



Competition Regulations

V2020.3

Revision Table:

VERSION #	DATE	VERSION & NOTES
V2017-V2018	26FEB20	PLEASE REFER TO PREVIOUS VERSIONS OF THESE REGULATIONS.
V2019-1	13FEB19	<p>SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 20. INSERT 20.E TO ADDRESS CONSEQUENCES OF TEAMS NOT ATTENDING FINALS MEDAL PRESENTATION 2. 5.3.B - CHANGE OF AGE GROUP FROM U10 TO U11 3. 5.5.B – CHANGE TO UPGRADE LIMIT FOR INTERMEDIATES INTO ALL AGE COMPETITIONS
V2020-1	26FEB20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. REVIEW OF GRADING 1.2 AND RE-GRADING 1.3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CLUBS AT THE 06NOV19 COMPETITION REVIEW COUNCIL OF CLUBS MEETING. 2. AMENDMENTS TO 5.4.D.I-III SPECIAL EFFECT UPGRADE RULE FOR AM/1 & AM/2 FOR 2020 ONLY 3. AMEND 10.2 REQUIRMENT FOR REGISTERED MANAGERS STARTS AT U11 NOW AND NOT AT U9.
V2020-2	04MAY20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. REMOVAL OF 5.2.D,E & F RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF TIMES A PLAYER CAN UPGRADE DURING THE SEASON, RE-GRADING OF A PLAYER AFTER 4 UPGRADES, AND UPGRADE RESETS FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS 2. 5.2.D (FORMERLY 5.2.G) WORDING CHANGE FOR SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS UPGRADE ELIGIBILITY. 3. 5.5.B – REMOVAL OF THE FOLLOWING WORDING “A MAXIMUM OF THREE TIMES DURING A SEASON”
V2020-3	15JUL20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. CHANGED THE NUMBER OF PERMISSIBLE UPGRADES FOR ALL TEAMS FROM THREE (3) TO FIVE (5). NECESSARY DUE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC MATCH SHEETS. APPLIES TO 5.2.C, 5.4.A&D & 5.5C

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1. ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS

1.1 FORMING COMPETITIONS

- a. Following the closing date for entries by teams in each age group, the Competition Committee shall grade teams and the General Manager shall be responsible for arranging suitable competitions. The competition shall be subject to endorsement by the Board.
- b. The Competition Committee shall determine the number of teams in each division, according to the number of entries. It is preferable that junior and senior divisions shall consist of eight teams where possible. Premier leagues shall be formed according to nominations received each season. This competition shall have a first and reserve team and may be a combination of players from two separate clubs in order to form a premier league squad.
- c. Where a combination of teams from two clubs is used to form a Premier League entry, the teams shall remain individual and shall not be interchangeable with each other.
- d. The Association will conduct non-competition program in accordance with FFA & Football NSW directives, refer to Miniroos Regulations. For the purposes of producing fixtures, the groups formed for these age groups will be referred to as teams & competitions.
- e. In some age groups the Competition Committee may combine age groups or suspend competition for that age group for the season. In cases where there is no local competition, teams may be permitted to enter the competitions conducted by neighbouring Associations, provided such teams have not been combined with an adjacent age group by the Competition Committee. All fees paid to the Association will be refunded.
- f. The lowest division in the All-Age competitions shall be restricted to players who have reached forty-five (45) years of age.
- g. Withdrawal of teams after the publication of team grading will incur a fine of \$300 for competition teams and a fine of \$100 for non-competition teams

1.2 GRADING OF TEAMS

- a. The Association representatives shall grade competition teams according to the previous season's league tables and may use semi-finals and finals results as a guide.
- b. The general principals of promotion and relegation of top two and bottom two teams will apply in new season grading of teams.
- c. The player content of teams and the player's previous experience will also be taken into consideration when determining the grading given to a team.
- d. Clubs may submit additional information to support their team nominations which will be used by the association in the consideration of team grading.
- e. Under 11 teams shall be graded as determined by the association, giving consideration to information provided by clubs.
- f. Late entries of teams shall only be accepted if there is a vacancy in the age/division requested and the grading of the team is compatible with the grading of the vacancy. The association is not required to accept late entries.
- g. Clubs will be issued with preliminary team grading within seven days after the closing date for team nominations.
- h. Clubs will be issued with a final grading outcome.

1.3 GRADING APPEALS AND RE-GRADING

- a. Following the publication of the preliminary grading document refer 1.2.g, clubs will have 48 hours to discuss preliminary grading and submit a written protest to gradings which they believe require review.
- b. A grading panel consisting of club members and board members will be convened and will review all protests.
 - a. Once the final grading has been endorsed by the grading panel, no further appeal will be considered.
 - b. Under extenuating circumstances, and up to the completion of 3 fixtures, the Board may consider applications for re-grading of teams.
- c. Applications shall be made to the Competition Manager, in writing ([Prescribed Form 23 – Grading Protest](#)) stating reasons for the request. An application may be approved if there is a vacancy, or a mutual re-grade in the division requested and the request does not create the complete re-programming of either division affected by the request.
- d. The Competition Manager is responsible for reviewing all age groups and divisions throughout the season and may recommend to the Board a re-grade of a team, irrespective of whether or not an application has been made by a club.
- e. In extenuating circumstances, and in relation to Junior teams only (up to and including age groups preceding Intermediate Men & Intermediate Women), clubs may apply for teams to be regraded before the half way point in the competition (before their 6th match in an 8 team competition and before their 8th match in a 10 team competition).
- f. To be eligible to apply to be re-grade under extenuating circumstances the following must apply;
 - a. The side has not won or drawn any games and has been defeated by a margin of 4 or more goals in each match.
 - b. There is a bye in the division below to move the team into
 - c. The re-grading will not change the structure of either the old or the new division, e.g. The moving of the team will not result in the new or old division being changed from an 8 team competition or 10 team competition to a 6 or 8 team competition respectively.
 - d. The team, if their request is successful, will be moved to their new division at the half way point in the competition as this will allow each team in the new division to play them once.
 - e. The first round of games in the new division will not be replayed.
 - f. Teams in the division from which the team was moved out of will retain all points and results as recorded up to the half way point in the competition.
 - g. The final decision of the move will be at the General Manager's discretion and will take into account the difficulties of rescheduling matches into the competition. No appeals to this decision will be permitted.
 - h. A change in divisions may result in changes to the teams seeding in their new competition. This may lead to matches being played at neutral fields due to ground availability.
 - i. A team who has requested a half way point regrading, does so accepting the above conditions.
- g. In instances where the structure of a competition is changed due to team withdrawals, after the competition has commenced, the Association reserves the right to restructure the competition to address the changes. eg. In an 8 team competition, 2 teams withdraw, reducing the competition to a 6 team competition, in such a case, the competition will be redrawn to reflect the new format. In such cases, the division will keep results relating to those teams remaining in the competition.

2. CONDUCT OF COMPETITIONS

- a. Determining the competition calendar, date, time and venue of all games, is the responsibility of the General Manager in conjunction with the Board.
- b. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the first named team in the competition draw shall be considered the Home Team.
- c. All matches arranged and published are to be played as scheduled, except in the following circumstances:
 - i) The General Manager cancels the match or changes the match to fix scheduling errors or field management, eg filling gaps in fixtures.
 - ii) The referee cancels the match due to ground or inclement weather conditions
 - iii) One of the teams participating forfeits the match.
- d. Clubs may request a change to the published matches if there are field management issues identified, provided it is done within reasonable timeframes as stipulated in competition protocols.
- e. The teams may mutually agree to change the fixture. All mutually agreed requests must be submitted on [Prescribed Form 24 – Fixture Alteration Request Form](#), to the General Manager 7 days before the games. Procedures and terms for changing fixtures are published annually in the Competition Secretary’s Guidelines.
- f. The General Manager may consider a request to change fixtures up to 72 hours before a game if the change is due to extenuating circumstances.
- g. The Association shall provide 48 hours notice to club Competition Secretaries when the Association makes a fixture alteration, except when covered by emergency arrangements (see Section 17.2).

3. DURATION OF COMPETITION MATCHES

- a. The duration of Competition matches shall be as follows, for non-competition matches, refer to Mini Roos Regulations:

All Age		90	Minutes
Over	30 W	80	Minutes
Over	45 M	80	Minutes
Intermediate Men’s or Women’s League	IWL IML	90	Minutes
Under	17	70	Minutes
Under	16	70	Minutes
Under	15	70	Minutes
Under	14	60	Minutes
Under	13	60	Minutes
Under	12	50	Minutes

- b. There shall be a half-time break of 5 minutes at all games.
- c. If the match official shortens any game, both halves of the game must be the same length of time, not including time added on for injuries.
- d. The referee shall be sole judge of time for all games.

4. PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT

- a. Players in all matches shall be in proper club uniform, comprising shirts, with sleeves, boots, socks and shorts, in the club's colours as registered at the time of affiliation. A fine may be imposed for non-compliance with this rule
- b. All players in competitive age groups shall have a number on the back of their shirt. In line with FIFA regulations, shirts may be numbered according to squad numbers consisting of a maximum two digits.
- c. All players are required to wear regulation shin-pads at all times during the game. Shin-pads must cover the majority of the leg between ankle and knee and a sock must cover the shin-pad.
- d. Where the colours of the opposing teams, in any match, are in the opinion of the referee, too similar, it is the responsibility of the home team to change shirts to an alternative colour. Failure to play in club strip, or alternate strip as required, will result in the team concerned deemed to have forfeited their game, except if the opposing club is able to lend their alternate strip, then the game shall be played.
- e. Clubs wishing to change the appearance of their playing strip must apply in writing to the Board for permission. A colour photograph showing details of the playing strip must accompany the application.
- f. Any sponsorship or partnership logos that appear on any part of the player's uniform, must first be approved by the Nepean FA. Applications must be in writing to the General Manager.
- g. Sponsors logos must not exceed 30cm x 30cm in size.
- h. Use of the Association logo on club uniforms requires compliance with the Nepean FA Member Club Logo Policy.
- i. Players are required to remove all jewellery before taking part in a match. This includes body piercings, including facial adornments and tongue piercings.
- j. The wearing of prescription sports spectacles is permitted according to the laws of the game (FIFA law 4). The referee is charged with the responsibility of judging whether or not spectacles are safe to be worn and their decision is final.
- k. Interchange players (reserves) while not on the field of play will wear a bib, in a contrasting colour to the main colour of their playing strip.
 - a. Penalties may be imposed by the NFA Board for breaches of this regulation reported by official Referees.

5. GRADES ASSIGNED TO PLAYERS DURING COMPETITIONS

5.1 REGRADING OF PLAYERS TO LOWER DIVISION OR AGE GROUP

- a. All players shall be assigned an age group and division by the Competition Committee
- b. Players may only be re-graded to a lower division or age group upon successful application to the General Manager by the player's club. If an application to the General Manager to downgrade a player is successful, the player will not be permitted to upgrade to any other team for the duration of the season in which the application has been made.
- c. In Premier League and Reserves, players who have played more than three games in a higher grade may be down-graded due to loss of form, upon application and approval by the General Manager, up to and including the ninth match.
- d. The General Manager shall have the power to re-grade any player at any time.

5.2 UPGRADING OF PLAYERS TO HIGHER DIVISION OR AGE GROUP

- a. The rules of upgrade are designed to allow teams to borrow players if there are shortages due to injury or absenteeism. They do not exist for coaches to continually borrow players from different teams to gain additional game time that deprives regular team members of their game time. The Association expects that existing team members receive game time before any player that is being upgraded.
- b. Players can be upgraded provided that the player fulfils their own team's obligation and does not cause the team to forfeit through lack of players
- c. For any competition game, no more than five (5) players, regardless of age or division, may be upgraded into a team. Except as permitted in 5.4.b.
- d. To be used as an upgraded player in a Final or Championship Tournament match a player must have played for the team they are upgrading to for at least 20% of that team's matches during the regular season.
- e. If a team is re-graded to a different division and all associated results are made "void", then any upgrades used by the team being re-graded shall also be deleted from the records and will not count towards the total number of upgrades used by a player. Player and team disciplinary records remain in force irrespective of upgrades and team re-grades.
- f. In instances where a match is abandoned, the up-grade of a player will remain on record and will count towards the upgrade tally of that player.
- g. A player may not be listed as upgraded while under suspension.
- h. From age group U13 and above, male and female players are not permitted to be upgraded between male and female competitions.

5.3 UPGRADING OF PLAYERS PARTICIPATING IN U12 TO U17 TEAMS (EXCLUDING INTERMEDIATE LEAGUES – SEE 5.5)

- a. A player may be upgraded to play in higher age group or division in the current season provided:-
 - i. The player does not play more than 2 years above the players age, ie. To play in a U14 team the player has to have turned or be turning the age of 12, regardless of the team the player has registered with, and
 - ii. If a player is playing in the same or one age group above the team in which they are registered, they may only play in a higher division if playing in the same age group, or in an equal to or higher division if playing into a higher age group, eg Players in U12/3 team can play in a 12/2 and higher or 13/3 or 13/2 or higher team but not a 13/4 team, and
 - iii. If the player is upgraded two age groups above their team eg, U12 to U14 teams (subject to meeting the age requirement above) they will be permitted to play in any division.
- b. Players from non-competition age groups (U11 & younger) may only upgrade into competition age groups (U12 & above) a total of three (3) times. Upon the fourth and/or subsequent upgrade/s the resulting penalty will be a **Loss of Points to the competition team using the upgraded player**. It is the responsibility of each team to keep accurate records of upgrade usage in order to avoid penalties.
- c. For players in U11 and U12 mixed teams, male players are eligible to upgrade (subject to meeting the age requirement above) to mixed teams in the U12 age group and boys teams for older age groups. Female players are permitted to upgrade (subject to meeting the age requirement above) to teams in the U12 age group and female teams in older age groups playing in a female competition.
- d. Players from U16 teams to U17 teams (where an U17 competition exists), who have attained the age of 16, may upgrade to any Intermediate Men's or Women's or all age division (male and female) within their club, regardless of the division of their original team (Example – An U17.1 player may upgrade to AM division 1 or division 5, but not into a female team).

5.4 UPGRADING OF PLAYERS PARTICIPATING IN ALL AGE TEAMS

- a. All Age Men's & All Age Women's teams (any division) can upgrade players, provided they have attained the age of 16, from lower division teams within their own club. The maximum number of players that can be upgraded for a game is five (5).
- b. Over 35 and Over 45 Men's and Over 30 Women's teams can upgrade players, provided they qualify for age criteria for those age groups, from lower division teams within their own club. The maximum number of players that can be upgraded for a game is five (5)
- c. For male players, teams in O45 competitions are considered to be in lower divisions than teams in O35 and AM competitions, while teams in O35 competitions are considered to be in a lower division than teams AM competitions. For female players, teams in O30 competitions are considered to be in a lower division than teams in AW competitions.
- d. Premier League teams can have unlimited upgrades of players (provided they have attained the age of 16) from lower division teams within their own club. The maximum number of players that can be upgraded for a game is five (5). Any upgrade to a Premier League team is not counted in a players upgrades for the competition season.
 - i. ¹Special circumstance rule for 2020 season issued in Circ2020-002
 - ii. The clubs who confirmed they would submit a Prem squad in 2020 will be permitted to **fully interchange** their players between Div. 1 & Div. 2, however, their games, when drawn against away teams, will be played at different grounds and as such they will need to have sufficient players registered to accommodate two teams.
 - iii. All teams in All Age Men's Div. 1 and Div. 2 will be permitted to **upgrade** a total of five (5) players from lower divisions. There is no limit to the number of times a player may upgrade to Div. 1 or 2. The only provision is that they come from a lower division and have attained the age of 16 at the time of upgrade and that they qualify to play in the competition in accordance with our regulations.
- h. Veteran players, who have attained the age of 40 years old, may be upgraded on an unlimited number of occasions to any team which is a higher division than the team they have been registered with.

5.5 UPGRADE RULES RELATING TO INTERMEDIATE MEN'S & WOMEN'S LEAGUES

- a. U16 players may upgrade into the Intermediate Leagues (IW & IM), provided they are turning or have turned 16 in the year of competition, regardless of their registered div. in the U16 competition.
 - b. Players registered to teams in the Intermediate Leagues, any division, may upgrade to any All Age
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¹ Due to there being no Prem & Prem Res Competition for the 2020 season, the upgrade rules contained in 5.4.d.i-iii have been endorsed to be in effect for the 2020 season only, while the competition is reviewed for 2021.

Divisions provided the upgrading player has attained the age of 16. (effective 2020 onwards as this was introduced part way through 2019)

- c. A maximum of five (5) upgraded players will continue to apply in these competitions

6. PAYMENT AND FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS TO PLAYERS

- a. Clubs are not permitted to pay players, or offer financial inducements to play for the club, except to cover expenses for such items such items as travel. These types of payments shall be made in accordance with the FFA by-laws.
- b. If a club or player is found guilty of making or receiving payment of financial inducements, penalties shall apply.

7. GROUNDS AND MATCH EQUIPMENT

7.1 GROUNDS

- a. Host clubs are required to ensure that their facilities meet a minimum standard.
- b. The absolute minimum standard at a ground hosting NFA matches is
 - a. toilet facilities - male and female toilets available from the time of set up until closure of the facility. Male and female toilets should be supplied with toilet paper.
 - b. freely available, safe, drinking water and
 - c. must have a supply of ice available to treat injured players and a fully stocked first aid kit. First aid supplies must be available regardless of canteen facilities being available.
- c. Rubbish receptacles should be placed at suitable locations.
- d. Where possible the host club will provide a canteen on site that is stocked with hot and cold drinks, and provides hot and cold food either by use of a barbecue or food warming facilities.
- e. Secure dressing rooms incorporating hot showers, and available for home and away teams capable of housing a minimum of two teams.
- f. The club will have at least one person on duty at the ground in the role of Ground Official. A ground official may not act as a team marshal while executing their duties as Ground Official.
- g. The host club shall be responsible for ensuring the field is regulation size and is marked correctly.
- h. It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that there is a clear gap of one metre along the sidelines.
 - a. The gap must be identified by a painted line.
 - b. Spectators are required to remain behind the line at all times.
 - c. The area behind the goals at each end of the field shall be kept free of spectators at all times.
- i. It is a requirement that all clubs use a technical area on one side of the playing field, on a full size field. A club may apply to the Board of Directors for an exemption to this rule if the layout of their field does not support a technical area as described. The decision of the Board is final in their determination for any exemption request.
- j. The technical area shall be marked as an area commencing two metres from either side of the half way line, one (1) metre back from the side line, measuring six (6) metres x minimum one (1) metre deep. The four (4) metre area between both technical areas shall remain spectator free and shall be used for player interchange only (*see diagram located in the Competition Secretaries Guidelines*) **During Covid-19 restrictions refer to Competition Secretaries Guidelines for temporary variation to this rule.**
- k. The technical area shall house the coach and manager and substitutes for the teams taking part in the match. No other person may occupy the technical area. No person is permitted to issue instructions from any other area. The Board may fine a club for breaches of this rule.

- l. The officials and players of both teams shall occupy a technical area each. In the event of a dispute as to which officials stand in which area, first choice shall be awarded to the visiting club coach and manager. The team officials shall issue all instructions from this area
- m. A referee is entitled to refuse to officiate on an insufficiently marked ground and in such an event, the visiting team may be awarded the points, at the discretion of the Board.

7.2 SPECIAL FIELD MARKINGS FOR U12 AGE GROUPS

- a. For Under 12, an extra line shall be drawn on the touchline, eight meters from the edge of the penalty area. This shall be the point for the age groups to take corners from.
- b. If the sideline is closer than eight meters from the penalty area, the corner kick will be taken from the proper corner arc.

7.3 MATCH EQUIPMENT

- a. The host club shall provide suitable goal posts, corner flags and goal nets.
- b. The host club shall provide two match balls, correctly inflated, and shall present them to the referee for inspection prior to the commencement of the game.
- c. Where a neutral field is used, the team listed first on the fixture sheet shall be responsible for providing two properly inflated match balls.
- d. Should the host club not comply with the requirements of points 1–3, and the matter is reported to, and upheld by the General Manager, a fine may be imposed for non-compliance.
- e. Ball sizes to be used at the Association’s sanctioned games are as follows:

Age Groups	Ball Size
6, 7, 8, 9	3
10, 11, 12, 13	4
14 and above	5

7.4 PROTESTS ON THE CONDITION OF GROUNDS AND/OR EQUIPMENT

- a. A visiting team that wishes to protest against the condition of any ground or the goal posts, corner flags, nets or ball, shall make their protest to the referee before commencement of the match, or if a replacement ball is being used, at the time of the incident. The referee shall note the protest on the team sheet. However, the referee has the authority to order a match to be played, despite protests made in accordance with this paragraph.
- b. Where the protest relates to the ground, goal posts, corner flags, nets or ball not conforming to the Laws of the Game, a further protest may be made in writing on [Prescribed Form 19](#). A protest must be received by the General Manager within 48 hours of the match being played. The protest must be lodged via email by a member of the club’s management committee. Protests not lodged in this manner will not be considered.

7.5 HOSTING OF MATCHES INCLUDING NEUTRAL FIELD MATCHES

- a. When any game scheduled to be played on a neutral field, the General Manager shall advise the host club that there are additional fixtures set down for the field by way of a fixture alteration notice.
- b. Team sheets are the responsibility of the team named first on the fixture list and completed sheets shall be returned to an official of the home team.
- c. The host club is responsible for marking the field and supplying and installing nets and corner posts, and must supply basic amenities as outlined elsewhere in this regulation

8. SUBSTANCE RESTRICTIONS AT VENUES

8.1 CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR AT GROUNDS

- a. No alcohol to be allowed at any ground under the jurisdiction of the Association within 10 metres of the playing area.
- b. No alcohol may be consumed at any venue while Junior matches are being conducted.
- c. At venues sign-posted as alcohol free zones by the Local Government Authority, no alcohol may be consumed under any circumstances, at any time.
- d. All players, officials and spectators are required to follow the directions of club officials or ground signage in relation to local rules pertaining to the consumption of alcohol.
- e. The penalties, as here-under, applies to any field within the Association's area, whether the players or spectators are at home, away or on a neutral ground, and whether or not they are officials, players or spectators from any club within the Association's area.
- f. Failure to comply with rules relating to the consumption of alcohol shall incur the following penalties:
 - i) FIRST OFFENCE = Minimum \$300 fine plus four weeks suspension to the team, manager, coach or player, if involved and found guilty of the offence.
 - ii) SECOND OFFENCE = Minimum \$600 fine, plus ten weeks suspension to the team, manager, coach or player, if involved and found guilty of the offence.
 - iii) THIRD OFFENCE = Minimum \$1000 fine plus minimum twelve months suspension to the team manager, coach or player, if involved and found guilty of the offence.

8.2 SMOKING AT VENUES

Smoking at sporting venues is strictly prohibited. Clubs may establish designated smoking areas in car parks, on roadways and in areas permitted by their local government rules and statutes.

9. REFEREES

9.1 REFEREES

- a. All official referee appointments are made by the Nepean Referees Group (NRG) organizing committee.
- b. If an appointed referee arrives after the designated kick-off time and the match has started using a substitute referee, the game shall proceed and the appointed referee shall not officiate for the game, nor shall they be entitled to any payment for the fixture.
- c. A referee may not be replaced during the game for any reason other than an illness or an injury that prevents them from completing their duties. In the event of a referee being unable to complete their duties, it is the responsibility of the team officials to appoint a replacement referee for the remainder of the match.
 - i. In the event of such a replacement, the Team Sheet will be so marked with a notation and signed by the Club Official.
- d. The referee shall commence the game as per the schedule provided by the Association.
- e. In the event of a replacement referee not being available, the match will be declared abandoned and dealt with under the Grievance & Disputes Regulations.
- f. In the event of an official referee not attending a match, the team managers, or captains, of both teams shall agree to appoint a referee to control the game.
- g. The first preference shall be given to any accredited referee who is available and willing to officiate. The accredited referee may have (and should declare) an affiliation with one of the two clubs involved in the fixture, if an affiliation exists.
- h. Unofficial referees, if appointed to a match, must be suitably attired, carry a whistle, a time keeping device and a set of cards for use in the match.
 - i. **Host clubs are required to keep a set of red & yellow cards on hand** for use by unofficial or un-appointed referees.
- i. Unofficial referees must record all cautions and send-offs on the team sheet and provide incident reports in all cases where a player is dismissed from the field, using the [Prescribed Form 02](#) to record send offs & [Prescribed Form 03](#) to record an incident report.
- j. No person that is currently under suspension from any football organisation, may referee a competition match as an official or unofficial referee.
- k. The referee shall print their name on the team sheet and indicate whether they are official referee or an unofficial referee. Official referees are to write their FFA registration number in the space provided.

9.2 REFEREES PAYMENT

- a. FNSW Rates of pay for each season shall be advised to clubs upon receipt of the advice received from Football NSW. NFA rates may be subject to specific negotiations and shall be notified to clubs no later than 31st December each year. This will be rate for the next calendar year.
- b. The Association invoices each club a 50% share of the costs associated with sanctioned referee and assistants.
- c. If a club notifies the association that a team will forfeit a competition match, they may still be invoiced 100% of the cost of a referee, due to scheduling requirements.
- d. Rules relating to Referees procedures may vary in FNSW and inter-district competitions. Clubs are required to observe differences in rules when playing outside of the Nepean FA.

10. COACHES, MANAGERS & MARSHALS

10.1 TEAM COACHES

- a. Teams Under 9's and above shall have a coach who shall be registered with the Association, as per the registration guidelines and procedures.
- b. Team coaches must be registered for each team at the time of team nominations.
- c. Teams who do not have a registered Coach in place will forfeit each match until a suitable coach is registered and assigned to the team.
- d. An ID card, complete with photograph of team coach, shall be issued by the Association. The ID card must be worn and clearly displayed at all matches.
- e. There shall be one coach only per team for the duration of the game and that coach shall wear the coloured vest as purchased from the Association.
- f. Coaches must remain in the technical area throughout a match unless invited onto the field by the Referee.
- g. If the registered team coach is not available for a match then an acting coach is to be nominated by the team. The acting coach is to print and sign their name on the team sheet in the space provided.
- h. It is the responsibility of a club management committee to ensure that all registered coaches are;
 - i. Suitably qualified to deliver coaching to their appointed team either through accreditation
 - ii. Have been properly identified using photo ID
 - iii. Have been assessed to determine their compliance requirements for Working with Children Checks
 - iv. Have been properly and adequately instructed regarding Codes of Conduct

10.2 TEAM MANAGERS

- a. Teams Under 11's² and above shall have a manager who shall be registered with the Association, as per the registration guidelines and procedures.
 - b. No team manager shall be appointed under the minimum age of 18 years.
 - c. An ID card, complete with photograph of team manager, shall be issued by the Association. The ID card must be worn and clearly displayed at all matches.
 - d. Team managers must be registered for each team at the time of team nominations.
 - e. The team manager is to sign their name on the team sheet in the space provided. If the registered team manager is not available for a match then an acting manager is to be nominated by the team. The acting manager is print and sign their name on the team sheet in the space provided.
 - f. Team managers are responsible for completing the team sheet.
 - g. Both team managers shall sign the Team Sheet at the end of their game to indicate that the score has been recorded correctly.
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² From Season 2020 onwards Managers will only be required for teams U11 & above.

- h. Team managers are responsible for the appointment of their team Marshal at each match and to ensure that the Marshal is aware of their responsibilities in accordance with **Regulation 10.4**.
- i. It is the responsibility of a club management committee to ensure that managers are;
 - i. Properly instructed in the completion of team sheets and
 - ii. Are provided with a copy of the Association Regulations relating to the completion of team sheets
 - iii. Have been properly identified using photo ID
 - iv. Have been assessed to determine their compliance requirements for Working with Children Checks
 - v. Have been properly and adequately instructed regarding Codes of Conduct

10.3 TEAM OFFICIALS FOR MINI ROOS AND NON-COMPETITION AGE GROUPS

- a. U5 to U8 Age Groups shall have one registered official Coach per team
- b. U9 to U11 Age Groups shall have one registered coach and one registered manager per team.

10.4 MARSHALS

- a. At all matches, there shall be a minimum of two marshals, one marshal from each team, wearing an appropriate vest as purchased from the Association.
- b. The marshals shall introduce themselves to the referee before the commencement of the game.
- c. Marshals' duties shall be to ensure that spectators, coaches and managers do not encroach the sidelines, or the pitch, and see that good order is maintained.
- d. Should any incidents arise out of a match that are for consideration by the Board, each marshal shall complete a written report into such incidents for the Board. The report shall be submitted on [Prescribed Form 20](#) (Incident Report lodged by a Team Official or Spectator) in accordance with instructions contained in the form. Forms are available from the association website Library.
- e. The marshals shall appear at any inquiry as neutral witnesses, if required.
- f. All marshals shall have obtained the age of 18 years of age.
- g. Marshals from both teams shall print their name, and sign the team sheet, indicating they were in attendance for the game.
- h. Where a game is played on a neutral field, it is the responsibility of each visiting team to supply their own marshal for their game.
- i. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager, or in their absence, the team Coach to appoint the Marshal for their match and to ensure that the Marshal is aware of their responsibilities in accordance with these regulations.
- j. In matches where a team/s does not have any spectators available to act in the role of marshal, they should approach the home club officials to act in the role/s for the team, or both teams if necessary. If this is not possible, then no marshal should be recorded on the team sheet.
- k. Referees have been instructed not to officiate at matches where no marshal is present at all. If the referee elects not to proceed, the match will be recorded as not played. The match will not be rescheduled, no points will be awarded, and both teams will be responsible for the referee's fees

10.5 GROUND OFFICIALS

- a. All clubs hosting matches at their fields should have a Ground Official assigned.
- b. In instances where a team is playing at a neutral field, the visiting team is not required to provide an official unless they have multiple matches assigned at a neutral venue (such as when their field is closed and their games are moved in their entirety to another venue).
- c. A person assigned the responsibility of ground official should ensure that they introduce themselves to marshals of all teams and any match officials appointed to the ground. A ground official should advise the match official as to where he will be located whilst the match is being played. (This should be within line of sight of the referee and not in the club canteen or away from the playing area)
- d. Ground Officials duties shall be to:
 - i. Assist the referee as required
 - ii. Ensure that team Marshals are aware of their responsibilities, and if they are not, outline to them what their duties are.
 - iii. Where necessary, assist Team Marshals to ensure that spectators, team officials or reserve players do not encroach onto the pitch.
 - iv. Ensure that good order amongst spectators is maintained.
 - v. Ensure that alcohol is not consumed in the immediate vicinity of the playing area and that the local by-laws relating to the consumption of alcohol are upheld.
 - vi. Sign the team sheet in the space provided to acknowledge their presence at the fixture in case the association needs to contact you.
- e. A ground official has the right and responsibility to ask any abusive person to leave the area of play.
- f. if any action should be taken against their club member or report to the opposition club, details regarding the action that was taken against their club member/s should be provided by the Ground Official.
- g. Should any incident arise out of a match that is for consideration by the Association, the ground official shall complete a written eyewitness report. The report should be submitted to the club for forwarding to the association.
- h. A Ground Official shall be prepared to appear at any association inquiry formed to deal with specific incidents where the ground official was in attendance.
- i. While it's not necessary that a Ground Official is fully conversant with Association Regulations or the Laws of the Game, it is advisable that they have access to a copy of the Association Regulations and access to a phone to contact the Association should an emergency arise.
- j. All Ground Officials shall have obtained the age of 18 years of age.
- k. Ground Officials will be required to wear a vest, as made available by the NFA with the NFA logo and markings.
 - i. Penalties may be imposed by the NFA Board for breaches of this regulation.

11. INTERCHANGE & REPLACEMENT RULES

11.1 INTERCHANGE

- a. In the Nepean District, the competition uses unlimited interchange at all levels and ages. This offers teams the opportunity to rotate up to 16 players, which is the maximum amount of players allowed to participate in a match.
- b. An interchange of five players at any time during a match, for any reason, may be made, provided players who are used as interchanges have been listed on the team sheet prior to the commencement of the game.
- c. The interchange zone shall be the technical area one metre either side of the halfway line.
- d. An interchange is made in accordance with the referees instructions. No player may enter or leave the field without the permission of the referee.
- e. The number of interchanges made during a match is unlimited.

11.2 INTERCHANGE RULES & EXTRA TIME IN ANY MATCH THAT REQUIRES A RESULT

- a. In matches that require extra time, interchanging of players will cease at the completion of extra time.
- b. If penalty kicks are required to determine a winner, then the 11 players on the field at the end of extra time are the only players permitted to participate in the penalty kicks.
- c. If a team wishes to replace the goalkeeper for a penalty shootout, the change may only be made with one of the ten players who were on the field at the completion of extra time.

12. SPECIAL RULES FOR U12 & 13 COMPETITIONS

- a. Goal kicks will be taken from anywhere within the 5.5 metre area (6 yard box) by the Goalkeeper and defending Players will be required to retreat at least twenty-five (25) metres to allow the attacking Team to build up play out of the back third
- b. ii. An attacking Player will not be able to encroach inside the 25 metre area until a defending Player has had his/her first touch of the ball once the whole of the ball has vacated the 18yrd box
- c. iii. If an attacking Player encroaches prior to the defending Player having his/her first touch then the goal kick will be retaken
- d. iv. The 25 metre line must be marked by the Home Club via placement of a cone or pole to the side of both touch lines, 25 metres from the goal line at both ends of the field
- e. If in the opinion of the Referee, the 25 metre rule is being utilised to waste time by either the attacking or defending Team, the Players guilty of the perceived time wasting will be cautioned

13. WITHDRAWING OF TEAMS AND MATCH NOT TAKING PLACE

13.1 TEAMS WITHDRAWN FROM COMPETITION

- a. In all instances where a team has been permanently withdrawn or removed from a competition, the results relating to that team shall be deleted and a withdrawal fine of \$300 will be applied to the club.

13.2 TEAMS WITHDRAWN FROM FIELD OF PLAY

- a. A team withdrawn from the field of play for any reason whatsoever shall be required to:
 - i. Give an account of their actions by completing the appropriate Abandoned Match Report ([Prescribed form 21](#)) within 24 hours of the match.
 - ii. The team will be deemed to have forfeited the match and will incur a \$100 fine and be responsible for the payment of 100% of all referees fees.
- b. When a match does not proceed, for whatever reason, except when a team fails to turn up or has insufficient number of players to take the field, ie less than seven (7), each club shall submit a written report to the General Manager within 24 hours of the match being abandoned. The report must be made via email using ([Prescribed form 21 – Abandoned Match Report](#)) The General Manager will determine how the abandoned match will be recorded.

13.3 ABANDONED MATCHES

- a. An abandoned match is one that was not played for the full duration of the match because it was ended early by the referee due to incidents of on or off field violence.
- b. Any match abandoned for reasons relating to player injury, venue failure (lights, watering systems, field corruption), or inclement weather determined by the referee to be dangerous to players, or causes the field to become an unsafe environment is considered a postponed match.
- c. Any Match, not completed, for any reason must be reported to the General Manager on the day of the match, by telephone. Penalties apply for failure to report an abandonment or incomplete match.
- d. Both clubs involved in the abandoned match must complete an abandoned match report on the ([Prescribed form 21 – Abandoned Match Report](#)) within 48 hours. Failure to do so, will result in a \$100 fine to the offending club.
- e. After the commencement of the Match, should play be postponed due to serious injury that requires the player to be removed from the field by ambulance, poor weather, failed lighting, state of the pitch or any other reason as determined by the referee, and the Match cannot be completed in full, it will be rescheduled by the Association and will recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full. The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the Match:
 - i. The Match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the Match was initially postponed unless a player has received a suspension in matches conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match.
 - ii. Should a player have received a suspension in a match conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match that player:
 - a. Will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled match
 - b. Will not be able to count the match as a stand down in relation to any fixture suspension
 - c. The club will not be permitted to replace the player on the team sheet
 - d. If the player was on the field of play at the time of the postponement the player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the team sheet as long as the team has available substitutions as per the Regulations
 - e. If the Player was a substitute the number of available Players to substitute will decrease as they player cannot be replaced
 - iii. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the team sheet
 - iv. Players sent off during the postponed Match cannot be replaced
 - v. Nepean Referees Group will endeavour to appoint the same Match Officials to the completion of the Match, however may appoint replacements should any or all of the Match Officials be unavailable.
 - vi. The referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged against the actual elapsed time as recorded by the referee
 - vii. Should a Match be abandoned due to the fault of one (1) Team, or should it be determined by NFA that one (1) Team / Club is responsible for the delay to the Match, the remaining minutes will not be rescheduled for completion, and the Match will be determined as a forfeit against the Team / Club that is deemed guilty of the abandonment or responsible for the delay
 - viii. Where a fixture is incorrectly reported as abandoned by the Referee where circumstances show clearly that the match was actually postponed, Nepean FA will treat the Match as postponed.
 - ix. In all cases of postponed matches, where no fault is attributed to either team, the team who was losing the match at the time of postponement will be given the opportunity to allow the score to stand, and the score will be recorded as it was at the time of the original match ending.

14. FORFEITS

- a. Matches shall be played on the ground set down by the Association and shall commence at the designated times. Any team failing to play the match as scheduled shall be deemed to have forfeited the match and incur such penalties as the Board may impose.
- b. Any team forfeiting a game, the opposition shall be credited with a 3–0 win. Reporting forfeits must be carried out in the manner designated by the Association each season. This is provided in the Communication Protocols document issued by the General Manager in conjunction with the Board.
- c. A team must field at least 7 registered players at the commencement of any match. Failure to do so shall deem the team to have forfeited.
- d. If during the game, a team is reduced to less than 7 registered players, the game shall be abandoned and recorded as a forfeit. The score shall be recorded as 3–0 to the non-forfeiting team, except in cases where the non-forfeiting team is leading by a larger score at the time the game is abandoned, in which case the score shall be recorded as advised by the referee on the team sheet.
- e. When a game is forfeited, without notice on the day set down for play, the team to whom the game is forfeited, must submit a team sheet, signed by the referee, if in attendance, and forward to the Association in the usual manner. Failure of the Official Referee to sign the team sheet shall indicate no referee in attendance.
- f. When a match is forfeited, all match officials' fees shall be the responsibility of the club that forfeited the fixture
- g. The General Manager is to be advised, in writing, of a forfeit at the time that results are submitted.
- h. Forfeits with or without notice must also be notified via email to the Association's office, the host club (if the match is set down as a Neutral Field fixture) and the opposition team.
- i. A team forfeiting on three consecutive occasions must submit a report for the Board's attention, to the General Manager showing just cause why they should not be removed from the competition.
 - i. Failure to do so will result in the immediate removal of the team from the competition and will be classed as a team withdrawal. Penalties apply.
- j. A forfeit in the Premier League competitions by either the 1st Grade or Reserve Grade team will result in a forfeit being recorded against both the 1st and Reserve Grade teams, regardless of a game having been played by either grade.
 - i. Relevant forfeit penalties and Referees fees will apply to the forfeiting club for both grades.
- k. When a match is delayed due to insufficient players being present, no Player ID cards being present, or a team not having the correct attire, every effort shall be made for the match to proceed up to 15 minutes after the scheduled kick off time. If after 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time, the issue causing the delay is not resolved, a forfeit will be declared by the match official.
 - i. In the absence of a match official, the forfeit may be declared by the team deemed not to be in breach of the regulations.

15. RESULTS

- a. Club officials are responsible for submitting results in the method directed each season by the General Manager.
- b. Results must be lodged by 9:00pm on the Sunday of each weekend that matches are played.
- c. If the game is played mid-week, results must be lodged by 5:00pm the following day.
- d. A fine of \$50 will be imposed for non-compliance with this rule.
- e. Clubs are responsible for checking the published results.
- f. Club officials must advise the Association's office of any discrepancies of results via email on [Prescribed Form 19 Protest Form](#). **(NB: Time restrictions may apply for the consideration of discrepancy reporting, depending upon competition deadlines.)**
- g. Protests on scores will be verified using the submitted team sheets and other methods of investigation employed by Association Staff.

16. DETERMINING COMPETITION WINNERS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

- a. In all league competitions, the league competition winner is the team finishing with the most points at the end of regular competition, prior to the semi-finals and finals.
- b. Division one competition league winners are usually the teams invited by the Association to play in the Champion of Champions, except in All-Age men, where the Association will invite the winner of the Premier 1st Division.
- c. Should division 1 teams finish in equal first place on points, the sequence in point 6 shall be used to determine who will be invited to represent the Association in the Champion of Champions. If a winner cannot be found using this method, a play-off shall be organised by the General Manager to decide the outcome.
- d. In the Over 35 competition the Champion of Champions representative team will be decided by a play off between the Over 35/1 Sunday team and the O35/1 Friday night competition team winners, in a format decided upon by the Competition Manager, in keeping with the time and venue constrictions as they present themselves at the end of the season. The play off match/s may take the form of a two-leg home & away playoff, or a single play off match if insufficient time exists. The Association will give notice of the intended format prior to the start of each season, however, the Competition Manager is empowered to alter the advertised format in the event of weather or venue restrictions.
- e. Representing the Association at Champion of Champions is a privilege, not an automatic right. The privilege may be withdrawn by the Board if the behaviour or disciplinary record of the team demonstrate to the board that such action is warranted. The place may be offered to another team in these circumstances.
- f. Points are awarded as follows
 - A win – three points
 - A draw – one point
 - A loss – no points.
- g. In all cases where teams end the regular season on equal points, the following methods shall be used to determine league position:
 - i) Goal difference (goals scored minus goals conceded)
 - ii) Greatest number of wins in the competition being decided
 - iii) Greatest number of draws in the competition being decided
 - iv) Team that has scored the most goals in the competition being decided
 - v) Team that has scored the most goals in any single game in the competition being decided
 - vi) Head to head results between the teams being separated. (wins, goals scored, goals conceded)

- h. In Semi Finals, where teams end the semi finals competition on equal points, the following methods shall be used to determine semi finals competition positions:
- i) Goal difference (goals scored minus goals conceded)
 - ii) Greatest number of wins in the competition being decided
 - iii) Greatest number of draws in the competition being decided
 - iv) Team that has scored the most goals in the competition being decided
 - v) Team that has scored the most goals in any single game in the competition being decided
 - vi) Head to head results between the teams being separated. (wins, goals scored, goals conceded)
 - vii) Highest position in the regular season

17. POST SEASON REVIEW

A review of the competition shall take place at the conclusion of each season at a competition review meeting.

18. WET WEATHER & EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

- a. These Rules Apply To All Age Groups And Divisions
- b. Emergency Regulations Definition – The rules contained in these regulations are applied at times when it is considered imperative that as many games as possible take place and are not postponed. This will mainly be due to lack of available dates to reschedule games to.
- c. If the General Manager, or delegated assistant is not available to undertake duties, the board shall nominate a replacement person to carry out the required duties.

18.1 WET WEATHER

- a. In the event of wet weather causing any number of fields to be closed, the General Manager, or nominated replacement, shall be empowered to transfer matches to alternative fields at extremely short notice.
- b. The General Manager shall advise the original host club as to where the match has been re-scheduled and at what time the game will kick off.
- c. Team officials arriving at a venue and finding it unavailable shall contact a committee member of the host club in order to find out if the scheduled game has been re-scheduled by the Association.
- d. A member of the Association's executive (President, Treasurer, Secretary) must be advised by the General Manager of the proposed emergency arrangements before such action is taken.
- e. At times of prolonged inclement weather affecting the district, the General Manager or the Board may declare emergency regulations to be in force for a specified period of time.

18.2 OTHER EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

- a. In the event of any other emergency which may include, but is not limited to, flood, fire, acts of vandalism, closure by public authority, the General Manager shall be empowered to transfer matches to other fields or re-schedule games as per Regulation 17.1.
- b. If, as a result of a disciplinary hearing, a competition match has to be cancelled, forfeited or altered where notice would be less than 48 hours, the General Manager is empowered to make the necessary changes to the competition and notify affected clubs using emergency powers.
- c. Such an emergency decision is binding on both teams.

19. SECONDARY COMPETITIONS

19.1 NEPEAN CUP - APPLIES TO ALL NEPEAN CUP COMPETITION AGE GROUPS

- a. Details of the competition shall be determined each season by the General Manager and published by the association at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the NC competition.
- b. League competition matches must always take priority over the local cup competition and if the season is affected by wet weather, the competition may be held post season or at the conclusion of the regular season.
- c. Entry is optional.
- d. Competition regulations are the responsibility of the General Manager and will be published each season in a separate document.

20. TROPHIES

- a. Clubs with league winning teams shall be awarded a commemorative item by the Board.
- b. Where a shield or cup or other such trophy is in existence for annual competition, the appropriate winner, or runners-up, will be announced at the conclusion of the season or as soon as possible thereafter.
- c. All perpetual trophies shall remain in the care of the Association.
- d. Play off winners and runners-up shall be awarded such recognition as determined by the Board.
- e. All teams who progress to finals of any Nepean FA competition are required to attend the after match presentation. Failure to do so will result in the offending team's club being fined \$200. In addition, the offending team, or part thereof, who register to play at any club in the Nepean FA in the following year, will be ineligible to participate in any competition final in the following year.

20.1 REFEREE'S TROPHY

- a. The Referee's Trophy is awarded to a club as the Best & Fairest for the season.
- b. To qualify for the trophy, a club must have at least three (3) junior teams and at least three (3) All-Age teams.
- c. The trophy will be awarded to the club with the best disciplinary record calculated on an average based on overall player numbers. Disciplinary matters considered in the tally will include Red & Yellow Cards issued during the course of a match, Team Misconduct Charges, Guilty findings from General Purposes Tribunals. Letters of Caution issued to clubs which relate to on field matters.

20.2 SID HORLEY ANNUAL JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. Awarded on the highest percentage of points won by a club during the league season, for Under 12 to Under 16 age groups
- b. Deductions of ten points are made for each
 - i. send-off that is upheld by the Disciplinary Committee
 - ii. successful team misconduct charge brought against a team in the qualifying age groups
 - iii. guilty finding against a team in the qualifying age group at a GPT
- c. A club must field a minimum of five junior teams, U12 to U16 to qualify.

20.3 BILL MORRIS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. Awarded annually to the highest performing club during the league season, for teams Under 12 and above.
- b. Points are awarded as follows:
 - a. Five points for each win,
 - b. two points for each draw,
 - c. plus five points for each goal scored.
 - d. Minus one point for each forfeited match
- c. Total number of points for each club is divided by the number of games played by the club.
- d. A club shall field at least three eligible junior and senior competition teams to qualify.

20.4 (LINDA CERONE) EXCELLENCE IN CLUB ADMINISTRATION AWARD

- a. This award was established in 2012 to acknowledge the club who in the opinion of Administration Staff, have displayed Excellence in the many facets of club administration.
- b. The winning club is awarded a \$1000 prize.
- c. The award is judged by the paid employees of the Association using the following governance principals and/or elements
 - i. Club attends all club meetings
 - ii. Club actively attends and supports workshops and information sessions that benefit and/or enrich the knowledge of their volunteers or improves conditions for their members.
 - iii. Club actively supports the coaching philosophy of the Association by hosting, co-hosting or actively promoting our Coaching Initiatives and opportunities.
 - iv. Club displays innovative or strategic planning concepts to develop improved delivery of services or products to their members
 - v. Club accounts are paid within trading terms
 - vi. Club members actively volunteer at Association events or when called upon by the Assoc.
 - vii. Club actively works towards venue excellence
 - viii. Club volunteers co-operate with the directions issued by the association and are courteous to association staff
 - ix. Club demonstrates fair play and courtesy to other clubs.
 - x. Club does not act in a manner that is prejudicial to the associations aims and objectives
 - xi. Club shows respect for protocols and timelines