



NORTH WEST ZONE

PO Box 729
Mount Isa, Queensland 4825

Competition Rules 2016

1. RULES OF COMPETITION - SENIOR MEN'S

These rules of competition should be read in conjunction with the Football Federation of Australia (FFA) National Disciplinary Regulations

2. ELIGIBILITY / NON-ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

2.1 Eligible Players

A Player is eligible to play in his team, provided he has been registered in line with the National Registration and Transfer Procedures and is not under suspension by North West Queensland Football or any other Federation.

2.2 Minimum Age – Senior Players

Players to be eligible to play in the senior men's division shall be turning sixteen (16) years and over unless specifically sanctioned by the Competition Administrator.

2.3 Player Eligibility – Multiple Teams

Any club, on any given week, is entitled to have no more than three (3) players represent in multiple teams (i.e. A Grade and B Grade).

Players are not permitted to play in multiple teams for finals or cup matches (e.g. Scottish / Irish).

2.4 Player Eligibility – Final Series

To compete in the Finals, a player must have participated in at least three (3) fixture matches, in the current season.

If a player is suspended for any period of time, he will be deemed to have participated in those fixtures in the division which he/she incurred the suspension.



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2.5 Protest – Playing Ineligible Player

Any club is permitted to lodge a letter of protest regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible Player. The protest must be in writing under club letterhead and be forwarded to the Competition Administrator.

Any club found guilty of the offence of fielding an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match in which the offence occurred.

3. PROMOTION/RELEGATION AND NEW CLUB

The team that has finished in last place in the A Grade competition will be relegated to B Grade at the start of the next season, That A Grade team will have the right to stay in A Grade upon a written request to the competition administrator.

The team that is the Minor Premier of the B Grade division as per section 5 from the year before will be promoted to the A Grade division if this team already has an A Grade side they will not be required to be promoted unless the club in question chooses to do so.

A new club joining the men's competition either for the first time or re-affiliation will start in the B Grade Division unless the club chooses to play in the A Grade in which case a request would need to be given to the competition administrator.

4. FIXTURE FORMAT

Teams are enrolled into one (1) division: Mount Isa Men's Division

Over 35's team can be enrolled in the competition as a second team for a club. This team will be required to have at least 8 over 35 players named on the team sheet or 7 where the team has no more than 9 named on the team sheet.

The season is structured as an integer number of complete rounds. Each round has each team play every other team within its division.

Each team is awarded three (3) points for each win achieved through the regular season fixtures. One (1) point is awarded for a draw with no points (0) for a loss.



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4.1 Forfeit of Match

Where a team is required to forfeit (not including through ineligibility), the fixture will be awarded to the opposing team, as a win. The winning team will be awarded three (3) goal for. The forfeiting team will be awarded zero (0) goals for. The club is also asked to inform the other club and competition administrator ASAP in writing.

Where a team has forfeited three (3) games (not including through ineligibility) in the season they will have to show cause on why the team should not be removed from the competition. If the team forfeits two (2) more games after that they will be removed from the competition.

Where a team is required to forfeit (including through ineligibility), the fixture will be awarded to the opposing team, as a win. The winning team will be awarded three (3) goals for. The forfeiting team will be awarded zero (0) goal for.

4.2 Fixture Match Format

All fixture matches will be played in accordance with the International Football Association Laws of the Game and as follows:

- a) Unlimited substitutions permitted (refer Section 6)
- b) The games will consist of 2 x 45 minute halves.
- c) Interval will be 15 minutes between halves.
- d) Should the scores be equal after normal time, a draw will be declared.

4.3 Delayed, Suspended, Abandoned, Postponed And Cancelled Fixtures

Once a match has commenced, the Match Referee has sole responsibility to determine if the match should be suspended or abandoned due to severe adverse weather conditions. The Match Referee has the discretion to confer with the key match day stakeholders prior to the decision being taken.

In the event of a match being abandoned at half-time or during the second (2nd) half of the match due to adverse weather or any cause over which neither Club or Match Referee has control, the match result at the time of abandonment will be declared the final result.

In the event of a match being abandoned before half-time due to weather conditions or any cause over which neither the Club or Match Referee has control, the match will be declared a postponed match and rescheduled.

Any Club who is found to be responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the abandonment of a fixture will be subject to sanctions to be determined by Competition Administrator and North West Zone.



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5. FINALS QUALIFICATION AND DETERMINATION OF MINOR PREMIERSHIP

At the end of the season, teams are ranked on points, with the highest number of points achieved receiving 1st placing and the Minor Premiership.

The top four (4) teams (1st through to 4th place) will qualify for the A Grade Finals.

The next four (4) teams (5th through to 8th place) will qualify for the B Grade Finals.

If at the end of the competition, teams are equal on points, goal difference shall be taken into account.

In all cases where goal difference is taken into account the manner in which it shall be arrived at shall be as follows:

- The number of goals AGAINST subtracted from the number of goals FOR.
- The HIGHEST resultant plus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to plus goal difference; *or*
- The LOWEST resultant minus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to minus goal difference.

In the case of goal difference being equal the team scoring the greater number of goals FOR shall be declared the winner.

In the case of goals FOR being equal the team with the least number of goals AGAINST shall be declared the winner.

In the event of teams being equal as determined in the foregoing paragraphs, the teams shall play a one (1) off game to determine their respective positions.

The final series fixture format will apply to this match.



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6. FINAL SERIES FORMAT

The final series will be contested by the top eight teams split into two divisions as follows. With teams finishing 5th = 1st, 6th = 2nd, 7th = 3rd, 8th = 4th for B Grade finals:

- Week 1: 1st Semi Final - 1st placed team vs. 2nd placed team
 2nd Semi Final - 3rd placed team vs. 4th placed team
 Winner of the 1st Semi Final progresses straight to the Grand Final
 Winner of the 2nd Semi Final progresses to the Preliminary Final
 Loser of the 1st Semi Final progresses to the Preliminary Final
 Loser of the 2nd Semi Final is eliminated
- Week 2: Preliminary Final - Loser of the 1st Semi Final vs. Winner of the 2nd Semi Final
 Winner of the Preliminary Final progresses to Grand Final
 Loser of the Preliminary Final is eliminated
- Week 3: Grand Final - Winner of the 1st Semi Final vs. Winner of the Preliminary Final.

In the event that only three teams are enrolled in the competition, the 3rd placed team will have a bye in the semi final round (Week 1) and will go on to play the loser of the 1st Semi-final in the Preliminary final.

6.1 Final Series Match Format

All fixture matches will be played in accordance with the International Football Association Laws of the Game and as follows:

- a) The games will consist of 2 x 45 minute halves.
- b) Should the scores be equal after normal time, then 2 x 15 minute periods of extra time shall be played in full.
- c) Should the result still be equal after extra time, determination of the winner of the match will be by a penalty shoot-out.

7. SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS



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7.1 Men's Division

Each team can make unlimited Substitutions in any given fixture, with **NO MORE THAN** Five (5) Substitutes permitted to be named on the Team Sheet. The changes will be made as rolling substitution and will not have to inform the referee.

8. TECHNICAL AREA (BENCH)

A maximum of eight (8) persons are permitted to be within the confines of the Technical Area. They may include (only) the Coach, Assistant Coach, the substitutes and the Team Trainer.

All persons must remain seated in the bench area except for players actively participating in a substitution. A team official may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match but must return to his / her position after doing so.

Persons within the Technical Area must behave in a responsible manner. The appointed Match Official reserves the right to eject any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left the playing field to the referee's satisfaction.

Alcohol and Smokes, for consumption, is not permitted in the Bench Area.

9. GROUND RESPONSIBILITIES

All clubs participating in the competition are required to ensure that sufficient members are made available to ensure that roster ground duty commitments are adhered to. Failure of a club to fulfil its ground duty obligations may result in loss of fixture points or further sanction as deemed appropriate by the Competition Administrator.

10. GROUNDS OFFICIAL

It is the responsibility of the home team to provide at least one (1) Ground Officials in clearly identifiable uniforms for all matches.



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Ground Officials are to identify themselves to match officials prior to the match, be visible at all times and must provide an escort to all match officials before kick-off, at half time and full time if asked for.

Failure of a club to fulfil its ground duty obligations may result in loss of fixture points or further sanction as deemed appropriate by the Competition Administrator.

11. TEAM SHEETS

On match day, both teams are required to complete an official Team Sheet and submit to the match official (Referee) prior to the commencement of the match.

The team sheet must list **all players** taking part in the fixture.

All team sheets must include the date on which the fixture was undertaken.

Where possible, all players must ensure that they have signed the Team Sheet before it is handed to the match referee. In the event a player is unable to sign the team sheet prior to the commencement of the fixture, it is the responsibility of the club official to ensure that player is listed on the team sheet. That player then has until the conclusion of the half time interval to sign the Team Sheet and must do so in front of the match referee.

It is the club's responsibility to ensure:

- It has minimum number of seven (7) players to commence the match, That it does not list more than 16 players on the Team Sheet.
- All players taking the field are eligible to play.
- All players taking the field of play are correctly listed on the team sheet in legible writing.
- All players taking the field of play have signed the Team Sheet (see above).
- All players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time.

Failure to comply with the above will result in the offending team forfeiting the match.

12. PLAYER SAFETY

12.1 Jewellery

In accordance with International Football Association 'Laws of the Game', a player is forbidden to wear any jewellery.



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12.2 Blood Rule

In the event a player suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood, the match official will request that the injured player receive attention outside the field of play and only when he /she is satisfied that the injury or wound is safely covered and contained, will the player be permitted to re-join the game.

In the event the player's uniform or attire is splattered with blood, the referee will instruct that player to change his/her attire before being permitted to re-join the game. Should the injured player be required to change his/her uniform, then the appointed match official will show discretion in allowing the player to wear an alternative numbered shirt if necessary.

13. PLAYER OF THE YEAR VOTES

Immediately following each match fixture, the three "best on field" players will be selected by the senior match official (referee).

The players will be awarded 3 votes, 2 votes and 1 vote respectively.

The player of the year votes will be accumulated with the player acquiring the most points for the season being awarded the Player of The Year.

Player of the Year votes are not recorded during finals series fixtures, cup games or tournament events (e.g. president's cup).

A player cannot receive the Player of the Year for more than one division simultaneously and in the event that this occurred, would be awarded the Player of the Year in the higher division.

Where a player is deemed ineligible to receive the award, the Player of the Year will be awarded to the Player with the next highest number of votes awarded for the season.

Where two or more players have the same number of votes, the award will be awarded jointly.



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14. RE-SCHEDULED FIXTURES

A minimum of one weeks' notice, to the Competition Administrator, is required to reschedule any fixture.

The Team requiring the fixture to be re-scheduled must gain agreement from the opposition team/club and the Referee's Committee Chair as well as confirm availability of the field (for rescheduled date/time) prior to submitting a letter of request to the Competition Administrator.

15. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

All Disciplinary Matters in this Competition will be dealt with under the powers and jurisdiction of the Competition Administrator in line with the 2016 North West Zone Disciplinary Policy and in accordance with clauses 10.1 and 10.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations.

Suspensions

Suspensions are handed down under the 2016 North West Zone Disciplinary Policy and in accordance with clauses 10.1 and 10.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations.

The number of matches specified in suspensions relate to the division of the competition in which the player incurred the suspension. Therefore a player under suspension is not allowed to play in that or any other division, whether senior or junior, until **the day after** the team in which they were playing when they incurred the suspension has played the relevant number of matches for which they were suspended.

All players who receive a red card and are sent off receive **a mandatory 1 match suspension**, which is **not appealable** except in the case of mistaken identity [see clause 11.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations].

All team officials who are dismissed from the technical area receive **a mandatory suspension**, which is **not appealable** except in the case of mistaken identity [see clause 11.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations].

16. APPEALS

Under clause 11.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations, a player or official may appeal the **Additional Disciplinary Sanction** imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice by



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notifying North West Zone Respective Chair **within 7 days of the date on which the Disciplinary Infringement Notice was received** using the appeal form (D5) available from your North West Zone Respective Chair, and signed by the player and the club president or secretary. **It must include all documentation relevant to the appeal (player's statement, any witness statements and any other statements).**

Under clause 11.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations, a player or official may appeal a suspension imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice on the grounds of mistaken identity by notifying North West Qld Soccer Zone **within 7 days of the date on which the disciplinary infringement notice was received** using the appeal form (D6) from your North West Zone Respective Chair, and signed by the player and the club president or secretary. **It must include all documentation relevant to the appeal (player's statement, any witness statements and any other statements).** In the case of alleged mistaken identity, the alleged actual offender must be named and a statement from the offender must be submitted admitting the offence. (This does not include a player being sent off for a second cautionable offence in the same match.)

If a player or team official is considering an appeal, they should request a copy of the match official's report through their club - the club is to email andrew.frahm@bellovista.com.au requesting a copy of the match official's report.

The Disciplinary Committee will review the submitted documentation to assess whether the appeal has sufficient grounds to be heard. The onus is on the appellant to provide sufficient argument in that documentation to convince the Disciplinary Committee that the appeal should be heard. Facts contained in the match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate. Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided by any party. If an appeal is to be heard, any further documents supporting the charge, appeal conditions and notification of the date and time of the hearing will be forwarded to all parties as soon as the appeal is scheduled.

If an appeal against an Additional Disciplinary Sanction is unable to be heard prior to the commencement of that suspension, the player or official will be allowed to participate in the next match pending the hearing of the appeal. The fact of the player participating in that next match signifies that a lodged appeal will proceed. Should the appeal be withdrawn, then the result of such a match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the final result was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team.

In hearing an appeal, the Disciplinary Committee has the power to **overturn, confirm, suspend, increase or decrease** the additional disciplinary sanction against which an appeal is made.



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A party may appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Committee by notifying North West Zone **within 7 days of the date on which the decision of the Disciplinary Committee was received** using the appeal form available from the North West Zone, and signed by the player or official and the club president or secretary. **It must include all documentation relevant to the appeal.**

17. SUPPLING OF OFFICIALS

It is the responsibility of all clubs playing to supply assistant referees where required if only one assistant is required it is up to the home team for that game to supply one.