



COMPETITION MATTERS – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

In the opening three rounds of competition there have unfortunately been instances where teams have breached the rules of the Association that have resulted in teams losing points, clubs incurring financial penalties and players being suspended.

In order to try and reduce these unwanted outcomes, attention is drawn to the following rules; very specifically for those teams competing in league competitions 12 years and above.

Minimum number of Players

Rule 1.11.6 requires teams to field at least seven (7) of the team's registered at the commencement of the match and at all times during the match. If a team cannot field seven or more of that team's registered players at any point during the match, for whatever reason, the match will be considered to have been forfeited by that team to the opposition, regardless of the amount of match time elapsed.

Players Playing Up (out of age group or division)

The maximum number of players that may be brought up into a higher graded or different age group for any given match 12 years and above is four (4). Please see Rule 5.2.11.

The team sheets only provide for a maximum of four (4) substitute players from different teams. This seems to be ignored with some team managers listing as many as seven or eight substitute players from other teams.

Ineligible Players – Sanctions

Rule 5.4.1 lists the penalties which apply for the playing of ineligible players. Below are the definitions for an ineligible player;

- is unregistered, or
- needs a permit to play and has not obtained such permit, or
- is not registered in that team in accordance with the Association Constitution and Rules, or
- is registered with another Association or soccer organization without Board permission, or
- is under suspension, or
- is not eligible to play in that team according to any rule of the Association.

The sanction for the team and/or ineligible player shall for each match that the person has played in,

- deemed to have lost each match, and
- forfeit three competition points (even though the team may not have earned any points in the match played), and
- be fined an additional registration fee, and
- be dealt with additionally as the Board deems fit

For each match that an ineligible person has played as mentioned in rule 5.4.1 the team's opponents will be declared the winners, and three competition points and three goals "for" shall be credited to them.

A player who, whilst Disciplinarily Ineligible, plays in any official match conducted under the auspices of the Association shall be automatically suspended for a period of 12 months commencing on the date that the penalty is advised to the player's Club by the Association.

A player who, whilst Administratively Ineligible plays in any official match conducted under the auspices of the Association shall be automatically suspended for 2 matches commencing on the date that the penalty is advised to the player's Club by the Association.

Ian Holmes
Chief Executive

