

**MACQUARIE DISTRICT SOCCER
ASSOCIATION LIMITED** A.C.N. 050 293 153

**NEWCASTLE-PORT STEPHENS SOCCER
ASSOCIATION LIMITED** A.C.N. 052 054 163

**HUNTER VALLEY SOCCER ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED**

REGULATION D

PLAYING RULES

JOINT COMPETITIONS

- OVER 35 AGE GRADE DIVISIONS
- ALL-AGE GRADE DIVISIONS
- AGE GRADE DIVISIONS 10 – 18
- WOMEN'S GRADE DIVISIONS

Issued by the Joint Board of Directors of Macquarie District Soccer Association Limited, Newcastle-Port Stephens Soccer Association Limited and Hunter Valley Soccer Association Incorporated.

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D 01 MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION

All matters relating to Membership, the Qualification of a Member, calling of Applications, Acceptance of a Member, the Composition, Appointment, Retirement, Relegation or Disqualification (as far as this concerns the Competitions) are provided for in the Association's Constitution and By-Laws and Regulations.

D 02 HOME TEAMS' RESPONSIBILITIES

When a Home Team has been nominated in the Official Fixture List for a Home Fixture, it is that Team's responsibility to ensure adherence to the following:

- (a) Its nominated ground is available for the Competition Fixture, on the date and time set down. In the event of the ground being unfit or unavailable (except by wash-out) for the Fixture, the Home team shall arrange through the Association an alternative venue for that date and time.
The Association, its Opponents and the Referees Appointments Committee must be notified of any change of venue as soon as possible but not later than eight (8) days before the scheduled date. Failure to comply with this Regulation or part thereof will result in a forfeit to the opposing Team and a fine as determined annually.
- (b) Any maintenance on the ground is carried out to ensure that the playing surface is in a condition that the Referee considers safe. Ground markings are to be clear and accurate and within the dimensions as specified from time to time. Nets and corner posts are to be provided to conform with the requirements of the Competition. Assistant Referee's Flags are to be made available as and when required.
- (c) Two (2) appropriate benches are to be available for the "BENCH SYSTEM". Adequate Security measures for the welfare of Team Official(s), Match Official(s), Players and the Public are to be provided. A Ground Official (DUTY OFFICER) **must** be available for the duration of all Fixtures as well as 30 minutes prior to a Fixture and 30 minutes after a Fixture. A centrally located Official Table, on which the required Team Sheet for the Fixture is placed, is to be provided. In the event of a washed out Fixture it is to be ensured that all relevant parties are advised. A minimum of two (2) Approved Footballs is to be available for each Fixture.
- (d) The Referee is the deciding Official on all matters relating to the above Regulation (b) and should report any breaches in writing to the Association. A fine of a sum as determined annually shall be imposed for each proven offence.
- (e) Should a Referee refuse to commence a Fixture due to lack of ground markings or a deficiency in the ground surface, the Home Club shall pay the Match Officials' Fees and the Club shall be fined a sum as determined annually. The visiting Team shall be awarded a Forfeited result except in the case of a neutral ground; then the Home Club shall be responsible for the payment of the Match Officials' Fees and the Fixture shall be rescheduled.
- (f) A Team protesting against the condition of a ground, or its appointments, shall make the Protest to the Ground Official before the commencement of the Fixture and in writing to its Association on its Club Letterhead at the completion of the Fixture.
- (g) The Fixture shall be played despite a Protest made in accordance with the previous paragraph and any subsequent Official Protest received shall not invalidate the result of the Fixture.
- (h) Should two (2) or more Protests be received about the same ground within a one (1) month period then a Representative of the Association together with the executive of the Club concerned shall inspect that ground and determine the fitness of that ground.

D 03 DEFINITION OF HOME TEAM

A Home Team shall mean the Team that is set down to compete or is competing on its Home Ground or a team whose name appears first in the Official Fixture List. Home Team may also mean a Home Club and/or a Host Club.

The Home Team for a Final Series or Special Competition Fixture shall be based on its position on the Points Table – the team of higher position of the two (2) competing Teams is the Home Team.

D 04 POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME GROUND

Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Association may direct a Team to play its Home Fixture(s) at a Ground other than its Home Ground for Disciplinary or any other reason the Directors of the Association may determine provided that reasonable notice is given to the Team(s).

D 05 THE COMPETITION RULES

A Fixture shall be played in compliance with the Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with Football Federation Australia, Northern NSW Football and the Association respectively and under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board; provided that the Association may decide from time to time the duration of a Fixture and may vary the Competition Rules providing due notice of the variation is given to each competing Team and other interested parties.

(a) CORNER KICKS

For Ten (10) years of age Grade Division, at a mark eight (8) yards beyond the eighteen (18) yard line (towards the corner flag) and on the goal line.

(b) INTERCHANGE

1. This rule shall apply to all Competitions conducted by the Association with the approval of FFA (excluding Interdistrict Divisions).
2. Interchange is limited to three (3) Players for Age Grades 10 – 18, All Age Grade Divisions and Women's Grade Divisions and for O/35 Grade Divisions is limited to five (5). Names must appear on the Team Sheet prior to the start of the Match; these Players should sign before the Match, with any latecomer to sign as he/she enters the field for the first time.
3. There is no limit on the number of Interchanges allowed during a Match.
4. Interchange can only take place when the Ball is out of play and at the direction of the Referee or Assistant Referee.
5. Players waiting to Interchange must be standing in the Interchange Zone. This is an area one (1) metre square marked off the field of play but near the halfway line. Such an Interchange Zone shall be provided for each competing Team ie one zone on each side of the halfway line on the Bench side of the field. Players shall only move from this Zone onto the field of play when so directed by the Referee or Assistant Referee.
6. Players leaving the field due to being Interchanged must leave promptly and by the most direct route to the Interchange Zone.
7. If during an Interchange, the Interchange Player enters the field of play before the Replaced Player has completely left the field of play, the Referee shall ensure that the Replaced Player leaves the field of play and shall caution the Interchange Player before re-starting play.
8. If a Player is sent from the field of play ie: is shown a Red Card, the Team may continue to Interchange but cannot substitute or Interchange for the Player sent off. The sent-off Player must remove the playing strip and leave the Bench area to go outside the fence or marked Spectator line of the field.
9. Only the Team Coach, Manager and Players eligible for Interchange are to be on the Bench or in the Interchange Zone. No other persons are permitted.

D 06 AN APPROVED FOOTBALL

The Home Team in a Competition Fixture shall provide two (2) suitable Match Balls. The Referee shall select the Ball to be used in the Fixture with the other being held as spare. Any breach of this Regulation shall result in a fine, as determined annually.

Football sizes are as follows:-

6,7,8,9 Age Grades use a Size 3 Ball – minimum diameter 53 cm / max 59 cm.

10,11,12,13 Age Grades use a Size 4 Ball – minimum diameter 61 cm / max 66 cm.

14,15,16,17,18 Age Grades & All Age Seniors use a size 5 Ball
– minimum diameter 67 cm / max 72 cm.

D 07 PLAYING TIMES

(a) The following shall be the Playing Times:

All Age, O/35 & Women's Division A	45 minutes each half
All Age, O/35 & Women's other Divisions	40 minutes each half
19 Age Grade	40 minutes each half
18 Age Grade	40 minutes each half
17 Age Grade	40 minutes each half
16 Age Grade	35 minutes each half
15 Age Grade	35 minutes each half
14 Age Grade	30 minutes each half
13 Age Grade	30 minutes each half
10, 11, 12 Age Grades	25 minutes each half

(b) The Playing Time for each Fixture shall commence from the time nominated as the starting time in the Fixture Lists.

(c) Minimum of five (5) minutes will be taken at the end of the half.

(d) Extra time is allowed to be added on to Playing Time for All Age Division A ONLY and for the following reasons:

- (i) injuries;
- (ii) other causes at the discretion of the Referee.

(e) A Fixture which falls short of the stipulated Playing Time shall be deemed to have been completed.

D 08 OFFICIALS AT FIXTURES

The Home Team shall be solely responsible for the following:

(a) To provide adequate security and welfare for the Officiating Referee and Assistant Referee(s) from the time they arrive at the ground until the time they depart from the ground and to provide adequate security for the protection of Players.

Failure to carry out these requirements shall render the Home Team liable to a penalty as decided by the Disciplinary Committee.

(b) To provide a nominated Ground Official (Duty Officer) to be available throughout the duration of each and every Fixture and for a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the Fixture and for a period of 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Fixture. This Ground Official shall be responsible for the good order and conduct of the Fixtures being played on the day. The Ground Official shall wear and be identified by the designated Arm Band / Vest provided by the Association for this purpose.

Failure to carry out these requirements shall render the Home Team liable to a penalty as decided by the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations.

D 09 FINDING WINNERS

The Association will determine methods of finding winners for the various Competitions and they are as follows:-

(a) PREMIERSHIP COMPETITION WINNERS& PLACINGS

1. When all Premiership Fixtures are concluded and the Competition Points allocated for each competing Team's performance, the Team with the highest number of points on the Official Points Table shall be declared the PREMIERS.
2. Should two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition possess the same highest number of points, the Team with the better goal difference shall be considered to be the higher.
3. In the event of goal differences being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals shall be considered the higher.
4. Should two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition have the same number of points, have the same goal difference, and have scored the same number of goals, then those Teams shall be considered to be JOINT PREMIERS.
5. Determination of all other positions in the Points Table at the conclusion of the Premiership Competition shall be decided as per this Regulation D 09 Part (a) 1, 2, 3, & 4.

(b) FINALS SERIES COMPETITION WINNERS

1. When all Premiership Fixtures are concluded and the Competition points allocated for each competing Team in the Competition, the Four (4) Teams with the Four (4) highest numbers of Points on the Official Points Table shall qualify to continue in a Finals Series Competition.
2. The Two (2) Teams with the Two (2) highest positions on the Points Table shall play each other in the Major Semi-Final Fixture with the winning Team advancing into the Grand Final and the losing Team qualifying to play in the Final.
3. The Two (2) Teams with the Third and Fourth highest positions on the Points Table shall play each other in the Minor Semi-Final Fixture with the winning Team advancing into the Final and the losing Team being eliminated from the Final Series Competition.
4. The losing Team from the Major Semi-Final shall play the winning Team from the Minor Semi-Final in the Final Fixture with the winning Team advancing to the Grand Final and the losing Team being eliminated from the Final Series Competition.
5. The winning Team from the Major Semi-Final shall play the winning Team from the Final in the Grand Final Fixture, with the winning Team being the Grand Final Winner and the losing Team being the Grand Final Runners-Up.
6. If, at the conclusion of any Finals Series Fixture, the scores are level, then two (2) periods of extra time of ten (10) minutes each are to be played. If the scores are level after the full period of extra time has been completed, the result of the Fixture shall be determined by the PENALTY KICK DECIDER method.

D 10 COMPETITION POINTS

Points shall be allotted as follows for all Association Competition Fixtures:

Win	-	Three (3) Points
Draw	-	One (1) Point
Bye	-	No (0) Points
Loss	-	No (0) Points
Forfeit	-	Three (3) Points
Abandoned	-	As determined by Joint Board of Directors

D 11 PLAYING AREA REQUIREMENTS

During any Fixture, an Official, a Player or a Supporter shall not be permitted to stand closer than three (3) metres to the playing field marked lines and where no permanent boundary fence exists around the field perimeter a rope or a defined line should be arranged at a minimum of three (3) metres from the side line and no access beyond that point is allowable. Coaching from the boundary line is strictly prohibited.

- (a) In the event that appropriate dug-outs are not available, then two (2) benches (or sufficient chairs) must be located on one side of the playing field with a bench positioned at equal distance either side of the centre line and at least one (1) metre from the playing field. Each Bench must be capable of seating the Coach, Manager and Reserve Players. All persons must remain seated or stand immediately behind the Bench during the Fixture.
- (b) Controlled limited Coaching will be permitted by the Accredited Team Coach/Official whilst he/she is standing in the Technical Area. Any Team Official who leaves or refuses to remain in the Technical Area and gives instructions from outside the field of play shall forfeit any rights to organize the activities of the Team from the Technical Area for the duration of the Fixture. The Team Official who instructs his/her Team from outside the playing field also forfeits his/her right to attend an injured Player of his/her Team.
- (c) Should a replacement of a Player become necessary, a Team Official shall notify the Fourth Official, Assistant Referee or Referee of the change and will remain with the Player at the centre line until the Player is called onto the field of play. If interchange of Players is to occur, it must be done as specified in Rule D 05 Part (b).
- (d) Should an injury occur, a Team Official (one (1) only) shall be called onto the field to inspect any injury to a Player. In the event of an injury of a serious nature, treatment or movement of that Player is to be at the discretion of a Team Official.
- (e) Should a Player be sent from the field of play by a Referee, he/she must leave the Playing Area and go outside the Boundary Fence or Line to remove his/her shirt. He/she is not allowed to use the Bench.

D 12 ADMISSION CHARGES

The Admission Charges for each Competition, including a fee for cars if permitted into the ground, will be determined by the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations upon application and notification by Members or Associate Members, from time to time, and this charge will be similar at ALL grounds for the same Competition.

D 13 WINNERS' MEDALLIONS AND AWARDS

Each Team winning an Association Competition or being a Runner-Up in an Association Competition may receive the following:-

- (a) ALL COMPETITIONS – Winners (Premiers)
A set of sixteen (16) Trophies or Medallions.
- (b) ALL COMPETITIONS – Winners (Grand Finals)
A set of sixteen (16) Gold Medallions.
- (c) ALL COMPETITIONS – Runners-Up (Grand Finals)
A set of sixteen (16) Silver Medallions.
- (d) Further Medallions may be purchased from the Association by a qualifying Team at a cost as determined annually.

Medallions will be presented firstly to the Runners-Up, secondly to the Winners.

D 14 TROPHIES / AWARDS

The Association may make available to a Special Award Winner a Trophy suitably inscribed with the date and Winner's name (Inscription may have to be arranged after the Awards).

D 15 PLAYERS' UNIFORMS/GEAR REQUIREMENTS

- (a) A Team shall not show any form of advertising on its playing strip, tracksuit or equipment bag excepting the Association's Emblem Badge, the distinguishing mark, badge or emblem of the manufacturer and the Competition's Sponsor without prior written permission of the Association. Such consent may not be refused where reasonable identification of a Team's Sponsor is involved.
- (b) A Sponsor's name may be permitted across the front of a Player's shirt, or across the back of the Player's shirt between the collar and the top of the shirt number in letters not exceeding 75 mm high. Where a Sponsor's logo is used, the logo and name are to be confined to the front of the Player's shirt only.
- (c) A Player should commence his/her Fixture fully equipped in Association Approved Gear including a shirt, socks, shorts, shin-pads and footwear. The shirt is to have a legible number affixed; such shirt **MUST** be tucked into the shorts; socks **MUST** completely cover shin-pads.
A Team with a Player competing in the Competition not being properly equipped with Association Approved Gear shall become liable to forfeit Competition Points and a fine as determined annually.

D 16 EXPENSES

All expenses incurred in participating in an Association Competition shall be the responsibility of the participating Team/Club.

D 17 FINES & PENALTIES

A Team and/or Club not fulfilling its obligations under these Regulations in respect of which a fine and or penalty is not already specified may be fined and or penalized at the discretion of the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations.

D 18 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- (a) The Disciplinary/Appeals Committee shall be authorized to Suspend, Fine, Reprimand, Caution or otherwise deal with a Player, Team or Team Official whom it considers has breached the Laws of the Game, the Regulations or has by the action brought the code into disrepute.
- (b) Permission for a Player to play, pending a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee, **CAN ONLY** be granted by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee.
In all cases where a Disciplinary Committee is required to convene it shall conduct its affairs as per the Regulations.
- (c) Permission for a suspended Player to play, pending the hearing of the submitted appeal, **CAN ONLY** be granted by the Chairperson of the Appeals Tribunal.
In all cases where an Appeals Tribunal is required to convene it shall conduct its affairs as per the Regulations.

D 19 KICK-OFF TIMES

The Kick-Off Time for the Competition Fixture shall be as determined by the Associations and shall be detailed in the Official Fixture List.

- (a) A Fixture should start at the nominated Kick-Off Time, provided that when a Fixture starts later than the stipulated Time, short time will be played in equal halves to allow the following Fixture to start at the proper time. The consent of the Association must be obtained before the Kick-Off Time can be altered from the arranged time.
- (b) The Association, in setting down Kick-Off Times, may start Fixtures at 8.30 am for any daytime Fixture which may include Saturday, Sunday or any Public Holiday. A Fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights providing any alteration to the Kick-Off Time has been approved by the Association and providing also that the standard of lighting shall meet all requirements of the Association.

D 20 DISPUTE OVER FIXTURE SCORES

In the event of a Dispute in respect of the scores of a Fixture, the score recorded by the Match Official shall be the Official Score of the Fixture.

If the score recorded is in dispute, Member Club Officials should notify their Association in writing within seven (7) days; the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations will determine the result of the Fixture.

D 21 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS AND OTHER DETAILS

Results of ALL Competition Fixtures will be received by the Association and shall be displayed on the Internet site.

D 22 GOAL DIFFERENCE

In the cases where Goal Differences are taken into account, the manner in which they shall be arrived at shall be:-

- (a) Number of Goals scored against the Team subtracted from the number of Goals scored for the Team.
- (b) Where a Team scores through its own Goal, such Goal shall be taken as having been scored by its opponent in the determination of Goal Differences and in the determination of the Team's goals scored.

D 23 PENALTY KICK DECIDER

In the event a Fixture result is decided by the Penalty Kick Decider Method, the Winner shall be determined by compliance with the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board and in accordance with Regulations of Football Federation Australia and Northern NSW Football.

D 24 OFFICIAL FIXTURE LIST

All Fixtures to be contested between Teams in the Association Competition shall be prepared by the Association as soon as practical after the closing date for Team Registrations and upon publication shall be known as the Official Fixture List.

- (a) Where practicable, a Competition shall consist of two (2) rounds with each Team playing the opposing Teams on two (2) occasions. Should the Association consider that the Competition is finishing too early in the season, a third (3rd) round may be played between such Teams as the Association deems fit.
- (b) Any dispute between two (2) or more Teams as to the arrangements of Fixtures shall be referred to and decided by the Association.
Dislocation of any Fixture for any cause whatsoever shall be immediately reported to the Association by the Home Team Club. Any proposed rearrangements of Fixtures by Teams shall be submitted to the Association for approval before any change is made.
NO APPROVAL, NO CHANGE.
- (c) Fixtures must be played on the date and times as nominated in the Official Fixtures List; these dates could include any weekday evening or night Fixtures; any daytime, evening or night Fixtures on Saturdays, Sundays or Public Holidays.
Junior Age Grade Fixtures shall be arranged for Saturday daytime where practicable.
Fixtures not played as scheduled may be rescheduled for the fourth (4th) Sunday of the month or as night Fixtures.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Association reserves the right to alter or amend any Fixture after it has been scheduled in the Official Fixture List.
Such alterations could be to the date, venue, kick-off times or a combination of all, providing the Clubs involved are given seven (7) days prior notice, wherever possible.
- (e) The Joint Board of Directors of the Associations has the power to abandon any Fixture and organize any other Fixture if it deems such action necessary in the interests of the Association Competition.

D 25 FORFEITED FIXTURES

A Team that, without cause, fails to fulfill an engagement to play a Fixture on the appointed date, time or venue shall, for each and every offence, forfeit that Fixture. The offending Team shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents relative to the Fixture.

- (a) A Fixture should start at the stipulated time; however, a Fixture may have a late start at not more than ten (10) minutes after the stipulated starting time. Any Team unable or unwilling to begin a Fixture after this period shall have forfeited the Fixture.
When a Fixture starts later than the stipulated time, short time will be played; but two (2) equal halves are always to be played.
- (b) A Team must field at least seven (7) of its eligible Registered Players at the start of the Fixture. Failure to do so shall result in the offending Team forfeiting the Fixture.
A Team forfeiting on two (2) occasions without an explanation that is satisfactory to the Association may be removed from the Association Competition.
- (c) In the event of a Team forfeiting its Fixture the following procedure shall take effect:-
Full Points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to its opponents and the score shall be recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) to the forfeiting Team.
The Offending Team shall pay all appropriate Referee and Assistant Referee(s) Fees and such Compensation as shall be determined by the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations.
The Offending Team may be liable for further penalty as determined by the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations.

D 26 APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS / FIXTURES

A Club shall not allow its Teams to play in any other Competition in opposition to these Association Competitions unless it has received prior written approval from the Association. A Member Club shall seek the permission of the Association in writing of any Gala Day(s) or Football Clinics or Football activities it proposes to conduct. Minimum notice required to the Association is seven (7) days and should state the type of activity, the participants and all details relevant to the event.

D 27 DEFERMENT OF FIXTURES

A Club may seek permission of the Association to have a Fixture(s) deferred, providing that such a Deferment shall be requested at least eight (8) days prior to the Fixture, in writing.

Consideration for a Deferment will be given only in the following circumstances:-

- (a) When three (3) or more Players of a Registered Team are involved in Association or State Representative Fixtures at the same time as the Fixture.
- (b) Any other cause which the Association at its discretion considers of sufficient weight to merit a Deferment.
- (c) The Association shall arrange a rescheduled date for the playing of the deferred Fixture provided always that the Association may at its discretion declare the Fixture abandoned.
- (d) The Association shall notify each competing Club of the time, date and venue of the Fixture and shall also notify the Referees Association of these details of the deferred Fixture.
- (e) A deferred Fixture not played in accordance with Regulation D 27 Clauses (c) and (d) shall not be recognized by the Association and the Teams concerned may be subject to Disciplinary action including the loss of points gained for the Fixture. Only a Fixture authorized by the Association shall be recognized.

D 28 ABANDONMENT OF FIXTURES / SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE

In cases where a Fixture has been abandoned by the Referee, through the invasion of the field by spectators or other reasons, the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations shall investigate the circumstances of the abandonment and shall:-

- (a) Determine the result of the abandoned Fixture. Determine whether the Fixture should be replayed and under what conditions. Impose such penalties as it shall deem fit on Teams, Team Officials, Players and/or Spectators adjudged to be associated with the Abandonment.
- (b) In respect of the above Regulation D 28 (a) the decision of the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations shall be final and not subject to an appeal to another authority. The action of the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations in respect of penalties imposed in this regard shall be distinct from the decisions as determined by the Disciplinary Committee in respect of Players, Team Officials, Member Clubs or Spectators charged with offences by the Referee and/or Assistant Referee(s) in relation to these matters.

D 29 INCOMPLETE FIXTURES

Any Fixture which does not reach its natural conclusion due to its abandonment by the Referee may be replayed at the absolute discretion of the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations.

D 30 FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED

The Joint Board of the Associations may reschedule any Competition or Final Series Fixture OR determine the result of any Competition or Final Series Fixture at its discretion any Fixture not played or completed due to wet weather, deferment and abandonment.

D 31 TEAMS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITION & FINAL SERIES

In the event of a Team withdrawing or being removed from the Association Competition or Final Series, the following procedure shall take effect to allow the altered Competition or Final Series to proceed to a conclusion:-

- (a) Team removed or withdrawn before the Competition has started and a suitable Team not able to be found to replace a Team removed or withdrawn then a Bye result may apply in the Competition.
- (b) Team removed or withdrawn during the first round of Competition – each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals deleted from its records and shall be credited instead with a Bye result; each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a Bye result.
- (c) Team removed or withdrawn during the second round of Competition – each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn team shall have the relevant points and goals for the second round removed from its record and shall be credited with a Bye result. Each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a Bye result.
- (d) If at the discretion of the Joint Board of Association Rule D31 (c) is impractical then each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals for the second round removed from its record and shall be credited with a Forfeit result. Each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a Forfeit result.
- (e) If a Team is removed or withdraws from the Final Series then, at the discretion of the Joint Boards either
 - (i) a bye situation will be declared, or
 - (ii) a Team promoted based on position of the Points Table (ie: position in Association Competition Premiership Points Table).

D 32 A COLOUR CLASH

In the event of a Colour Clash:-

- (a) The perception of a colour clash and the consequent change of strip in the event of a colour clash shall be at the sole discretion of the Referee.
- (b) All Association Competitions - the Home Team changes strip.
Failure to observe this Regulation shall result in a Fine as determined annually.
- (c) In a Finals Series Fixture or a Special Competition – the Team named first in the Draw shall be deemed to be the Home Team.
- (d) The colour of the Goalkeeper's shirt must in all cases be clearly distinguishable from the colour of shirts worn by all other Players. The Goalkeeper shall wear socks in accordance with the duly approved colours of the Team. The Referee may at his/her discretion approve that a Player may wear tracksuit trousers of an acceptable colour.
- (e) No Team shall be permitted to play in colours likely to be mistaken for those of the Match Officials. The colours worn by Ballpersons shall be distinct from those worn by either of the competing Teams.

33 TEAM SHEETS

- (a) The Official Team Sheet for all Fixtures played on a Home Ground during the day shall be sent by the Home Club for ALL Association Competitions to the place specified by the Association, to arrive no later than seventy two (72) hours after the conclusion of the last Fixture.
- (b) The Home Team Club shall ensure that each Official Team Sheet is correctly filled out with all required details being provided.
- (c) Each Official Team Sheet arriving after the stipulated time or submitted incomplete will subject the Home Club to a fine of a sum as determined annually and at the discretion of the Joint Board of Directors of the Associations.
- (d) A Team Official from each competing Team must sign the Team Sheet to verify the recorded Result at the finish of the Fixture. In the event of a dispute regarding the recorded Result and the Referee refusing to alter the recorded result, the Team Official(s) shall have the dispute noted on the Team Sheet in the Dispute Box on the front of the Team Sheet and sign his/her name in that Dispute Box. The Team Official(s) should also report the dispute to his/her Club which may wish to lodge a Protest.
- (e) Failure of the Team Official to sign the Team Sheet is an offence; it may be subject to a Fine as determined annually and it negates any future claim or protest against Team sheet information.
- (f) As soon as possible but not later than thirty (30) minutes after the signing of the Team Sheet by the Team Official(s) the Referee in charge is to return the Team Sheet to the Ground Official at the Official Table.
- (g) It shall be the responsibility of the Home Team Club to collect the Official Team Sheet from the Referee and return it to the Association.

D 34 TEAM SHEET DETAILS

- (a) A Team Official from each Team shall have the appropriate Team Sheet completed not later than fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled Kick-Off time.
- (b) The eleven (11) Players first named shall start the Fixture, the others being designated as Substitutes or, where appropriate, Interchange Players. Where it is necessary for Players to sign the Team Sheet, Substitutes/Interchange Players shall sign the Team Sheet as they take to the field.
- (c) In Age Division Competitions no more than three (3) reserve or Interchange Players may be named on the Team Sheet, for O/35 Division Competitions and InterDistrict Division Competitions no more than five (5) reserve or Interchange Players may be named on the Team Sheet.
- (d) The Home Team shall complete in full all the Fixture details as required.
- (e) The number on a Player's shirt shall correspond with the Player's name and number on the Team Sheet and there should be no change of a number before or during a Fixture except on a change of Goalkeeper.
- (f) A Team Official shall print the name and number of each Player in the Team and each Player shall sign next to his/her printed name.
- (g) The name and origin (age grade / division) of a Player temporarily playing in another team shall be recorded on the Team Sheet by the Team Official who has borrowed the Player.
- (h) The name and origin (age grade / division) of a Player temporarily playing in another team shall be recorded on the Team Sheet by the Team Official who has borrowed the Player.
- (i) No Player's name can be added to the Team Sheet once the game has commenced.
- (j) A Team Sheet shall be completed in Black or Blue Biro using block letters and all relevant details thereon must be legible. A Team Sheet completed in pencil, Red Biro or Marker Pen or not legibly will result in a fine to the offending Team of a sum as determined annually for each Team Sheet.
- (k) The Referee shall endorse the Substitution of a Player on the Team Sheet.
- (l) When a Fixture is forfeited, the Team Sheet shall be signed accordingly by the Referee and the relevant Team Official(s).

- (m) Should a Team Official have a reasonable doubt regarding the eligibility of an opposing Player(s) named on the Team Sheet, he/she should sign in the Dispute Box on the front of the Team Sheet and advise his/her Club Secretary, who will then advise the Association Secretary by phone on that day and follow up with an official Club letter on Club Letterhead detailing the problem, within seven (7) days of the match. The Player(s) will be allowed to play in the Fixture and the Association shall adjudicate on the eligibility of the Player(s).
- (n) A person found guilty of supplying false information on a Team Sheet shall be dealt with as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
- (o) Failure by any Club to adhere to the preceding rules of D 34 may be subject to action by the Disciplinary Committee, which could result in fining and/or loss of points and/or suspension.

D 35 TEAM SHEET ISSUE

Each Member Club shall be issued with Official Team Sheets applicable to its Association Competitions and it shall be responsible to have at Home Fixtures the relevant Team Sheets available on the Official Table.

Failure to observe this Regulation shall result in a Fine of a sum as determined annually.

Additional Team Sheets will be available upon request from the Association.

A Team Sheet for a Finals Series Fixture(s) or a Special Competition shall be supplied to the Host Club / Organisation controlling the event.

D 36 SUBSTITUTION OF A PLAYER

A Substitution of a Player shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. When Interchange replaces Substitution of a Player, such Interchange shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Each Competing Team may at its discretion use three (3) Substitute Players, one of whom may be the Goalkeeper, at any time in a Fixture.

The Substitution can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. A Substitute Player's name shall be nominated on the Team Sheet prior to the commencement of the Fixture. A Substitute Player cannot be used to replace a Player who has been sent off during the Fixture by the Referee.

D 37 MATCH OFFICIALS

Each Fixture, wherever possible, should be played under the control of an Official Referee and Assistant Referees (hereinafter called the Match Officials) appointed by the Referees Appointments Committee.

In the event of no Official Referee being in attendance or appointed then

- (a) The Home Team shall appoint a Referee for the Fixture. Failure to do so shall be regarded as a FORFEIT to the Visiting Team. Failure of the Visiting Team to accept the appointed person shall be regarded as a FORFEIT to the Home Team.
- (b) The appointed person shall take to the centre of the field. Failure of either Team to take to the field within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time will mean a Forfeit to the opposing Team. The appointed person shall assume the full responsibility of a Referee and shall be treated accordingly.
- (c) Whenever possible the appointed person for Age Grade Competitions must not be younger than fourteen (14) years of age and must be a minimum of two (2) years older than the Age Grade he/she is going to referee. Should the appointed person be eighteen (18) years of age, he/she is entitled to referee Senior Competitions.
The appointed person should also have a good understanding of the Laws of the Game and be of suitable fitness and health.
- (d) In the event of an Official Referee failing to appear, the Team Sheet is to be clearly endorsed accordingly and the matter reported by the Home Team to the Association who shall keep a comprehensive list of all non-attendance of Referees and this information shall be included in a report to the Referees Appointments Committee. In the event of a Club Referee being appointed, he/she shall be paid the appropriate Referee's Fee should payment be requested by the Appointed Person.

D 38 REFEREEING

Where possible a Referee should attend the ground at least fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start time of his/her Fixture.

The Referee shall wait for a minimum of ten (10) minutes after the time arranged for the commencement of the Fixture before abandoning the Fixture because of the absence of a Team.

The Referee shall decide as to the fitness of the ground for play in all Fixtures. When the Referee finds it necessary to stop play owing to inclement weather or other cause, he/she shall wait a reasonable length of time before deciding to abandon the Fixture.

- (a) The Referee is to record each Player Caution and/or Send-Off on the back of the Team Sheet as per the Regulations governing these incidents. The Referee and Assistant Referees may be required to attend a Disciplinary Committee Hearing upon request by the Chairperson of that Committee.
- (b) A Club Official and/or Team Official may send in a report to the Association on the performance of a Referee during a Fixture. Such a report shall be on Club Letterhead and shall be received by the Association no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of the Fixture. Notice of such complaint should be phoned to the Association Secretary by the Club Secretary on the day of the Fixture.

D 39 MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES

Match Officials' Fees shall be negotiated between Northern NSW Football and the Referees Standing Committee and shall be determined prior to the commencement of the Competitions.

- (a) It is the Home Club's responsibility to pay the Match Officials on the day of the Fixture. A Home Club that refuses to pay Match Officials the appropriate Fees for the Fixture(s) on the day shall be FINED DOUBLE the respective amount (unless there has been prior arrangement between the Association and the Referees Association).
- (b) The Association shall pay the Match Officials' Fees for any Finals Series Fixture or a Special Competition(s) Fixture.
- (c) The Home Club shall not pay Match Officials' Fees for forfeited Fixtures. The Match Officials should submit claims for fees through their Referees' Association to the relevant Association for payment.

D 40 MASS WALK-OFFS

A Team causing a Fixture to be terminated before its natural conclusion through a 'Mass Walk-Off' or refusal to allow play to continue shall be deemed to have committed serious misconduct against the Association. As a result, the full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to their opponents and the scores shall be recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed this Regulation.

The offending Team shall be liable to such further penalty as shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

D 41 REFUSAL TO START A FIXTURE

A team refusing to start to play a Fixture shall be deemed to have committed serious misconduct against the Association and the full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to their opponents and the score recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed this Regulation.

The offending Team shall be liable to such further penalty as shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

D 42 RING-INS

A 'Ring-In' Player is defined as:-

1. A Player playing under another name.
2. An unregistered Player.
3. A Player under suspension.
4. A Player deemed to be ineligible to play by the Association.

A Team found to have knowingly or wilfully engaged in the 'Ring-In' of a Player or Players in any Fixture shall be deemed to have been guilty of gross misconduct against the Association and the full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to their opponents and the scores recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed this Regulation.

The offending Team shall be liable to such further penalty eg suspension and/or fine as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

D 43 WASHED OUT OR DOUBTFUL FIXTURES

In all instances where inclement weather or other incidents preceding a Fixture raise fair doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the following rules are to apply, so that Players, Team Officials, Match Officials and the Public can be given correct notice of intentions:-

- (a) A Home Club Official is to inspect the ground on the day of the Fixture and decide whether play can take place during the day; such decision is to be given to the Association's Nominated Person no later than 6.45 am Saturday and Sunday, 4.00 pm Midweek Fixtures. Failure of a Home Club to advise the Association by the stipulated time shall render the offending Club liable to a fine, as determined annually, and/or forfeiture of the Fixture.
- (b) Information re. postponed Fixtures will be recorded on the appropriate 1900 number by 7.15 am Saturday and Sunday, 4.30 pm Midweek and also on the appropriate web site.
- (c) In the event of a Ground being declared unfit for play, that Ground shall not be used for any Fixtures during that day.
- (d) A Club shall advise the Association of the Names, Addresses and Telephone Numbers of its Officials who have the authority to declare a Ground unfit for play.
- (d) Where a Club has two (2) or more Home Grounds and only one (1) Home Ground has been declared unfit for play, then the other Home Ground(s) shall be deemed playable. In such cases the separate Grounds must be clearly identified by number or name, as in the Fixtures Draw, so that there is no confusion about games that are on or off.
- (f) Any Ground that has been declared fit for play shall have its scheduled Fixtures played on it.

D 44 BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS

Each Member Club shall be responsible for the behaviour of its Players, Team Officials and Supporters at all times.

A Person(s) found guilty of misconduct, thus bringing the Code and his/her Club and/or Team into disrepute, shall receive penalties as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

D 45 OFFICIAL TABLE

An Official Table (or a Designated Place) shall be provided by the Home Club. This Official Table is to be centrally located adjacent to the playing field and shall be large enough to lay out the Team Sheets required for the day's Fixtures. Not later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled Kick-Off Time of a Fixture, the Team Sheet for that Fixture shall be available at the Official Table. The Team Sheet shall have ALL required details completed in full by the Home Club. Any breach of this Regulation by the Home Club shall result in a fine.

The Team Sheet must remain at the Official Table, with the exception that the Referee in charge of the Fixture has the authority to remove the Team Sheet at the commencement of the Fixture.

D 46 GROUND MARKINGS

F.I.F.A. Rules apply for all Ground markings, fixtures and fittings.

D 47 BORROWED PLAYERS' QUALIFICATION

For both Association Competitions and Finals Series, the following shall apply:-

(a) The name and grade of any registered Player(s) temporarily playing in a higher grade (referred to as BORROWED PLAYER(S)) shall be recorded on the Team Sheet.

A maximum of three (3) Players from other Teams (registered in the same Club) shall be permitted in a Team in such a situation.

(b) A Borrowed Player:-

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| (1) Same age group | - | Must be from a lower grade |
| (2) One (1) year below | - | Must be from a grade that is equal or lower |
| (3) Two (2) years below | - | No restrictions |
| (4) Clubs with one Team per age group | - | No restrictions |
| (5) No Player registered in a higher age grade can play for lower age grades | | |

(c) A BORROWED PLAYER can only play in the starting eleven if there is no Team Registered Player on the Bench (ie: named as a Substitute or Reserve on the Official Team Sheet); otherwise such Borrowed Player must start from the Bench.

(d) Providing Regulation D 47 (a), (b) and (c) are adhered to, a Player may play in more than one (1) Semi Final, Final or Grand Final.

(e) No Player registered in an age grade can play for any lower age grade without obtaining a re-grade and being re-registered.
Any registered Player in a Member Club found playing for his/her Club in a division of an age grade lower than that for which he/she is registered, other than as above, without obtaining a re-grade and being re-registered, shall be deemed an ineligible Player.

(f) In a designated over age Competition, the Player must have attained the age of the Competition prior to registration (eg Attained 35 years of age for O/35 Competition). Proof of age shall be required.

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