
  - g) Any other circumstance Management deems exceptional circumstance and where approval would be in the interests of the game.
- 3.3 A Club seeking an exemption must submit its request via Capital Football's [Player Exemption Request Form](#)
- 3.4 Management may request such documentation from the Player's current or previous Club as it deems necessary before considering any submission under Section 4 Article 3.2 and may deny the request where such documentation is not provided as and when requested.
- 3.5 A decision under Section 4 Article 3. 2 will be made by Management at their sole discretion and is not subject to review or appeal.

## **4 REGISTRATION PROCESSES**

### **PLAYERS**

- 4.1 A Player may be registered 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.
- 4.2 A Player may only be registered with one (1) Club in each form of the game at any one time in the ACT, in accordance with the National Registration Status and Transfer Regulations (NRSTR).
- 4.3 A Player registered in PlayFootball and mapped in Dribl with CF, can play only for the Club/team in the ACT nominated by that Player unless the Player is playing:
- i) For a Representative team,
  - ii) For an A-Leagues Club as a replacement Player in accordance with A-Leagues Competition Regulations,
  - iii) For a Futsal Club for which the Player is also registered,
  - iv) For a school team that is not part of a School affiliated as a Club at CF,
  - v) In a benefit, testimonial or charity Match, if that Player has written permissions from their Club, CF or FA, as required,
  - vi) In a trial Match, provided the Player has their current Club's written permission and plays no more than two (2) trial Matches or such other number of Matches specified in these Regulations, or
  - vii) Under any other circumstances deemed exceptional by Management or FA in their absolute discretion.

- 4.4 Notwithstanding Section 4 Articles 4.1 and 4.2, approval for dual registration must be sought and obtained from CF and FA.
- 4.5 When registering to any Club for the first time, a Player must provide the Club with evidence of name and age, by producing an original birth certificate, passport, driver's licence or similar form of identification.
- 4.6 Player registration must be completed, including with a passport style photo of the individual, online via the National Registration System.
- 4.7 It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that documentary requirements under Section 4 Article 4.5 are adhered to.
- 4.8 The registration of a Player with a Club is effective from the time that registration is made active by the Club in the National Registration System and appropriately mapped into the team in Dribl.

## **INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS**

- 4.9 An International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is required for all Players over the age of 10 who wish to register with a Club:
  - b) Who were last registered with a Club outside of Australia (current or otherwise), and
  - c) 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.
- 4.10 Section 4 Article 4.8 applies to:
  - d) Both Australian and non-Australian citizens, and
  - e) Amateur Players.
- 4.11 An ITC must be requested by a Player at the time of registration in the National Registration System.
- 4.12 The requirement for an ITC applies to any Player aged 10 to 18 years seeking to register to play football in Australia at any level, who is:
  - f) 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,
  - g) An Australian returning to Australia after having played abroad,
  - h) A prospective Player born in a country other than Australia who is registering to play football for the first time.
- 4.13 All required forms for an ITC must be fully completed and returned to CF, together with all necessary documents supporting the application (information on the application forms and relevant documentation, can be found at [2022 Guide to International Transfer Certificates](#)).

## **CLUB AND TEAM OFFICIALS**

- 4.14 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 and be mapped in Dribl accordingly.
- 4.15 Club and Team Officials must register via the National Registration System and the Club must approve each individual's registration in PlayFootball and be mapped in Dribl accordingly.
- 4.16 All Club and Team Officials must ensure they meet the relevant child protection requirements prior to the season starting: in the ACT, Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Registration, in NSW, Working with Children Check.

## **SUBMISSION AND PRIORITY OF REGISTRATIONS**

- 4.17 A Club is responsible for registration in PlayFootball and mapping in Dribl of its Players and Officials.
- 4.18 All registrations in PlayFootball and mapping in Dribl during the registration periods specified in Section 4 Article 2.1 must be submitted to no later than 11:59pm on the Wednesday prior to a weekend's Matches to ensure Player eligibility for the Match, and all registrations/mapping must be completed no later than 11.59pm on the last date of registration period.
- 4.19 A Player who registers in PlayFootball, maps a player in Dribl or completes a registration form with more than one Club may be in breach of the Regulations and be subject to sanction under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.
- 4.20 A Club which registers a player in PlayFootball, maps a player in Dribl, or accepts a registration form from a Player who has already registered with another Club may be in breach of the Regulations and be subject to sanction under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.
- 4.21 In the case that a Player registers in PlayFootball or mapped in Dribl for more than one (1) Club, the earliest registration in PlayFootball will stand as the registration for the Player.

## **5 AMALGAMATED CLUBS**

- 5.1 Amalgamation of Clubs and the affiliation of the new Club requires formal consultation with and approval from CF.
- 5.2 Where an amalgamation or merger is approved before a registration period:
  - a) Amateur Player registrations will automatically cease, and the amalgamated Club will be required to re-register Amateur Players within the applicable Player number limits.
  - b) All disciplinary cautions incurred by Players will be carried forward if Players move to another Club.
  - c) All suspensions incurred by Players will be carried forward if Players move to another Club.

5.3 Where an amalgamation is approved after a registration period, the amalgamation, the participation of the Club in a competition, and registration of Players must be undertaken under conditions and following processes approved by Management.

## **6 DE-REGISTRATION**

6.1 A Player is free to move to another Club during the Registration Periods (prior to June 30).

6.2 A 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.

6.3 If a Club no longer wants a 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. Also, the player must be de-mapped in Dribl from their previous team/club.

6.4 A deregistration is effective:

a) When the other party (a Club or Player as the case may be) has confirmed the cancellation via the National Registration System, and Management has processed the cancellation via the National Registration System; or

b) After seven (7) days from the date the Player or Club requested the deregistration via the National Registration System and by Management via the National Registration System.

6.5 Where a formal grievance is lodged by either a Player or Club regarding a proposed de-registration it must be lodged under provisions of the disputes and disciplinary Regulations and the de-registration process will not be approved until the grievance is resolved by Management under those Regulations.

## **7 PLAYER ROSTERS**

7.1 Each Club must create and maintain a Player Roster for each of its Teams.

7.2 The Player Roster must list all currently registered/mapped Players in that Team, must be submitted to Management, and must be updated and re-sent to Management at the time any changes occur.

7.3 The maximum number of players for each competition and age grade in 2025 is:

Competition	Total Players
Capital League Women's	25
Capital League Open	25
Master's League Women's	25
Masters League Men's	25

- 7.4 A Club must determine which Players from its Roster are entered on a Match Sheet in Dribl for a Match within the limitations on the maximum Team playing squad for a Match.
- 7.5 The Team list must list all currently registered/mapped Players, and it must be updated and sent to CF any time changes occur.

## **8 PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM (PPS)**

- 8.1 Clubs participating in FA Competitions (i.e., Australia Cup Round of 32) are required to follow the PPS as outlined by FA.
- 8.2 PPS is recommended for all Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds to prepare Clubs for the Round of 32.
- 8.3 CF will support Clubs with the implementation of PPS for Preliminary Rounds.
- 8.4 FA aim to implement a new PRP system for 2026, in which CF will look to also make mandatory in NPL and CPL competitions in 2026.

# SECTION 5: MATCH DAY

## 1 MATCH BALLS

- 1.1 Each Team (both home and away) will supply one (1) football for all Premiership Matches.
- 1.2 At the conclusion of each game, the Match balls will be returned to the relevant Team.
- 1.3 Clubs must ensure that Match balls are of a suitable quality and any Match balls damaged during a Match must to be replaced.
- 1.4 Match balls are to be provided to the Match Officials no later than ten (10) minutes before kick-off.
- 1.5 Failure to supply Match balls may be a breach of these Regulations and result in a sanction under **Schedule 5**.
- 1.6 Management may supply footballs for any Championship Matches.
- 1.7 Management may stipulate a particular make of football to be used in a particular League or age grade.
- 1.8 The following sizes of footballs are applicable to the different age grades:

Competition	Size
Capital League Women's	5
Capital League Open	5
Master's League Women's	5
Masters League Men's	5

## 2 MATCH IDENTIFICATION

### PLAYERS

- 2.1 Player identification will be provided to Match Officials via the Dribl competition system and App and be available prior to the commencement of a Match.
- 2.2 Registered/Mapped Players not available in Dribl are not permitted to take the field of play without written approval from Management.
- 2.3 The minimum number of Players required for a team to play in a Match is seven (7).
- 2.4 A Team that is unable to field seven players forfeits the Match and the Match Official must report the forfeit and reason in an incident report.

- 2.5 Team Managers/Coaches are responsible for sighting opposing Team Players in Dribl prior to the commencement of a Match.
- 2.6 In the case that a Team Official suspects that the opposing Team has replaced any Player between the initial check of Player identification and the commencement of either the first or second half:
- a) The Manager of the Team suspecting a breach must inform the Manager of the opposing Team that they wish to check the identity of the specific Player/s
  - b) Both Team Managers and the Referee must check the identity of the Player/s in question against the Team sheet in Dribl on the field of play/technical areas before the Player/s leaves the field of play/Bench at either the half time interval or the conclusion of the Match
  - c) In the case that it is determined that a Team has fielded an Ineligible Player, Management is to be contacted immediately to determine if the Match is to continue or be forfeited in favour of the Team that has not breached the Regulations
  - d) In the case that Management is unable to be contacted, the Match should proceed, and the Match Officials must submit an incident report
  - e) In the case that both Teams fielded an Ineligible Player, Management will determine whether the Match is to be replayed or no result to be applied, and if any sanction should be imposed
  - f) In the case that a Team Official or Player refuses to follow or cooperate with the identification of a Player within Dribl, the Match must be forfeited immediately to the opposing Team and an incident report be submitted by the Match Official
  - g) Failure to comply with the provisions in this Section may involve a breach of the Regulations and sanctions under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.

## **TEAM OFFICIALS**

- 2.7 A Team's Officials, including Coaches, Managers, and support personnel, must identify themselves to the Match Officials prior to commencement of a Match.
- 2.8 Only Team Officials and Substitute players are permitted in a Technical Area of a playing field.
- 2.9 Where a Match Official is unable to confirm the identity of a person in a Technical Area as a team Official or Substitute Player included in the Electronic Match sheet, they must direct that person to leave the Area.
- 2.10 In the case that a person refuses to comply with the direction of a Match Official/CF Staff to leave a Technical Area under Section 5 Article 2.9, the Match may be abandoned by the Match Official and recorded as a forfeit against the Team with whom that person is associated.
- 2.11 A failure to comply with the direction of a Match Official is a breach of these Regulations and is an offense under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulation and will be the subject of sanctions under those Regulations.

### **3 TECHNICAL AREA**

- 3.1 For all Matches the Home Club must clearly mark out technical areas adjacent to fields as stipulated in the Laws of the Game.
- 3.2 Only Registered/mapped eligible Players and Team Officials listed in Dribl for the Match are allowed in the technical area during Matches.
- 3.3 A Player or Team Official who is under suspension must not occupy a seat in the technical area.
- 3.4 A Player or Team Official who has received a Red Card must not remain in or return to the Team's Technical Area.
- 3.1 All Players in a Technical Area must wear a bib that contrasts with the colours worn by Players of the other Team and Match Officials.
- 3.2 All Team Officials in the technical area must wear clothing that contrasts with the kit of the Players and Match Officials on the pitch and must be required to wear a bib that does not clash with the colours of the Players and Match Officials where their clothing colours clash.
- 3.3 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 Coaches, Team Manager, Allied Health personnel), who are listed on the Team Officials list for that Match are permitted.
- 3.4 Players and Team Officials in the technical area are always subject to the authority of the Match Officials.

### **4 MATCH WARM UP**

- 4.1 The Home Club, with the agreement of the Match Official and/or Management, may determine if 'warm-up' prior to and throughout the Match is to be allowed and the location and extent of the Warm-up Area, taking into consideration time constraints, the weather and possible detrimental impact to the quality of the playing surface.

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.



## 5 INTERCHANGE

5.1 For all SL competitions unlimited interchange applies.

5.2 The following is the procedure and rules for the unlimited interchange of Players:

- a) The “interchange zone” will be an area one (1) metre either side of the half-way line.
- b) An interchange is one which is made when the ball is out of play, and for which the following conditions will be observed:
  - i) The Referee gives permission;
  - ii) The Player leaving the field will do so from the touch line, crossing over at the sector called the interchange zone;
  - iii) 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;
  - iv) 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;
  - v) A named substitute will be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the Match Official whether called upon to play or not; and
  - vi) The interchange is completed when the Player who was off the field, enters the field.
- c) The number of interchanges made during a Match is unlimited. A Player who has been replaced may return to the field for another Player.
- d) 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, caution the interchange Player and then restart the Match.
- e) 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.
- f) The interchanging of Players will cease at the completion of normal and extra time.
- g) 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.
- h) A goalkeeper who is unable to continue during the penalty kicks is able to be replaced.
- i) Interchange Players cannot be used to replace any Player who has been dismissed from the Match by the Referee.
- j) 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.

## **6 DEEMED TO HAVE PLAYED**

- 6.1 Any Player listed on the Team sheet for a Match is deemed to have participated in that Match.
- 6.2 Any Player who takes the field on the team sheet during a Match is deemed to have played in that Match.
- 6.3 Any Player who doesn't take the field of play including the technical area but is on the team sheet during a match is deemed to have played in that match.

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

### **PLAYING STRIPS**

- 7.1 The playing strips of a Club must be proposed by a Club prior to the commencement of the competition and be approved by Management.
- 7.2 All Teams must propose two (2) entirely different main and alternate playing strips to ensure that strips are distinguishable from those of other Clubs.
- 7.3 Management may determine the playing strips to be worn by Clubs for all Premiership and Championship Matches to ensure strips are distinguishable.
- 7.4 Teams may only play in their approved Club strips, unless otherwise approved by Management.

### **CLASH OF COLOURS**

- 7.5 If a Referee determines that the strips of Teams in a Match are not distinguishable, the Away Team must change into an alternate strip.
- 7.6 Away Clubs may be required to wear a combination of their main and alternate strips to ensure that any clash of strips is resolved.
- 7.7 In the case of goalkeeper's colours clashing with the gear of either opposing field Players or goalkeeper, or with the Match Officials' gear, the Referee will determine which goalkeeper will change their strip.
- 7.8 In the case of a combination of main and alternate strip colours of both Teams clashing with the gear of the Match Officials, the Referee will determine the final colours to be worn by all Players and Match Officials.

## 8 CLUB VESTED OFFICIALS

8.1 Club Vested Officials (CVO) are nominated Club representatives who are responsible for maintaining order and responding to spectator Misconduct at Matches.

8.2 Clubs must provide the following minimum number of Club Vested Officials for each Premiership and Championship Match:

Competition	Quantity
Capital League Women's	One (1) per Match
Capital League Open	One (1) per Match
Master's League Women's	One (1) per Match
Masters League Men's	One (1) per Match

8.3 Management reserves the right to increase the minimum number of CVO that each Club must provide for any Match.

8.4 Should a Club be found not to provide the specified number of CVO for a Match, they may be in breach of these Regulations and liable for a sanction under **Schedule 5** and under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.

8.5 CVOs must:

- a) Be 18 years or older.
- b) Wear identifiable numbered vests supplied by management, and always be visible
- c) Be familiar with and ensure that spectators comply with [the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour and CF Terms of Admission Policy](#).
- d) Not engage in any verbal or physical altercations
- e) Not consume alcohol or smoke while acting as a CVO
- f) Not be involved in other duties while acting as a CVO (not refereeing, coaching, managing, canteen duties etc).
- g) Maintain unbiased opinions/views when performing duties and behave appropriately in accordance with this document and as a representative of the Club.
- h) Work with CVOs from the opposing Club
  - i) Ensure the Regulations pertaining to smoking, alcohol and dogs are enforced
  - j) Deal with any Misconduct that may arise before, during or after a Match
- k) Ensure the safety of and assist with the welfare of Match Officials, from the time of their arrival to the time of their departure, including escorting Match officials to and from the field and to and from Match Official rooms.
- l) Ensure no person enters Match Officials rooms who are not invited to do so by the Match Officials
- m) Escort dismissed Players from the field and ensure they do not return

- n) Raise concerns regarding Misconduct with Match Officials
- o) Seek assistance from Security Officers working at a venue, and/or contact Police to address Misconduct
- p) Cooperate with investigations and disciplinary processes established by Management

8.6 CVOs must remain outside the perimeter fence at a field and not enter Technical Areas.

## **9 MATCH COMMISSIONERS**

9.1 Management may appoint independent Match commissioners to observe Premiership and Championship Matches.

9.2 A Match Commissioner must escort Match Officials to and from the field of play prior to the game, and at both half and full time, unless Security Officers are appointed to the Match.

9.3 A Match Commissioner must submit a report to Management on any Club non-compliance with the Regulations and on concerns with a field, equipment, or facilities.

## **10 ELECTRONIC TEAM SHEETS**

10.1 Clubs and Team Officials must use electronic team sheets (ETS) within Dribl.

10.2 When making their Player selection, Clubs must confirm the shirt number of each Player in the ETS.

10.3 No Players from the same Team are permitted to wear the same number on their playing strip.

10.4 All Players must wear the shirt number that corresponds to that listed in the ETS for the Match.

10.5 Team Officials must check and finalise 'Playing' Players and starting 11 Players in Dribl at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick off time.

10.6 For Capital League (Opens and Women's) competitions, A maximum of sixteen (16) Players per Team is permitted to be listed for the Match-sheet in Dribl. For Masters League (Men's and Women's) competitions, A maximum of eighteen (18) players per team is permitted to be listed for the Match-sheet in Dribl.

10.7 Team Officials must review and confirm the opposition Team's Player and Team Official information at least twenty-five (25) minutes before the scheduled kick off time.

10.8 Changes in the ETS will be permitted any time until ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time, at which time the following shall apply:

- a) No additional Player may be added to replace a Player
- b) Should a listed Player be removed from the starting line-up, that Player may only be replaced by a Player listed as a substitute and the previous starting Player must then be listed as a substitute.
- c) Should a listed substitute Player be removed, the Team will not be permitted to list another

Player and the number of available substitutes will be decreased by one (1).

- d) At no point less than ten (10) minutes before a match, may a club add a player to the team sheet as, available, starting, or playing to fill a vacant spot in the maximum sixteen (16) spots per match.

10.9 A Team Official from each Team must review the ETS at the completion of the Match to confirm:

- a) Half time and full-time scores
- b) Goals scored are marked against the correct Player
- c) Disciplinary sanctions are marked against the correct Player

10.10 If a Player registered in accordance with these Regulations is not listed on the ETS prior to the Match and participates in a Match without approval by Management, a Club is in breach of these Regulations, will be fined under **Schedule 5** and may be subject of action under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.

10.11 Regardless of the competition, no Player is permitted to be listed on more than two (2) Team sheets on any Match Day. Goalkeepers are exempt from this rule.

## **11 PAPER TEAM SHEETS**

11.1 In the case that Dribl is not functioning and an ETS is not available, Team Officials from the Home Team must provide paper Team Sheets and Team Official lists. The paper team sheets should also indicate a player as 'stood down' where applicable.

11.2 In the case that a Paper Team Sheet must be used, Team Officials from both Teams must confirm:

- a) Confirm half time and full-time scores
- b) Confirm goals scored are marked against the correct Player
- c) Confirm disciplinary sanctions are marked against the correct Player
- d) Sign the Paper Team Sheet

11.3 Paper Team Sheets signed by the respective Team officials, must be emailed by the Home Club to [competitions@capitalfootball.com.au](mailto:competitions@capitalfootball.com.au) no later than 5:00pm Monday following the weekend's Match, or 24 hours following a mid-week Match.

11.4 If Management does not receive the Paper Team by the time required, the Home Club may be sanctioned under **Schedule 5**.

11.5 If Management does not receive the Paper Team Sheets within two business (2) days of the Match, the Home Club will be deemed to have forfeited the relevant matches

11.6 Each Club must submit by email its own Paper Team Officials list no later than 5.00pm Monday following a weekend Match or 24 hours following a mid-week Match to [competitions@capitalfootball.com.au](mailto:competitions@capitalfootball.com.au).

## **12 MATCH RESULTS**

- 12.1 The Referee will complete the ETS at the conclusion of the Match.
- 12.2 A Team Official from each Team must check the information listed on the ETS and ensure the full-time score on the ETS is correct.
- 12.3 If the Referee is unable to complete the ETS immediately after the match due to internet connectivity issues, the Referee must complete the ETS as soon as possible no later than 10:00pm on the day of the Match was played.
- 12.4 The Home Team will be responsible for completing the ETS at the conclusion of the match in the event that a person has been appointed to act as the Non-accredited Referee for the match in the absence of a registered Referee.
- 12.5 In the case where an accredited CF match official is not appointed for the match by the CF, then the home club is required to appoint a non-accredited referee for the match in Dribl as per Section 5 Article 9.9.
- 12.6 If a Team Officials disagrees with any details on the ETS (either their own or those for the other Team), they must check with the Referee to confirm if an error was made in inputting the information.
- 12.7 If a dispute over a result is unable to be resolved by a Team Official with the Match Officials, the Team Official must submit a 'Raise a Dispute' request via the ETS.
- 12.8 Only the following information on a ETS can be disputed in accordance with Section 5, Article 11.7:
- a) Goal scorers
  - b) Yellow cards (and only in reference to who the yellow card was issued to)
  - c) Temporary dismissal (and only in reference to who the temporary dismissal was issued to)
  - d) Red card (and only in reference to who the red card was issued to)
  - e) Half-time/full time score
  - f) Player Eligibility
- 12.9 Team Sheet disputes will only be investigated by Management where:
- a) The Team Sheet and the Club request are submitted within time requirements under Section 5 Articles 9, 10 and 11, and

- b) Video and/or photographic evidence, statutory declarations, or other information deemed appropriate by Management are submitted with the request.

12.10 Management may amend an ETS at its sole discretion after making a determination in a dispute.

12.11 Management's decision on a ETS dispute is final and not subject to appeal.

## **12 GROUNDS AND FACILITIES**

12.1 Clubs must, regarding grounds and facilities owned or hired by them or allocated to them:

- a) Comply with the minimum requirements set by Management from time to time
- b) Provide a safe environment for Players, Match Officials, Club Officials, and spectators.
- c) Ensure that facilities and equipment are fit for purpose, clean and hygienic.
- 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) Approved use
  - ii) Service of food
  - iii) Service of alcohol

12.2 Clubs must nominate and Management approve and, where allocated by the ACT Government to CF, allocate suitable grounds to be used by Teams.

12.3 No ground may be used for Matches or training that is not approved by management.

12.4 Neglect of grounds or facilities by a Club, or non-payment of accounts related to the venue, may result in an allocation being withdrawn and/or a rescheduling of Matches to other locations.

12.5 Matches affected by any decision under Section 5 Article 12.4 may be deemed a forfeit against the Club responsible.

12.6 Costs incurred by any decision under Section 5 Article 12.4 may be recovered by Management from the Club responsible.

12.7 Clubs are responsible for ground set-up at grounds they own or that have been allocated to them.

12.8 Line markings must be clear, accurate and within the dimensions specified below:

- a) For SL Matches First a minimum length of 90 metres and a minimum width of 45 metres is required.

12.9 The Home Club must ensure adequate line-marking, that nets are attached to the goals and the ground behind the goal, and that corner flags are in place, and for the duration of the Match.

12.10 All football goals that are installed as a permanent structure on a football pitch must be properly secured, installed at the regulation width and height as per the Laws of the Game and should have no sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.

12.11 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”](#).

12.12 A Club must ensure that the manufacturer of portable goals provides it with a certificate of conformity regarding portable goals.

12.13 Where a Match is abandoned or must be rescheduled due to the inadequacy of ground management under Section 5 Articles 12.8, 12.9, 12.10 or 12.11, the Match may be deemed a forfeit against the Home Club.

12.14 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 Management deems appropriate under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations, for any grounds owned by ACT Government, QPRC grounds, and private owners.

12.15 Home Clubs are responsible for the cleanliness and sanitation of grounds they own, have hired or that have been allocated to them and make such arrangements and pay such costs to ensure cleaning, maintenance, and removal of waste.

## **13 CAUTIONS AND EXPULSIONS**

13.1 Clubs will receive the following automatic fines (as outlined in Schedule 5):

- a) When five (5) or more Players or Team Officials from the same Team receive a caution or temporary dismissal in the same Match.
- b) When three (3) or more Players or Team Officials from the same Team are sent off in the same Match.

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

## **14 SMOKING AND ALCOHOL**

14.1 Smoking is prohibited at Matches and events within 10 metres of the field of play, change rooms, spectator amenities and canteen facilities.

14.2 Clubs must seek and obtain approval from Management before selling or allowing consumption of alcohol at a ground or Match.



14.3 The following conditions will apply to Clubs seeking permission to sell alcoholic beverages at fixtures under the auspices of CF:

- a) Clubs must obtain and comply with a license as required under applicable laws and regulations
- b) Consumption must be restricted to an area that is not in the vicinity of the Player's race or Technical Areas
- c) No glass containers are to be used for alcohol or any other beverage

## **15 SECURITY AND POLICE**

15.1 The Home Club is responsible for providing adequate arrangements for the orderly behaviour of spectators and to provide for the protection of Match Officials, Players, and other officials at CF fixtures.

15.2 Each Club is required to provide the mandatory CVO complement under Section 5 Article 10.

15.3 Each Club must undertake a risk assessment of Matches under its control and put in place a risk plan and adequate security arrangements as part of that plan.

15.4 If directed by Management, a Club must arrange and pay for such additional security or Police presence as deemed necessary by Management.

15.5 In the case Management determines there to be a security risk at a Match or where security issues arise at a Match, Management may:

- a) Reschedule a Match and under such arrangements as it deems appropriate
- b) Abandon a Match and either reschedule it or deem it to be a forfeit
- c) Act under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations

# SECTION 6: MATCH OFFICIAL

## 1 APPOINTMENTS

- 1.1 Management appoints all Match Officials (where possible) in Matches covered by these Regulations.
- 1.2 CF is responsible for paying Match Officials the fees set by the Board for Premiership and Final Series Matches.
- 1.3 Clubs are responsible for paying Match Officials fees for Pre-Season Matches, such fees set at 50% of the fees set by the Board for Premiership Matches.
- 1.4 Non-compliance with the provision in this section pertaining to appointments of match officials and match official fees, by clubs or individuals, will be treated as a breach of statutes under CF Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.

## 2 MATCH OFFICIAL WELFARE

- 2.1 The Home Club is responsible for the safety and welfare of Match Officials at Matches at its grounds, from the time they arrive at the ground, until the time they depart the ground.

## 3 MATCH OFFICIALS' POWERS, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

- 3.1 Match Officials are required to carry out all duties, responsibilities and obligations as contained within the Laws of the Game.
- 3.2 A Referee may determine that a Match be abandoned, having regard to the condition of the ground, the weather at the time of inspection, the projected weather forecast, and the behaviour of Participants.
- 3.3 At the conclusion of each Match, the Referee must consult with their other Match Officials, where appointed, and confirm the accuracy of all Match information before completing an ETS or Paper Team Sheet.
- 3.4 Match Officials must submit to Management written reports for send-offs or incidents in games under their control by 10.00am the day after the Match.
- 3.5 Management may appoint Referee Assessors who when appointed must provide a written assessment report on the performance of Match Officials within three (3) days of the conclusion of a Match

## **4 MATCH OFFICIAL FEES**

- 4.1 Prior to the commencement of a Season, Management will communicate to all Clubs and Referees the approved Match Officials fees for that Season.
- 4.2 Promulgated Match Official fees come into effect immediately.
- 4.3 Match Official Fees may be the subject or review and adjustment by Management during a Season.
- 4.4 Where Clubs appoint registered Match Officials in the absence of referees appointed by Management, they must pay the approved fees in place at the time and no more.
- 4.5 Where Clubs appoint volunteers as Match Officials, the volunteers must not wear registered referee apparel and must not be paid.
- 4.6 Unless otherwise stated, for Premiership Matches, Management will invoice the Home Team for all fees for Match Officials on a monthly basis.
- 4.7 Match Officials fees for all Final Series Matches will be paid directly by Management.
- 4.8 Match Officials are entitled to receive one hundred percent (100%) of their Match fee if they submit a Match Official Incident Report in the event that:
  - a) Match Officials attend the ground to find the Match has been rescheduled without notification by Management
  - b) Match Officials attend the ground and prior to the commencement of the Match, the Match is forfeited or must be rescheduled
  - c) After the commencement of the Match, the Match is abandoned
- 4.9 Where a Club is determined by Management to be responsible for a forfeit or a rescheduling of a Match, Match Officials fees will be payable by that Club.
- 4.10 Where Clubs are not responsible for rescheduling of a match, Management will pay the Match Official fees for that Match.

## **5 MATCH OFFICIAL TRAVEL ALLOWANCE**

- 5.1 Match Officials will be entitled to a travel allowance for any Match that requires travel outside of the Canberra, Wagga Wagga or Griffith area. Management will invoice the Home Team for all fees monthly.
- 5.2 Match Officials must submit a Match Official Claim Form within 30 days of the Match to receive the travel allowance, paid by CF as follows:
  - a) Match Officials based in Canberra will be entitled to a travel allowance when travelling to Cooma (\$75), Cootamundra (\$80), Wagga Wagga (\$85) and Griffith (\$100)

- b) Match Officials based in Cooma will be entitled to a travel allowance when travelling to Canberra (\$75)
- c) Match Officials based in Griffith will be entitled to a travel allowance when travelling to Cootamundra (\$85) and Wagga Wagga (\$80)
- d) Match Officials based in Wagga Wagga will be entitled to a travel allowance when travelling to Canberra (\$85) and Griffith (\$85)

## **6 MATCH OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE**

- 6.1 Match Officials must arrive at the ground no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled kick off of their first appointment.

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

- 7.1 If a Referee fails to honour an appointment, the next most senior Match Official (Replacement) will take charge of the Match.
- 7.2 If the Referee is late arriving at a Match, the Replacement will take charge until the Referee is ready to take over.
- 7.3 If the home Club is unable to provide a registered Match Official, the home Club must invite the away Club to provide a registered or non-accredited Match Official.
- 7.4 If neither Club can provide a registered Match Official, the home Club must arrange for a volunteer to act as a Match Official for the fixture.
- 7.5 Persons appointed to officiate by a Club who are not registered Match Official must undertake the role as unpaid volunteers.
- 7.6 Volunteer Match Officials hold all the duties, powers, and obligations of Match Officials under Section 6 Article 3.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each Team must provide an assistant Match Official.
- 7.9 All Clubs must fulfill all Matches, regardless of whether or not the Management appointed Referee is present to take charge.

## **8 TEMPORARY DISMISSALS**

- 8.1 Temporary dismissals will be in effect in all SL Matches.
- 8.2 A temporary dismissal is when a Player commits dissent towards a Match Official and is punished by an immediate 'suspension' from participating in the next part of the Match.

- 8.3 Temporary dismissals apply to all Players (including goalkeepers) but not for cautionable offences (YCs) committed by a substitute or substituted Player.
- 8.4 The Referee will indicate a temporary dismissal by showing the yellow card and clearly pointing with both arms to the temporary dismissal area.
- 8.5 The temporary dismissal period is 10 minutes, which begins when play restarts after the Player has left the field of play.
- 8.6 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).
- 8.7 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.
- 8.8 A temporarily dismissed Player cannot be substituted until the end of the temporary dismissal period.
- 8.9 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 (start of extra time).
- 8.10 If a Player receives a temporary dismissal in a Championship series Match during extra time and the final whistle occurs prior to the dismissal period elapsing, that Player will be allowed to participate in kicks from the penalty mark.
- 8.11 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.
- 8.12 A Player who has received a caution and then receives a temporary dismissal can continue playing after the end of the temporary dismissal period.
- 8.13 A Player who receives a second temporary dismissal in the same Match will serve the temporary dismissal period and will take no further part in the Match.
  - a) After the end of the second temporary dismissal period, the Player may be replaced by a named substitute.
  - b) A Player who has also received a caution in the same Match may not be replaced or substituted.
- 8.14 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.

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

- 9.1 A Referee may take action against Team Officials for Misconduct and may issue a warning, a yellow card for a caution, or a red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surroundings (including the Technical Area).
- 9.2 If the offender for Misconduct from the Technical Area cannot be identified, the senior Coach present will receive the sanction.
- 9.3 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: GENERAL

## 1 BOUND BY STATUTES

1.1 In applying to participate in a CF League, a Club agrees to submit exclusively to CF Statutes

## 2 CONSEQUENCES FOR BREACH

2.1 Any breach of these Regulations or failure to comply with any direction given by Management may result in the imposition of a sanction under these Regulations or the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations

## 3 STRICT LIABILITY

3.1 A Club is liable for the misconduct of its Participants.

## 4 MONEY OWING TO CF

### OWED BY A CLUB

4.1 All amounts owed by a Club to CF must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice being issued by Management.

4.2 For monies still owing after 30 days from the date of invoicing, a reminder notice will be sent to the Club.

4.3 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.

4.4 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 Management:

- 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 agreement
- 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.

4.5 A Club subjected to this penalty will be notified in writing as to when the deduction of points will take effect.

4.6 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.

4.7 Notwithstanding Section 8 Article 4.4 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.

- 4.8 Clubs in debt to CF, where any of the debt amount is outstanding at any time after 31 October each year:
- a) May at the absolute discretion of CF, be suspended from all competitions in which that Club competes.
  - b) 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

#### **MONIES OWING BY AN INDIVIDUAL**

- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 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.



# SCHEDULE 1: DEFINITIONS

**A-Leagues** means the national men's and women's football competitions conducted in Australia under the control of Australian Professional Leagues (APL).

**ACT Football Federation** means the ACT Football Federation Limited ABN 16 413 452 268.

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

**APL** means Australian Professional Leagues

**Australia Cup** means the national Club competition staged by, or under the control of, FA between A-Leagues, State league and grassroots Clubs

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

**Board** means the Directors of Capital Football operating under the Constitution

**Capital Football (CF)** means the ACT Football Federation trading as Capital Football

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

**Capital Premier League** means second tier League competitions delivered by CF

**Championship Club** means the winner of a final series conducted at the completion of a scheduled competition.

**Club** 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 other legal entity deemed to be a Club by CF.

**Club Official** means any person involved with the administration, management, or organisation of a Club and delivery of Club activities (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.

**Competition** means a scheduled set of age graded matches within a League

**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 is not limited to, the Australia Cup or Federation Cup.

**Cycles of Matches** means a set of Matches where each Club Team has played all other Club Teams in the competition

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

**Dribl** means the competition management system and App used by Capital Football for its Leagues.

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

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

**Final Series** means a competition staged by, or under the control of, CF to determine Champions and is comprised of the Elimination Finals, Semi Finals and Grand Final or any other configuration as determined by CF from time to time.

**Football Related Activities**, for the purposes of these Regulations, include coaching and training, Match officiating, Match participation, Club and competition volunteering, Club committees and Club activities, professional services to participants, and spectating.

**Form of the Game** refers to outdoor football and futsal

**Home Club (or Team)** means the Club who has been identified by Management as the Club responsible for a venue and Match and usually listed first on a Match Sheet

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

**International Training Certificate (ITC)** means a certificate provided from one national association to another to facilitate the transfer of a player between countries.

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

**League** means a schedule of competition Matches conducted by CF comprised of specific age grades, as structured and declared by the Board.

**Management** means persons employed by Capital Football in management and administrative roles, including the Chief Executive Officer and competition and referee administrators, operating under delegations from the Board

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

**Matchday** means a day and date on which a match or matches are played

**Match Official** means a Referee, Assistant Referee, Fourth Official, Club referee coordinator or referee assessor.

**Misconduct** means behaviour deemed to be misconduct under Capital Football's Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations

**National Premier Leagues (NPL)** means the competition and Clubs licensed by FA under that designation and governed and administered 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.

**Participant** means one or more of the following, whether individually or collectively:

- a) Club Officials.
- b) Players.
- c) Spectators.
- d) Supporters.
- e) Club(s).
- f) Futsal Teams.
- g) Match Officials.
- h) Team Officials or Representatives.
- i) Capital Football Members.
- j) Capital Football Directors.

**Player or Players** means any person who participates in a Match (irrespective of whether they are 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.

**Pre-Season** means a period approved by CF during which players may be recruited and Trial and non-competition matches may be played.

**Premiership Club** means the team at the top of the competition table at the completion of the Matches scheduled for the particular competition.

**Premiership Match** means a Match played in a scheduled league competition to determine the Premiership Club.

**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.

**Round** means a set of Matches normally scheduled over a weekend during a Season.

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

**Registered Match Official or Referee** means an individual who is registered as a referee with Capital Football or another Member of Football Australia and who has paid the relevant annual registration fee

**Regulations** means these League Regulations.

**Season** means a period defined by a starting and end date during which League competitions and Final Series are scheduled and delivered by CF

**Senior League (SL)** 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.

**Technical Area** means the designated and marked area at a playing field wherein Team Officials and Substitute Players are positioned for a Match

**Trial Match** means a match played Pre-Season for the purposes of player selections

**Venue** means an oval, related facilities such as amenities and canteens and related carpark areas

**Warm-Up Area** means areas behind the goal area or along the sideline of a field within the field's perimeter fence allocated to each Team in relation to the Technical Area allocated to it and in which bibbed Players with support of Team Officials may 'warm-up' before and during a game before taking the field.

# SCHEDULE 2: COMPETITIONS ENTRY CRITERIA

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Participation in a League is on an annual basis.
- 1.2 Selection to play in a League is based on entry criteria set out in this Schedule.
- 1.3 A Club granted a position in a League may be approved to continue in that League where it fully complies with the criteria set out in this Schedule.
- 1.4 Criteria are also listed for the community competitions underpinning the NPL and CPL Competitions. These Criteria are provided as a guide to assist aspiring Clubs that compete in these Leagues prepare for possible promotion to the NPL and CPL Competitions.
- 1.5 Clubs in the community senior and junior Leagues are not required to meet the Criteria to play in the community Leagues. They are however strongly encouraged to achieve the listed standards if they aspire to play in the NPL and CPL Competitions, as promotion to the NPL and CPL Competitions is contingent upon Clubs meeting the competition Criteria.

## 2 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- 2.1 A Club may be promoted from a lower League into a higher League and a Club may be relegated from a higher League to a lower League, in line with promotion and relegation outlined in these Regulations.

## 3 ABBREVIATIONS

- 3.1 Abbreviations used throughout this Schedule include:

Abbreviation	Definition
<b>NPL – National Premier League</b>	The highest level of women’s (NPLW), men’s (NPLM), girls’ (NPLG) and boys’ (NPLB) football
<b>CPL – Capital Premier League</b>	The second highest level of men’s (CPLM) football
<b>NCL – National Club Licencing Framework</b>	The system being developed by Football Australia to set criteria for Clubs competing in the A-League, W-League, National Second Division and National Premier League competitions
<b>JLG – Junior League Girls</b>	The second highest level of girls’ football
<b>JLO – Junior League Open</b>	The third highest level of football, primarily participated in by boys, but open for girls to also participate
<b>N/A – Not Applicable</b>	Information that does not apply to the situation
<b>CLW –Capital League Women’s</b>	The second highest level of women’s football, underpinned by a number of other divisions
<b>CLO –Capital League Open</b>	The third highest level of men’s football, underpinned by a number of other divisions

## 4 GENERAL CRITERIA

- 4.1 A Club's players, coaches, officials, committee members and administrative staff, medical staff and volunteers must be registered on PlayFootball (or FA approved equivalent).
- 4.2 A Club must be compliant with obligations under Government law and regulations.
- 4.3 A Club must be compliant with FA and CF Statutes.
- 4.4 A Club must be compliant with its corporate legal obligations as a Company or Association, including those pertaining to the holding of an AGM and the election of Directors or a Committee.
- 4.5 A Club must have in place a President or Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer or CFO, and a Member Protection and Information Officer (MPIO).
- 4.6 A Club must maintain monthly and annual financial accounts, available upon request to Capital Football.
- 4.7 A Club must be and be able to prove that it is solvent and can make required payments to Capital Football, its players, its coaches, its employees, its contractors, and the ACT Government throughout a Season
- 4.8 A Club must publish a detailed, up-to-date breakdown of all fees and charges for its players published on its website.
- 4.9 A Club must owe no money to CF (including fines) or be able to pay money owed to CF as and when due.
- 4.10 A Club must not owe money to the ACT Government, or must have a payment plan approved by the ACT Government in place, or must be able to show that it has initiated action disputing any claim against the Club by the ACT Government
- 4.11 A Club must not deliver training programs or competitions not sanctioned by Capital Football.
- 4.12 A Club must declare contractual, financial, or other relationships with the following agents, academies, or overseas clubs.
- 4.13 A Club must not pay Amateur Players at a rate higher than the limit prescribed in the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.

## 5 CHILD AND MEMBER PROTECTION

- 5.1 A Club must comply with the safeguarding requirement relevant to the region in which they are located: In the ACT, the [Working with Vulnerable People \(WWVP\) registration](#) and In NSW, the [Working with Children Check](#)
- 5.2 A Club must appoint and maintain a Member Protection Information Officer who has completed the training made available by FA from time-to-time.
- 5.3 A Club must maintain an up-to-date record of their office holders' WWVP Cards and/or Working with Children Check numbers

- 5.4 A Club must maintain and up-to-date office holders list that includes all Committee Members, Coaches, Managers and volunteers engaged by the Club.
- 5.5 A Club must be able to provide information under Schedule 2 Articles 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4 to CF before the season commences, at a date prescribed by CF, and inform CF of any changes to this information during the season as required.

## 6 SPORTING CRITERIA

### TEAMS

- 6.1 Clubs are not required to field Teams in all Leagues (i.e., Clubs do not have to participate in senior and youth competitions, or female and male competitions).
- 6.2 Clubs are required to field Teams in each age grade of the League they participate in, except for JLO1 and JLG1 Teams who are required to field Teams in the age grades identified in the table to be eligible for promotion (noting they are not required to compete as a Club for promotion).
- i) Clubs in CLW1 only need to enter a second Team in either CLW1 and CLW2 or two teams in CLW1 if they aspire to promotion to NPLW.
- 6.3 The following Criteria is mandatory for Clubs in 2025:

League	Tier 1 (highest level)	Tier 2 (second highest level)	Tier 3 (third highest level)
<b>Women's</b>	<b>National Premier League</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Reserve Grade	<b>Women's Senior League</b> Division 1 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Division 2 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Or Division 1- 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade (Two teams)	N/A
<b>Men's</b>	<b>National Premier League</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade U23	<b>Capital Premier League</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade U23	<b>Open's Senior League 1</b> Division 1 Division 2
<b>Girls</b>	<b>National Premier League</b> U17 U15 U14	<b>Junior League Division 1</b> U18 U16 (required) U14 (required) U12 (required)	N/A
<b>Boys</b>	<b>National Premier League</b> U18 U16 U15 U14	<b>Junior League</b> U18 U16 (required) U15 (required) U14 (required) U13 (required)	N/A

## 7 MEDICAL

7.1 The below Criteria is recommended for Clubs in CLW1 & CLO1.

Criteria	CLW1/CLO1
Match Day Medical Coverage	Level 1 Sports Trainer at all Matches
First Aid Kit	First aid kit available for all Matches
Stretchers	Stretcher that meets Australia Standards available for all Matches
Defibrillator	Strongly recommended for all Matches
Medical Room / Treatment Table	Dedicated space for medical treatment in the event of an injury

## 8 INFRASTRUCTURE

8.1 The below Criteria that are highlighted is mandatory for Clubs in 2025.

8.2 The Criteria not highlighted is recommended in 2025.

Criteria	CLW1/CLO1
Fencing	No requirements
Emergency Exit Plan	No requirements
Emergency Services Access	Stretcher that meets Australia Standards available for all Matches
Fire Prevention	The venue must be equipped with all fire prevention devices as required by Government and Australian Standards
Risk Assessment	No requirements
Field Dimensions	The field must be a minimum length of 90m and a minimum width of 45m
Playing Surface	No requirements
Line Markings	The fields must be marked
Corner and Halfway Flags	Corner flags at a minimum must be used
Goal Posts	Goals must meet the specifications of the laws of the game. Properly secured portable goal posts and dual rugby posts are acceptable
Technical Area	No requirements
Player Dressing Rooms	No requirements
Referee Dressing Rooms	No requirements
Players Race	No requirement
Lighting	No requirements
Canteen	No requirements
Seating	No requirements
Media Facilities	No requirements
Toilets	The venue must have adequate public toilets made available for female, male and disabled spectators. As a guide there should be 1 toilet for every 100 potential spectators
Broadcast Camera Positions	No requirements
Medical Room	No requirements
Stretchers	No requirements



Criteria	CLW1/CLO1
Medical Supplies	The venue must have a first aid kit that complies with Australia Standards
Scoreboard	No requirements
Public Address System	No requirements

## 9 COACH QUALIFICATIONS

The below Criteria is recommended for Clubs in CLW1 & CLM1:

Criteria	Minimum Standard Recommended for CLW1 & CLO1
<b>General (Men's and Women's)</b>	
Goal Keeping Coach	Goalkeeper Certificate
Head Coach/Assistant Coach	Foundation of Football Certificate / Enrolled in C-Licence

# **SCHEDULE 3: PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The promotion and relegation mechanism for the 2026 season is currently under final review as part of the NPL/CPL review, conducted in 2024. The final mechanisms for promotion and relegation in 2026, will therefore be confirmed in due course, and communicated with clubs once known.

# SCHEDULE 4: PERMITTED PLAYER MOVEMENT

## 1 CAPITAL LEAGUE WOMEN'S REGISTERED PLAYERS

Competition Player is Registered To							
	CLW1	CLW2	CLW3	CLW4	CLW5	CLW6	MLW
CLW1	N/A	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓
CLW2	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓
CLW3	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓*	✓
CLW4	✗	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓
CLW5	✗	✗	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓
CLW6	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	N/A	✓
MLW	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	N/A
CLO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MLM	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#
✓ permitted to play							
✓* permitted to play pending re-classification criteria							
✗ not permitted to play							
✓# pending age eligibility requirements							

## 2 CAPITAL LEAGUE OPEN REGISTERED PLAYERS

Competition Player is Registered To											
	CLO1	CLO2	CLO3	CLO4	CLO5	CLO6	CLO7	CLO8	CLO9	CLO10 Gold	CLO10 Blue
CLO1	N/A	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*
CLO2	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*
CLO3	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*
CLO4	✗	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*
CLO5	✗	✗	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*
CLO6	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*
CLO7	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓*	✓*
CLO8	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓
CLO9	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓
CLO10 Gold	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	N/A	✗
CLO10 Blue	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	N/A

<b>MLM (All)</b>	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#
✓ permitted to play											
✓* permitted to play pending re-classification criteria											
✗ not permitted to play											
✓# pending age eligibility requirements											

### 3 MASTERS LEAGUE MEN'S REGISTERED PLAYERS

Competition Player is Registered To					
	MLM1	MLM2	MLM3	MLMO45	MLMO55
<b>MLM1</b>	N/A	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*
<b>MLM2</b>	✓	N/A	✓	✓*	✓*
<b>MLM3</b>	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓*
<b>MLMO45</b>	✓#	✓#	✓#	N/A	✓
<b>MLMO55</b>	✓#	✓#	✓#	✓#	N/A
<b>CLO (All Divisions)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ permitted to play					
✓* permitted to play pending re-classification criteria					
✗ not permitted to play					
✓# pending age eligibility requirements					

# SCHEDULE 5: FEES AND SANCTIONS

## 1 FINES

1.1 The following fines apply in 2025:

Section	Article	Offence	Sanction	
2	5.1	Failure to commence a Match at the scheduled time	\$50	Per offence
2	12	Team being removed/withdrawing or being added into a competition prior to competition commencement	\$200	Per offence
2	11	Team forfeiting its Match	\$125	1 <sup>st</sup> offence
			\$300	2 <sup>nd</sup> offence
			\$500	3 <sup>rd</sup> offence and more
2	17	Failure to submit Overseas Tours and Travel Form and receive CF approval	\$100	Per offence
2	17	Failure to submit Interstate Tours and Travel Form and receive CF approval	\$50	Per offence
5	1.5	Failure to supply Match balls during premiership matches	\$25	Per offence
5	8.2	Failure to provide the specified number of CVO for a Match	\$100	Per offence
5	10.5	Failure to enter Player selection in ETS by specified deadline	\$50	Per offence
5	10.8	Failure to submit Team sheets to CF by specified deadline	\$50	Per offence
5	10.7	Failure to submit Team Official list to CF by specified deadline	\$50	Per offence
5	10.10	Failure to list a Player on the Team sheet	\$50	Per offence
5	11	Failure to enter Match results online into ETS as specified	\$50	Per offence
5	13.1 a)	When five (5) or more Players or Team Officials from the same Team receive a caution, temporary dismissal or send off in the same Match	\$100	Per offence
5	13.1 b)	When three (3) or more Players or Team Officials from the same Team are sent off in the same Match	\$100	Per offence
5	14	Failure to adhere to smoking and drinking requirements as specified	\$250	Per offence
All Sections	All articles	Breach of any article in this provision	\$100	Per Offence

## 2 ADMINISTRATION FEES

2.1 The following fees apply in 2025:

Section	Article	Administration Requirement	Sanction	
2	20.4	Administration fee for protest	\$200	Per protest
2	17	Administration fee for lodging Overseas Tours and Travel Form less than eight (8) weeks prior to departure	\$100	Per lodgement
2	17	Administration fee for lodging Interstate Tours and Travel Form less than three (3) weeks prior to departure	\$50	Per lodgement