

FOOTBALL CANTERBURY INCORPORATED

Rules of Association

2026



AMENDMENT HISTORY

Original - as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Special General Meeting of 14 November 2005

Revision 01 as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Special General Meeting of 27 February 2006.

Revision 02 as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Special General Meeting of 27 November 2006

Revision 03 as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Special General Meetings of 26 March and 4 April 2007

Revision 04 as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Special General Meeting of 15 October 2007

Revision 05 as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Special General Meeting of 27 October 2008 and at its Annual General Meeting of 24 November 2008.

Revision 06 amended 10 February 2009 to (a) remove reference to under 10's from cls 8.6.1 and (b) remove inconsistencies between cls 4.1.4 and cls 1.19.3, 1.19.4, 1.20.1 in relation to number of players on grading sheets.

Revision 07 as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Annual General Meeting of 23 November 2009.

Revision 08 amended 24 February 2010 in relation to checking and management of player ID cards to remove inconsistency between clauses 2.1.2 and 5.1.3, and to align clauses 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 with clauses 2.1.2 and 5.1.3.

Revision 09 as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Annual General Meeting of 22 November 2010.

Revision 10 Rule 8.9.1 amended to correct anomaly in size of ball to be used by under 10's 2 March 2011.

Revision 11 as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Annual General Meeting of 28 November 2011.

Revision 11A – Rule 5.1.1 amended in line with revised SSG Guidelines issued by FFA for 2012.

Revision 12 as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Annual General Meeting of 26 November 2012.

Revision 13 as approved by the Council of Clubs at its Special General Meeting of 25 November 2013. (Prior to the AGM of the same date.) Amendment to 1.18.4 on 28 April 2014.

Revision 14 as approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting of 20 January 2015. Amendments made to 4.2.2 to permit possible regarding in the 12 to 17 age groups where team is uncompetitive and 4.2.3 to permit regrade of adult teams where a request is received to be placed in a higher division.

Revision 15 as approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting on 21 December 2015. Amendments highlighted in yellow.

Revision 16 as approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting on 10 October 2016. Amendments made to following consultation at the Competition Forum on 12 October 2016 and ratified by the Board of Directors at its Meeting on 31 October 2016.

Revision 17 as approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting on 20th November 2017. Amendments made following consultation at the Competition Forum on 23 October 2017.

Revision 18 as approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting on 11th February 2019. Amendments made following consultation at the Competition Forum on 16 July 2018.

Revision 19 as approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting on February 2020. Amendments made following consultation at the Competition Forum on 22nd July 2019.

Revision 20 as approved by the Board of Directors at its Meeting on 9th February 2021. Amendments made following consultation at the Competition Forum on 21st October 2020.

Revision 21 as approved by the Board of Directors. Amendments made following consultation at the Competition Forum on 17th November 2021; and amendment to 6.2.1 by the Directors on 27th June 2022.

Revision 22 as approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on 24th January 2023. Amendments made following consultation at the Competition Forum on 25th July 2022.

Revision 23 as approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on 9th October 2023. Amendments made following consultation at the Competition Forum on 25th July 2023. Amended by Directors at their meeting on 11th December 2023 and 27th February 2024.

Revision 24 as approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on 11th November 2024. Amendments made following consultation at the Competition Forum on 15th July 2024.

Revision 25 as approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting 8th December 2025. Amendments made following consultation at the Competition forum on 21st July 2025.

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SECTION 1: ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS

1.1 MAKE UP OF COMPETITIONS

- 1.1.1 Subject to a sufficient number of teams requesting admission to any particular age group or category the competition shall be comprised of the following groupings.

Notwithstanding rule 1.1.1.1 below, the Management may determine from time to time the allocation of fixtures outside of weekend scheduling to accommodate the need to complete competitive leagues / divisions (e.g. fixtures scheduled to weeknights).

AGE RESTRICTED COMPETITIONS

1.1.1.1	<u>Small Sided Football</u>	<u>Preferred Match Scheduling</u>
	Under 6 & Under 7	Mixed or Female only – Saturday or Sunday
	Under 8, 9, 10, 11	Mixed – Saturday
	Under 12	Mixed – Sunday
	Under 8, 9, 10, 11, 12	Female only – Sunday
	<u>Junior Football</u>	<u>Preferred (Round) Match Scheduling</u>
	Under 13	Mixed – Sunday
	Under 14, 15, 16	Male – Sunday
	Under 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	Female – Sunday
	<u>Senior Football</u>	<u>Preferred (Round) Match Scheduling</u>
	Bill Brackenbury Premier League	Male – Saturday (Friday by agreement)
	All Age, Over 35, Over 45, Over 55	Male – Saturday (selected divisions on Friday)
	Under 19, 20, 21	Male – Sunday
	All Age Sunday	Male – Sunday
	Under 18	Male – Sunday
	Under 19	Female – Sunday
	Grace Martin Premier League	Female – Sunday
	All Age, Over 35	Female – Sunday (selected divisions on Friday)

1.1.1.2-1.1.15(Deleted 2017)

- 1.1.1.6 The Grading Committee shall have discretion to combine any age groups where it considers appropriate.

OPEN ADULT COMPETITIONS

- 1.1.1.7 Male – may consist of teams in the following age groups/categories:-
 Bill Brackenbury Premier League (BBPL)
 All Age 1, All Age 2, . etc
 All Age Sunday
- 1.1.1.8 Female – may consist of teams in the following age groups/categories:-
 Grace Martin Premier League (GMPL)
 All Age 1 (, All Age 2, . . etc

1.1.2 (Deleted 2017)

1.2 NUMBER OF TEAMS PER DIVISION

The Grading Committee shall allocate the number of teams per division to primarily ensure competitive balance of the divisions.

1.2.1 to 1.2.7 (Deleted 2015)

1.3 (Deleted 2010)

1.4 COMPETITION FORMAT

- 1.4.1 In 6(5) team competitions, teams will play 15 rounds (3 cycles) on a home and away basis, followed by an end of season finals series as set out in Section 1.6 below.
- 1.4.2 In 8(7) team competitions, teams will play 14 rounds (2 cycles) on a home and away basis, followed by an end of season finals series as set out in Section 1.6 below.

- 1.4.3 In 10(9) team competitions, teams will play 18 rounds (2 cycles) on a home and away basis, followed by an end of season finals series as set out in Section 1.6 below.
- 1.4.4 In 12(11) team competitions, teams will play one full cycle of matches (11 rounds) where after the teams will be divided into two divisions of 6 teams each (or 6 and 5 teams if there only 11 teams) according to their placement on the table after 11 rounds. The determination for the placement of the Bye when considering the split division with 11-teams, is solely at the discretion of Management.

Each of the two new divisions will be classified as a graded division in its own right, being ranked above other lower graded divisions which existed prior to the split.

Each of the two new divisions will then play a further cycle of matches (5 rounds) before proceeding to the finals series as set out in Rule 1.6.

Teams which may be tied on equal competition points at the conclusion of the first 11 rounds shall be separated according to the criteria set out in Rule 1.8.2.

Competition points earned and the record of goals scored for and against for all teams will be carried from the first phase of the competition into the second phase.

This format is only to be used when there is no other viable option available.

- 1.4.5 If wet weather or any other event causes a particular match or matches to be deferred or abandoned, then those matches will be rescheduled where possible. Where they cannot be rescheduled, and ranking of teams is necessary, Rules 1.8.4 and 1.8.5 (as applicable) shall apply.
- 1.4.6 The Board of Directors will have discretion over the number of cycles played in a particular competition division should circumstances warrant an amendment to the above format guidelines.

1.5 SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL (aka MiniRoos)

- 1.5.1 Teams in age groups under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 shall play in Small Sided Football formats in broad accordance with Football Australia guidelines.

Age Groups under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 shall be non-premiership.

- 1.5.2 *(Deleted 2011)*
- 1.5.3 Coaches are not allowed on the field of play unless they are performing the role of referee or game leader for the match in progress.
- 1.5.4 Players may be interchanged at any time. Play need not have been stopped for an interchange to take place. The referee/game leader need not be advised when an interchange is taking place, however a player must leave the field before his/her interchange player can take the field.
- 1.5.5 No coaching will be allowed from the sideline, except by the team's registered coach, and then only if encouragement and information is given in a restrained manner.
- 1.5.6 *(Deleted 2011)*
- 1.5.7 Coaches should not deliberately place players in an off-side position and especially not place players near the opposition goal in an off-side position.

NON-PREMIERSHIP PRESENTATION ROUND

- 1.5.8 A Presentation Round of matches is to be held at the conclusion of each season for teams in the non-premiership age-groups.
- 1.5.9 The Association's medallions will be presented on this day.
- 1.5.10 The draw for Presentation Round matches is to be allocated on a divisional basis at the discretion of the Board and the Competition Manager. Preference in allocation of Presentation Round matches will be given to Clubs that have applied to host a Presentation Round day and who have teams participating in that age and division. If more than one Club applies to host the same Presentation Round age and division, allocation of that round shall be left to the discretion of the Management.

1.6 FINALS SERIES

- 1.6.1 Finals series will be conducted once league competitions have been completed. Preference shall be given to the proper completion of league competitions ahead of the staging of finals series. However, if

a league game is to be played by the 3rd and 4th placed teams and no other teams are to play a match in that division, and the result of the 3rd v 4th match will not affect the teams in the 3rd v 4th minor semi final although the position of the 3rd and 4th placed teams may swap then that league match shall not be played.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, the last two weekends in August shall be set aside for the finals series. To be played in the format set down in rule 1.6.3 with teams being ranked, if necessary, in accordance with rule 1.8.4.

For all competitions, where there are three (3) weekends available for the staging of a finals series, those finals will be conducted in accordance with Rule 1.6.2.

For all competitions, where there are two (2) weekends available for the staging of a finals series, those finals will be conducted in accordance with Rule 1.6.3.

- 1.6.2 The top four teams from the home and away competition play 1 v 2 and 3 v 4, with the winner of 1 v 2 progressing directly to the Grand Final, the loser of 3 v 4 being eliminated and the winner of 3 v 4 playing the loser of 1 v 2 in a preliminary final. The winner of the preliminary final to then progress to the Grand Final.
- 1.6.3 The top four teams from the home and away competition play 1 v 4 and 2 v 3, with the two winning teams progressing directly to the Grand Final.
- 1.6.4 *(Deleted 2010)*
- 1.6.5 *(Deleted 2011)*
- 1.6.6 *(Deleted 2012)*
- 1.6.7 *(Deleted 2020).*
- 1.6.8 *(Deleted 2020).*
- 1.6.9 The allocation of all matches during the finals is determined by FC Management in line with directions issued time to time by the Board of Directors.

1.7 DRAWN OR INCOMPLETE MATCHES IN FINALS SERIES

- 1.7.1 There will be no replays of matches in any finals series except as outlined in Rule 1.7.6, irrespective of format. Where matches requiring a winner are drawn at full-time, they shall be decided on the day by the playing of the appropriate duration of extra time, followed by a penalty shoot-out if necessary – as set out below.
- 1.7.2 If any finals series match is drawn at full time of ordinary playing time then teams shall re-toss for choice of end, and play extra time as follows:
- for up to and including the under 14 age group, five minutes each way of extra time will be played.
 - for all other ages and grades, ten minutes each way of extra time will be played.
- 1.7.3 If scores are still equal after the extra time periods are played, then there shall be a penalty shoot-out, based on FIFA rules, to determine the winner of the match.
- The interchanging of players will cease at the completion of normal time and extra time. If, at this time, penalty kicks are required to obtain a result, then the eleven (11) players on the field at the end of extra time are the only players permitted to participate in the penalty kicks. No interchanging of players is permissible at this time.
- However, if during the taking of penalty kicks the goalkeeper is injured, he/she may be replaced with another goalkeeper provided the replacement was listed on the match sheet.
- 1.7.4 Stoppage time will be played in all finals series matches.
- 1.7.5 There shall be “golden goal” in any period of extra time.
- 1.7.6 In the event that a finals series match cannot be completed due to external factors (eg: failing light, serious Injury to player or referee causing prolonged delay, dangerous weather or ground conditions) then the match is to be rescheduled and only that period of time not played shall be played.
- 1.7.7 In the event that a match is replayed under rule 1.7.6 the following conditions shall apply:-
- a player sent off in the original (incomplete) match will be required to serve whatever suspension is given to that player by the Association, as if the match had been completed.

- a yellow card received by a player in the original (incomplete) match shall be counted in any aggregation of yellow cards applicable to that player's ongoing eligibility to play.
 - the original (incomplete) match shall not be counted as part of any suspension then being served by a player in either of the two teams concerned.
- 1.7.8 In any semi-final or preliminary final game, other than in the BBPL and/or GMPL competition, where a game is washed out and cannot be rescheduled the highest ranked team entering the game shall progress.

Where a Grand Final is not played because of weather and cannot be rescheduled to the following weekend the team ranked highest on entering the Grand Final shall be declared the winner.

For the purpose of this rule, team ranking shall be according to the team's position on the league table at the completion of the league competition.

1.8 DETERMINATION OF PLACES ON COMPETITION TABLES

- 1.8.1 If, and only if, teams on equal points cannot be separated by the criteria set out in rules 1.8.2 and 1.8.3, then a play-off match (or matches if there are more than two teams to be separated) shall be played to determine the placement of teams.

- 1.8.2 Where teams have accrued equal competition points at the end of the home and away portion of the competition and it becomes necessary to place teams in a set order for the purposes of defining positions on the competition table, positions shall be determined by the following criteria, in order of precedence:-

In matches between the tied teams (only) over the home and away portion of that competition;

- the win/loss differential (competition points)
- goal difference

In all matches played by the tied teams over the home and away portion of that competition (ie: against all other teams – including each other);

- goal difference
- goals scored 'for'
- number of matches won
- least number of red cards or send offs reported
- least number of yellow cards reported

- 1.8.3 Where teams have accrued equal competition points at the end of a round robin finals series and it becomes necessary to place teams in a set order for the purposes of determining positions on the round robin table, positions shall be determined by the following criteria, in order of preference:-

- the match results between the tied teams (only) during the round robin phase
- goal difference overall during the round robin phase
- goals scored 'for' during the round robin phase
- number of matches won during the round robin phase
- position of the teams on the league table at the end of the home and away portion of the competition

- 1.8.4 Where due to wet weather or other cause a full cycle of league matches in any division cannot be completed within the time available, then a score will be derived for each team in that division calculated by dividing the total competition points earned by the number of games played.

If after application of the above calculation two or more teams remain on equal point scores, then those teams shall be ranked in accordance with the criteria set out in Rule 1.8.2.

This Rule 1.8.4 may be employed to determine positions on league tables in the following circumstances:-

- leading up to the sub-division of a 12-team competition into two 6 team competitions.
- where it becomes necessary to play a finals series in shortened format.
- to determine season premiers (except under the special circumstances set out in rule 1.8.5).

- 1.8.5 If the finals series is shortened to two weekends with a format as set out in Rule 1.6.2, and the teams coming first and second in division 1 are separated by less than 4 competition points, and the final match of the league competition is scheduled to be a match between those two teams, and the outcome of that match would have no bearing on the standing of any other team in that competition, and that match is not able to be played before the finals series, then for the purposes of determining who will represent the Association in the Champion of Champions competition;

- (a) where the grand final is a match between those two teams, the winner of the grand final shall represent the Association, or
- (b) where those two teams do not meet each other in the grand final, the Competition Manager shall schedule the final league match between those two teams as soon as possible after completion of the finals series, and the minor premier team will be determined as if that league match had been played within the regular season.

1.8.6 Where a premiership season cannot be completed due to unforeseen circumstances, the Board of Directors may determine an appropriate method for the allocation of rankings and premiers/season champions as it deems equitable.

1.9 DURATION OF COMPETITION & SCHEDULING OF MATCHES

1.9.1 The competition will commence on the first Saturday in April, unless this coincides with Easter, and end on the last weekend of August.

1.9.2 Except as provided under Rule 1.9.6, no regular Association competition matches are to be scheduled for the June long weekend or the middle weekend of the July school holidays.

1.9.3 Except as provided by Rule 1.9.6 the June long weekend and the middle weekend of the July holidays may only be used by the Management to schedule deferred, washed out or abandoned matches.

1.9.3.1 The Management may in addition, and at their discretion, reschedule deferred, washed out or abandoned matches on any mid-week evening for which suitable ground facilities are available.

1.9.3.2 Notification of a rescheduled match shall be given by both:
 .1) email or SMS text message to the competition secretary of the clubs concerned, and
 .2) posting of the match on the Association competition website.

1.9.3.3 Teams shall be given not less than 5 days' notice of rescheduled matches, except when a match is to be rescheduled within the month of August, in which case only three (3) days is required to be given.

1.9.3.4 The Management may reschedule any game affected by weather to an alternative venue on the same day provided that:

- .1) the rescheduled time is within 60 minutes of the originally scheduled time.
- .2) Clubs are notified by 6:00pm of the day before that the game is to be rescheduled.
- .3) Notification of such rescheduled matches will be via Dribl notification and may also be by phone or text message to the Competition Secretaries of the affected Clubs.
- .4) Five (5) days' notice need not be given for matches scheduled under this section.

1.9.3.5 (~~Deleted 2016~~)

1.9.3.6 Any game that the clubs wish to be rescheduled amongst themselves under Rule 1.9.3.6 must be played by June 30th. This includes games originally scheduled to be played after June 30th.

Where such match is not re-played by June 30th then the match shall not be played and a nil-nil result recorded with no points allocated.

No match can be rescheduled by the clubs / teams unless the Fixtures Committee received notification of such intention to reschedule a match at least seven (7) days prior to when the match is originally scheduled to be played. Such notification must be on the prescribed form and include the date, time, and venue of where the match is to be rescheduled to by the clubs / teams to reschedule the match to this new date, time and venue and signed by both Club Secretary's or Competition Secretary's agreeing to the change and to the new fixture and the appropriate fee lodged with the Association at the time of the application.

It is the responsibility of the club seeking the change to contact any other impacted clubs/teams (e.g., games before/after) to alert them to the request for change of the game.

Any rescheduled game under Rule 1.9.3.6 that cannot be played at the new date, time, and venue will be awarded as a forfeit against the initiating team/club. The initiating club is responsible for payment of any fees associated with an approved change.

Notwithstanding the above, the June 30th date is extended to July 15th for teams participating in a 12-team division to self-reschedule games that are part of the post-split fixturing.

1.9.3.7 On Association controlled grounds the following games shall take priority (in no particular order): BBPL; GMPL; State Cup deferred games; All Age Sunday men. Clubs that have their own ground that accommodates night fixtures shall not, if practical, have their home games placed on Association controlled grounds of a night.

1.9.4 If a Club wishes to object to the time and/or date of a rescheduled match then such objection must be in writing, stating the grounds of objection and received by the Management within 48 hours of the rescheduled match being notified to the Club. If no such objection is received, then the Club has no right to object to the rescheduling of the match.

If the rescheduling of a match is objected to, then the General Manager of Football shall consider such objection and make a decision on the playing or otherwise of the match and such decision shall be final.

To note – the Club that entered an external competition shall have no right of objection to the rescheduling or scheduling of any FC match whatsoever provided that rules of notice are complied with of a match brought forward or postponed because of their participation in that external competition.

1.9.5 Clubs have no right of appeal against the scheduling of matches made under Rules 1.9.3 and 1.9.4.

1.9.6 For all 10 team competitions, league matches shall be scheduled on all available weekends, including Easter Saturday (ie: no holiday breaks) and be followed by a finals series as set out under Rule 1.6.

1.9.6.1 All 10, 12 & 14 team division competitions shall be allocated a “double header” round within the first 6 rounds of the normal competition, with the proviso that no double header rounds will be scheduled on the Easter weekend.

1.9.7 Where a club cannot provide home fields in sufficient number to support the number of its teams on a home and away basis, then that club shall have no right of appeal on the scheduling of its teams’ home matches at other fields.

1.9.8 The Management shall not schedule catch-up matches in a way that results in any team playing more than 2 games in any 5 day period.

The Management shall not schedule catch-up matches in a way that results in any team playing “double headers” on consecutive weekends.

This section shall not apply to teams that enter into external competitions who shall have no right of appeal or right of objection against the scheduling or rescheduling of any FC game, provided that proper notice of the scheduling or rescheduling of a match is given.

1.9.9 Where the scheduled catch-up weekends identified in rule 1.9.3 have been filled with deferred games (first priority), the Management may reschedule deferred matches to other alternate days during the season (i.e.: normal Saturday games may be put on Sunday and vice versa).

1.9.10 In the event that a complete round of a Premiership Division competition is not played for whatever reason, then that round shall not be played unless there are catch up days – e.g. Saturday (for normally scheduled Saturday fixtures) or Sunday (for normally scheduled Sunday fixtures) – available in the schedule on which to place those fixtures not played.

1.10 DURATION OF MATCHES

1.10.1 The normal duration of matches shall be as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • All age groups and both genders from | |
| and including under 21 to Over 55 | 2 equal periods of 45 minutes |
| • Under 17 - 19 | 2 equal periods of 40 minutes |
| • Under 15 – 16 | 2 equal periods of 35 minutes |
| • Under 13 – 14 | 2 equal periods of 30 minutes |

(Refer to clause 1.7 for rules relating to extra time)

Refer to FA SSF Guidelines for match durations for under 6 – 12 age groups.

1.10.2 Where a match has been abandoned the clubs and the referee involved in the abandonment shall forward to the FC Competition Manager within 48 hours a report concerning the abandonment stating the reason for the abandonment.

1.10.2.1 The referee shall note on the match sheet the time the match was abandoned.

1.10.2.2 Where a match has been abandoned due to weather, light failure, or injury only the remaining portion of the game not played shall be replayed. The score, red/yellow cards, etc incurred before the abandonment shall remain.

1.10.2.3 Where a match has been abandoned because of violence, the abandonment will be dealt with by the appropriate body of the Association and determine what portion of the game shall be replayed (if any) and the outcome of the match.

1.10.2.4 The following principles will apply to the rescheduled 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 rescheduled Match.
- ii. If a Player has received a Suspension in a Match conducted between the postponed Match and the rescheduled Match;
 - a. That Player will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled Match;
 - b. That Player will not be able to count the rescheduled Match towards the serving of any Fixture Suspension;
 - c. The Player's Team will not be permitted to replace the Player on the **match** 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 **match** sheet provided the Team has available substitutions as per the Regulations;
 - e. If the Player was a substitute in the postponed Match, the number of available substitutions will decrease as that Player cannot be replaced;
- iii. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the **match** sheet;
- iv. The Team can make only the number of substitutions to which it was still entitled when the Match was postponed;
- v. Players sent off during the postponed Match cannot be replaced in the rescheduled Match;
- vi. FC will endeavour to appoint the same Match Officials to the rescheduled match, however, FC/CRA may appoint other Match Officials should any or all of the original Match Officials be unavailable;
- vii. The Referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time and no protest may be lodged against elapsed time as recorded by the Referee;
- viii. Should a Match be abandoned due to the fault of one (1) Team / Club, or should it be determined by FC, in its absolute discretion, 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;
- ix. Where a Fixture is incorrectly reported as abandoned by the Referee where the circumstances show clearly that the Match was actually postponed, FC will treat the Match as postponed.

1.10.3 Matches, including any shortened match, must be played in equal halves.

1.10.4 In the event that a match is replayed under rule 1.10.2 the conditions set out in rule 1.7.7 shall apply.

1.11 STARTING TIMES OF MATCHES

1.11.1 Matches shall be played on grounds and at times stipulated by the Association.

1.11.2 Matches shall commence at the stipulated time, however a team is permitted a MAXIMUM ten minutes grace beyond the scheduled starting time where the team has an insufficient number of players with which to commence the match. Once a team has sufficient number of players to commence the match under Rule 3.1.12, the referee shall immediately start the match and the grace period shall end.

- 1.11.3 Where a match starts late the Referee **must** shorten the total match time to avoid delaying the start of subsequent matches. The match may be shortened only to the extent that it starts late and must still be played as two equal halves.
- 1.11.4 Teams in age groups under 10, under 11 and under 12 must field at least six of that team's registered players at the commencement of the match and at all times during the match.
- 1.11.5 Teams in age groups under 8 and under 9 must field at least five of that team's registered players at the commencement of the match and at all times during the match.
- 1.11.6 Teams in all other age groups must field at least seven of that team's registered players at the commencement of the match and at all times during the match. If a team cannot field seven or more of that team's registered players at any point during the match, for whatever reason, the match will be considered to have been forfeited by that team to the opposition, regardless of the amount of match time elapsed.
- 1.11.7 Any team failing to take the field by the stipulated time (plus maximum ten minutes grace) or failing to have sufficient players available without satisfactory explanation shall be deemed to have forfeited the match and shall be liable for referees' expenses and a fine in accordance with the Association's Schedule of Fines current at the time.

1.12 POINTS AWARDED

- 1.12.1 In premiership competitions and round robin or pool format finals series points shall be awarded as follows:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| win | 3 points |
| win by forfeit | 3 points and three goals awarded |
| draw | 1 point (or 0 point if rule 1.9.3.6 is applied) |
| bye | 0 points |
- 1.12.2 (A) In the event of a team being withdrawn, ejected or otherwise removed from the competition before the completion of an entire cycle of competition then the results for those matches already played by the team being removed, and all matches that the removed team would have played to complete that cycle, will be deemed to have been byes, and competition points awarded in accordance with clause 1.12.1.
- (B) In the event of a team being temporarily stood down from the competition for disciplinary or other reasons, the results for those matches that would have been played by the team stood down will be deemed to have been forfeits, and competition points and goals to the opposing teams awarded in accordance with clause 1.12.1.
- 1.12.3 If a team has completed a complete round of competition (but no more than that) before it withdraws, then all points, goals for and goals against shall stand.

1.13 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1.13.1 The Club Championship will be calculated as follows:
- To be eligible to be Club Champion a Club must enter a minimum of ten (10) competitive football teams.
 - All competitive team points from within each Club to be tallied, without multiplication.
 - The tally for each Club is divided by the number of competitive teams entered.
 - The Club with the highest average is declared the Club Champion.

1.14 HOME TEAM

- 1.14.1 Unless specifically stated otherwise, the first team mentioned in the draw shall be deemed to be the home team, regardless of venue.

1.15 PROTESTS REGARDING MATCHES

- 1.15.1 Any Club may protest in writing to the Association Board on any grounds relating to or arising out of competition matches conducted by the Association.
- 1.15.2 Any such protest must be lodged by 5:00pm on the Monday immediately following the match or incident to which it relates and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee – set yearly by the Board. In the event that the protest is upheld, the lodgement fee will be refunded to the applicant

Club and a fee identical to the appeal fee will be paid by the losing club or team if the losing club or team is found to be at fault.

- 1.15.3 Any expenses incurred in hearing the protest shall be apportioned as the Board sees fit.
- 1.15.4 Management shall send a copy of the protest and all relevant details to the Club against which the protest has been lodged at least 72 hours before the scheduled time of the hearing.
- 1.15.5 Notwithstanding anything else in these Rules or the Association Constitution, no protest may be lodged in relation to the Laws of the Game or their interpretation by the referee or assistant referee. The foregoing restriction shall apply equally to games where an unofficial referee or assistant referee controls the game.

1.16 MATCH FORFEITS

- 1.16.1 The Secretary, Competition Secretary, or Team Official of a Club shall notify the Association and Opposition Club of its intention to forfeit a match. Such notice shall be given via lodgement in the competition management system more than 48-hours prior to the scheduled commencement time of the fixture to be forfeited. This applies to all Association fixtures (weeknight and weekend).
- 1.16.2 Failure to give such notice in time will make the Club liable for referees' expenses and a fee in accordance with the Association's Schedule of Fees current at the time.
- 1.16.3 The Association reserves the right to refuse further allocation of fixtures to the Club which forfeits a fixture until a good faith fee, set annually by the Board, has been deposited with the Association.
- 1.16.4 Teams forfeiting on two consecutive occasions without satisfactory explanation may be removed from the competition at the discretion of the Board and the team fined in accordance with the Association's Schedule of Fees current at the time.
- 1.16.5 *(Deleted 2017)*
- 1.16.6 A team forfeiting a fixture in the finals series shall be eliminated from further competition in that series, and the Club shall be fined in accordance with the FC schedule of fees. In circumstances where the team are season Premiers, the team shall forfeit consideration by the Board as the Association's nominee for the FNSW Champion of Champions competition. The Board is empowered to set aside the application of this rule when in the Directors view extraordinary circumstances exist causing the forfeit to occur.
- 1.16.7 A team forfeiting on a second and subsequent occasion during the season (rounds) will incur an automatic one (1) point deduction from their season total for each forfeit.

1.17 *(Deleted 2013)*

1.18 BILL BRACKENBURY PREMIER LEAGUE

- 1.18.1 That FC conduct a premier competition that will be known as the Bill Brackenbury Premier League.
- 1.18.2 That the competition be conducted wherever possible as a 10-team competition.
- 1.18.3 Clubs participating will register a single squad of players and all players must attain the age of 18-years **(unless excepted under 1.18.12)** in the competition year or older to be eligible to register. A total squad of players used throughout one single season is limited to 25.

Clubs may request a replacement of two (2) of the total squad of 25-players prior to 5pm on 31st May in the competition year upon receipt of medical advice for season ending injury. Such approval will require the player to remain registered with the Club for the duration of the current season but will remain inactive from further participation as a player in any competition.
- 1.18.4 A club may draw replacement players from the nominated teams (maximum 3 teams) playing for that club in the All Age Saturday male or Under 21 male competitions but may not draw from any other team. Such teams, to be nominated and confirmed in writing by the Club to the Association, one week prior to the commencement of the first round of competition.
- 1.18.5 The competition will be conducted primarily as a Saturday competition with games commencing at 3pm (preferable) or later wherever possible or Friday evenings by agreement between participating clubs. However, pending the number of fixtures to be played in a season, mid-week and Sunday fixtures are possible with mid-week the preferred option.

- 1.18.6 Where wash outs need to be played or any game needs to be replayed the game will be scheduled as a mid-week fixture wherever possible.
- 1.18.7 The season Premiers and Champions will be eligible to receive prize money, the amount of which will be determined annually prior to the commencement of each playing season by the Board of the Association.
- 1.18.8 The team declared the season Premiers will be the team invited to represent FC in the Champion of Champions unless that team is not eligible for any reason associated with breaches of the Association's Rules. In that instance the Board will nominate a substitute applicant who will represent FC.
- 1.18.9 Where a player from the nominated drawing team plays their sixth (6th) game in the BBPL they shall remain in the BBPL and not be permitted to play in any other team for the remainder of the season. Prior to playing the 6th game the Club shall notify the FC Competition Manager of the players move to the BBPL squad.
- 1.18.10 The Goalkeeper registered in the BBPL team and a Goalkeeper registered in one of the designated support teams for the BBPL shall be able to play an unlimited number of round games in either the BBPL or designated support team. Such players to be nominated prior to the first game of the season. The Goalkeeper from the designated support team is counted as part of the squad of 25 players utilised should they participate in a BBPL fixture. Note: Should the Goalkeeper nominated come from an Under 21 team, the BBPL Goalkeeper to be eligible to play in the Under 21s would need to meet the age requirement to play in that division.
- 1.18.11 Relegation, promotion, and the general make-up from and to the BBPL shall be at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 1.18.12 A male player registered in an underage team that will have attained the age of 16 years on or before 31st March in the relevant year may apply to be accepted to participate in the BBPL. The number of players a Club can seek assessment for in any one season is two (2). Where a player is approved, and they participate in the BBPL they will count as part of the overall player limit of 25-players and be subject to the borrowing limitations as with any other player. Assessment will be done in accordance with the FC procedure of the day and incur a fee set by the Board and applied by Management.

1.19 GRACE MARTIN PREMIER LEAGUE

- 1.19.1 That FC conduct a premier competition that will be known as the Grace Martin Premier League.
- 1.19.2 That the competition be conducted as the highest level All Age Women's Division. All rules pertaining to All Age Women will apply to the GMPL unless otherwise stipulated in the Rules.
- 1.9.3 A female player registered in an underage team that will have attained the age of 16 years on or before 31st March in the relevant year may apply to be accepted to participate in the GMPL. The number of players a Club can seek assessment for in any one season is two (2). Where a player is approved, they are subject to the borrowing limitations as with any other player. Assessment will be done in accordance with the FC procedure of the day and incur a fee set by the Board and applied by Management.

SECTION 2: MATCH DOCUMENTS

2.1 MATCH SHEETS

2.1.1 Match details and results are to be recorded on the electronic match sheets provided by the Association. Match sheets are to be attended to no later than five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled start time by each competing team.

Electronic results shall be entered immediately at the conclusion of the fixture.

2.1.2 Prior to the commencement of matches, Team Managers shall ensure all eligible participating players are marked and have a unique shirt number. Team Manager shall submit the team prior to game start.

See also clause 5.1.3.

2.1.3 Any player playing in a higher age group or higher division shall be identified on the match sheet by entering the player's registered age and grading beside his/her name.

2.1.4 Players names may be entered on the match sheet after the commencement of the match but only with the knowledge and agreement of the opposing team's manager or coach and only with the permission of the referee. Such agreement and permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

2.1.5 Only the names of players intending to play in the match should be entered onto the match sheet.

2.1.6 Players whose names have been entered onto the match sheet but who subsequently take no part in the match may have their name removed from the match sheet at the conclusion of the match only by the Referee. The referee cannot not refuse to remove the name of such a player who has not participated.

2.1.7 Scores are to be entered electronically onto the match sheet, by the referee and teams at the conclusion of the match.

2.1.8 Team managers and referees shall collectively be responsible for ensuring that all necessary details are entered onto the match sheet at the conclusion of the match.

2.1.9 (*Deleted 2013*)

2.1.10 Any injury suffered during the game should be recorded on the match sheet by the referee, and the relevant Team Manager.

2.1.11 Except for those details specifically required to be completed by the team managers as specified above, only the referee is permitted to write on the match sheet. If a team manager or coach requests any relevant matter to be recorded on the match sheet, the referee shall not unreasonably refuse such request.

2.1.12 A responsible adult not participating in the team for divisions up to and including Under 18 is to be registered with the team and listed as a Team Official (Coach/Manager) on the official Match Sheet. Failure to list a Team Official deems the Match Sheet incomplete.

2.1.13 A responsible adult for all divisions older than Under 18 is to be registered with the team and listed as a Team Official (Coach/Manager) on the official Match Sheet. Failure to list a Team Official deems the Match Sheet incomplete.

2.2 MATCH SHEET FEES

2.2.1 Clubs will incur a fee, set yearly by the Board, for incorrect/incomplete filling out of a match sheet or for filling out, or otherwise dealing with the match sheet in a manner that renders the match sheet illegible and/or incorrect.

2.3 IDENTIFICATION CARDS AT MATCHES

2.3.1 It is mandatory for all Team Officials (Coaches/Managers) in age groups U8 to U21 to have a physical ID card, which is to be displayed in accordance with Rule 2.3.3 and 2.3.4

2.3.1.1 Team officials from age groups All Age up to Over 55 are NOT required to have a physical ID card BUT must ensure they are registered as a Team Official as per the Rules.

2.3.2 The referee (whether officially appointed or otherwise), as well as each opposing team official, have responsibility for checking the electronic ID cards for each participating player and team official in a

fixture. The referee shall have responsibility for checking each team official has an appropriate ID card displayed on their person (where applicable) and is attired in the hi-vis Team Official vest.

2.3.2 (Previous 2.3.2 Deleted 2026)

2.3.3 (Deleted 2026)

2.3.4 (Deleted 2026)

2.3.5 Managers and/or coaches ID cards must be handed to the referee when requested.

2.3.6 Team officials for any team (where applicable as per 2.3.1) that are unable to present a team official identification card to the game match officials are NOT permitted to participate in the fixture.

2.3.7 Team officials (where applicable as per 2.3.1) are at all times to display their ID card outside of their clothing and hanging around their neck. Team officials will be required to have their ID card checked by the referee or game leader prior to the commencement of any FC fixture (and line up with the team if a line-up occurs).

SECTION 3: REGISTRATION

3.1 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

- 3.1.1 A player must be registered with FA (and Association) before he or she can play for a Club as either a Professional or Amateur. By the act of registration, a Player agrees to abide by FA Statutes and, if applicable, FIFA Statutes, AFC Statutes, and the Association Constitution, Rules of Association and other Regulations to govern the conduct of the competition.

Before being permitted to be present in any official capacity in any competition matches, all coaches, managers and club officials must be formally registered as such with the FA in the National Registration system and with the Association via the competition management system.

- 3.1.2 Registration of players, coaches, managers and club officials is to be achieved using the electronic registration system(s) issued to Clubs by the Association. Clubs are required to inform the Association when member registrations are available to be processed in accordance with these Rules.

- 3.1.3 The Board shall determine which method of ID card system is to be used.

- 3.1.4 **Registration/match sheet activations** of players, coaches, managers and club officials may commence by the Association immediately following confirmation of all team gradings (approximately the 2nd Sunday of March). Registration data is to be entered into the electronic competition management system no later than 5:00pm on the Sunday immediately preceding the first round of competition. Data received after that deadline will render the team(s) / individual(s) involved ineligible to play in the first round of competition.

Any match not played as a result of this provision will be deemed to have been forfeited by the unregistered team.

- 3.1.5 Following the first round of competition, any late or additional registration applications must be received in electronic format by the Competition Manager no later than 7:00pm on the Wednesday of each subsequent week for players seeking eligibility to play on the following weekend.

- 3.1.6 7:00pm on the 31st May shall be the final deadline for receipt at the Association Office of all applications for late player registrations, player transfers and player de-registrations, except as permitted by clause 3.3 below.

- 3.1.7 Coaches, Managers, Club Officials (for any age group) and Players in the non-competitive age groups (only) may be registered **up until 30th June (or as per Football NSW regulations).**

- 3.1.8 Clubs are required to maintain electronic and hardcopy records of all player, coach, manager and officials registration details and supporting paperwork including application forms, proofs of identity, proofs of age, codes of behaviour and declarations made under the Child Protection Act.

- 3.1.9 The Association reserves the right to audit Club registration records during the season and to issue appropriate penalties for inadequate or falsified records.

- 3.1.10 No player may register with more than one Club or more than one team within the Association's boundaries at the same time.

- 3.1.11 No player registered with the Association is permitted to be registered with any other Soccer Football Association or League in the same season.

- 3.1.12 Other than for BBPL squads, the maximum number of players that may be registered to any single team in any division shall be:-

for teams in under 8 and 9 competitions	11
for teams in the under 10, 11 and 12 competitions	15
for teams in the over 35 – 55 men's and over 35s women's competitions	22
for teams in all other competitions	20

- 3.1.13 The maximum number of players that may be utilised in any BBPL squad is 25.

- 3.1.14 All players participating in Under 13 divisions and older must have and present for inspection I.D Cards (electronic or other as issued) showing the correct team and grade for the current year.

- 3.1.15 **The minimum age for a Coach is 14-years.**

- a) **Where a coach is between the age of 14 -18 years, they are to be supervised by a registered Team Official that is 18-years+. A Coach 14-18 years is required to attend a MiniRoos (minimum) course to maintain their registration in the competition season.**

- b) Where a Coach is between the age of 14-18 years, they can only act in such a capacity in an age group more than 4 years below their ACTUAL age.
- c) A Coach seeking exemption in relation to (a) above will be required to have a minimum "C" Diploma. Such requests will be considered by management on a case-by-case basis taking into account participation history and oversight being provided.
- d) A team official (coach or manager) 18-years+ must at all times be on the team bench whilst the game is in progress for teams in under 18 and younger age groups.

3.1.16 The minimum age for a Team Manager is 16-years

- a) Where a Team Manager is between the age of 16-18 years, they can act in such a capacity in Small Sided Football age groups. The team is also to have a registered Team Official that is 18-years +.
- b) A team official (coach or manager) 18-years+ must at all times be on the team bench whilst the game is in progress for teams in under 18 and younger age groups.

3.2 **ISSUE OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

- 3.2.1 Management shall authorise and issue all original ID cards (where such is required).
- 3.2.2 Players changing their appearance by way of growing or removing a beard or moustache, by way of removing all or most of their hair, or by any other way which renders the player's appearance substantively different to that which appears on their registration ID card, must submit a new ID photo to Management and obtain a new card.
- 3.2.3 Notwithstanding the requirements of rule 3.3.2, player ID photos for junior players must be renewed at not more than two-year intervals, and player ID photos for senior players must be renewed at not more than five-year intervals.
- 3.2.4 It is the Club's responsibility to ensure the correct and visible image of a participant is entered into the registration and competition management systems in use.

3.3 **LATE REGISTRATIONS**

- 3.3.1 The Association Board may, at its discretion, consider registration of players after 31st May under special circumstances. Clubs seeking such late registrations shall submit applications in writing setting out in detail the particulars of their request.
- 3.3.2 To be eligible for consideration of a late registration, criteria (a), (b) and either (c) or (d) below will need to be met.
 - (a) The team must have been viable prior to 31st May.
 - (b) The team must have fewer than 11 players able to take the field.
 - (c) Where team numbers have been reduced as a result of season-ending injury, the names and ID numbers of those players so injured, and statements by their medical practitioner as to the nature and extent of their injury shall be submitted along with the application. Those players' ID profiles will be inactivated by the Association.
 - (d) Where team numbers have been reduced as a result of players relocating geographically (eg: regional, interstate, overseas) until season end or beyond, then those players must be formally de-registered.

New players will only be considered by the Association to the extent that a maximum of 12 players are registered for the particular team.

From May 31st until the end of that season, including finals, the subject team may not have more than 12 players on the match sheet at any time once this Rule has been utilised.

Any breach of this 12 player limitation by the subject team will result in the team forfeiting that match.

- 3.3.3 The Board's decision on applications for late registration will be final and no appeals will be considered.

3.4 **PROOF OF IDENTITY / PROOF OF AGE**

- 3.4.1 Clubs entering teams in Association competitions shall be required to produce on demand, to Management, satisfactory proof of age and/or proof of identity of each player registered.

3.4.2 Satisfactory proofs shall be one or more of the following:

For Players registering in an under 18 or older competition:

- certified copy of passport
- certified copy of driver's licence
- a proof of identity card issued by the relevant government authority.

Where a player is seeking registration in an under 18 or older competition but wishes to be registered at the student rate, the player shall present a current valid student identification card issued by the institution which he/she attends. This student identification card shall be in addition to one of the three formal proofs listed above.

For Players registering in under 8 up to and including under 17 competitions:

- certified copy of birth certificate
- certified copy of baptism certificate
- certified copy of current valid passport
- certified copy of current valid driver's licence

Unless the proof document copy has been certified by a Justice of the Peace, the Club Registrar must sight the original and certify to this fact.

3.4.3 Proof of age and/or identity proof, and, for under 18 age group and older players registering at the student rate, proof of student status must be presented each year upon application to register.

3.5 **DE-REGISTRATIONS**

3.5.1 Clubs shall finalise all player de-registrations and reconcile their registration database in accordance with the Association's Refund Policy guidelines, and any policies/deadlines as announced from time to time by the Association, FA and/or FNSW.

3.5.2 (~~deleted 2022~~)

3.5.3 The Association has the right to de-register a player in circumstances where the misconduct by a parent / guardian or member of a family poses a risk or threat to opposing teams, match officials, club officials, or the general public.

SECTION 4: GRADING

4.1 GRADING

4.1.1 All players must be named on an Association grading sheet before they can be registered by the Association.

4.1.2 Grading sheets shall contain any information that the Board deems necessary for competent grading to be carried out. The Association shall only accept team nominations that are produced electronically by the competition management system. Team nominations with manually altered data will not be accepted.

4.1.3 All data fields on grading sheets must be fully completed, including the last two years of playing history for each player. Grading sheets which are not fully completed will be rejected by the Association. The Association will notify all affected Clubs by telephone or email.

Teams that fail to provide all necessary grading information shall have no right of appeal against their grading or regrading. Section 4.1.7 shall not apply to clubs that fail to provide adequate information under section 4.1.3. It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure sufficient information regarding the player history of teams coming from outside FC is on the Grading Sheet.

4.1.4 Grading sheets for under 8 and 9 teams must list a minimum of 7 players. Grading sheets for under 10, 11 and 12 teams must list a minimum of 9 players. Grading sheets for single teams in all other age groups must list a minimum of 11 players.

Grading sheets for teams entered in divisions Under 18 and lower that do not list a responsible non-playing adult as a Team Official (Coach/Manager) will not be accepted. Grading sheets for teams entered in divisions above Under 18 that do not list a responsible adult as a Team Official (Coach/Manager) will not be accepted.

4.1.5 Grading sheets must be received at the Association's Office on or before 5:00pm on the first Sunday of March.

4.1.6 The Grading Committees will consider the grading applications and announce divisional gradings to Clubs once finalised following the first Sunday of March.

4.1.7 With the exception of Under 8s and Under 9s, Clubs may appeal the grading their teams are assigned. Appeals are to be made on the appropriate form and received at the Association's Office at a date/time designated following the original issue of gradings. The Grading Committees will consider any such appeals received and either issue revised gradings or confirm their original gradings. Following the appeals review, Clubs will have no further right of appeal to the Grading Committees except as may be permitted under rule 4.2 below.

Where the original grading sheet was not filled out completely, or was filled out incorrectly or was submitted late, and a successful appeal is made under this rule, the Club will incur a fee in accordance with the Association's Schedule of Fees current at the time.

4.1.8 Clubs wishing to register players who apply to join teams after the grading deadline set out in clause 4.1.5 above, shall submit a supplementary grading form with the additional players' names and all required details provided.

4.1.9 Depending on the assessed standard of players seeking supplementary grading, the team grading may be altered at the discretion of the Grading Committee.

4.1.10 The respective Club Secretary or Club Registrar must endorse his/her Club's grading sheets and identify which teams have been graded on player ability by initialling the relevant box on the grading form.

4.1.11 The Association may not accept any late entry of a competitive football team after the grading lists are issued following the review process. Such date for the cessation of accepting competitive football teams will be advised to clubs during the grading process.

4.2 RE-GRADING

4.2.1 Re-grading of teams in non-premiership groups will be undertaken at the discretion of the relevant Grading Committee. Clubs are not required to make application for regrading of teams in these age groups. Such will occur no later than:

- Completion of Round 5 for Under 8
- Completion of the Round immediately prior to the June (King's Birthday) long weekend for Under 8-Under 12.

- 4.2.2 Teams in the competitive age groups that are graded in a 12-team competition will undergo an automatic regrading after completion of the first cycle of league matches. (Refer Rule 1.4.4).

Teams in the competitive that are graded in a 6, 8 or 10 team competition may be re-graded where a team is clearly seen to be uncompetitive in the division they have been placed at the completion of five played rounds (recorded results). A submission by a Club to regrade a team will be dealt with by the relevant Grading Committee upon the parameters set from time to time by the Board or Directors. Regrade applications after the set time will not be considered.

4.2.3 (~~Deleted 2018~~)

- 4.2.4 A team will only be regraded where the regrade will not diminish the current expected number of games played by the divisions impacted.
- 4.2.5 For a team to be eligible to be considered for a regrade to a lower division, they must not have won any fixtures and must have equal to or higher a goal difference of negative four (4) per game played.
- 4.2.6 For a team to be eligible to be considered for a regrade to a higher division, they must have not lost any fixtures and must have equal to or higher a goal difference of positive four (4) per game played.
- 4.2.7 The relevant Grading Committee may regrade any team to a higher or lower division if that grading committee consider the regrading to be necessary to maintain a competitive balance within the division.
- 4.2.8 For a team being relegated to a lower division, from a higher division:
1. All wins and draws obtained by the relegated team from the higher division should remain.
 2. All losses that are equal to or less than 3-0 obtained by the relegated team should remain (i.e. if they lost 2-0 or 3-1 or 5-2 etc that result should remain)
 3. All losses that are greater than 3-0 obtained by the relegated team shall be converted to a 3-0 loss (i.e. if they lost 10-0 it becomes a 3-0 loss).

For a team being promoted to a higher division, from a lower division:

1. All wins that are greater than 3-0 obtained by the promoted team shall be converted to a 3-0 win to that team (i.e. if they won 10-0 it becomes a 3-0 win)
2. All wins that are equal to or less than 3-0 obtained by the promoted team shall remain (i.e. if they won 2-0 or 3-2 or 5-2 etc that result should remain)
3. All draws and losses obtained by the promoted team shall remain (i.e. if they drew a game that result remains)
4. Notwithstanding the above, the promoted team cannot go any higher than equal 5th place on points on the ladder and shall be allocated points accordingly.

4.3 **PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

- 4.3.1 Subject to the discretion of the grading committees, at the commencement of each season the following protocols shall apply to promotion and relegation of returning teams.
- 4.3.1.1 Season Premiers and Champions from the immediately previous season shall be promoted to the next highest division.
 - 4.3.1.2 If the minor premier was also the premier, then the grand final runner up will also be promoted to the next highest division.
 - 4.3.1.3 The two teams with the least accrued competition points from the immediately previous season shall be relegated to the next lowest division.
- 4.3.2 In age groups under 13 and upwards, teams with seven or more players continuing from the immediately previous season will constitute a returning team for the purposes of this clause.
- In age groups under 10, 11 and 12, teams with six or more players continuing from the immediately previous season will constitute a returning team for the purposes of this clause.
- In age groups under 8 and 9, teams with five or more players continuing from the immediately previous season will constitute a returning team for the purposes of this clause.
- 4.3.3 Teams that fail to provide all necessary grading information shall have no right of appeal against their grading or regrading. Section 4.1.7 shall not apply to clubs that fail to provide adequate information under section 4.1.
- 4.3.4 This section shall not apply to the BBPL.

SECTION 5: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

5.1 PLAYERS PER TEAM AND PLAYER IDENTIFICATION

5.1.1 The maximum number of players that may be entered on a match sheet for any particular match shall be as follows: -

Under 6 & 7 = 7 players (4 + 3)

Under 8 & 9 = 11 players (7 + 4)

Under 10 & 11 & 12 = 13 players (9 + 4)

Under 13 (mixed/male/female) to Over 35 male = 16 players (11 + 5)

Over 35 Women and Over 45 and Over 55 male = 18 players (11 + 7)

5.1.2 All players listed on the match sheet are deemed to have played in that match, unless their name has been removed from the match sheet prior to the referee confirming all of the details on the match sheet at the completion of the game.

5.1.3 The referee, whether officially appointed or otherwise, shall check player electronic ID cards immediately prior to the commencement of the match in all premiership divisions (i.e. Under 13 and over). Players shall line up in the centre circle area to permit ID to be checked by the referee.

Players arriving late to the match shall have their electronic ID checked by the referee or the assistant referee for checking before entering the field.

Should commencement of the match be delayed as a result of players not being ready to carry out the checking procedure, the referee may shorten the match to make up any lost time.

5.1.4 (Deleted 2015)

5.1.5 If a player does not have a current electronic ID card issued by the Association, he/she shall not be permitted to take the field unless the notification of the lack of ID card has been notified to the Association prior to the match, and he/she has been given permission to play in writing by the Association. Where such permission in writing has been granted, the player must present this correspondence to the referee or assistant referee before the start of the match.

5.1.6 11 a-side teams who are unable to provide the electronic ID cards of seven (7) of their registered players within ten minutes of the scheduled starting time of the match shall forfeit the match.

5.1.7 Should a team manager notice any discrepancy on the electronic ID card of a player on the opposing team, he/she should report this to the referee who will note it on the match sheet. The referee shall not refuse any reasonable request to have such information entered upon the match sheet.

5.1.8 (Deleted 2016)

5.2 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND PLAYING OUT OF AGE GROUP OR DIVISION UNDER 8 TO UNDER 21 COMPETITIONS

5.2.1 Subject to the restrictions imposed under rule 1.1 and the permissions extended under rule 5.2, players in the under 8 to under 18 age groups (for mixed/boys) and under 8 to under 16 age groups (for girls) must play in the age group of the birthday they will achieve in that calendar year or a maximum of 2 years higher age group.

No player in an under 8 to under 21 age based team may play for a team in an age group or in a division lower than the age group and/or division into which the player has been graded for that season. This provision being subject to any official regrading of the player's team during that season.

5.2.1.1 A male player must attain his 18th, 19th, 20th or 21st birthday in the relevant year to be automatically eligible to register for a team in the under 21 boys age group.

5.2.1.2 A female player must attain her 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th or 19th birthday in the relevant year to be automatically eligible to register for a team in the under 19 girls age group.

5.2.1.3 A male player must attain his 15th, 16th, 17th, or 18th birthday in the relevant year to be automatically eligible to register for a team in the under 18 boys age group.

- 5.2.2 A player in an under 8 to under 16 age-based **girls** team may, from time to time, play for a team in a higher division or in a higher age group subject to the limitations set out in rules 5.2.2.1 to 5.2.2.3.

A female player in an under 8 to under 12 age girls only team may be borrowed into an under 8 to under 12 mixed/boys team maintaining the borrowing limitations for the age as set out in these Rules. Alternatively, a female player in an under 8 to under 12 age mixed/boys team may be borrowed into an under 8 to under 12 girls only team. This permission does not extend beyond the non-premiership under 12 competitions.

A player in an under 8 to under 18 age based mixed/**boys** team may, from time to time, play for a team in a higher division or in a higher age group subject to the limitations set out in rules 5.2.2.1 to 5.2.2.3.

A player in an under 21 team may, from time to time, play for a team in a higher division of the under 21 competition subject to the limitations set out in rules 5.2.2.1 and 5.2.2.2.

- 5.2.2.1 **WITHIN THE SAME DIVISION:-** Where two or more teams from the same Club are in the same division, then no interchange of players between those teams is permitted.

- 5.2.2.2 **WITHIN THE SAME AGE GROUP:-** A player registered and graded in a lower division team can play in a higher division team, but NOT the other way round.

- 5.2.2.3 **BETWEEN DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS:-** A player registered and graded in a lower age group can play in a higher age group, **SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS:**

- (a) **Non-Premiership Division (U8-U12):** When playing one (1) or two (2) years above the player's actual age, a player graded into a Division 1 team can only play into a division 1 team in that higher age group. A player graded into a Division 2 team or lower when playing up one (1) or two (2) years above their actual age may play in any Division in the higher age group. Any player who plays in a non-eligible Division is an ineligible player and will be dealt with as an ineligible player in accordance with the provisions contained within these rules. Note: A non-premiership player playing up in a premiership division must comply with the regulations governing the premiership division.
- (b) **Premiership Divisions:** Where the difference in age group is only one year (eg: under 13 to under 14) then a player from the lower age group can play in the higher age group at the same division or higher. eg: a 13/2 player could play in 14/2 or 14/1 but NOT in 14/3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a maximum of two players from the lowest team in a particular division may play up into the lowest team of the next highest age group. eg: a 15/1 player may play up into a 16/2 team if both of those teams were the lowest graded teams in their respective age groups.
- (c) **Premiership Divisions:** Where the difference in age group is two years (eg: under 13 to under 15) then a player from the lower age group can play in the higher age group in any division which is not more than 3 divisions lower than the player's registered division.
- (d) For reasons of safety, and noting any exemptions elsewhere in these Rules, it is not permitted for a player registered in an under 6 to under 16 age-based **girls** team, or an under 6 to under 18 age-based mixed/**boys** team to play more than two years above the player's age group. For example, a player who turns 10 years of age in the relevant year, and who is registered in either an under 10 or an under 11 team, might play up in an under 12 team but not in an under 13 team.
- (e) *(Deleted 2012).*
- (f) *(Deleted 2015)*

OPEN AND OVER AGE COMPETITIONS

- 5.2.3 Player eligibilities for senior teams (both men's and women's) shall be governed by the following Rules.

- 5.2.3.1 A player must attain the age of 18 years in the current year to play in, or play into, and All Age or BBPL or **GMPL** team **unless otherwise specified elsewhere in the Rules.**

- 5.2.3.2 A player must have attained the age of 35 years prior to January 1st of the relevant year to be eligible to play in an Over 35 male team. No underage players are permitted in the Over 35 male competition.

- 5.2.3.3 A player must have attained the age of 45 years prior to January 1st of the relevant year to be eligible to play in an Over 45 male team. No underage players are permitted in the Over 45 male competition.
- 5.2.3.4 A player must have attained the age of 35 years prior to January 1st of the relevant year to be eligible to play in, or play into, an Over 35 women's team. **Permissions for underage players to participate in Over 35 women no longer apply.**
- 5.2.3.5 A player must have attained the age of 55 years prior to January 1st of the relevant year to be eligible to play in an Over 55 male team. No underage player will be permitted to register from the 2026 winter football season unless they were of age and registered in an Over 50 male team for the 2025 season and maintain their registration continuously in that same team until they attain the age of 55 years prior to January 1st in the relevant year. An approved underage player that does not maintain continuous registration in the same team in the Over 55 male competition becomes excluded from this exemption.
- 5.2.3.6 *(Deleted 2022)*
- 5.2.3.7 *(Deleted 2026)*
- 5.2.3.8 *(Deleted 2025)*
- 5.2.4 Player movements between senior teams (men's) shall be governed by the requirements of rules 5.2.9 – 5.2.12 and the following Rules 5.2.4.1 to 5.2.4.5.
- 5.2.4.1 A player registered in an All Age, Over 35, Over 45 and Over 55 team in the (primarily) Saturday competitions may only play in their registered competition or the BBPL (where permissions exist).
- 5.2.4.2 No player in an All Age, Over 35, Over 45 or Over 55 competition may play for a team within their registration age group in a division lower or equal than the one into which the player has been graded for that season.
- 5.2.4.3 A player wishing to change their competition must seek a formal re-grade outlining the reasons for such change. Such change in competition must be done by 31st May being the final date for competitive registrations.
- 5.2.4.4 Players registered in a BBPL squad may only play within that squad within any particular year.
- 5.2.4.5 A female player moving from an older age group to the next youngest age group may play in any division higher than **or equal to** two divisions below the player's registered division. *(Eg. An O/35 Div 1 female player may play All Age Women's Div 3 or higher.)* This only applies to the Women's Over 35 and All Age competitions.
- 5.2.4.5.1 A registered player in the All Age Women's competition must have attained the age of 35 by 1 January of the relevant year to play up into the Over 35 Women's competition. Such players can only play in the same division as the player is registered or higher. (e.g. An AAW/2 registered player could only play in the O35W/1 or O35W/2.)
- 5.2.5 A player registered in a senior All Age / Over Age Saturday competition may not play in a Sunday All Age / Over Age competition. Likewise, a player registered in a senior All Age / Over Age Sunday competition may not play in an All Age / Over Age Saturday competition.
- A player in an underage senior competition (Under 19 or 21) may play up into a senior All Age Saturday or Sunday (Men) / BBPL (where the Rules permit) / All Age Women competition provided the division they are to play is equal or one division lower than their underage division. Age restriction rules governing such All Age competitions will still apply to these players.
- A player found guilty of being in breach of this Rule shall be suspended for a period of 2 Matches from the date of the breach and the player's club fined in accordance with the Association's Schedule of Fines current at the time.
- 5.2.6 Players registered in a BBPL team may not play in an All Age, Over 35, Over 45 or Over 55 team. *(subsequent sentence deleted 2013).*

5.2.7 Players registered in an All Age, Over 35 or Over 45 team may from time to time play into a BBPL squad (if such permissions exist), provided that such player movements shall be governed by the requirements of rules 5.2.5, 5.2.9, 5.2.10, 5.2.11, 5.2.12.

5.2.8 Where two or more teams from the same Club are in the same division, then no interchange of players between those teams is permitted once a player has played one game with one of the nominated teams.

ALL COMPETITIONS (Other than BBPL)

5.2.9 In all cases (other than within a BBPL squad), a player is permitted to play out of their registered team for a maximum of five (5) occasions. A player playing out of their registered team on a 6th or subsequent occasion will be deemed ineligible with the relevant penalties applied in accordance with Rule 5.4.

Where permissions exist an All Age, Over 35, Over 45 or Over 55 player who plays into a BBPL squad shall, for the relevant season, be treated as having played up into a higher division and will be subject to the further provisions of this Rule 5.2.9.

A player seeking to change their registered team is to seek a regrade from the Association.

5.2.9.1-5.2.9.4 (deleted 2024)

5.2.10 To be eligible to play for a team in any finals series match(es) a player must have played a minimum of three (3) competition matches for that particular team during the premierships rounds of the competition leading up to that finals series.

Where a player is eligible and wishes to play for a higher team under this Rule, the player must apply for and obtain a regrade into their new team prior to taking the field in that finals match. Failure to do so will deem the player ineligible and the game forfeited automatically.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a player may only play for one team in any finals series, including that player's original team of registration.

5.2.11 A team may only draw players from another team within the Club, where those players are eligible to play. The maximum number of players that may be brought up into a higher graded or different age group team for any given match, subject to the preceding paragraph, shall be:-

for under 8 and 9 age groups	2
for under 10, 11 and 12 age groups	3
for all other age groups and competitions	4

5.2.12 State Cup and similar competition matches shall be counted as part of the five (5) matches referred to in Rule 5.2.9.

5.3 PLAYER REPLACEMENTS DURING A MATCH

5.3.1 Players in all age groups and divisions may interchange as often as they wish during a match.

5.3.2 Substitutions and interchange of players may only occur at a stoppage in play and when permitted by the referee. For substitution and interchange of players, the procedures for replacement of players as set down in the Rules of the Game must be followed.

5.3.3 A technical area, conforming to FIFA standards shall be marked adjacent to each field played upon and coaches, managers and substitutes shall remain within this technical area.

5.3.4 All player replacements shall be made from within one metre on either side of the halfway line on the same side of the field as the technical area.

5.3.5 Players being replaced must be off the field of play before the replacement player takes the field.

5.3.6 Where there is no player interchange, players being substituted and the players who take their place on the field, must be marked on and off the match sheet by the referee. The Referee or his/her assistant referee must be notified of any replacement before that player takes the field.

5.4 INELIGIBLE PLAYERS - PENALTIES

5.4.1 Any team that fields a player who:

- is unregistered, or
- needs a permit to play and has not obtained such permit, or

- is not registered in that team in accordance with the Association Constitution and Rules, or
- is registered with another Association or soccer organisation without Board permission, or
- is under suspension, or
- is not eligible to play in that team according to any rule of the Association.

shall for each match that the person has played in,

- deemed to have lost each match, and
- forfeit three competition points (even though the team may not have earned any points in the match played), and
- be fined a team registration fee when the player is unregistered, requires a permit, is registered with another Association/organisation without permission; or be fined \$50.00 plus GST be they in an Under 18 designated competition or younger or \$100.00 plus GST for all other teams where the player is registered properly with the Association but is participating in a team in which they are not eligible to participate according to any rule of the Association, and
- be dealt with additionally as the Board deems fit

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

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

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

For the purposes of this Rule:-

"*Disciplinarily Ineligible*" means a player who is unregistered, suspended, stood down, banned or otherwise ordered not to play by any Authority having jurisdiction including FC, FNSW, FA and the player's own Club.

And

"*Administratively Ineligible*" means any situation or circumstance other than one which is within the definition of "*Disciplinarily Ineligible*".

5.4.4 A Club which permits a player, whilst ineligible, to play in any official match conducted under the auspices of the Association shall incur a monetary fine in accordance with the Association's current fine schedule.

5.4.5 *(deleted 2013)*.

5.5 **INELIGIBLE PLAYERS - NOTIFICATION**

5.5.1 Clubs must notify the Association of any player placed in default or otherwise ineligible no later than 30 September of each calendar year, for which the ineligibility or default has occurred. Such notification shall be in writing on Club letterhead signed by the designated Club Secretary (or Administrator).

SECTION 6: DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

6.1 CAUTIONS - (YELLOW CARDS)

- 6.1.1 Refer to section 16.1, 16.2 and 16.3 of the *Judiciary Disciplinary and Appeals Regulations* document for the relevant season. (See also Attachment A herein.)
- 6.1.2 **FC Management** must notify the offending player's (or official's) Club of such suspension, no later than 6:00pm on the Thursday prior to the weekend's match.
- 6.1.3 It is the responsibility of the Club to record all yellow cards and to ensure that any resulting suspensions are actioned and served.
- 6.1.4
- 6.1.4.1 A temporary dismissal of a player from the field of play will be applied in instances of dissent by word or action directed at a referee or assistant referee.
 - 6.1.4.2 The temporary dismissal period is for ten (10) minutes. The referee will be the sole judge of time during the temporary dismissal period.
 - 6.1.4.3 A player sent from the field of play on a temporary dismissal cannot be replaced during the dismissal period.
 - 6.1.4.4 The Referee will signal the temporary dismissal of a player by showing the player a Yellow Card and pointing the player to the technical area.
 - 6.1.4.5 The player must leave the field of play and must serve their temporary dismissal period by remaining in the technical area.
 - 6.1.4.6 The recognised team official of the team whose player is the subject of a temporary dismissal will be responsible for requesting re-entry of that player to the field of play at the end of the dismissal period. If the referee concurs that the time period in relation to the temporary dismissal has expired the referee will signal to the player to return to the field of play. The player under temporary dismissal cannot re-enter the field of play without the permission of the referee to do so. Infringement of this rule may lead to a second (2nd) Yellow Card. In this instance a second (2nd) Yellow Card is a Send-off offence and will result in the referee showing a Red Card.
 - 6.1.4.7 Should the same player engage in further dissent towards the referee the referee will issue a Red Card and the player is dismissed from further participation in the game.
 - 6.1.4.8 If a team is reduced to less than seven (7) players by reason of one or more temporary dismissals the match is deemed abandoned.
 - 6.1.4.9 The period of temporary dismissal will begin from the resumption of play after the temporarily dismissed player has left the field of play and is seated in the technical area.
 - 6.1.4.10 At the expiration of the period of temporary dismissal the player will return to the field of play at the centreline from the touchline upon the referee's invitation to re-enter the field of play.
 - 6.1.4.11 A player the subject of a temporary dismissal may be substituted at the expiration of the temporary dismissal period and when there is a stoppage in play.
 - 6.1.4.12 A period of temporary dismissal that commences at the end of the first half but has not expired by the time of the half time break will carry over into the second half until it has completely expired. In the event of a temporary dismissal occurring in a final series prior to full time but not expiring at full time the period of temporary dismissal will continue into a period of extra time until it has fully expired.
 - 6.1.4.13 The temporary dismissal carries over into the 2nd half (and extra time in finals).
 - 6.1.4.14 A player the subject of a temporary dismissal who commits a cautionable or send-off offence in the technical area during the period of temporary dismissal and is issued with either a second (2nd) Yellow Card or a Red Card will take no further part in the match and may not be replaced or substituted.

6.2 SEND OFFS – (RED CARDS / DISMISSAL)

6.2.1 In the event of a player (or team official) being shown a red card or sent off by the referee he/she shall:

- be automatically suspended for one match, and
- the Club of the player (or team official) dismissed from the field or technical area shall be charged an administration fee to process the dismissal.

It shall be sufficient evidence that if a player (or team official) is shown a red card by the referee that they know that they are automatically suspended for at least a minimum of one match.

6.2.2 (*Deleted 2018*)

6.2.3 (*Deleted 2018*)

6.2.4 Any player (or team official) sent off during a match shall not take any part in any other match until the suspension period has concluded.

- 6.2.5 Only official competition matches run under the auspices of the Association and/or Football NSW (eg: competition finals, State Cup, Champion of Champions) may be counted as matches served under any suspension issued by the Association.

Byes, matches forfeited by the suspended player's own Club, washed out matches, trial matches, pre-season matches, summer soccer matches, futsal matches, non-rescheduled matches, matches for which the player's registered team may be stood down, and matches in which the player could have played up in a higher division or age group are not counted as part of a match suspension served by a suspended player.

- 6.2.6 It shall be the responsibility of the player's Club to ensure that a suspended player does not play while suspended. It shall be the responsibility of the official's Club to ensure that a suspended official is not actively involved with any team while suspended.
- 6.2.7 Refer to section 16.4, 16.5 and 16.6 of the *Judiciary Disciplinary and Appeals Regulations* document for the relevant season. (See also Attachment A herein.)
- 6.2.8 It is the responsibility of the Club to record all red cards and to ensure that any resulting suspensions are actioned and served.

6.3 **ID CARDS OF SUSPENDED PARTICIPANTS**

- 6.3.1 The ID card of a suspended participant will be rendered unavailable for selection to a team until the suspension is served.

Regardless of whether a participant can or can't be selected in a team, if they are aware of being suspended, they cannot participate under any circumstance (including where they are in receipt of a red card/send off in a fixture prior to the updating of weekly suspensions). Refer also to 6.2.8.

6.3.1 (previous 6.3.1 – Deleted 2026)

6.3.2 (Deleted 2026)

6.4 **SEND OFF REPORTS**

- 6.4.1 Caution and send off reports must be received by the Association no later than 4.00pm on the Tuesday following the send-off for a weekend fixture and within 48-hours of a weeknight fixture.

6.5 **STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR**

- 6.5.1 All players, team officials, club officials and spectators participating in the competitions conducted by the Association are required to comply with the Association's Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy in relation to any act of violence whether before, during or after a match.
- 6.5.2 A player, participant or club affiliated with the Association shall at all times act in the best interests of the game and shall not act in any manner which:
- 6.5.5.1 Is unsportsmanlike.
 - 6.5.5.2 Brings or may bring the game into disrepute or may damage the reputation and/or the goodwill of the game.
 - 6.5.5.3 Is violent.
 - 6.5.5.4 Is improper, threatening, abusive, insulting or discriminatory, whether by words or behaviour, towards any other player or participant, by reason of that other player or participant's ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion, sex, disability or any other reason.
 - 6.5.5.5 Knowingly or wilfully engages in the "ring in" of a player or players into any match.
 - 6.5.5.6 Is disrespectful or abusive of any match official or of their decisions.
 - 6.5.5.6 Is in breach of any matter set out hereunder in relation to either player indiscipline, offences by players against other players or any other person and offences by players, team or club officials against match officials.

- 6.5.3 In relation to all proceedings before the Judiciary, Disciplinary and Appeals Committees, the Association will apply penalties in accordance with its published schedule of penalties current at the time of the offence.
- 6.5.4 The following penalties shall apply to players and teams:-
- 6.5.4.1 For a player sent off for the second time in the one season the minimum and maximum penalties shall be doubled.
 - 6.5.4.2 For a player sent off for a third time in the one season the minimum penalty shall be the remainder of the season.
 - 6.5.4.3 Where a team accumulates three (3) Red Cards during the premiership season the team will incur a loss of one (1) premiership point.
 - 6.5.4.4 For each subsequent Red Card incurred by a team who has breached Rule 6.5.4.3 then the team will suffer an additional penalty, the loss of one (1) further premiership point.

SECTION 7: MATCH OFFICIALS

7.1 **APPOINTMENT OF REFEREES**

- 7.1.1 Where possible, Referees shall be appointed to all fixtures of Association competitions.
- 7.1.2 The Canterbury Referees Association (CRA) shall supply Management with a complete list of referee appointments by 7.00pm on the Wednesday preceding each weekend round of competition.
- 7.1.3 Management is empowered to question appointments which they consider may be detrimental to the cause of the game.
- 7.1.4 In the event that the Canterbury Referees Association does not appoint a referee to a match an official of the Association may appoint a referee.
- 7.1.5 The referees shall in the last four weeks of the competitions, before the semi-finals, report to the Association any ground they consider unfit on which to play games in the finals series.

7.2 **NON-ATTENDANCE OF MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 7.2.1 Where there is no referee in attendance at a match, both teams must agree on one person to referee the entire match.
- 7.2.2 When any two teams are unable to decide on a suitable substitute referee they shall:-
- not proceed to play the match without a referee, and
 - complete the match sheet details, recording on the sheet that the match was not played due to there being no suitable person to referee, and
 - return the match sheet as for a normal completed match, and
 - within 48 hours of the match's originally scheduled time, forward to FC an explanation detailing why an agreement could not be made, and
 - the Fixtures Committee shall meet within 14 calendar days following when the match should have been played and, based on the information before it, decide the outcome of the match.

The match may be rescheduled or another outcome determined for that match at the sole discretion of the Fixtures Committee. The Clubs whose teams are involved will have no right of appeal against the Fixtures Committee decision in the matter.

- 7.2.3 Once a person is appointed as a substitute referee under rule 7.2.1, he/she has all the rights, powers and responsibilities of an official referee, (including the right to issue yellow cards (cautions) and red cards (send-off) to players and officials of the teams involved in the match) and shall be accorded the same respect by the teams as would an official referee.

A person appointed as a substitute referee under this rule shall complete the match sheet details including any necessary incident report in the same manner as would an official referee.

- 7.2.4 Where there is no assistant referee in attendance at a match, each Club should supply a person to act as an assistant referee for the entire match.

7.3 **APPEALS AGAINST REFEREE'S DECISION**

- 7.3.1 Only errors in the application of the Rules of the Game shall be deemed grounds for appeal against a referee's decision.

7.4 **GROUND OFFICIALS (Also refer to the Football Canterbury Ground Official Policy)**

- 7.4.1 Each Club must provide at least one Ground Official for each of its home fields that is being played upon. Where the match is being played at a neutral ground (or night venue), both teams (Clubs) are required to provide a Ground Official.
- 7.4.2 Each Club Ground Official must be clearly visible and be identified as an official wearing the designated Ground Official (orange hi-vis) vest.

7.5 **WELFARE OF THE MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 7.5.1 The Home Team will be solely responsible for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the ground, until the time they depart the ground. Failure to carry out this requirement may result in a sanction by FC.
- 7.5.2 Where a match official is assaulted by players, team officials or spectators the ground official from the host club must contact the NSW Police to report the assault.

SECTION 8: GROUNDS AND EQUIPMENT

8.1 GROUND DETAILS

- 8.1.1 Clubs are required to provide the Association with details of their ground availability and ground configuration for the season as soon as possible after the relevant Council or other Owner confirms the Club's bookings for the season.

8.2 ROPING OF GROUNDS

- 8.2.1 All open grounds must be roped off to a minimum of 2 metres from the extremities of the penalty area at either end of the field and where possible to be at least one metre high.
- 8.2.2 Mini fields and half fields do not require roping off.
- 8.2.3 Any Club whose ground is reported to the Board by the referee for inadequate roping off shall be given 48 hours by the Association to show cause why it should not be fined an amount set by the Board for such breach

8.3 PERSONS ALLOWED INSIDE ROPES

- 8.3.1 Only coaches, managers and substitute players in playing strip engaged in the match in progress are permitted within the ropes or permitted within the fence if an enclosed ground.

The number of officials (coaches, managers, etc) permitted to each team within the technical zone / on the field of play at any time during the course of a match shall be limited to two (2). A team official 18-years+ must at all times be on the team bench whilst the game is in progress for teams in the under 18 and younger age groups. Where seating is provided, only one team official at a time may be standing. Team Officials are required to wear the designated Yellow (hi vis) Team Official vest coupled with their Team Official ID Card (where applicable) clearly visible.

- 8.3.2 All persons described in 8.3.1 above must have a current Association ID card for the team taking part in the game to be permitted within the ropes or fence.
- 8.3.3 No person, Club official, team manager or team coach is permitted to stand along the goal line within the area defined by the junction of the goal line and the penalty area within 15 metres of the goal posts.
- 8.3.4 The referee shall have the right to stop the match and remove any person from within the ropes or from within a fence or from behind the goal posts if he/she deems it necessary for the efficient running of the game.
- 8.3.5 Unless permitted otherwise by the referee, coaches, managers and players must stay within the designated technical area during the game.
- 8.3.6 The Referee will not commence or continue fixtures until all ineligible persons have removed themselves from the technical area to a location behind the field ropes or fence.

8.4 FITNESS OF GROUNDS

- 8.4.1 The ground lessee or delegate shall have the power to decide the fitness of the ground.
- 8.4.2 On grounds where there is more than one field the ground lessee or delegate may decide which ground is more fit or more suitable to hold any allocated game

8.5 PROTESTS REGARDING STATE OF GROUNDS

- 8.5.1 A team wishing to protest against the condition of any ground, or that the goal posts or corner flags do not conform to the laws of the game shall make the protest to the referee before the commencement of the match.
- 8.5.2 The referee shall have the power to order the match to be played despite any protests being made.
- 8.5.3 If the conditions of the ground, corner posts or goal posts are the subject of a protest, then such protest must be made in writing to the Board within 48 hours of the game scheduled time of finishing. The protest shall also be entered onto the match sheet for that match.

8.6 CORNER KICKS (JUNIORS)

- 8.6.1 Corner kicks in games for teams in the age groups listed below shall be taken from a point 7 metres from the edge of the penalty area.
- Under 13 girls
 - Under 14 girls

- 8.6.2 Fields should be marked at the location specified in 8.6.1 to allow the corner kick to be taken from the appropriate spot.

8.7 PLAYER UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- 8.7.1 All players are to appear for all Association competition matches wearing a proper football uniform, including an unduplicated numbered shirt in approved Club colours and with football shorts, socks and regulation footwear.
- 8.7.2 Players' shirt numbers are to correspond to players' numbers on the match sheet.
- 8.7.3 Shirt numbers are to be a minimum of 15 centimetres high in a colour contrasting with that of the shirt itself.
- 8.7.4 In the case of a player infringing any part of this Rule, the player's Club may be fined an amount set annually by the Board.
- 8.7.5 Minor variations to the above requirements, such as coloured trim, shall not constitute a breach of this Rule.
- 8.7.6 The Club must be notified of a breach under this Rule by the referee on the day of such breach before a fine can be imposed and such breach must be written on the match sheet.
- 8.7.7 Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from all the other players and distinguish them from the referee.
- 8.7.8 Substitutes are permitted to wear a bib/vest OR a club jacket/jumper that **must be a different colour to the playing top**, so substitutes can distinguish themselves from the players on the field. Players in the BBPL and GMPL are required to wear the branded bib/vest as provided.
- 8.7.9 All players must wear adequately sized shin pads while playing in any Association competition matches.
- 8.7.10 Any player needing to wear spectacles whilst playing shall:-
- 8.7.10.1 use only purpose made plastic sports spectacles, worn secure against accidental dislodgement,
 - 8.7.10.2 provide to his/her Club a letter from their optometrist as to the necessity of wearing spectacles,
 - 8.7.10.3 ensure that they are wearing the said spectacles at the time their player registration photograph is taken. The player's ID card, together with the letter required at 8.7.9.2 (and held by the Club Registrar) shall be suitable proof that the player is entitled to wear spectacles whilst playing.

8.8 SIMILAR COLOURED PLAYER UNIFORMS

- 8.8.1 When the playing shirt colours of the competing teams are similar, and upon the direction of the referee, the home team must change their shirts to a contrasting colour.
- 8.8.2 In semi finals, finals and grand finals, or in any match played at a neutral venue, the team listed first on the draw will be deemed to be the home team and will be required to change its shirts under 8.8.1.
- 8.8.3 All Clubs are required to submit their first choice and alternate kit colours to the Association prior to the Competition commencing. An image of the shirt, shorts, and socks will suffice.
- 8.8.4 Clubs are required to wear their first-choice kit colours for all matches unless there is a clash of colours and the referee has determined one team must change.
- 8.8.5 Unless already determined and communicated by the Association, the referee will be the sole decision maker of a clash of colours.

8.9 BALL SIZE

- 8.9.1 The following ball sizes shall be used for the appropriate age group:
- | | |
|--|-------------|
| Under 6, Under 7, Under 8, Under 9 | Ball size 3 |
| Under 10, Under 11, Under 12, Under 13 | Ball size 4 |
| All other ages and grades | Ball size 5 |
- 8.9.2 Each team shall have a ball available in condition fit for match play.

8.9.3 The referee shall decide as to the fitness of the ball for each match.

SECTION 9: EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

9.1 STATE CUP & OTHER BOARD APPROVED EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

9.1.1 *(deleted 2017)*

9.1.2 When teams enter approved external competitions and are consequently unable to play a scheduled Association competition match, the Competition Manager shall endeavour to reschedule that league match on an equivalent day to that on which the league match was originally scheduled.

9.1.2 Where the circumstances are such that the Association competition match cannot be rescheduled to a date suitable to both teams, then the team which entered the external competition will forfeit the Association competition match.

9.1.3 Only Division 1 teams will be considered for State Cup entry. For the purposes of this Rule the BBPL is not considered an All Age competition.

9.2 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS ENTRANTS

9.2.1 The Champion of Champions entrant shall be the season premiers from each 1st division age group provided that:

9.2.1.1 The teams enter and compete with a minimum of 51% of their originally registered players for that season, and

9.2.1.2 *(Deleted 2019)*,

9.2.1.3 All entrants are to be ultimately endorsed by the Board.

9.2.1.4 The season premiers of the BBPL competition, or in the absence of a BBPL competition the minor premier of the highest Saturday All Age Men's competition will be the Champion of Champions entrant for the open age men's competition. Similarly, the season premiers of the GMPL competition, or in the absence of a GMPL competition the minor premier of the highest Sunday All Age Women's competition will be the Champion of Champions entrant for the open age women's competition.

9.2.1.5 A team, even if season premiers, shall not be permitted to be the Association representative in the Champion of Champions if at any time during the season they have fielded an Ineligible player/team. This shall apply even if that team has not been penalised during the season for fielding an ineligible player.

9.2.1.6 A team, even if season premiers, shall not be permitted to be the Association representative in the Champion of Champions if at any time during the season they have been held to be responsible for an abandoned game.

9.2.1.7 A team, even if season premiers, shall not be permitted to be the Association representative in the Champion of Champions if at any time during the season they have forfeited, withdrawn or been removed from the State Cup tournament.

9.2.1.8 In the event of a team being excluded on the basis of either of Rules 9.2.1.5, 9.2.1.6 or 9.2.1.7 then the second placed team on the table in that division shall be the Association representative, provided that the second placed team is also not excluded on the basis of either of Rules 9.2.1.5, 9.2.1.6 or 9.2.1.7. The same provisions to apply to the third and any lower placed teams in that division.

9.3 GALA DAY COMPETITIONS

9.3.1 Clubs wishing to host Gala Days during the competition season must notify the Competition Manager of the age group(s), date(s) and venue(s) of such events prior to round 1 of the league competition. Clubs failing to meet this requirement may not have their proposed Gala Day sanctioned by the Association.

9.3.2 Clubs shall not organise gala days on FC normal scheduled playing days of the age group for which the gala day is to be run.

9.4 FIELD AVAILABILITY AND TEAMS IN OTHER COMPETITIONS

9.4.1 Clubs that field teams in competitions other than those run by FC (eg: Amateur League or the like) shall ensure that they make available to FC a sufficient number of home grounds for the scheduling of their FC teams on a balanced home and away basis. Example: if a Club enters 8 senior teams in FC competition, then it must provide two fields each week (ie: 2 fields by 2 time slots to accommodate 4 matches) for the exclusive use of the FC competition).

9.4.2 A club may negotiate to use another club's fields as a regular home ground, however any such arrangements shall be strictly between the two clubs and must be notified to the Association at least two weeks before the Competition begins.

9.4.3 If a club cannot provide an adequate number of fields as outlined above and the club's teams cannot be accommodated on the opposition's fields, then the club shall forfeit those matches for which they cannot provide a field.

- 9.4.4 This section does not apply to clubs that have only entered teams in the State Cup or other FNSW run knock-out competitions.

SECTION 10: REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS AND PLAYERS

- 10.1 The representative colours of the Association shall be royal blue shirt with gold trim, royal blue shorts and royal blue socks with two gold bands on the rollover.
- 10.2 (*Deleted 2016*).
- 10.3 (*Deleted 2016*).
- 10.4 (*Deleted 2016*).
- 10.5 (*Deleted 2016*).

SECTION 11: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11.1 MEETINGS

- 11.1.1 General Meetings of the Association will be as provided for in the FC Constitution. Only the two registered members of the Club as nominated on the FC Members Register are entitled to speak and vote at General Meetings of the Association.
- 11.1.2 The Board may convene Forums from time to time to discuss matters related to the promotion and development of the game. Such Forums may be attended by such persons as the Board deems to extend an invitation, in addition to the two registered members of the club. Only the two registered members will be permitted to vote on any resolution proposed at a forum. No invitee will be permitted to vote on any resolution.

11.2 FEES AND FINES

- 11.2.1 *(deleted 2022)*
- 11.2.2 *(deleted 2022)*
- 11.2.3 Affiliated Clubs not having a home ground or not having sufficient grounds to cater for their teams may be liable to an appurtenance fee set annually by the Board, for the use of other Club's grounds.
- 11.2.4 The Board of Directors, as set out in s11 of the Constitution, will annually set the Schedule of Fees and Schedule of Fines. Such schedules to be made available to the Member/Associate Member Clubs no later than the Association's AGM immediately preceding the relevant Winter season.

11.3 FAILURE TO CORRECTLY READ DRAW

- 11.3.1 Failure to correctly read a competition draw shall not be deemed a reasonable excuse to appeal for a replay of a match.

11.4 FAILURE TO FOLLOW ASSOCIATION RULES

- 11.4.1 Failure of any Club, person or team to observe the Constitution of the Association and/or the Rules of the Association shall render such Club, person or team liable to whatever penalty the Board deems fit and proper.

11.5 ASSOCIATION ASSETS

- 11.5.1 Any goods or materials purchased on behalf of the Association remain the property of the Association and shall be returned to the Association within seven days of a request being made in writing by any member of the Board.
- 11.5.2 Any person or Club failing to comply with such request shall be placed in default and may be dealt with as the Board deems fit.

11.6 TROPHIES/AWARDS

- 11.6.1 All perpetual trophies remain the property of the Association and will be retained by the Association at all times, other than for the presenting of said trophies to winning grand final teams on the day. No team/club is to retain a perpetual trophy at any time.
- 11.6.2 The Association will recognise the following by way of:
- Plaque – to clubs listing all season premiers and champions;
 - Participation medallions – to all players registered in Small Sided Football; and
 - Medallion – to all winning and runner up player participants in grand final games.
- 11.6.3 A member club may only nominate one person to receive a Cec Barlow Award annually (unless otherwise expressed by the Management).
- 11.6.4 A member club or a Director of FC may nominate a person for the Vince and Val Laws Medal annually.

11.7 FOOTBALL NSW

- 11.7.1 Football Canterbury shall at all times be bound by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of Football New South Wales Limited.
- 11.7.2 Where there is any inconsistency between any provision of the Constitution and or Rules and Regulations of Football Canterbury and those of Football New South Wales Limited, then to the extent of such inconsistency the Constitution Rules and Regulations of Football New South Wales Limited shall prevail.

- 11.7.3 Football Canterbury shall be bound by the lawful decisions of the Board of Football New South Wales and shall do all things reasonably necessary to implement and enforce such decisions.

11.8 APPEALS

- 11.8.1 Clubs have no right of appeal against the provisions of these Rules, or against any determinations of matters made by the Board under these Rules, unless specific provision for an appeal is made within the Rules.

11.9 ELECTRONIC MAIL

- 11.9.1 Where any matter is required under these Rules to be formally notified to the Association by a Club, such notice may be given electronically (email) provided that the document so emailed carries the Club's letterhead and a signature of one of that Club's official representatives.
- 11.9.2 Clubs shall forward to the Association one month prior to the commencement of the season a list of persons NO greater than three (3) persons, from the Club who will receive emails from the Association. Emails from the Association will be sent to all the persons listed by the Clubs. There will be no individual mailing lists for particular subjects. Clubs may add or delete names on the list at any time during the season.
- 11.9.3 Notwithstanding clause 11.9.2 above, the Secretary of each club is the responsible officer for the distribution of FC communications within their respective club.

11.10 COMPETITION FORUM

- 11.10.1 The Association will invite member Clubs in June of each year to provide submissions to the Board with respect to the competition structure for the following year.
- 11.10.2 The Association will convene a Competition Forum to be conducted in July to deal with such matters as the Board deems to be strategic to the enhancement of the competitions.

11.11 (*deleted 2024*)

11.12 MEMBERSHIP

- 11.12.1 In order to be eligible for Full Membership of the Association a Club must have a minimum of six (6) interclub (under 8s and above) teams; or a minimum of eighty (80) registered players.
- 11.12.2 A Club that does not meet the criteria in 11.12.1, or is not accepted by the Board of Directors as a Full Member in a particular year, may be granted Associate Member status. An Associate Member shall have the right to nominate teams and register players with FC. An Associate Member will not be entitled to have two members listed on the FC Register of Members with voting rights at General Meetings of the Association. Associate Members will still be subject to and bound by the FC Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the Association.
- 11.12.3 The Canterbury Referees Association (CRA), as an affiliated incorporated association providing services to the Association, is not subject to the criteria above. The CRA will be afforded the rights and privileges of Full Membership upon application and acceptance annually by the Board of Directors.

APPENDIX A

16. ON-FIELD MISCONDUCT

16.1 Yellow Card

- (a) A Yellow Card is issued by a Match Official to a Player due to the following cautionable offences specified in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and shall be given as follows:

Code	Description
Y1	The player is guilty of unsporting conduct
Y2	The player shows dissent by action or word
Y3	The player persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
Y4	The player delays the restart of play
Y5	The player fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw in
Y6	The player re-enters the field of play without the Referee's permission
Y7	The player deliberately leaves the field of play without the Referee's permission

- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, if a Player receives two (2) Yellow Cards in a Match, resulting in a Red Card Offence (R7) then neither caution shall be considered when accumulating cautions pursuant to sections 16.2 to 16.4.
- (c) If a Player receives one (1) Yellow Card in a Match and then receives a direct Red Card in the same Match, the Yellow Card will **not** be expunged from the Player's record and must be considered when accumulating Yellow Card pursuant to sections 16.2 to 16.5.
- (d) A Mandatory Match Suspension incurred as a result of the accumulation of Yellow Cards pursuant to sections 16.2 to 16.5 cannot be appealed.

16.2 Accumulation of Yellow Cards - Season

- (a) A participant who accumulates five (5) Yellow Cards in the Season shall serve a mandatory one (1) Fixture Suspension. The Fixture Suspension shall be served immediately.
- (b) A participant who accumulates an additional three (3) Yellow Cards (in total eight (8) Yellow Cards) in the Season shall serve a mandatory 2 (two) Fixture Suspension. The Fixture Suspension shall be served immediately.
- (c) A participant who accumulates an additional two (2) Yellow Cards (in total ten (10) Yellow Cards) in the Season shall serve a mandatory three (3) Fixture Suspension. The Fixture Suspension shall be served immediately.
- (d) A participant who accumulates his or her eleventh (11th) Yellow Card in total the Season shall be required to appear before a Disciplinary Tribunal and shall not be eligible to participate in any Fixture until he or she has appeared before the Disciplinary Tribunal and has served the sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Tribunal.
- (e) The accumulation of Yellow Cards in a season does not carry over into the next Season.

16.3 Accumulation of Yellow Cards - Cup

A Player who accumulates two (2) Yellow Cards in a Cup Match shall serve a mandatory one (1) Fixture Suspension, to be served immediately, in the next Fixture (be that a Cup, Premiership or Championship Fixture) that the Participant's team plays, except in the case of a Pre-Season Competition to which section 14.4(h) applies. A single Yellow Card during a Cup Fixture does not carry over into the Championship, Premiership or the next Cup.

16.4 Red Card Offences

- (a) Subject to section 7 (Judiciary Committee), a Participant who receives a Red Card must serve the mandatory minimum Fixture Suspension as set out in the Table of Offences (Schedule 3). The

Participant's Club shall be charged an administration fee for any dismissal offence incurred by participants registered with the club or acting as a team official. Such administration fee will be in accordance with the fee schedule of the Association current at the time of the offence.

- (b) A Red Card may be issued by a Match Official during a Match against a Participant who engages in any one of the following offences and also listed at the Table of Offences at Schedule 3 to these Regulations:

Code	Description
R1	Serious foul play
R2	Violent conduct
R3	Spitting at an opponent or any other person
R4	Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goal-keeper within his own penalty area)
R5	denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
R6	using offensive, intimidating, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
R7	receiving a second caution in the same match

- (c) Red Cards issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.
- (d) **(deleted 2026)**
- (e) A Participant who is issued with a Red Card or Expelled during a match:
- Must not, for the remainder of the Fixture, enter the Field of Play, its surrounds of the Technical Area or occupy the space immediately adjacent to the Technical Area; and
 - Must not at the conclusion of the Fixture have contact with any Match Official involved in the Fixture.

16.5 Accumulation of Red Cards

- (a) *Subject to the Table of Offences (Schedule 3), a participant who accumulates two (2) Red Cards in the Association Competitions in any one (1) season the minimum and maximum penalties shall be doubled.*
- (b) Subject to the Table of Offences (Schedule 3), a Participant who accumulates three (3) Red Cards in the Association Competitions in any one (1) Competition Season shall not be eligible to participate in any further Match for the balance of the current competition season in his or her capacity as a Player after receiving his or her third (3rd) Red Card Offence.
- (c) Such Participant who has received three (3) Red Cards in a season shall be required to appear before the Judiciary Committee for the following season before being eligible to play in any competition fixture.
- (d) In the event of three (3) participants from one team being sent off during the one season, one (1) competition point shall be deducted from the team's season tally on the competition ladder.
- (e) For each additional participant (after the first three (3)) from the one team being sent off, during the one season, then one (1) further competition point shall be deducted.

16.6 Club responsibility for recording accumulation of Yellow and Red Cards Offences

- (a) It is a Club's responsibility to keep accurate records of the Yellow and Red Card Offences received by its Players and Officials regardless of whether a Participant may have accumulated Yellow or Red Card Offences whilst registered with a previous Club.
- (b) It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that any Participant who has incurred a Fixture Suspension serves that sanction in full.

16.7 Team Misconduct

- (a) The Executive or Tribunal may impose additional Suspensions on a Club for the Misconduct of a team, including when:
 - i. five (5) participants are given Yellow Cards or Red Cards during one (1) Match;
 - ii. three (3) participants are given Red Cards during one (1) Match;
 - iii. one or more Participants make threats or show force against a Match Official; or
 - iv. Players and/or Participants engage in violent conduct.
- (b) The relevant sanctions for team misconduct are set out at Schedule 3 to these Regulations.

APPENDIX B – *(deleted 2010)*

APPENDIX C – SMALL SIDED GAMES FIELD DIAGRAMS

C.1 FIELD LAYOUTS

C1.1 Clubs shall be free to lay out fields for small sided games according to their particular site constraints but shall wherever practicable use the field dimensions recommended by the relevant governing body.

The diagrams below are provided for general guidance only but may assist Clubs in utilizing their existing main field line markings as part of the small sided field markings.



