



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 or any other regulation of the Association 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.

“**FA**” means the Football Australia Ltd, Australia’s football governing body.

“FNSW” means Football NSW Ltd.

“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 FA 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 complete and submit a competition application form by 31 January in each year (or by any other date specified by the Association) to the MFA Office. If the club is from outside the Association and seeks to enter only selected teams rather than the entire club, an extended application deadline may be provided. The club must also comply with any additional requirements specified 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 FA shall be subject to a sanction as determined by the CMC after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.

- (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 after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.

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) 11 v 11 competition teams must have a minimum of ten (10) nominated players' names, and 9 v 9 competition teams must have a minimum of seven (7) nominated players, unless a lesser number of nominated players are accepted by the Competitions Manager on a case by case basis due to exceptional circumstances;
 - (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 Community Football Manager 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 Manager 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 twelve (12),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) twelve (12) 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 twelve (12) 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) enforcing this regulation or any other regulation of the Association;
- (c) providing advice to the Competitions Manager, the MFA Office and/or the Board in connection with the regulations;

- (d) liaising with, and providing support to the Competitions Manager;
- (e) actively participate in regular Club visits as per an agreed schedule set by the CMC Director at the commencement of each season; and
- (f) such other matters as advised by the Board from time to time.

9.7 Removal of member(s) of CMC

- (a) If the CMC Director is of the opinion that a particular member of the CMC (**Relevant Member**):
 - (i) is not fulfilling his or her duties or role to the standard expected; or
 - (ii) has engaged in Misconduct or Disrepute,then the CMC Director may recommend to the Board that the Relevant Member be removed as a member of the CMC (**Recommendation**).
- (b) After receiving the Recommendation, the Board may:
 - (i) accept the Recommendation, in which case the Relevant Member will be deemed to have been immediately removed from the CMC and their position will be deemed a casual vacancy; or
 - (ii) reject the Recommendation, in which case the Relevant Member will hold their position as a member of the CMC.

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 appointed by the Board for a period of twelve (12) months (or such shorter period of time as determined by the Board) and may be removed and replaced by the Board at any time.
- (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 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 teams.
- (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, except in the case where rule 35(b) is applied. 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 except in the case where rule 35(b) is applied. 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, regrading of a team may be considered three (3) weeks before the end of the first round of the competition in which they are currently participating.
- (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 Appeals Committee 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 Appeals Committee 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 Regrade Appeal hearing. No legal representative or other third party may represent a Club during such an appeal.
- (e) The decision of the Appeals Committee in relation to the appeal by the Club will be final and binding. The Appeals Committee 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 Appeals Committee will be final and binding in relation a Regrade Appeal. No further avenue of appeal shall apply to decisions regarding grading after the Appeals Committee 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 (U5 – 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) The MFA will attempt to structure 18 match days in a season across all competitions (except the M-League competitions which will play a balanced home and away and away series). Subject to clause 29.2(d), a competition is to consist of a minimum of two rounds. Thereafter, and if achievable:
 - (i) Six (6) team competitions, teams will play 15 rounds (3 cycles) on a home-and-away basis. Additionally, there will be 3 extra rounds that do not count towards competition points and standings added. These additional rounds or tournaments can be scheduled before, during, or after the regular season games.
 - (ii) Eight (8) team competitions will play 14 rounds (2 cycles) on a home and away basis. Additionally, there will be 4 extra rounds that do not count towards competition points and standings added. These additional rounds or tournaments can be scheduled before, during, or after the regular season games.
 - (iii) Ten (10) team competitions will play 18 rounds (2 cycles) on a home and away basis.
 - (iv) Divisions with more than ten (10) teams will play one (1) full round (1 cycle) on a home and away basis. After the home and away rounds, the competition may be either split and new competitions created or:

extra rounds (or a tournament) that do not count towards competition points and standings are added. These additional rounds or tournaments may be scheduled during or after the regular season.
- (g) If a competition is split into separate divisions at the discretion of the Competitions Manager (after consulting with the CMC):
 - (i) the split will see teams placed into divisions based on table standings at the time of the split occurring; and
 - (ii) all teams involved in the competition split will be placed in their respective competition and will carry across their total competition points, and goals for and against tallies (referred to as **Statistics**) as earned prior to the split.
- (h) If specific age group competitions are created at the commencement of a season and then merged during the season at the discretion of the Competitions Manager (after consulting with the CMC) then the Competitions Manager will carry out the merger following the principles set out below:

If, for example, if there are 4 competitions in one age group which are then merged into three due to competition team withdrawals or any other reason as deemed necessary by the Competitions Manager, then:
 - (A) *the top and bottom divisions will carry across their Statistics earned prior to the merger; and*

(B) *teams within the middle divisions will see their Statistics prior to the merger reset to zero.*

(i) 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.

(j) In the event of more than one team finishing the competition on equal points, the positions will be determined as follows:

	Criterion of Equality (if)	Ranking Criterion (then)
(1):	Equal Points	Most points from games played between the two teams during the season shall place higher
If (1) is Equal then this (2) applies:	Equal on competition points and equal on competition points between the two teams	Highest goal difference from games played between the two teams during the regular season shall place higher
If (1) and (2) are Equal, then this (3) applies:	Equal on competition points and equal on competition points between the two teams and equal on goal difference between the two teams	Highest goal difference overall in the regular season shall be placed higher
If (1), (2) and (3) are Equal, then this (4) applies:	Equal on competition points and equal on competition points between the two teams and , equal on goal difference between the two teams and overall equal goal difference is the same.	Most goals scored for in the regular season shall be placed higher

(k) The team that places first shall be deemed Premiers.

(l) The premiers of the Division One competitions are eligible to participate in the Football NSW Champion of Champions tournament, provided that there is an opportunity for that age group. In cases where teams compete in a combined competition and both age groups are available, the higher-ranked team from both the higher and lower age groups will be given the chance to play in the Champion of Champions tournament. If the highest-ranked team is unable to participate, the second-ranked team may be offered the spot instead.

- (m) 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. For the avoidance of doubt, a deemed loss referred to in **clause 18(c)** does not constitute a forfeit for the purpose of this **clause 14(e)**.
- (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

15.1 Online program / electronic system

- (a) It is compulsory for all Clubs to use the digital match card program nominated by the Association from time to time (**Online Program**).
- (b) In the event that one or both teams cannot complete the digital match card by using the Online Program due to reasons outside their control (for example due to lack of internet connection or the Online Program malfunctioning) then the Clubs are permitted to use hard copy match cards as an emergency measure. The completed hard copy of the match card is to be handed to the match official prior to the scheduled match time.

- (c) All team sheets referred to in this regulation is a reference to the digital version of the same as contained within the Online Program unless expressly specified otherwise or due to the circumstances referred to in **clause 15.1(b)**. Any Club found to be in breach of the preceding sentence may have sanctions imposed on them by the CMC in consultation with the Competitions Manager.
- (d) The coach and team manager of each team is responsible for selecting their team by using the Online Program. The referee is responsible for checking that coaches and/or managers have completed this prior to kick off and only eligible players participate in the match.
- (e) Any player from a lower division eligible to be borrowed pursuant to these regulations (including under **clause 16(d)**) will be able to be searched for and selected as part of the team. The Association will use its best endeavours to ensure that the Online Program is set up to enable the selection and borrowing of players as outlined in these regulations.
- (f) Players not shown in the digital match card within the Online Program as being within the team or eligible for borrowing are ineligible to participate in that match. Any Club found to be in breach of the preceding sentence may have sanctions imposed on them by the CMC in consultation with the Competitions Manager.
- (g) All players nominated on a team sheet shall be deemed to have played.
- (h) Shirts numbers must be listed and correctly aligned against each player within the Online Program.
- (i) In the first instance, suspended players must be marked as 'stood down' in the Online Program for it to be counted towards serving their suspension. If the online program does not have the functionality to list a stood-down player, then that player is not to be selected in the team sheet to allow for the suspension to be counted.
- (j) Each team must record the name of the person acting as the coach and team official on the digital match card within the Online Program.
- (k) Teams sheets must be published by the coach or team official no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Any changes required to the team sheet in the 15 minutes prior to kick off, the manager must request the match official to make the change. Once the team sheet has been published, no further changes can be made. Any Club found to be in breach of the preceding sentence may have sanctions imposed on them by the CMC in consultation with the Competitions Manager.
- (l) If due to the functionality of the Online Program, items contained in this **clause 15** need to be clarified, amended or revised, or new or additional procedures need to be implemented, then the Competitions Manager, with the prior approval of the Board, may issue any necessary directive to the Clubs and which directive must be complied with by all Participants.
- (m) For the avoidance of any doubt, the failure to complete a match sheet by a team may have sanctions imposed on them by the CMC in consultation with the Competition Manager.

15.2 Online program / electronic system

- (a) Results of a match will be entered directly into the digital match card system by the referee where it will then be uploaded into the Online Program. In the event of an unofficial referee, results will be entered by the home club.
- (b) In the event hard copy match cards are used in the circumstances set out in **clause 15.1**, the home Club will be responsible for completing entering the match score and

it should be submitted electronically to the MFA Office by 6.00pm on the Sunday immediately following the match.

- (c) If a team believes that a score has been entered incorrectly they can lodge a match dispute as outlined in **clause 30**.

15.3 Hard copy match cards

- (a) Home Clubs must have hard copy paper match cards in case it is required as a result of the circumstances referred to in **clause 15.1(b)**, and in which instance this **clause 15.3** will apply.
- (b) 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 FA 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 after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (c) 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); and
 - (ii) within 60 hours of mid-week matches.

This function is the responsibility of the host Club.

- (d) The referees shall put the score on the match card at the conclusion of the match and for the avoidance of doubt includes Under 6's through to Under 11's (unless otherwise directed by the Association).
- (e) Match cards must be completed in blue or black pen. Alternatively, printed labels or stickers are permitted to be applied to the match card.
- (f) 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 after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (g) 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 after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (h) 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 after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (i) Any Club or team that has lost/misplaced a match card shall incur a penalty as determined by the CMC after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (j) A Club incorrectly completing a match card may incur a penalty as determined by the CMC after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.

- (k) 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. It is the Club's responsibility to review, update and validate player photos at the start of every season.
- (c) Identity cards will be checked by the opposing team's manager prior to the commencement of the match.
- (d) Digital identity cards as uploaded to the Online Program should be provided in the first instance. When digital identity cards cannot be produced, a hard copy identity card will be accepted. All identity cards must be clear, legible, and current. Players that cannot be identified are deemed ineligible and unable to participate in a Match. This rule also applies to all Finals series Players and Team Officials.
- (e) Digital identity cards as uploaded to the Online Program should be checked by the opposing team's Manager prior to the game's scheduled match time. When digital identity cards cannot be produced (refer to **clause 15.3**) a hard copy identity card will be accepted. All identity cards must be clear, legible, and current. Players that cannot be identified are deemed ineligible and unable to participate in a Match. This rule also applies to all Finals series Players and Team Officials.

17. ELIGIBILITY

17.1 Eligibility: General

- (a) All individuals, regardless of their gender identity, shall be eligible for registration as players in Association competitions. The Association will offer (where possible) separate competitions based on gender identity across all age categories, subject to team nominations and gender identity registrations for these competitions. The person should be able to demonstrate in their day-to-day life their gender identity nominated for the team/ player registration..
- (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, except for junior girls' competitions in age groups U16 to U18 where teams may have up to eighteen (18) players on a match card.
- (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) When borrowing players, 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 after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (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.
- (m) Clubs may lodge an application to the Competitions Manager for borrowing outside these rules in exceptional circumstances. The Competitions Manager will consult with the CMC, the General Manager or the MFA Board when making a determination.

17.2 Age Eligibility – Youth Competitions

- (a) A Club may apply to the Competitions Manager seeking approval to play an over-age youth player in a competition up to one year below their current age group under extreme or extraordinary circumstances.
- (b) Exceptional circumstances referred to in **clause 17.2(a)** above may include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - (i) The Club is not participating in either a competition that is age appropriate to the player's current age, or in a competition one year above player's current age.

- (ii) The player would have a physical disadvantage if graded in age group two years or more above player's current age.
 - (iii) The player is considered a late developer and is therefore potentially disadvantaged from a physical perspective due to late onset of biological maturity (height, weight, speed, strength).
- (c) Application for consideration of a junior or youth player to play one year below their true age group requires:
 - (i) completion of the application form which is to be sent to the Competitions Manager.
 - (ii) player assessment by the Association's Community Football Manager if required; and
 - (iii) final approval by Football NSW.
- (d) No youth team shall contain more than one (1) player who is eligible to play in the lower age group unless otherwise approved by the Association.
- (e) A youth player will not be placed in a lower age division if the player's involvement provides the team with a clear advantage over other teams who will not have the benefit of an over age player in their team (this assessment will be part of the Association's Community Football Manager's assessment of the player).

17.3 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) Any team moving into or joining the Over 35s competition (a team is categorised as one comprising a minimum of seven returning players from an all-age team, or a minimum of seven players coming directly out of an All-Age competition) will be graded and placed in an Over 35 Division as determined by the Competitions Manager in consultation with the CMC. Subject to the discretion of the Competitions Manager, a team:
 - (i) may be placed in Over 35 Division 1 if the team, or majority of team members, are from M-League, or Division 2 through to Division 6 competitions, or are from outside the district; or
 - (ii) may be placed in Over 35 Division 2 if the team, or majority of team members, are from Division 7 and below competitions; or
 - (iii) moving directly from an Over 45 competition may be placed in either the Over 35 Division 2 or Over 35 Division 3 competition (team's ladder position in their existing Over 45s competition will determine which division of Over 35s the team is placed within at the discretion of the Competitions Manager).
- (c) Players registered in competitions for players aged 35 and over shall be permitted to be borrowed in accordance with paragraph (d) below.
- (d) 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 Division 2 of the All-Age competition and down to and including Division 4 only;

- (ii) Division 2 players can be borrowed into the Division 2 of the All-Age competition and down to and including Division 8 only;
 - (iii) Division 3 or lower: Players can be borrowed in any All-Age Division.
 - (iv) Over 35 players can be borrowed into M-League Firsts or Reserve grade teams.
- (e) No all-age registered player is permitted to play as a borrowed player in any competitions for players aged 35 and over.
- (f) A registered Over 45s player can be borrowed into any Over 35 Division competition in line with normal borrowing regulations contained in **clause 17(g)**.
- (g) 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.
- (h) 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.
- (i) When a competition is available for players aged 45 and over (an Over 45's Competition), Clubs will be afforded the opportunity to register a maximum of three (3) players aged 40 and over (an underage player). To be eligible, the player must have already turned 40 prior to 1 January of that year.
- (j) The Club may apply for special consideration to replace a registered underage player with another underage player, in the event that the registered underage player suffers a long-term injury or is unavailable for selection for a long period of time. Approval will be granted at the discretion of the MFA Competitions Manager.
- (k) An Over 35 registered player, who is age eligible to play in the Over 45s Competition can be used as a borrowed player in the Over 45s competition in line with normal borrowing regulations contained in **clause 17(i)**.
- (l) A maximum of three (3) underage players aged 41 to 45 are allowed to participate in any given Over 45's match.

18. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- (a) It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that only eligible players, coaches or managers 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 as per Rule 15.1 f)
 - (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 (**Relevant Team**) will automatically lose that match resulting in a deemed loss and shall incur a penalty as determined by the CMC after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager. If the Relevant Team:
- (i) won that match, then the result be deemed to be a 3-0 loss by the Relevant Team;
 - (ii) lost that match by 3 goals or more, then the result of that match will stand; or
 - (iii) lost that match by less than 3 goals, then the Relevant Team will be deemed to have lost that match by 3 goals.
- (d) Additionally, the Club, team official/s and/or player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the Association's Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

19. 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 as determined by the match official on game day otherwise sanctions may apply.
- (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.

20. MATCH DURATION

- (a) The maximum duration of matches in the various age grades shall be as per Football NSW guidelines.

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

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. SLIDE TACKLES

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

25. 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 26**.
- (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.
- (i) Where possible, field of play dimensions should be as per FNSW Technical Requirements. Whilst certain grounds will have fields either at the maximum specifications outlined or the minimum outlined specifications, it is recommended that, where possible, the minimum size field is used for Youth football and the maximum size field is more suitable for Senior football.

26. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Ground control is the responsibility of the host club. Each host club shall nominate at least two (2) “**Ground Officials**” at the venue. One (1) Ground Official is acceptable if there is only one (1) match being played at the venue. The Ground Officials:
 - (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; and
 - (vii) are not to enter the field unless requested by the match official.
- (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 after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.

27. 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 after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (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.

28. 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, may incur a penalty as determined by the CMC and which may be imposed on the relevant Club after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (b) Teams may only wear an approved strip in any match. Clubs must have at least one (1) approved strip and at least one (1) approved alternate strip.
- (c) If the approved strip of the home Club clashes with the approved strip of the opposition, the home Club must wear its approved alternate strip.
- (d) If undergarments/tights are worn, they must be consistent with the predominant jersey colour or black. Players of the same team must have consistent colour of their undergarment if they choose to wear them.
- (e) 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.

- (f) Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and referees.
- (g) 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.
- (h) 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.

29. FORFEITS

29.1 Forfeits - generally

- (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 after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (c) The Competitions Manager shall advise the opposing Club and Referees Association.
- (d) Where the Secretary of any Club has given appropriate notice, the Club shall not incur any expenses.
- (e) 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 after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (f) 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.
- (g) Teams forfeiting on two consecutive occasions without satisfactory reason may be removed from the competition at the discretion of the CMC after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (h) If the team continues in the competition, they will lose an additional two (2) competition points.
- (i) The opposing team will be declared the winner should a team forfeit a final.
- (j) 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.
- (k) 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.
- (l) If a team forfeits and the CMC (at its absolute discretion) deems that they gained an advantage over any one or more of the other teams in the competition, the forfeited match will be rescheduled. The CMC, after receiving advice from the Competitions

Manager, may penalise the offending team by applying a loss of six (6) competition points for gaining any such advantage. If a team refuses to replay a forfeited match as required by the Competitions Manager, the CMC, after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager, may take such other disciplinary action or sanctions against the team as it sees fit.

- (m) If during the last four (4) competition matches of the season any team forfeits a match without a justifiable reason, the CMC, after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager, may take such other disciplinary action or sanctions against the Club and/or the team as it sees fit.

29.2 Forfeit rule – extenuating circumstances

- (a) For the purpose of this clause **Extenuating Circumstances** means any pandemic (including COVID-19 and any variant of the same), epidemic or other event which gives rise to a governmental or regulatory authority issuing an order mandating that persons are restricted from attending public venues and which leads to players being unable to participate in a match.
- (b) If:
 - (i) an Extenuating Circumstance leads directly to players within a team being forced into isolation or quarantine and being unable to participate in a match; and
 - (ii) the Extenuating Circumstance causes a team to have less than eleven (11) registered players being available to play (**Affected Team**),then:
 - (iii) the Affected Team must advise the Competitions Manager in writing (where possible, at least 48 hours before the scheduled match) whether the Affected Team elects to:
 - (A) not play the relevant match, in which case the Affected Team will be deemed to have forfeited and lost the match 3 – 0; or
 - (B) have the match deferred (**Deferral Request**). Within 5 Business Days of making a Deferral Request the Club of the Affected Team must procure that reasonable evidentiary proof is provided to the Competitions Manager of the relevant circumstances (which may in the form of a health (doctors) certificate, a screen shot from mobile phone/computer that proves the affected player(s) was affected by an Extenuating Circumstance or a statutory declaration by the affected player(s)). Failure to provide such evidentiary proof to the satisfaction of the Competitions Manager, or if it is discovered that no Extenuating Circumstances affected the relevant team, will result in the match being deemed a forfeit loss to the Affected Team with other penalties and sanctions possibly applied as determined by the CMC after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (c) If matches are put on hold by the Competitions Manager due to Extenuating Circumstances, then:
 - (i) where possible, those matches will be rescheduled;
 - (ii) if those matches cannot be rescheduled, they will be considered a no-contest in which case it not affect a team's record; and

- (iii) matches not played due to an Extenuating Circumstance that may negatively impact a team's playoff qualification will take priority when assessing match rescheduling requirements.
- (d) If matches are put on hold by the Competitions Manager due to Extenuating Circumstances and which results in less than two rounds being played, then the Board may consider where or not Premiers are declared.
- (e) Clauses 29.2(b) to 29.2(d) will not apply to non-competition teams. If Extenuating Circumstances affect a non-competition team, then the affected team will be deemed to have forfeited the relevant match.

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. INCLEMENT WEATHER ETC

- (a) Clubs are required to provide a minimum of one and a half hours' notice (of first scheduled match time) for any ground/field closures to the Association (or such representatives as directed by the Association from time to time) if grounds are deemed by the Club to be unplayable on a match day. Insufficient notice may incur a possible fine and the Club being responsible for the total payment of referee's fees (if official referees were appointed) at the discretion of the CMC after receiving advice from the Competitions Manager.
- (b) If grounds/fields are closed due to a change in the suitability of playing conditions, the relevant Club is to immediately inform the Association (or such representatives as directed by the Association from time to time) of same.
- (c) Matches are not officially cancelled unless deemed so by the Association. The Association reserves the right to reschedule matches from a closed field on the same day and teams are expected to participate if a suitable venue can be sourced.
- (d) The Association will advertise all ground closures to Clubs, referees, and participants.
- (e) Once a field or ground has been closed, it will remain closed for the duration of the day.
- (f) Where possible, matches affected by inclement weather (or other circumstances leading to ground/field closures) that cannot be moved to another venue on the same day as match was due to have been played, will wherever possible be rescheduled

by the Competitions Manager. If the Competitions Manager is unable to reschedule such match(es), the affected match(es) will be noted as a drawn result.

- (g) If a complete round is washed out, the Association will exercise best endeavours to reschedule matches in consultation with the Clubs. If a match/round cannot be rescheduled, a drawn result will apply.

33. FNSW OR OTHER TOURNAMENTS

- (a) Each Club may nominate through the MFA to enter FNSW conducted competitions. The conditions of entry by Association Clubs into these competitions are:
 - (i) State Cup nominations which will be limited to one entry (one team per Club) in each competition and shall be restricted to:
 - (A) Men's M-League teams;
 - (B) Division 2 teams for clubs without a Men's M-League licence;
 - (C) Women's M-League teams; and
 - (ii) Other Football NSW conducted competition nominations which are open to teams as per the regulations of each of those competitions, and subject to acceptance of said nomination by the MFA.
- (b) All Football NSW competitions in which teams enter are conducted and governed by the rules of Football NSW.
- (c) Clubs entering teams in NSW or other tournaments must nominate the age grade and division of such teams. For teams U13 and above, 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.
- (d) For teams up to and inclusive of U16, 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.
- (e) Rescheduled Association games will 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.

34. MINIROOS (U5 – 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 Competitions Manager (with the approval of the General Manager and/or 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).

38. SILENT REGULATIONS

Any enquiries related to competition that are not specifically addressed in these Competition Regulations, or in the FNSW Regulations, or in cases where existing regulations are ambiguous, should be directed through the Competitions Manager who will make a determination in consultation with the General Manager and/or MFA Board.

39. EXCEPTIONS

Any enquiries related to competition that are not specifically addressed in these Competition Regulations, or in the FNSW Regulations, or in cases where existing regulations are ambiguous, should be directed through the Competitions Manager who will make a determination in consultation with the General Manager and/or MFA Board.