



Regulation of Macarthur Football Association Inc – Competitions Regulations

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COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS OF MACARTHUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

1. NAME OF REGULATION (SHORT FORM)

This regulation may be cited as the “MFA Competitions Regulations”.

2. ADOPTION

This regulation is:

- (a) adopted by the Association under clause 33 of the Constitution; and
- (b) binding on all Members and other participants.

3. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

3.1 Definitions

In this regulation, defined terms (capitalised words) have the same meaning ascribed to that term in the Constitution unless the contrary intention appears or it is defined below:

“**Annual General Meeting**” or “**AGM**” means the annual general meeting of the Association held in accordance with the Constitution.

“**Appeals Committee**” means the “Appeals Committee formed under **clause 10**.”

“**Association**” means Macarthur Football Association Inc.

“**Board**” means the body consisting of the Directors of the Association.

“**Club**” means a football club which is a Member of the Association.

“**CMC**” means the “Competitions Management Committee” established under **clause 9**.

“**Competitions Manager**” means the person employed or appointed by the Association as the competitions manager of the Association. If that person is unwilling or unable to act or there is a vacancy, then the General Manager (or such other person designated by the Board) will assume the role of competitions manager.

“**Constitution**” means the Constitution of the Association, as amended from time to time.

“**Delegate**” means the person(s) appointed from time to time to act for and on behalf of a Club and to represent the Club at General Meetings.

“**Director – Competitions Management Committee**” means the Director – Competitions Management Committee as elected (or in the case of a vacancy, appointed) under the Constitution.

“**Fee Schedule**” means the Association’s annual pricing structure as approved by the Board from time to time and which will be circulated to the Members annually.

“**FFA**” means the Football Federation of Australia, Australia’s football governing body.

“FIFA” means the Federation Internationale de Football Association, the world’s football governing body.

“General Manager” means the general manager employed or appointed by the Association from time to time, and in the case he or she is unavailable to act, then such other person(s) as directed by the Board from time to time.

“Life Member” means a life member of the Association.

“Member” means a member for the time being of the Association, including a Club and a Life Member.

“MFA Office” means the office of the Association as supervised by the General Manager from time to time.

“National Registration Regulations” means the national registration regulations published by the FFA from time to time.

3.2 Interpretation

In this regulation:

- (a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty;
- (b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a power, authority or duty, a reference to the exercise of the power or authority of the performance of the duty;
- (c) words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- (d) words importing any gender include the other genders;
- (e) the words “include”, “including”, “for example” or “such as” are not used as, nor are they to be interpreted as, words of limitation, and, when introducing an example, do not limit the meaning of the words to which the example relates to that example or examples of a similar kind;
- (f) references to persons include corporations and bodies politic;
- (g) references to a person include the legal personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns of that person;
- (h) headings (including those in brackets at the beginning of paragraphs) are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this Constitution;
- (i) a reference to a statute, ordinance, code or other law includes regulations and other statutory instruments under it and consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of any of them (whether of the same or any legislative authority having jurisdiction); and
- (j) a reference to "writing" will, be construed as including references to printing, lithography, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, including messages sent by electronic mail.

Any question or issue relating to the interpretation of this regulation will be decided by the Board (and whose decision will be final and binding).

3.3 Severance

If any provision of this regulation or any phrase contained in it is invalid or unenforceable, the phrase or provision is to be read down if possible, so as to be valid and enforceable, and otherwise will be severed to the extent of the invalidity or unenforceability, without affecting the remaining provisions of this regulation.

3.4 Inconsistencies

If any provision of this regulation is inconsistent with the Constitution or any other regulation of the Association, then the document as directed by the Board will prevail to the extent of any such inconsistency.

4. GENERAL

All matches played under the control of the Association will be played under the rules of FIFA subject to the Constitution, these regulations and any other regulations of the Association.

5. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIONS

Any Club wishing to participate in competitions or matches controlled by the Association must apply by completing and submitting a membership application form by 31 January in each year (or such other time as advised by the Association) to the MFA Office, and where relevant complying with any requirements set out in that application form.

6. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- (a) This regulation should be read in conjunction with the National Registration Regulations. In the event of any inconsistency between this regulation and the National Registration Regulations, the provisions of this regulation will prevail to the extent of any such inconsistency.
- (b) Clubs are encouraged to sight a copy of a player's birth certificate or other statutory or satisfactory proof of date of birth at the time of such player's registration.
- (c) The Club registering a player shall be responsible for the player's registration and payment of fees, to the Association, which shall be due at the time of registration of the player.
- (d) No player will be deemed registered until all requirements of these regulations are complied with.
- (e) A player's registration shall be current only for the calendar year in which the player registers. No new player registrations, player transfers, or player regrades will be accepted after 30 June in any one year.
- (f) Any player who wrongly states his year of birth on a team registration form, or who signs a player's registration form knowing the facts stated to be untrue, shall be regarded as an ineligible player and unable to play in any competition.
- (g) In accordance with the National Registration Regulations, a player already registered with another association is not eligible and cannot be registered by the Association unless written clearance is produced from the other association they are leaving.
- (h) Any registered player proved to have played in any competition conducted by another association within the current season without permission of the FFA shall be subject to a sanction as determined by the CMC.

- (i) In accordance with the National Registration Regulations, a registered player of one Club may transfer to the registered team of another Club upon completing a transfer request with their current registered Club.
- (j) Any registered player of a Club found playing for another Club without fully completing the transfer request is deemed an ineligible player and shall be subject to sanctions as determined by the CMC.

7. FEES

Fees in respect of the various competitions controlled by the Association shall be reviewed by the MFA Office and presented to the Board for approval in November each year. Approved fees payable by the Clubs will be communicated to the Clubs in December of each year.

8. TEAM NOMINATIONS

- (a) Each Club will be responsible for submitting one completed copy of the prescribed team nomination form for each team entered. The prescribed nomination form will be provided to the Clubs by the MFA Office.
- (b) All team nominations for U12 and above must be submitted to the Competitions Manager on or before the third Friday in February of each year (or, if applicable, such later date advised by the Competitions Manager).
- (c) All team nominations for U11 and below (MiniRoos) must be submitted to the Competitions Manager on or before the first Friday in March of each year (or, if applicable, such later date advised by the Competitions Manager).
- (d) Failure to submit teams by due dates may result in teams not being accepted into the competitions controlled by the Association. Late submissions accepted by the Association will incur additional administration fees as detailed in the Fee Schedule.
- (e) With respect to team nominations:
 - (i) MiniRoos U10/11 must have five (5) nominated players names;
 - (ii) competition teams (U12 and over) must have a minimum of seven (7) nominated players names;
 - (iii) the division last played by each nominated player must be listed on the nomination form as well as any other details required to be completed on that form; and
 - (iv) team nominations will not be registered by the Association unless the matters referred to above are complied with.
- (f) Clubs are encouraged to engage the Association Technical Director to assess teams for grade nomination purposes. This service is offered by the Association free of charge.
- (g) Following the closing date for entries of teams in each grade, the Competitions Management and the CMC shall meet to arrange suitable competitions for the season.
- (h) After nominations are submitted, each Club must submit to the Competitions Manager records of nominated coaches and managers for each team by the time advised by the Competitions Manager. All nominated persons must have completed all relevant documentation under the Working with Children legislation

(and any similar legislation). Coaches must provide their accreditation number on the registration form. Should a coach not hold the relevant accreditation, the coach must register for the next available coaches course.

- (i) If any Club, after having entered a team in accordance with this regulation, subsequently withdraws such team after initial gradings are completed will incur additional administration fees as detailed in the Fee Schedule.
- (j) A team's registration shall be current only for the calendar year in which it is registered.

9. CMC ELECTION PROCESS AND ROLE

9.1 Composition of the CMC

- (a) The Competitions Management Committee (**CMC**) shall consist of:
 - (i) a minimum of five (5); and
 - (ii) a maximum of eight (8),persons elected by the Members at each Annual General Meeting in addition to the Director – Competitions Management Committee who shall preside as the chairperson of the CMC.
- (b) The members of the CMC (other than the Director – Competitions Management Committee) cannot also be:
 - (i) subject to **clause 9.1(c)**, a Director of the Association;
 - (ii) a member of the Appeals Committee;
 - (iii) a member of the Judiciary Committee (as established pursuant to the Disciplinary and Judiciary Regulations of the Association); or
 - (iv) a paid employee of the Association or a Club.
- (c) In the event that:
 - (i) eight (8) persons are not elected to the CMC at the relevant Annual General Meeting, then at any time after that Annual General Meeting, the Board may nominate any person (including any Director) to be a member of the CMC to fill any vacancy (up to the maximum number of members referred to in **clause 9.1(a)(ii)**) in which case such appointment must be approved by a majority of votes of the Members present and entitled to vote at a Special General Meeting which must be convened as soon as reasonably practicable after such nomination is made by the Board; or
 - (ii) a member of the CMC resigns after being elected, then the Board may fill that casual vacancy by appointing any person (including a Director) to that vacant position.

9.2 Process for election

- (a) The process for the election of the members of the CMC at each Annual General Meeting will be as directed by the Association.
- (b) Nominations for becoming a member of the CMC may be:

- (i) called for, and received by, the Association prior to each Annual General Meeting; and
 - (ii) moved by any Delegate or Director during the AGM if eight (8) nominations have not been received by the Association prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Subject to **clause 9.1(c)**, in order to become a member of the CMC, each nominee must be approved by a majority of votes of the Members present and entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

9.3 Chairperson of CMC

- (a) The Director – Competitions Management Committee will be the chairperson at each meeting of the CMC.
- (b) If the Director – Competitions Management Committee is unable or unwilling to attend a meeting of the CMC, then the other members of the CMC may elect any other member of the CMC to chair the relevant meeting.

9.4 Quorum for CMC

At least fifty percent (50%), in number, of the CMC members form a quorum for the purpose of a CMC meeting.

9.5 Voting and CMC meetings

- (a) All members of the CMC will have one (1) vote on any question. All decisions of the CMC will be made by a majority of the members of the CMC present at the meeting (unless **clause 9.5(c)** applies and a resolution is passed in writing or by electronic means by a majority).
- (b) The chairperson of the CMC will have a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.
- (c) A resolution in writing, signed or assented to by any electronic means by the members of the CMC will be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the CMC duly convened and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form each signed or authorised by one (1) or more of the members.
- (d) The CMC may regulate its meetings as it thinks fit.
- (e) All acts done by any meeting of the CMC will, even if it is subsequently discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of a member or any other procedural irregularity, be valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified to be a CMC member and there was no such procedural irregularity.

9.6 Role of CMC

The role of the CMC includes (but is not limited to):

- (a) dealing with any matters referred to in this regulation or any other regulation of the Association which the CMC is authorised to deal with;
- (b) hearing any appeals which are referred to as being able to be appealed to the CMC in accordance with this regulation or any other regulation of the Association;
- (c) enforcing this regulation or any other regulation of the Association;

- (d) providing advice to the Competitions Manager, the MFA Office and/or the Board in connection with the regulations;
- (e) liaising with, and providing support to, the Competitions Manager; and
- (f) such other matters as advised by the Board from time to time.

10. APPEALS COMMITTEE ELECTION PROCESS AND ROLE

10.1 Composition of the Appeals Committee

- (a) The Appeals Committee shall consist of:
 - (i) a minimum of three (3); and
 - (ii) a maximum of seven (7),persons elected by the members at each Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The members of the Appeals Committee cannot also be:
 - (i) subject to **clause 10.1(c)**, a Director of the Association;
 - (ii) a member of the CMC;
 - (iii) a member of the Judiciary Committee (as established pursuant to the Disciplinary and Judiciary Regulations of the Association); or
 - (iv) a paid employee of the Association or a Club.
- (c) In the event that:
 - (i) seven (7) persons are not elected to the Appeals Committee at the relevant Annual General Meeting, then at any time after that Annual General Meeting, the Board may nominate any person (including any Director) to be a member of the Appeals Committee to fill any vacancy (up to the maximum number of members referred to in **clause 10.1(a)(ii)**) in which case such appointment must be approved by a majority of votes of the Members present and entitled to vote at a Special General Meeting which must be convened as soon as reasonably practicable after such appointment is made; or
 - (ii) a member of the Appeals Committee resigns after being elected, then the Board may fill that casual vacancy by appointing any person (including a Director) to that vacant position.

10.2 Process for election of Appeals Committee

- (a) The process for the election of the members of the Appeals Committee at each Annual General Meeting will be as directed by the Association.
- (b) Nominations for becoming a member of the Appeals Committee may be:
 - (i) called for, and received by, the Association prior to each Annual General Meeting; and
 - (ii) moved by any Delegate or Director during the Annual General Meeting if seven (7) nominations have not been received by the Association prior to the Annual General Meeting.

- (c) Subject to **clause 10.1(c)**, in order to become a member of the Appeals Committee, each nominee must be approved by a majority of votes of the Members present and entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

10.3 Chairperson of Appeals Committee

- (a) The chairperson of the Appeals Committee will be the person as appointed by a majority vote of the members comprising the Appeals Committee.
- (b) If the appointed chairperson is unable or unwilling to attend a meeting of the Appeals Committee, then the other members of the Appeals Committee may elect any other member of the Appeals Committee to chair the relevant meeting.

10.4 Quorum for Appeals Committee

Any three (3) members of the Appeals Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of any Appeals Committee meeting.

10.5 Voting and Appeals Committee meetings

- (a) All members of the Appeals Committee will have one (1) vote on any question. All decisions of the Appeals Committee will be made by a majority of the members of the Appeals Committee present at the meeting (unless **clause 10.5(c)** applies and a resolution is passed in writing or by electronic means by a majority).
- (b) The chairperson of the Appeals Committee will have a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes.
- (c) A resolution in writing, signed or assented to by any electronic means by the members of the Appeals Committee will be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Appeals Committee duly convened and held. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form each signed or authorised by one (1) or more of the members.
- (d) The Appeals Committee may regulate its meetings as it thinks fit.
- (e) All acts done by any meeting of the Appeals Committee will, even if it is subsequently discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of a member or any other procedural irregularity, be valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified to be an Appeals Committee member and there was no such procedural irregularity.

10.6 Role

The role of the Appeals Committee includes (but is not limited to):

- (a) hearing any appeals which are referred to as being able to be appealed to the Appeals Committee in accordance with this regulation or any other regulation of the Association;
- (b) liaising with the Competitions Manager, the MFA Office, the CMC and/or the Board in relation any such appeals; and
- (c) such other matters as advised by the Board from time to time.

11. TEAM GRADING

11.1 Grading principles

- (a) The Competitions Manager, in collaboration with the CMC, shall grade such teams as are nominated to the Association in divisions of such age grades as determined each year by the Association.
- (b) The Competitions Manager will cause grading documentation to be distributed to the Clubs and which must be fully completed by each Club with team nominations and returned to the Competitions Manager by the time advised by the Competitions Manager.
- (c) The Competitions Manager will have the discretion not to accept any incomplete or late grading documents and which may result in Club teams not being accepted into an Association competition.
- (d) The Competitions Manager will adhere to the following grading principles (except in the case of exceptional circumstances):
 - (i) Promotion: The Premiers and Champions and, in the case where the Premiers are also the Champions, the Grand Final Runner-up, during the previous season shall be considered for promotion into the next higher division the following season. At least seven (7) players of the previous season's team must be registered to enable that team to be considered for promotion. A team should not be promoted by two (2) or more divisions, unless in the opinion of the Competitions Manager that is how the interests of the players and the game would be best served. Should a team be promoted by two (2) or more divisions the Competitions Manager will advise the Club in writing its reasoning for the decision, the Club will have right of appeal against the decision, such appeal to be in accordance with **clause 11.2**.
 - (ii) Relegation: A team that finishes last or second last in a competition during the previous season will be considered for relegation to the next lower division the following season. At least seven (7) players of the previous season's team must be registered to enable that team to be graded into a lower division. A team should not be relegated by two (2) or more divisions, unless in the opinion of the Competitions Manager that is how the interests of the players and the game would be best served. Should a team be relegated by two (2) or more divisions the Competitions Manager will advise the Club in writing its reasoning for the decision, the Club will have right of appeal against the decision, such appeal to be in accordance with **clause 11.2**.
- (e) At the end of each season each age group will be ranked by the Competitions Manager on their performance of that year including promotion and relegation and each team will be numbered accordingly one (1) through to the last placed team in that age bracket. This ranking system will be used for the purposes of declaring the competitions in line with the Association's preferred number of teams per division.
- (f) The Association will host a Grading Meeting, with one nominated member from each Club invited to attend and review initial grading for Youth (U12 – U18) and All-Age (U21 and above, excluding competitions for players aged 35 and over and M-League) with the CMC and the Competitions Manager. This meeting is strictly limited to two (2) persons representing each Club.
- (g) Nominated representatives failing to attend the Grading Meeting forfeit the right to appeal any grading decisions.

- (h) A separate grading meeting will be held for Clubs with M-League and competitions for players over the age of 35.
- (i) The initial grading will be communicated to the Clubs at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled grading meeting.
- (j) Clubs will be advised of their final grading by the Competitions Manager within five (5) days of the grading meeting.

11.2 Grading Appeals

- (a) The Appeals Committee will deal with appeals by the Clubs against grading of teams as determined by the Competitions Manager under **clause 11.1 (Grading Appeal)**.
- (b) An application for a Grading Appeal must be lodged by a Club in writing to the MFA Office by no later than three (3) days of the issue of the grading by the Competitions Manager and which contains the following:
 - (i) Details of a minimum of 11 registered players.
 - (ii) Previous years grading.
 - (iii) Previous years' results.
 - (iv) All other relevant information that the relevant Club wishes to rely upon with respect to the initial grading decision.
- (c) A maximum of two (2) persons representing the Club may attend the Appeals Committee hearing in relation to the Grading Appeal. No legal representative or other third party may represent a Club during such an appeal.
- (d) The decision of the Appeals Committee in relation to the Grading Appeal will be final and binding. The Appeals Committee may consult with the Competitions Manager, the CMC and the relevant Club before it makes a decision with respect to the Grading Appeal.
- (e) The decision of the Appeals Committee will be final and binding. No further avenue of appeal shall apply to decisions regarding grading after the Appeals Committee has notified the relevant Club of its decision.

12. TEAM REGRADES

12.1 Team regrading principles

- (a) All teams will be reviewed by the Competitions Manager and may be subject to regrades in accordance with this **clause 12**.
- (b) Barring exceptional circumstances as determined by the Competitions Manager, re-grading of a team will only be considered at the end of the first round of that age group's highest premiership competition.
- (c) A regraded team can only enter a new division at a time determined by the Competitions Manager, in consultation with the CMC.
- (d) No applications for regrading will be accepted. All teams will be considered for regrading as set out in this **clause 12.1**.

- (e) Factors that may be taken into account when making a decision to regrade a team include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - (i) The position of a team on the league table.
 - (ii) The results of a team during the season.
 - (iii) The closeness of each team in each competition.
 - (iv) The goal difference.
 - (v) The size of the league, and the size of a league to which a team may be regraded to.
 - (vi) The likely performance of a regraded team in a new league.
 - (vii) The impact a regrade will have on other Clubs or competitions.
- (f) The Competitions Manager will have the right to regrade, as believed to be in the best interest of teams, divisions and age group as a whole. The Competitions Manager may consult with the CMC and Club teams proposed to be affected by any regrades. Those affected Clubs will have up to 48 hours to lodge a response to the Competitions Manager for consideration.
- (g) There is no obligation for the Competitions Manager to regrade any teams.
- (h) If a team is regraded, they will take with them their current points and goal difference. If a team is regraded to a higher division and their current points are higher than the team occupying fourth place in that division, the points will be adjusted and the team will start with the same points as the team occupying fourth place at the time of the regrade. Additionally, goal difference will be set to equal as the team sitting in fourth place if the goal difference of the regraded team is higher than the team sitting in fourth place at time of regrade. If a team is regraded to a lower division and their current points are lower than the team occupying last place in that division, the points will be adjusted and the team will start with the same points as the team occupying last place at the time of the regrade. Additionally, goal difference will be set to equal as the team sitting in last place if the goal difference of the regraded team is lower than the team sitting in last place at time of regrade.

12.2 Regrade Appeals

- (a) The CMC will deal with appeals by any Club with respect to the regrading decision made by the Competitions Manager (**Regrade Appeal**).
- (b) Regrade Appeals to the CMC carry a fee as outlined within the Fee Schedule and which must be paid prior to the appeal hearing.
- (c) An application for a Regrade Appeal must be lodged by a Club in writing to the MFA Office which details:
 - (i) the reasons for Regrade Appeal; and
 - (ii) the reasons why the initial decision of the Competitions Manager should be reversed,by no later than three (3) days of the issue of regrade by the Competitions Manager.

- (d) A maximum of two (2) persons representing the Club which has appealed the initial regrading decision may attend a CMC appeal hearing. No legal representative or other third party may represent a Club during such an appeal.
- (e) The decision of the CMC in relation to the appeal by the Club will be final and binding. The CMC may consult with the Competitions Manager and the relevant Club before it makes a decision with respect to an appeal by a Club.
- (f) The decision of the CMC will be final and binding in relation a Regrade Appeal. No further avenue of appeal shall apply to decisions regarding grading after the CMC has notified the relevant Club of its decision.

13. COMPETITIONS STRUCTURE

- (a) The Association's preferred number of teams for competitions are:
 - (i) eight (8) for Youth (U12 to U18 inclusive); and
 - (ii) ten (10) for competitions above U18 and MiniRoos (U6 – U11).
- (b) If the preference cannot be delivered, then the final option will be six (6) teams. This format will be utilised to eliminate or reduce the number of byes wherever possible. Except due to exceptional circumstances, the Association will not deliver a competition with less than six (6) teams.
- (c) If the Association receives fewer than six (6) nominations for a division, the Association may consider the following options to reach or exceed the minimum quota:
 - (i) Combine the teams with an appropriate lower division. This combined division may be split at a time deemed appropriate by the Association.
 - (ii) Seek to form a competition for nominated teams with a neighbouring association.
- (d) Notwithstanding the Association's preference, the Association's priority is to ensure teams are placed in competition divisions that represent the most appropriate grading for that team.
- (e) The Association may schedule fixtures on evenings, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, subject to availability of grounds:
 - (i) to ensure that competition rounds are played; and
 - (ii) to play matches moved due to State Cup or other similar commitments.
- (f) A competition is to consist of a minimum of two rounds. Possible variations are summarised below:
 - (i) 8 teams = 21 matches.
 - (ii) 10 teams = 18 matches.
 - (iii) 6 teams = 20 matches.
 - (iv) 11 or more teams = Assessed during the season and may be split at the discretion of the Competitions Manager.
- (g) In the Premiership competitions, points shall be allocated as follows:

- (i) A win - 3 points.
- (ii) A draw - 1 point.
- (iii) A win by forfeit - 3 points plus 3 goals.
- (iv) Forfeiting team:
 - (A) A 3 – 0 loss will be recorded; and
 - (B) Will lose three (3) points if a competition team forfeits three times during the same season
- (v) A Bye fixture - 0 points.
- (h) In the event of more than one team finishing the competition on equal highest points, the Premiers will be determined as follows:

Criterion of Equality	Ranking Criterion
Equal Points	Most points from games played between the two teams during the season
Equal Points, Equal goal difference	Highest goal difference from games played between the two teams during the season.
Equal Points, goal difference, points from games between the teams during the season	Highest goal difference
Equal Points, goal difference, points from games between the teams during the season, and goal difference from games played between the two teams during the season	Highest goals scored for in total

- (i) Premiers of the Division one (1) competitions shall participate in the Football NSW Champion of Champions tournament should the opportunity exist for that age group.
- (j) In the event of the withdrawal of any team before the conclusion of round 1 of competition, all points previously allocated in matches in which they have taken part shall be deleted and goal averages adjusted accordingly. Should the withdrawal occur in the second round of the Competition, only those games played in the second round shall be adjusted.

14. FINALS SERIES

- (a) The top four (4) teams from each division shall play off in a Finals Series and for two (2) places in the Grand Final on a knockout basis.
- (b) The draw for the Final Series shall be:
 - (i) "1st Qualifying Final" - 1 versus 2; and
 - (ii) "Elimination Final" - 3 versus 4.

- (iii) Winner between 1 versus 2 shall proceed directly to the Grand Final.
- (iv) The loser between 1 versus 2 shall play the winner of 3 versus 4 in the 2nd “Qualifying Final”.
- (v) The loser of 3 versus 4 is eliminated. The winner of the 2nd “Qualifying Final” shall play the winner of the first 1st “Qualifying Final” in the “Grand Final”.
- (vi) The winner of the Grand Final shall be known as the “Champions”.
- (c) Should any Final be even on score at the end of normal time, extra time of 15 minutes each way for senior competitions and 10 minutes each way for youth (up to and including under 18’s) competitions shall occur.
- (d) If after extra time the match remains a draw, the match shall be decided by penalties as per FIFA Rules.
- (e) Teams who are placed 1st and 2nd respectively at the end of the normal competition and who forfeit the first round of the Final Series automatically disqualify themselves from the Final Series and will play no further part in the Final Series.
- (f) A player must have played at least two (2) games for a team during the season to qualify as a player during the Finals Series.

15. MATCH CARDS

- (a) In all competition matches, the team manager/coach shall before the start of play, complete the match card with the list of proper (family/surname) and FFA numbers of the players in their team against the player’s correct shirt number. Under no circumstances should a match card be altered after the commencement of play. Failure to comply with the requirement shall incur a penalty as determined by the CMC.
- (b) The match card is to be supplied by the Association through the host Club and the original card must be forwarded to the MFA Office by:
 - (i) Tuesday 12pm following weekend matches (in the case of Monday Public Holidays, then Tuesday 5pm);
 - (ii) Within 60 hours of mid-week matches.

This function is the responsibility of the host Club.
- (c) The referees shall put the score on the match card at the conclusion of the match excluding MiniRoos up to Under 9 (unless otherwise directed by the Association). Scores for Under 10 and Under 11 are to be recorded to assist with grouping in the Under 11 and grading in the Under 12 for the next season.
- (d) Match cards must be completed in blue or black pen. Alternatively, printed labels or stickers are permitted to be applied to the match card.
- (e) The name of any player temporarily playing in a higher grade or division together with his/her usual grade and division, shall be recorded on the match card. Failure to comply with the requirement shall incur a penalty as determined by the CMC.
- (f) No whiteout or correction fluid shall be used on any match card. Any errors are to be single line crossed out and written above the error. The use of whiteout or

correction fluid will be considered to be an attempt to alter the match card and shall incur a penalty determined by the CMC.

- (g) A player who has been stood down or suspended must be recorded on the match card with his proper (family/surname) and ID number for the matches in which he/she or she is suspended in the stood down section. Failure to comply with this clause shall incur a penalty as determined by the CMC.
- (h) Any Club or team that has lost/misplaced a match card shall incur a penalty as determined by the CMC.
- (i) A Club incorrectly completing a match card may incur a penalty as determined by the CMC.
- (j) The Association may implement digital match cards. If the Association authorises the use of digital match cards, then the Competitions Manager will issue a directive to the Clubs in relation to the rules applicable to, and use of, digital match cards from time to time and will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency in this **clause 15**.

16. IDENTITY CARDS

- (a) Identity cards for players, coaches and managers shall include a clear and legible photo of the relevant individual, as well as list the individuals registered Club, team name, division, date of birth, registration number, name and signature as applicable.
- (b) All individual photos must be current and show the head and shoulders only. The CMC will review the validity of digital identity cards at the start of the season.
- (c) Identity cards will be checked by the opposing team's manager prior to the commencement of the match.
- (d) Hard copy identity cards should be provided in the first instance. When hard copy identity cards cannot be produced, a digital identity card will be accepted. A digital card must be clear, legible and current. Players that cannot be identified are deemed ineligible and unable to participate in a match.
- (e) Only hard copy identity cards will be acceptable during the Finals Series (unless otherwise advised by the Competitions Manager with the approval of the CMC).
- (f) The digital identity card can be produced across all competition age groups when a hard copy card cannot be produced. It is compulsory to present either a hard copy or digital copy identity card prior to the start of each match or a forfeit will result. Teams have a maximum of 10 minutes from the scheduled kick-off time to produce identity cards.
- (g) Any team that refuses to produce identity cards for checking by the opposing team's manager prior to the commencement of the match shall forfeit the match and face further sanction at the discretion of the CMC.

17. ELIGIBILITY

- (a) Both males and females shall be eligible for registration as players in Association competitions. The Association will provide separate male and female competitions across all age categories pending team nominations for such competitions.
- (b) The football year shall commence on January 1st and end on December 31st each year. A player's age eligibility shall be determined by their age at the 1st of January.

- (c) As per National Registration Regulations, a player is eligible to register with a Club from the age of five (5), that is, they are turning five (5) in the calendar year they are intending to register to play football.
- (d) A registered player from any Club team may play for their Club in a higher age grade subject to that Club's permission to do so and only in the following circumstances:
 - (i) In the same age group - any higher division. For example, a player from U12 Division 4 may be borrowed to play U12 Division 1, 2 or 3.
 - (ii) In the next higher age group – in the same or higher division. For example, a player from the U12 Division 1 may be borrowed to play U13 Division 1 only. A player from U12 Division 2 may be borrowed to play U13 Division 1 or 2. A player from U12 Division 3 may be borrowed to play U13 Division 1, 2 or 3.
 - (iii) Two (2) age groups higher – Any division higher, in the same division or next lower division. For example, a player from U12 Division 1 may be borrowed to play U14 Division 1 or 2. A player from U12 Division 2 may be borrowed to play U14 Division 1, 2 or 3.
- (e) Any number of players may be registered, however, teams shall be restricted to sixteen (16) players in any one match.
- (f) To be eligible to play in the All Age Competition, one must have turned sixteen (16) prior to 1 January of the current year.
- (g) With the exception of paragraph (f) above, a player cannot participate in an age grade more than two (2) years above their actual age without an exemption from the Association.
- (h) Players are permitted to play four (4) matches in a higher age or division. Any player exceeding these requirements automatically becomes a member of the team with which he/she plays their fifth match.
- (i) At no time will more than three (3) players be permitted to play in a higher age or division of any one team. A team who plays more than three (3) players in a higher age or division in any one team will be deemed to have forfeited that match. Failure to comply with this requirement shall incur a penalty as determined by the CMC.
- (j) A registered player from any Club may only play in a lower division in the same age grade by first applying for and obtaining a player regrade. A player that has been granted a regrade shall not play again in a higher division or age grade without permission from the Association.
- (k) Players of teams playing in the same division from the same Club are not permitted to be borrowed between the teams in that same division.
- (l) Where a Club does not have an eligible player(s) to borrow from under paragraph (d) above, that Club may submit in writing a request to the Competitions Manager for special consideration of such rule. Such submission must be in writing 48 hours prior to the match taking place and must outline the players name(s) who are intended to be borrowed. Such consideration will only be considered for the game in which the submission refers and may only be approved to permit eleven (11) players to participate in the match.

18. ELIGIBILITY – COMPETITIONS FOR PLAYERS AGED 35 OR OVER

- (a) Competitions for players aged 35 and over shall be a competition designated for players who have attained the age of 35 prior to 1st January in the year the competition is being held.
- (b) Players registered in competitions for players aged 35 and over shall be permitted to be borrowed in accordance with paragraph (c) below.
- (c) Players registered in competitions for players aged 35 and over shall be restricted to playing in the grades as tabled below:
 - (i) Division 1 players can be borrowed into the first division of the All Age competition and up to and including division four (4) only;
 - (ii) Division 2 players can be borrowed into the first division of the All Age competition and up to and including division eight (8) only;
 - (iii) Division 3 or higher: Players can be borrowed in any All Age Division
- (d) Players registered in a competition for ages 35 and over cannot be borrowed into the M-League competition.
- (e) No all age registered player is permitted to play as a borrowed player in any competitions for players aged 35 and over.
- (f) Any number of players may be registered for any team over 35's, however, teams shall be restricted to 16 players in any one match.
- (g) A player having been once substituted in a match, may retake the field as many times as is required during the match, provided the referee is first notified of the substitution to take place. A player being substituted may leave the field at any point of play, but the player taking the field of play shall enter from halfway.

19. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- (a) It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that only eligible players participate in any match.
- (b) Players ineligible to participate include:
 - (i) unregistered players;
 - (ii) players not in possession of a valid identity card. This includes digital cards that are not legible or clear;
 - (iii) suspended players;
 - (iv) a player who participates in the match but is not listed on the match card.
 - (v) a player who is required to stand down for receiving the required number of cautions;
 - (vi) a player that has been expelled from a match on the day/s prior to a match but after the regular Judiciary Committee hearing date;
 - (vii) a player that has been expelled from a match earlier in the day;

- (viii) a player that has not complied with age-based requirements or policies of the Association. This includes a player participating in an age grade lower than their grade permits;
 - (ix) a player participating in a division lower than the division than that for which they are registered, without first obtaining a regrade;
 - (x) a player already registered with another Association; or
 - (xi) any other player who is deemed ineligible under this regulation or any other regulation of the Association.
- (c) Any team that fields an ineligible player will automatically lose that match on forfeit and shall incur a penalty as determined by the CMC.
- (d) Additionally, the Club, team official/s and/or player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the Association's Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

20. MATCH TIMES

- (a) Matches shall be played on date and time at the venue set down by the Association and shall commence at the stipulated time.
- (b) Should a match commence later than the stipulated time, reduced time shall be played in equal periods to allow the following match to commence at the allotted time.
- (c) A match cannot commence more than 10 minutes later than the stipulated commencement time.
- (d) No extra time shall be allowed for players injured in a match. Extra time may only be added at the discretion of the referee for time wasting, substitutions and issuing of yellow and red cards.
- (e) If a competition match is stopped for any reason within the first half of play and does not recommence, at the discretion of the Competitions Manager, the game may be rescheduled and replayed in full at a date arranged by the Competitions Manager in consultation with affected Clubs. For the avoidance of doubt, any match that is stopped for any reason after the half time whistle sounds will not be rescheduled.

21. MATCH DURATION

- (a) The maximum duration of matches in the various age grades shall be as set out in the table below:

COMPETITION TYPE	MATCH DURATION
Competitions for players over the age of 35	At the discretion of the Association
All Age and Men and Women	2 equal periods of 45 minutes
Under 18 – Under 21	2 equal periods of 45 minutes
Under 17	2 equal periods of 40 minutes
Under 15 – Under 16	2 equal periods of 35 minutes
Under 13 – Under 14	2 equal periods of 30 minutes
Under 12	2 equal periods of 25 minutes
Under 6 – Under 11	As per National MiniRoos guidelines

- (b) The result of a match not played to the time as per above, shall be determined by the Competitions Manager.

22. DEFERRED MATCHES

- (a) Applications for deferred matches must be made in writing to the MFA Office, where the Competitions Manager shall make the final decision.
- (b) All applications must be received at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled match. Any deferred match shall be played at the direction of the Competitions Manager.

23. MATCH BALLS

- (a) Match balls must be approved by the Association and comply following the following guidelines:
 - (i) MiniRoos U6 – U11: As per National MiniRoos Rules and Playing formats.
 - (ii) U12 and U13 – Size 4.
 - (iii) All other age groups – size 5.
- (b) The home Club team shall have two (2) match balls available for competition matches in a condition fit for play. The referee shall decide as to the fitness of the balls. Teams failing to comply may be sanctioned as determined by the CMC.
- (c) During the Finals Series, the host Club team shall provide a minimum of two (2) x match balls of suitable size.
- (d) In M-League, if applicable, the type and make of ball will be that which the Association may from time to time decide.

24. SUBSTITUTIONS

For all competition games, unlimited interchange of players is permissible at any time during the game subject to the maximum number of players permitted on a match card, subject to the FIFA laws of the game.

25. SLIDE TACKLES

Slide tackles shall be prohibited in all competitions for ages 35 and over.

26. GROUNDS

- (a) Clubs not having a home ground shall be liable to a fee in respect of grounds provided for its use.
- (b) The ground lessee or persons delegated shall have power (subject to Council approval) to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches.
- (c) Except where specifically stated otherwise, the first named team in the competition draw shall be considered the home team.
- (d) A visiting team desiring to complain against the condition of any ground, goal posts or corner flags, shall make their complaint to the referee before the commencement of the match. The referee shall be empowered to order a match to be played despite any protest made in accordance with the previous sentence. If

deemed necessary, the referee will lodge a report to the Association for consideration.

- (e) For the purpose of this regulation, a reference to the referee shall include both a qualified referee appointed to the match and an unofficial referee appointed in accordance with **clause 27**.
- (f) On grounds where more than one field is available, and the ground lessee or persons delegated decide that the appointed ground is unfit for play they are empowered to order the match to be played on the alternative field.
- (g) No Club official, team manager, team coach or any other person shall be permitted to stand along the goal line. The match may be stopped at the discretion of the referee if the circumstance in the preceding sentence occurs.
- (h) Each Club is responsible to ensure that each field is identified and marked with a "Technical Area". Coaches from U12's and above shall remain in the Technical Area. No other persons other than players, coaches and managers listed on the match card are allowed within their respective team's Technical Area. Each person in the Technical Area who is not a player shall wear a lanyard with a current ID card.

27. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Ground control is the responsibility of the host club. Each host club shall nominate at least one (1) **"Ground Official"** for each Match played at the venue. The Ground Official:
 - (i) must be a responsible person over the age of 18 years;
 - (ii) cannot be a person who is a coach, manager, or player of a team participating in a Match;
 - (iii) must be identified by wearing a green or yellow vest (or such other identifying apparel as decided by the Board from time to time);
 - (iv) must identify themselves to the referees prior to the commencement of each Match;
 - (v) must comply with any reasonable request by a referee, representative of the Association or other authorised person (as directed by the MFA Office from time to time)
 - (vi) must ensure that no alcohol is consumed whilst any match is in progress unless within the confines of a licensed building or a designated area and in accordance with published Alcohol Policy of the Association.
- (b) Each team must provide a minimum of one (1) person who will act as **"Team Official"** for a Match. The Team Officials:
 - (i) shall be identified by wearing an orange coloured vest (or such other identifying apparel as decided by the Board from time to time);
 - (ii) are responsible for the management of the supporters of their team; and
 - (iii) once the match has commenced, the Team Officials will be positioned with their Club's supporters.

- (c) Each team shall provide one (1) person who will act as a “**Manager**” for each match. The Manager is person is responsible for filling in the match cards and checking Player Identity Cards.
- (d) Failure to nominate a Ground Official, a Team Official and a Manager for each match may incur a sanction as determined by the CMC.

28. REFEREES

- (a) The referees shall be appointed by the Macarthur District Football Referees Association. Should the appointed referee not be in attendance five (5) minutes prior to the stipulated time it will be the responsibility of the home team to provide a referee and the appointee must control the whole match.
- (b) If a suitable and identifiable referee is in uniform he/she shall take precedence over an unqualified person from either team.
- (c) Should both teams fail to appoint a referee when required, the match shall be referred to the Competitions Manager in writing within 48 hours by both clubs involved for a decision. Either or both teams involved may incur a penalty as determined by the CMC.
- (d) The referee must record all cautions, send-offs and any relevant comments on the match card.
- (e) The match card is considered to be a complete record of the match. A fee shall be paid by the home team participating in matches conducted by the Association to any qualified persons appointed and acting as referees and assistant referees.
- (f) The fees to be paid to such referees and assistant referees shall be determined each year by negotiated agreement between the Association and the Macarthur District Football Referees Association.

29. UNIFORMS

- (a) All players in all matches must appear in proper football uniforms, being numbered shirts or numbered jerseys, shorts and socks all in the Club's approved registered colours, shin pads and regulation footwear. Teams failing to comply, as reported by the match official, shall incur a penalty as determined by the CMC.
- (b) If undergarments are worn, the colour must be the same as the main colour as the sleeve, shirt, or shorts.
- (c) When the referee considers that the colours of the two competing teams are similar, the home team must change. For all scheduled competitions the team mentioned first in the draw shall be considered the home team.
- (d) Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and referees.
- (e) Where more than one Club seeks to register the same colours, preference shall be given to the Club which participated in the previous season's competition, provided that the same colours are retained.
- (f) No Club shall alter any of their approved colours without having made a detailed application, including designs, and receiving written approval from the Board. Clubs requesting a change or alteration to existing Club colours and uniforms shall submit such application prior to 31 January each year as part of their membership application with the Association. Any submissions after this date may not be considered.

30. FORFEITS

- (a) For competitions that are not regulated by MiniRoos Rules, a team must field at least seven (7) of its registered players at the commencement of any match and no later than 10 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time. Failure to do so shall result in such team being deemed to have forfeited the match.
- (b) The Secretary of any Club shall give forty-eight (48) hours' notice to the Competitions Manager of its intention to forfeit an allotted fixture. Failure to do so will make the Club liable for any expenses incurred together with a penalty as determined by the CMC. The Competitions Manager shall advise the opposing Club and Referees Association.
- (c) Where the Secretary of any Club has given appropriate notice, the Club shall not incur any expenses.
- (d) Any Club failing to fulfil its obligation, without satisfactory explanation in writing, shall be adjudged to have lost the match 3 - 0 and be liable for any expense together with a penalty as determined by the CMC.
- (e) If a competition team forfeits three (3) times during the same season the team will lose three (3) competitions points. A further three (3) competition points will also be lost for each additional forfeit thereafter.
- (f) Teams forfeiting on two consecutive occasions without satisfactory reason may be removed from the competition at the discretion of the CMC. If the team continues in the competition, they will lose an additional two (2) competition points.
- (g) The opposing team will be declared the winner should a team forfeit a final.
- (h) Where a team forfeits before a competition round and the round is declared washed out, if the round is successfully replayed the forfeit will stand for that fixture and the fixture will not be replayed.
- (i) If a team in any age group forfeits the game, a suspended player in the team receiving the forfeit shall be deemed to have served a one (1) match suspension.

31. MATCH PROTESTS

- (a) Any Club may protest in writing to the Competitions Manager on any matter relating to or arising out of competitions conducted by the Association.
- (b) All protests must be lodged with the Competitions Manager within 48 hours of the match to which it relates and must be accompanied by a fee stipulated with the Fee Schedule, which will be refunded in the event of a protest being upheld.
- (c) The Competitions Manager shall send a copy of the protest and particulars thereof to the Club against which it has been lodged.

32. GAME CHANGE REQUESTS

- (a) The Clubs must use their best endeavours to submit game change requests to the Competitions Manager for consideration prior to the start of the season, and which may be accepted or rejected at the discretion of the Competitions Manager.
- (b) Game change requests may also be submitted to the Competitions Manager once the season has commenced due to exceptional circumstances, and which may be accepted or rejected at the discretion of the Competitions Manager.

33. FNSW OR OTHER TOURNAMENTS

- (a) Clubs entering teams in NSW or other tournaments must nominate the age grade and division of such teams. For teams up to and inclusive of U16, if the tournament game is scheduled within 24 hours as the team is drawn to play in the Association competition, the local competition game will be rescheduled by the Association.
- (b) For teams up to and inclusive of U15, if the tournament game is scheduled on the same day as the team is drawn to play in the Association competition, the local competition game will be rescheduled by the Association.
- (c) Rescheduled Association games shall be played within ten (10) days of the NSW or other tournament game, as agreed by both Clubs, or failing such agreement as determined by the Competitions Manager.
- (d) Entry into all NSW or other tournaments by a Club is subject to the Association's regulations as provided from time to time.

34. MINIROOS (U6 – U11)

- (a) The Association endorses and fully adopts the National MiniRoos Rules and Playing Formats as published on the Play Football website (as may be amended from time to time in accordance with this regulation).
- (b) Any changes or amendments made to the National MiniRoos Rules and Playing Formats will be reviewed by the Association and must be approved by the Members as a variation to this regulation in accordance with the Constitution.

35. M-LEAGUE

Unless otherwise stated in the M-League Rules as provided by the Association to the Clubs from time to time, this regulation applies to the M-League Competition.

36. APPEALS AND REVIEWS

- (a) Except where a provision of this regulation expressly allows a decision or determination to be appealed, there are no further rights of appeal against the relevant decision or determination.
- (b) The General Manager, at his or her absolute discretion, may request that a decision and determination of the Competitions Manager, the CMC, the Appeals Committee, the Judiciary Committee or any other committee of the Association be reviewed by the Board in which case the decision of the Board will be final and binding.

37. FNSW REGULATIONS

If these regulations are silent with respect to any item relating to the Association competitions, then the CMC (with the approval of the Board) may issue a directive to the Clubs clarifying such matter:

- (a) in which case such directive will be binding on the Clubs; and
- (b) which directive must be consistent with FNSW regulations (such that the FNSW regulations applied to the Association competitions).