



**CAPITAL  
FOOTBALL**

**SAP COMPETITION  
REGULATIONS:**

**2026**

**2026**

**FINAL VERSION**

# VERSION CONTROL

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	RATIONALE
<b>Draft V1</b>	Dec 2026	Capital Football	Separate SAP specific regulations written for the 2026 season
<b>Draft V2</b>	Jan 2026	Abigail Moss	Changes following feedback from clubs and the Board
<b>Final</b>	Feb 2026	Abigail Moss	Regulations Overview and Key Information Section added Final changes and formatting
<b>Final-Updates</b>	May 2026	Abigail Moss	Section 2, article 3.6 removed for clarity on lightning requirements Schedule 2, Infrastructure ‘Lighting’ updated for clarity on lighting requirements

# REGULATIONS OVERVIEW AND KEY INFORMATION

## 1. AGE GROUPS AND DIVISIONS

- The age groups/divisions for SAP in 2026 are:
  - Open U12
  - Girls U12
  - Open U13
  - Girls U13
- As per the NPL review, all NPL clubs must have a SAP team in each division, and other clubs were welcome to submit an EOI for SAP, with positions granted after approval from Capital Football.

## 2. PLAYING FORMAT AND FIELD SIZES

- All SAP groups/divisions in 2026 will play:
  - a 9 v 9 format
  - with a size 4 ball
  - 2 x 30 minute halves, with a 5 minute half time break
- All Weeknight training games will be played on a half field size pitch
- Weekend Games for U12 will be played on a half field size pitch (the dimensions for this can be found in the [U12 Playing Format](#))
- Weekend Games for U13 will be played on a box to box size pitch (the dimensions for this can be found in the [U13 Playing Format](#))

## 3. SQUAD SIZE

- The squad size for SAP in 2026 is 14 players per team

## 4. ELIGIBILITY AND EXEMPTIONS

The age eligibility criteria for each age grade are:

Competition	Age Grade	Birth Date
SAP	U13	For Players born on or after 1 January 2013
SAP	U12	For Players born on or after 1 January 2014

- Clubs can seek an exemption from CF for a player to play one (1) year below their actual age by submitting the [2026 SAP Age Exemption Form](#)
- Players are not permitted to play below their actual age group unless CF approval has been granted.
- A Club may seek permission for a female Player to register and play in a male team who is outside the age eligibility criteria for that Team up to one (1) year below with the approval age exemption from the CF.
- Each Team is permitted up to One (1) overage Player, in accordance with Section 3 Article 3.1. Should exceptional circumstances permit, CF may provide approval to exceed this number.
- Clubs may seek an exemption from CF for a Player to play three (3) or more years above their correct age group. In order to seek this exemption, the Club must submit [2026 SAP Age Exemption Form](#)
- SAP players may play up into the NPLB and NPLG competitions if age eligible
- Any SAP Player playing upon the completion of the Ten (10) match in NPL Boys or NPL Girls Matches will have their status reclassified to a bona fide NPL Boys, NPL Girls, NPL Women's, NPL Men's. If this occurs, the Player is unable to participate in SAP matches for the remainder of the season and is unable to participate in any SAP Championship fixtures

8. Where two (2) Teams from the same Club are in the same division, no Player can play for the other Team in any Match.
9. Up to Two (2) players from SAP teams can play in JL/MR teams in any given match, if age eligible.
10. Up to Four (4) JL.MR players can play in SAP matches, if age eligible the other Team in any Match.

## 5. COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

1.A Club must have in place Coaches with the following FIFA, AFC and FA approved qualifications or show that individuals are enrolled in the applicable courses and are completing scheduled training and testing within those courses as and when they are held:

Criteria	Minimum Standard for Teams where the Club has previously been in SAP Competitions
Technical Director	C-Licence
U12 SAP Team Head Coach	C-Licence
U13 SAP Team Head Coach	C-Licence

Criteria	Minimum Standard for Teams where the Club has not previously been in SAP Competitions
Technical Director	C-Licence
U12 SAP Team Head Coach	Evidence of working towards C-Licence
U13 SAP Team Head Coach	Evidence of working towards C-Licence

## 6. KICK OFF TIMES

1. Primary kick off times for SAP Matches will be 1:45pm for U12s (Open and Girls) and 12:30pm for U13s (Open and Girls). Capital Football has the authority to change the kick off times, with the preference being 11:00, 12:30 or 1:45 kick off times for any SAP Match.
2. If a club wishes to reschedule any SAP Match due to field availability issues, or any other circumstance, they must reach an agreement with their opposition and present this to Capital Football for approval if different from the preferred kick off times above.

## 9. KEY SAP RULES AND LAWS OF THE GAME

1. SAP Program U12 Open and Girls will be played in line with the [CF U12 Playing Format and Rules](#) and SAP Program U13 Open and Girls will be played in line with the [CF U13 Playing Format and Rules](#)

## 10. RESULTS AND LADDERS

Results and Ladders for SAP will not be published to ensure the focus of the competition is on player development.

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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.

## 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) SAP (Skill Acquisition Phase) Under-12 Program
  - b) SAP (Skill Acquisition Phase) Under-13 Program

## 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 – 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 Junior 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:

- 1.1.1 A defined Season with at least one Cycle of Matches
- 1.1.2 A defined Pre-Season
- 1.1.3 A set of Clubs declared by the Board to compete in each League
- 1.1.4 A set of age graded Competitions
- 1.1.5 A schedule of Matches to determine the Premiership Club (Premiership Matches)
- 1.1.6 Scheduled Matches,
- 1.1.7 Rounds of Matches,
- 1.1.8 Re-scheduled Matches,
- 1.1.9 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 and CF management determines, at its sole discretion, which Clubs may participate in a League.

1.5 The Board and Capital Football management 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 2026 will be as follows:

League	Abbreviation	Competition	Age Grades
SAP Program	SAP	Open/Girls	U12, U13

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

## 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 2025/26, unless otherwise stipulated in these Regulations.

2.2 SAP Program U12 Open and Girls will be played in line with the [CF U12 Playing Format and Rules](#) and SAP Program U13 Open and Girls will be played in line with the [CF U13 Playing Format and Rules](#)

- a) SAP U13 teams are required to use the box-to-box dimensions for weekend games,

but may use the half field dimensions for weeknight training Games

### **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 Primary kick off times for SAP Matches will be 1:45pm for U12s (Open and Girls) and 12:30pm for U13s (Open and Girls). Capital Football has the authority to change the kick off times, with the preference being 11:00, 12:30 or 1:45 kick off times for any SAP Match.
- 3.5 If a club wishes to reschedule any SAP Match due to field availability issues, or any other circumstance, they must reach an agreement with their opposition and present this to Capital Football for approval.
- 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.
- 4.2 No Trials are to be held before the promulgated Pre-Season and Trials commencement date.
- 4.3 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 Two (2) periods of 30 minutes and a maximum of 5 (five) minutes half time for U12 and U13 age groups in both Open and Girls Competitions.
- 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 SAP Matches.

## **7 EXTRA TIME & PENALTY KICKS**

- 7.1 SAP 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

## **8 ABANDONED MATCHES**

A Match may be abandoned by a Referee or, in the absence of a Referee, the Home Club:

- 1.1 Consistent with Section 2 Article 4.2, where both Teams are not ready to play within 15 minutes of the scheduled commencement time
- 1.2 Where the conditions for Play for Participants are unsafe for any reason
- 1.3 Where a Participant is responsible for the abandonment of a Match, sanctions may be imposed, or the matter referred to a Tribunal. This does not include instances such as injuries requiring an ambulance or extreme weather conditions.
- 1.4 Where a Participant is found to be responsible for the abandonment of a Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Participant's Club
- 1.5 Where a Match is abandoned for reasons outside the control of the Clubs involved, the Match will be rescheduled where possible.
- 1.6 After the commencement of the Match, should play be postponed due to any reason as outlined in Section 2 Article 9, and the Match cannot be completed in full, the following principles will apply:
  - a) if eighty percent (80%) or more of normal time of a Match has been played, then the score at the time of the postponement will stand.

- b) If the Match is postponed prior to half time and CF has approved the match to be rescheduled, then the Match is to be replayed in full.
- c) If the Match is postponed at or after half time and prior to eighty percent (80%) 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) 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 having served time 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
      - If the Player was a substitute, the number of available Players to substitute will decrease and the Player cannot be replaced
  - ii) No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the Team sheet
  - iii) Players sent off during the postponed Match cannot be replaced.

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

- 9.1 Matches may be rescheduled if rain or high temperatures make playing or continuing a Match unsafe.
- 9.2 Matches may be rescheduled where a government department or authority closes a ground or grounds for any reason.
- 9.3 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 conditions require 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 by CF for the following reasons if approved:

- 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 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 [2026 Match Alteration Request Form](#).

10.3 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

10.4 Notwithstanding Section 2 Articles 9 & 10, if a Club requests a reschedule and is successful, the requesting Club will be responsible for covering all fees associated with the rescheduled fixture.

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 in 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 in 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 may be fined the prescribed amount in **Schedule 4**.
  - 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.
  - e. 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 \$50 by CF, such fine amount to be paid to the Home Club by CF.
- 11.4 In the case that a Club forfeits all scheduled Matches in a League in a Round:
- a. Section 2 Articles 11.2, 11.3, 10.4, 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 4**.
- 11.5 In the case that a Match is forfeited by a Team, Players from that Team will not be eligible to play in other Teams within the Club for that Round notwithstanding age-eligibility to do so.
- 11.6 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 1.1 to 11.8 inclusive will apply to the Matches, the Team, and the Club.

## **13 ABANDONED SEASON**

- 13.1 The Board, in its sole discretion, may decide if a Season must be abandoned and the consequent outcomes from an abandoned season.

## **14 OVERSEAS & INTERSTATE TOURS**

- 14.1 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.

- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 If it is not possible to reschedule matches, Management may not approve the request, and forfeits will apply to Matches not played.

## **15 REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS**

- 15.1 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.
- 15.2 Each selected Player must make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative Matches, camps, tours, or development programs, when requested by Management
- 15.3 Clubs must release Players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative Matches, camps, tours, or development programs, when requested by CF.

# **SECTION 3: PLAYER 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/or 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 may be 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.
- 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**

- 3.1 For all Leagues:
- a. Except in case of goalkeepers, a Club is not permitted to list a Player on more than two (2) Team sheets on any Match Day.
  - b. If a player has been registered to a specific age grade/division provided they are age eligible, they are eligible to:
    - i. Play in that age grade
    - i. Play in a higher age grade (if an exemption is required it must be approved)
    - ii. Play in the age grade below (if an exemption is required it must be approved)
- 3.2 SAP Players are permitted to play up in the NPL Boys and NPL Girls competitions if they are age eligible. Clubs are to keep in mind that SAP Players are subject to reclassification as explained in Section 2 Article 3.3 in these Regulations.
- 3.3 Any SAP Player playing upon the completion of the Ten (10) match in NPL Boys or NPL Girls Matches will have their status reclassified to a bona fide NPL Boys, NPL Girls, NPL Women's,

NPL Men's. If this occurs, the Player is unable to participate in SAP matches for the remainder of the season and is unable to participate in any SAP Championship fixtures.

- 3.4 **For example:** If a registered SAP 13s player, participates in 10 NPL Boys matches, they will be reclassified as an NPL Boys player. Where two (2) Teams from the same Club are in the same division, Players must be assigned to one particular Team. In the case of exceptional circumstances, clubs may submit this issue to the Capital Football to be considered by the board.
- 3.5 Where two (2) Teams from the same Club are competing in SAP, no Player can play for the other Team in any Match.
- 3.6 Up to Two (2) players from SAP teams can play in JL/MR teams in any given match, if age eligible.
- 3.7 Up to Four (4) JL/MR players can play in SAP matches, if age eligible. If players are underage, clubs will be required to submit an age exemption form for approval from CF.

## EXEMPTIONS

- 3.8 Clubs can seek an exemption from CF for a player to play one (1) year below their actual age by submitting the [2026 SAP Age Exemption Form](#)
- a) Players are not permitted to play below their actual age group unless CF approval has been granted.
  - b) A Club may seek permission for a female Player to register and play in a male team who is outside the age eligibility criteria for that Team up to one (1) year below with the approval age exemption from the CF.
  - c) Each Team is permitted up to One (1) overage Player, in accordance with Section 3 Article 3.1. Should exceptional circumstances permit, CF may provide approval to exceed this number.
- 3.9 Clubs may seek an exemption from CF for a Player to play three (3) or more years above their correct age group. In order to seek this exemption, the Club must submit the [2026 SAP Age Exemption Form](#)

## 4 AGE ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 Subject to Section 3 Article 3 and to specific exemption provisions in Articles in these Regulations, Players must meet age eligibility criteria to play in any age graded team.
- 4.2 The age eligibility criteria for each age grade are:

Competition	Age Grade	Birth Date
SAP	U13	For Players born on or after 1 January 2013
SAP	U12	For Players born on or after 1 January 2014

# **SECTION 4: REGISTRATION**

## **1 COMPETITION AND 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 (PlayFootball)
- 1.3 Clubs are responsible to ensure that their Players are registered as Amateur Players in the National Registration System (PlayFootball).
- 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.

## 2 REGISTRATION PERIODS

- 2.1 Any Player Registration may only occur within the registration periods. CF Registration periods for the 2026 season will be as follows:

Competition	Open	Close
SAP	23 January 2026	26 April 2026

## 3 REGISTRATION OUTSIDE THE REGISTRATION PERIODS

- 3.1 A Club may make a submission to Management seeking the registration of a Player into a SAP 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 JL 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 [2026 Registrations Outside of the Registration Period Request](#)
- 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 3 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 a Futsal Club for which the Player is also registered
  - iii) For a school team that is not part of a School affiliated as a Club at CF;
  - iv) In a benefit, testimonial or charity Match if that Player has written permissions from their Club, CF or FA, as required;
  - v) In a trial Match, provided the Player has their current Clubs written permission and plays no more than two (2) trial Matches or such other number of Matches specified in these Regulations; or
  - vi) 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 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:
- i) Who were last registered with a Club outside of Australia (current or otherwise); and

- ii) 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:

- a) Both Australian and non-Australian citizens, and
- b) 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:

- i) 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,
- ii) An Australian returning to Australia after having played abroad,
- iii) 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"](#)

4.14 All ITC requests must only be submitted once a Player has finished their playing commitments overseas.

4.15 A Player awaiting an ITC may not participate in any football activities, except training, until an ITC has been received by CF.

4.16 If an ITC is requested prior to the registration period closing date, the Player may be registered outside of the registration period.

4.17 It is the Club's responsibility to ensure that the relevant documentation required to obtain an ITC for a minor has been correctly submitted, and until such time as an ITC has been received, the Player must not participate in any Match.

## **CLUB AND TEAM OFFICIALS**

- 4.18 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.
- 4.19 The Club and Team Officials must self-register via the National Registration System and the Club shall then approve that individual's registration in PlayFootball and mapped in Dribl accordingly.
- 4.20 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**

- 4.20 A Club is responsible for registration in PlayFootball and mapping in Dribl of its Players and Officials.
- 4.21 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 in PlayFootball and mapping in Dribl must be completed no later than 11.59pm on the last date of registration period.
- 4.22 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.
- 4.23 A Club which registers 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.
- 4.24 In the case that a Player registers in PlayFootball and mapping in Dribl for more than one (1) Club, the earliest registration 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 number limits.
  - b) All disciplinary cautions incurred by Players will be carried forward if Players move to another Club.

5.3 All suspensions incurred by Players will be carried forward if Players move to another Club. 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.
- 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 The 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 For the 2026 season, the following are the maximum number of squad Players for each Competition and age grade:

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Age Grade</b>	<b>Total Players</b>
<b>SAP</b>	U13	14
<b>SAP</b>	U12	14

- 7.4 A Club must determine which Players from its Roster are entered on a Match Sheet for a Match within the limitations on the maximum Team playing squad for a Match.

# SECTION 5: MATCH DAY

## 1 MATCH BALLS

- 1.1 Each Team (both home and away) will supply one (1) football for all SAP Matches.
- 1.2 At the conclusion of the 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 4**.
- 1.6 Management may stipulate a particular make of football to be used in a particular League or age grade.
- 1.7 The following sizes of footballs are applicable to the different age grades:

Age Grade	Size
U12	4
U13	4

## 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/technical areas 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 is recommended to 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 is 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 INTERCHANGE**

- 4.1 For all SAP competitions unlimited interchange applies.
- 4.2 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.

## **5 DEEMED TO HAVE PLAYED**

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

## **6 PLAYING STRIPS**

### **PLAYING STRIPS**

- 6.1 Playing strips for the 2026 season will be enforced, in line with the SAP Competition Regulations.

### **CLASH OF COLOURS**

- 6.2 If a Referee determines that the strips of Teams in a Match are not distinguishable, the Away Team must
  - a) Wear a bib that is distinguishable from the home teams playing strip.
  - b) Or, if the away team has an alternative kit, they will be required to wear the alternative kit.
- 6.3 Away Clubs may be required to wear a combination of their main and alternate strips to ensure that any clash of strips is resolved.
- 6.4 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.

- 6.5 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.

## **7 CLUB VESTED OFFICIALS**

- 7.1 Club Vested Officials (CVO) are nominated Club representatives who are responsible for maintaining order and responding to spectator Misconduct at Matches.
- 7.2 Clubs must provide the following minimum number of 2 Club Vested Officials for each SAP match.
- 7.3 Management reserves the right to increase the minimum number of CVO that each Club must provide for any Match.
- 7.4 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 4** and under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.
- 7.5 CVOs must:
- a) Be 18 years or older.
  - b) Wear identifiable numbered vests supplied by management
  - c) Be always visible
  - d) Work with CVOs from the opposing Club
  - e) Ensure the Regulations pertaining to smoking, alcohol and dogs are enforced
  - f) Deal with any Misconduct that may arise before, during or after a Match
  - g) 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.
  - h) Ensure no person enters Match Officials rooms who are not invited to do so by the Match Officials
    - i) Escort dismissed Players from the field and ensure they do not return
    - j) Raise concerns regarding Misconduct with Match Officials
    - k) Seek assistance from Security Officers working at a venue, and/or contact Police to address Misconduct
    - l) Cooperate with investigations and disciplinary processes established by Management
- 7.6 CVOs must remain outside the perimeter fence at a field (where applicable) and not enter Technical Areas.

## 8 ELECTRONIC TEAM SHEETS

- 8.1 Clubs and Team Officials must use electronic team sheets (ETS) within Dribl.
- 8.2 When making their Player selection, Clubs must confirm the shirt number of each Player in the ETS.
- 8.3 No Players from the same Team are permitted to wear the same number on their playing strip.
- 8.4 All Players must wear the shirt number that corresponds to that listed in the ETS for the Match.
- 8.5 Team Officials must check and finalise 'Playing' Players and starting 9 Players in Dribl at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick off time.
- 8.6 A maximum of fourteen (14) Players per Team is permitted to be listed for the Match in Dribl.
- 8.7 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.
- 8.8 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.
- 8.9 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
- 8.10 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 4** and may be subject of action under the Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations.
- 8.11 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.

## 9 PAPER TEAM SHEETS

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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
- 9.3 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) to arrive no later than 5:00pm Monday following the weekend's Match, or 24 hours following a mid-week Match.
- 9.4 If Management does not receive the Paper Team by the time required, the Home Club may be sanctioned under **Schedule 4**.
- 9.5 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
- 9.6 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).

## 10 MATCH RESULTS

- 10.1 The Referee will complete the ETS at the conclusion of the Match.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 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.
- 10.5 In the case where Match officials are not appointed for the match by CF, then the home club is required to appoint non-accredited referee for the match in Dribl as per Section 5 Article 10.9.

- 10.6 If a Team Official 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.
- 10.7 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.
- 10.8 Only the following information on a ETS can be disputed in accordance with Section 5, Article 12.7:
- 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
- 10.9 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 11, 12 and 13, and
  - b) Video and/or photographic evidence, statutory declarations, or other information deemed appropriate by Management are submitted with the request
- 10.10 Management may amend an ETS at its sole discretion after making a determination in a dispute.
- 10.11 Management's decision on a ETS dispute is final and not subject to appeal.

## **11 GROUNDS AND FACILITIES**

- 11.1 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
- 11.2 Clubs must nominate and Management approve and, where allocated by the ACT Government to CF, allocate suitable grounds to be used by Teams.

- 11.3 No ground may be used for Matches or training that is not approved by management.
- 11.4 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.
- 11.5 Matches affected by any decision under Section 5 Article 11.4 may be deemed a forfeit against the Club responsible.
- 11.6 Costs incurred by any decision under Section 5 Article 11.4 may be recovered by Management from the Club responsible.
- 11.7 Clubs are responsible for ground set-up at grounds they own or that have been allocated to them.
- 11.8 Line markings must be clear, accurate and within the dimensions specified below:
- a) For SAP Under-13 fields are to be lined in accordance with [CF Under-13 Playing Format and Rules](#)
    - i) SAP U13 Weekend games must be marked with box to box dimensions
    - ii) SAP U13 midweek training games may be lined using half field dimensions
  - b) SAP Under 12 fields are to be lined in accordance with [CF UNDER 12 PLAYING FORMAT AND RULES](#)
- 11.9 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.
- 11.10 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.
- 11.11 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”](#).
- 11.12 A Club must ensure that the manufacturer of portable goals provides it with a certificate of conformity regarding portable goals.
- 11.13 Where a Match is abandoned or must be rescheduled due to the inadequacy of ground management under Section 5 Articles 11.8, 11.9, 11.10 or 11.11, the Match may be deemed a forfeit against the Home Club.
- 11.14 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 the ACT government, QPRC grounds, and private owners.
- 11.15 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.

## **12 SMOKING AND ALCOHOL**

- 12.1 Smoking is prohibited at all SAP Matches and events. It is also prohibited within 10 metres of the change rooms, spectator amenities and canteen facilities.
- 12.2 The sale, provision of, or consumption of alcohol is not permitted during any JL or MR Matches.
- 12.3 Should any person not adhere to any part of these Regulations, both the individual and that person's Club may be fined in accordance with **Schedule 4** of these Regulations and face disciplinary action under the DDR.

## **13 SECURITY AND POLICE**

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 Each Club is required to provide the mandatory CVO complement under Section 5 Article
- 13.3 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.
- 13.4 If directed by Management, a Club must arrange and pay for such additional security or Police presence as deemed necessary by Management.
- 13.5 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 OFFICIALS

## 1 APPOINTMENTS

- 1.1 For all weekend matches, the appointment of Match Officials officiating in SAP fixtures is done by each home Club's Referee Coordinators.
- 1.2 Clubs are responsible for paying Match Officials the fees set by the Board for weekend 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 provisions 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's 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 monthly.
- 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 CLUB REFEREE COORDINATORS**

- 5.1 Each Club must appoint a Club Referee Coordinator. Club Referee Coordinators will appoint Referees to Matches scheduled at their home ground.
- 5.2 The home Club Referee Coordinator will be primarily responsible for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the ground, until they depart the ground.
- 5.3 The home Club Referee Coordinator must:
  - a) Wear the official Club Referee Coordinator vest and be always visible.
  - b) Support and assist Match Officials as requested.

- c) Make sure unauthorised personnel are kept out of the Match Officials change room.
- d) Work together with the CVO to deal with any incidents of misconduct towards Match Officials that may arise.
- e) Report any incidents of misconduct to CF, particularly incidents of misconduct towards Match Officials, which may require a formal incident report to CF.

## **6 MATCH OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE**

- 6.1 Match Officials must arrive at the ground no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time 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 Clubs must not appoint un-registered Match Officials to officiate at games.
- 7.5 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
- 7.6 Persons appointed to officiate by a Club who are not registered Match Official must undertake the role as unpaid volunteers.
- 7.7 Volunteer Match Officials hold all the duties, powers, and obligations of Match Officials under Section 6 Article 3.
- 7.8 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.
- 7.9 If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each Team must provide an assistant Match Official.
- 7.10 All Clubs must fulfill all Matches, regardless of whether the Management appointed Referee is present to take charge or not.

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

- 8.1 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).
- 8.2 If the offender for Misconduct from the Technical Area cannot be identified, the senior Coach present will receive the sanction.
- 8.3 If a Medical Team Official commits a sending-off offence, they may remain in the Technical Area if the Team has no other medical person available, and act if a Player needs medical attention.

# SECTION 8 – 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 A 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 OWED 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 FA.

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

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

**APL** means Australian Professional Leagues

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

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

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

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

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

**Club or Clubs** means:

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

**Club Official or Club Officials** means any person involved with the administration, management, or organisation of a Club 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

**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.

**MiniRoos (MR)** means the U5 – U11 age grades of competitions delivered by CF and Clubs.

**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).

**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.

**SAP** means Skill Acquisition Phase.

**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: COMPETITION 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.

## 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>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

## 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 number
- 5.4 A Club must maintain an 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).
- 6.3 The following Criteria is mandatory for Clubs in 2026:

Club Status	SAP U12 Girls	SAP U13 Girls	SAP U12 Open	SAP U13 Open
NPLW Club	Required	Required		
NPLM Club			Required	Required

## 7. MEDICAL

- 7.1 The below Criteria is recommended for Clubs in SAP

Criteria	
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

## INFRASTRUCTURE

- 7.2 The below shows the Criteria for Clubs in 2026

Criteria	
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 abide by the dimensions as per the playing format for the relevant age group, and as per the regulations in this document
Playing Surface	No requirements

<b>Line Markings</b>	The fields must be marked as per playing format for corresponding age group
<b>Corner and Halfway Flags</b>	Corner flags at a minimum must be used
<b>Goal Posts</b>	Goals must meet the specifications of the laws of the game. Properly secured portable goal posts and dual rugby posts are acceptable
<b>Technical Area</b>	Technical area clearly outlined
<b>Player Dressing Rooms</b>	No requirements
<b>Referee Dressing Rooms</b>	No requirements
<b>Players Race</b>	No requirement
<b>Lighting</b>	Training lights required for midweek training games
<b>Canteen</b>	No requirements
<b>Seating</b>	No requirements
<b>Toilets</b>	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
<b>Media Facilities</b>	No requirements
<b>Broadcast Camera Positions</b>	No requirements
<b>Medical Room</b>	No requirements
<b>Medical Supplies</b>	The venue must have a first aid kit that complies with Australia Standards
<b>Stretchers</b>	No requirements
<b>Scoreboard</b>	No requirements
<b>Public Address System</b>	No requirements

## 8. COACH QUALIFICATIONS

- 8.1 A Club must have in place Coaches with the following FIFA, AFC and FA approved qualifications or show that individuals are enrolled in the applicable courses and are completing scheduled training and testing within those courses as and when they are held:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Minimum Standard for Teams where the Club has previously been in SAP Competitions</b>
<b>Technical Director</b>	C-Licence
<b>U12 SAP Team Head Coach</b>	C-Licence
<b>U13 SAP Team Head Coach</b>	C-Licence

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Minimum Standard for Teams where the Club has not previously been in SAP Competitions</b>
<b>Technical Director</b>	C-Licence
<b>U12 SAP Team Head Coach</b>	Evidence of working towards C-Licence*
<b>U13 SAP Team Head Coach</b>	Evidence of working towards C-Licence*

\*Evidence of working towards is registration for a course and/or CPD

# SCHEDULE 3: PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There is no promotion or relegation from SAP.
- 1.2 Each club can nominate teams into SAP competitions, per:
  - a. An EOI process, or;
    - i) An EOI submission does not guarantee a position within the SAP competitions.
- 1.3 NPL requirements (per the 2025 NPL Review) may require clubs to submit teams into SAP competitions

## 2 ABBREVIATIONS

- 2.1 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>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>P/R – Promotion and Relegation</b>	The process of movement by Clubs between the levels of football, determined by sporting merit and Club licencing

# SCHEDULE 4: FEES AND SANCTIONS

## 1 FINES

1.1 The following fines apply in 2026:

Section	Article	Offence	Sanction	
2	3.4	Failure to commence a Match at the scheduled time	\$100	Per offence
2	12.1	Team being removed/withdrawing or being added into a competition prior to competition commencement	\$100	Per offence
2	12.1	Team being removed/withdrawing after the season has commenced	\$150	Per offence
2	12.1	Team being removed/withdrawing or being added into a competition after completion of 1 whole round	\$200	Per offence
2 11.1		Team forfeiting its Match	\$75	1 <sup>st</sup> offence
			\$150	2 <sup>nd</sup> offence
			\$225	3 <sup>rd</sup> offence
2	14.1	Failure to submit Overseas Tours and Travel Form and receive CF approval	\$100	Per offence
2	14.1	Failure to submit Interstate Tours and Travel Form and receive CF approval	\$50	Per offence
5	1.1	Failure to supply Match balls	\$25	Per offence
5	8.2	Failure to provide the specified number of CVO for a Match	\$50	Per offence
5	9.5	Failure to enter Player selection in Dribl by specified deadline	\$25	Per offence
5	9.8	Failure to submit Team sheets to CF by specified deadline	\$25	Per offence
5	9.7	Failure to submit Team Official list to CF by specified deadline	\$25	Per offence
5	9.8	Failure to list a Player as stood down on the Team sheet	\$25	Per offence
5	9.8	Failure to list a Player on the Team sheet	\$25	Per offence
5	9.9	Failure to enter Match results online into Dribl as specified	\$25	Per offence
5	9.9	Failure to enter Match results online into Dribl as specified	\$25	Per offence
5	12.1	Failure to adhere to smoking and drinking requirements as specified	\$100	Per offence
6	4.4	Failure to provide Match Official payments	\$50	Per offence
All	All	Breach of any provision	\$50	Per offence

## 2 ADMINISTRATION FEES

2.1 The following fees apply in 2026

Section	Article	Administration Requirement	Sanction	
2	14.1	Administration fee for lodging Overseas Tours and Travel Form less than eight (8) weeks prior to departure	\$100	Per lodgement
2	14.1	Administration fee for lodging Interstate Tours and Travel Form less than three (3) weeks prior to departure	\$50	Per lodgement