

# **ALBURY WODONGA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

## **ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS (BYLAWS)**



## FOREWORD

These Association Regulations (By-Laws) are to be read in conjunction with the Albury Wodonga Football Association (AWFA) Constitution.

Players registered with the Association are registered as Amateur Players.

These Regulations are designed to ensure that appropriate standards of behaviour are upheld on the field of play in a consistent manner across AWFA Matches and in interpreting and applying these Regulations that objective is to be given effect.

Where there is any inconsistency between the AWFA Constitution or Regulations and the Constitution, By-Laws or Regulations of Football NSW, then to the extent of such inconsistency, the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of Football NSW shall apply.

The Regulations:

- (a) apply to Clubs, Players and Team Officials;
- (b) apply to all AWFA Matches;
- (c) continue to apply to a Club or a Participant even after that Club's or Participant's association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that Club or Participant breached these Regulations while a current Participant; and
- (d) do not limit or restrict the application of FIFA Statutes or FA Statutes and, in particular, the Code of Conduct for conduct or behaviour of a Player or Team Official.

Initial Working Party Members:

Colin Johnson (President AWFA 2012), Tony Barlow (AWFA Disciplinary Chair), Simon Barlow, Marie Brew, Alison Koschel, Rick Koschel and Isabelle Evans & Mario Mangion Work commenced February 2012 and was completed in April 2015

Albury Wodonga Football Association Regulations (Bylaws)

Written by:		Approved by:	Version	Summary of Changes
Name	Title			
Grant Scott	Reg Sub Committee	MC	V1.1	As per minutes from 2016 and 2017 MC meetings.
Chris Pidd	Secretary 2018	MC	V1.2	As per Minutes from Oct/Nov 2018 Regulations Meetings
Gary Holt	Secretary	MC	V1.3	Format Changes - Para Numbering, Admin and Clerical errors.
Gary Holt	Secretary	MC	V1.4	Added new Regulation re New Zealanders Non-Visa. 4.11.5
Gary Holt	Secretary	MC	V2.0	Changed Marshall requirements for Juniors and O35 Matches
Gary Holt	Secretary	MC	V2.1	As per the Minutes 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019 Regulations Meeting
Tony Cigana	Recorder	MC	V2.2	As per the Minutes 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 Regulations Meeting
Gary Holt	Registrar	MC	V2.3	As per the Minutes 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2021 add Player Points rules.
Gary Holt	Registrar	MC	V2.4	Elaborate on rules and regulations of FIFA, FFA and Football NSW Limited (FNSW), Football Victoria (FV) and AWFA in relation to playing equipment during matches.
Gary Holt	Registrar	MC	V2.5	As per the Minutes 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021 Regulation Meeting
Gary Holt	Registrar	MC	V2.6	As per Minutes of 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov and 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2022 Regulation and MC Meetings
Gary Holt	Registrar	MC	V2.7	As per the Minutes 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 Regulations Meeting

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### Glossary

Affiliate Club:	An affiliate club fulfils all criteria for re-affiliation and has voting rights. Also referred to as a 'Member Club'.
All Age Players:	A player aged 18 (on the first of January) or older.
Amateur Player:	An amateur player is a Player who does not have a written contract with a Club and is not to be paid to play football for that Club.
Associate Club:	An associate club fulfills all criteria for re-affiliation with the exception of fielding the minimum team requirements and has NO voting rights.
Associate members:	Members of a club that is registered with the Association as an Associate Club.
AWFA	Albury Wodonga Football Association Incorporated.
Body:	means; the Executive, DC, AT, GPT, MC, subcommittee.
Club	
Club Officials	Elected committee members, appointed coaches and managers of member clubs.
Delegate:	As per Constitution and must be 18 years of age or older.
Election to Appear	An Election to Appear notice will be forwarded to all Clubs where a player has been reported for an offence, other than a caution.
Eligible Player:	A player who is currently registered and not suspended.
Elite Player:	A player who has played football at a level above AWFA's League Competition i.e. AWFA Representative player; Riverina Representative player; State Player; National Player; a registered player of a league that is higher than AWFA's as determined by the EC.
FA	Football Australia
FNSW	Football New South Wales
FV	Football Victoria
Individual members:	Persons who apply for membership of the Association.
Ineligible Player:	A suspended or unregistered player or a player who does not meet the player eligibility requirements to play in a league/cup game
Junior member	Refer to Clause 2.1 Definitions and Clause 5.1 (e) of the Constitution

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Life members:	Club & AWFA members who have been appointed Life Members.
Marshall	A person appointed by a Club/AWFA to 'Marshall' a game or event.
MC:	Management Committee consisting of all Affiliated clubs and Associate Clubs.
Member:	Includes, clubs, players, coaches, managers or any other participants registered with the Association or registered as a member of an AWFA club.
Member Club:	A member club fulfills all criteria for affiliation and has voting rights. Also known as an 'Affiliate Club'.
Non-Player:	Coaches, Managers and Club Officials
Notice to Appear	A Notice to Appear will be forwarded to all Clubs where a player must front the DC.
Participants:	refers to all team members including players listed on the team sheet and all team officials as per 3.4.11.
Person(s):	Refers to participants, players and team officials (Rule 3.4.11) and Members and Affiliate and Associate Clubs.
Referee:	means the referee appointed by AWSRA or who is otherwise appointed by the Home Club (Club Referee).
Representative Player:	A Representative player is defined as an AWFA Representative player or a shadow player who is considered to be a member of the rep squad.
Team Official:	means any personnel involved with the management, preparation or participation of a Club (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers and first aid attendants.
Visa Player:	Any player who is not a permanent resident of Australia.

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## **1 SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP**

### **1.1 Affiliation**

- 1.1.1 The annual affiliation and membership subscription (if any) and any fees or other levies payable by members to the Association, the time for and manner of payment, shall be determined by the Executive Committee (EC) and endorsed by the Management Committee (MC).
- 1.1.2 No application for renewal of affiliation or for new affiliation will be accepted unless all debts owing by the applicants to Albury Wodonga Football Association (AWFA), or any of its members, or to any creditors of AWFA, or to the Albury Wodonga Soccer Referees Association (AWSRA) or to any other Associations, are paid in full. For the purpose of this regulation, debts owing to AWFA shall include any fines and penalties which have been imposed.

### **1.2 Re-affiliation**

#### **1.3 Criteria for re-affiliation**

- 1.3.1 Applications for re-affiliation for the following year and a re-affiliation fee should be lodged with AWFA by the 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- 1.3.2 In order to qualify for re-affiliation, member clubs must in the current calendar year have fielded a minimum of:
- a 2 x Open Age Men's Teams (Senior, Reserves Thirds);
  - b 3 x Junior Teams (e.g. U/16, U/14, U/13, U/12); (20 MiniRoos players equates to maximum 1 junior team)
  - c 1 x Female Team (Senior, Reserves,).
- 1.3.3 Special conditions may apply to Associate clubs.
- a Each affiliated club shall forward to the Secretary no less than 14 days prior to the AWFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) documents listed in clause 6.4b of the constitution. In addition, copies of the following are required:
  - b The minutes of the AGM of the club;
  - c The details of the Office Bearers of the club for the forthcoming year submitted on form [AWFA Form 01](#);
- 1.3.4 Failure to provide the above documentation will be deemed a violation of the regulation above (1.3) and the member club will not be granted re-affiliation for the forthcoming year and may only be accepted for membership in accordance with clause 21.2 of the constitution.
- 1.3.5 Where a member club is not granted re-affiliation, they will not be allowed to participate as a member club or affiliate club until they provide the required information. If that information is not received by 31st December of the current year the member club in question will have their membership status referred to the January MC meeting of the following year.

- 1.3.6 Compliance with the above criteria does not necessarily guarantee re-affiliation of any club and all applications for membership must be endorsed by the EC prior to the AGM.
- 1.3.7 In accordance with the constitution club affiliation shall expire at the AGM at the time subsequent to the presentation of reports for the last year. At this point, the Chairperson shall declare those member clubs of AWFA qualified by the constitution to become members for the forthcoming year and qualified members shall have the power to vote thereafter.
- 1.3.8 In the event of there being insufficient member clubs granted membership at the AGM to enable a quorum to be constituted (as per Clause 21.3 of the Constitution), the Chairperson may, with the consent of those member clubs present having already been granted membership, declare certain other member club or clubs to be members in accordance with the constitution.

#### **1.4 New Member Club**

#### **1.5 Application for affiliation**

- 1.5.1 New clubs applying for affiliation must submit their application using form [AWFA02](#) by the 30th September of the year prior to the next outdoor season and include payment of required fees as per schedule. All documentation will be reviewed by the EC and a recommendation will be presented at the October MC meeting. Final decisions regarding affiliation will be considered by voting members at the AGM or a special general meeting. Where a special general meeting is convened the applicant(s) shall pay the full costs as determined by the EC in addition to their application fee. If an applicant is unsuccessful the application fee will be refunded in full however the cost of the special general meeting will be retained.

#### **1.6 Criteria for new member club**

- 1.6.1 Each new club will provide with their application the following;
- a Established clubs must provide the profit and loss statement and balance sheet (where applicable) for the previous financial year and the current financial year to date.
  - b Other clubs with no financial history must provide a business plan outlining their financial projections.
  - c The details of the Office Bearers of the club submitted on form [AWFA01](#).
- 1.6.2 New clubs need to register their club colours (maximum of four colours) for consideration of acceptance by the EC.
- 1.6.3 For the purpose of the above, details of colours shall include colours, pattern and style of shirts, colours of shorts, colours and pattern of socks and colour and pattern of goalkeeper's uniform.
- 1.6.4 The EC shall have the power to determine if the name submitted by a club is acceptable in accordance with the following. A club name shall:
- a Not include a national name;
  - b Not include words which are not part of the English language; and

c Not be indicative of the national characteristics of the club.

1.6.5 Must have access to a minimum of two football fields and change rooms that will enable all normal scheduled games to be played.

## **1.7 New Associate clubs**

1.7.1 New associate clubs applying for affiliation must submit their application using form [AWFA02](#) and include payment of required fees as per schedule. All documentation will be reviewed by the EC and a recommendation will be presented at the next MC meeting. Final decisions regarding affiliation will be considered by voting members at that MC meeting.

## **1.8 Criteria for a new associate club**

1.8.1 The details of the Office Bearers of the associate club must be submitted on form [AWFA01](#).

1.8.2 New associate clubs need to register their club colours (maximum of four colours) for consideration of acceptance by the EC.

1.8.3 For the purpose of the above, details of colours shall include colours, pattern and style of shirts, colours of shorts, colours and pattern of socks and colour and pattern of goalkeeper's uniform.

1.8.4 The EC shall have the power to determine if the name submitted by an associate club is acceptable in accordance with the following. A club name shall:

- a Not include a national name;
- b Not include words which are not part of the English language; and
- c Not be indicative of the national characteristics of the club.

## **1.9 Individual members**

1.9.1 Individual members should register using the FA online registration system. in accordance with AWFA registration policy.

1.9.2 Individual members will abide by the FA Code of Conduct.

1.9.3 No individual member other than the President or Secretary or any other person duly authorised by the EC may make a public statement on behalf of AWFA.

1.9.4 No individual member can make any commitment on behalf of AWFA.

## **1.10 Life members**

1.10.1 The granting of life membership is a balancing exercise. Life membership is awarded to those who have made a significant contribution to the Association and the sport of football. It should be recognised that life membership does not have to be awarded each year.

1.10.2 Life membership will be dealt with by the EC or a sub-committee of the EC. The latter will only apply if a person is nominated or seconded by an EC member, or if the nominee is an EC member. If endorsed the nomination would then proceed to the next AGM. Life membership will be dealt with in accordance with clauses 5.2 and 21.2 of the

constitution.

1.10.3 Criteria to be considered includes:

- a Length of active membership (i.e. 30 years at Club);
- b Positions held and length of time (15-20 years);
- c Less than 15-20 years may be considered if exceptional circumstances are involved;
- d Participating to a much greater degree than the average member;
- e Significant improvements to the sport.

1.10.4 Nominations must be forwarded to the Secretary before the 30th September of the current year, using the prescribed form [AWFA03](#).

1.10.5 Life membership is absolutely forfeited upon any failure to observe any by-laws or constitutional requirements and will be forfeited upon the passing of a special resolution for the removal from life membership for reasons not limited to but as bringing the name of the AWFA into disrepute.

1.10.6 In the event that life membership is not applicable a person nominated may be awarded a special honour for outstanding contributions.

## **1.11 Discontinuance of membership**

1.11.1 In the event of a club discontinuing membership, the AWFA EC will take appropriate action dependent on individual circumstances.

## **2 SECTION 2 – ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT**

### **2.1 Annual General Meeting**

2.1.1 Each Club is allowed five club delegates to participate in and vote on items at the AGM as required.

2.1.2 The following business will be conducted at the AGM;

- a Receive and adopt minutes of the previous AGM;
- b Consider business arising from the minutes;
- c Presentation and adoption of reports from EC members;
- d Presentation and adoption of the audited Financial Statement (Auditor's Report);
- e Determination of Member and Associate clubs for the following year;
- f Election of Executive Committee;
- g Appointment of duly qualified chartered accountant to audit financial affairs of the Association for the forthcoming year;
- h Appointment of duly qualified solicitor to act for the Association for the forthcoming year; and
- i Discuss and resolve other business of which due notice has been given.

### **2.2 Governance**

2.2.1 The administration of the Association is the responsibility of an Executive Committee (EC) who shall report to the Management Committee (MC). The relevant clauses in the Constitution related to the EC are 14, 15, 16 and 17. The relevant clause in the Constitution related to the MC is 18.

### **2.3 Management Committee**

2.3.1 The MC comprises the EC, Member Clubs and Associate Clubs of the Association.

### **2.4 Executive Committee**

2.4.1 The table below lists the positions and their roles that make up the EC. Position descriptions are attached as Appendix 1.

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<b>Position</b>	<b>Key roles</b>	<b>Sub Committee(s)</b>
President	Governance/Sponsorship	Season Launch
Secretary	Communication, Co-ordinate Meetings, Manage Web Page, Administration	
Treasurer	Finance (Monthly Reports, Yearly Budget, Payroll and Tax) Contract Management.	
Registrar	Registrations/Establish Annual Fees/Game Day Application/Season Draws/Co-ordinate Registration and Game Day Training	
Recorder	Game Records/Player Assessments/Game Day Application/ Season Draws	
Committee Member Football Operations	Cup Final setup/Budget MiniRoos Setup/Equipment and Storage Sponsorship/Media	
Committee Member 2 Resources	Cup Final/Women's Football/Senior Presentation/MiniRoos/ Trophies	Women's Forum Committee
Committee Member 3 High Performance	Representative Program and Budget, Coaching Courses and Training, Rep and Season Presentations	

2.4.3 In addition, the EC shall be supported by a Minute Secretary and Member Protection and Information officer. These positions are non-voting positions.

2.4.4 At the discretion of the President, he/she shall in an emergency direct the Secretary to call a meeting of the AWFA MC.

## **2.5 Terms of appointment for EC members**

2.5.1 The terms of appointment for EC Members shall be two years on a rotational basis with the President, Treasurer and Recorder and one Executive Member in one year and the Secretary, Registrar and two Executive members in the following year.

2.5.2 The following conditions will apply for the 2021 and 2022 AGMs:

- a From the 2021 AGM the President, Treasurer and Recorder and one Committee Member (High-Performance) elected for a two-year term. To accommodate the change to 2.5.2 the Registrar and Resources Committee Member will be elected for a one-year Term; and
- b From the 2022 AGM the Secretary, Registrar and two Committee Members (Resources and Football Operations) will be elected for a two-year term.

2.5.3 Honorariums for the Executive Members will be set by the EC and ratified by the MC at the first MC meeting scheduled after the AGM.

## **2.6 Sub committees (refer to Constitution clause 23)**

2.6.1 Sub Committees may be appointed from time to time as considered necessary by the EC or MC for the efficient administration of the AWFA.

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- 2.6.2 In appointing a Sub-Committee, the EC will issue the terms of reference and reporting procedures required. The terms of reference shall clearly indicate the responsibilities and authority of the Sub-Committee. At any time, the EC may remove any or all of the persons from such Sub-Committee as it sees fit.
- 2.6.3 The President and/or Secretary or their appointed delegate may be ex-officio members of any Sub-Committee.
- 2.6.4 Each Sub-Committee shall be responsible to the AWFA EC for the carrying out of duties assigned to the Sub-Committee.
- 2.6.5 In the event of the default of any Sub-Committee, the EC shall assume the responsibility for the duties assigned to that Sub-Committee.
- 2.6.6 The term of each Sub-Committee will be determined and recorded in the terms of reference. The EC reserves the right to amend the terms of reference as and when they see fit.

### **2.7 Finances**

- 2.7.1 The financial year for the Association will be from Nov 1 to 31 Oct.
- 2.7.2 The AWFA EC shall handle the day to day running of AWFA and shall be empowered to pass accounts on behalf of AWFA. All expenditure on a single item/invoice with a value of more than \$5,000 shall be referred to the MC for endorsement.
- 2.7.3 The AWFA EC will determine the AWFA annual registration fees for players, coaches, managers and non-players.
- 2.7.4 The AWFA EC will set a budget and present monthly financial report to the MC commencing from the second scheduled MC meeting after the AGM.
- 2.7.5 The AWFA EC will prepare the necessary Australian Taxation Office documents as and when required by law.

### **2.8 Minutes**

- 2.8.1 The Minute Secretary shall record the minutes of each AWFA meeting and the Secretary shall circulate copies of these minutes to all Clubs within fourteen days of such meeting, specifying in each case the date, time and place of the next MC meeting, such notification to constitute sufficient notice for such meeting.
- 2.8.2 Minutes of meetings will be circulated by e-mail or mail only. Club delegates attending MC meetings are to bring these minutes with them.

### **2.9 General club requirements**

- 2.9.1 No member or affiliated club shall, by action or by writing indulge in any activity which is or may be implied as political in nature.
- 2.9.2 Each club shall nominate to AWFA the date of their AGM by 31st July, which must be held at least 21 days prior to the AGM of AWFA.
- 2.9.3 Each club shall notify the Secretary of changes of office bearers, change of club name or the registered postal address of the club within 14 days of any changes.
- 2.9.4 Each club shall lodge with AWFA a copy of its Constitution and amendments and



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- minutes of the meeting where it is ratified. Updates to the Constitution should be notified to the Secretary within 14 days of being ratified.
- 2.9.5 Each club will register with AWFA their club colour's (maximum of four colours) for the AWFA league and cup competitions.
- 2.9.6 Any club wishing to vary its colour's must submit an application to [AWFA04](#) for consideration by the EC and approval by the MC.
- 2.9.7 For the purpose of the above, details of colours shall include colours, pattern and style of shirts, colours of shorts, colours and pattern of socks and colour and pattern of goalkeeper's uniform.
- 2.9.8 Where a colour clash between clubs is unavoidable, the home club will alternate its colours to avoid colour clashes on the field of play unless agreement is reached by the clubs for the away team to alternate its colours.
- 2.9.9 Any club fielding a team in the competition controlled by AWFA in different colours from those registered with AWFA without the permission of the EC shall be guilty of an offence and fined \$200.00
- 2.9.10 Any club member wishing to submit correspondence to AWFA must first lodge their submission with their club who shall consider the matter. If the club considers that the matter should be brought to the attention of the AWFA then the club should forward the relevant correspondence together with written correspondence on club letterhead supporting the matter to the Secretary for consideration by AWFA.
- 2.9.11 Each club will attend the annual AWFA 'Presentation Dinner'. The number of compulsory tickets the Member and Associate clubs will receive will be determined by the EC on annual basis.

### **3 SECTION 3 - REGULATIONS FOOTBALL**

The EC may take whatever action it sees fit against any persons or clubs violating these regulations.

This section applies to both the League Championship and the Cup Competition.

#### **3.1 EC Responsibility**

3.1.1 The AWFA EC will be responsible for scheduling all fixtures including competition fixtures, SSF, futsal and any other fixtures deemed to be the responsibility of AWFA.

3.1.2 Any member or associate club must apply to the AWFA for sanction at least seven days prior to participation in any practice match, pre-season game or tournament.

3.1.3 AWFA shall carry out annually a League Competition and Cup Competition as set out hereafter in the regulations.

3.1.4 All fixtures must have a completed team sheet as prescribed in the policy.

#### **3.2 Team Nominations**

3.2.1 To ensure that the season's fixtures can be completed in a timely manner, all team nominations must be submitted to the association by the due date as set by the MC at the first scheduled MC meeting following the AGM.

3.2.2 Nominations received after the due date may be accepted at the discretion of the EC only.

3.2.3 Withdrawals of teams from the competition shall be notified by the AWFA Secretary, in writing to all clubs, after having received notification in writing from the club concerned.

#### **3.3 Player Eligibility**

3.3.1 All players engaging in any game controlled by or under the auspice of the AWFA must be correctly registered according to the regulations.

#### **3.4 Unregistered Player**

3.4.1 Any club playing a player who is not registered in accordance with the AWFA regulations will receive the following penalties;

- a The Club will be fined \$200 for each offence;
- b If the game is won or drawn by the offending club, the game result will be altered to a 0 – 3 loss, i.e. the game is lost and awarded to the opposing team. Goal scorers and star player votes will stand as is with the exception of the unregistered player.
- c If the game is lost by the offending club the game result will stand. Goal scorers and star player votes will stand as is with the exception of the unregistered player.

#### **3.5 Registered Player Not Named on a Team Sheet**

3.5.1 A player who is registered but is not listed on the team sheet is an eligible player.

3.5.2 In the event that this occurs and the referee is made aware of the clerical error the referee will complete an Incident form (AWFA05) and add the players name to the team sheet. No other person or official may add any names to the team sheet once the game has

commenced. The club who makes the mistake will be fined \$100.00 for each offence. There will be no loss of competition points. Goals scored or votes given will stand.

### **3.6 Suspended Player**

3.6.1 A player who is registered but has been suspended from competition for any reason is an ineligible player. However, if the player takes the field of play during their suspension period or undertakes coaching or managing duties, they will have committed a further offence and the following penalties will apply.

- a The Club will be fined \$200 for each offence.
- b If the game is won or drawn by the offending club, the game result will be altered to a 0 – 3 loss, i.e. the game is lost and awarded to the opposing team. Goal scorers and star player votes will stand as is except for the suspended player.
- c If the game is lost by the offending club the game result will stand. Goal scorers and star player votes will stand as is except for the suspended player.

### **3.7 Registered player playing in an age group without approval**

3.7.1 A player who is registered but has not been approved to play in a higher or lower age who takes the field of play will have committed an offence and the following penalties will apply.

- a The Club will be fined \$200 for each offence.
- b If the game is lost by the offending club the game result will stand and the club will be fined \$200 Goal scorers and star player votes will stand as is except for the suspended player.

### **3.8 Special Age Conditions**

3.8.1 Players must register for their age as at 1st January of the playing year.

3.8.2 A player wanting to participate in All Age matches (Division 1, Division 2 & Division 3 Men's and Division 1 and 2 Women's) who is under the age of 16, must complete the AWFA Playing above age Consent Form (AWFA 11). This Form needs to be completed prior to the player playing in any higher age group and must be approved by the Recorder (AWFA Executive Committee) before playing.

3.8.3 Any junior player wanting to play three (3) years above their own age must complete the AWFA Playing above age Consent Form (AWFA Form 11) and will be capped at the three years above their own age. This needs to be completed prior to the player playing in the higher age group and must be approved by the Recorder (AWFA Executive Committee) before playing. Any player wanting to play four (4) years above their age must complete and submit to AWFA Playing above age Consent Form (AWFA Form 10) This needs to be completed prior to the player playing in the higher age group and must be approved by the Recorder (AWFA Executive Committee) before playing. Applications are based on one season only and must be reapplied for annually if applicable. To assist as a guide in calculating eligibility for players to play above their age the Player Assessment Ready Reckoner AWFA Form 26 is to be used. Any player who plays three years or above their age group without an assessment the club is fine \$200 for the first offence, second offence is \$500 per player. Clubs will be billed for any

AWFA assessment.

- 3.8.4 Players must have already turned 34++ in the year prior to 1st January of the playing year to be eligible to play in the Over 35 Men competition.
- 3.8.5 At the discretion of the EC, women may be allowed to play in Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3 Men's competition and men allowed to play in the Division 1 and Division 2 Women's competition. The prime consideration in granting such discretion being player development. Applications are on the basis of one season only and must be re-applied for annually if applicable. If approved the AWFA Secretary shall inform all clubs of the approved exemption.
- 3.8.6 Any junior player wanting to play below age must complete the AWFA Playing below age Consent Form (AWFA Form 12) and this needs to be completed prior to the player playing in the lower age group and must be approved by the Recorder (AWFA Executive Committee). Once the exemption is granted the player is not allowed to play in any higher age group. However, if a player develops during the season the club may forward a request for cancellation of the previous exemption to play below age to AWFA for consideration. Clubs will be invoiced for any assessment.

### **3.9 The Players' Equipment**

- 3.9.1 In accordance with IFAB Law 04, a player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous. The players must be inspected before the start of the match and substitutes before they enter the field of play in addition the following clauses further explain special requirements for other equipment.
- 3.9.2 **Undershorts/Tights.** Undershorts must be either Black or the same main colour as the shorts or the lowest part of the shorts – players of the same team must wear the same colour. Players are permitted to wear full length Undershorts/Tights provided it is either black or the same main colour as shorts or the lowest part of the shorts – that colour must be worn by all players that are wearing undershorts/tights in that team. For the avoidance of doubt, if a player's shorts contain more than one colour (for example red and white) then the Main colour of the Undershorts/Tights must be the dominant colour of the player's shorts - that colour must be worn by all players that are wearing undershorts/tights in that team. Moreover, if a player shorts contain more than one colour and those colours are equal (for example red and white stripes) then the Main colour of the Undershorts/Tights must be one of the colours on the player's shorts - that colour must be worn by all players that are wearing undershorts/tights in that team.
- 3.9.3 **Undershirts.** Undershirts must be either Black or the same colour as the player's shirt. Players are permitted to wear long sleeve undershirts provided it is either Black or the same colour as the shirts. For the avoidance of doubt, if a player's shirt contains more than one colour (for example red and white) then the Main colour of the undershirt must be the dominant colour of the player's shirt - that colour must be worn by all players that are wearing undershirts in that team. Moreover, if a player's shirts contain more than one colour and those colours are equal (for example red and white stripes) then the Main colour of the undershirt must be one of the colours on the player's shirt - that colour must be worn by all players that are wearing undershorts/tights in that team.
- 3.9.4 **Head Cover.** Where head covers (excluding goalkeepers' caps) are worn, they must:
- a. be black or the same main colour as the shirt (provided that the players of the same team wear the same colour);

- b. be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment
- c. not be attached to the shirt;
- d. not be dangerous to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g. opening/closing mechanism around neck); and
- e. not have any part(s) extending out from the surface (protruding elements)

3.9.5 Where the Hijab or headscarf are worn by players, they must:

- a. be Black or the same main colour as the player's shirt (provided that the players of the same team wear the same colour);
- b. It shall not create a danger to either the wearer or any other player; and
- c. Referees are not permitted to check the affixing of the Hijab or Headscarf and under no circumstances touch the garment.

3.9.6 Where a Turban is worn by players, they must:

- a. be black or the same main colour as the player's shirt (provided that the players of the same team wear the same colour);
- b. it shall not create a danger to either the wearer or any other player; and
- c. Referees are not permitted to check the affixing of the Turban and under no circumstances touch the garment.

### **3.10 Ground Requirements**

3.10.1 Prior to the commencement of each playing season clubs must submit to AWFA details of their home ground on the prescribed form including a diagram of their playing fields with dimensions and barrier lines clearly marked.

3.10.2 The following are the requirements for a home ground, although the EC shall have the power to waive these requirements should conditions prove necessary.

- a Two team dressing rooms and a separate referee dressing room must be provided, each equipped with showers and toilet. These must be maintained at an adequate standard of hygiene and convenience.

### **3.11 Field Requirements**

3.11.1 The area of the playing field shall conform to the following dimensions. The field must be rectangular in shape.

- a Grounds 1 & 2

Minimum width 50 metres Maximum width 90 metres

Minimum length 90 metres Maximum length 120 metres

- b Ground 3

Minimum width 45 metres Maximum width 90 metres

Minimum length 90 metres Maximum length 120 metres

- c Under 12 Grounds ([See Field layouts 11.6](#))

Minimum Length 60 metres Maximum Length 70m metres

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Minimum Width    40 metres    Maximum Width    50m metres

- 3.11.2 Ground markings must be clear and to FIFA standards and dimensions/measurements must be correct.
- 3.11.3 For all grounds a 'Technical Area' for both teams must be clearly marked. Teams must use marked technical areas. The 'Technical Areas' should be located near the halfway line. Both technical areas may be located on the same side of the playing area or on opposite sides of the field. Where both are on the same side there must be a minimum distance of 10 metres between them. The length of the "Technical Area" must extend one metre either side of the designated seated area and may extend forward up to a distance of one metre from the touch line of the playing area.
- 3.11.4 Goal posts, nets and four or six flags will be provided in accordance with FIFA standards.
- 3.11.5 A roped barrier and/or a line marked on the ground in a contrasting colour to the lines marking the playing area shall be in place two metres (minimum) around the playing field, behind which spectators shall be contained. The playing field includes the protrusion of the goal nets. There should be a minimum of five metres clear area between the barrier lines of two adjacent playing areas. Clubs unable to meet these criteria must seek approval to have a smaller clearance.

### **3.12 Field of play**

- 3.12.1 Coaches and assistant coaches may only coach from their own respective Technical Area. Managers are not permitted to coach.
- 3.12.2 Players may enter the field before the commencement of the game but must not enter the field before the completion of the previous game on that field.
- 3.12.3 The only persons permitted on the field of play or within the spectator boundary line at any time during the progress of the game or during intervals between fixtures controlled by AWFA shall be:
- a the competing players as per the team sheet
  - b the officiating Referee and Assistant Referees/Lines people
  - c two Marshals from each club
  - d the official Coach and Assistant Coach from each team and
  - e the Registered Manager from each team.
- 3.12.4 The only persons permitted within a team's Technical Area shall be:
- a registered coach
  - b registered assistant coach
  - c registered manager
  - d bench players (recorded on team sheet)
  - e first aid attendant

### **3.13 Ground Control**

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- 3.13.1 Each club must provide two (2) marshals per game for Division 1, Division 2 for Men and Women also for Division 3 Men all other matches at least one (1) Marshal is required to be appointed. Marshals may be interchanged throughout the day, but marshals must be easily identified by the use of highly visible safety vests. Marshals whilst on duty must not be assigned to other duties i.e. Canteen duties. Marshals must be made aware of the requirements of the role as per the AWFA Marshals Policy. Failure to provide Marshalls in div 1 games = fine \$200

### 3.14 Game Conduct

- 3.14.1 All fixtures shall be played in compliance with the regulations and in accordance with FA, FNSW and FV regulations respectively and under the laws of the game as approved by the Federation International Football Association Board (FIFA).
- 3.14.2 For Division One Men, FIFA substitution laws will apply; five substitutions may be made by each Team during the game.
- 3.14.3 Each player shall wear a club shirt with a unique number throughout the fixture. Where any player changes the shirt due to wear and tear or blood spillage, the captain must immediately notify the referee of the change.
- 3.14.4 No person except the team manager may approach the referee or assistant referees, without their consent.
- 3.14.5 The home team shall, no less than 10 minutes before the commencement of every game, hand to the officiating referee, two match balls, which will comply with the laws of the game.
- 3.14.6 There will be no added time with the exception of Divisions 1 Men and Women Games.
- 3.14.7 The following conditions apply.

Grade	Ball size	Time per half	Break between half	Interchange/substitution
Div 1 Men	5	45	10	<a href="#">See rule 3.14.2</a>
Div 2 Men	5	45	10	Interchange max five on bench
Over 35	5	35	10	Interchange max five on bench
Div 1 Women	5	45	10	Interchange max five on bench
Div 2 Women	5	35	10	Interchange max five on bench
Div 3 Men	5	35	10	Interchange max five on bench
Under 16	5	35	5	Interchange max five on bench
Under 14	5	30	5	Interchange max five on bench
Under 13	4	30	5	Interchange max five on bench
Under 12	4	25	5	Interchange max five on bench
Under 16 Girls	5	35	5	Interchange max five on bench
Under 14 Girls	5	30	5	Interchange max five on bench

Under 12 Girls            4            25            5            Interchange max five on bench

### **3.15 Postponements (fixture changes and forfeits)**

- 3.15.1 All open age fixtures postponed due to inclement weather are to be replayed.
- 3.15.2 In respect of junior fixtures in inclement weather the decision is made on a ground-by-ground basis. This decision may be made by the home club president or their nominee, local council or match referee. Decisions made by the local council or match referee are final and cannot be overruled.
- 3.15.3 In the event some junior matches are played and others are not, the round will be abandoned and not replayed or missed games caught up where more than half the teams eligible to play did not play. For example:
- a Six games scheduled: three games washed out, three games played: catch up provisions apply.
  - b Six games scheduled: four games washed out, two games played: round abandoned. In the event of this, no catch-up provision. Games that were played will be deemed a “no game” with no points being added to the season’s aggregate.
- 3.15.4 Catch-up games must be played within 28 days of the postponement and no later than seven days before the scheduled end of the league competition whichever is sooner or as determined by the EC. An agreed date must be forwarded by both clubs to the AWFA recorder within seven days of the scheduled postponement. In the absence of such written agreement the AWFA recorder will direct the date and time the game shall be played. Failure by a team to play at the directed date and time will result in forfeiture by that team. If both teams do not agree to play, then the game is null and void with no points awarded to either team. The AWFA recorder shall in considering the application advise both clubs and the AWSRA of the decision at least three days before the re-scheduled AWFA game. A club is not obliged to accept a postponement from a club.
- 3.15.5 Where any club causes a game to be delayed for any reason and the delay has been reported by incident report from the referee to the Disciplinary Board (DC), the case will be considered by the DC for any further action.
- 3.15.6 A fixture should start at the stipulated time; however, a fixture may have a late start of 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 and an Incident Report ([AWFA Form 05](#)) shall be submitted by the referee.
- 3.15.7 Where a game starts late, the referee will shorten the game where necessary with the exception of Divisions 1 Men and Women which is at the discretion of the referee. The game must be shortened by an equal amount in each half and the game shall not be shortened unless the referee has advised coaches or managers of his/her intentions prior to kick-off.
- 3.15.8 A team must field at least seven of its eligible players at all times in a fixture. One of the players must be a goalkeeper. Failure to do so shall result in the offending team forfeiting the fixture.
- 3.15.9 A team that, without just cause, fails to fulfill an engagement to play a fixture on the appointed date, time or venue, without giving at least 72 hours’ notice to the AWFA recorder, shall for each and every offence forfeit that fixture. For Juniors and Over 35’s if



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the forfeiting team gives less the 24 hrs notice the forfeiting club must pay the referee fee for that match.

3.15.10 In the event of a team forfeit without notice:

- a winning points allocated for the fixture shall be forfeited to its opponent and the score recorded as three (3) goals scored by the team receiving the points to nil (0) to the forfeiting teams.
- b For Division 1 Men or Division 1 Women, the offending team shall pay a \$500 fine.
- c For all other age groups, (excluding juniors and over 35's), the offending team shall pay a \$200 fine to the opposing club.

3.15.11 In the event of a game being terminated due to:

- a interference by spectators, walk offs by players or other causes, the EC shall inquire into the reason for such termination and may order a replay or find one or both clubs guilty of an offence and apply such penalties as it sees fit;
- b due to injury to a player before half time the game will be replayed within 28 days as set by both clubs and approved by the recorder (as per 3.15.4); or
- c any game that is abandoned before 70% of the allocated time for the match has been played, that game will be replayed (as per 3.15.4) starting at the time the game was stopped at the same score line and at the same venue (if available), with all given cards standing unless both clubs agree for the result to stand. This must also be approved by the AWFA recorder.

3.15.12 Any club found guilty of singing songs that contain obscenities will be fined \$200 on the first offence and \$500 for each and every repeat offence in a season.

### **3.16 Authorities and Jurisdiction**

3.16.1 The Referees/Match Officials

- a controls each match and has authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in each AWFA Match to which they have been appointed;
- b makes all disciplinary decisions during an AWFA Match, which decisions, subject to the limited exceptions contained in these Regulations, are final;
- c has the powers, duties and authority:
  - i as specified in the Laws of the Game and, in particular, Law 5; and
  - ii to make disciplinary decisions from the moment he or she enters the field of play until he or she leaves the field of play after the final whistle and extends to the referee's change rooms.

3.16.2 A club assistant referee must be 16 years or above before officiating in any open age match.

### **3.17 Social Media and Detrimental Public Comment**

3.17.1 Without limiting the Football NSW Social Media Policy or FA Rules and Regulations, Members must not make public or media comment (including via social media) which is

detrimental to the interests of the game.

- 3.17.2 Without limitation, Members will breach these Regulations and be deemed to be making comment detrimental to the interests of the game if in making any public or media comment it:
- a denigrates or criticises another Member, whether in relation to incidents that have occurred in a match or otherwise;
  - b denigrates or criticises AWFA, Riverina, Football NSW, Football Victoria or FA or any of its commercial partners;
  - c denigrates or criticises a Participant by inappropriately commenting on any aspect of his or her performance, abilities or characteristics;
  - d comments on the likely outcome of hearing;
  - e criticises the outcome of a hearing; or
  - f criticises any evidence, submission or other comment made by any person at a hearing.
- 3.17.3 An actual or purported contravention of this clause 3.17 shall trigger the application of clause 5.8.3 of these Regulations.
- 3.17.4 Where there is evidence that a Member has made a public or media comment (including via social media) in breach of section of these Regulations, the Football NSW Social Media Policy or the FA Rules and Regulations, that Member will be presumed to have made the comment and the onus will be on the Member to satisfy the AWFA or the Tribunal, as the case may be, that the Member did not do so. For example, if the offending comment is made on the Member's social media account, that Member will be presumed to have posted the comment and the onus will be on that Member to satisfy the AWFA or the Tribunal that the Member did not do so.

### **3.18 Suspended Players & Team Officials**

- 3.18.1 Any player or team official who is suspended by the DA, the DC, the AWFA EC or the MC cannot act in any capacity on match days even from outside the technical area, including behind the spectator rope/line or in the teams change rooms.
- 3.18.2 The onus shall be placed on Clubs to ensure that suspended players and team officials do not participate in any capacity in any fixtures whilst suspended.
- a Capacity - means to play, coach, manage, referee including being a linesperson, act as a Marshal or as First Aid attendant;
  - b Fixtures – includes the whole day's scheduled games; and
  - c Suspended – includes the remainder of the day on the final day of the suspension.
- 3.18.3 A suspension cannot be served in a bye.
- 3.18.4 A suspension can only be served in a forfeited fixture when the opposing team forfeits.
- 3.18.5 A player who is suspended in an age division outside their regular age division, will be permitted to serve a match in their regular age division when the age division in which they played and received the suspension has a bye.

- 3.18.6 Any player with a carry-over suspension at the end of the season, will be allowed to serve that suspension in any AWFA pre-season competition the following season provided that the club they register with enters that pre-season competition and the suspended player is available to play. Each AWFA pre-season tournament counts as one match suspension.

## **4 SECTION 4 - COMPETITIONS**

### **4.1 LEAGUE COMPETITIONS**

#### **4.2 EC responsibility**

- 4.2.1 AWFA shall annually conduct league competitions in a format in divisions and grades as determined by the EC.
- 4.2.2 The EC each year shall prepare a draw of fixtures outlining which teams will play each other and on what date, time and ground for the coming season. Fixtures may be varied due to the unavailability of grounds or other reasons or at the discretion of the EC.
- 4.2.3 There shall be no finals in the league competitions in any division.

#### **4.3 Team Nominations**

- 4.3.1 Clubs must nominate teams by the due date as set by the EC in January of each year.
- 4.3.2 Each team nomination must have:
- a a minimum of 7 registered players except for Under 12 which will be a minimum of 6 registered players;
  - b no player may be nominated in more than one team;
  - c a registered coach; and
  - d a registered manager.
- 4.3.3 Team nominations will only be accepted on the [AWFA07](#) Team Nominations form.
- 4.3.4 Team nominations will not be accepted after the due date.
- 4.3.5 Clubs must advise the EC in writing of the withdrawal of a team from the League Championships. The AWFA Secretary will, accordingly, notify the remaining Clubs of the withdrawal.

#### **4.4 Team Rules**

- 4.4.1 Any player who meets the cup qualifications in their respective division/grade, is therefore eligible to play up in any higher age division/grade cup competition.
- 4.4.2 Maximum number of players per team is 16 except for U12's the maximum players is 14.

#### **4.5 Division 1 Men**

- 4.5.1 A player/goalkeeper who has otherwise not qualified in any other age division/grade **must** have played a total of **five games** in Division 1 Men during the entire season to be eligible to play in Division 1 Men's Cup games.
- 4.5.2 Any player under the age of 18 years that has already played in a match on the same day as Division 1 Men's match and is then a substitute in the Division 1 men's game will not be counted towards the maximum 5 games played in the second half of the season for Division 1 Men.

#### **4.6 Player Points System (PPS)**

- 4.6.1 AWFA believes that ensuring competitions are competitively balanced is critical to safeguarding the ongoing viability and sustainability of competitions and clubs. Even and fair competitions lead to increased interest and provide a better experience for stakeholders, which leads to stronger competitions and clubs.
- a The objectives of this Player Points System Policy (PPS Policy) are to:
- i Assist the equalisation of competitions and enhance competitive balance;
  - ii Promote player loyalty and junior development; and
  - iii Support the role that volunteers undertake in managing their clubs by providing a more competitive environment on the field, that encourages more volunteers to support at club level.
- 4.6.2 The PPS Policy (clause 11.7) sets out the rules and principles in relation to a Player Points System which applies to specified AWFA Competition in order to achieve the above objectives.
- 4.6.3 Clubs must comply with the Player Points System applicable to a Competition or Competitions as prescribed by AWFA from time to time. A Player Points System will be regulated by a Player Points System Policy applicable to the relevant competition (see Clause 11.7).
- 4.6.4 The following Competition will currently operate under a Player Points System:
- a. Division 1 Men's.
- 4.6.5 Once the process in clause 11.7 of the Player Points System Policy has been undertaken, any player's Player Point Allocation will be fixed for that season unless the AWFA is of the view that there are exceptional circumstances relevant to a player that warrant an amendment of the Player Point Allocation during the season.
- 4.6.6 The PPS points cap applies to each Club Division 1 Men's Team Player Roster (First Team Player Roster) and each Team is always required to remain within the Points Cap. A breach of the PPS points cap during the season will result in a forfeit against the offending team. The club will also be fined \$200.

#### **4.7 Division 2 Men**

- 4.7.1 A player who has otherwise not qualified in any other age division/grade **must** have played a total of **five games** in Division 2 Men during the entire season to be eligible to play in Division 2 Men's Cup games
- 4.7.2 A Division 2 field player, regardless of age, must not have been on the team sheet of Division 1 Men (except as Goalkeeper) for more than 5 games during the second half of the season to be eligible to play in the Division 2 Men Cup games.
- 4.7.3 A Division 1 Goalkeeper is eligible to play on the field in this Division. To play in the cup competition, a Division 1 Goalkeeper must have played 8 games in Division 1 as a Goalkeeper.
- 4.7.4 Before the season commences:
- a Promotion: Teams finishing in the top 2 places of the Division 2 Men's competition ladder at the conclusion of the previous year's home and away season

will be considered for promotion into Division 1.

- b This rule only applies to clubs who field only a division 2 Men's team in the previous season.

#### **4.8 Division 1 Women**

- 4.8.1 A player/goalkeeper who has otherwise not qualified in any other age division/grade **must** have played a total of **five games** in Division 1 Women during the entire season to be eligible to play in Division 1 Women's Cup games.
- 4.8.2 A Division 2 Goalkeeper is eligible to play on the field in this Division.
- 4.8.3 Division 1 ineligible Player List for Division 2 see [section 4.9.4](#)

#### **4.9 Division 2 Women**

- 4.9.1 A player who has otherwise not qualified in any other age division/grade **must** have played a total of **five games** in Division 2 Women during the entire season to be eligible to play in Division 2 Women's Cup games with exception to this rule being the Goalkeeper.
- 4.9.2 A Division 2 field player must not have been on the team sheet of Division 1 Women (except as Goalkeeper) for more than 5 games during the second half of the season to be eligible to play the remaining Division 2 Women Cup games.
- 4.9.3 A Division 1 Goalkeeper is eligible to play on the field in this Division. To play in the cup competition, a Division 1 Goalkeeper must have played 8 games in Division 1 as a Goalkeeper.
- 4.9.4 Clubs with both Division 1 and Division 2 Women Teams must provide full player lists and nominate 6 Division 1 players who are ineligible to play in Division 2 Women. The ineligible player list must be provided to the AWFA Recorder by no later than week prior to the commencement of the first round, failure to do so will result in forfeiting division 2 women games until the list is provided to and approved by AWFA. At the discretion of AWFA the players list could change due to players being added to the team after the initial list has been submitted and approved.

#### **4.10 Grading**

- 4.10.1 Before the season commences:
  - a Promotion: Teams finishing in the top 2 places of the Division 2 women's competition ladder at the conclusion of the previous year's home and away season will be considered for promotion into Division 1.
  - b In order to be promoted before the season begins, a team must have at least 8 of the same players from the preceding season.
  - c This rule only applies to clubs who field only a division 2 women team in the previous season.

#### **4.11 Division 3 Men**

- 4.11.1 A player/goalkeeper who has otherwise not qualified in any other age division/grade

**must** have played a total of **five games** in Division 3 Men during the entire season to be eligible to play in Division 3 Men's Cup games.

4.11.2 Eligibility of Over 35 players in Division 3 games will not be affected by the number of games played in Division 1 or 2 grades.

4.11.3 Any player (under to age of 35), who plays more than 5 games in 1st grade in the 2nd half of the season, won't be permitted to play back in Division 3 cup competition. (An Exemption would be a Female Player only)

#### **4.12 Over 35 Men**

4.12.1 Players must have already turned 34 in the year prior to 1st January of the playing year to be eligible to play in the Over 35 Men competition.

4.12.2 A player must have played a total of five games in Over 35 Men during the entire season to be eligible to play in Over 35 Men's Cup games.

#### **4.13 Junior Teams**

4.13.1 For all junior teams (male and female):

a A player **must** have played **five games** during the season in their registered age group to be eligible for Cup games.

4.13.2 Under 12 Boys

a **9 v 9 Including** Goalkeeper. Max of 5 substitutes;

b **Field Size:** Length: 60 (min) - 70m (max) Width: 40 (min) - 50m (max) ([See Diagrams 11.6](#));

c **Field Markings:** Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed;

d **Penalty Area:** Depth: 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line;

e Game times shall be 25 minutes each half;

f Size 4 ball shall be used;

g **Goalkeeper:** The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet, within 6 seconds. The goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands;

h **Goal kick:** Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves. Players from the defending team may receive the ball inside the penalty area from a goal kick; and

i **Corner kicks:** Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

4.13.3 Under 16 Girls:

a No overage players allowed without special exemption from the AWFA EC.

4.13.4 Under 14 Girls:

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- a Game times shall be 30 minutes each half;
- b Size 5 ball shall be used;
- c Full corner kicks shall be taken; and
- d Goal kicks shall be taken from the within the 6-yard box.

### 4.13.5 Under 12 Girls:

- a **9 v 9 Including** Goalkeeper. Max of 5 substitutes;
- b **Field Size:** Length: 60 (min) - 70m (max) Width: 40 (min) - 50m (max) ([See Diagrams 11.6](#));
- c **Field Markings:** Cones, Markers or Painted Lines are allowed;
- d **Penalty Area:** Depth: 10m Width: 20m Penalty Spot 7m from goal line;
- e Game times shall be 25 minutes each half;
- f Size 4 ball shall be used;
- g **Goalkeeper:** The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet, within 6 seconds. The goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or dropkick the ball from their hands;
- h **Goal kick:** Goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves. Players from the defending team may receive the ball inside the penalty area from a goal kick; and
- i **Corner kicks:** Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

4.13.6 If the competition has more than 12 teams the association may propose an alternate league structure.

## 4.14 Visa Players

4.14.1 The Visa Player rule applies only to Division 1 Men if the Player Points System is not being used.

4.14.2 The Visa Player rule applies to Division 1 Women's competition.

4.14.3 Only 2 Visa players per match team sheet for the specified divisions. Visa players are to be marked with a 'V' on the match team sheet.

4.14.4 EC exemptions may apply upon application for exchange students and refugees.

4.14.5 Visa players who have had five (5) years consecutive playing with AWFA and/or Cobram (previous association) be given an exemption as a visa player. Documentary evidence and a Statutory Declaration must be submitted to the EC for approval.

4.14.6 A New Zealander must provide evidence that they have a minimum of 3 years continuous residence in Australia and only have played in an Amateur competition to be not classified as a Visa Player under 4.14.



- 4.14.7 All Visa players must be identified to the EC prior to participating in any sanctioned or competition game.

#### **4.15 Development Age Divisions**

- 4.15.1 At the beginning of each season, the EC will determine which age divisions are to be classed as 'Development Age Divisions'.
- 4.15.2 Each age division that is classed as a 'Development Age Division' for the season will take the field as determined by the team with the least number of players as per the team sheet e.g. if one team has 13 players on the team sheet and the other team has 9 players on the team sheet, both teams shall have 9 players on the field; if one team has 7 players then the opposing team can have a max of 9 players on the field at any given time. (7 v 9) For 9 v 9 if one team has 6 players then the opposing team can have max 8 players on the field at any given time. (6 v 8)
- 4.15.3 A team with a majority of players is able to interchange all players even if the number of additional players exceeds 5.

#### **4.16 League Championship & ladder**

- 4.16.1 Teams shall receive three points for a win or a bye (where applicable), one point for a draw and no points for a loss.
- 4.16.2 In the event of two teams finishing on equal number of points, then the team finishing with the highest goal difference shall be given the highest position on the league ladder.
- 4.16.3 In the event of two teams finishing with equal points and the same goal difference, the team with the highest goals scored for shall be given the highest position on the league ladder. In the event that there are equal points, goal difference and goals scored for, the EC will determine which team is placed in the highest position on the league ladder.
- 4.16.4 At the conclusion of the competition, the team finishing with the highest number of points shall be declared AWFA League Champions in each respective division or grade.

#### **4.17 Club Championship**

- 4.17.1 At the conclusion of the league championship, a Club Champion shall be declared based on the highest total number of points accumulated by a club. All teams in all divisions are awarded points with 1 point given to the bottom team and incrementing by 1 point per position up the league ladder.

#### **4.18 Star Player Votes**

- 4.18.1 The Star Player is the player (including Goalkeepers) in the association that is awarded the highest points in each division without a suspension (or suspended sentence) for any reason: this player is deemed to be the best performing player in that division. The Star Player should have the following attributes skilled, role model, a natural leader and displays good sportsmanship. Players who receive a suspension during the season (including red cards, five accumulated yellow cards for season and any other suspensions) are not eligible to receive the Star Player award.
- 4.18.2 The EC will determine on an annual basis the method and applicable divisions for determination of the Star Player. Each match votes shall be awarded on the basis of, 3

votes, 2 votes and 1 vote to the players who have displayed the attributes above (4.18.1) during the match. AWFA Star Player awards will be presented at the AWFA annual presentation dinner.

4.18.3 Star Player votes will only be released at the discretion of the EC.

#### **4.19 AWFA Cup Competitions**

4.19.1 At the completion of the AWFA League Championship, the Association shall conduct for each eligible age division, the AWFA Cup Competition according to the rules set out hereunder.

4.19.2 No clubs are permitted to play any other games whilst the AWFA Cup Competition is being held without the express permission of the EC.

4.19.3 All rules pertaining to the League Championships will apply to the Cup Competition unless specified otherwise.

#### **4.20 Club and Player Eligibility**

4.20.1 Eligibility to play in the AWFA Cup Competition shall be as follows:

4.20.2 The top 8 teams in each age division at the completion of the League Championship will participate.

4.20.3 Any club found guilty of playing an ineligible player shall lose that game and be eliminated from the cup competition. The club may also be subject to any additional penalty as may be imposed by the EC.

4.20.4 Any exemptions for the Cup competition are to be submitted by round 20. No exemptions will be given after this round.

4.20.5 Games played in the AWFA FA CUP will count towards the eligibility of AWFA Cup Finals.

#### **4.21 Format**

4.21.1 Format of the AWFA Cup Competition shall be as follows:

a Quarter Finals

1 <sup>st</sup> Placed Team vs. 8 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team	Game 1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Placed Team vs. 7 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team	Game 2
3 <sup>rd</sup> Placed Team vs. 6 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team	Game 3
4 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team vs. 5 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team	Game 4

b Semi Finals

Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 4	Game 5
Winner of Game 2 vs. Winner of Game 3	Game 6

c Cup Final

Winner of Game 5 vs. Winner of Game 6

4.21.2 The draws, venues and match starting times for the finals will be determined by the EC each year.

4.21.3 The EC reserves the right to charge an admission fee for any and all finals games.

#### **4.22 Obtaining a result**

4.22.1 Division 1, 2 and 3 Men's, O35's and Division 1 and 2 Women's matches will, if drawn at full time, play 10 minutes each way extra time. If still drawn after the additional 10 minutes each way, then FIFA penalty kicks shall decide the winner.

4.22.2 In Junior divisions, if a match is drawn at full time, then 5 minutes each way extra time is to be played. If still drawn after the additional 5 minutes each way, then FIFA penalty kicks shall decide the winner.

#### **4.23 Club Cup Competition**

4.23.1 Any club may organise "Club Cup Competitions" subject to the approval of the EC. Club Cup Competitions need to be approved by AWFA EC with rules and formats prior to advertising it.

4.23.2 AWFA disciplinary rules for send offs are compulsory for any Club Cup Competition. Any player receiving a straight red card during the Club Cup Competition will constitute the player being disqualified from the remainder of the Club Cup Competition, and the player shall be subject to AWFA disciplinary actions. A player receiving two yellow cards in a game will automatically miss the next match in the competition. All card offences must be reported to AWFA EC within 72 hours of the completion of the Club Cup Competition. The EC reserve the right to refer any disciplinary matters to the AWFA DC. Resulting suspensions may carry over into the AWFA League Championships.

4.23.3 Players must be correctly registered and active with FA's online registration system. If competition includes teams from outside AWFA those teams must provide proof of each player's registration.

4.23.4 All AWFA Clubs must support local cup competitions in preference to external pre-season competitions or practice matches. Club Cup Competitions are deemed to commence at 5pm on the Thursday of the weekend and are considered complete at 5pm on the Monday after the weekend. AWFA Clubs who nominate a team for the local cup competition cannot forfeit or withdraw the team. If an AWFA team is rejected by local cup competition, they may compete in other pre-season competitions or practice matches.

#### **4.24 Registrations**

4.24.1 Players registered with AWFA can play only for the Club (in the relevant form of the game) nominated during their registration with the FA on-line registration system unless the Player is playing:

- a for a Representative Team;
- b for a school's team that is not a Club;
- c in a benefit, testimonial or charity match;
- d in a trial match provided the Player has the written permission of his or her Club

and plays in no more than 2 trial matches or such other number of matches as may be specified in Competition Rules; or

- e any other exceptional circumstances approved by AWFA EC in its absolute discretion, including the nature and extent of injuries, suspension or Representative Team call ups.

#### **4.25 Player and Non-Player Registrations**

4.25.1 The following regulations shall apply directly to Member & Associate Clubs of AWFA and players and non-players registered hereunder.

4.25.2 No club is to conduct Registrations prior to the official day as set down by AWFA EC.

#### **4.26 Registration**

4.26.1 All players, coaches, managers and non-playing members must register using the FA online registration system.

4.26.2 No player being under the age of 18 years at 1<sup>st</sup> January of each year of registration will register for any Member club of AWFA without the consent of their parent or guardian.

4.26.3 Players must register in the age division as determined by their age as at 1<sup>st</sup> Jan of the year of registration.

4.26.4 Players are not eligible to play until the Club registrar has 'approved' their registration and their name appears in the Clubs Individual List in Game Day.

#### **4.27 New players**

4.27.1 New players to AWFA (over the age of 18 years) require a statutory declaration to be provided to the Club Registrar which states:

- a they are not currently serving a suspension under any Football and or Referees Association;
- b the details of their playing history for the last two years;
- c they are not un-financial with any other club or association.

4.27.2 All players must also provide the Club Registrar a copy of proof of identification with date of birth. Acceptable forms of identification include a birth certificate, a Driver Licence, a passport or other official documentation with these details.

4.27.3 If the player is an over 18 years of age (at 1<sup>st</sup> January) Fulltime 'Student' registering with a Club, they must provide a copy of their 'transcript' to the Association Registrar.

4.27.4 All documents can be requested by the AWFA Registrar at any time.

4.27.5 International Clearance Certificates (ITC) are pursuant to FIFA and FA Regulations and apply to all players. This is inclusive of all players over the age of 18 transferring from another country, and **all** minors aged from 10 to 18 years (including refugees and exchange students), irrespective of whether they were registered to play football in their previous country or not. The AWFA Registrar is to be contacted in regard to all minor applications, to ensure the FA and FIFA process is adhered to.

#### **4.28 Registration Periods**

- 4.28.1 Registrations commence on the nominated date set by the EC.
- 4.28.2 Clubs shall be permitted to register players at any time up until the cut-off date of 15<sup>th</sup> July each year.
- 4.28.3 All registrations shall expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.
- 4.28.4 For Clarity, in regard to NSW Clubs that wish to conduct trials and preseason training for the upcoming season must not commence until after 1 January of that year unless they have been sanctioned by FNSW, as Insurance cover ends at the conclusion of each winter competition, and trials and official training for the next season are not covered until the insurance cover commences, which is on 1 January of each year

#### **4.29 Player movement between clubs during the season**

- 4.29.1 Players Transferring between clubs within AWFA will cease to be able to do so after round 11 each year.
- 4.29.2 Players Transferring between clubs within AWFA must complete the relevant administrative documents as determined by AWFA

#### **4.30 Deregistration**

- 4.30.1 The deregistration of players will be as per FA, FNSW and FV regulations and/or at the discretion of the EC.

#### **4.31 Un-financial players**

- 4.31.1 No player will be registered if their name appears on any AWFA published un-financial list, unless the player's registration is accompanied by a letter of clearance from their previous club.
- 4.31.2 All clubs shall send to the AWFA Secretary a list of their un-financial players and the amount owing by each person no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

#### **4.32 Clearances for players moving into and out of AWFA**

- 4.32.1 No person who at any time has been registered outside the area of the jurisdiction of AWFA whilst over the age of 18 years and has at any time played football (soccer) as a registered player for any club, association or federation outside the area of jurisdiction of AWFA may register with AWFA without written clearance from the State Federation or overseas authority thereunder they last resided, and wherein they were last a registered player, unless EC approval is given. The only exception to this regulation would be any club representing the Albury-Wodonga area.
- 4.32.2 Notwithstanding the above, Football Australia (FA) may, in writing, grant the authority to AWFA to grant a conditional clearance to any player having made such application. This conditional clearance shall be issued subject to the conditions as set out in the regulations hereunder.
- 4.32.3 Any player who is granted a conditional clearance by Football NSW (FNSW) may be issued with a temporary registration as described in these regulations, which may permit the player to play for a period of no longer than 5 weeks at the first instance.
- 4.32.4 Any player who has been granted a conditional clearance shall be deemed to have been

registered from that date of their temporary registration provided that:

- a A full clearance is granted through the FA or FNSW or FV
- b conditions of transfer, if any, are met in full.
- c The player is correctly registered according to these regulations.
- d the player is not under any form of suspension during or after their conditional clearance.
- e Cost of obtaining such clearance as detailed by FA are paid in full by the player or of the club to which they are transferring to.

4.32.5 Letters of clearance are not required for players moving clubs within AWFA between seasons, that is, from one season to the next unless their name appears on the un-financial player's list.

4.32.6 Players leaving this Association and joining another must have AWFA clearance. Clearance can be obtained by contacting the AWFA Registrar.

### **4.33 Player contracts and inducements**

4.33.1 An Amateur Player may not be paid, or reimbursed for any expenses, to play football other than as set out in this clause 4.33.

4.33.2 No club shall register any player with whom it is bound in any form of contract or bond.

4.33.3 Except for clause 4.33.10 below no club official or other person shall offer an inducement or attempt to offer an inducement to a registered player of a club for any purpose whatsoever.

4.33.4 No player shall be placed on a retained list or open to transfer list and no sum shall be paid or received for the transfer of a registration of a player.

4.33.5 No club shall offer any player any fee or other inducement in lieu of a fee in order to obtain a transfer of that player from another club nor shall any club pay any player a signing fee or other payment in lieu of such fee.

4.33.6 A player referred to under these regulations shall be a player who is registered as such with AWFA and shall not be bound by any contract to the club for which they are registered.

4.33.7 Subject to any further regulation imposed hereunder, a player shall be in no way bound to remain with the club for whom they are registered and may transfer their registration from any club to any other club, subject to these regulations.

4.33.8 Except for clause 4.33.10 below no club official or other person shall induce or attempt to induce a registered player of another club to leave the club for which they are registered.

4.33.9 Any player being found guilty of having a signing fee, transfer fee or other similar inducement shall have their registration cancelled and deemed an unregistered player from that date and shall be subject to any penalty as the EC shall decide.

4.33.10 This clause 4.33 shall not prevent a club from remunerating a registered player, of that club or another club, in exchange for the registered player coaching a team (or teams) of the club.

4.33.11 Any club found to have breached this clause 4.33 shall be ineligible for points in the league competition for the season in which the breach occurred in the grades in which the registered player was eligible to play and or shall be subject to any other penalty as the EC shall decide.

#### **4.34 Reacquisition of Amateur Status (Change of Status)**

4.34.1 A Player who has been registered as a Professional Player with any Football Federation or A-League or any other League or Internationally will only be classified as an Amateur Player after 30 days from the day on which the Player was last Fielded in a Match (including but not limited to taking the Field of Play in an Under 20 Team Match) with the Club at which he/she was classified as a Professional Player.

4.34.2 A Player may not be registered as an Amateur Player until such time as the 30-day period referred to in Clause 4.34.1 has elapsed.

4.34.3 A Player cannot be Fielded in any Match, be it an AWFA Competition Fixture or 'friendly' match until the Player has been registered with the new Club in accordance with these Regulations.

#### **4.35 Club Registrars**

4.35.1 Once a player has selected the Club on-line that they wish to play for, the Club Registrar must go through the process of collecting supporting documentation for new or transferring players, collect such fees as imposed by AWFA and the Club and completion of acceptance of the player in the on-line system.

#### **4.36 AWFA Registration Process**

4.36.1 The AWFA Registrar will determine the weekly registration process prior to the commencement of the season and will hold an information session for Club Registrars which details the process.

#### **4.37 Exemptions**

4.37.1 No player, coach or manager shall enter into dual registration with more than one-member club of AWFA in any one year.

4.37.2 A Player can be registered with only one Club in each form of the game at a time. Any player wishing to have dual registration with another club or team in an association outside of AWFA shall make application to AWFA. Players must complete a [FNSW Playing for additional Club form](#), have the accompanying letters from the AWFA Club and the additional Playing Club and their respective Associations or Governing Body, supporting documentation in support of the application, must be submitted to FNSW. Players may have to pay additional State body's fees for dual registration. A Player registered with AWFA can play only for the Club (in the relevant form of the game) nominated on the Prescribed Form unless the Player is playing:

- a for a Representative Team;
- b for a school's team that is not a Club;

- c in a benefit, testimonial or charity match;
- d where there is a split family situation; and
- e for Regional Development.

- 4.37.3 In accordance with FNSW ‘playing above age group guidelines’, AWFA will exercise a duty of care in relation to players playing in appropriate age groups. AWFA requires Clubs to follow the Player Exemption assessment process and complete and lodge with the AWFA Recorder all paperwork prior to the player taking the field for a fixture in a grade above their playing age group. Where required by the process, Clubs shall allow sufficient time for AWFA EC to carry out an independent player assessment as the player must be cleared and notified to play by the AWFA Recorder before playing
- 4.37.4 Failure to comply with documentation in relation to exemptions listed above will result in the player without AWFA approval being deemed an ineligible player and shall be subject to any penalty as prescribed in these regulations.

#### **4.38 Coaches, Managers and Non-playing Members**

- 4.38.1 Clubs will be permitted to nominate coaches who are not accredited as long as the club fills the required 75% of accredited coaches. Coaches may only have one year as a non-accredited coach.
- 4.38.2 All Coaches, Managers and non-players such as Club Executive members shall apply for registration with AWFA.
- 4.38.3 For each application a charge as set by the EC shall be paid.
- 4.38.4 Coaches who have a current FA coaching accreditation will complete an application for coaching using the [AWFA16](#) form.
- 4.38.5 Coaches who have not coached prior and do not yet hold a current FA coaching accreditation will complete an application for coaching using the [AWFA08](#) form
- 4.38.6 Coaches, Managers and Non-playing members will also need to complete a Working with Children Check (WWCC) in the State that their Club is domiciled.
- 4.38.7 Each Club must maintain a register of its members and their WWCC credentials. This register must be made available to the Association upon request.
- 4.38.8 Where a Club fails to obtain its member’s WWCC credentials or fails to maintain an updated list, the club shall be fined an amount of \$200 for each offence.
- 4.38.9 Coaches holding an FA coaching accreditation need to provide evidence of the currency of their licence at the AWFA Recorder’s request.
- 4.38.10 Where a Coach or Manager is found to be not registered with AWFA and carries out responsibilities of either role, the responsible club shall be fined an amount of \$200 for each offence committed for a coach and \$100.00 for each offence committed for a Manager.
- 4.38.11 Coaches and Managers may be asked at any time by AWFA, to produce on request their Victorian and/or NSW Working with Children Check card. Failure to provide their current identification who result in a penalty being imposed as AWFA sees fit.

#### **4.39 Eligibility to play/coach/manage**



- 4.39.1 No club will play any player in any game of any nature controlled by AWFA or played against any team from outside the jurisdiction of AWFA unless that player is correctly registered with AWFA.
- 4.39.2 No person is considered accepted by the AWFA until the AWFA Registrar provides each Club Registrar with an eligibility list with the individual's name on it. Such lists will be provided at regular intervals throughout the season. It is the Club Registrar's duty to check these lists before all players take the field.

#### **4.40 Penalty for non-compliance**

- 4.40.1 Any person who is registered following a false statement by the individual or the club for which they are registered without which the registration would not have been issued, shall be considered an unregistered person. Their registration will be cancelled and the person and the club liable to such other penalties as the EC shall decide.
- 4.40.2 In the event of a player registration being found to be invalid due to an error on the part of AWFA or its agent, or by any person or persons issuing a clearance for such a registration and where the error was unknown to the player and to the club and in no way due to their actions, the AWFA shall notify the Club that the player is an unregistered player and ineligible to play. In such cases, no retrospective action will be taken against the player or the club, provided that the player does not play until such time as he/she can be correctly registered.
- 4.40.3 Any club who registers and plays a player who is at that time registered with another club either within or outside the jurisdiction of AWFA shall be guilty of having played an unregistered player and will be subject to any penalties as the EC sees fit.
- 4.40.4 The EC may grant permission to any club to play in a non-competitive, no cup game.
- 4.40.5 For any of these games for which the EC has granted permission, a player who is not currently registered for that club, may play for that club provided that any such player who is a registered player for any other club, either within AWFA or outside thereof shall have the written permission of the club for whom they are registered before playing in such a game.

## **5 SECTION 5 - DISCIPLINARY**

This section covers disciplinary matters which may be dealt with by one or more of the following bodies;

- a Disciplinary Committee (DC)
- b General Purpose Tribunal (GPT); and
- c Appeals Tribunal (AT)

### **5.1 Membership of Bodies**

#### **5.1.1 Appointment of DC Members**

The EC shall appoint two Disciplinary Administrators (DAs), of which one will be nominated as the chairperson, prior to the commencement of each playing season. The DA's shall establish a Disciplinary Committee (DC) which shall include the two DAs. The DA's have the power to appoint additional members as required

#### **5.1.2 Appointment of GPT Members**

- a Each Member Club will nominate one GPT member for consideration. This member shall not be a current member of the club.
- b Prospective members may also apply if not a member of a Member Club.
- c GPT members will be appointed by the Management Committee at the beginning of each season.
- d A minimum of three GPT Members are required for each hearing.
- e If the MC can't fill the minimum positions required, then the Executive Committee may appoint other persons suitably qualified to fill those roles.
- f The Management Committee may also appoint person(s) to sit on a Tribunal hearing who are not any of the aforementioned appointed GPT members if, in its opinion, a matter requires special attention or expertise.

#### **5.1.3 Appointment of AT Members**

- a The Executive shall appoint the Appeals Tribunal as and when required, consisting of at least three (3) members one of which will be appointed as the Chairperson
- b The Executive shall appoint suitable persons to the Appeals Tribunal who are not currently affiliated with any Member Clubs of the Association.

### **5.2 Composition of a Body**

#### **5.2.1 Disciplinary Committee**

- a The DC shall comprise of a minimum of two (2) members and maximum of three (3) in order to make valid determinations.

#### **5.2.2 General Purpose & Appeals Tribunals**

- a A Tribunal shall comprise a minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) Tribunal members (including the Chairperson) in order to make a valid

determination.

- b If any of the Committees or Tribunals has a split vote, the Chairperson will have the casting vote.
- c If a Tribunal member is unexpectedly unable to attend a scheduled hearing, the Tribunal's Determination will only be valid if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
  - i. the Tribunal comprises two (2) Tribunal members; and
  - ii. the parties to the hearing (including any Affected Party) consent to the matter proceeding in this manner; and
  - iii. the Determination is unanimous.

### **5.3 Qualification of Body Members**

- 5.3.1 Each member of a Body shall have:
  - a the ability to exercise independent judgment; and
  - b the requisite knowledge and/or experience of football, AWFA Regulations and FA Rules and Regulations.
  - c No member of the DC, GPT and AT shall be a current registered player, an 'active' referee, or a paid employee of AWFA.

### **5.4 Term**

- 5.4.1 Tribunal members shall be appointed for a term of twelve (12) months unless he or she has resigned or been removed as per the Regulations.

### **5.5 Resignation and Removal of Body Members**

- 5.5.1 A Member of a Body may resign by providing notice to the Executive Committee.
- 5.5.2 The Executive Committee may remove a member of a Body at any time in its absolute discretion.

### **5.6 Conduct of Body Members**

- 5.6.1 No member of the DC, GPT or AT should deliberate or recommend any matter in which their club (if they are a current member of) has an interest.
- 5.6.2 Members of the DC, GPT and AT shall not discuss proceedings of any meetings outside of the meeting.

### **5.7 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (DC)**

- 5.7.1 Jurisdiction
  - a The DC shall deal with send-off and incident reports provided by referees who officiated in the match where the report was generated. Officiation includes the time prior to the match and post-match.
  - b The DC shall deal with any other matter(s) that the EC refers to it.

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- c Pursuant to section 5.8.2, the Disciplinary Committee may, in its absolute discretion, refer any matter to the GPT if it considers the matter requires consideration by a Tribunal.
- d The DA's or DC reserve the right to refer any incident reports to the EC.
- e Penalties for Incident Report offences will be determined on their merits by the DA's or the DC.
- f The DA's and the DC shall have the power to issue the appropriate sentence to any person(s) or member club(s) found guilty under:
  - i. The laws of football;
  - ii. Breaches of AWFA regulations
  - iii. FNSW regulations and Statutes
  - iv. FA Statutes and codes of conduct

### 5.7.2 Disciplinary Committee Process

- a Referees will submit incident reports (AWFA Form 24), cautions or send offs (AWFA Form 05) within 72 hours from the end of the fixture.
- b In the event of the Referees Report not being available to the DA's within 72 hours, the case may still be heard.
- c A Notification of Suspension form which includes the penalty applied, will be forwarded to any Clubs where a player(s) has been reported for an offence, other than a caution.
- d A Notice to Appear form will be forwarded to a Club where their player(s) is required to appear before the DC.
- e The DA may request additional information or seek clarification from referees regarding send-off/incident reports. This will be provided to the Club of the charged person.
- f The DA's shall maintain a 'Disciplinary file' which shall contain case histories of all players who have had cases reviewed by the DA's or appeared before the DC and the Appeals Board and this file shall contain records of all cautions received and penalties imposed to players in games under the jurisdiction of AWFA.
- g The DC, in addition to written evidence, may hear evidence from any Referee, Assistant Referee, Player, Official or any other persons as it sees fit.
- h If a suspended player elects to appear before the Disciplinary Board, the DA's will convene a meeting of the DC to hear the matter.
- i At any hearing of the DC, the accused has the right to produce any material which may be considered relevant (e.g. documents, statements, photographs and video material).
- j However, any of the above material may only be used with respect to a matter of fact, never a matter of interpretation. For example, to show that it was not this player who committed the send-off offence.

- k It is, of course, a matter for the DC to decide what weight, if any, should be given to any such evidence, how reliable it is, how far it goes towards proving or otherwise a particular fact.
- l Suspended players or officials (including club or match) are not allowed to play or officiate in any form on match days, whilst awaiting an appeal hearing.
- m The DA's will notify clubs of penalties given by the DC. In the case of penalties for yellow card accumulations, clubs should not prevent their player(s) from playing until notified by the DA's.

#### 5.7.3 Determination

- a The Disciplinary Committee must determine Suspensions based on Match Official Reports as per the Table of Offences in Table 5.1.
- b The Disciplinary Committee must take into consideration a Participant's disciplinary history when determining a Suspension. For the avoidance of doubt, a Participant's disciplinary history is that as held by the DA's or DC, AWFA, Football NSW, Football Victoria and any other member federation of FA. Should the player have a history of offences a penalty greater than that set out in the Table of Offences in Table 5.1 may be applied.
- c The Disciplinary Committee must set out any Suspension in a Notice of Suspension which shall be issued by the DA's/DC to a Participant's Club as soon as is practicable.
- d The Disciplinary Committee may, in its absolute discretion, refer any matter to the GPT prior to reaching a verdict pursuant to section [5.8.2](#) (Referral from the Disciplinary Committee) if it considers a matter requires consideration by a Tribunal.
- e A Participant may only challenge a Suspension issued in accordance with this section 5.7 on the following bases:
  - i. in accordance with section 5.7.4 (Challenge on the basis of mistaken identity on a team sheet or in a Match Official Send-Off Report or Incident Report);  
or
  - ii. in accordance with section 5.7.5 (Challenge on the basis of exceptional circumstances).
- f Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations, the imposition of a Suspension in accordance with this section 5.7 has immediate effect.
- g All such Suspensions remain in force unless reversed by a Body and a Participant must continue to serve any Suspension until the Suspension is served in full.
- h Where a Participant has a right of challenge or appeal pursuant to sections 5.7, that challenge or appeal may be brought by the Participant's Club on the Participant's behalf and any obligations imposed on a Participant in terms of compliance with those sections apply equally to the Participant's Club.
- i All incident reports and appeals conclusions will be reported to the MC.

#### 5.7.4 Challenging a Decision on the basis of Mistaken Identity on a Team Sheet or in a Match Official Send-Off or Incident Report.

- a If a Participant claims that he or she was mistakenly identified in a Match Official

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Send-off or Incident Report, he or she (or the Participant's Club on the Participant's behalf) must notify the Disciplinary Committee by submitting the following:

i. Match Official Send-Off Report:

**WHAT:**

**COMPULSORY:** a signed written statement by the Participant who was reported by the Match Official in a Match Official Send Off Report that he or she was not responsible for the Offence and identifying to the best of their knowledge the name of the Participant responsible (**Prescribed Form DISP04**); AND

**OPTION 1:** a signed written statement by the Participant who was responsible for the Offence (**Prescribed Form DISP05**); OR

**OPTION 2:** a signed written statement from the Club identifying to the best of its knowledge the name of the Participant who was responsible for the Offence (**Prescribed Form DISP06**).

**WHEN:**

By 4pm the next working day following the completion of the Match.

**HOW:**

Email a signed **Prescribed Form DISP04** (compulsory) and **Prescribed Form DISP05** or **Prescribed Form DISP06** to [da@awfa.asn.au](mailto:da@awfa.asn.au).

ii. Match Official Incident Report:

**WHAT:**

**COMPULSORY:** a signed written statement by the Participant who was reported by the Match Official in a Match Official Incident Report that he or she was not responsible for the Offence and identifying to the best of their knowledge the name of the Participant responsible (**Prescribed Form DISP07**); AND

**OPTION 1:** a signed written statement by the Participant responsible for the Offence (**Prescribed Form DISP08**); OR

**OPTION 2:** a signed written statement from the Club identifying to the best of its knowledge the name of the Participant responsible for the Offence (**Prescribed Form DISP09**).

**WHEN:**

By 4pm the next working day following the issuance of the Match Incident Report to the Club.

**HOW:**

Email a signed **Prescribed Form DISP07** (compulsory) and **Prescribed Form 08** or **Prescribed Form 09** to [da@afwa.asn.au](mailto:da@afwa.asn.au).

- b Members should note that the time limit set out above is strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive in its absolute

discretion), if a Member fails to comply with the requirements prescribed under section 5.7.4.a by the time specified therein, the Participant identified on the team sheet or in the Match Official Send-Off Report is deemed to have been responsible for the Offence and may, subject to the DC's consideration of the matter, be issued with a Notice of Suspension. Further, that Participant is deemed to have waived their right to challenge under this section 5.7.

- c After considering the evidence, the DA's/DC will decide whether the claim for mistaken identity should be rejected or upheld.
- d If the Disciplinary Committee rejects a claim for mistaken identity, the original decision set out in the Notice of Suspension applies.
- e If the DC rejects a claim for mistaken identity and:
  - i. a Notice of Suspension in relation to the matter has already been issued to the Participant, the original decision set out in the Notice of Suspension continues to apply; or
  - ii. a Notice of Suspension in relation to the matter has **not** already been issued to the Participant, the DC will determine the Suspension, and issue a Notice of Suspension to the Participant's Club, pursuant to section 5.7.3 (Determination).
- f If the DA's/DC consider that a rejected claim for mistaken identity had no prospects of success and amounted to an abuse of process, it shall refer the matter to the EC who may charge the Participant and/or the Club for Misconduct pursuant to section 5.8.3 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).
- g If the DA's/DC uphold the mistaken identity claim, a Notice of Suspension shall be issued to the appropriate identified Participant, who shall serve the Suspension immediately. The Notice of Suspension issued to the original Participant will be rescinded.
- h The decision made by the DA's/DC will be conveyed to the Club.

#### 5.7.5 Challenging a Notice of Suspension – Exceptional Circumstances

- a. This section is intended to apply only in exceptional circumstances. It is envisaged that, in the vast majority of matters, any Suspension set out in a Notice of Suspension will be appropriate and will be applied. The provisions set out in this section are not intended to encourage or lead to the systematic or regular review of standard Suspensions and are reserved for exceptional cases only.
- b. A Participant (or the Participant's Club on the Participant's behalf) may in very limited circumstances seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of a Suspension by demonstrating to the Disciplinary Committee that the circumstances of an incident leading to a Suspension were exceptional, such that the Suspension that has been notified would be clearly and demonstrably excessive.
- c. Exceptional circumstances mean circumstances operating at the time of the Offence and relating to the commission of the Offence and not to the impact which a sanction may have.
- d. The following **may** constitute exceptional circumstances:
  - i. a Participant may have an intellectual or physical disability;

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- ii. a Participant has experienced a recent trauma within the family; and
  - iii. any other personal circumstance that may have contributed towards a Participant's actions which lead to the Offence being committed.
- e. The following **do not** constitute exceptional circumstances:
- i. the significance or importance to the Participant or his or her Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed;
  - ii. the significance or importance of any Match, Fixture or tournament in which the Participant will be ineligible to participate because of the imposition of a Suspension given within the range in the Table of Offences (Schedule 3);
  - iii. the point in the Match at which the Offence was committed;
  - iv. the conduct, including actions, words or gestures of any Participant during or related to the Match; and
  - v. any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision by a Match Official during the Match.
- f. participants bringing a challenge under this section may not challenge the offence via mistaken identity under section 5.7.4.
- g. In considering a claim of this type, the DA's/DC is concerned with only the question of whether the Suspension should be altered in view of the circumstances of the case. The DA's/DC is not to usurp the role of the Match Official and the correctness of any decision to issue a Red Card shall not be subject to any scrutiny by the DA's/DC. A Participant is not eligible to challenge a Suspension where the Disciplinary Committee has issued the minimum Suspension.
- h. If a Participant wishes to lodge a challenge to a Suspension based on exceptional circumstances under this section 5.7.5, the Participant must submit the following:
- i. **WHAT:**
    - a. **COMPULSORY:** A signed written statement (**Prescribed Form DISP10**) by the Participant setting out the grounds upon which he or she believes the Suspension set out in the Notice of Suspension should not be applied; **AND**
    - b. **OPTION 1:** video or photo evidence; **AND/OR**
    - c. **OPTION 2:** signed written statements by other Members.
  - ii. **WHEN:**
    - a. By 4pm on the next working day after the issuance of a Notice of Suspension by the DA's/DC.
  - iii. **HOW:**
    - a. Email a signed **Prescribed Form DISP10** to [da@awfa.asn.au](mailto:da@awfa.asn.au).
- i. Members should note that the time limit set out above is strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive in its absolute discretion), if a Member fails to comply with the requirements prescribed under section 5.10.8 by the time specified therein, the Participant is deemed to accepted the Suspension and have waived their right to challenge under this section 5.7.5.



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- j. The DA's/DC may in its absolute discretion request for further additional information from AWFA or the Participant prior to making a decision.
- k. After considering the evidence, the DA's/DC will decide whether the challenge is to be rejected or is successful.
- l. A challenge will only be successful under this section 5.7.5 where it satisfies the DA's/DC that:
  - i. the circumstances of the Suspension under review are exceptional; and
  - ii. as a result of the exceptional circumstances the Suspension would be clearly excessive.
- m. If the DA's/DC consider that the rejected challenge had no prospect of success and amounts to an abuse of process, it shall refer the matter to the GPT who may charge the Participant and/or the Participant's Club for Misconduct pursuant to section 5.8.3 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).
- n. If the DA's/DC uphold the challenge, it shall impose such Suspension, if any, as it deems to be appropriate taking into consideration the circumstances of the subject incident, which revised Suspension shall not be subject to any further challenge or appeal.
- o. The decision made by the Disciplinary Committee will be conveyed to the Club.

### 5.7.6 Disciplinary Committee Hearings

- a. Should a charged person elect to attend a Disciplinary Board Hearing, the returned Notice of Suspension form and applicable fee must be provided by the time and date specified on the Notice of Suspension. Members should note that the time limit set out is strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive in its absolute discretion), if a Member fails meet the timeframe, the Participant is deemed to have accepted the Suspension and have waived their right to challenge under this section 5.7.6.
- b. The member's club will be notified of the date and time of the hearing.
- c. At any hearing of the DC, the accused has the right to produce any material which may be considered relevant (e.g. documents, statements, photographs and video material).
- d. However, any of the above material may only be used with respect to a matter of fact, never a matter of interpretation. For example, to show that it was not this player who committed the send-off offence.
- e. It is, of course, a matter for the DC to decide what weight, if any, should be given to any such evidence, how reliable it is, how far it goes towards proving or otherwise a particular fact.
- f. **Advocates.** Any charged person who chooses to attend a DC hearing must be accompanied by a club advocate. For the purpose of this regulation a club advocate is:
  - i. Club President,
  - ii. Club Vice President,
  - iii. Club Secretary,

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- iv. Club Treasurer,
- v. Club Disciplinary Officers; or
- vi. A person nominated to the DC by the club with the return of the Election to Appear Notice. This person must be acceptable to the DC chairperson.
- g. A member of a Club who has been nominated as an advocate who is also a solicitor, may act as advocate for an accused person in their official Club capacity; but no more than in that capacity.
- h. Non-attendance of an Advocate will mean the case will be deferred and the case will be held over to the next available hearing. The charged person is ineligible to participate in any capacity until the case is heard.
- i. The responsibilities of the Advocate are:
  - i. to ensure the charged person and witnesses behave in a respectful manner whilst setting a good example themselves;
  - ii. to help the charged person and witnesses with their evidence whilst not giving direct evidence themselves.
  - iii. to hear all evidence on which the DC makes its determination. That is, the Advocate may be present throughout any hearing, when evidence which is considered is to be heard or presented.
- j. Advocates, charged persons or witnesses who display disrespectful behaviour before the DC shall be reported and will be dealt with by the EC.

### 5.7.7 Appealing a Decision of the Disciplinary Committee

- a. Subject to section 5.9.2 (Grounds of Appeal), the decision of the Disciplinary Committee in relation to claims of mistaken identity (section 5.7.4) and exceptional circumstances (section 5.7.5) may be appealed to the Appeals Tribunal pursuant to section 5.9 (Appeals Tribunal). Only the Participant who bought the challenge, and AWFA EC have standing to appeal these matters to the Appeals Tribunal. (additional to clarify and to match FNSW)
- b. For an appeal from the Disciplinary Committee Hearing pursuant to section 5.7.6, only the Participant who elected to attend the hearing, and the AWFA EC have standing to appeal these matters to the Appeals Tribunal. (additional to clarify and to match FNSW)
- c. A person wishing to appeal a decision to the Appeals Tribunal must submit a Notice of Appeal of a DC (Prescribed Form DISP11) within 24 hours of the DC hearing to the Secretary of the AWFA.
- d. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the Participant should note that the time limits set out above are strict. If AWFA does not receive a Notice of Appeal of a decision of DC and the Application Fee (see Schedule of Fees) by the time specified in section 5.7.7 then the Participant has waived his or her right to appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Committee under this section.
- e. The AWFA Secretary shall then as soon as practicable call together an Appeals Tribunal.
- f. If an Appeals Tribunal cannot be formed prior to the following match(es) the

person(s) is ineligible to play or participate until the appeal has been heard.

## **5.8 GENERAL PURPOSES TRIBUNAL (GPT)**

### **5.8.1 Jurisdiction**

- a. The GPT will be responsible for hearing and determining in accordance with these Regulations:
  - i. Referral of a Matter by the Disciplinary Committee
  - ii. charges of Misconduct and Disrepute referred to it (5.8.3);
  - iii. Grievances between Members (5.8.4);
  - iv. any other matter the Executive Committee considers important to the interests of football.
- b. Such a decision is to be at the absolute discretion of the Executive.

### **5.8.2 Referral from the Disciplinary Committee.**

- a. If a referral is made by the Disciplinary Committee, the GPT will issue the Participant with a Notice of Charge within 3 working days of the referral and the Participant is required to submit a Notice of Response (Prescribed Form DISP15) to [secretary@awfa.asn.au](mailto:secretary@awfa.asn.au) by the date specified in the Notice of Charge.

### **5.8.3 Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute**

- a. The Executive may investigate any matter which in its opinion is relevant to whether or not a charge of Misconduct or Disrepute ought to be laid. Such investigation may be initiated on the basis of a report of a Member, a complaint by a Member or on the basis of any other evidence which in the opinion of the Executive, is credible.
- b. Such investigation may be carried out by the Executive (or the DC) as it sees fit and Members are required to cooperate fully with any investigation and must do so within the timeframe specified in any correspondence issued by AWFA. A Member agrees that any information provided to AWFA may be used as evidence in bringing a charge under this section 5.8 and may be provided to any party so charged.
- c. A Member who fails to comply with section 5.8.3.b will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 5.8.3) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Member pursuant to this section 5.8.
- d. At any time, the Executive may determine whether any charge of Misconduct or Disrepute is to be laid and in relation to such charge whether:
  - i. a notice of charge is to be issued in respect of the matter; or
  - ii. it is to be referred to the GPT/DC; or
  - iii. it is to be dealt with in any other manner which the Executive deems appropriate. and
  - iv. such determination will be at the absolute discretion of the Executive and not be capable of review.
- e. If a charge has been laid by the AWFA Executive, it will issue a [Notice of Charge](#)

[\(DISP 12\)](#) against the Member. The Notice of Charge will set out, amongst other things, details of the charge and the requirements for the Member. A Member charged must submit a [Notice of Response \(DISP 15\)](#) to secretary@awfa.asn.au by the date specified in the Notice of Charge.

- f. A Member issued with a Notice of Charge by AWFA may either:
  - i. accepts the charge(s) and the penalty(ies) proposed by submitting to AWFA a completed and signed Notice of Response; or
  - ii. refer the charge(s) to the General Purposes Tribunal for hearing in accordance with section 5.8.3(h). The Executive may also refer the charge(s) to the General Purposes Tribunal for hearing in its absolute discretion at any time.
- g. Where a Member accepts a Notice of Charge in accordance with section 5.8.3(f) (i), the following applies:
  - i. the penalties set out in the Notice of Charge will be applied;
  - ii. a Determination will be issued to the Member; and
  - iii. the Member forfeits their right of appeal.
- h. If a Member wants to refer a Notice of Charge to the General Purposes Tribunal for hearing in accordance with section 5.8.3(f)ii., the Member must, by the date and time specified in the Notice of Charge:
  - i. submit to AWFA a completed and signed Notice of Response;
  - ii. submit to AWFA all supporting material, including any additional evidence;
  - iii. unless the Member has already done so as part of the Executive's investigation into the matter, submit a written statement setting out the Member's version of the incident(s) alleged; and
  - iv. submit to AWFA any written submissions the Member intends to rely on.
- i. If the Executive has advised the Member that the charge(s) are to be referred directly to the General Purposes Tribunal for hearing in accordance with section 5.8.3 (f)ii., the Member must, by the date and time specified in the Notice of Charge:
  - i. submit to AWFA a completed and signed Notice of Response;
  - ii. submit to AWFA all supporting material, including any additional evidence;
  - iii. unless the Member has already done so as part of the Executive's investigation into the matter, submit a written statement setting out the Member's version of the incident(s) alleged; and
  - iv. submit to AWFA any written submissions the Member intends to rely on.
- j. In the Notice of Response, the Member must:
  - i. indicate whether the Member pleads guilty to the Offence(s) and accepts the penalty(ies) proposed (if any); or
  - ii. indicate whether the Member pleads guilty to the Offence(s) but disputes

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- iii. some or all of the facts alleged and/or the penalty(ies) proposed; or
- iv. indicate whether the Member pleads not guilty to the Offence(s); and
- v. advise the names of any witnesses attending the hearing and attach written statements from those witnesses; and
- vi. indicate whether the Member will be represented by a lawyer and/or accompanied by a support person (if relevant) and provide their name and contact details (i.e., mobile telephone number and email address)
- k. A Member who pleads guilty in a Notice of Response may be eligible for leniency by a Tribunal in respect of the penalty imposed but not below the applicable Minimum Sanction/Suspension.
- l. Where a Participant the subject of a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report is also the subject of a Match Official Incident Report or some other complaint arising out of or in relation to the same Match, the Executive may (in its absolute discretion) deal with all related matters in accordance with this section 5.8.
- m. Members should note that time limits are strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive in its absolute discretion) if the Member:
  - i. fails to accept a Notice of Charge in accordance with section 5.8.3(f)i.;
  - ii. fails to refer a Notice of Charge in accordance with the requirements prescribed under section 5.8.3(h) including payment of the Application Fee; or
  - iii. in the case where the Executive has referred the charge(s) directly to the General Purposes Tribunal for hearing, fails to comply with the requirements prescribed under section 5.8.3(i),  
by the time specified in the Notice of Charge, the Member is deemed to have accepted the Notice of Charge (and its annexures) and the following applies:
    - iv. the Member is deemed to have pleaded guilty to the charge(s) set out in the Notice of Charge;
    - v. the penalty(ies) proposed in the Notice of Charge will be applied; or
    - vi. if no penalty(ies) is proposed in the Notice of Charge, the General Purposes Tribunal can proceed ex parte and determine the penalty(ies) in the Member's absence (an ex parte Determination of the General Purposes Tribunal has the same force and effect as if it was made after a full hearing before the General Purposes at which the Member was present); and
    - vii. a Determination will be issued; and
    - viii. the Member forfeits their right of appeal.
- n. For the avoidance of doubt, the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, cite a Participant to appear before the General Purposes Tribunal in relation to:
  - i. a Red Card; or
  - ii. a serious infringement that escaped the Match Official's attention and may use this section 5.8.3 to do so.

- o. Whether certain conduct amounts to a “serious infringement” for the purposes of section 5.8.3(n) and (n)ii. is to be determined by the Executive in its absolute discretion, however, generally speaking, a Red Card Offence (except an R4, R5 and R7), will amount to a “serious infringement”.
- p. For the further avoidance of doubt, any decision by the Executive to cite a Participant under section 5.8.3(n) and any determination that certain conduct amounts to a “serious infringement” under section 5.8.3(o) is final and may not be challenged before a Body. The issues of guilt and/or sanction in respect of the conduct cited remain a matter for the Body.

#### 5.8.4 Grievances

- a. A Grievance will only be accepted by the AWFA if sections 5.8.4.c to 5.8.4.e have been satisfied.
- b. The AWFA EC may in its unfettered discretion decide not to refer to the GPT or to dismiss any Grievance which it determines is a Vexatious Claim.
- c. Before referring any Grievance to the AWFA Executive, any Member making a Claim (Claimant) or a Complaint (Complainant) must write to the other Member involved in the subject matter of the Grievance (Respondent) with details of the Claim or Complaint (as the case may require) allowing the Respondent at least seven (7) business days to respond. The Respondent’s reply must include reasons for any disagreement with the details of the Claim or Complaint (as the case may require).
- d. If a response is not received within seven (7) business days of the notice from the Claimant or Complainant referred to in section 5.8.4.c or the Claim or Complaint is not otherwise resolved, the Claimant or Complainant may in writing refer the Grievance to the AWFA Executive.
- e. In the first instance, a Grievance will be dealt with by mediation pursuant to section 5.20 (Mediation) unless, in its absolute discretion, the AWFA believes that a Grievance should be referred to a GPT immediately.
- f. In the case of a Grievance between Members pursuant to section 5.8.4 all written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence supplied to AWFA will be provided to the other parties (including an Affected Party) involved in the matter.

#### 5.8.5 GPT Hearings

- a. Should a charged person elect to attend a GPT Hearing, The member’s club will be notified of the date and time of the hearing.
- b. Submissions by a Party:
  - i. For a hearing before the General Purposes Tribunal in relation to a charge(s) of Misconduct pursuant to [section 5.8.3](#), the accused (that is, the Member the subject of the charge(s)) must provide to AWFA a copy of any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence the accused intends to rely on in the hearing along with a completed Notice of Response by the due date specified in the Notice of Charge or such other date specified by AWFA.
  - ii. In the case of a Grievance between Members pursuant to [section 5.8.4](#)

- (Grievances), the Claimant or Complainant, as the case may be, must provide to AWFA a copy of any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence it intends to rely on in the mediation and/or hearing at the time of submitting a Grievance Form. The Respondent and/or an Affected Party must provide to AWFA a copy of any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence it intends to rely on in the mediation and/or hearing by the due date specified by AWFA.
- iii. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive, in its absolute discretion), AWFA will not accept any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence submitted after the submission of a Notice of Response, Notice of Appeal or after any other due date specified by AWFA.
  - iv. In the case of a General Purposes Tribunal hearing in relation to charges of Misconduct all evidence supplied to AWFA in relation to an accused that the Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, is relevant to the hearing, will be provided to that accused.
- c. Any charged person attending DC hearings must be accompanied by a club advocate. For the purpose of this regulation a club advocate is:
- i. Club President,
  - ii. Club Vice President,
  - iii. Club Secretary,
  - iv. Club Treasurer,
  - v. Club Disciplinary Officers; or
  - vi. A person nominated to the DC by the club with the return of the Election to Appear Notice. This person must be acceptable to the DC chairperson.
- d. If a Club is attending a GPT hearing, only Executive members of that Club may appear on behalf of the Club.
- e. The responsibilities of the Advocate are:
- i. to help the charged person and witnesses with their evidence whilst not giving direct evidence themselves;
  - ii. to ensure the charged person and witnesses behave in a respectful manner whilst setting a good example themselves; and
  - iii. To hear all evidence on which the DC makes its determination. That is, the Advocate may be present throughout any hearing, when evidence which is considered is to be heard or presented.
- f. Advocates, charged persons or witnesses who display disrespectful behaviour before the GPT shall be reported and will be dealt with by the EC.
- g. Nonattendance of an Advocate without a valid excuse will mean that the sentence stands otherwise the case may be deferred and be held over to the next available hearing. The charged person is ineligible to participate in any capacity until the case is heard.

#### 5.8.6 Decisions of the GPT

- a. The GPT Determination will be in accordance with majority opinion of the GPT members.
- b. The types of decisions that the GPT may issue are set out in the Table of Offences (Schedule 3) and may include (but not limited to) a finding, directive, Suspension, banning, fine or such other action as reasonably determined by the GPT.
- c. If a fine is imposed, the GPT shall determine the terms of payment.
- d. Any decision issued under this section 5.8.6 may be combined.
- e. Any failure to comply with a Determination of the GPT is itself a breach of these Regulations and may be considered in contempt of a Tribunal pursuant to section 5.19.
- f. A short oral or written indication of the outcome of the hearing by the GPT shall be provided to the parties within two (2) working days of the completion of the hearing. A full written Determination, with reasons given for the decision, will be provided within fourteen (14) working days, if requested by a party in writing.

#### 5.8.7 Appealing a Decision of the GPT

- a. The decision of the GPT in relation to charges of Misconduct and Disrepute (Section 5.8.3), Grievances (section 5.8.4) subject to section [5.9.3 \(Appeal from a GPT in relation to a Grievance\)](#), referrals from the AWFA EC, and referrals from the Disciplinary Committee (section 5.8.2) may be appealed to the Appeals Tribunal pursuant to [section 5.9](#).
- b. A Member wishing to appeal a decision of the GPT to the Appeals Tribunal must submit a Notice of Appeal of a GPT (Prescribed Form DISP16) to [secretary@awfa.asn.au](mailto:secretary@awfa.asn.au) within five (5) days of the decision of the GPT being sent to the Club together with the relevant Application Fee.
- c. A decision of the GPT in relation to a charge(s) of Misconduct and Disrepute (section 5.8.3) may only be appealed by the AWFA EC, and the Member(s) who are the subject of the charge(s) before that GPT but only in respect of the charge(s) against that Member.
- d. A decision of the GPT in relation to a Grievance (section 5.8.4) may only be appealed by the AWFA EC, and the Member(s) (including any Affected Party) who appeared before that GPT.
- e. Other decisions of the GPT may only be appealed by the AWFA EC, and the Member(s) who appeared before that GPT..
- f. The time limits set out above are strict and only a properly completed Notice of Appeal which is received by the AWFA before the expiry of the relevant time limits will be considered by the Appeals Tribunal.

### 5.9 APPEALS TRIBUNAL (AT)

#### 5.9.1 Jurisdiction:

- a. The Appeals Tribunal will be responsible for hearing and determining appeals from the:



- i. DC pursuant to [section 5.7.7](#) but subject to section 5.9.2; and
- ii. GPT pursuant to [sections 5.8.7](#) but subject to sections 5.9.2 and 5.9.3.

5.9.2 Grounds of Appeal:

- a. The sole grounds of an appeal to the Appeals Tribunal are:
  - i. a party was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to present its case;
  - ii. lack or excess of jurisdiction;
  - iii. the decision of the Body was affected by actual bias;
  - iv. the decision was one that was not reasonably open to the tribunal having regard to the evidence before the Body; or
  - v. severity (more than 6 matches/fixtures).

5.9.3 Appeal from a GPT in Relation to a Grievance:

- a. No appeal can be brought from a decision of the GPT in relation to a Grievance except with leave from the Appeals Tribunal granted in accordance with this section 5.9.3.
- b. Any Notice of Appeal of a GPT in relation to a Grievance received by AWFA must be referred, within three (3) working days of receipt, to the AWFA secretary for determination by the AT Chairperson as to whether leave should be granted for the Appeal to proceed.
- c. The Chairperson of the AT shall determine, within seven (7) working days of receipt of a Notice of Appeal referred under section 5.9.3.b, whether leave to appeal should be granted and the outcome of such determination shall be communicated in writing to the party lodging the appeal within ten (10) working days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal.
- d. In determining whether leave to appeal should be granted, the Chairperson of the AT shall have regard to:
  - i. the grounds of appeal set out in the Notice of Appeal;
  - ii. whether any obvious error on the part of the GPT has been identified;
  - iii. the prospects of success of the appeal; and
  - iv. the nature and significance of the Grievance and the subject of the decision being appealed;
- e. If the AT decides that leave to appeal should not be granted, it may, in its absolute discretion recommend that all or part of the Appeal Fee should be refunded.
- f. If leave to appeal is granted, an appeal lodged pursuant to this section shall proceed and be determined in the same manner as all other appeals determined by the AT.

5.9.4 Submissions by a Party:

- a. In the case of an Appeals Tribunal hearing, the appellant must provide to AWFA a copy of any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence it intends to rely on in the hearing, written copies of the determinations made by lower tribunals (or similar) and copies of the Association Member's, Referees Body's or Centre's constitution and disciplinary rules and regulations (if

relevant) at the time of submitting a Notice of Appeal. The Respondent and/or an Affected Party must provide to AWFA a copy of any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence it intends to rely on in the hearing by the due date specified by AWFA.

- b. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive, in its absolute discretion), AWFA will not accept any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence submitted after the submission of a Notice of Response, Notice of Appeal or after any other due date specified by AWFA.
- c. In the case of an Appeals Tribunal hearing, all written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence supplied to AWFA will be provided to the other parties (including an Affected Party) involved in the matter.

#### 5.9.5 Decisions of the Appeals Tribunal:

- a. The AT Determination will be in accordance with majority opinion of the AT members.
- b. The AT has the power to:
  - i. dismiss, allow in whole or part, or vary (whether by way of reduction or increase) a decision including any sanction or penalty imposed by the Body;
  - ii. impose any sanction, measure or make any order the AT thinks fit or a decision that the Body could have imposed under these Regulations.
- c. A failure to comply with a Determination of the AT is itself a breach of these Regulations and will be considered in contempt of a Tribunal.
- d. A short oral or written indication of the outcome of the hearing shall be provided to the parties within five (5) business days of the completion of the hearing with a full written Determination, with reasons given for the decision, will be provided within twenty-one (21) business days, if requested by a party in writing.

### 5.10 NO RECOURSE TO COURTS

- 5.10.1 Any Determination by the AT will be final and binding on the parties to the appeal and no person may institute or maintain proceedings in any court of law or tribunal in relation to such Determination (other than the limited right of appeal to the relevant authority).

### 5.11 Match Official Reports and Attendance of Match Officials at Tribunals

- 5.11.1 Any Match Official Report or any other report provided by a Match Official in relation to any matter before the Tribunal will stand as the Match Official's statement of evidence, unless the Match Official determines to also provide oral evidence at the hearing.
- 5.11.2 The ordinary position is that, unless a Member provides prior notification to AWFA that a Match Official is required for cross-examination, it is deemed that the Match Official is not required for cross-examination and the Match Official's record of events is not challenged for factual matters.
- 5.11.3 Provided the Match Official is available by telephone, if required, their physical presence at a Tribunal in relation to any matter before the Tribunal is not mandatory for the matter to proceed, unless otherwise so directed by the Tribunal.
- 5.11.4 For the avoidance of doubt, any Match Official Report or any other report provided by a

Match Official will stand as the facts of the alleged event. The onus will rest with the party challenging the facts of the event to establish to the required standard that the facts as recorded are inaccurate or otherwise misrepresent the event.

## **5.12 Parent/Guardian**

- 5.12.1 Unless a Tribunal determines otherwise, a party or witness who is under the age of eighteen (18) years at the date of a Tribunal hearing must be accompanied at that hearing by a parent, legal guardian, Club Official or Team Official.
- 5.12.2 In the case of a Match Official, section 5.12.1 is taken to have been complied with if the Match Official is accompanied by a representative of the Match Official's Referees Body.

## **5.13 Non-Attendance**

- 5.13.1 If any Member who has been properly notified of a Tribunal hearing fails to attend a Tribunal hearing without establishing exceptional circumstances for such failure to the satisfaction of the Tribunal, in its absolute discretion:
- a the hearing can proceed *ex parte* and be determined in that Member's absence, including as to determination on the merits and/or sanction. An *ex parte* Determination of a Tribunal has the same force and effect as if it was made after a full hearing before that Tribunal at which the Member was present; and
  - b the Tribunal may impose sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with these Regulations for the Member's non-attendance or make recommendations to the Executive to issue a Notice of Charge pursuant to section 5.8.3 (Charges of Misconduct).

## **5.14 Adjournment**

- 5.14.1 In the event a Member requires an adjournment of a Tribunal hearing, the Member must apply in writing to AWFA no later than two (2) working days before the scheduled date of that Tribunal hearing.
- 5.14.2 AWFA will refer requests for adjournment to the Tribunal and may require evidence from the Member to substantiate the basis for the request. In considering whether to grant the adjournment, the Tribunal will consider whether the Member has established exceptional circumstances warranting the adjournment, including avoiding significant costs, hardship or inconvenience to the Member.
- 5.14.3 Any decision to adjourn a hearing will be at the absolute discretion of the Tribunal.
- 5.14.4 Members acknowledge that the Tribunal meets after normal business hours and during the working week. Given the sometimes large number of parties and witnesses involved in a Tribunal hearing and the need to resolve matters in an expeditious manner, it will not always be possible to accommodate adjournment applications.

## **5.15 General Conduct of Tribunal Hearings**

- 5.15.1 A Tribunal will not be bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to proceedings in courts of law.

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- 5.15.2 A Tribunal may have regard to, but will not be bound by, its previous Determinations. The General Purpose Tribunal will be bound by Determinations of the Appeals Tribunal.
- 5.15.3 All hearings must be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
- 5.15.4 A Tribunal may conduct the hearing in any manner it sees fit provided that:
- a the questioning of all parties is to be through the chairperson of the hearing, unless that chairperson determines otherwise;
  - b unless section 5.13 (Non-attendance) applies, an accused must be present (in person or via telephone/video) while a Tribunal receives **any** oral evidence against that accused;
  - c all parties are given a reasonable opportunity to be heard; and
  - d the hearing is conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as proper consideration of the matters before it permits.
- 5.15.5 A Tribunal is empowered to:
- a take evidence, subject to section 5.15.11. The admissibility and weight to be given to any evidence in a hearing will be at the absolute discretion of a Tribunal but Members acknowledge that less weight may be given to the evidence of a witness or party who is not available for cross-examination by a Tribunal;
  - b require the attendance of any Member to give evidence;
  - c permit any witness to give evidence via telephone or video over internet (for example, via “skype”);
  - d require the production of any document, information or other evidence, in whatever form, held by any Member; and
  - e inform itself on any matter or thing in order to properly carry out its function in accordance with these Regulations.
- 5.15.6 If a Tribunal is not satisfied to the required standard that a charge(s) before it has been proved but is satisfied that a different charge(s) has been proved, then provided the Member has been given an opportunity to address the Tribunal in relation to the different charge(s), the Tribunal must find the Member guilty of the different charge(s) and apply the appropriate sanction. A Tribunal may, in its absolute discretion, grant a Member an adjournment for the purposes of answering the different charge(s).
- 5.15.7 Prior to a hearing, AWFA must provide to a Tribunal a copy of a Member’s Disciplinary History. A Tribunal must take into account the Member’s Disciplinary History in determining any appropriate sanction. The General Purpose Tribunal must not refer to the Member’s Disciplinary History until after it has made a determination in respect of guilt. To the extent it is possible to do so in the circumstances, the Appeals Tribunal should not refer to the Member’s Disciplinary History until after it has made a determination in respect of guilt.
- 5.15.8 If a Tribunal finds that the charge(s) has been proved against a Member, then prior to imposing any penalty or sanction, it must invite the Member to make submissions to the Tribunal on the question of what penalty or sanction, if any, ought to be imposed.
- 5.15.9 If a Tribunal intends to adjourn to consider whether the charge(s) has been proved against a Member, then, prior to adjourning, it must invite the Member to make

submissions to the Tribunal on the question of what penalty or sanction, if any, ought to be imposed.

- 5.15.10 For the avoidance of doubt, AWFA or its representatives may ask questions of the accused, make submissions in relation to any evidence and make submissions on the question of what penalty or sanction, if any, ought to be imposed.
- 5.15.11 Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Appeals Tribunal, in its absolute discretion), in determining any appeal under section 5.9.2.a.iv or 5.9.2.a.v or section 5.9.3 (Appeal from a GPT in relation to a Grievance), the Appeals Tribunal must not consider evidence which was not before the body whose decision is being appealed.
- 5.15.12 A Tribunal may, in the case where a Member has been found guilty of multiple Offences, impose entirely cumulative or partly or wholly concurrent Suspensions. However, the overall Suspension must not be less than the Minimum Suspension applicable to the most serious Offence but may be greater than the Maximum Suspension applicable to that Offence.
- 5.15.13 To the extent that a matter relating to the procedures of a Tribunal is not provided for by these Regulations, the chairperson for the hearing may issue appropriate directions for the conduct of any matter or hearing.

## **5.16 Standard of Proof**

- 5.16.1 Unless the circumstances of a matter require otherwise, a Body must make a Determination on the balance of probabilities.

## **5.17 Disclosure of Tribunal Members**

- 5.17.1 In the interests of ensuring independence, AWFA will not disclose the identity of Tribunal members prior to a hearing to any party, any party's representatives or to any witness.

## **5.18 Challenge of Jurisdiction of a Tribunal or of a Tribunal Member**

- 5.18.1 A Member may challenge a Tribunal's jurisdiction to deal with a matter but it must do so in its Notice of Response, Notice of Appeal or its written submissions in response to a Notice of Appeal. A failure to do so will be deemed to be acceptance by that Member that the Tribunal does have the necessary jurisdiction. A Tribunal has the power to rule on any challenge to its jurisdiction. In general, a Tribunal should determine any such challenge as a preliminary question. However, a Tribunal may proceed with the hearing and rule on such an objection in its Preliminary Determination or Final Determination, as the case may be.
- 5.18.2 A Member may object to a Tribunal member's right to hear a matter on the basis of perceived bias. Such an objection must be raised in oral submissions as a preliminary question at the hearing. The Tribunal has the power to rule on this objection and, if the objection is overruled, the Tribunal must provide reasons in its Preliminary Determination or Final Determination, as the case may be.

## **5.19 Contempt Against a Tribunal**

- 5.19.1 A person appearing before a Tribunal or subject to a direction of a Tribunal must not:

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- a insult a member of a Tribunal;
  - b repeatedly interrupt the proceedings of a Tribunal;
  - c create a disturbance or take part in creating or continuing a disturbance in or near a place where a Tribunal is sitting;
  - d fail to comply with an order or direction of a Tribunal;
  - e deliberately mislead a Tribunal; or
  - f do any other act or thing that would, if a Tribunal were a court of record, constitute contempt of such a court.
- 5.19.2 A person must not submit to AWFA or to a Tribunal a Grievance, complaint, written statement, evidence of any kind or written submissions that the person knows or suspects to be untrue or that is intended to deliberately mislead AWFA or a Tribunal.
- 5.19.3 A Member must comply with a Determination of a Tribunal.
- 5.19.4 Parties, their representatives and all witnesses must not use or disclose to any third party any confidential information obtained during the course of any investigations or proceedings.
- 5.19.5 If a Tribunal considers that a Member has breached this section 5.19, then it may impose sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with these Regulations or make recommendations to the Executive to issue a Notice of Charge pursuant to section 5.8.3 (Charges of Misconduct).
- 5.19.6 If the Executive determines that a Member has breached this [section 5.19](#), then it may, in its absolute discretion, investigate the matter and take any relevant action pursuant to [section 5.8.3](#) (Charges of Misconduct).

### **5.20 MEDIATION**

- 5.20.1 In relation to a Grievance between Members pursuant to [section 5.8.4](#), AWFA will require Members to attend a meeting with a representative of AWFA and an independent person who shall act as a mediator for the purpose of attempting to reach agreement for the resolution of the Grievance.
- 5.20.2 The mediator shall be a person who, in the opinion of AWFA, is appropriately qualified to conduct the mediation, and may include a member of the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia or other similar body, or a legal practitioner.
- 5.20.3 Unless otherwise determined by AWFA any costs involved in the mediation, including the costs of the Mediator, shall be borne equally by the parties to the Grievance.
- 5.20.4 The mediation shall commence within fourteen (14) days after the submission of a Grievance Form.
- 5.20.5 The mediation shall be conducted on a without prejudice basis and the mediator shall have no power to impose any Suspension, decision or sanction on any of the parties.
- 5.20.6 Mediation shall continue for a period no longer than thirty (30) days.
- 5.20.7 Unless agreement has been reached within thirty (30) days of the start of the mediation, AWFA will, refer the matter to the GPT in accordance with these Regulations.
- 5.20.8 Any failure by a Member to attend mediation convened in accordance with this section

when reasonably requested by AWFA to do so and without reasonable excuse shall amount to Misconduct. AWFA may refer such matters to the GPT for determination in accordance with [section 5.8.4](#).

## **5.21 SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS**

### **5.22 Application of Suspensions and Determinations**

5.22.1 Upon the issuance of a Suspension or Determination by a Body, the Executive has the obligation to ensure that the Suspension or Determination is applied correctly in accordance with this [section 5.21](#) and any other directive imposed by the Executive from time to time. Such decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

### **5.23 Suspensions to be served immediately.**

5.23.1 Subject to this [section 5.21](#), any Suspension imposed by AWFA shall be served immediately. In serving a Suspension, a Member must take into consideration any fixtures or time already served whilst awaiting the issuance of the Notice of Suspension and shall apply in respect of those Football Activities listed in the Notice of Suspension.

5.23.2 A Member does not need to be registered to serve any Time Suspension but does need to be registered to serve a Fixture Suspension.

5.23.3 Team Officials being sent-off or expelled from the technical area during a Match are eligible to play as a Player in a Match scheduled in the same round unless otherwise determined by AWFA.

5.23.4 A Player being sent-off or expelled from the technical area during a Match is eligible to be a Team Official in the technical area in a Match scheduled in the same round unless otherwise determined by AWFA.

5.23.5 Where a player plays in more than one age group or division, any suspension to be served for the round.

5.23.6 In the case of Yellow cards accumulation, irrespective of age group or division, the suspension will be served for the round.

### **5.24 Club Responsibility on Suspensions and Team Sheets**

5.24.1 The relevant Club shall be responsible for ensuring a Member is suspended in accordance with any Notice of Suspension.

### **5.25 Fixture Suspensions and Time Suspensions.**

5.25.1 A Body may issue Suspensions either in terms of the number of Fixtures for which a Participant shall be suspended (**Fixture Suspension**) or the amount of time for which a Participant shall be suspended (**Time Suspension**).

5.25.2 Upon issuing a Time Suspension, a Body must provide a start date and end date of the Suspension.

5.25.3 A Participant issued with a Time Suspension shall be ineligible to participate in any Football Activity as directed in his or her Notice of Suspension and until such time as the Suspension has been served. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes participating in

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- any AWFA or Football NSW or Football Victoria Competition.
- 5.25.4 For the purposes of section 5.25, a Participant must serve the Suspension in the same age-grade for which he or she received that Suspension and shall not be eligible to participate in any Fixture until that Suspension is served in full (full day see section 5.27.6).
- 5.25.5 A Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension resulting from or related to any Competition or Cup Fixture must serve that Suspension in the next Competition or Cup Fixture(s) in which that Participant's Team or Club plays, whichever occurs first, until that Suspension is served in full. A Participant cannot serve such a Suspension in a Trial Match, Tournament, any competition, event, or tournament conducted by another Member Federation or any other match/fixture.
- 5.25.6 Participant must serve a Fixture Suspension in the same age-grade in which they received that Suspension and will not be eligible to participate in any Match/Fixture of any Competition until that Suspension is served in full. If a Fixture Suspension extends over one (1) or more Seasons, that Suspension must be served in the age-grade in which the Participant would normally participate in the following Season(s) and the suspension must be served in accordance with section 5.27.6. Whilst suspended, a player is ineligible to participate in any AWFA Representative or FNSW and FV Representative fixtures.
- 5.25.7 A Fixture Suspension applies to the Participant in the capacity in which the Participant was acting when they committed the Offence giving rise to the Suspension.
- 5.25.8 While serving a Fixture Suspension, a Participant must not, on the day of a Fixture, act in any manner or role for which they have been suspended.
- 5.25.9 For the purpose of section 5.25.7, a Participation subject to a Fixture Suspension as a Player or Official must not:
- i. enter the Field of Play, its surrounds, the Technical Area, Players' race or dressing rooms.
  - ii. enter any other place within a stadium, venue, ground, or Centre where Players and/or Officials are likely to assemble.
  - iii. be seated in an area in a stadium, venue, ground, or Centre normally reserved for Players and/or Officials.
  - iv. have any contact with a Match Official; and
- in the case of a coach, must also not:
- v. provide or attempt to provide coaching instructions prior to the Match, during the Match, at half-time and/or after the Match; or
  - vi. engage or attempt to engage a third party to relay coaching instructions prior to the Match, during the Match, at half-time and/or after the Match.
- 5.25.10 Only those Matches actually played count towards the completion of any Fixture Suspension.
- 5.25.11 Notwithstanding section 5.25.10, if a Match/s is abandoned or forfeited pursuant to AWFA Rules and Regulations then that Match can be considered in relation to serving a



Suspension but only if the suspended Player's team did not contribute to the facts that led to the abandonment or forfeiture of a Match/s.

- 5.25.12 The Executive shall have the final decision on whether a Suspension or part thereof may be served in an abandoned or forfeited Match.

## **5.26 Infringements.**

### **5.27 Yellow Cards.**

- 5.27.1 A Yellow Card is issued by a Referee to a Player for the commission of the following cautionable offences specified at Law 12 of the Laws of the Game:
- a Y1 - unsporting behaviour;
  - b Y2 - dissent by word or action;
  - c Y3 - persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;
  - d Y4 - delaying the restart of play;
  - e Y5 - failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or thrown in;
  - f Y6 - entering or re-entering the field of play without the Referee's permission;
  - g Y7 - deliberately leaving the field of play without the Referee's permission.
- 5.27.2 Any player who receives five yellow cards during any AWFA Sanction Competition will be suspended for next match/fixture. If a player receives 8 yellow cards (further three Yellow Cards) during the season, they will be suspended for a further 2 matches/fixtures. Any further Yellow Card offences will require the player to front the Disciplinary Committee. Each additional yellow card will incur a further one match/fixture suspension. They will be issued with Disciplinary Form 18 - AWFA Disciplinary Board Notice of Suspension.
- 5.27.3 If a Player receives two (2) Yellow Cards during the same Match and therefore receives an indirect Red Card, the two (2) Yellow Cards do not count for the purposes of accumulation.
- 5.27.4 If a Player receives a Yellow Card and then a direct Red Card in the same Match, the Yellow Card will count in the Player's accumulation of Yellow Cards.
- 5.27.5 Any person sent from the field for a third time in the same season (second cautionable offence R7), shall incur a mandatory two match suspension. Any further R7 offences will require the player to front the Disciplinary Committee
- 5.27.6 Where a player plays in more than one age group or division, any suspension will be served for the entire day of fixtures regardless of the age group or division the offence occurred in.
- 5.27.7 In the case of yellow card accumulations, the last yellow to attract the suspension will determine which age group or division that suspension will be served.
- 5.27.8 The yellow cards registered against a player will be cleared at the end of the League Competition.
- 5.27.9 Two yellow cards received in Cup competition matches/fixtures will incur a one match/fixture suspension and will carry over to the following season if not served in the

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Cup Competition.

5.27.10 Cautions cannot be appealed.

5.27.11 Any yellow cards received in the FA Cup competition will carry over into the League competition.

5.27.12 Any coach or team official that receives 3 yellows cards during an AWFA Sanctioned Competition will be suspended for the next match/fixture and each additional yellow card will incur a further one match/fixture suspension.

### 5.28 Red Cards

5.28.1 A Red Card is an order given by the Referee to a Player to leave the field of play, its surrounds and the Technical Area during an AWFA sanctioned Match.

5.28.2 A Red Card is issued by a Referee to a Player for the commission of the following sending-off offences specified at Law 12 of the Laws of the Game:

- a R1- serious foul play;
- b R2- violent conduct;
- c R3- spitting at an opponent or any other person;
- d R4- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
- e R5- denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- f R6- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures; and
- g R7- receiving a second caution in the same match.

5.28.3 If a Player receives an R7, the Player must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Match/Fixture and the Club is responsible for ensuring the Player is immediately stood down for their next AWFA Match/Fixture in accordance with section 5.21 (Serving of Suspensions).

5.28.4 A red card penalty comprises the Mandatory Match Suspension (MMS), a penalty (table 5.1) and any additional penalty applied by the DA/DC as per these regulations.

5.28.5 The DA's/DC will also take a player's previous season's disciplinary record into account when determining the sentence.

5.28.6 A player who accumulates the following number of direct Red Cards during the Regular Season or Finals Series, regardless of the Competition or Club in which those Red Cards are received, must serve the following Mandatory Match(es) Suspension plus any additional suspension as determined by the DA/DC:

Number of Red Cards accumulated:	Suspension	In addition:
<b>Two (2) during the same Season</b>	The Suspension issued in respect of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Red Card plus a further Suspension of one (1) Fixture	N/A

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<b>Three (3) during the same Season</b>	The Suspension issued in respect of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Red Card plus a further Suspension of two (2) Fixtures	N/A
<b>Four (4) or more during the Season</b>	The Suspension issued in respect of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Red Card plus a further Suspension of three (3) Fixtures	Maybe Referred to a GPT for hearing and potential additional sanction.

Notes: Further suspension cannot be appealed. It must be served immediately after the Suspension issued in respect of the second or subsequent Red Card, in the same age-grade in which that Red Card was received and must otherwise be served in accordance with section 5.25.

- 5.28.7 Where a player is sent off for any offence which carries a recommended suspension of six weeks or more for the offence alone, the DA cannot hear the case and the player must appear before the DC.
- 5.28.8 A Notice to Appear form will be forwarded to a Club where their player(s) is required to appear before the DC.
- 5.28.9 Any person who has received a red card & then commits a further offence(s) in the same jurisdiction, shall be charged on an Incident Report (AWFA Form 24) and submitted by the referee to the DA, for the second and or subsequent offences.

### 5.29 Recommended penalties for Red Cards

- 5.29.1 Recommended Minimum Penalties for Player Send-off offences (does include the mandatory match(es) suspension (MMS))

**Table 5.1**

Offence Description		Suspension (Minimum)
<b>R1 - Serious Foul Play (Typically, but not limited to, tackles or challenges on an opponent with the ball)</b>		
	Rugby tackle	MMS + 1 match
	Violent charging	MMS + 1 match
	Over the ball tackle	MMS + 2 matches
	Dangerous/Violent tackle (incl from behind)	MMS + 2 matches
<b>R2 - Violent Conduct (Typically, but not limited to, the use or attempted use of excessive force against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a team-mate, club official, team official, match official or spectator)</b>		
	Punching	MMS + 3 matches
	Kicking	MMS + 3 matches
	Head butting	MMS + 4 matches
	Attempting to strike or kick	MMS + 2 matches

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Offence Description	Suspension (Minimum)
Elbow to the head	MMS + 4 matches
Elbow to the body	MMS + 3 matches
Throwing the ball at an opponent	MMS + 1 match
Pushing	MMS + 1 match
Throwing a person to the ground	MMS + 1 match
Brawling/fighting	MMS + 4 matches
<b>R3 - Spitting at an opponent or any other person other than a match official</b>	
Spitting	MMS + 4 matches
<b>R4 - Denying the Opposing Team A Goal or An Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity by Deliberately Handling the Ball (except a Goalkeeper within their penalty area)</b>	
Handball	MMS + 1 match
<b>R5 -Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick</b>	
Tripping/Foul Tackle/Holding/Impeding	MMS + 1 match
<b>R6 - Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures</b>	
Exclamation (offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gesture in frustration)	Mandatory only (MMS)
Offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures to players	MMS + 1 match
Offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures to Team Officials and/or spectators	MMS + 2 matches
About official's decision(s)	MMS + 1 match
Offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures to a match official.	MMS + 3 matches
Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures towards another person	MMS + 4 matches
<b>R7 - Receiving a second caution in the same match</b>	

Offence Description		Suspension (Minimum)
	Second caution, Yellow Card	Mandatory only (MMS)

*The penalties for any other offences not previously specified will be determined on their merits by the DA's or the DC.*

### 5.30 Offences by Team or Club Officials

- 5.30.1 A Referee may expel a Team Official from the field of play, its surrounds and the Technical Area where a Team Official commits an Expulsion Offence specified in Table 5.2.
- 5.30.2 Any person(s) who has been expelled from the field of play, its surrounds and the Technical Area by a Referee must serve a one (1) mandatory match suspension and is subject to an additional sanction in accordance with the Offences in Table 5.2.
- 5.30.3 Person(s) refers to players and team officials.

### 5.31 Team Misconduct

- 5.31.1 Each Club must ensure that its Participants do not engage in Team Misconduct.
- 5.31.2 Team Misconduct in relation to a Club is where:
- five (5) of its Participants are cautioned or expelled during a Match;
  - three (3) of its Participants are sent off or expelled during a Match;
  - its Participants collectively show dissent towards a Match Official or collectively seek to intimidate, threaten or exert pressure on a Match Official to make or alter a decision; or
  - its Participants engage in a melee or brawl.
- 5.31.3 AWFA may sanction a Club whose Participants engage in Team Misconduct.
- 5.31.4 Recommended Penalties for Incident and Send off offences against Match Officials and others:
- This section applies to offences by players and team officials against match officials and others;
  - “Players” include named substitutes;
  - “Team officials” comprises coaches, managers, trainers, Marshals and any other person permitted in the Technical Area; and
  - “Others” includes but is not restricted to spectators, other team officials, club officials, Players.

**Note:** This category also applies to offences by players and team officials against match officials after having been sent from the field or after the completion of a match.

**5.32 Table 5.2**

*These offences DO NOT include the Mandatory One Week.*

**Table 5.2**

<b>Offence description</b>	<b>Minimum</b>
Threatening or intimidating officials by word or action	4 matches
Threatening spectators or players	4 matches
Violence against the referee, referee's assistant(s) and/or 4 <sup>th</sup> official	To DA's or DC
Tripping a referee or assistant referee	1 year
Pushing with an open hand, shoulder or hip	1 year
Striking with the ball or other object	1 year
Striking, kicking or elbowing	To DA's or DC
Spitting	12 matches
Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language	3 matches
Making offensive, insulting or abusive gestures	3 matches
Uses offensive language about an official's decision	1 match
Exclamation	Mandatory only
Offence not previously specified	To DA's or DC

*The penalties for any other offences not previously specified will be determined on their merits by the DA's or the DC.*

**5.33 Spectators**

- 5.33.1 These Regulations and the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour apply to all Spectators attending any Match or any training session conducted by or on behalf of a Club.
- 5.33.2 It is all Club's responsibility to ensure the AWFA Policy and the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all Spectators.
- 5.33.3 Any Match Official may complete an incident report (AWFA Form 24) for any such breaches above and submit it to the DC. Recommended penalties for clubs who have not taken reasonable steps to enforce the Code of Behaviour:
  - a first offence \$250,
  - b second offence \$1000 and loss of points for the match in play, or

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- c any third and subsequence offence \$2500 and club suspended for the following round.

**6 SECTION 6 – REPRESENTATIVES**

6.1.1 The colours of AWFA to be used in all representative games played by AWFA shall be red, black, white and or Grey or any combination of these colours.

**6.2 Selection**

6.2.1 The Association may each year, select representative teams.

6.2.2 The EC shall call for nominations each August for representative coaches for the following season as per the representative coaches’ selection policy and after due process, the EC shall appoint the successful candidates.

6.2.3 The selection of players into each respective representative team will be as per the representative player selection policy.

**6.3 Coaches & Managers**

6.3.1 All representative coaches and managers shall have current NSW and Victorian ‘working with children’ checks.

6.3.2 All representative coaches and managers must complete registration in accordance with 4.25 (Player Registration).

6.3.3 No coach shall be permitted to move to a club to coach in the equivalent age group which they are the representative coach. Equivalency shall be taken as the corresponding team in the following table.

**Table**

Club team	Representative team
U11 (MiniRoos)	U11
U12	U12
U13	U13
U14	U14
U16	U15 & U16
U12 Girls	U12 Girls
U14 Girls	U14 Girls
U16 Girls	U16 girls

6.3.4 The AWFA must be notified of any proposed fundraising prior to it occurring. All funds raised by representative teams shall be solely that team’s cash flow for the time of their participation. Any residue must be forwarded to AWFA together with a financial statement at the completion of participation.



## **6.4 Players**

- 6.4.1 Each player must be registered under the age group specified on 1st January of the year in which they are playing.
- 6.4.2 Every player registered with an AWFA club is encouraged to make themselves available for selection in representative teams.
- 6.4.3 Any player who is not registered with AWFA cannot play in any championships or competitions in which the team is entered.
- 6.4.4 Any player who does not attend training or matches to the best of their ability may jeopardize their position in the squad. This will be at the discretion of the coach following consultation with the EC.
- 6.4.5 Any player who after notification of their selection fails to meet their representative commitments shall be suspended for no less than two club matches.
- 6.4.6 Representative players wishing to move from one club to another club may do so only after lodging a AWFA Form 31 and getting the approval of the AWFA Executive Committee and so long as their movement does not result in that club having more than five representative players from the current representative program in a single representative team. This includes train on, below age and development players. U12's only four representative players are permitted from the current representative program in a single team. This includes train on, below age and development players.
- 6.4.7 No Representative player is allowed to move to a club and team of representative coach who is coaching the equivalent team in the representative program.

## **6.5 Fixtures**

- 6.5.1 Each of the representative teams will be entered by AWFA as per the requirements of the governing body(s) for that year.

## **6.6 AWFA Clubs**

- 6.6.1 No club shall withhold the services of any player from the representative team.
- 6.6.2 The MC may require all clubs to support, to a specified extent, the raising of funds for the representative teams whether the club has a representative or not.
- 6.6.3 A club team is permitted to have more than five representative players if all players were registered with the club during the preceding season. These are known as 'home-grown' players.

## **6.7 Discipline**

- 6.7.1 Any player or club being found guilty of acting against or not abiding by these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and subject to any penalty the EC, MC or DC shall decide.
- 6.7.2 Any incident or send off reports sent to the AWFA from a representative tournament competition organiser will be handled by the AWFA DC.

**7 SCHEDULE**

**Schedule 3 – SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY A TRIBUNAL**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Type of sanction, order or measure</b>
1	a reprimand
2	a fine or costs
3	a deduction or loss of competition points
4	a ban on the registration or transfer of any Players for a specified period of time
5	annulment of registration of a Player
6	suspension from participation in a Match, Fixture, event, tournament or Competition
7	exclusion, suspension or expulsion from a Competition
8	a ban on playing in a particular stadium, ground or centre
9	annulment of the result of the Match
10	relegation to a lower division
11	requiring the return of an award
12	a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench or entering a stadium, ground or centre
13	with the exception of suspended sentences, such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes, FA Rules and Regulations and Football NSW Rules and Regulations.

## 8 AWFA FORMS

Table below lists the official forms for AWFA:

Document Number	Title
AWFA 01	Office Bearers
AWFA 02	New Club Application
AWFA 03	AWFA Life Membership
AWFA 04	Club Colours
AWFA 05	AWFA Incident Report
AWFA 06	Referee Send-off Report
AWFA 07	Team Nomination Form
AWFA 08	Non-Accredited Coach Registration
AWFA 10	Player Age Exemption Assessment Form – Four Years Above
AWFA 11	Playing Above Age Consent Form – Three Years Above
AWFA 12	Playing Below Age Request Form
AWFA 15	Executive Nomination Form
AWFA 16	Accredited Coach Registration
AWFA 17	Working with Children Check - Register
AWFA 18	Player Exemption Assessment by Independent AWFA Accredited Assessor
AWFA 20	Record of Determination for Tribunal/Appeals Board Hearing Charges, Claims & Misconduct
AWFA 21	Application for Financial Assistance - Representative Players
AWFA 22	Fixture Change Request
AWFA 23	Marshal Report
AWFA 24	Referee Incident Report
AWFA 25	AWFA AGM Proxy Form
AWFA 27	Fixture-Forfeit
AWFA 28	Player Points System Key for Template
AWFA 29	Player Points System Template
AWFA 31	Representative player transfer request

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Document Number	Title
AWFA 32	Hall of Fame Nomination
DISP 05	Written Statement by Actual Participant Committing the Red Card Offence - Mistaken Identity in a match official send-off report
DISP 04	Written Statement by Participant - Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in match official send-off report
DISP 06	Written Statement by a Club - Mistaken Identity in a match official send-off report
DISP 07	Written Statement by a Participant - Challenging a Decision on the basis of mistaken identity
DISP 08	Written Statement by actual participant - committing the offence - mistaken identity in a match
DISP 09	Written Statement by a Club - mistaken identity in a match official incident report
DISP 10	Written Statement by Participant - Challenging a decision on the basis of exceptional circumstances
DISP 11	Notice of Appeal of a decision of a DC
DISP 12	Notice of Charge
DISP 15	Notice of Response
DISP 16	Notice of Appeal of a Decision of a GPT
NRR03	Registration

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## 9 FINES

Table below details the Schedule of fines:

Active Immediately (from Round 1)	Fines
Coach not registered in FA Online System	\$200.00
Forfeit without notice Div 2/3 (fine will go to opposing club)	\$200.00
Forfeit without notice- DIV 1 Men and Women only (fine will go to opposing club)	\$500.00
Ineligible player (includes Player playing below their age, Unregistered and suspended Player)	\$200.00
No assessment to play in the higher grade – First offence per player	\$200.00
Second and subsequent offences per player	\$500.00
Player not on team sheet	\$100.00
Failure to provide Marshalls in Any Games – to be determined by Referee	
Submission of Form AWFA 23	\$200.00
Breach of Player Points for Division 1 Men	\$200.00

Fines below are from the beginning of Round 6 of the Season Fixtures where a maximum of 3 Strikes will be allowed before a Fine is issued	Fines
Manager name not entered into Game Day Application (Team Sheet)	\$25.00
Marshall not listed (Junior games) on Game Day Application (Team Sheet)	\$25.00
Marshall not listed (senior games) on Game Day Application (Team Sheet)	\$50.00
Coach name not entered on Game Day Application (Team Sheet)	\$25.00
Scores not submitted to AWFA Recorder by 7:00pm Sunday (Form AWFA 13)	\$100.00
Team Sheets not submitted by Tuesday Night 9:00pm of each week	\$100.00
Visa player not identified	\$50.00
Manager not registered in the FA Online System	\$100.00

**9.1 SCHEDULE OF FEES**

a	Special General Meeting (called by a Club)	\$500.00
b	Affiliation Fees	\$750.00
c	Contest charge at DC	\$150.00
d	Decision Upheld by DC	\$150.00
e	Appeals Tribunal (all)	\$150.00

## 10 Calendar

### December

Contact Councils regarding the availability of grounds

All Clubs to have submitted their contact details as per AWFA form 01.

### January

EC – Calendar of meeting dates to be presented at Jan MC Meeting

EC - Registration Fees to be determined for upcoming season and clubs notified.

EC - Determine date for age division nominations to be forwarded to EC.

MC - Nominations for DA's, DC and AT (look at qualifications from FNSW).

EC – Admin Officer submit Sanctions request for Rep Teams (to cover NSW Players) to cover all Tournaments.

Registrar Training

Game Day Training

Update Player Ready Reckoner

MPIO & Dispute Resolution Training

Unfinancial lists – circulated to all clubs

AWFA MC shall review and approve the EC Honorariums on a yearly basis.

AWFA EC shall request nominations for the following positions or sub-committees.

- Disciplinary Administrator
- Disciplinary Committee
- General Purpose Tribunal
- Appeals Tribunal

### February

Members appointed to DC, GPT and AT are sent information pack regarding Rules & Regs, FA and FNSW Statutes and expectations/process for their role.

No member of the DC and AT shall be a current registered player, an 'active' referee, or a paid employee of AWFA.

Clubs to submit by the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb of each year AWFA Form 29 for Division 1 Men proposed players list for points allocation to be approved by AWFA.

Clubs to provide age division nominations by date determined at January MC Meeting

Motion to declare which age divisions for the season are to be classed as 'Developmental'.

Draw to be finalised and published (Website & BM) by no later than EO first week.

### March

Ineligible player list (Women) must be provided to the AWFA Recorder by no later than week before the first round (only required if a club does have a Division 1 and 2 Women teams) (4.9.4)

### April

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### **May**

Strategic Plan review

EC – If required produce Tender for Representative Team Uniforms.

### **June**

### **July**

Finalize trophies & venues for finals

Grand Final Program

Each club shall nominate to AWFA the date of their AGM by 31st July, which must be held at least 21 days prior to the AGM of AWFA (2.9.2)

Hall of fame nominations (inductees) to be submitted by July 15th each year.

### **August**

High Performance EC Member shall call for nominations each August for representative coaches for the following season.

Star Player Votes and PowerPoint for Div 1 & 2 Men & Women

### **September**

Presentation Night

Grand Final

Review any sponsorship renewals

30<sup>th</sup> - Nominations for Life Membership

### **October**

Re-affiliation requirements to be delivered to AWFA Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> October

Coaching Courses for next year – dates placed on AWFA website and forwarded to clubs

Regulation and Rules review Meeting

AWFA EC to determine junior age division for following season

### **November**

AGM Notice – 21 days prior to AGM

Club AGM requirements to be submitted to AWFA as per constitution/rules & regs.

Advertising for AWFA Exec members for AGM

AWFA EC to set the player points system cap.



## **11 List of Appendices**

FNSW Bylaws  
FNSW Club Assistant Referee PowerPoint  
FNSW Tribunal Fees

### **11.1 Forms**

FA Cancellation of Registration form  
FA Grievance Resolution Regulation form  
FA Registration form

### **11.2 Policies**

FA Grievance Resolution Policy  
FA Privacy Policy  
FA Anti-Doping Policy  
FNSW Child Protection Policy  
FNSW Goalpost Safety Policy  
SM Infectious Disease Policy  
FNSW Hot Weather Policy  
FNSW Lightning Safety Policy  
FNSW Liquor Licensing Policy  
FA Member Protection Policy  
FNSW Player Equipment Policy  
FNSW Pregnancy Policy  
FNSW Social Media Policy  
FNSW Smoking Policy  
FNSW Sun Safety Policy

### **11.3 Codes**

FA National Spectator Code of Behavior  
FA National Code of Conduct  
FNSW Players Code of Conduct (long version)  
FNSW Players Code of Conduct (short version)

### **11.4 Directives**

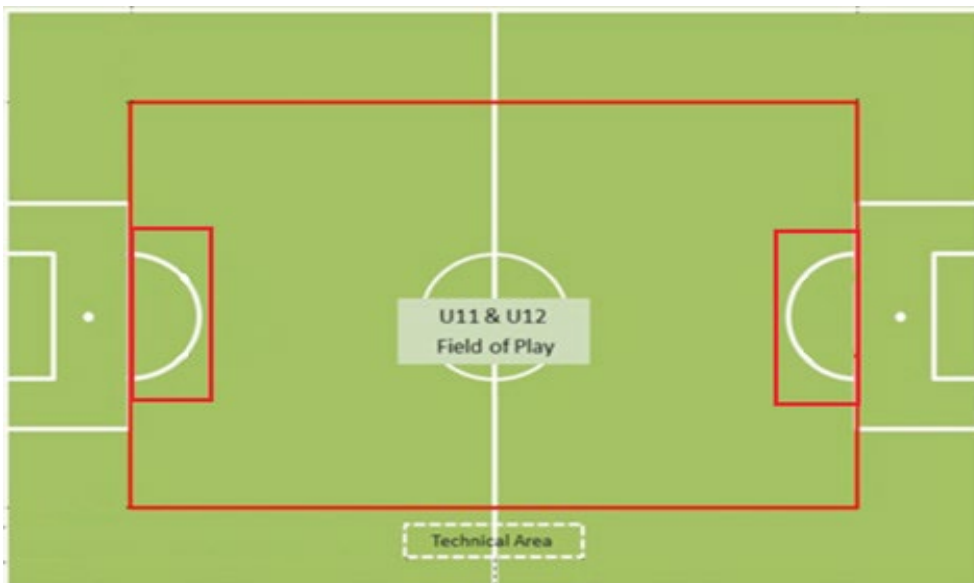
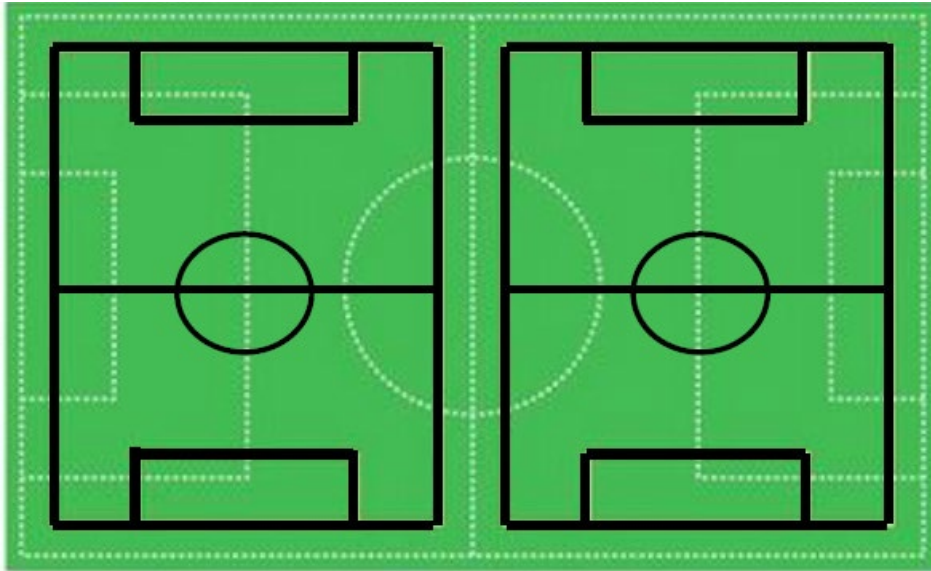
FNSW Canteen and BBQ Safety Regulations  
FNSW Sale and Supply of Alcoholic Beverages  
ASC Images of Children

### **11.5 Resource Websites**

NSW Sport & Recreation – Good Sports Program  
<http://goodsports.com.au/>  
Australian Sporting Commission – Play by the Rules  
<http://www.playbytherules.net.au/>

## 11.6 Standards

- [AS2560.2.2021 Sports Lighting \(Football\) all codes](#)
- Permanent or portable goal must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Consumer Notice No.28 of 2010
- **Under 12 Field Layouts:**



## 11.7 AWFA Player Points System (PPS)

### Objectives

The objectives of the PPS are to:

- Provide greater opportunities to AWFA home grown Players;
- Promote a greater focus on the importance of youth development;
- Promote Players through AWFA Club youth development structures;

- Increase the stability of AWFA Senior Club Player Rosters or;
- Maintain competitive balance and parity amongst the AWFA Clubs at a Senior level;
- Incentivise Players progressing through to NPL to return to their original AWFA Clubs;
- Reward Clubs who develop Players that progress through to NPL.

*Note: The Player Points System (PPS) encourages AWFA Clubs to promote from within and to place a greater focus on youth development rather than recruiting externally.*

#### **Definitions:**

- **“The Club”** means a club that has been accepted to participate in the Albury Wodonga Football Association (AWFA) Competition; and
- **Community Club** – means a Football club which participates within a community football competition in Australia that does not include State Leagues 1 and 2 or NPL clubs or higher; and
- **Juniors** are players who are registered players in Under 16 competitions or lower; and
- **Competition** – means a Football competition in which the Community Clubs participate in official fixtured matches; and
- **Player Points Allocation** – means the total number of points allocated to an individual player in a Division 1 Men’s Team taking into consideration the Player Points Category that applies to each player.
- **First Team Player Roster** - means the roster of Players for a AWFA Club’s First Team (Division 1 Men) maintained in accordance with the Player Points System and the AWFA Competition.

#### **Points**

##### **1-point Criterion**

A player who has/is:

- a) Played 40 or more games over a minimum of 3 seasons within the Junior age groups of “The Club”; or
- b) Played a minimum of 5 games in each of any 5 consecutive seasons for “The Club”; or
- c) Played only at “The Club” and for no other Community Club in Australia; or
- d) Not played competitive football in the previous 36 months; or
- e) An NPL player who is returning to the AWFA club they last played for prior to moving to NPL; or
- f) Despite any other point criterion contained in this Appendices 11.7 AWFA Player Points System (PPS), a returning life member of the Club or a junior player of the Club (who has played at least 5 years at the Club).
- g) An International Player who is on a Refugee and Humanitarian or Studying and Training Visa; or
- h) An International Player on any other Visa who has played 10 or more matches for an AWFA club in each of the previous 4 seasons. (5<sup>th</sup> year visa player); or
- i) A player who was in 2 -Point Category f) in the previous season.

*If the player does not meet the 1 Point Criterion, they will be assigned points based on highest playing level that applies to them in the following categories.*

### **2-points Criterion**

A player who has/is:

- a) Played Junior or Division 2 level at another Community Club; or
- b) Played 15 or less Community Division 1 Men matches in total over the previous 3 seasons for another Community Club; or
- c) Played less than 10 Community Division 1 Men matches in the previous season for another Community Club; or
- d) Played Juniors at a State League 1 and 2 or NPL club in the previous 3 seasons and is not returning to their original AWFA club; or
- e) An International Player on any other Visa who has player 10 or more matches for an AWFA club in each of the previous 3 seasons. (4<sup>th</sup> year visa player); or
- f) A player who was in 3 -Point Category f) in the previous season.

### **3-points Criterion**

A player who has/is:

- a) Played 16 or more Community Division 1 Men matches in total over previous 3 seasons for another Community Club; or
- b) Played 10 or more Community Division 1 Men matches in previous season for another Community Club; or
- c) Played 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade or Under 21 or Under 18 at a State League 1 and 2 or NPL level in any of the previous 3 seasons and is not returning to their original AWFA club; or
- d) Played less than 10 Division 1 Men matches in total at State/NPL level or above in the past 3 seasons and is not returning to their original AWFA club; or
- e) An International Player on a Visa other than a Refugee and Humanitarian or Studying and Training Visa who has player 10 or more matches for an AWFA club in each of the previous 2 seasons. (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Visa player); or
- f) A player who was in 4 -Point Category b) in the previous season.

### **4-points Criterion**

A Player who:

- a) An International Player on a Visa other than a Refugee and Humanitarian or Studying and Training Visa who has player 10 or more matches for an AWFA club in the previous season. (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Visa player); or
- b) Has Played 10 or more 1<sup>st</sup> Grade matches at State League 1 and 2 or NPL level or above over the previous 3 seasons in total and is not returning to their original AWFA club.

### **5-points Criterion**

- a) A player who has played professional football i.e. football above NPL level or equivalent anywhere in the past 3 seasons; or
- b) An International Player on a Visa other than a Refugee and Humanitarian or Studying and Training Visa (1<sup>st</sup> Year Visa player).

### **Points per Club**

The PPS points cap (Points Cap) applies to each AWFA Club's Division 1 Men's Player Roster, and this Team is always required to remain within the Points Cap. The Points Cap for each season will be set by AWFA EC in November.

For each match, the Club must ensure that the Total Team Points allocation is calculated based on up to the maximum number of players allowed to participate in a match for the Competition.

### **Administration and Rules**

- Each club is to provide a list of all players they expect to be using in their Division 1 Men side (First Team Player Roster) for the season using the Form AWFA Form 29 Player Points System Template and Form AWFA Form 28 Player Points System Template Key;
- The club are to allocate the points they believe apply to each player and a rationale for those points. The rationale should simply state the points category and relevant clause number as per the above criteria's;
- The AWFA EC will check the list, request further explanation on any they believe are not correct
- Once agreement has been reached AWFA EC will approve the First Team Roster prior to the season commencing;
- The AWFA EC may ask for supporting evidence to support the clubs Player Point allocation;
- The First Team Roster list for each club will be available to all clubs to provide transparency in the process;
- If a club wishes to add a player to this list during the season, they must amend their list and send it for AWFA EC for approval. A player added to this list is not able to play Division 1 Men until approved by the AWFA EC; and
- The referees will not be asked to adjudicate on the Player Points System. If a club believe the opposing team have breached the Player Points System, even if this is obvious to them prior to the match, they must lodge an appeal with the AWFA EC for review and action as required.

## 11.8 Flow Charts

