



Macarthur Football Association Inc – 2025 Finals Rules/ Regulations

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DISCLAIMER

Please note that if a regulation is not captured within this document, then you should refer to the Competition Regulations document (adopted March 2025) located on the Macarthur Football website.

HOME TEAM

The Home Team is the team listed first in the draw, i.e., in a 1 v 2 match, the home team is the team in the 1 position.

The Home Team (listed first in the fixture) is to assist the host Club with field set-up (if the game is the first match on the field), and field pull-down (if the last game on the field)

REFEREE MATCH FEES & MATCH TIMES

Each team will be required to pay half of the applicable referee match fees prior to the start of the game during the semi-finals only. **Grand Finals are paid for by the MFA.**

Age Group/Competition	Referee Fee	Assistant Referee Fee (each)	4th Official Fee (if appointed)	Match Times
U8/9	\$25	N/A	N/A	40
U10/11	\$30	N/A	N/A	50
U12 Girls (SSG)	\$30	N/A	N/A	50
U12 Boys	\$40	\$20	\$20	50
U13/14	\$45	\$25	\$25	60
U14/15 Girls (if combined)	\$55	\$30	\$30	60
U15 Girls (if competition is split for finals)	\$55	\$30	\$30	70
U15	\$55	\$30	\$30	70
U16	\$65	\$35	\$35	80
U17	\$65	\$35	\$35	80
U18/ All Age / Over 35/45's	\$80	\$40	\$40	90
ML3 / ML Colts	\$90	\$45	\$45	90
ML2 / Reserves	\$95	\$50	\$50	90
ML1	\$100	\$50	\$50	90
MLW	\$100	\$50	\$50	90

Please note that the U14 and U15 Girls combined MYL competition is being split for finals. As such the match fee and match times for the U15 Girls finals will be as per the U15 age group. Under 14 Girls will remain at the combined fee and match times as listed.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR A TEAM IN THE FINALS SERIES

Competition Regulation 14 (f)

A player must have played at least two (2) games for a team during the season to qualify as a player (for that team) during the Finals Series.

Should a team field an ineligible player during the final series, a forfeit loss to that team will result and they will be disqualified from the finals series. Further sanctions and penalties may apply.

Competition Regulation 17 (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 that 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.

M-LEAGUE BORROWING RULES FOR FINALS SERIES

- Players registered in an M-League 1/2 squad will automatically be eligible for the M-League 1 finals series
- To qualify for the Reserve Grade Finals Series, an allocated ML Squad player must have played at least 50% of their total number of matches in the Reserve Grade team during the M League Reserves Regular Season
- To be borrowed into the M-League First Grade Finals, a borrowed player must have played at least two matches in the M-League Squad during the normal home and away season
- To qualify for borrowing in the M-League Reserve Grade finals series, a player must have participated in at least 50% of the matches they were borrowed in M-League within the M-League Reserve Grade team
- A player registered in All-Age Women and Youth Competitions must have played at least two Women's M-League matches to be eligible to play in the Women's M-League finals.
- A player registered in All-Age Men Competitions, or youth competitions (and Under 21 years of age) must have played at least two (2) M League Colts matches to be eligible to play in the ML Colts finals series.

Checking Player Eligibility:

Clubs can check on the eligibility of borrowed players through Squadi.

The process is as follows:

- Select Match Day
- Select the competition (e.g. Juniors)
- Hover over Match Day and select Statistics, then Game Time
- Export the list and sort by name
- The export list will show how many games each player has played in a particular grade/competition

FORMAT OF FINALS SERIES

The team leading at the end of the competition shall be known as the **"Premiers" (as described in Competitions Regulations 13 (j) and 13 (k)).**

- (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".

FORFEIT IN FINALS SERIES

Teams who qualify for the finals series at the end of the normal competition, and who forfeit any round of the Grand Final Series automatically disqualify themselves from the Grand Final Series and will play no further part in the Grand Final Series.

EXTRA TIME

Competition Regulation 14

14 (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.

14 (d) If after extra time the match remains a draw, the match shall be decided by penalties as per FIFA Rules.

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.

ADDITIONAL CAUTIONS (YELLOW CARDS)

Disciplinary & Judiciary Regulations 10 (j)

Players who participate in finals series shall be afforded *one additional caution* (in addition to numbers referred to in clause 10 (c)). Should a player receive their 6th or 9th caution in their final match of the season, including the final, the mandatory suspension referred to under the Judiciary and Disciplinary Regulations (adopted 3 March 2025) will carry over to the following season in which the Participant participates.

Disciplinary & Judiciary Regulations 10 (c)

Any Participant who receives:

- Five (5) official cautions in separate Matches in any one season, the Participant must serve a mandatory one (1) Match suspension.
- A further three (3) official cautions in any one season, making a total of eight (8), then the Participant must then be suspended for a further two (2) mandatory Matches.
- And one (1) further official caution in any one season, making a total of nine (9) or more, then the Participant must then appear before the JC following receipt of each such caution. The Participant is ineligible to participate in a Match (in any capacity) until they have appeared before the JC and have served the sanction imposed by the JC.

There shall be no appeal against suspensions incurred from receiving five (5), eight (8) or more official cautions.

SUPPLY OF MATCH BALLS

Competitions Regulation 22

- (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 decide from time to time.

TEAM UNIFORMS

Competitions Regulation 28

- 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 are worn, the colour must be consistent with Law 4.3 of the FIFA laws of the game.
- (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

MATCH CARDS

Please refer to Competitions Regulation 15 for detailed information.

It is compulsory for all Clubs to use the Squadi digital match card program to complete their team sheet.

For all finals matches, **Team sheets must be published** by the coach or team official **no later than 15 minutes** prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

Team sheets will be visible to both teams 15 minutes before scheduled match times.

We emphasise that match time is the scheduled time that match was posted as starting, not when it commences (i.e., games may run overtime due to extra-time and penalty shoot-outs with the following match delayed).

Relevant identification checks should be undertaken by both teams within the 15-minute window before scheduled match time (this check may be undertaken by members of the MFA or its relevant committees, but is ultimately the responsibility of each team to verify the team sheets of their opposition).

Note:

- All Players and Officials must have a valid photo image against their name in the Match Sheet
- Players not shown in the team's digital team sheet within Squadi are ineligible to participate in that match.

- All officials (Coach/Manager/Third-Official if one registered to the team) are to be listed on the team sheet.
- Any person not listed on the team sheet will not be allowed in the technical area.

TECHNICAL AREAS

The technical area is for a maximum of 5 substitute players and a maximum of 3 coaching staff only (only players and officials listed on the match sheet can be situated in the Technical Area).

Injured players not participating in the game are not permitted in the technical area.

Everyone in the technical area must remain seated except for 1 coach who is relaying messages to players during the game.

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.

Technical areas should be located on the opposite side of the spectators where possible and practical.

COACHING STAFF

Coaching staff are not allowed to leave the technical area for the purpose of walking along the sideline to coach.

PENALTY SHOOTOUT

In the event of a penalty shoot-out, 1 x coach can enter the field at the conclusion of extra time to talk with players. This is applicable to and including under-15 age group teams. All other age group coaches will be required to remain in the technical area. All players at the conclusion of extra time are required to remain on the field of play.

TEAM OFFICIALS

Competition Regulations 26 (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.

GROUND OFFICIALS

Competition Regulations 26 (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.

MATCH RESULTS

Must be entered by the official referee at the conclusion of the match.

ALCOHOL

Teams are not permitted to take alcohol to the grounds for consumption by players and supporters.

Clubs that have liquor licenses are permitted to sell liquor provided they follow the conditions of their respective licenses.

HOUSEKEEPING

Please ensure the area where your team has vacated from is left clean and tidy. Use the bins provided for all rubbish inclusive of sports tape, drink bottles and other refuse - Do Not Leave It for Others to Pick Up

CONTACTS

In order, please contact the following if there are issues or concerns pertaining to any Finals Series match etc.

Competitions Manager on 0400 229 520 or

CMC Director on 0404 810 206