

MACQUARIE FOOTBALL LIMITED A.C.N. 050 293 153

NEWCASTLE FOOTBALL LIMITED A.C.N. 052 054 163

HUNTER VALLEY FOOTBALL INCORPORATED

## **REGULATION D**

## **PLAYING RULES**

## **JOINT COMPETITIONS**

- 35 AND OVER AGE GRADE DIVISIONS
- 45 AND OVER AGE GRADE DIVISIONS
- ALL-AGE GRADE DIVISIONS
- AGE GRADE DIVISIONS 12 – 18
- WOMEN'S GRADE DIVISIONS 12 – 18, ALL-AGE

Issued by the Joint Board of Directors of Macquarie Football Limited, Newcastle Football Limited and Hunter Valley Football Incorporated.

Issued  
Review

February 2015  
February 2016

## **LIST OF CONTENTS**

- D 01 MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION
- D 02 HOME TEAMS' RESPONSIBILITIES
- D 03 DEFINITION OF HOME TEAM
- D 04 POWER TO DIRECT CHANGE OF HOME GROUND
- D 05 THE COMPETITION RULES
- D 06 AN APPROVED FOOTBALL
- D 07 PLAYING TIMES
- D 08 OFFICIALS AT FIXTURES
- D 09 FINDING WINNERS
- D 10 COMPETITION POINTS
  
- D 11 PLAYING AREA REQUIREMENTS
- D 12 ADMISSION CHARGES
- D 13 WINNERS' MEDALLIONS AND AWARDS
- D 14 TROPHIES / AWARDS
- D 15 PLAYERS' UNIFORMS / GEAR REQUIREMENTS
- D 16 EXPENSES
- D 17 FINES & PENALTIES
- D 18 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES
- D 19 KICK-OFF TIMES
- D 20 DISPUTE OVER FIXTURE SCORES
  
- D 21 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS AND OTHER DETAILS
- D 22 GOAL DIFFERENCE
- D 23 PENALTY KICK DECIDER
- D 24 OFFICIAL FIXTURE LIST
- D 25 FORFEITED FIXTURES
- D 26 APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS/FIXTURES
- D 27 DEFERMENT OF FIXTURES
- D 28 ABANDONMENT OF FIXTURES / SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE
- D 29 INCOMPLETE FIXTURES
- D 30 FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED
  
- D 31 TEAMS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITION AND FINAL SERIES
- D 32 A COLOUR CLASH
- D 33 TEAM SHEETS
- D 34 TEAM SHEET DETAILS
- D 35 TEAM SHEET ISSUE
- D 36 SUBSTITUTION/INTERCHANGE OF A PLAYER
- D 37 MATCH OFFICIALS
- D 38 REFEREEING
- D 39 MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES
- D 40 MASS WALK-OFFS
  
- D 41 REFUSAL TO START A FIXTURE
- D 42 RING-INS
- D 43 WASHED OUT OR DOUBTFUL FIXTURES
- D 44 BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS
- D 45 OFFICIAL TABLE
- D 46 GROUND MARKINGS
- D 47 BORROWED PLAYERS' QUALIFICATION – COMPETITION & FINAL SERIES
- D 48 TEAM CAPTAIN
- D 49 PLAYER PHOTO IDENTITY
- D 50 MULTIPLE COMPETITIONS REGISTRATION
  
- D 51 FINAL SERIES PLAYER ELIGIBILITY
- D 52 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

## D 01 MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION

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

## D 02 HOME TEAMS' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- (a) Its nominated ground is available for the Competition Fixture, on the date and time set down. In the event of the ground being unfit or unavailable (except by wash-out) for the Fixture, the Home Team's Club may arrange through the Association an alternative venue for that date and time. The Zone Association must be notified of any change of venue as soon as possible but not later than eight (8) days before the scheduled date. Failure to comply with this Regulation or part thereof will result in a forfeit to the opposing Team and a fine as determined annually.
- (b) Any maintenance on the ground is carried out to ensure that the playing surface is in a condition that the Referee considers safe. Ground markings are to be clear and accurate and within the dimensions as specified from time to time. Nets and corner posts are to be provided to conform with the requirements of the Competition. Assistant Referee's Flags are to be made available as and when required.
- (c) Two (2) appropriate benches are to be available for the "BENCH SYSTEM". Adequate Security measures for the welfare of Team Official(s), Match Official(s), Players and the Public are to be provided. A Ground Official (DUTY OFFICER) **must** be available for the duration of all Fixtures as well as 30 minutes prior to a Fixture and 30 minutes after a Fixture. A centrally located Official Table, on which the required Team Sheet for the Fixture is placed, is to be provided. Failure to comply with this Regulation or part thereof may result in a forfeit to the opposing Team and a fine as determined annually.
- (d) The result of each Fixture is to be uploaded to the "On-line" results section of the web; this must be completed preferably on the day of the match(es) but certainly no later than 9.00am on the Monday following the weekend's matches; this Regulation must be in accordance with instructions issued from time to time. Failure to comply will result in a fine as determined annually.
- (e) In the event of a washed out Fixture. It is the Home Club's responsibility to ensure that the Zone Association is advised of the cancellation (refer to Rule D43).
- (f) A minimum of two (2) Approved Footballs must be available for each Fixture.
- (g) The Referee is the deciding Official on all matters relating to the above Regulation (b) and should report any breaches in writing to the Zone Association. A fine of a sum as determined annually shall be imposed for each proven offence.  
Should a Referee refuse to commence a Fixture due to lack of ground markings or a deficiency in the ground surface, the Home Club shall pay the Match Officials' Fees and the visiting Team shall be awarded a Forfeited result except in the case of a neutral ground; then the Home Club shall be responsible for the payment of the Match Officials' Fees and the Fixture shall be rescheduled. A fine of a sum as determined annually shall be imposed for each proven offence.
- (h) A Team protesting against the condition of a ground, or its appointments, shall make the Protest to the Ground Official (Duty Officer) before the commencement of the Fixture and in writing to its Zone Association on its Club Letterhead at the completion of the Fixture.
- (i) The Fixture shall be played despite a Protest made in accordance with the previous paragraph and any subsequent Official Protest received shall not invalidate the result of the Fixture.
- (j) Should two (2) or more Protests be received about the same ground within a one (1) month period then a Representative of the Zone Association together with the executive of the Club concerned shall inspect that Ground and determine the fitness of that Ground.

### D 03 DEFINITION OF HOME TEAM

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

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

### D 04 POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME GROUND

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

### D 05 THE COMPETITION RULES

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

### D 06 AN APPROVED FOOTBALL

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

Football sizes are as follows:-

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

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

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

### D 07 PLAYING TIMES

(a) The following shall be the Playing Times:

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

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

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

**(d) NO extra time shall be added on to Playing Time for any Age Grade Division including All Age Division A for reason of injuries or at the discretion of the Referee.**

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

## D 08 OFFICIALS AT FIXTURES

The Home Team Club shall be solely responsible for the following:

- (a) To provide adequate security and welfare for the Officiating Referee and Assistant Referee(s) from the time each arrives at the ground until the time each departs from the ground and to provide adequate security for the protection of participating Players and Team Officials.  
Failure to carry out these requirements shall render the Home Team Club liable to a penalty/fine as determined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).
- (b) To provide a nominated Ground Official (Duty Officer) to be available and identifiable throughout the duration of each and every Fixture and for a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the Fixture and for a period of 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Fixture.
- (c) This Ground Official (Duty Officer) shall be responsible for the good order and conduct of the Fixtures being played on the day. The Ground Official shall wear and be identified by the designated Fluorescent Coloured Duty Officer Vest provided by the Zone Association for this purpose.  
Failure to carry out these requirements shall render the Home Team Club liable to a penalty/fine as determined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).

## D 09 FINDING WINNERS

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

### (a) PREMIERSHIP COMPETITION WINNERS AND PLACEGETTERS

1. When all Premiership Fixtures are concluded and the Competition Points allocated for each competing Team's performance, the Team with the highest number of Points on the Official Points Table shall be declared the PREMIERS.
2. In the event of two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same highest number of Points, the Team with the better goal difference shall be considered to be the higher placed Team.  
Goal difference shall be determined by subtracting the number of goals against from the number of goals for. The highest resultant plus figure shall take precedence, down to zero and on to the lowest resultant minus figure and on to the largest resultant minus figure.
3. In the event of two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, and having the same goal difference, then the Team which has scored the most goals shall be considered the higher placed Team.
4. In the event of two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, and having scored the same number of goals, then the Team that has scored the larger number of goals in Competition matches played between the two (2) or more Teams shall be considered the higher placed Team.
5. In the event of two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, having scored the same number of goals, and having scored the same number of goals in Competition matches played between the two (2) or more Teams, then the Team that has scored the highest aggregate number of goals (based on 'away' goals rule – home goal 1, away goal 2) in Competition matches played between the two (2) or more Teams shall be considered the higher placed Team.
6. In the event of two (2) Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, having scored the same number of goals, having scored the same number of goals in Competition matches played between the two (2) Teams, and having the same aggregate number of goals (based on 'away' goals rule – home goal 1, away goal 2) in Competition matches played between the two (2) Teams, then those two (2) Teams will play off in a qualifying match (which may include extra time and penalty kick decider) to determine, by use of Regulation D09 Part (a) 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 the higher placed Team.  
In the event of three (3) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, having scored the same number of goals, having scored the same number of goals in Competition matches played between the three (3) or more Teams, and having the same aggregate number of goals (based on 'away' goals rule – home goal 1, away goal 2) in Competition matches played between the three (3) or more Teams, then

the final ranking positions of the three (3) or more Teams shall be determined by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations..

7. Determination of all other ranking positions in the Points Table at the conclusion of the Premiership Competition shall be decided as per this Regulation D 09 Part (a) 1,2,3,4,5 & 6

**(b) FINALS SERIES COMPETITION WINNERS**

1. When all Premiership Fixtures are concluded and the Competition points allocated for each competing Team in the Competition, the top four (4) positioned Teams (those Teams in positions 1, 2, 3 & 4) on the Official Points Table as determined by Regulation D 09 Part (a) 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 shall qualify to continue in a Finals Series Competition.
2. The Two (2) Teams with the Two (2) highest positions on the Points Table shall play each other in the Major Semi-Final Fixture with the winning Team advancing into the Grand Final and the losing Team qualifying to play in the Elimination Final.
3. The Two (2) Teams with the Third and Fourth highest positions on the Points Table shall play each other in the Minor Semi-Final Fixture with the winning Team advancing into the Elimination Final and the losing Team being eliminated from the Final Series Competition.
4. The losing Team from the Major Semi-Final shall play the winning Team from the Minor Semi-Final in the Elimination Final Fixture with the winning Team advancing to the Grand Final and the losing Team being eliminated from the Final Series Competition.
5. The winning Team from the Major Semi-Final shall play the winning Team from the Elimination Final in the Grand Final Fixture, with the winning Team being the Grand Final Winner and the losing Team being the Grand Final Runner-Up.
6. If, at the conclusion of any Finals Series Fixture, the scores are level, then two (2) periods of extra time of ten (10) minutes each are to be played. If the scores are level after the full period of extra time has been completed, the result of the Fixture shall be determined by the PENALTY KICK DECIDER method.

**D 10 COMPETITION POINTS**

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

Win	-	Three (3) Points
Draw	-	One (1) Point
Bye	-	No (0) Points
Loss	-	No (0) Points
Forfeit	-	Three (3) Points
Abandoned	-	As determined by Rule D 28.

**D 11 PLAYING AREA REQUIREMENTS**

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

- (a) In the event that appropriate dug-outs are not available, then two (2) benches (or sufficient chairs) must be located on one side of the playing field with a bench positioned at equal distance either side of the centre line and at least one (1) metre from the playing field. Each Bench must be capable of seating the Coach, Manager, third Team Official (if relevant) and Reserve Players. All persons must remain seated or stand immediately behind the Bench during the Fixture.
- (b) Only the Team Coach, Team Manager, Team Official and Players eligible for the match (those named on the Official Team Sheet) are to be in the Technical / Bench Area. No other persons are permitted in this area.

- (c) Controlled limited Coaching will be permitted by the Eligible Team Coach/Official whilst he/she is standing in the Technical Area which includes the Bench. Any Team Official who leaves or refuses to remain at the Technical Area and gives instructions from outside the field of play shall forfeit any rights to organize the activities of the Team from the Technical Area for the duration of the Fixture. The Team Official who instructs his/her Team from outside the playing field also forfeits his/her right to attend an injured Player of his/her Team.
- (d) Should a replacement of a Player become necessary, a Team Official shall notify the Fourth Official, Assistant Referee or Referee of the change and will remain with the Player at the centre line until the Player is called onto the field of play. If interchange of Players is to occur, it must be done as specified in Rule D 05 Part (a).
- (e) Should an injury occur, a Team Official (one (1) only) shall be called onto the field to inspect any injury to a Player. In the event of an injury of a serious nature, treatment or movement of that Player is to be at the discretion of an Eligible Team Official.
- (f) Should a Player be sent from the field of play by a Referee, he/she must leave the Playing Area and go outside the Boundary Fence or Line to remove his/her shirt. He/she is not allowed to use the Bench / Technical Area.
- (g) In the event of any infringement of the above Regulations (a, b, c, d, e, f) the Referee may hold up Play until he/she is satisfied that the Regulations are complied with and shall report the matter to the Zone Competition Administrator. If a person persists in infringing the Regulations to the detriment of the Fixture, the Home Team Official and/or the Ground Official / Duty Officer shall escort the person from the ground. Such infringements shall be referred to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) where the Member Club, Team and/or Person may be dealt with by manner of Fines, Suspension or Withdrawal from Competition.

## **D 12 ADMISSION CHARGES**

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

## **D 13 WINNERS' MEDALLIONS AND AWARDS**

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

- (a) ALL COMPETITIONS (EXCEPT 35 & over, 45 & over) – Winners: Premiers  
A set of eighteen (18) Gold Medallions.
- (b) ALL COMPETITIONS (EXCEPT 35 & over, 45 & over) – Winners: Grand Finals  
A set of eighteen (18) Silver Medallions.
- (c) ALL COMPETITIONS (EXCEPT 35 & over, 45 & over) – Runners-Up: Grand Finals  
A set of eighteen (18) Bronze Medallions.
- (d) FOR 35 & over, 45 & over COMPETITIONS - Premiers, Grand Final Winners, Grand Final Runners-Up  
A set of twenty (20) Medallions – Gold (Premiers); Silver (GF Winners); Bronze (GF Runners-Up)
- (e) Further Medallions may be obtained from the Zone Association by a qualifying Team in the event of that Team having more Registered Participants than the number of Medallions provided.

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

#### D 14 TROPHIES / AWARDS

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

#### D 15 PLAYERS' UNIFORMS/GEAR REQUIREMENTS

- (a) A Team shall not show any form of advertising on its playing strip, tracksuit or equipment bag excepting the Zone Association's Emblem Badge, the distinguishing mark, badge or emblem of the manufacturer and the Competition's Sponsor without prior written permission of the Zone Association.  
Such consent may not be refused where reasonable identification of a Team's Sponsor is involved.
- (b) A Sponsor's name may be permitted across the front of a Player's shirt, or across the back of the Player's shirt between the collar and the top of the shirt number in letters not exceeding 75 mm high. Where a Sponsor's logo is used, the logo and name are to be confined to the front of the Player's shirt only.
- (c) A Player should commence his/her Fixture fully equipped in Zone Association Approved Gear including a shirt, socks, shorts, shin-pads and footwear. The shirt MUST have a legible number affixed; socks MUST completely cover shin-pads.
- (d) A Player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself/herself or another Player (including any kind of jewellery).
- (e) Shin guards (pads) must be worn by all Players at all times during any Fixture. A shin guard should cover the length of a Player's leg from ankle to knee, minus 1cm – 2cm at each end and should offer maximum protection to the Player.
- (f) As per FIFA Laws of the Game, 'skins' must be the colour of the predominant colour of the leg of the short.
- (g) **Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other Players, the Referee and the Assistant Referee(s). If long pants are worn by the goalkeeper, then socks must be worn on the outside of the pants. The goalkeeper's socks may be the same colour as the rest of the Team but this is not essential. Should a goalkeeper take the place of a field Player during a Fixture, said goalkeeper must wear the same colour shorts, shirt and socks as the rest of the Team.**
- (h) The Match Referee has the right to determine whether or not a Player's equipment is considered satisfactory and is compliant with the relevant Regulations. The decision of the Match Referee is final.
- (i) A Club with a Team having a Player competing in the Competition not being properly equipped with Zone Association Approved Gear shall become liable to forfeit Competition Points and to a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

#### D 16 EXPENSES

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

#### D 17 FINES & PENALTIES

A Team and/or Club not fulfilling its obligations under these Regulations in respect of which a fine and or penalty is not already specified may be fined and / or penalized at the discretion of the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).



## D 18 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- (a) The Competition Administrator – Disciplinary may suspend, fine, reprimand, caution or otherwise deal with a Player, Team, Team Official, Match Official or Member Club who he/she considers has breached the Laws of the Game, the Regulations or has brought the code into disrepute.
- (b) As part of his/her powers under clause (a) the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary may suspend a Match Official from officiating at any Match until such time as the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary is satisfied that the Referees Association to which the Match Official belongs has provided the Match Official with education and counselling appropriate to the conduct subject of the complaint.
- (c) Only the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary may permit a registered Player to play pending a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee or of an Appeal.

## D 19 KICK-OFF TIMES

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

- (a) A Fixture should start at the nominated Kick-Off Time, provided that when a Fixture starts later than the stipulated Time, short time will be played in equal halves to allow the following Fixture to start at the proper Time. The consent of the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association must be obtained before the Kick-Off Time can be altered from the arranged time.
- (b) The Competition Administrator of the Zone Association, in setting down Kick-Off Times, may start Fixtures at 8.30 am for any daytime Fixture which may include Saturday, Sunday or any Public Holiday. A Fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights providing any alteration to the Kick-Off Time has been approved by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association and providing also that the standard of lighting shall meet all requirements of the Zone Association.
- (c) Finals Series Matches will be set with longer times between matches to allow for extra time and penalty shoot-outs where required. These times will be advised in the Finals Series Draws notified by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association.

## D 20 DISPUTE OVER FIXTURE SCORES

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

If the score recorded is in dispute, the Team Official shall sign the Disputes Box on the Team Match Sheet on the day; and the Member Club shall submit **by e-mail** a written submission on its official letterhead certified by the Secretary or another Executive Officer outlining the Dispute to the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary ([disciplinary@macquariefootball.com](mailto:disciplinary@macquariefootball.com)) within **two (2) days/forty-eight (48) hours** of the incident (Refer to Regulation A 15).

The Competition Administrator – Disciplinary shall make the final score determination.

## D 21 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS AND OTHER DETAILS

Results of ALL Competition Fixtures shall be provided by Host Clubs, which will be responsible for entering results by the end of the day's play online for each Competition match played at the Club grounds on that day (and also including any forfeits of Competition matches scheduled at the Club grounds on that day) The ABSOLUTE DEADLINE for Clubs to enter results online on the website will be BEFORE 9.00 am on the Monday following the weekend's matches.

Failure of Host (Home) Clubs to enter results online by the stipulated time shall result in a Fine for the Club as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

## D 22 GOAL DIFFERENCE

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

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

## D 23 PENALTY KICK DECIDER

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

## D 24 OFFICIAL FIXTURE LIST

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

- (a) Where practicable, a Competition shall consist of two (2) rounds with each Team playing the opposing Teams on two (2) occasions. Should the Joint Board of the Zone Associations consider that the Competition is finishing too early in the season, a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) round may be played between such Teams as the Zone Association deems fit.
- (b) Any dispute between two (2) or more Teams as to the arrangements of Fixtures shall be referred to and decided by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association. Dislocation of any Fixture for any cause whatsoever shall be immediately reported to the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association by the Home Team Club. Any proposed rearrangements of Fixtures by Team Clubs shall be submitted to the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association for approval before any change is made.  
NO APPROVAL, NO CHANGE.
- (c) Fixtures must be played on the date and times as nominated in the Official Fixtures List; these dates could include any weekday evening or night Fixtures; any daytime, evening or night Fixtures on Saturdays, Sundays or Public Holidays.  
Junior Age Grade Fixtures shall be arranged for Saturday daytime where practicable.  
Fixtures not played as scheduled may be rescheduled for the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Sunday of the month or as night Fixtures.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association reserves the right to alter or amend any Fixture after it has been scheduled in the Official Fixture List.  
Such alterations could be to the date, venue, kick-off times or a combination of all, providing the Clubs involved are given a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior notice, wherever possible.
- (e) The Joint Board of Directors of the Zone Associations has the power to abandon any Fixture and organize any other Fixture if it deems such action necessary in the interests of the Zone Association Competition.
- (f) Any washed out Fixture must be re-set within two (2) weeks of the original scheduled date of the washed out Fixture.

## D 25 FORFEITED FIXTURES

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

- (a) A Fixture should start at the stipulated time; however, a Fixture may have a late start at not more than ten (10) minutes after the stipulated starting time. Any Team unable or unwilling to begin a Fixture after this period shall have forfeited the Fixture.  
When a Fixture starts later than the stipulated time, short time will be played. Two (2) equal halves are always to be played.
- (b) A Team must field at least seven (7) of its eligible Registered Players at the start of the Fixture. Failure to do so shall result in the offending Team forfeiting the Fixture.  
A Team forfeiting on two (2) occasions without an explanation that is satisfactory to the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association may be removed from the Zone Association Competition.
- (c) In the event of a Team forfeiting its Fixture the following procedure shall take effect:-  
Full Points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to its opponents and the score shall be recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) to the forfeiting Team. The Offending Team shall pay all appropriate Referee and Assistant Referee(s) Fees and may be referred to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) who may impose further penalty / Fines.
- (d) In the event of a Fixture being forfeited by a Team, the Home Club shall submit a Team Sheet (together with Team Sheets for all other Matches played at the Home Club's grounds on that day) recording the Match result as a forfeit by the forfeiting Team and a 3 – 0 win to the non-forfeiting Team. The Home Club shall also enter the Match result online (together with all other Matches played at the Home Club's grounds on that day) as a Forfeit noting the 'GIVING FORFEIT' and 'RECEIVING FORFEIT' Teams (note the score of 3-0 must NOT be entered). Fines will be imposed for non-compliance with this Regulation.
- (e) **In the event of a Team forfeiting a Finals Series Fixture, the Team will be automatically disqualified from any further participation in the Finals Series.**
- (f) **In the event of a Team forfeiting a Competition Fixture, the notification of the forfeit must be received by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time of the Fixture; failure to notify before the deadline will result in a Fine being imposed on the offending Team Club by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).**
- (g) In the event of a Team forfeiting its Fixture, a Fine of \$200 may be imposed on the Club/Team by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary). In the event of a repeated offence, the Club/Team may be charged with bringing the game into disrepute after referral to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) and may be subject to further Fines and/or Sanctions.

## D 26 APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS / FIXTURES

A Member Club shall not allow its Teams to play in any other Competition in opposition to these Zone Association Competitions unless it has received prior written approval from the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association.

A Member Club shall seek the permission of the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association in writing on Club letterhead for any Events including Club Gala Day(s) it proposes to conduct; and/ or apply online to NNSWF and the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association for permission to conduct Football Clinics or Out of Season Competitions activities it proposes. Minimum notice required to the NNSWFL / Competition Administrator of the Zone Association is seven (7) days and the submission must state the type of activity, list of the participants and all details relevant to the event. Member Clubs conducting such events without seeking and gaining approval of the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association will be subject to disciplinary action.

## D 27 DEFERMENT OF FIXTURES

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

- (a) Consideration for a Deferment will be given only in the case of any cause which the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association at his/her discretion considers of sufficient weight to merit a Deferment.
- (b) Upon the granting of a requested Deferment the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association shall arrange a rescheduled date for the playing of the deferred Fixture provided always that the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association may at his/her discretion declare the Fixture abandoned.
- (c) Upon the granting of a requested Deferment the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association shall notify each competing Club of the date, time and venue of the rescheduled deferred Fixture and shall also notify the Referees Association of these details of the rescheduled deferred Fixture.
- (d) A rescheduled deferred Fixture not played in accordance with Regulation D 27 Clauses (b) and (c) shall not be recognized by the Zone Association and the Teams concerned may be subject to Disciplinary action by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) including the loss of points gained for the Fixture. Only a Fixture authorized by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association shall be recognized.
- (e) Clubs will NOT be granted a Fixture deferment when the Club's request is made on the basis of a potential shortage of Registered Players due to external events, such as NRL State of Origin matches, popular events such as 'Groovin the Moo', attendance at weddings etc. In all such situations, the playing of a Fixture in accordance with the published Fixtures Draw will take precedence over any other external events.**

## D 28 ABANDONMENT OF FIXTURES / SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE

In cases where a Fixture has been abandoned by the Referee, through the invasion of the field by spectators or other reasons, the Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) shall investigate the circumstances of the abandonment and shall:-

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

## D 29 INCOMPLETE FIXTURES

Any Fixture which does not reach its natural conclusion may be an **Abandoned Fixture** (when the Referee ends the Match short of the scheduled finishing time due to player misbehaviour, spectator Interference etc) or a **Time-Completed Fixture** (when the Referee ends the Match at the scheduled finishing time despite play having been halted for some of the scheduled Match time due to a seriously injured player being treated/removed from the field by ambulance officers at some time after the injury). **Note that a Time-Completed Fixture is NOT an Abandoned Fixture.**

- (a) Any Fixture abandoned or stopped during the first half, at the half-time break and up to the actual start of the second half (ie. the blowing of the whistle by the Referee to commence the second half) shall be deemed NOT to have reached its natural conclusion and will be re-scheduled for play at a date, time and place as determined by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association..
- (b) Any Fixture abandoned or stopped during the second half (ie. at any time after blowing of the whistle by the Referee to commence the second half) shall be deemed to have reached its natural conclusion and will NOT be re-scheduled. The score at the time of the abandonment / stoppage will be taken as the final Match score and Match result.

## D 30 FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED

The Competition Administrator of the Zone Association, acting for the Joint Board of the Zone Associations, may re-schedule any Competition or Finals Series Fixture OR determine the result of any Competition or Finals Series Fixture at his / her discretion in the event of any such Fixture not being played or completed due to wet weather, deferment and / or abandonment.

In the event of a washout in the Finals Series the following Rules shall apply:-:

- (a) Rule D 24 (d) and (e) shall apply.  
Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association reserves the right to alter or amend any Fixture after it has been scheduled in the Official Fixture List. Such alterations could be to the date, venue, kick-off times or a combination of all, providing the Clubs involved are given a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior notice, wherever possible.  
The Competition Administrator of the Zone Association has the power to abandon any Fixture and organise any other Fixture if it deems such action necessary in the interests of the Finals Series Competition.
- (b) Efforts will be made by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association to re-locate or re-schedule washed out Finals Series Matches to a suitable alternative venue if the original venue is washed out.
- (c) In the event of a complete or major washout in any one set of Finals Series Fixtures, the Competition Administrators of the Zone Associations will seek to put the season back one (1) week IF THIS IS POSSIBLE.
- (d) If it is not possible to achieve any of the outcomes in D 30 (a), (b) or (c), the Competition Administrator of the Zone association shall declare the Finals Series Event for that Age/Grade to be CANCELLED.
- (e) In the event of the CANCELLATION of the SEMI-FINAL Matches, the FINALS round for the Age/Grade of those cancelled Matches will be set as:
  - Team 1 will play Team 4 and Team 2 will play Team 3 (Team positions from the final competition points score ladder).
  - The two Winners will proceed directly to the Grand Final whilst the two Losers are eliminated.

- (f) In the event of the CANCELLATION of the FINAL Matches, the GRAND FINAL round for the Age/Grade of the cancelled Match will be set as:
  - Team 1 will play Team 2 (Team positions from the final competition points score ladder).
  - The Winner will be declared the Grand Final Winner; the Loser will be declared the Grand Finalist (Grand Final Runner-Up).
- (g) In the event of the CANCELLATION of the GRAND FINAL Match, the Grand Final round for the Age/Grade of the cancelled Match shall be declared NULL AND VOID and the competition shall be declared COMPLETED. NO Grand Final Winner or Grand Finalist (Grand Final Runner-Up) shall be declared since no match has been played.

#### D 31 TEAMS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITION & FINAL SERIES

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

- (a) Team removed or withdrawn before the Competition has started and a suitable Team not able to be found to replace a Team removed or withdrawn then a Bye result may apply in the Competition.
- (b) Team removed or withdrawn during the first round of Competition – each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals deleted from its records and shall be credited instead with a Bye result; each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a Bye result.
- (c) Team removed or withdrawn during the second round of Competition – each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals for the second Round removed from its record and shall be credited with a Bye result. Each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a Bye result.
- (d) If at the discretion of the Competition Administrators of the Zone Associations Rule D31 (c) is found to be impractical then each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals for the second round removed from its record and shall be credited with a Forfeit result. Each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a Forfeit result.
- (e) If a Team is removed or withdraws from the Final Series then, at the discretion of the Competition Administrators of the Zone Associations, either
  - (i) a bye situation will be declared, or
  - (ii) a Team will be promoted based on its position on the Competition Points Table (ie: position on the Zone Associations Competition Premiership Points Table) to take the place of the Removed or Withdrawn Team.
- (f) The Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) shall take action on any infringement of Rule D 31 (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) by subjecting the Member Club to which that Team belongs to a Fine / Sanction as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

#### D 32 A COLOUR CLASH

In the event of a Colour Clash:of playing strips of the two Teams participating in a Fixture, one Team may be required to change part or all of its strip (shirt, shorts, sox)

- (a) The perception of a colour clash and the consequent required change of strip in the event of a colour clash shall be at the sole discretion of the Referee; his /her decision shall be final..
- (b) **For all Zone Associations Age / grade Competitions the HOME TEAM changes strip when instructed by the Referee.**  
Failure to observe this Regulation shall result in a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.
- (c) In a Finals Series Fixture or a Special Competition – the Team named first of the two Teams in the Fixture Draw shall be deemed to be the HOME TEAM (and consequently the one required to change in the event of the Referee declaring a colour clash).

- (d) The colour of the Goalkeeper's shirt must in all cases be clearly distinguishable from the colour of shirts worn by all other Players. The Goalkeeper shall wear socks in accordance with the duly approved colours of the Team. The Referee may at his/her discretion approve that a Player may wear tracksuit trousers of an acceptable colour, with Team socks clearly visible..
- (e) No Team shall be permitted to play in colours likely to be mistaken for those of the Match Officials. The colours worn by Ballpersons shall be distinct from those worn by either of the competing Teams.
- (f) The Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) shall deal with any failure to comply with Regulation D 32 (a), (b), (c), (d), & (e) and subject the offending Team's Club to a Fine / Sanction as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

### D 33 TEAM SHEETS

- (a) The Official Team Sheet for every Zone Association Competition Fixture played on a Club Home Ground during any day **shall be sent by the Home Club to the Macquarie Football Office to be received at this Office no later than seventy-two (72) hours following the completion of the Fixture.** Team Sheets for weekend Fixtures must be received at the Macquarie Football Office before 5.00pm on the Wednesday following the weekend Fixtures; Team Sheets for midweek Fixtures must be received at the Macquarie Football Office no later than seventy-two (72) hours following completion of the midweek Fixtures.
- (b) The Home Team Club shall ensure that each Official Team Sheet is correctly filled out with all required details being provided.
- (c) **Each Official Team Sheet arriving AFTER the stipulated time or submitted INCOMPLETE will subject the Home Club to a Fine of a sum as determined annually.**
- (d) A Team Official from each competing Team must sign the Team Sheet to verify the recorded Result at the finish of the Fixture. In the event of the Referee needing to record disciplinary matters from the match, it will be necessary for the Team Official(s) to wait until the Referee has finished his/her recording before signing to certify the correctness of all information on the Team Sheet. In the event of a Dispute regarding the recorded Match Result and/or Score and the Referee refusing to alter the recorded Result and/or Score; or in the event of a Dispute pertaining to the Match, the Team Official shall have the Dispute noted on the Team Sheet by signing his/her name in the Dispute Box on the front of the Team Sheet. The Team Official must also report the Dispute to his/her Club which must submit **by e-mail** a written submission on its official letterhead certified by the Secretary or another Executive Officer outlining the Dispute to the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary ([disciplinary@macquariefootball.com](mailto:disciplinary@macquariefootball.com)) within **two (2) days/forty-eight (48) hours** of the incident (Refer to Regulation D20).
- (e) Failure of the Team Official to sign the Team Sheet is an offence; it may be subject to a Fine as determined annually and it negates any future claim or protest against Team sheet information.
- (f) As soon as possible but not later than thirty (30) minutes after the signing of the Team Sheet by the Team Official(s) the Referee in charge is to return the Team Sheet to the Ground Official at the Official Table.
- (g) It shall be the responsibility of the Home Team Club to collect the Official Team Sheet from the Referee and return it to the Zone Association.

### D 34 TEAM SHEET DETAILS

- (a) A Team Official from each Team shall have the appropriate Team Sheet completed not later than fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled Kick-Off time of that fixture.
- (b) The eleven (11) Players first named should, where possible, start the Fixture, the others being designated as Interchange Players. Where it is necessary for Players to sign the Team Sheet, Interchange Players may sign the Team Sheet as they take to the field.
- (c) **For all Age Division Competitions (including every individual Age Grade, AllAge, O/35, O/45 Competitions), no more than five (5) Interchange Players may be named on the Team Sheet.**
- (d) The Home Team shall complete in full all the Fixture details as required.
- (e) The number on a Player's shirt shall correspond with the Player's name and number on the Team Sheet and there should be no change of a number before or during a Fixture except on a change of Goalkeeper.

- (f) A Team Official shall print the name and number of each Player in the Team and each Player shall sign next to his/her printed name.
- (g) The name and origin (age grade / division) of a Player temporarily playing in another team ( a Borrowed Player) shall be recorded on the Team Sheet by the Team Official who has borrowed the Player; such Player names must appear in the last section of the team sheet.
- (h) A Player's name cannot be added to the Official Team Sheet once the game has commenced.
- (i) A Team Sheet shall be completed in Black or Blue Biro using block letters and all relevant details thereon must be legible. A Team Sheet completed in pencil, Red Biro or Marker Pen (felt-tipped) or not legibly will result in a Fine to the offending Team's Club of a sum as determined annually for each incorrect Team Sheet.
- (j) The Referee shall endorse the Interchange of a Goalkeeper on the Team Sheet.**
- (k) When a Fixture is forfeited, the Team Sheet shall be signed accordingly by the Referee and the relevant Team Official(s).
- (l) Should a Team Official have a reasonable doubt regarding the eligibility of an opposing Player(s) named on the Team Sheet, he/she should sign in the Dispute Box on the front of the Team Sheet and advise his/her Club Secretary or another Executive Officer of the Club. The Member Club shall submit by e-mail a written submission on its official letterhead certified by the Secretary or another Executive Officer outlining the Dispute to the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary ([disciplinary@macquariefootball.com](mailto:disciplinary@macquariefootball.com)) within two (2) days/forty-eight (48) hours of the incident (Refer to Regulation A 15). The Player(s) will be allowed to play in the Fixture and the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary shall adjudicate on the eligibility of the Player(s).**
- (m) A person found guilty of supplying false information on a Team Sheet shall be dealt with as determined by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary.
- (n) Failure by any Club to adhere to the preceding rules of D 34 shall be subject to action by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary, which could result in Fines and/or loss of points and/or suspensions being imposed.

#### **D 35 TEAM SHEET ISSUE**

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

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

Additional Team Sheets will be available upon request from the Zone Association, either in printed form or online to permit preparation before printing.

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

#### **D 36 SUBSTITUTION / INTERCHANGE OF A PLAYER**

The Substitution of Players shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. The Interchange of Players shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

**The INTERCHANGE of Players Rule will apply to ALL InterDistrict Age / Grade Competitions. The Substitution Rule will NOT be used in any InterDistrict Age / Grade Competition.**

Each Competing Team may at its discretion use the specified number of Interchange Players, one of whom may be the Goalkeeper, at any time in a Fixture (Refer to D34 (c) ).

Interchange can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

An Interchange Player's name must be nominated on the Team Sheet prior to the commencement of the Fixture.

An Interchange Player cannot be used to replace a Player who has been sent off during the Fixture by the Referee.



## D 37 MATCH OFFICIALS

Each Fixture, wherever possible, should be played under the control of an Official Referee and Assistant Referees (hereinafter called the Match Officials) appointed by the Referees Appointments Committee. In the event of no Official Referee being in attendance or appointed then:

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

## D 38 REFEREEING

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

The Referee shall wait for a minimum of ten (10) minutes after the time arranged for the commencement of the Fixture before abandoning the Fixture because of the absence of a Team. The Referee shall decide as to the fitness of the ground for play in all Fixtures. When the Referee finds it necessary to stop play owing to inclement weather or other cause, he/she shall wait a reasonable length of time before deciding to abandon the Fixture.

- (a) The Referee is to record each Player Caution and/or Send-Off on the back of the Team Sheet as per the Regulations governing these incidents. The Referee and Assistant Referees may be required to attend a Disciplinary Committee Hearing upon request by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary). Failure to comply with this Regulation shall result in a fine, determined annually, being imposed on the Referee
- (b) The Referee is to record, on the front of the Team Sheet and in the places provided, the total goals scored in the Match by each Team. The goals should be recorded in a legible and precise manner ie the number recorded as a 'word' and as a 'number' eg seven (7). Failure to comply with this Regulation shall result in a Fine, determined annually, being imposed on the Referee.
- (c) A Club Official and/or Team Official may send in a report to the Association on the performance of a Referee during a Fixture. Such a report shall be on Club Letterhead and shall be received by the Zone Association no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of the Fixture. Notice of such complaint should be phoned to the Zone Association by the Club Secretary on the day of the Fixture.

#### **D 39 MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES**

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

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

#### **D 40 MASS WALK-OFFS**

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

The offending Team shall be liable to such further penalty as shall be determined by the Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) and a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

#### **D 41 REFUSAL TO START A FIXTURE**

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

The offending Team shall be liable to such further penalty/fines as shall be determined by the Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary).

#### **D 42 RING-INS**

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

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

A Team found to have knowingly or wilfully engaged in the 'Ring-In' of a Player or Players in any Fixture shall be deemed to have been guilty of gross misconduct against the Zone Association and the full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to their opponents and the scores recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed this Regulation. The offending Team shall be liable to such further penalty eg suspension and/or Fine as determined by the Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary).

#### **D 43 WASHED OUT OR DOUBTFUL FIXTURES**

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

- (a) A Home Club Official is to inspect the ground on the day of the Fixture and decide whether play can take place during the day; such decision is to be given to the Zone Association's Designated Wet Weather Officer no later than 6.45 am on Saturday and Sunday, 4.00pm Midweek Fixtures (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday). Failure of a Home Club to advise the Zone Association by the stipulated time shall render the offending Club liable to a Fine, as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations, and/or forfeiture of the Fixture.
- (b) Information re. washed out Fixtures will be recorded (and available for access) on the appropriate 1900 number line by 7.15 am Saturday and Sunday, 4.30pm Midweek Fixtures (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) and will also be put on and available for access on the website from these times.
- (c) In the event of a Ground being declared unfit for play (CLOSED), that Ground shall not be used for any Fixtures during that day.
- (d) A Club shall advise the Zone Association of the Name, e-mail Address and Telephone Number of each of its Club Officials who has the authority to declare a Ground unfit for play. This list for each Club shall be provided to the Zone Association Designated Wet Weather Officer. The Club person ringing in Club Ground Closures notification to the Zone Association Designated Wet Weather Officer must clearly identify himself/herself as one of the notified listed Club Officials who has the authority of the Club to close Grounds when necessary.
- (e) Where a Club has two (2) or more Home Grounds and only one (1) Home Ground has been declared unfit for play (CLOSED), then the other Home Ground(s) shall be deemed playable (OPEN). In such cases the separate Grounds must be clearly identified by number or name, as in the Fixtures Draw, so that there is no confusion about games that are on or off.
- (f) A Ground that has been declared fit for play (OPEN) shall have its scheduled Fixtures played on it.

#### **D 44 BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS**

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

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

#### **D 45 OFFICIAL TABLE**

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

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

#### **D 46 GROUND MARKINGS**

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

## D 47 BORROWED PLAYERS' QUALIFICATION

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

- (a) The name and grade of any registered Player(s) temporarily playing in a higher grade (referred to as **BORROWED PLAYER(S)**) shall be recorded on the Team Sheet; the age and division of the source Team of the Borrowed Player **MUST** be shown above the Borrowed Player's printed name.
- (b) **A maximum of four (4) Players borrowed from other Teams registered in the same Club shall be permitted in a Team that is short of some of its own registered Players irrespective of the total number of Players registered in that Team and the number of registered Players of that Team unavailable ie a MAXIMUM of FOUR (4) BORROWED PLAYERS IS PERMITTED.**
- (c) **A Borrowed Player:-**
  - (1) **Same age group/age grade - Must be from a lower division grade**
  - (2) **Age grade one (1) year below - Must be from a division grade that is equal or lower**
  - (3) **Age grade two (2) years below - No restrictions**
  - (4) **Clubs with only one Team in the lower (one (1) year below) age grade - No restrictions regardless of relative division grades of the borrowing Team and the 'borrowed from' Team**
  - (5) **No Player registered in a higher age grade can play for a lower age grade.**
- (d) A BORROWED PLAYER can only play in the starting eleven if there is no Team Registered Player on the Bench (ie: named as a Substitute or Reserve on the Official Team Sheet); otherwise such Borrowed Player must start from the Bench.
- (e) Providing Regulation D 47 (a), (b), (c) and (d) are adhered to, there are no restrictions on the number of games that a Borrowed Player may participate in.
- (f) Providing Regulation D 47 (a), (b), (c) and (d) are adhered to, a Player may play in more than one (1) Semi Final, Final or Grand Final.
- (g) No Player registered in an age grade can play for any lower age grade without obtaining a re-grade and being re-registered. Any registered Player in a Member Club found playing for his/her Club in a division of an age grade lower than that for which he/she is registered, other than as above, without obtaining a re-grade and being re-registered, shall be deemed an INELIGIBLE PLAYER (See Rule C03 (e) ).
- (h) In a designated over age Competition, the Player must have attained the age of the Competition prior to registration (eg attained 35 years of age for O/35 Competition). Proof of age shall be required.
- (i) O/45 and older age grades are classified as social events rather than competitions and are as a consequence ungraded. Such age grades MAY NOT draw on Players registered in All Age Teams despite the Player meeting the relevant age qualification ie NO BORROWED PLAYERS MAY BE USED IN O/45 AND OLDER AGE GRADES.
- (j) For any Age Grade Competition having two or more Divisions, the grading rules (D47) MUST be applied. For example: A Player registered in a Club's All Age Friday B Team would be ELIGIBLE to be used as a Borrowed Player in the (same) Club's All Age Saturday A Team (because he/she would be borrowed into a higher Division); BUT the Player registered in a Club's All Age Friday B Team would be INELIGIBLE to be used as a Borrowed Player in the (same) Club's All Age Saturday E Team (because he/she would be borrowed into a lower Division).

Players may be borrowed between All Age Friday and All Age Saturday Teams; and O/35 Friday and O/35 Saturday Teams PROVIDED ALL GRADING RULES – D47 – ARE ADHERED TO AND AGE QUALIFICATIONS ARE MET - A Player may play UP but MAY NOT play DOWN.

#### **D48 TEAM CAPTAIN**

The Captain of each Team shall wear a distinguishing Arm Band to indicate his/her status.

**For all InterDistrict Age / Grade Competitions, failure to observe this Regulation will not currently result in imposition of a Fine.**

#### **D49 PLAYER PHOTO IDENTITY (ALL AGE, O/35 & O/45 PLAYERS)**

Player Photo Identity is required of ALL Players in all Competitions over 18 years of age; this includes Players aged 18 or less who will be playing in such Competitions.

When such Player registers on-line, he/she must also download his/her photograph as part of the on-line registration process. The photograph must be a high definition coloured photograph taken in 'passport style' ie showing full face, front on, from top of head to top of shoulders, not wearing sunglasses or any headwear. The photograph must be of a quality acceptable to the Zone Association, which reserves the right to reject any sub-standard photographs and require another suitable photograph to be submitted.

The registration of a Player registering on-line remains 'pending' and is completed only when

- (a) the Club has accepted the Player registration;
- (b) the Zone Association has accepted the Player's downloaded registration photograph and Player registration.

Any Player who plays in Zone Competition before completion of the above will be classed as an INELIGIBLE Player and the appropriate Regulations shall apply.

The Zone Association will maintain, for each Over 18 Competition Team, a Team Sheet showing the details and identification photograph of each Player registered for that Team. This may be used by Zone Association Directors/Officials in checking Player identity, submitted protests on Player eligibility, disputes on alleged 'ring-in' players; and may also be used in checking Players taking to the field in matches, either on a random or specific basis.

Where a Club/Team detects any abnormality or breach of the Rules and Regulations, particularly where this involves the true identity of a Player participating in a Fixture, the Club shall

- (a) advise the opposing Club of its intention to report the matter to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary); and
- (b) sign the Disputes Box on the Team Match Sheet; and
- (c) submit a written report **by e-mail** to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) ([disciplinary@macquariefootball.com](mailto:disciplinary@macquariefootball.com)) **within two (2) days/forty-eight (48) hours of the Incident (Refer to Regulation D 33 (d)).**

The Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) shall investigate the matter and determine whether to deal with it directly or refer it to the Disciplinary Committee.

#### **D50 MULTIPLE COMPETITIONS REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

A Player MAY NOT 'DUAL REGISTER' ie register for more than one Team across more than one Club, as this is contrary to FFA , NNSWF and MF/NF/HVF Rules.

A Player may **MULTIPLE REGISTER for more than one Team WITHIN the one Club** by completing the appropriate Zone Multiple Competition Registration form (including signing and having it certified by a Club Official), submitting it to the Zone Association and paying the appropriate Multiple Registration Fee (currently \$20-00 Junior, \$40-00 Senior) to the relevant Zone Association,

The PRIMARY Registration is to the Club Team with which the Player first registers; the Player must pay the full Registration Fee applicable to this Club Team; the Player's first priority and obligation is to this Primary Club Team.

The SECONDARY Registration is to the Club Team with which the Player registers second; the Player must pay the Zone Multiple Registration Fee (currently \$20-00 Junior, \$40-00 Senior) to the Zone Association; the Player's second priority and obligation is to this Secondary Club Team. In the event of a clash of Fixtures of the Primary and Secondary Club Teams, the Player **MUST** play in the Primary Club Team (unless the Player is surplus to this Primary Club Team's requirements at this time).

The Primary Registration **MUST** be with the lower graded Club Team; the Secondary Registration **MUST** be with the higher graded Club Team. For example, a Player **MAY** Multiple Register Primary All Age Division G and Secondary ZFL; but a Player **MAY NOT** Multiple Register Primary ZFL and Secondary All Age Division G.

The Primary Club Team is unrestricted on the number of Multiple Registered Players it uses in any one match. **The Secondary Club Team is restricted to the use of a MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) Multiple Registered Players in any one Match** - such Players must be clearly marked as 'MR' or 'M' on the Team Match Sheet. Note that any of the Multiple Registered Players may be used in the Secondary Club Team but only to a maximum of three (3) Players per Match.

In the unlikely event of a Player wishing to Multiple Register with more than two (2) Club Teams, application must be made to the Zone Association for referral to the Joint Board of Directors which will determine the conditions that will apply to this Multiple Registration and the procedures to be followed in order to effect this Multiple Registration.

#### **D51 FINAL SERIES PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- (a) The only criteria for eligibility of a Player for Finals Series Matches are the normal criteria for a Player to be eligible to participate in Competition Matches during the regular season. No number of matches played qualifications apply.
- (b) Suspended Players are not eligible to play in any Finals Series Fixture until the complete suspension has been served.
- (c) A Player may only be in the starting eleven (11) Players in one (1) Semi-Final, one (1) Final and one (1) Grand Final in any one year (with the exception of designated goalkeepers). The normal Rules on use of borrowed Players (Rule D 47) apply to Finals Series Fixtures eligibility.

**For InterDistrict Age / Grade Finals Series Fixtures, no additional Player Eligibility Rules apply; only normal Competition Player Eligibility Rules apply.**

#### **D52 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

**For InterDistrict Age / Grade Competitions no direct system of promotion and relegation shall apply.**

**Grading of Teams following Registration will be carried out prior to each season by the Joint MF/NF/HVF Grading Committee using data such as previous year's performance, Team composition changes etc to provide a suitable grading for each Registered Team.**

Issued: February 2014  
Review: February 2015