



# **FOOTBALL**

## **CENTRAL QUEENSLAND**

2019 Football Central  
Queensland  
Competition Rules  
Junior and Senior

This document must be read in conjunction with the following documents.

#### FIFA Documents

- FIFA Laws of the Game
- FIFA Statutes
- FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
- FIFA Disciplinary Code

#### FFA Documents

- FFA Statutes
- National Registration Regulations
- National Disciplinary Regulations
- National Grievance Procedure By-Law
- National Judicial Bodies By-Law
- National Arbitration Tribunal Regulations
- National Club Identity Policy
- National Code of Conduct
- National Member Protection Policy
- National Privacy Policy
- National Anti-Doping Policy
- National Spectator Code of Behaviour

#### FCQ/FQ Documents

- FCQ Competition Rules Annexes
- FCQ Junior Player Age Policy
- FCQ Social Media Policy
- FCQ Disciplinary Regulations
- FCQ Extreme Wet & Hot Weather Policy
- FCQ 2019 Fines and Penalties Policy
- FQ Sanctioning Policy

All matches will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game in force at the time of publication of these rules and as laid down by the International Football Association Board, unless otherwise stated in these rules or the relevant competition annexe.

References to the male gender, or he, is for simplification only and applies to males, females and indeterminate.

Any club that has a current affiliation with Football Central Queensland is deemed to have accepted these Competition Rules or the relevant competition annexe.

## Contents

<b>1.0 AFFILIATION TO FCQ</b> .....	5
<b>1.6 Insurance Coverage</b> .....	5
<b>1.7 Insurance Certificate of Currency</b> .....	6
<b>2.0 COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL</b> .....	6
<b>3.0 RESOLVING COMPLAINTS</b> .....	7
<b>4.0 MINIMUM GROUND REQUIREMENTS</b> .....	8
<b>4.9.1 Night Lighting / Lux Readings</b> .....	9
<b>4.9.2 Field Security/Technical Areas – Applies to All Competitions</b> .....	9
<b>5.0 ALCOHOL</b> .....	10
<b>6.0 SMOKING</b> .....	10
<b>7.0 PLAYER PRESENTATION</b> .....	10
<b>8.0 REGISTERED COLOURS</b> .....	10
<b>9.0 FIXTURES/COMPETITIONS</b> .....	11
<b>9.1 General</b> .....	11
<b>9.1.11 Matches &amp; Sanctioning</b> .....	12
<b>9.2 Starting Times</b> .....	12
<b>9.3 Premiership Competitions</b> .....	12
<b>9.4 Technical Area – Dimensions and Use</b> .....	13
<b>9.5 Incomplete Fixtures</b> .....	14
<b>9.6 Forfeits</b> .....	14
<b>9.7 Postponed Fixtures</b> .....	14
<b>9.8 Withdrawal from Fixtures</b> .....	15
<b>9.9 Wash-outs</b> .....	15
<b>9.10 Wet &amp; Extreme Hot Weather Policy</b> .....	16
<b>9.11 Byes</b> .....	16
<b>10.0 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS</b> .....	16
<b>10.10 Ineligible Players - Juniors and Seniors</b> .....	17
<b>10.11 Ineligible Players - Protest Procedure</b> .....	18
<b>11.0 FINALS SERIES</b> .....	18
<b>12.0 SCORES RECORDING AND TEAM SHEETS</b> .....	19
<b>13.0 TROPHIES AND PLAYER AWARDS</b> .....	20
<b>14.0 REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL</b> .....	21
<b>15.0 INTRASTATE, INTERSTATE, OR OVERSEAS TOURS BY CLUBS</b> .....	22

<b>16.0 REFEREES AND REFEREE ASSISTANTS</b> .....	22
<b>16.11 Referees and Friendlies</b> .....	23
<b>17.0 CODE OF CONDUCT</b> .....	23
<b>18.0 GROUND OFFICIALS/MARSHALS</b> .....	24
<b>19.0 SENIOR MEN AND SENIOR WOMEN COMPETITIONS</b> .....	25
<b>19.1 Competition Structure - Seniors</b> .....	25
<b>19.2 Field of Play / Equipment</b> .....	25
<b>19.2.8 Duration of senior matches:</b> .....	26
<b>19.3 Player Transfers/Clearances</b> .....	26
<b>20.0 PLAYER MOVEMENTS &amp; SUBSTITUTES - SENIOR</b> .....	26
<b>21.0 JUNIORS – COMPETITIONS</b> .....	27
<b>21.1 Age Groups &amp; Teams</b> .....	27
<b>21.7 Field of Play / Equipment</b> .....	28
<b>21.8 Duration of Junior Games</b> .....	29
<b>21.9 Players</b> .....	29
<b>21.10 Eligibility</b> .....	29
<b>22.0 PLAYER MOVEMENTS &amp; SUBSTITUTES–JUNIOR COMPETITIVE</b> .....	30
<b>23.0 DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS</b> .....	31
<b>24.0 FINANCE</b> .....	31
<b>25.0 VIDEO TAPING AND PHOTOGRAPHY</b> .....	31
<b>26.0 APPLICATION OF COMPETITION RULES</b> .....	32

[APPENDIX A List of Fines & Penalties](#)

[APPENDIX B Junior Player Age Policy](#)

[APPENDIX C Social Media Policy](#)

[APPENDIX D MiniRoos Formats & Rules](#)

[APPENDIX E FCQ Code of Conduct](#)

[APPENDIX F FCQ – Disciplinary Regulations including Disciplinary Hearing Application](#)

[APPENDIX G FFA National Disciplinary Regulations](#)

[APPENDIX H FFA Code of Conduct](#)

[APPENDIX I FFA Spectator Code of Behaviour](#)

[APPENDIX J Extreme Wet & Hot Weather Policy](#)

[APPENDIX K Ground Official Duties & Responsibilities](#)

[APPENDIX L Under 12 Playing Rules and Field Layouts](#)

[APPENDIX M FQ Sanctioning Policy](#)

It is acknowledged that Football Central Queensland (FCQ) has the right to use its discretion in the implementation of these Competition Rules and their application in the interests of the Code. For the purposes of this document organisational names and their related abbreviations are: Football Central Queensland=FCQ, [Football Queensland](#) = FQ and [Football Federation Australia](#) = FFA

The Rules herein primarily relate to all FCQ Competitive Age Competitions in Seniors and Juniors with General Guidelines applicable to both listed first followed by specifics related to each. Rules are revised on an annual basis or as deemed appropriate.

MiniRoos playing formats are governed by those set by the FFA. These can be found at [Appendix D](#) or on the following website: <https://www.playfootball.com.au/miniroos/club-resources>. FCQ follows the general MiniRoos Club program.

## 1.0 AFFILIATION TO FCQ

1.1 New Clubs wishing to participate in competitions or fixtures run by FCQ, must first seek National and State Affiliation with FCQ through completing the appropriate FFA/FQ affiliation form which will include details of their home ground, club colours etc. FCQ shall determine if such is acceptable in respect of grounds, facilities, location and any other factors deemed necessary.

1.2 Team Nominations – Affiliated Clubs are required to nominate teams on the Team Nomination form by the set date each year. Fines will apply for late withdrawal and late nomination of teams (Refer [Appendix A](#)).

To nominate for any senior competition in 2019, clubs must have a men's and women's team, two competitive junior teams and two MiniRoos teams (minimum). Other than Premier League clubs to whom this rule applies immediately, this rule contains a concession to allow all clubs time to transition to this model by committing to having at least two major components in place by 2020 (e.g. a senior men's team and a senior women's team) and a plan to meet all minimum requirements by 2022. FCQ will ask for this commitment in writing prior to the commencement of the season. (This rule does not apply to school based junior only clubs).

1.3 Clubs are encouraged to purchase clothing and equipment from recognised sport suppliers. Clubs are expected to maintain a professional appearance with regard to their uniform and equipment.

1.4 Clubs are required to cover and share the cost of referee payments for all competitive aged teams throughout the season as required. Invoices will be issued on a monthly basis.

1.5 Clubs admitted to FCQ are required to participate in the National Insurance Scheme provided by FFA. Insurance additional to this may be sourced by clubs and players at their own expense.

### 1.6 Insurance Coverage

Players registered in the previous season via PlayFootball are covered until the commencement of the current year's new competition, whilst trialling and training during the pre-season. Following this date the player must register with their chosen club or they will not be insured. The pre-season in any given year will be deemed to have ended once the first official competition in the Zone has started.

New Players or players not registered in the previous season via PlayFootball must complete an [Intent to Trial form](#) prior to any activity or they are not insured. (Click on the hyperlinked text or go here: <https://form.jotform.com/43081722605954>)

#### **Personal Injury, Public Liability, Loss of Income and Club Management Insurance**

- Registered participants fall under the FFA National Insurance Program managed by Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers. For all relevant information first go to the FCQ website and follow the first four (4) steps as outlined below in 1.7.

## 1.7 Insurance Certificate of Currency

Clubs can print their own personalised insurance certificate by following this process:

1. Go to <https://footballcq.com.au/>
2. Click on the Club menu item on the top right
3. Select Insurance and click to be taken to the Gow Gates website.
4. Select and Click on Football Queensland as the Association
5. Select Certificate of Currency in the menu and follow the prompts.
6. Make sure to select Football Queensland in the Member Federation drop down box then Football Central Queensland as the Zone from the next drop down box.
7. Complete your club and name details as required. Submit.
8. Confirm you are an authorised person then a copy of the Certificate will automatically download.

## 2.0 COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

In order for Football CQ to provide the best possible service to our members clear protocols are needed for how the entire CQ football community communicates.

As most correspondence will be via email, all Clubs must have at least one active email address, which must be checked daily and any information received forwarded to relevant parties. Email inboxes must be kept clear in order to receive relevant information. Telephone calls to the office should also follow these protocols. A list of FCQ contacts can be found at the FCQ website here: <https://footballcq.com.au/inside-fcq/contact/>.

Clubs must ensure that postal mailboxes are checked regularly.

The following communication channels have been developed to promote effective and efficient communication between FCQ and member Clubs, and to provide Club members with guidelines as to the appropriate communication channels to follow.

2.1 Football CQ will communicate to Clubs as follows:

Type of Business	Contact Person
Urgent Business	Designated club contact person
General Communications	Club Secretary
Fixture Communications	Designated club contact person
Disciplinary Communications	Club Secretary
Financial Communications	Club Secretary
Registration Communications	Club Registrar

**Note:** All correspondence sent by FCQ to Clubs shall be deemed to have been received. Therefore it is essential that Clubs do the following:

- Ensure Contacts for the Club are up to date in the PlayFootball online database (under the Organisation menu)
- Ensure the contact(s) has a mobile phone number and email address listed within PlayFootball
- Ensure that updated Committee Contacts are provided to FCQ prior to the season commencement or when changes occur in key positions, e.g. President, Secretary, and Treasurer

2.2 In turn, Clubs will communicate to Football CQ via their Club Committee as follows:

Type of Business	Contact Person
Urgent Business	Club President or Secretary
General Communications	Designated club contact person
Fixture Communications	Designated club contact person
Disciplinary Communications	Club President or Secretary
Financial Communications	Club Secretary or Treasurer
Registration Communications	Club Secretary or Registrar
Team Official Complaints	Club President or Secretary

Written communication with FCQ must be either mailed or submitted electronically by a Club Executive member using the Club letterhead. All communication must include Club Executive member's name, position and signature.

Club members directly contacting the Zone Office via phone, email or any other means of communication will be referred back to their club executive. The Club Executive can then officially contact the Zone Office as per the above method if required.

It is important that these protocols are promoted to club members and the message reinforced that, if they have concerns or queries, they should always direct these to the Club committee first.

Team Officials with complaints must go to their Club first. Under no circumstances are Team Officials to argue or address any disagreements or comment directly to a referee. Any complaints must be directed to FCQ on Club letterhead via the Club committee as above.

FCQ will employ the use of social media and its website to communicate general and non-urgent matters/information to its members. Email, social media and SMS/phone will be employed in matters such as last minute changes to matches such as caused through the intervention of extreme weather.

## 3.0 RESOLVING COMPLAINTS

### A. Aim

The aims of a complaints process are to:

- a. Ensure that matters are directed in the first instance to the most appropriate person;
- b. Ensure that it is resolved at the lowest level of the organisational hierarchy as possible; and
- c. That all relevant people are part of the process should the complaint or issue require escalation to Football CQ.

Please find below some points to assist in achieving these aim and some general guidelines as to how to resolve issues in a positive way.

### B. Resolving the Problem

Most problems that arise fall into two categories:

- a. Lack of Organisation - such things as field set up, lack of officials. These can be resolved by bringing the matter to the attention of the Opposition Manager/Coach, or to the Hosting Club Ground Marshal. Provide advice and/or assistance, help set up and in the case of Officials, i.e. Referee or Assistant Referee provide one if you are able to, even Medical staff;
- b. Honest Mistakes/Lack of Knowledge - similar to above and if brought to someone's attention it is normally corrected relatively quickly.

### C. Avoid Confrontation

Don't be accusatory when approaching others, reconcile the matter calmly and if this is not possible then follow the process outlined below. Do not get into arguments.

#### **D. Always Remember**

- a. Almost all persons involved in Football are volunteers and the football community needs them involved, not sitting on the sideline because someone has soured the experience.
- b. We are there for the Players' (of both Teams) enjoyment and development, not your, or your supporters', perceived interpretations or goals.

#### **E. Competition Rules/Laws of the Game/Club Procedures**

Reference should always be made to the Competition Rules, appropriate Laws of the Game and any Club Procedures before proceeding with any complaint or issue. In other words, check that you have the appropriate grounds to make a complaint or if there is an issue.

#### **F. Passage of Information/Recording**

As the complaint procedure is followed, ensure that:

- a. Everyone involved is kept informed and that outcomes are communicated to all concerned; and
- b. A record is kept for future information, e.g. reoccurrence of problem with same team or club.

Should a club fail to adequately resolve an issue after completing each step, they should progress the issue to the next level, by contacting Football CQ.

It is also recommended clubs create and follow their own complaints procedures. The [Play by the Rules](#) website offers some handy guidelines and templates for this and many other matters. Football Queensland offers a [Dispute Resolution Handbook](#) that outlines grievance procedures.

## **4.0 MINIMUM GROUND REQUIREMENTS**

4.1 For clubs hosting matches, ground markings must be clear and accurate and within the dimensions as specified in the Laws of the Game.

4.2 Corner posts are compulsory and must conform to regulations as per the Laws of the Game. Nets must be supported and not interfere with the goal keeper.

4.3 Clubs are required to take responsibility for administration of first aid at their home games.

Appropriately qualified zone staff may assist in certain circumstances, such as at places where games are played at a common ground.

4.4 Clubs are to provide clean and adequate change rooms, showers and toilet facilities for male and female players for scheduled and re-scheduled matches. Clubs are to ensure these are open and available to FCQ participants.

4.5 Clubs are required to provide toilet facilities to supporters and basic canteen facilities for all scheduled matches.

4.6 The preferred option is that clubs provide minimum basic canteen facilities for all re-scheduled matches, however:

- For two or more re-scheduled night / day matches clubs are required to provide minimum basic canteen facilities.
- For one match re-scheduled clubs have an option of not providing canteen facilities.

4.7 Where possible, separate dressing rooms and showers are required for referees and assistant referees at all matches. Admission to these dressing rooms is denied to any players, members of the public and club officials, before or after the match, without the permission of the referee (s) and in consultation with the Ground Official.



4.8 Clubs are required to provide two separate clearly defined benches – Technical Areas - for each competitive field, covered where possible. Coaches, Managers, support personnel and named reserves are required to occupy these benches or adjacent defined area whilst their team is participating in any competitive match. Coaches and Team Managers must wear FQ Official Identification tags whilst in the Technical Area. (Also refer [9.4](#) & [18.0](#))

4.9 All competitive junior and senior team substitutes are required to wear bibs in the technical area during matches.

#### 4.9.1 Night Lighting / Lux Readings

Clubs wishing to host night matches during the season must submit field lighting audits as requested and have approval for competition play by FCQ. Recommendations for football field lighting detailed in the Australian Standard AS2560 Part 2.3 'Lighting for Football' includes: Minimum Service Luminance Lux (Average) 100 and Minimum Uniformity Ratio (Min: Ave) 0.5 for competition matches. To achieve this level for the whole season, the Minimum Service Luminance (Average) at the commencement of the season should be 110 Lux.

The onus to supply lux readings that comply with the Australian Standard for Football is on each club. The following must be adhered to when supplying readings:

- The report must be provided by a person authorised to provide lux readings
- Reports must be supplied when requested
- Reports will be valid for a period of twelve (12) months only and must be re-supplied each year prior to or on the date of expiry of the current reading
- Night matches will not be scheduled to clubs with expired lux readings.

Where a club fails a lux reading and this is not rectified prior to the commencement of the home and away season the following changes of game times will occur until sufficient Lux Reading has been confirmed:

Friday night matches will be moved to Sunday daylight hours Saturday evening matches will be moved to earlier in the day

#### 4.9.2 Field Security/Technical Areas – Applies to All Competitions

4.9.2.1 Where clubs host matches, it is the host club's responsibility to ensure that where possible spectators do not encroach within at least two (2) metres from the boundaries of the playing field.

4.9.2.2 Encroachment within the two (2) metre mark by spectators and/or officials (other than those permitted in the technical area) shall result in a fine to the home club, the amount of the fine to be determined by FCQ.

4.9.2.3 A line marking a minimum of one (1) metre either side and a minimum of one (1) metre from the playing field in front of the substitution bench will mark the area that the team officials and substitutes are permitted to sit in whilst the match is in progress (see also [9.4 Technical Area](#)).

4.9.2.4 Where such dimensions are challenging to achieve, common sense should apply with the safety of match officials, players and spectators to be a prime concern.

4.9.2.5 Club Officials can only enter the field of play with the permission of the referee.

## 5.0 ALCOHOL

5.1 Local and/or state Licensing laws apply across most FCQ affiliated clubs. Different classification of licences will apply across member clubs.

5.2 It is illegal for members of the public, including football participants, to bring alcohol onto licenced premises and severe fines are applicable by the relevant state government body.

5.3 Clubs must comply with Licensing laws and terms of their lease. Clubs must ensure that patrons consume alcohol in a clearly designated area. Fines will apply as per liquor licensing regulations.

5.4 Outside of responsibly governed licencing conditions, such as are in place at a licenced Sports Club, FCQ discourages the sale and consumption of alcohol at junior matches.

## 6.0 SMOKING

Smoking is banned within 10 metres of viewing and playing areas at organised under-18 sporting events. The ban also applies during training and at any intervals or breaks in play. The coverage of the ban includes the sporting ground or playing area, public seating at the grounds and any other area reserved for use by the competitors and the officials. This also includes a 10 metre non-smoking buffer zone from all of these locations.

Under current state legislation smoking is not permitted at any sporting matches unless within a properly designated area. Refer Queensland Government Tobacco Laws:

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/default.asp>

## 7.0 PLAYER PRESENTATION

7.1 All players are required to be correctly attired in club uniform for a match (also refer 1.4).

7.2 Players must wear proper apparel, including shoes and shin guards in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

7.3 Prior to kick off, teams are expected to “run on” from the sideline on the referee’s whistle.

7.4 Prior to kick off for all finals, teams must meet the referee on the sideline nearest the dressing rooms or technical areas, follow the referee onto the pitch, line up and shake hands and then disburse in preparation for the commencement of the match.

7.5 The wearing of undershorts / undershirts and tights must only be worn as per FIFA directives as set out in the Laws of the Game from year to year.

7.6 Tape applied externally must match the colour of the socks (stockings) as to that part of the socks it is applied to as per FIFA directives as set out in the Laws of the Game from year to year.

## 8.0 REGISTERED COLOURS

8.1 Each member club of FCQ shall submit to FCQ details of their primary colours and alternate colours for approval and registration. No changes of strips, including colour, are to be made without prior approval from FCQ.

8.2 No two teams shall play each other in same or similar colours. Junior teams may play in bibs whilst senior teams must change to an alternate strip.

8.3 Goal keepers' colours in all cases shall be distinguishable from the colours worn by the other players and referees.

8.4 In the event of a clash of colours by the competing clubs in fixture matches, the visiting team shall change to their alternate colours, unless previously otherwise specified by FCQ. At the discretion of FCQ fines may apply.

8.5 In the event of a clash of colours by the competing clubs in finals, carnivals or cup competitions, the top seeded team shall retain the right to play in their primary colours, unless previously otherwise specified by FCQ. At the discretion of FCQ fines may apply.

## 9.0 FIXTURES/COMPETITIONS

### 9.1 General

9.1.1 FCQ shall be empowered to draw up and determine the fixtures of the various FCQ competitions as deemed fit and in the best interest of the code. The fixtures shall be drawn up following team nominations and made available to all members and interested patrons via the FCQ website Competitions menu tab.

9.1.2 All fixtures belong to and are the copyright of FCQ.

9.1.3 Any application for departure from the fixtures as laid down by FCQ shall be in writing to FCQ and the decision made by FCQ regarding this application is final (see also 9.1.5 & 9.1.6). Re-scheduling requests for Premier League (Div 1 & 2) and Senior Women/Community Men fixtures originally re-scheduled due to wet weather postponements must also be directed in writing to FCQ for determination by FCQ.

9.1.4 Clubs cannot postpone or cancel matches between themselves.

9.1.5 FCQ may direct a change be made to the draw due to representative playing duties. Applications must be made at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled fixture. Where a club team has three (3) or more players unavailable due to representative football commitments in a recognised school state football championships or an FCQ-sanctioned football event, scheduled fixture matches may be re-scheduled by FCQ at the request of the club.

9.1.6 If, after the schedule of fixtures has been determined, FCQ approves, at the request of a club to change a fixture from one date to another, any expenses over and above those normally associated with the scheduled fixture shall be met by the club which makes the requested change.

9.1.7 FCQ shall have the power to impose such penalty as deemed fit upon clubs which are found to have brought the code into disrepute by not playing their best teams in the appropriate divisions.

9.1.8 The Rules of Cup competitions shall be determined by FCQ from time to time and each competing club shall receive a list of the conditions of competitions prior to their commencement.

9.1.9 No player shall be permitted to register for more than one club in any competition conducted by FCQ. A player can only be registered with one club at a time. The correct de-registration / registration procedure must be followed to change clubs as per FFA Registration Regulations.

9.1.10 As per FFA regulations a player may be registered for a maximum of three clubs during the period from 1 January to 31 December. During this period, the player is only eligible to play in matches for two clubs. Refer FFA National Registration Regulations.

### 9.1.11 Matches & Sanctioning

Clubs shall not arrange any matches unless permission has been granted, application for which must be completed on the appropriate match [sanction form](#). [An Inter Zone Tour Permit](#) must also be completed for teams travelling outside the FCQ Zone. These forms must be lodged online with FQ at least seven (7) days prior to the match date. Clubs should take this into consideration and allow extra time when lodging forms with FCQ for forwarding to FQ.

9.1.12 FCQ will not sanction matches with other clubs/zones on the same day as FCQ scheduled home and away matches including finals.

9.1.13 FCQ will adopt the Laws of Football as laid down from time to time by FIFA and current interpretations of the same by FQ and FFA in the operation of its competitions.

## 9.2 Starting Times

9.2.1 Teams must be ready on the field of play to start the game by the designated game commencement time.

9.2.2 Teams not ready to commence the game by the designated starting time may be subject to a fine as determined by FCQ.

9.2.3 In the event that a match has a delayed start then the match shall cease 5 minutes before the next scheduled game and the time of each half of the game will be reduced accordingly to ensure the following match commences at the designated time. If there is no match following the delayed game, then the full playing time may be played.

9.2.4 Referees must be ready on the field to start the game by the designated commencement time.

## 9.3 Premiership Competitions

9.3.1 Each team in a competitive age group (from U12 up) shall play its opponents on a home and away basis and in that sequence as far as is practicable according to the fixtures and field availability. For matches played at a common venue, the Home team shall be considered to be the first team listed in the draw.

9.3.2 Premiership Competition Points – Teams shall receive three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw and nil (0) points for a loss.

9.3.3 The leading team at the end of the last round of the competition fixtures shall be declared FCQ Premiers in that age group or category.

9.3.4 Goal Difference – Goal Difference shall be taken into consideration when teams are level on points at the end of fixtures. The goal difference shall determine the Premiership team. In all cases where goal difference is to be taken into account, the manner in which it shall be arrived at is as follows:-

- a. The number of goals against is subtracted from the number of goals for.
- b. The highest resultant figure from such subtractions shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to plus goal difference.
- c. The lowest resultant minus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to minus goal difference.
- d. Where a team scores through their own goal (s), such goals shall be taken as having been

scored by their opponents in determining a team's total goals scored.

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

f. Should the factors in (e) be equal, joint Premiers will be declared.

g. If a Premiership competition has an inequality in the number of games played during one season, the Premiership winner shall be decided (where necessary) by percentage calculated by dividing the total number of points gained for the season by the number of games played.

## 9.4 Technical Area – Dimensions and Use

9.4.1 As stated at 4.9.2.3, a line marking a minimum of one (1) metre either side and a minimum of one (1) metre from the playing field in front of the substitution bench will mark the area that the team officials and substitutes are permitted to sit in whilst the match is in progress.

9.4.2 Each competitive sized field should contain two 10m long technical areas either side of halfway on the side of the field opposite where spectators sit (if possible). The sides of the areas should be about 8m apart, with the rear of the substitute benches 5m back from the touch line. For junior matches the technical area should be a minimum of 1m from the touchline with the benches a minimum of 3m from the touchline. An Interchange Zone (where applicable) should be situated 1m either side of the halfway line.

9.4.3 Where such dimensions are challenging to achieve, common sense should apply with the safety of match officials, players and spectators to be a prime concern.

9.4.4 A maximum of 10 persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area at any given time during a Competition Fixture. Those persons may only include the coach and assistant coach, the team manager, the substitutes and a registered health practitioner, sports trainer or accredited first aider. An exception to this rule can be made for players sent to the bench for temporary Sin Bin offences.

9.4.5 Coaches, team managers and other team personnel who are not players must wear FQ Official Identification tags whilst in the Technical Area.

9.4.6 Subject to Rule 8.4.8, all persons must remain seated within the confines of the Technical Area, except in special circumstances e.g., a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player.

9.4.7 Players may leave the Technical Area to warm up, provided it does not interrupt the view of any Match Official.

9.4.8 Only one (1) person may stand up at one (1) time within the Technical Area.

9.4.9 All persons within the Technical Area must be wearing colours that clearly distinguish them from all players and Match Officials on the field of play e.g. a bib, jackets. All competitive junior and senior team substitutes are required to wear bibs in the technical area during matches.

9.4.10 The Match Official may expel any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she deems necessary. From 2018 cards may be issued to persons within the Technical Area with penalties applied as are to players. The Competition Fixture will not recommence until that person has left the Technical Area and field of play to the Match Official's satisfaction.

9.4.11 A participant under suspension must not be present in the Technical Area.

9.4.12 Parents and/or spectators are not permitted within 2m of the Technical Area. Anyone abusing this ruling may be asked to leave the grounds. See [also 4.92 Field Security/Technical Area](#).

## 9.5 Incomplete Fixtures

9.5.1 The result of any match which does not reach its natural conclusion for any reason outlined in the Laws of the Game shall be decided by FCQ as follows:

If the second half has commenced, then the match result will stand and the match will not be replayed. If the match is abandoned before the commencement of the second half then the match will be replayed.

9.5.2 However, if it has been established by FCQ that the game was abandoned due to a team having players sent from the field for misconduct or for any reason deemed by FCQ to have been intentional to have the game abandoned, the points will be awarded to the opposing team with the goals being recorded as in Rule 9.6.1.

9.5.3 In such cases where it can be proved beyond reasonable doubt that spectator interference causing the abandonment of a match has been inspired by a person or persons directly associated with any particular club, that club shall be deemed guilty of serious misconduct through association and shall be referred to the FCQ Disciplinary Officer and/or Committee.

9.5.4 Any team which causes a match to be terminated before its natural conclusion through a mass walk off for refusal to allow play to continue shall be deemed to have committed misconduct against FCQ and will be disciplined under National Disciplinary Regulations.

9.5.5 In such cases, the team guilty of the walk off shall be deemed to have forfeited the match and the points associated with the match shall be awarded to the opponents with goals being recorded as in Rule 9.6.1

## 9.6 Forfeits

9.6.1 Any team failing to fulfil their fixture as scheduled shall be deemed to have forfeited. The points associated with the fixture will be awarded to their opponents along with a score of 3-0.

9.6.2 Fines will also be imposed on clubs for forfeits, as per [Appendix A](#). A Reasonable time to advise of a forfeit is by 4.30pm 72 hours prior to a match.

9.6.3 A club that persistently forfeits matches, may, at the discretion of FCQ, be withdrawn from any competitions in which the forfeits occur. Teams that forfeit 3 (three) matches in any division in Premier League will be removed from that competition.

9.6.4 In the case of a Club having teams in multiple competitions or Divisions, say Premier League and Community Men, the Club must make every effort to field the higher division team in preference to the lower division or competition team. Under no circumstances will a Club field a lower division team, say Division 2 in Premier League, and then forfeit a higher division match in the same round or on the same day. Clubs considering forfeiting a Division 2 Premier League match must complete their commitment to the fixture by using players from the Community Men's competition. Premier League matches CANNOT be forfeited without severe penalty.

## 9.7 Postponed Fixtures

In the event of any Zone fixture not being played due to any causes over which neither club has control, or being ordered to be replayed or postponed, the match shall be played on a date approved by FCQ.

## 9.8 Withdrawal from Fixtures

If a Club withdraws a team after fixtures have commenced, the recorded results for that team will be deleted and a bye in the competition will be substituted.

9.8.1 A Club who withdraws a team after drawing of fixtures will also be subject to penalty by FCQ.

## 9.9 Wash-outs

9.9.1 In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of FCQ fixtures through rain rendering grounds unplayable, all such fixtures shall be played at a time and under such conditions as FCQ shall determine. Re-schedules are:

- a. Friday night matches to the following Tuesday night
- b. Saturday/Sunday senior matches to the following Wednesday or Thursday night
- c. Saturday competitive junior matches to Sunday week.

Clubs will advise the FCQ Office prior to the season commencing if fields are not available for any of the above and alternative night(s) may be confirmed.

For Junior competition matches (Under 12 – Under 18), the home club secretary may confirm to the Zone Office by Monday 9.00am immediately following the washout if there is a preference for a mid-week re-schedule (i.e. Tues, Wed, Thurs of the week following the default re-schedule Tuesday or Sunday). Clubs should take into consideration travelling distance for opposition when requesting mid-week re-schedules and the number of games and the availability of fields.

All competitive matches must be re-scheduled and played (also refer 9.9.5 & 9.9.6 regarding final round match cancellations). Under 5 - Under 11 fixtures will not be re-scheduled due to wet weather wash outs. Fines will apply for non- attendance at all re-scheduled matches.

**9.9.2 Wet Weather Replays** – Games that have not been played after three re-schedule dates set at the original venue will be re-scheduled to the away team's grounds or a neutral venue. This will not affect any following fixture matches i.e. home and away games will not be reversed. Referee fees will be a shared responsibility.

9.9.3 Where competitive matches are moved by mutual agreement of both clubs due to wet weather, the referee fees will be a shared responsibility. Subsequent home and away matches will not be affected by this change i.e. the next fixture match involving these teams will stay as scheduled.

9.9.4 Junior competition games washed out will be re-scheduled where possible. Should the season become too congested with re-scheduling then both junior and senior games may be cancelled at the discretion of FCQ.

**9.9.5 Home and away final round matches washed out (excluding Premier League & Senior Women/Community Men - refer 9.9.6):**

- Matches that do not need to be replayed will not be re-scheduled (i.e. matches have no bearing on the top 4 places)
- Matches that do need to be played will be re-scheduled to the Monday or Tuesday prior to the Semi Finals depending on field availability (i.e. matches have a bearing on the top 4 places)

Match cancellations may affect qualification for finals or serving of a match suspension. In these cases where FCQ is responsible for the match not being re-scheduled the following applies:

- If a player was using the final home and away match of the round towards eligibility for the finals it will still count if the match was cancelled and not re-scheduled (not a bye or forfeit given)
- If a match suspension was due to be served in a final round match cancelled by FCQ then the final home and away round match will count towards a suspension. The game not re-scheduled must be for the team the disciplinary notice refers to. Note: A bye does not serve as a missed match and the advised suspension must still be served (Refer FFA Disciplinary Regulations 14.1)

**9.9.6 Home and away final round matches washed out** - Premier League & Senior Women/Community Men - must be played. All matches in these divisions will be re-scheduled to the Monday or Tuesday prior to the Semi Finals depending on field availability.

9.9.7 In the event FCQ declares the cancellation of a complete fixture weekend due to extreme weather events, all junior competitive fixtures only will be declared 0 - 0 draws.

Any matches which were completed during a "declared" weekend will also be declared as a 0 - 0 draw.

FCQ may decide to play any matches from a "declared" weekend as per 9.9.4.

9.9.8 Finals may be re-scheduled to the following week due to any cause over which neither host clubs or FCQ have any control i.e. rain renders grounds unplayable. The Grand Final may be played the first week of the school holidays for example.

## 9.10 Wet & Extreme Hot Weather Policy

FCQ is aware of the many varied conditions that may result in the need to cancel a competition game or fixture. At all times the safety of players and officials is of concern. For details on procedures regarding dealing with weather events, including who to contact, see [Appendix J](#).

## 9.11 Byes

Where there is a bye in a Premiership Competition, there will be no points applied and the bye will not be counted as a match for qualification in the final series or disciplinary suspensions.

## 10.0 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

10.1 Refer to <https://www.playfootball.com.au/> for registration procedures and FFA National Registration Regulations for further information.

10.2 All players shall register with FCQ as an Amateur player via the on-line FFA Registration process and accept National, State, Zone and Club conditions where applicable. They will only be deemed Registered after being made Active by their club. All new players competing in junior competitions (18 years and under) must also supply proof of birth which is to be sighted by the Club Official. New senior players must also provide proof of identity.

10.3 Amateur players and clubs are governed by FFA National Registration Regulations.

10.4 Players who are registered to play Junior Football with their club can also play Senior Football as per the FCQ Player Age Policy Document (refer [Appendix B](#)) but only with the same club.

10.5 Clubs shall be permitted to register players as follows:



- There is no cut-off date for any new player registrations or players moving from outside the FCQ Zone.
- No player is permitted to move between FCQ clubs after the 30th June.

Even though the PlayFootball system will allow it to occur, any player registered outside the above deadlines and made Active for another club will be deemed ineligible.

10.6 A de-registration fee will apply each year for the de-registration of players who have taken the field for a FCQ club and cancel their registration as per permitted competition rule deadlines.

10.7 A player is eligible to play in a team as long as they have been made Active by their club at least an hour before taking the field. All other FCQ competition rules must be complied with. Fines and penalties will apply for ineligible (not active) players.

Clubs must ensure players are registered as per FFA PlayFootball online player registration guidelines.

**Note: PlayFootball reports accurately display the time and date of player registrations.**

**10.8 Player Refunds** – No refunds will be issued to players who have taken the field in official FCQ competitions, grading days, carnivals or fixture matches. All refund requests must be submitted as per FQ guidelines.

10.9 Refer to 19.3 for International Transfer Clearance (ITC) information.

### 10.10 Ineligible Players - Juniors and Seniors

10.10.1 Any club playing an unregistered (i.e. a player not active within PlayFootball), suspended or ineligible player in a match shall be ineligible for any points associated with the match and subject to fines as per [Appendix A](#) and may also be referred to the FCQ Disciplinary Officer/Committee for further disciplinary action. The FCQ Disciplinary Officer/Committee may impose a fine, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club or player. (Refer also to FFA & FCQ Disciplinary Regulations)

10.10.2 In such cases the full points associated with the match shall be awarded to their opponents with a score of 3-0. However, if the number of goals scored by the opposition team is greater than three (3), then the exact number of goals scored by the opposition will stand.

10.10.3 Definitions of ineligible players to which the penalty as described shall apply are:

- Playing whilst pending or inactive within the PlayFootball Program (i.e. the player is not an Active player for the current season under FFA Regulations)
- Playing whilst suspended
- Playing under a false name
- Playing under a false number
- Playing whilst unregistered (not an active player in PlayFootball)
- Playing whilst awaiting a clearance (ITC)
- Playing when not listed on the team sheet
- A player/coach who has been either sent from the field of play or removed from the technical area who takes the field without serving his or her sanction whether an infringement notice has been issued or not.
- Age definition breach (including moving teams whilst awaiting re-grading)
- Division definition breach

- Contravention of Senior Eligibility rules / Player Age policy
- Contravention of Football Federation Australia's Registration Regulations
- Any other misdemeanour as determined by FCQ under the Competition Rules and Appendices of FCQ

**10.10.4 Bona Fide Players** – A bona fide player for a club is one who has completed the prescribed FFA/PlayFootball registration process and been made an Active player within PlayFootball.

**10.10.5 Ringing in of Players** – Any club or participant found to have knowingly and wilfully engaged in the ringing in of a player or players in any FCQ match shall be deemed to have been guilty of gross misconduct and will be referred to the FCQ Disciplinary Committee and as a consequence disciplinary sanctions as per [Appendix F](#) will be imposed.

### 10.11 Ineligible Players - Protest Procedure

10.11.1 Protests concerning ineligible, unregistered or over-age players must be lodged on club letterhead within three (3) working days.

10.11.2 The protest will be dealt with by FCQ and may be referred to the FCQ Disciplinary Committee.

## 11.0 FINALS SERIES

11.1 The four leading competitive teams at the end of the last round of Premiership fixtures shall play the Semi Finals in the following order: 1 v 2; 3 v 4 (Refer to 9.3.4 for the determination of placing where teams are on equal points. Refer 11.4 Re: Premier League Men Div 1 & 2 finals).

11.2 The loser of 1 v 2 shall play the winner of 3 v 4 in the Preliminary Finals.

11.3 The winner of the Preliminary Final shall play the winner of 1 v 2 (Match A) from the first week in the Grand Final. Structure of the finals is as follows:

**Week 1: Semi Finals**  
**1 v 2 – Major Semi Final (Match A)**  
**3 v 4 – Minor Semi Final (Match B)**  
**Week 2: Preliminary Final**  
**Loser (Match A) v Winner (Match B) = (Match C)**  
**Week 3: Grand Final**  
**Winner (Match A) v Winner (Match C)**

11.4 In the event of a match being drawn after normal playing time in any finals series match, extra time will be played (2 x 15 minutes for Senior Men and Women; and 2 x 10 minutes for Juniors). The winner is to be determined by the team with the most goals during this period. If there are no goals scored during the extra time or the score is equal, penalties under FIFA rules will decide the winner.

11.5 The winner of the Grand Final in all grades shall be declared FCQ Champions.

**11.6 Junior Finals Eligibility** - A junior player must have played at least seven (7) matches in a particular team to be eligible for that team in the final series, and be a correctly registered (Active) player within the FFA PlayFootball system as per FFA National Registration guidelines. That player will also then be eligible to play in the final series in a higher division at the same age level or at a higher age level in the same division or higher (A combination of games over different teams will not warrant eligibility).

As long as junior players have satisfied their seven (7) game requirement in their junior division, they can play Finals in the senior competition with no qualification. i.e. a final series match may be their first game in a senior division (Refer **Senior Eligibility** rules 20.6)

**11.7 Senior Finals Eligibility** - A senior player must have played at least seven (7) matches in a particular team to be eligible for that team in the finals series, that player will also then be eligible to play in a higher division in the final series. (A combination of games over different teams will not warrant eligibility). As per eligibility ruling 20.11/20.12. **Refer Senior Eligibility** for further rulings.

11.8 Through his/her club a player may request dispensation to play in the finals when insufficient matches have been played, as per 11.6 & 11.7 eligibility.

A medical certificate must be lodged with the Zone Office for FCQ to consider the request. FCQ will only consider a dispensation for a player who has sustained a serious injury or illness deeming him /her unfit to play if they have signed on prior to the 31st May. A replacement player cannot be nominated in place of an injured player.

11.9 Should an ineligible player be played in a Finals Series match, the team playing the ineligible player will automatically lose the match which shall be awarded to their opponent and the club will be liable to any further penalty as FCQ deem appropriate.

**11.10 Admission Charges** – are applicable during the final series only and applied at the discretion of the Host Club. The maximum admission charges are set annually by FCQ. Students and all children under the age of sixteen (16) years of age will be admitted free to all FCQ final series matches.

11.11 Where possible passes will be issued to all Coaches and Managers of teams competing in the FCQ finals matches. Similarly, passes will be issued to all senior registered players competing in FCQ Finals matches.

## 12.0 SCORES RECORDING AND TEAM SHEETS

12.1 For all weekend Competitive matches, clubs will be responsible for inputting all data of the match record, including players, goals, yellow and red card details and substitutions into the Sports TG platform and scanning and sending the originals of team sheets to the FCQ Administration Officer ([admin@footballcq.com.au](mailto:admin@footballcq.com.au)), by 5:00pm the following Monday. If a club fails to do so, FCQ reserves the right to take action or impose a penalty as per the FCQ Disciplinary Policy or any further penalty deemed appropriate. Clubs failing to submit fully complete legible team sheets shall be fined (refer [Appendix A](#)).

Re-scheduled game scores must be entered by 9.00am the following day.

12.2 Team sheets must be completed and downloaded from the SportsTG website. Two (2) copies of Official team sheets shall be provided by each team and all information requested thereon shall be fully completed. The Match Referee will write 'Refs Copy' on the top right corner of one making it the original match record.

12.3 For Premier League matches, the team sheet shall be handed to the officiating referee fifteen (15) minutes prior to the designated starting time of the match.

12.4 For other senior matches or junior competitive matches, discretion may be shown by the match official in allowing team sheets to be gathered at half time

12.5 Players arriving late, but who are already recorded on the team sheet, are eligible to take the field with the referee's permission providing the player's details are completed on the team sheet. At very least, the player's name must be listed on the team sheet before the commencement of the match.

12.6 Changes to team sheets can be made manually 10 (ten) minutes prior to kick-off. Any changes to the Player selections must be manually noted on the printed copy of the match record. This can be done by putting a line through the name of the unavailable player and writing the replacement player's name on the team sheet.

12.7 Players whose names are not recorded on the team sheet at the designated starting time are ineligible to take the field for the match. Fines and penalties will be incurred.

12.8 On completion of the game the referee is responsible for ensuring the team sheets are correctly completed including cards, substitutions, correct score indicated and scorers of the goals correctly recorded. A Team Official from both the home and away Club together with the Match Referee are to sign the match record at the completion of a match to confirm the accuracy of final result, game details (red cards, cautions, goal scorers and times), including the Players listed, Match Officials listed, players cautioned or expelled, and that the listed half time and full-time scores are correct. Any changes made to the match record should be initialled by both club representatives and the Match Referee.

- For the avoidance of doubt, these match records are the official 'Match Record' and as such there will be **no** appeal against the score line shown, goal scorers or the recipients of yellow and red cards issued on a match sheet once it has been signed post-match by all relevant parties.

Approved and signed Team Sheets are then handed by the Match Official to the participating clubs.

12.9 The Manager can further approach the referee to confirm scores, goal scorers, cards awarded or to question the eligibility of a player. Coaches and Managers are to record Player of the Year points on the opposition team sheet prior to sheets being submitted to FCQ. Teams that fail to record award points may face fines and have their own players made ineligible for any player awards. See Trophies and Player Awards ([13.0](#))

12.10 Final series team sheets must be received by FCQ no later than 9.00am on the Monday following the matches.

12.11 MiniRoos teams are not required to complete team sheets unless requested by FCQ for participation in carnivals or similar.

## 13.0 TROPHIES AND PLAYER AWARDS

13.1 All trophies and prize monies associated with FCQ competitions shall be determined by FCQ.

13.2 The teams declared Zone Premiers and/or Champions shall be presented with the associated perpetual trophy and clubs shall undertake to return same in the like good order and condition to the FCQ Office on or before the 1st August in the year following their winning the trophy or at such a date as advised by the FCQ Office. Clubs who lose or damage trophies will be invoiced the cost of replacement or repair.

13.3 Perpetual Shields/Trophies can be held by the winning club until needing to be returned but must be returned engraved to FCQ prior to 1 August each year. Reminders will be sent to clubs.

13.4 The exception to the above is the Wesley Hall Cup which remains at Frenchville Sports Club under the guardianship of a committee of trustees. The Wesley Hall Cup may be transported to finals under strict conditions. A replica trophy is provided to winning teams to hold until needed.

13.5 FCQ shall present to FCQ Premiers and Champions in all divisions such number of trophies/medallions as determined by FCQ to be adequate for each division for distribution to players, coaches, or officials of the winning teams.

### **13.6 Player of the Year**

Points will be awarded for the Player of the Year in the following competitions:-

- Premier League 1<sup>st</sup> Division
- Premier League 2<sup>nd</sup> Division
- Community Men's
- Community Women's
- Competitive Juniors U12-U18

Coaches or team Managers will use team sheets to award 3-2-1 points for the opposition teams after each match during the season, with the player who received the most votes over the season declared the winner. Points should be recorded next to the surname of the relevant player. As per 12.9 above, Coaches/Managers must allocate points on the opposition team sheet.

If the votes are tied at the end of the season the following will be used to decide the winner:-

- Highest number of 3 point votes
- Highest number of 2 point votes
- Highest number of 1 point votes
- Fewest number of yellow cards received during the season

Players who receive suspensions due to red card send offs are ineligible for the Player of the Year award. Players who receive suspensions due to the accumulation of yellow cards are still eligible.

### **13.7 Goalkeeper of the Year**

Coaches or Managers are to record points on Team Sheets for the Goalkeeper of the Year Award. Competitive Juniors aged 13 and up through to Seniors are eligible for the Award. There will be four (4) categories: Junior Goalkeeper of the Year, Senior Women's Goalkeeper of the Year, Senior Men's Goalkeeper of the Year and Premier League Goalkeeper of the Year (this will cover both Divisions).

Points are to be awarded to both goalkeepers in a match using a 10-5 scale with tied votes decided using the method above.

### **13.8 Club Fair Play Award**

Awarded to the club with the best disciplinary record across all competitive fixtures. All clubs are awarded 100 points at the commencement of the season and will have 1 point deducted per yellow card and 5 points per red card. The winning club will be the one with the most points at the end of the season (worked out on a pro-rata basis to avoid disadvantaging larger clubs).

### **13.9 Club Championship**

FCQ will award the Club Champions Trophy to the club that is most successful across all competitive grades in any one season.

## **14.0 REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL**

14.1 FCQ shall be empowered to enter into agreements on behalf of FCQ members to arrange fixtures whether interstate, intrastate or interleague etc, bearing in mind at all times the standing of the State authority in such matters and the interests of the members of FCQ.

14.2 Where a club team has three (3) or more players unavailable due to representative football commitments in a recognised school state football championship or an FQ/FCQ-sanctioned football event, scheduled fixture matches may be re-scheduled by FCQ at the request of the club. Applications must be made at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled fixture.

## 15.0 INTRASTATE, INTERSTATE, OR OVERSEAS TOURS BY CLUBS

Match sanctions and Inter Zone Travel Permits are required for any games that are not a normal FCQ fixture. The FCQ Office will provide information from year to year on required forms.

Clubs shall not arrange any matches unless permission has been granted, application for which must be completed on the appropriate [match sanction form](#). An [Inter Zone Travel Permit](#) must also be completed for teams travelling outside the FCQ Zone. These forms must be lodged online with FQ at least seven (7) days prior to the match date. Clubs should take this into consideration and allow extra time when lodging forms with FCQ for forwarding to FQ.

## 16.0 REFEREES AND REFEREE ASSISTANTS

16.1 Only referees who have registered, paid and been made ACTIVE in PlayFootball will be appointed to official FCQ Matches or Cup matches such as the local qualifying matches in the FFA Cup competition or Women's Knockout Cup and the like

16.2 Other than MiniRoos games, all FCQ fixtures and competitions must be controlled by a registered referee or as per 16.4.

16.3 Referees for all FCQ fixtures and competitions shall be appointed by a Referee Appointments Officer or similar.

16.4 In the event the appointed centre referee does not arrive then one of the appointed assistant referees should take control of the match. In the event the appointed referee and the assistant referees do not arrive the following process will be applied.

Unqualified club officials will be appointed on agreement of both teams. If such an agreement cannot be arrived at then the home club official will make the appointment. If either team refuses to take the field a forfeit will be awarded to the other team.

16.5 Under 16.4 the referee's decision shall be final. If an official turns up late he will take control of the match.

16.6 No match shall be deferred due to the unavailability of qualified referees and/or assistant referees.

16.7 Referee and Assistant Referee fees shall be determined annually by FCQ and communicated to the clubs.

16.8 Other than friendly matches (see 16.11), referees are paid through the Schedules system as determined from year to year.

16.9 Where referees attend grounds that are then deemed unplayable prior to the commencement of the match the referee must be paid the full match fee for the first game he has arrived to officiate as per 16.10.

16.10 Payment of referee fees in accordance with the current year fees shall be the responsibility of:

- a. Each club where games involving a club is for fixtures set by FCQ
- b. 50% to be paid by each club including where a game is rescheduled to an alternate venue other than the home club due to wet weather, insufficient lux reading, venue unavailability etc.

### Match Official Fees 2019

Division	Referee	Assistant Referee 1	Assistant Referee 2
Premier League Div 1	\$90.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Premier League Div 2	\$80.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Community Men	\$65.00	\$32.50	\$32.50
Community Women	\$65.00	\$32.50	\$32.50
Under 16/17	\$40.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Under 12 to 15	\$30.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

Please note – The above does **not** include GST, which Clubs will have to pay when invoiced.

- When a match has commenced and is subsequently abandoned, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of their normal match fee.

### 16.11 Referees and Friendlies

For friendlies, trials or preseason matches, the following applies:

**16.12 Appointment** - A request for referees for out of season matches can be made directly through the zone office and/or [the sanctioning application process](#). The zone office will advise the head of referees or the appointments officer of the request and that person will arrange for the appropriate number of referees to officiate. Host clubs are welcome to approach referees directly in the first instance but should advise the zone accordingly during the sanctioning process.

**16.13 Payment:** In the advent that referees or assistant referees are requested by a host club through the zone office and/or the sanctioning process for a trial, friendly or pre-season match, the host club, the one organising the game, will be responsible for organising payment for any such referees appointed. Such payment will be made on the day of the sanctioned match at a rate as agreed by both parties prior to the match starting. The zone will not be responsible for processing the payment of referees for friendlies or preseason matches other than FFA Cup qualifying matches and the like.

**16.14 Right of refusal:** Referees have the right to refuse to take part in matches organised by clubs that fail to honour any payment arrangements.

**16.15 Zone organised friendlies:** The zone will be responsible for processing payments for referees for friendly games organised by the zone such as invitational games and the like.

## 17.0 CODE OF CONDUCT

**17.1 Codes of Conduct** as per FFA guidelines shall be followed by all football participants including spectators and enforced by FCQ or the FCQ Disciplinary Committee.

**17.2 Coaching** - Coaching from the sideline shall only be carried out by the Coach provided the information is given in a quiet, non-hysterical, non-abusive manner. A coach may only enter the field

of play with the referee's permission. Standing or coaching by any person is prohibited from behind the goals.

17.3 Coaches may not approach a referee to query decisions or outcomes of matches. This is not a legitimate reason to approach a referee via the Ground Official.

**17.4 Sin Bin:** FFA has introduced the Sin Bin for players showing dissent. Players so charged will receive a Yellow card and removed from the playing field for a period of 5 mins for games 60 minutes long or under and 10 minutes for matches over 60 minutes long. Players can return for the field after serving their time and cannot be substituted or replaced during that time. A second Yellow card awarded for any offence will result in the player receiving a Red card and sent from the field. This applies to ALL junior and senior competitive matches from U13 upward.

**17.5 Cards for Team Officials:** from 2018 a penalty card system similar to what is applied to players will be applied to Team Officials in the technical areas. (See [9.4 Technical Areas](#)) Coaches and managers will no longer simply be 'expelled'. Also refer to the FCQ Disciplinary Policy.

**17.6 General** - The referee shall report to FCQ misconduct or misdemeanour on the part of spectators, officials, players, named substitutes or any other persons which take place whether on the field of play or in its vicinity at any time prior to, during, or after the match in question, so that appropriate action can be taken by FCQ in accordance with FFA National Disciplinary Regulations, FFA Codes of Conduct, FCQ Disciplinary Regulations or FCQ Competition Rules.

## 18.0 GROUND OFFICIALS/MARSHALS

18.1 For competitive level seniors and juniors, Host and Away clubs must provide at least one ground official wearing clear identification, including a Ground Official vest on each playing day, to whom inquiries by team managers and referees may be directed. Ground Officials must be visible at all times and identify themselves to the appointed match official prior to the match.

Each junior competitive team, Under 12 through to Under 18 should be in receipt of a home (orange vest) and away (yellow vest) for kit bags from their club. The vest is to be worn by a nominated team representative at each match, home and away.

This person will be the point of contact with the Club Ground Official with regards to their team and supporters if required for any suspected or alleged code of conduct breaches. Clubs are still required to have an appointed Ground Official as per above and 18.2.

18.2. FCQ will provide a list of instructions and responsibilities, which are to be followed closely by all clubs with regard to the appointed Ground Officials for all games. For details refer [Appendix K](#). In brief:

18.3 The referee will liaise with Ground Officials regarding any crowd disturbances, player send offs etc.

18.4 The Ground Officials will ensure referees are escorted onto and from the field of play.

18.5 The Ground Officials from each club are responsible for the conduct of all players and team officials on the bench. (Refer 8.4 Technical Area)

18.6 Ground Officials are not allowed on the field of play during the game without permission of the referee.

18.7 Ground Officials escort of referees for all Junior and Senior Competitive matches:



- Ground Officials to arrive at Referee rooms 10 minutes prior to kick off to escort referees to the field. They must also escort them off and on at half time and off the field at the completion of the match
- If a Ground Official is not present to escort referees to the field then referees will not leave the referee room to commence the match
- If a Ground Official has not arrived by 15 minutes after the scheduled kick off time then the game will be abandoned and the match awarded to the away team.
- For neutral venues a Ground Official from the home team must complete the above including finals.

Referees should use their discretion regarding adherence to these rules.

If a match does not go ahead the referees will still be paid by the designated home club.

## 19.0 SENIOR MEN AND SENIOR WOMEN COMPETITIONS

### 19.1 Competition Structure - Seniors

19.1.1 The senior competitions will consist of: Premier League Div 1, Premier League Div 2, 3rd Division (Community Men Rockhampton), Community Men Div 1 (Gladstone), Community Men Div 2 (Gladstone), Rockhampton Women's League (RWL), Senior Women Div 1 (GWL) and Senior Women Div 2 (GWL)

19.1.2 FCQ may add or delete divisions from time to time according to nominations prior to the commencement of each playing season.

### 19.2 Field of Play / Equipment

**19.2.1 Field Sizes** – The field sizes shall be of maximum and minimum dimensions as set out in FIFA Rules/Laws of the Game.

**19.2.2 Field Markings** – The field markings shall be clear and distinct lines (preferably white in colour) and not more than 120mm wide but must be the width of the goal posts.

**19.2.3 Corner Flags** - Corner flags are to be not less than 1.5m above ground level, construction of approved material, non pointed top, and must be in place prior to the start of the days play.

**19.2.4 Goal Nets** – The goal nets should be in good repair and properly secured to cross bars, uprights, and the ground behind the goal prior to the start of a game.

**19.2.5 Goal Posts** – Goal posts must comply with Australian standards and with dimensions as set out in FIFA Rules/Laws of the Game. Goals must be anchored to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

**19.2.6 Match Balls** - The match ball must comply with FIFA Rules/FFA Laws of the Game. Match balls must be provided by the Host Club. Training balls are not considered suitable competitive match balls.

**19.2.7 Match Balls – Premier League (Div 1 & 2):** An official size 5 match ball for these divisions will be decided by FCQ each year after feedback from clubs. A minimum of two (2) but preferably three (3) match balls must be supplied at all matches. If only two (2) designated match balls are supplied then the third ball must be of same or similar match standard. From time to time FCQ may provide limited numbers of quality match balls for purchase to senior clubs. The fine for non-use of officially sanctioned match balls at the start of matches to apply as per [Appendix A](#).

### 19.2.8 Duration of senior matches:

Age Group	Game Time	Interval
Senior men	2 x 45 minutes	15 mins
Senior women	2 x 40 minutes	10-15 mins

### 19.3 Player Transfers/Clearances

19.3.1 International clearance rules apply as per FFA regulations. If a player last played overseas, they will need to ensure that they have indicated 'yes' in the online registration process and follow the procedures set out by FFA from year to year. Please note all requirements and the procedure for adults and minors are available on the FQ and FCQ websites.

19.3.2 **International Transfer Certificates** - On request of an ITC (clearance) a club is not permitted to make a player Active in PlayFootball until the physical piece of paper issued by a National Football Association, bearing its logo and physically signed by an authorised officer of that National Body has been received by the club. The change in status of the player from Pending ITC to Pending (awaiting payment or approval) is not sufficient to confirm the player has received clearance. Once the official paperwork has been received a player can be made Active. Players cannot participate in FCQ /FQ or FFA official competitions until the above has occurred. Fines apply as for an ineligible player if a player takes the field whilst awaiting a clearance.

Refer FQ clearance procedures from year to year regarding player participation in other types of matches i.e. pre-season friendlies.

19.3.3 Member clubs of FCQ are not permitted to register players on sporting visas.

19.3.4 Requests for players on any type of Visa must be directed to FQ for clarification.

## 20.0 PLAYER MOVEMENTS & SUBSTITUTES - SENIOR

20.1 Players are taken to have played in the game if their name is on the team sheet, unless it is marked "DNP" (Did Not Play) by the referee.

20.2 A Premier League Div 1 Player including the goal keeper is determined by playing 3 games in this division. Even when designated as a Premier League Div 1 Player he can still return to Premier League Div 2 and Community Men 3rd (or 1st) Division (as per rule 20.3) but not Community Men Div 2 (or 4th Division).

20.3 Premier League Div 1, Premier League Div 2 and Community Men 3rd (and 1st) Division players and goal keepers can have unlimited movement between these three (3) divisions.

20.4 Premier League Div 2 Men, Community Men 3rd (and 1st) and Community Men 2nd (4th) division players and goal keepers can have unlimited movement between these three (3) divisions.

20.5 Premier League Div 1 Men's players and goal keepers (determined by rule 20.2) cannot play Community Men Div 2/4th division.

20.6 Junior players who qualify the playing up requirements as per the Player Age Policy can play unlimited for any division and still return to juniors (unless they fall under rule 20.5)

20.7 Fair Play is a fundamental part of the game of football and FCQ reserves the right to overrule any player's eligibility as per above where it is obvious fair play and the spirit of the game has not been adhered to.

20.8 The maximum number of players allowed on a team sheet is sixteen (16)

**20.9 Substitutes** - In the Premier League Div 1 competition, teams may now substitute up to but no more than five (5) players in a game including extra time if applicable. Once a player has been replaced he shall not be permitted to return to the field of play. This rule change is permissible and in accordance with the 2018 FFA Laws of the Game.

**20.10 Interchange** - In all Women's divisions, Men's Premier League Div 2 and all men's Community divisions, unlimited interchange is permitted (maximum of 16 players on the team sheet). There is no obligation to use interchange in Premier League Div 2 but it is permitted. This rule change is permissible and in accordance with the 2018 FFA Laws of the Game.

20.11 Once a Community Division 1/4th Division or Community Division 2 player has played up in Premier League Div 1 (even one game) then he must play 9 games for his lower division team to qualify for lower division finals.

20.12 Senior players playing up or down into a division which contains two teams from their own club, after playing three (3) games with one team must remain in that team and are ineligible to play for the other team in the same division. i.e. they cannot play three games in each team of the same division they play up or down into. The player may still play back in their relevant division. e.g. Community Div 2 player plays into Community Div 1 Black three times and Community Div 1 Blue two times. He is no longer eligible to play in Community Div 1 Blue but can play in Community Div 1 Black and return to his Community Div 2 team; Prem Div 2 player plays down in Community Men Team A three times and Team B twice. He no longer can play for Team B but can continue assisting Team A. Where there are divisions in a community level competition and where a Prem Div 2 player is eligible to play, the rule will apply to the two divisions; in other words, if the Prem 2 player plays down in Community Div 2 twice then Community Div 1 three times, he can only then be used in the Div 1 community team.

**20.13 Women participation in the men's competition** – clubs with both women and men's community level teams are allowed to include no more than four (4) experienced female players in a men's team, especially if such a scenario prevents a forfeit. Female players must be over the age of 18 in the year they are playing to be considered eligible for consideration. If clubs have multiple teams across divisions, borrowed players may play in any division. In the event there are multiple men's teams in a division, then Rule 20.12 above that deals with borrowing across multiple teams should be considered.

## 21.0 JUNIORS – COMPETITIONS

### 21.1 Age Groups & Teams

The Junior Competitions will comprise non-competitive fixtures for MiniRoos Under 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 and any combination of competitive age groups from Under 12 through to U18 as is determined by registration numbers (see 21.3). Variations of these may be present at different centres across the zone, depending on player numbers.

Players may play in any team they are eligible for by age (subject to the Player Age Policy) but should be encouraged to play in their own age group in the first instance.

21.2 Competitions should comprise a minimum of six (6) and preferably eight (8) teams wherever possible.

21.3 FCQ may vary competitions from time to time according to nominations, prior to the commencement of the season.

21.4 Teams shall be graded by their club into appropriate divisions taking into account the previous year's results, Zone Grading Days and based on the recommendation of the Club's Junior Director of Coaching. FCQ at its discretion can question the grading of teams and move teams amongst divisions as allowable by the Player Age Policy.

21.5 If, at the end of the first round of matches there is a clear imbalance between one set of teams and another within an age group or Division, then a system of scheduling should be introduced in which rather than all teams playing all other teams an equal number of times, teams should be grouped (e.g. in to two groups of four), with teams playing other teams in the same group more often than teams in other group(s).

21.6 Female players can play in a mixed team up to U18 but are encouraged to play in female teams where numbers allow. Combined age groups - with no more than two recommended - for girls may be considered in order to facilitate the holding of a girl's only competition. The priority will remain to encourage the formation of female teams where possible.

## 21.7 Field of Play / Equipment

### 21.7.1 Field Sizes

Under 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 – Refer to MiniRoos [Appendix D](#). Under 12 to Under 17 – Refer to FIFA Rules/FFA Laws of the Game

Note: For Under 12 fixtures the preferred field size is to be 70-65m x 50-45m where field availability allows (best practice is 65mx45m)

**21.7.2 Field Markings** – The field markings shall be clear and distinct lines (preferably white in colour) and not more than 120mm wide but must be the width of the goal posts.

**21.7.3 Corner Flags** - Corner flags are to be not less than 1.5m above ground level, construction of approved material, non-pointed top, and must be in place prior to the start of the days play.

**21.7.4 Goal Nets** – The goal nets should be in good repair and properly secured to cross bars, uprights, and the ground behind the goal prior to the start of a game.

**21.7.5 Goal Posts** – Goal posts must comply with Australian standards and with dimensions as set out in FIFA Rules/FFA Laws of the Game. Goals must be anchored to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

**21.7.6 Match Ball** – The match ball must comply with FIFA regulations.

Age Group	Size	Circumference	Weight
Under 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9	Size 3	550mm min – 585 max	312 – 340 grams
Under 10, 11, 12 & 13	Size 4	600mm min – 625mm max	312 – 369 grams
Under 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18	Size 5	685mm min – 710mm max	400 – 450 grams

Match balls are to be provided by the host club or by FCQ (depending on venue). Training balls are not acceptable junior competition match balls.

## 21.8 Duration of Junior Games

Age Group	Game Time	Interval
<b>Aldi Mini Roos</b>		
Under 5, 6 & Under 7	2 x 15 – 20 minutes	5 mins
Under 8 & Under 9	2 x 20 minutes	5 mins
Under 10 & Under 11	2 x 25 minutes	5 mins

Competitive Divisions		Interval
Under 12	2 x 25 minutes	5 Mins
Under 13	2 x 30 minutes	5 Mins
Under 14	2 x 35 minutes	5 Mins
Under 15	2 x 35 minutes	5 Mins
Under 15/16	2 x 40 minutes	10 mins
Under 17/18	2 x 40 minutes	10 mins

Half time shall be a maximum of ten (10) minutes.

Combined Age Groups (e.g. U15/U16) will be deemed to be of the same duration as the eldest age group of the combination (i.e. U15/U16 would be the same duration as an U16 game).

## 21.9 Players

Age Groups/Division(s)	Minimum Number of Players Per Team
Under 5s to Under 7s	Four (4)
Under 8s and Under 9s	Seven (7)
Under 10s to Under 12s	Nine (9)
All other junior divisions	Eleven (11)
7 a side	Seven (7)

21.9.1 A player's age is declared at midnight 31st December each year. Whatever age a player turns in the calendar year is the lowest age he/she may play. (Also refer Player Age Policy).

## 21.10 Eligibility

Males and Females:

- Players must be turning 5 by the end of the calendar year in which they wish to register.
- Players playing outside their age group refer to the Player Age Policy – [Appendix B](#)

21.10.1 The minimum number of players per competitive team for the game to take place shall be seven (7) registered players.

21.10.2 The maximum number of players allowed for any game shall be sixteen (16) players per competitive aged team (Under 13 – Under 18). For under 12s, who played 9 a side from 2018, the maximum number of players allowed will be 14.

21.10.3 The maximum number of players allowed on a team sheet is sixteen (16) with the exception of U12s where it is fourteen (14).

21.10.4 Players who are registered to play Junior Football with their club can also play Senior Football as per the FCQ Player Age Policy Document (refer [Appendix B](#)) but only with the same club.

21.10.5 Eligibility for the finals series is defined in Competition Rules: 11.6 & 11.7

21.10.6 Moulded boots are recommended for all junior players.

## 22.0 PLAYER MOVEMENTS & SUBSTITUTES—JUNIOR COMPETITIVE

22.1 Substitutes & Interchange - In all competitive age groups, teams may substitute up to but no more than five (5) players in a game including extra time if applicable. Players can be substituted under the returning substitute ruling; in other words, unlimited interchange. These players may be interchanged at any time during the game with the referee's permission.

22.2 A Match Official may issue a caution or limit substitutions if it is deemed they are occurring to run down the match clock in an unreasonable manner or to cause unfair advantage.

22.3 Clubs with Division 1 teams are required to limit players to playing in that division. These players cannot play in Division 2 or lower divisions in their own age group but can play in any division in a higher age level – subject to eligibility rule (refer Player Age Policy).

22.4 Players in Division 2 teams can be borrowed to play in Division 1 at their age level and any division in a higher age level – subject to eligibility rule (refer Player Age Policy).

22.5 In the event of extraordinary circumstances (e.g. high levels of long term injuries to players, not simply lack of availability due to illness), clubs may apply to FCQ for temporary variation of this rule.

22.6 Where a club has two (2) teams playing in the same division within an age group, players will not be permitted to interchange between teams at any time during the season, unless during grading rounds. No movement will be permitted once competitions start.

22.7 Junior Players playing up from a lower division or down from a higher division (if eligible), after playing three (3) games with one team in the same division are no longer eligible to play in the other team in the higher or lower age group /division. The player can be borrowed without limitation throughout the season and be still eligible to play in their own age group. There is no such team restriction on eligible juniors being borrowed for senior teams. For instance, an eligible junior can be borrowed in any team throughout a season where a club has multiple senior teams. This rule also applies to senior competitions with multiple divisions.

22.8 FCQ at its discretion, may consult with Clubs and Junior Directors of Coaching to balance age groups/divisions to ensure a viable competition.

22.9 Note: Borrowing a player or players should not advantage the borrowing team's performance when compared with its usual squad. In the event a club challenges the eligibility or suitability of players borrowed by an opposition team, any team found to have breached the spirit of this rule may be sanctioned by FCQ, including the loss of points.

## 23.0 DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

FCQ will follow the FCQ Disciplinary Regulations ([Appendix F](#)) in conjunction with FFA National Disciplinary Regulations ([Appendix G](#)), FFA Code of Conduct ([Appendix H](#)) and Spectator Code of Behaviour ([Appendix I](#))

## 24.0 FINANCE

**24.1 Team Nomination Fee:** at the discretion of FCQ from year to year.

### 24.2 Withdrawal of Teams/Late Nomination of Teams

Should a club, having nominated a team for FCQ fixtures in any year and such team is accepted by FCQ, then elect to withdraw that team after the draw is published, a fine will be imposed on the Club. Should a club elect to nominate a team after the draw has been published and this team nomination is accepted by FCQ, then a late team nomination fee may be imposed on the Club. Refer [Appendix A](#).

### 24.3 Outstanding Accounts

Affiliated clubs must ensure amounts outstanding of 60 days or more are finalised by Semi Finals. Any clubs with outstanding amounts of 60 days or more, will have their qualifying teams declared ineligible to participate in the finals and the next team on the table will be eligible to take their place in the finals. Clubs with outstanding accounts from one calendar year to the next may have their ability to re-affiliate affected or other sanctions imposed by FCQ from time to time.

If a club competing in any FCQ-sanctioned competition accumulates accounts or due payments outstanding for 30 days or more, Football Central Queensland shall take the following actions:

1. Clubs with accounts outstanding for 30 Days shall be sent a reminder letter, requesting payment within 30 Days of the date of the reminder letter.
2. If Clubs have not acquitted all outstanding accounts by the stipulated date, FCQ shall apply sanctions against those clubs.
3. Such sanctions shall combine a series of penalties, including fines and the loss of competition points for the team in the highest Division of local football in which that Club competes in. For Clubs with teams in both Junior and Senior competitions, these sanctions shall be applied to the highest Division of Senior competition in which each Club competes in the first instance. For Clubs with teams in Junior competitions only, these sanctions shall be applied to the highest Division of Junior competition in which each Club competes.
4. In the case of repeated cases of Clubs not paying monies owed to FCQ, any such Club shall render themselves liable to lose competition points across all competitions, over the duration of the current season. Team Nominations will not be accepted from clubs with outstanding accounts from the previous year.

### 24.4 Expenses of Members of FCQ

Members of FCQ shall be entitled to be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses incurred in carrying out their duties including attending meetings of FCQ, FQ or any associated meeting as deemed necessary.

## 25.0 VIDEO TAPING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Most people taking photos or video of children at sporting events are doing so for acceptable reasons and are using appropriate methods, for example:

- a parent videoing their child at a sports presentation, or
- a parent photographing their child on the field during play, or
- a professional photographer taking photos for a club.

In Australia, generally speaking, there is no law restricting photography of people (including children) in public spaces as long as the images are not indecent. For more, including reporting of inappropriate behaviour, see the below link:

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/got-an-issue/child-protection/taking-images-of-children>

## 26.0 APPLICATION OF COMPETITION RULES

FCQ reserves the right to change or amend these rules at its discretion. Any rule may be reviewed and amended to ensure decisions are made in the best interests of the competition and the game.

FCQ Office use only	
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