

**OFFICIAL**



HUNTER VALLEY  
FOOTBALL



Newcastle  
Football

# Rules and Regulations



## **REGULATION E : Playing Rules for Zone Football League (ZFL) Competitions**

### ***Summary***

These Rules and Regulations provide information about:

### **Regulation E – Playing Rules for Zone Football League (ZFL) Competitions**

- **Zone Football League Divisions:**
  - \* **Premier, League One, Two & Three**
- **Zone Football Women’s League Division**

that the Joint Football Zones Competitions will operate under.

The Regulations, Procedures and Policies in conjunction with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Zone Association shall, with the approval of NSW Football and duly Registered with FA, apply from the date of approval and shall take precedence over any previous Regulations of the Zone Association.

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

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<b>Contents</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>E01</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>E02</b>	<b>HOME TEAMS' RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>E03</b>	<b>TECHNICAL AREA</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>E04</b>	<b>DEFINITION OF HOME TEAM</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>E05</b>	<b>POWER TO DIRECT CHANGE OF HOME GROUND</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>E06</b>	<b>THE COMPETITION RULES</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>E07</b>	<b>AN APPROVED FOOTBALL</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>E08</b>	<b>PLAYING TIMES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>E09</b>	<b>OFFICIALS AT FIXTURES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>E10</b>	<b>FINDING WINNERS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>E11</b>	<b>COMPETITION POINTS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>E12</b>	<b>PLAYING AREA REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>E13</b>	<b>ADMISSION CHARGES</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>E14</b>	<b>WINNERS' MEDALLIONS AND AWARDS</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>E15</b>	<b>TROPHIES AND AWARDS</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>E16</b>	<b>PLAYERS' UNIFORMS AND GEAR REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>E17</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>E18</b>	<b>FINES AND PENALTIES</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>E19</b>	<b>DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>E20</b>	<b>KICK-OFF TIMES</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>E21</b>	<b>DISPUTE OVER FIXTURE SCORES</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>E22</b>	<b>NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS AND OTHER DETAILS</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>E23</b>	<b>GOAL DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>E24</b>	<b>PENALTY KICK DECIDER</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>E25</b>	<b>OFFICIAL FIXTURE LIST</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>E26</b>	<b>FORFEITED FIXTURES</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>E27</b>	<b>APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS/FIXTURES</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>E28</b>	<b>DEFERMENT OF FIXTURES OR COMPETITIONS</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>E29</b>	<b>ABANDONMENT OF FIXTURES AND SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>E30</b>	<b>INCOMPLETE FIXTURES</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>E31</b>	<b>FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>E32</b>	<b>TEAMS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITION AND FINAL SERIES</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>E33</b>	<b>A COLOUR CLASH</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>E34</b>	<b>DIGITAL TEAM SHEETS</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>E35</b>	<b>DIGITAL TEAM SHEET DETAILS</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>E36</b>	<b>SUBSTITUTION/INTERCHANGE OF A PLAYER</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>E37</b>	<b>LIQUIDS DURING PLAY</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>E38</b>	<b>MATCH OFFICIALS</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>E39</b>	<b>MATCH OFFICIAL - REFEREEING</b>	<b>33</b>

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<b>Contents</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>E40</b>	<b>MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>E41</b>	<b>MASS WALK-OFFS</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>E42</b>	<b>REFUSAL TO START A FIXTURE</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>E43</b>	<b>RING-INS</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>E44</b>	<b>WASHED OUT OR DOUBTFUL FIXTURES</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>E45</b>	<b>BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>E46</b>	<b>GROUND MARKINGS</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>E47</b>	<b>BORROWED PLAYERS' QUALIFICATION – COMPETITION AND FINAL SERIES</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>E48</b>	<b>TEAM CAPTAIN</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>E49</b>	<b>PLAYER PHOTO IDENTITY</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>E50</b>	<b>FINAL SERIES PLAYER ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>E51</b>	<b>PROMOTION AND RELEGATION</b>	<b>44</b>
	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>44</b>
	<b>APPENDIX A:</b>	<b>45</b>
	<b>SUPPLEMENTAL PLAYING RULES FOR DEFERRED COMPETITIONS</b>	

## E01 MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION

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

The Zone Association may schedule meetings Pre-Season, during or at the end of the Season to update Member Clubs/Branches on administrative related matters.

Attendance at such meetings is compulsory for each Member Club/Branches participating in the Competition.

*Failure to attend* without satisfactory reason will result in a fine.

## E02 HOME TEAMS' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- a. Its nominated ground is available for the Competition Fixture, on the date and time set down.

In the event of the ground has become unfit or unavailable (***except by wash-out***) for the Fixture, the Home Team's Club shall arrange through the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator an alternative venue for that date and time. The Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator ***must be notified*** of any change of venue as soon as possible but not later than eight (8) days before the scheduled date.

Failure to comply with this Regulation or part thereof will result in a forfeit to the opposing Team and a fine as determined annually.

- b. Any maintenance on the ground is carried out to ensure that the playing surface is in a condition that the appointed Referee considers safe. Ground markings are to be ***clear and accurate*** and within the dimensions as specified from time to time. Nets and corner posts are to be provided to conform with the requirements of the Competition. Two (2) Assistant Referee's Flags are to be made available as and when required.
- c. Provide a ***"TECHNICAL AREA"*** on each field at their venue.

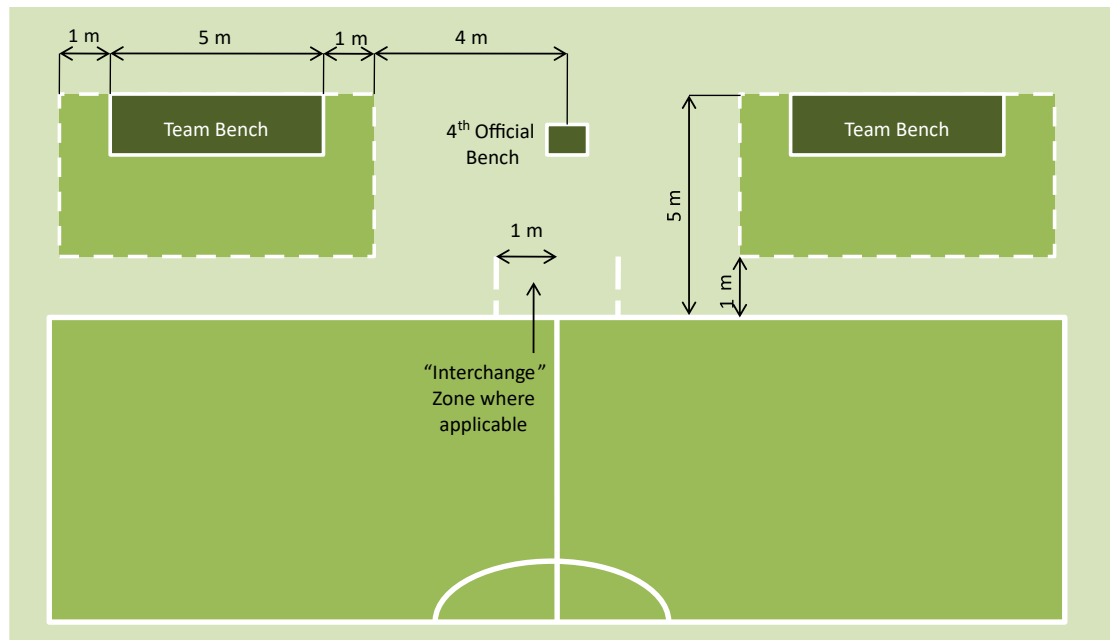
A Technical Area must be line marked as per the dimensions in Diagram 1.

The Technical Area must:

- Contain two (2) appropriate team benches, capable of seating nine (8) people on each bench (as per FIFA Law 1.9).

- Provide a possible cover to protect the players and officials from the elements and possible missiles thrown by spectators
- Provide identical fixtures for both Teams
- Contain a chair for the 4th Official (should a 4th Official be appointed to any match)

Diagram 1 - Technical Area line marking and dimensions



**Provide Adequate** Security measures for the safety and welfare of Team Official(s), Match Official(s), Players, and the Public are to be provided.

- d. **A MINIMUM OF TWO (2)** nominated and readily identifiable **GROUND OFFICIALS (DUTY OFFICER)** (*one from each club competing in the Match*) **MUST** be available for the duration of each and every Fixture on each and every Club ground on which a Fixture(s) has been set; and for an additional period of 30 minutes prior to the start of the Fixture and for an additional period of 30 minutes after the Fixture has concluded.

If no Ground Official (Duty Officer) is present during a Match, the Referee must report this fact using the appropriate online Incident Report.

A warning will be given to the offending Club for a first offence; a second or subsequent offence of failure to provide a Duty Officer for a Match as required by Regulations will result in a monetary fine on an escalating scale. (*refer to Rule E09 and Rule E20*).

- e. The result of each Fixture is to be uploaded to the “On-line” results section of the web; this must be completed preferably on the day of the match(es) but certainly no later than 9.00am on the Monday following the weekend’s

matches; this Regulation must be in accordance with instructions issued from time to time.

Failure to comply will result in a fine as determined annually.

- f. In the event of a washed-out Fixture. It is the Home Club's responsibility to ensure that the Zone Association, Referees and opposing Club is advised of the cancellation (*refer to Rule E43*).
- g. A *minimum of two (2)* Approved Footballs ***must*** be available for each Fixture.
- h. The Appointed Referee is the deciding Official on all matters relating to the above ***Regulation E02 b.*** and should report any breaches in writing to the Zone Association or the Football Zone ZFL Competition Administrator.

***A fine of a sum as determined annually shall be imposed for each proven offence.***

Should a Referee refuse to commence a Fixture due to lack of ground markings or a deficiency in the ground surface ***relating to player and Match Officials safety***, the Home Club shall pay the Match Officials' Fees and the visiting Team shall be awarded a Forfeited result ***except*** in the case of a neutral ground; then the Home Club shall be responsible for the payment of the Match Officials' Fees and the Fixture shall be rescheduled.

***A fine of a sum as determined annually shall be imposed for each proven offence.***

- i. A Team protesting against the condition of a ground, or its appointments, shall make the Protest to the Ground Official (Duty Officer) before the commencement of the Fixture and in writing to the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator on its Club Letterhead at the completion of the Fixture.
- j. The Fixture ***shall be played*** despite a Protest made in accordance with the previous paragraph and any subsequent Official Protest received ***shall not invalidate the result*** of the Fixture.
- k. Should two (2) or more Protests be received about the same ground within a one (1) month period then a Representative of the Football Zone and/or the Football Zone ZFL Competition Administrator together with the executive of the Club concerned shall inspect that Ground and determine the fitness of that Ground.

## **E03 TECHNICAL AREA**

- a. Only currently registered and eligible Players, Coaches, Team Officials, Match Officials and Zone Officials are allowed in the technical area during Matches.

- b. All Team Officials in the technical area must wear their TEAM OFFICIAL TAG at all times.
- c. All Interchange Players in the technical area must remain seated on the bench unless moving to and from warm-up or undertaking an interchange process.
- d. All Team Officials in the technical area must seated on the bench.
- e. Only one (1) Team Official at a time is authorised to convey tactical/coaching instructions from the technical area.

## **E04 DEFINITION OF HOME TEAM**

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

The Home Team for a Finals Series or Special Competition Fixture (unless otherwise specified by the Joint Zones) shall be based on its position on the Points Table – the Team of higher position of the two (2) competing Teams is the Home Team.

## **E05 POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME GROUND**

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

## **E06 THE COMPETITON RULES**

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

## **E07 AN APPROVED FOOTBALL**

The Home Team in a Competition Fixture shall provide two (2) suitable Match Balls.

Each Team competing in a Finals Series Fixture shall provide one (1) approved Football to the Fixture Referee.

Football must be provided to the Match Official not less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of any Fixture.

The Referee will select the Ball to be used in the Fixture with the other being held as a spare.

Any breach of this Regulation shall result in a fine, as determined annually.

Football sizes are as follows:-

- **All Grades of Zone Football League (ZFL)**
  - \* use a size 5 Ball – minimum diameter 67cm/maximum 72cm.

## E08 PLAYING TIMES

a. The following shall be the Playing Times:

Zone Football League (ZFL) - <b>First Grade</b>	2 equal periods of <b>45 minutes</b>
Zone Football League (ZFL) - <b>Reserve</b>	2 equal periods of <b>40 minutes</b>
Zone Football League (ZFL) - <b>Third Grade</b>	2 equal periods of <b>40 minutes</b>

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

c. Minimum of five (5) minutes shall be taken at the end of the first half, or as dictated by the Heat Policy

d. **Extra time shall**, in all Zone Football League (ZFL) **FIRST GRADE FIXTURES ONLY**, can be allowed to be added on to playing time for injuries and/or other causes at the discretion of the Referee.

e. A Fixture which falls short of the stipulated playing time shall be deemed to have been completed. (*As per Regulation E 31*)

## E09 OFFICIALS AT FIXTURES

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

a. To provide adequate security, safety, and welfare for the Officiating Referee (Appointed or Club) and Assistant Referee(s) from the time each arrives at the ground until the time each departs from the ground and to provide adequate security for the protection of participating Players and Team Officials.

Failure to carry out these requirements shall render the Home Team Club liable to a penalty/fine as determined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).

b. A **MINIMUM OF TWO (2)** nominated and readily identifiable **GROUND OFFICIALS (DUTY OFFICERS)** (**one (1) from each participating Club**) **MUST** be available for the duration of each and every Fixture on each and every Club full sized ground on which a Fixture(s) has been set; and for an

additional period of 30 minutes prior to the start of the Fixture and for an additional period of 30 minutes after the Fixture has concluded. If **NO** Ground Official(s) (Duty Officer) is present during a Match, the Referee **must report** this fact using the appropriate Incident Report.

A warning will be given to the offending Club for a first offence; a second or subsequent offence of failure to provide a Duty Officer for a Match as required by Regulations will result in a monetary fine on an escalating scale. (*refer to Rule E02 and Rule E20*).

- c. The Ground Official(s) (Duty Officer) ***shall be responsible for*** the good order and conduct of the Fixtures being played on the day. The Ground Official ***shall wear*** and ***be identified by the designated Fluorescent Coloured Duty Officer Vest*** provided to each Member Club by the Football Zone for this purpose.

Failure to carry out these requirements shall render the Home Team Club liable to a penalty/fine as determined by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary.

## E10 FINDING WINNERS

The Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator shall determine methods of finding winners for the various Competitions and they are as follows:-

### a. ***PREMIERSHIP COMPETITION WINNERS AND PLACEGETTERS***

1. When all Premiership Fixtures are concluded and the Competition Points allocated for each competing Team's performance, the Team with the highest number of Points on the Official Points Table shall be declared the ***PREMIERS***.
2. ***In the event of*** two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same highest number of Points, the Team with the better goal difference shall be considered to be the higher placed Team.  

Goal difference shall be determined by subtracting the number of goals against from the number of goals for.

The highest resultant plus figure shall take precedence, down to zero and on to the lowest resultant minus figure and on to the largest resultant minus figure.
3. ***In the event of*** two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, and having the same goal difference, then the Team which has scored the most goals shall be considered the higher placed Team.
4. ***In the event of*** two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, and having scored the same number of goals, then the Team that has scored the larger

number of goals in Competition matches played between the two (2) or more Teams shall be considered the higher placed Team.

5. ***In the event of*** two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, having scored the same number of goals, and having scored the same number of goals in Competition matches played between the two (2) or more Teams, then the Team that has scored the highest aggregate number of goals (based on 'away' goals rule – home goal 1, away goal 2) in Competition matches played between the two (2) or more Teams shall be considered the higher placed Team.
6. ***In the event of*** two (2) Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, having scored the same number of goals, having scored the same number of goals in Competition matches played between the two (2) Teams, and having the same aggregate number of goals (based on 'away' goals rule – home goal 1, away goal 2) in Competition matches played between the two (2) Teams.

Then those two (2) Teams will play off in a qualifying match (which may include extra time and penalty kick decider) to determine, by use of Regulation E09 Part (a) 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 the higher placed Team.

7. ***In the event of*** three (3) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, having scored the same number of goals, having scored the same number of goals in Competition matches played between the three (3) or more Teams, and having the same aggregate number of goals (based on 'away' goals rule – home goal 1, away goal 2) in Competition matches played between the three (3) or more Teams, then the final ranking positions of the three (3) or more Teams shall be determined by the Joint Board of the Zone Association.
8. Determination of all other ranking positions in the Points Table at the conclusion of the Zone Football League (ZFL) Premiership Competition shall be decided as per this ***Regulation 10 Part A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.***

**b. *FINALS SERIES COMPETITION (FOUR OR FIVE TEAMS)***

1. When all Premiership Fixtures are concluded and the Competition points allocated for each competing Team in the Competition, the four (4) Teams shall continue in a Finals Series Competition, with ranking positions 1, 2, 3, & 4 determined as per ***Regulation E10 A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.***

**Zone Football League (ZFL) Four (4) Team Final Series Format:**

***Qualifying Semi-Finals Two Legs - Home and Away basis***

**Week 1**

4 v 1 Saturday 3 v 2 Sunday

**Week 2**

1 v 4 Sunday 2 v 3 Saturday

***Grand Final 2 Winners of Qualifying Semi-Finals play-off***

2. Or the five (5) Teams with the highest numbers of points on the Official Points Table shall qualify to continue in a Finals Series Competition, with ranking positions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 determined as per ***Regulation E10 A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.***

**Zone Football League (ZFL) Five (5) Team Final Series Format:*****Qualifying and Eliminating Finals*****Week 1**

***Qualification final:*** 2 vs 3

***Elimination final:*** 4 vs 5

Premiers: ***Bye***

**Week 2**

***Major Semi-Final:*** Premiers vs Winner of Qualification Final

***Minor Semi-Final:*** Loser of Qualification Final vs Winner of Elimination Final

**Week 3**

***Preliminary final:*** Loser of Major Semi-Final vs Winner of Minor Semi-Final

***Bye:*** Winners of Major Semi-Final

**Week 4**

***Grand Final:*** Winners of Major Semi-Final vs Winners of Preliminary Final

3. ***In the event*** of the two Teams being equal at end of normal time, the winning Team shall be determined as follows:
  - a. For Zone Football League (ZFL) ***First Grade only***
    - then two (2) periods of extra time of ten (10) minutes each are to be played.
    - If the scores are level after the full period of extra time has been completed, the result of the Fixture shall be determined by the ***PENALTY KICK DECIDER*** method, if required.

- b. For Zone Football League (ZFL) Reserve and Third Grade
- If the scores are level after the full time of the match has been completed, the result of the Fixture shall be determined by the ***PENALTY KICK DECIDER*** method is to be used.

**c. *VENUES FOR FINALS SERIES MATCHES***

1. Venues will be determined The Venues for Finals Series Matches shall by the Teams competing in the First grade Final Series in each division.
2. The team listed first on the First grade Official Digital Team sheets for final series fixtures will be the Home Team.

## **E11 COMPETITION POINTS**

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

<b><i>Win</i></b>	-	Three (3) Points
<b><i>Draw</i></b>	-	One (1) Point
<b><i>Bye</i></b>	-	Nil (0) Points
<b><i>Loss</i></b>	-	Nil (0) Points
<b><i>Forfeit</i></b>	-	Three (3) Points
<b><i>Abandoned</i></b>	-	As determined by the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator

## **E12 PLAYING AREA REQUIREMENTS**

During any Fixture, an Official, a Player or a Supporter **shall not be permitted** to stand any closer than three (3) metres to the playing field marked lines.

Where there is no permanent boundary fence existing around the field perimeter, a rope or a defined line should be arranged at a minimum of three (3) metres from the sideline and no access beyond that point is allowable.

***Coaching from the boundary line is strictly prohibited.***

- a. In the event that appropriate dugouts are not available, then two (2) Benches (or sufficient chairs) must be located on one side of the playing field with a Bench positioned at an equal distance on either side of the centre line and at least one (1) metre from the playing field.

Each Bench must be capable of seating the Team Coach, Team Manager and Team Official (if relevant) and all of the Team Reserve Players for the match.

All persons eligible to be on the Bench must remain seated on the Bench except for the following situations:

- ❖ Reserve Players ***must remain seated*** on the Bench ***except*** when warming up in preparation to enter the field of play as a substitution/interchange.
  - ❖ Team Officials ***must remain seated*** on the Bench ***except*** that a **MAXIMUM** of two (2) such persons may stand in the Technical Area if this is required.
- b. Only the Team Coach, Team Manager, Team Official (if relevant) and Players eligible to play in the Match (all of whom have been named on the Official Team Sheet) are to be in the Technical Area/Bench Area.

***NO OTHER PERSONS ARE PERMITTED TO BE IN THIS AREA.***

- c. ***A MAXIMUM*** of three (3) Team Officials per team are allowed on the Team's BENCH, throughout the game.

Every Team Official on the Bench ***must be wearing a Joint Zone Associations Competitions - TEAM OFFICIAL TAG.***

***NO TEAM OFFICIAL TAG*** then the Team Official(s) are not permitted to be in the Technical Area during the game.

***Failure to comply*** with ***Regulation E012 c.*** the Referee will instruct the Offending Team Official(s) to leave the Technical Area until they have a ***Joint Zone Associations Competitions - TEAM OFFICIAL TAG.***

***Failure to comply*** with the Referee's request, then the Referee will notify the DUTY OFFICER and the Team Captain, that the game will not commence until the Offending Team Official(s) leaves the Technical Area or until they have a ***Joint Zone Associations Competitions - TEAM OFFICIAL TAG.***

Should the Team Official(s) fail to comply with the request of the Ground Official – Duty Officer, then the Referee will instruct the Team Captain, Team Official(s) and the Ground Official – Duty Officer that the offending Team will FORFIET the Fixture as per ***Regulation E26.***

- d. Controlled limited Coaching will be permitted by the Accredited Team Coach or Team Official from the Technical Area which includes the Bench.
- Any Team Official who leaves or refuses to remain at the Technical Area and gives instructions from outside the field of play shall forfeit any rights to organize the activities of the Team from the Technical Area for the duration of the Fixture.
- The Team Official who instructs his/her Team from outside the playing field also forfeits his/her right to attend an injured Player of his/her Team.
- e. Should a replacement of a Player or Players become necessary, a Team Official shall notify the Fourth Official, Assistant Referee or Referee of the change and will remain with the Player(s) at the centre line until the Player(s) are called onto the field of play.

- f. Should an injury occur, a Team Official (one (1) only) shall be called onto the field of play by the Referee to inspect any injury to a Player.
- In the event of an injury of a serious nature, treatment or movement of that Player is to be at the discretion of the Team Official.
- g. Should a Player or Team Official be sent from the field of play by a Referee, this person must immediately leave the Technical Area, remove their playing shirt, and move to a point at least 3 metres past the Technical Area as marked by a fence, rope line, marked line or line of witches' hats that clearly delineates the boundary.
- Such person **may not return** to the Technical Area or encroach within this Club-marked boundary line for the duration of the Match.
- h. In the event of any infringement of the above ***Regulations E12a. b. c. d. e. f.*** the Referee may hold up Play until he/she is satisfied that the Regulations are complied with and **shall report** the matter to the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator.
- If a person persists in infringing the Regulations to the detriment of the Fixture, the Home Team Official and/or the Ground Official - Duty Officer shall escort the person from the ground. Such infringements shall be referred to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) where the Member Club, Team and/or Person may be dealt with by manner of ***Fines, Suspension and/or Withdrawal from Competition.***

## **E13      ADMISSION CHARGES**

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

## **E14      WINNERS' MEDALLIONS AND AWARDS**

- a. Each Team winning the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition or being a Runner-Up in a Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition may receive the following:-
- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Premiers</b>               | - A set of twenty (20) <b><i>Gold</i></b> Medallions.   |
| <b>Grand Final Winners</b>    | - A set of twenty (20) <b><i>Silver</i></b> Medallions. |
| <b>Grand Final Runners-Up</b> | - A set of twenty (20) <b><i>Bronze</i></b> Medallions  |
- b. Further Medallions may be obtained from the Zone Association by a qualifying Team in the event of that Team having more Registered Participants than the number of Medallions provided.

- c. Medallions will be presented to Grand Final Participants at the conclusion of the Grand Final Fixture, firstly to the Runners-Up and secondly to the Winners.

## **E15 TROPHIES / AWARDS**

- a. The Football Zone may make available to a Special Award Winner Trophy suitably inscribed with the date and Winner's name. Inscription may have to be arranged after the Awards has been presented.

### **b. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS**

At the completion of all the Official Fixtures for the Premiership in Zone Football League Competition, the Club which has accumulated the highest number of points as per the formula shown below, **shall win** the Club Championship Award.

Points are to be allocated as follows:

<b>First Grade</b>	Win	- 8 points
	Draw	- 4 points
	Loss	- Nil (0) points
<b>Reserve Grade</b>	Win	- 4 points
	Draw	- 2 points
	Loss	- Nil (0) points
<b>Third Grade</b>	Win	- 2 points
	Draw	- 1 point
	Loss	- Nil (0) points

In the event that two (2) or more Clubs finish with equal points the winner shall be determined by Goal Differences.

### **c. LEADING GOAL SCORER AWARDS (ZONE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (ZFL) ONLY)**

At the Completion of all the Fixtures for a Premiership Competition in each Zone Football League/Grade, the Player who has scored the highest number of goals in the Grade that he/she has competed in will be honoured by receiving a Leading Goal Scorer Award for that Grade.

This is to be decided at the discretion of the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator.

## **E16 PLAYERS' UNIFORMS AND GEAR REQUIREMENTS**

- a. A Team **shall not** show any form of advertising on its playing strip, tracksuit or equipment bag excepting the Zone Association's Emblem Badge, the

distinguishing mark, badge or emblem of the manufacturer and the Competition's Sponsor without prior written permission of the Zone Association.

Such consent **may not** be refused where reasonable identification of a Team's Sponsor is involved.

- b. A Sponsor's name **may be** permitted across the front of the Player's shirt, or across the back of the Player's shirt between the collar and the top of the shirt number in letters not exceeding 75 mm high.

Where a Sponsor's logo is used, the logo and name **are to be** confined to the front of the Player's shirt only.

- c. A Player should commence his/her Fixture fully equipped in Zone Football League (ZFL) Approved Gear including a shirt, socks, shorts, shin-pads, and footwear. The shirt is **to have a** legible number affixed; socks **MUST** completely cover the shin-pads.
- d. A Player **must not** use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself/herself or another Player (including any kind of jewellery).
- e. Shin guards (pads) **must be worn** by all Players at all times during any Fixture.

A Shin Guard must be covered entirely by the socks and be made of a suitable material to provide maximum protection.

- f. As per FIFA Laws of the Game, 'skins' **must be** the colour of the predominant colour of the leg of the short.
- g. Goalkeepers **must wear** colours that distinguish them from the other Players, the Referee, and the Assistant Referee(s).

If long pants are worn, then socks must be worn on the outside of the pants.

The goalkeeper's socks **may be** the same colour as the rest of the Team, but this is not essential.

Should a goalkeeper take the place of a field Player during a Fixture, said goalkeeper **must wear** the same colour shorts, shirt, and socks as the rest of the Team.

- h. The Appointed Match Referee has the right to determine **whether or not** a Player's equipment is considered satisfactory and is compliant with the relevant Regulations. The decision of the Appointed Match Referee is final.
- i. A Club with a Team having a Player competing in the Competition not being properly equipped with Football Zone's Approved Gear **shall become liable to** forfeit Competition Points and to a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

## **E17 EXPENSES**

All and any expenses incurred in participating in a Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition shall be the responsibility of the participating Team and/or Club.

## **E18 FINES AND PENALTIES**

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

## **E19 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

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

## **E20 KICK-OFF TIMES**

The Kick-Off Time for the Competition Fixture shall be as determined by the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator and will be detailed in the Official Fixture List.

- a. A Fixture should start at the nominated Kick-Off Time, provided that when a Fixture starts later than the stipulated Time, short time will be played in equal halves in order to allow the following Fixture to start at the proper Time.
- b. The Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator, in setting down Kick-Off Times, may start Fixtures at 8.30 am for any daytime Fixture which may include Saturday, Sunday or any Public Holiday.
- c. A Fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights providing any alteration to the Kick-Off Time has been approved by the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator and providing also that the standard of lighting shall meet all requirements of the Zone Association.
- d. Normal match Kick-Off Times for Zone Football League (ZFL) Competitions shall be:

- |              |               |            |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| League 1,2   | Third Grade   | - 11.30 am |
| League 1,2,3 | Reserve Grade | - 12.45 pm |
| League 1,2,3 | First Grade   | - 2.30pm   |
- e. Finals Series Matches will kick-off at earlier times than those shown above in Regulation *E19d.*, in order to allow for extra time and penalty shoot-outs where required.
- These times will be advised in Finals Series Draws notified by the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator.

## E21 DISPUTE OVER FIXTURE SCORES

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

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

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

## E22 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS AND OTHER DETAILS

Results of *ALL* Zone Football League (ZFL) Fixtures conducted by Club Referees shall be provided by Host Clubs, which will be responsible for entering results by the end of the day's play **online** for each Competition match played at the Club grounds on that day (and also including any forfeits of Competition matches scheduled at the Club grounds on that day).

The **ABSOLUTE DEADLINE** for Clubs to enter results **online** on the website will be ***BEFORE 9.00 am*** on the Monday following the weekend's matches.

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

## E23 GOAL DIFFERENCE

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

- a. Number of Goals scored against the Team subtracted from the number of Goals scored for the Team is the Goal Difference (either positive, zero or negative)

- b. Where a Team scores through its own Goal, such Goal shall be taken as having been scored by its opponent in the determination of Goal differences and in the determination of the Team's goals scored.

## **E24 PENALTY KICK DECIDER**

In the event a Fixture result is decided by the Penalty Kick Decider Method, the Winner shall be determined by compliance with the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

## **E25 OFFICIAL FIXTURE LIST**

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

- a. Where practicable, a Competition shall consist of two (2) rounds with each Team playing the opposing Teams on two (2) occasions.  
Should the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator consider that the Competition is finishing too early in the season, a third (3rd) round may be played between such Teams as the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator deems fit.
- b. Any dispute between two (2) or more Teams as to the arrangements of Fixtures shall be referred to and decided by the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator. Dislocation of any Fixture for any reason whatsoever shall be immediately reported to the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator of the Zone Associations by the Home Team Club concerned, and it shall be the Home Club in each instance to notify immediately the appointed Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator of the Zone Associations and their opponent of such dislocation.  
Any proposed rearrangements of Fixtures by Member Clubs shall be submitted to the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator of the Zone Associations for approval before any change can be made.  
**NO APPROVAL, NO CHANGE.**
- c. Fixtures must be played on the date and times as nominated in the Official Fixtures List; these dates could include any weekday evening or night Fixtures; any daytime, evening or night Fixtures on Saturdays, Sundays, or Public Holidays.
- d. Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator reserves the right to alter or amend any Fixture after it has been scheduled in the Official Fixture List. Such alterations could be to the date, venue, kick-off times or a combination

of all, providing the Clubs involved are given a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior notice, whenever possible.

- e. The Joint Board of Directors of the Zone Associations ***has the power*** to abandon any Fixture and organize any other Fixture if it deems such action necessary in the interests of the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition.
- f. Washed-out Fixtures are to be re-scheduled within one (1) week of the washout by the two Clubs agreeing on the date, time, and venue of the re-scheduled Fixtures, notifying the Zone Football ZFL Competition Administrator of the agreement and being given approval for these re-scheduled Fixtures.

The re-scheduled Fixtures must be completed within three (3) weeks of the originally scheduled washed out Fixtures.

In the event of the two Clubs being unable to reach agreement on the re-scheduling within the one (1) week period, the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator shall arrange the re-scheduled Fixtures (date/times/venue); the Clubs ***must play*** at the scheduled date/time/venue or forfeit the Fixture(s)

## E26 FORFEITED FIXTURES

A Team that, without cause, fails to fulfil an engagement to play an Official Fixture on the appointed date, time, or venue, shall, for each and every offence, forfeit that Fixture.

The offending Team ***shall*** also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents relative to the Fixture.

- a. A Fixture should start at the stipulated time; however, a Fixture may have a late start of not more than ten (10) minutes after the stipulated starting time. Any Team unable or unwilling to begin a Fixture after this period shall have forfeited the Fixture.

When a Fixture starts later than the stipulated time, short time will be played. Two equal halves are always to be played.

- b. A Team must field at least seven (7) of its eligible Registered Players at the start of the Fixture.

Failure to do so shall result in the offending Team forfeiting the Fixture.

A Team forfeiting on two (2) occasions without an explanation that is satisfactory to the Football Zone may be removed from the Zone Football League Competition.

- c. In the event of a Team forfeiting its Fixture the following procedure shall take effect:-
  - Full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to its Opponent Team and the Fixture score shall be recorded as three (3)

goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) to the forfeiting Team.

- The offending Team shall pay all appropriate Referee and Assistant Referee(s) Fees and such compensation as shall be determined by the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator.
- The offending Team may be liable for further penalty and Fines as determined by the Joint Zone Associations Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).

***A possible exception to this rule:***

- \* is that The **LOWEST** grade is the only Zone Football League (ZFL) grade that may be forfeited when Player numbers are insufficient (e.g., for L1 & L2, third grade; for L3 reserve grade).
  - \* In an extreme case a Club may forfeit all three grades; but it may not forfeit e.g., reserves when first and third play.
- d. In the event of a Fixture being forfeited by a Team, the Home Club **must** also enter the Match result online as a forfeit noting the '***GIVING FORFEIT***' and '***RECEIVING FORFEIT***' Teams (note that the score of 3-0 must **NOT** be entered.
- Fines **will be** imposed for non-compliance with this Regulation.
- e. In the event of a Team forfeiting a Finals Series Fixture, the Team will be automatically disqualified from any further participation in the Finals Series.
- f. **In the event** of a Team forfeiting a Competition Fixture, the notification of the forfeit must be received by the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time of the Fixture; failure to notify before the deadline will result in a Fine being imposed on the offending Team's Club by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary.
- g. In the event of a Team forfeiting its Fixture, a Fine will be imposed on the Club/Team by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary.
- In the event** of a repeated offence, the Club/Team may be charged with bringing the game into disrepute after referral to the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary and may be subject to further Fines and/or Sanctions.
- h. **In the event** of a Club/Team forfeiting its scheduled Fixture within any of the last 4 competition rounds, notification must be given by 4 pm 3 days prior to the scheduled Fixture, an increased Fine value will be imposed on the Club/Team by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary; and in the event of a second or further repeated offence, the Club/Team will be charged with bringing the game into disrepute after referral to the

Competition Administrator - Disciplinary who will subject the Club/Team to further Fines and/or Sanctions.

## E27 APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS/FIXTURES

A Member Club ***shall not allow*** its Teams to play in any other Competition in opposition to these Football Zone Competitions unless it has received prior written approval from the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator.

A Member Club shall seek the permission of the Football Zone and Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator in writing and/or by emailing on Club letterhead so as to notify of any other Events it proposes to conduct in each season and/or apply online to NNSW Football for permission to conduct Football Clinics and/or Out of Season activities it may propose.

Minimum notice required to be given to the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator and/or NNSW Football, is seven (7) days, and the submission must state the type of activity, full list of the participants and full details relevant to the proposed event.

Member Clubs that conduct such events without seeking and gaining the approval of the Football Zone or the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator, NNSW Football will be subject to disciplinary action.

## E28 DEFERMENT OF FIXTURES OR COMPETITION

A Member Club ***may seek*** the permission of the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator to have a Fixture(s) deferred, providing that such a deferment shall be requested in writing/emailed on Club letterhead at least eight (8) days prior to the Fixture.

- a. ***Only*** after the Joint Zone Associations Competition Administrators and Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator, having conferred and at their sole discretion, they may decide to:
  - defer a ZFL Competition (***Refer to Appendix A***)
- b. The Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator shall arrange re-scheduled dates, times, and venues for the deferred Competition, provided always that the Joint Competition Administrators of the Zone Associations may at their discretion declare the Competition abandoned.
- c. Approval of a Deferment will be given only when the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator has determined, at his/her discretion, that the request is of sufficient weight to merit the granting of a Deferment.
- d. Upon the granting of a requested Deferment the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator shall arrange a re-scheduled date for the playing of the Deferred Fixture provided always that the Zone Football League (ZFL)

Competition Administrator may at his/her discretion declare the Fixture abandoned.

- e. Upon the granting of a requested Deferment, the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator shall notify each competing Club of the time, date and venue of the re-scheduled Deferred Fixture and shall also notify the NSW Football Referees Department of these details of the re-scheduled Deferred Fixture.
- f. A Deferred Fixture not played in accordance with Regulation E28 (e) shall not be recognised by the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator and the Teams concerned may be subject to Disciplinary action by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary including the loss of points gained for the Fixture.

Only a Fixture authorized by Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator shall be recognised.

- g. Clubs will not be granted a Fixture Deferment when the Club's request is made on the basis of a potential shortage of Registered Players due to external non-football events, such as but not limited to events such as NRL State of Origin matches, popular events such as 'Groovin the Moo', attendance at weddings etc.

In all such situations, the playing of a Fixture in accordance with the published Fixtures Draw will take precedence over other external events.

## **E29 ABANDONMENT OF FIXTURES OR SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE**

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

- a. Determine the result of the abandoned Fixture.  
Determine whether the Fixture should be re-played and under what conditions. Impose such *penalties and/or Fines* as it shall deem fit on Member Clubs, Teams, Team Officials, Players and/or Spectators adjudged to be associated with the Abandonment.
- b. In respect of the above *Regulation E29 a.*, the decision of the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary shall be final and not subject to an appeal to another authority.

The action of the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary in respect of penalties imposed in this regard shall be distinct from the decisions as determined by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary in respect of Member Clubs, Team Officials and Registered Players charged with offences by a Referee and/or Assistant Referee(s) in relation to these matters.

## E30 INCOMPLETE FIXTURES

Any Fixture which *does not reach* its natural conclusion may be an Abandoned Fixture.

This may occur when:

- \* the Referee ends the Match short of the scheduled finishing time due to player misbehaviour, spectator Interference, Lightning, Heat, etc.,

Or,

- \* a Time-Completed Fixture when the Referee ends the Match at the scheduled finishing time despite play having been halted for some of the scheduled Match time due to a seriously injured player being treated/removed from the field by ambulance officers at some time after the injury.

Note that a Time-Completed Fixture is **NOT** an Abandoned Fixture.

- Any Fixture abandoned or stopped during the first half, at the half-time break and up to the actual start of the second half (i.e., the blowing of the whistle by the Referee to commence the second half) shall be deemed NOT to have reached its natural conclusion and will be re-scheduled for play at a date, time and place as determined by the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administration of the Zone Associations.
- Any Fixture abandoned or stopped during the second half (i.e., at any time after blowing of the whistle by the Referee to commence the second half) shall be deemed to have reached its natural conclusion and **will NOT** be re-scheduled.
- The score at the time of the abandonment and/or stoppage will be taken as the final Match score and Match result.
- Any Fixture that is interrupted and stopped due to an injury; where no further play has been possible after the injury has occurred; and all the Match time has elapsed after the injury has occurred shall be determined as above.

Refer to ***Rule D30 Clause a. and/or b*** above in making such determination.

## E31 FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED

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

In the case of wet weather washouts, the Home Club **must report** the ground(s) as unfit for play by ***the nominated time***; an Ovals Board, Council Official or

Club Official who has the power to call out the use of the ground may declare the ground(s) as unfit for play.

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

- a. **Rule E25 d. and e.** shall apply.

Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator of the Zone Associations reserves the right to alter or amend any Fixture after it has been scheduled in the Official Fixture List.

Such alterations could be to the date, venue, kick-off times or a combination of all, providing the Member Clubs involved are given seven (7) days prior notice, wherever possible.

The Competition Administrator of the Zone Football League (ZFL) has the power to abandon any Fixture and organise any other Fixture if it deems such action necessary in the interests of the Finals Series Competition.

- b. Efforts will be made by the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator to re-locate or re-schedule washed out Finals Series Matches to a suitable alternative venue if the original venue is washed out.
- c. In the event of a complete or major washout in any one set of Finals Series Fixtures, the Joint Zones Football Competition Administrator or Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator may seek to put the season back one (1) week **IF THIS IS POSSIBLE**.
- d. If it is not possible to achieve any of the outcomes in ***E31 a., b. or c.***, the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator shall declare the Finals Series Event for a specific ZFL grade or for all ZFL grades to be **CANCELLED**.
- e. **Zone Football League (ZFL) Four (5) Team Final Series Format:**

In the event of the **CANCELLATION** of **ONE** of the Zones Football League (ZFL) Competition **QUALIFICATION or ELIMINATION FINAL** Matches, the higher positioned Team on the Premiership Competition Points Table score will progress to the **SEMI-FINAL (Major/Minor)** for the Winner of the **QUALIFICATION or ELIMINATION FINAL** Matches, depending on which match is cancelled.

Whilst the lower positioned Team on the Premiership Competition Points Table score shall be eliminated.

In the event of the **CANCELLATION** of **ONE** of the Zones Football League (ZFL) Competition **SEMI-FINALS (Major/Minor)** Matches, the higher positioned Team on the Premiership Competition Points Table score will progress to the **PRELIMINARY FINAL or GRAND FINAL** for the Winner

of the **MINOR SEMI-FINAL or MAJOR SEMI-FINAL** Matches, depending on which match is cancelled.

Whilst the lower positioned Team on the Premiership Competition Points Table score shall be eliminated.

In the event of the **CANCELLATION** of the Zones Football League (ZFL) Competition **PRELIMINARY FINAL** match, the higher positioned Team on the Premiership Competition Points Table score will progress to the **GRAND FINAL**.

Whilst the lower positioned Team on the Premiership Competition Points Table score shall be eliminated.

- f. In the event of the **CANCELLATION** of the Zones Football League (ZFL) Competition **GRAND FINAL** match, the Grand Final round for the Division/Grade for the cancelled Match shall be declared **NULL AND VOID** and the competition shall be declared **COMPLETED**.

No Grand Final Winner or Grand Finalist (Grand Final Runner-Up) shall be declared since no Match has been played.

## **E32 TEAMS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITION & FINAL SERIES**

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

- a. Team removed or withdrawn before the Competition has started and a suitable Team not able to be found to replace a Team removed or withdrawn then a **BYE** result may apply in the Competition.
- b. Team removed or withdrawn during the first round of Competition – each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals deleted from its records and shall be credited instead with a **BYE** result; each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a **BYE** result.
- c. Team removed or withdrawn during the second round of Competition – each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals for the second Round removed from its record and shall be credited with a **BYE** result. Each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a **BYE** result.
- d. If at the discretion of the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator **Rule E32 c.** is found to be impractical then each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals for the second round removed from its record and shall be credited with a **Forfeit result**. Each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a **Forfeit result**.

- e. If a Team is removed or withdraws from the Final Series then, at the discretion of the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator acting for the Joint Board of the Football Zones, either:
  - i. a **BYE** situation will be declared, or
  - ii. a Team will be promoted based on its position on the Competition Points Table (i.e., position on the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Premiership Points Table) to take the place of the Removed or Withdrawn Team.
- f. The Competition Administrator - Disciplinary ***shall act*** on any infringement of ***Rule E32 a., b., c., d. & e.*** by subjecting the Member Club to which that Team belongs to a Fine and/or a Sanction as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

### E33 A COLOUR CLASH

In the event of a Colour Clash of playing strips, the Visiting Team will be required to change its strip (i.e., play in an alternate colour strip to the Home Team).

- a. The perception of a colour clash and the consequent required change of strip in the event of a colour clash shall be at the sole discretion of the Referee; his/her decision shall be final.
- b. In a Finals Series Fixture or a Special Competition – the Team named first of the two Teams in the Fixture Draw shall be deemed to be the **HOME TEAM**.
- c. The colour of the Goalkeeper's shirt must be in all cases distinguishable from the colour of shirts worn by Players.
  - The Goalkeeper shall wear socks in accordance with the duly approved colours of the Team.
  - The Referee may at his/her discretion approve that a Player may wear tracksuit trousers or long pants of an acceptable colour, with team socks clearly visible - socks **must be** worn on the **outside** of the trousers/pants.
  - Should a goalkeeper take the place of a field Player during a Fixture, said goalkeeper must wear the same colour shorts, shirt, and socks as the rest of the Team.
- d. No Team shall be permitted to play in colours likely to be mistaken for those of the Match Officials.
  - Colours worn by Ball-persons shall be distinct from those worn by either of the competing Teams.
- e. The Competition Administrator - Disciplinary shall deal with any failure to comply with ***Regulation E33 a., b., c., & d.*** and subject the offending Team's

Club to a Fine and/or Sanction as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

## **E34 DIGITAL TEAM SHEETS**

- a. The Official Digital Team Sheet for every Joint Zones Associations Competition Fixture played on a Club Home Ground during any day shall be found on the Squadi App as uploaded by the Joint Zones Association's Competition Administrator.
- b. The Official Digital Team Sheet for every Joint Zones Associations Competition Fixture are to be completed online via Squadi.
- c. Team Sheets for all Joint Zones Associations Competition Fixtures must be completed prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
- d. Changes to the Team sheet can only be permitted up till the scheduled kick-off time.

## **E35 DIGITAL TEAM SHEET DETAILS**

- a. A Team Official from each Team shall have the appropriate Digital Team Sheet completed not later than the scheduled kick-off time of that fixture.
- b. The eleven (11) Players first named should, where possible, start the Fixture, the others being designated/indicated as Interchange Players.
- c. The Official Digital Team Sheet indicates spaces for 16 Player Names and four Team Officials – Coach, Manager, Team Official, Team Official - Names to be entered.
  - **ZFL First and Reserve Grades** may indicate 16 Names on the Official Digital Team Sheet and these 16 named Players may sit on the Bench; however, a Maximum of 16 Players (11 Starting + 5 Substitutes) shall participate in the Match.
  - **ZFL Third Grades** may indicate 16 Names on the Official Digital Team Sheet and these 16 named Players may sit on the Bench; a Maximum of 16 Players (11 Starting + 5 Interchange) shall participate in the Match.

No more than five (5) Interchange Players may be named or indicated on the Digital Team Sheet.

- d. The number on a Player's shirt shall correspond with the Player's name and number on the Official Digital Team Sheet and there should be no change of a number before or during a Fixture **except** on a change of Goalkeeper.
- e. A Team Official shall indicate the name and number of each Player in the Team on the Digital Team Sheet.
- f. The name and origin (age grade/division) of a Player temporarily playing in another team (***a Borrowed Player***) will be indicated on the Digital Team

Sheet when the Team Official enters the name of this player; such Player names must appear in the interchange section of the Digital Team Sheet.

- g.** A Player's name cannot be added to the Official Digital Team Sheet once the game has commenced.
- h.** The Referee shall endorse the Interchange of a Goalkeeper on the Digital Team Sheet.
- i.** When a Fixture is forfeited, the Digital Team Sheet shall be recorded accordingly by the Referee or Club Referee.
- j.** Should a Team Official have a reasonable doubt regarding the eligibility of an opposing Player(s) named on the Digital Team Sheet, he/she should advise his/her Club Secretary or another Executive Officer of their Club.

The Member Club shall submit by e-mail a written submission on its official letterhead certified by the Secretary or another Executive Officer outlining the Dispute to the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary ([disciplinary@macquariefootball.com](mailto:disciplinary@macquariefootball.com)) within two (2) days/forty-eight (48) hours of the incident (*Refer to Regulation A15*).

The Player(s) will be allowed to play in the Fixture and the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary shall adjudicate on the eligibility of the Player(s).

- k.** A person found guilty of supplying false information on a Digital Team Sheet shall be dealt with as determined by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary.
- l.** Failure by any Club to adhere to the preceding rules of **E33** shall be subject to action by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary, which could result in Fines and/or loss of points and/or suspensions being imposed.
- m.** The completed Digital Official Team Sheet is to be received at this Office no later than seventy-two (72) hours following the completion of the Fixture.
  - i.** Official Digital Team Sheets for weekend Fixtures must be received at the Joint Zones Association Competition Management website at Macquarie Football Zone Office before 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the weekend Fixtures.
  - ii.** Official Digital Team Sheets for midweek Fixtures must be received at the Macquarie Football Office no later than seventy-two (72) hours following completion of the midweek Fixtures.
- n.** In the event of the Referee needing to record disciplinary matters from the match, it will be necessary for the Team Official(s) to wait until the Referee has finished his/her recording before being able to certify the correctness of all information on the Official Digital Team Sheet.
- o.** A Team Official from each competing Team (Home and Away) ***must validate*** the data on the Official Digital Team Sheet, within thirty (30)

minutes of the Match completion, to ensure that all the *recorded RESULTS* are accurate.

- p. In the event of a discrepancy being identified by either Club that cannot be resolved on the day of the Match, the Team Official shall by indicating in the Fixture Dispute Box on the Digital Team Sheet.
- q. The Team Official must also report the Dispute to his/her Club, in turn the Member Club must then notify, by e-mail, a written submission on its official letterhead certified by the Secretary or another Executive Officer outlining the Dispute to the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary (disciplinary@macquariefootball.com) within two (2) days/forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the Match. (*Refer to Regulation E21*).

The Competition Administrator – Disciplinary will review and adjudicate on the alleged discrepancy within a workable time frame.

- r. Failure of the Team Official to validate the Official Digital Official Team Sheet is an offence and may delay updating of Competition Results; it may be subject to a Fine as determined annually and it negates any future claim or protest against the Official Digital Team sheet information.
- s. As soon as possible after the validating of the Official Digital Team Sheet by the Team Official(s) the Match Official in charge is to ensure the Fixture has been uploaded, to ensure the match fee payments of all Match Officials appointed to the Fixture can be paid.
- t. Should an Official Referee not be present at the Fixture, then it shall be the responsibility of the Home Club to complete the Official Digital Team Sheet before, during, after and upload it to the appropriate online address.

## E36 SUBSTITUTION AND/OR INTERCHANGE OF A PLAYER

- a. The Substitution of Players Rule ***will be*** used in Zone Football League (ZFL) First and Reserve Grade in each Division. i.e.,
  - League 1 – First and Reserve Grades.
  - League 2 – First and Reserve Grades.
  - League 3 – First Grades.
- i. Substitution of a Player shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. (Law 3 – The Players, Section 2, Section 3, Section 4)
- ii. The Substitution can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

A Substitute Player's name shall be nominated on the Team Sheet prior to commencement of the Fixture.

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

- iii. Only the Team Coach, Manager and Players eligible for the Match (as indicated on the Official Team Sheet) are to be in the Technical/Bench Area.

*No other persons are permitted (See Regulation E33 e).*

- b. Interchange of Players is applicable in Zone Football League Third Grades in each Division where these are available i.e.,
  - League 1 – Third Grade.
  - League 2 – Third Grade.
  - League 3 – Reserve Grade

- i. Interchange of Players must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Each Competing Team may at its discretion use five (5) Interchange Players in any Fixture.

These Interchange Players' names shall be nominated on the Official Team Sheet prior to commencement of the Fixture.

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

If a designated Goalkeeper is named, he/she is permitted to interchange only with the Goalkeeper.

- ii. Interchange is not limited but neither is it compulsory to use a set number of Interchanges or to use any Interchanges at all – this is optional only.
- iii. Interchange during the Match can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.
- iv. Only the Team Coach, Manager and Players eligible for the Match (as named on the Official Team Sheet) are to be in the Technical/Bench Area.

*No other persons are permitted (See Regulation E 33 e).*

## **D37 LIQUIDS DURING PLAY**

- a. Non-Alcoholic liquids may only be drunk during stoppages in play
- b. Drinks must be contained in plastic bottles and handed to the Players on the side lines.
- c. It is an offence and forbidden to throw bottles or other receptacles on to the Field of Play.
- d. The goalkeeper may keep a plastic bottle in the corner of his/her goal.

- e. Plastic bottles may be placed around the pitch at least one (1) metre away from the side lines and goal lines, but only as long as they do not obstruct the Match Officials in the course of their duty

## **E38 MATCH OFFICIALS**

Each Fixture, wherever possible, should be played under the control of an Official Referee and Assistant Referees (hereinafter called the Match Officials) appointed by the NNSW Football Match Official Appointments Officer.

In the event of no Official Referee being in attendance or appointed to the Fixture, then:

- a. The Home Team shall appoint a Club Referee for the Fixture.  
Failure to do so shall be regarded as a ***FORFEIT*** to the Visiting Team.  
Failure of the Visiting Team to accept the appointed Club person shall be regarded as a FORFEIT to the Home Team.
- b. The appointed person shall take to the centre of the field.  
Failure of either Team to take to the field within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time will mean a Forfeit to the opposing Team.  
The appointed Club person shall assume the full responsibility of a Referee and shall be treated accordingly.
- c. The appointed person must be at least eighteen (18) years of age or older, have a good understanding of the Laws of the Game and be of suitable fitness and health ; he/she
- d. In the event of an Official Referee failing to appear, and the matter reported by the Home Team to the Zone Association who shall keep a comprehensive list of all non-attendance of Official Referees.
- e. Clubs are to keep an up-to-date register of Club personnel who have completed the Club Refereeing course and are willing and able to act as Club Referees by appointment by the Club when no Official Referee is appointed to or fails to attend and officiate at a match to which he/she has been appointed.  
Such Club Referees must be registered as both a Volunteer and Club Referee in Play Football (there is no cost for this registration).  
A copy of the current list of Registered Club Referees must be regularly provided to the Match Official Appointments Officer by the Club responsible for the registration.
- f. A Registered Club Referee shall be paid 75% of the Official Referee Fee applicable to the age/grade Match on which he/she officiates due to appointment by the Club.

A Non-Registered Club Referee shall be paid 50% of the Official Referee Fee applicable to the Age/Grade Match on which he/she officiates due to appointment by the Club.

Any Official Referee who acts as a 'Club Referee' by request of a Club and without any Official appointment by the Match Official Appointments Officer shall be paid zero fee for the Match; and he/she will be subject to disciplinary action on a charge of breaching Rules and bringing the game into disrepute.

Any Club found to be overpaying these 'Club Referees' will be subject to disciplinary action by the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary involving fines and/or sanctions.

## E39 MATCH OFFICIAL - REFEREEING

- a. Where possible a Referee should attend the ground at least fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start time of his/her appointed Fixture.
- b. The Referee shall wait for a minimum of ten (10) minutes after the time arranged for the commencement of the Fixture before abandoning the Fixture because of the absence of a Team.
- c. The Referee shall decide as to the fitness of the ground for play in all Fixtures.
- d. When the Referee finds it necessary to stop play owing to inclement weather or other causes, he/she shall wait a reasonable length of time before deciding to abandon the Fixture.
- e. The Referee is to record each Player Caution and/or Send-Off on the Official Digital Team Sheet, as per the Regulations governing these incidents.

The Referee and Assistant Referees may be required to attend a Disciplinary Committee Hearing upon request by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).

**Failure to comply** with this Regulation shall result in the Referee being fined a sum and/or a sanction imposed as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

- f. The Referee is to record, on the Official Digital Team Sheet, the total goals scored by each team.

For the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition **only**, the goal scorers are required to be recorded in the appropriate space on the Official Team Sheet.

Failure to comply with this Regulation shall result in the Referee being fined a sum and/or a sanction imposed as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Football Zones.

- g. A Club Official and/or Team Official may send in a report to the Football Zone or NSW Football Referees Department on the performance of a Referee during a Fixture.

Such a report shall be on Club Letterhead and shall be received by the Joint Football Zones Competition Administrator – Disciplinary no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of the Fixture.

Notice of such a complain should be phoned in to the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator on the day of the Fixture.

## E40 MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES

Match Officials' Fees shall be negotiated between Northern NSW Football and the Referees Standing Committee and shall be determined prior to the commencement of the Zone Football League (ZFL) Registrations and all other Joint Zones Competitions.

- a. In the Zone Football League (ZFL) Division/Grade Competition it is the Home Club's responsibility to cover the Match Officials' Fees of the Appointed Match Officials and pay these Match Officials' Fees in accordance with the Joint Football Zones policies and procedures relating to this matter.

A Home Club that refuses to pay the Match Officials' Fees for the Fixture(s) in accordance with the Joint Football Zones policies and procedures relating to this matter, shall be Fined 10% of the total bill for that round of Football matches of the respective amount (unless there has been prior arrangement between the Football Zone The Zone Football League (ZFL) Division/Grade Competition Administrator shall pay the Match Officials' Fees for any Zone Football League (ZFL) Division/Grade Finals Series Fixtures or a Special Competition(s) Fixture.

- b. The Member Club of the forfeiting team shall be liable for the Match Official Fees if the match is forfeited on Match Day without sufficient notice.

## E41 MASS WALK-OFFS

A Team causing a Fixture to be terminated before its natural conclusion through a 'Mass Walk-Off' or refusal to allow play to continue shall be deemed to have committed serious misconduct against the Joint Zones associations .

As a result, the full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to the Team's opponents and the scores shall be recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed this Regulation.

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

## E42 REFUSAL TO START A FIXTURE

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

The offending Team shall be liable to such further penalty/fines as shall be determined by the Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary), as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Association.

## E43 RING-INS

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

1. A Player playing under another name.
2. A Player playing from another State, Association, League, or Zone Association.
3. An unregistered Player.
4. A player under suspension.
5. A Player deemed to be ineligible to play by the Joint Zones Associations

A Team found to have knowingly or wilfully engaged in the 'Ring-In' of a Player or Players in any Fixture shall be deemed to have been guilty of gross misconduct against the Joint Zones Associations and the full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to the opponents and the scores recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed this Regulation.

The offending Team shall be liable to such further penalty e.g., suspension and/or Fine as determined by the Competitions Administrator - Disciplinary.

## E44 WASHED OUT OR DOUBTFUL FIXTURES

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

- a. A Home Club Official is required to inspect the ground on the day at least two and half (2½) hours before the start of the day's Fixture and decide whether play can safely take place either during the day; such decision is to be given to the Joint Football Zone's Designated Wet Weather Officer no later than 9.00 am on Saturday and to the designated Zone Office by 4.00pm for midweek Fixtures (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday).

Failure of a Home Club to advise the Wet Weather Officer/ Zone Association by the stipulated time shall render the offending Club liable to a Fine, as

determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations, and/or forfeiture of the Fixture.

Wet Weather Officer dedicated phone 0475 878 339 is the contact number for Clubs in all Joint (Hunter Valley, Macquarie, and Newcastle) Zone Associations to notify Saturday/Sunday ground changes.

The Home Club Secretary (Official) *shall also* notify the Visiting Team's Club Secretary that their ground or grounds are closed, and the Football Zone ZFL Appointed Wet Weather Officer has been notified of the closure.

Information regarding and relating to closed grounds/washed out Fixtures ***will be posted*** in each Joint Football Zones website under "Wet Weather" by ***9.30am weekends*** and ***4.30pm midweek***.

The Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator will notify Appointed Referees of ground cancellations.

- b. In the event of a Ground being declared ***unfit for play (CLOSED)***, that Ground shall not be used for any Fixtures ***allocated to the ground*** during that day.
- c. A Club shall advise the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator of Contact names, Addresses and Telephone Numbers of Club Officials who has authority to declare a ***Ground unfit for play (CLOSED)***.

This information for each club shall be provide to the Football Zone ZFL appointed Wet Weather Officer and will be programmed into the Wet Weather Official's (WWO's) dedicated mobile phone Contacts.

The Club person ringing in Club Ground Closures to the Football Zone ZFL Appointed Wet Weather Officer must clearly identify himself/herself as one of the nominated Club Officials who has been given the authority of the Club to close Grounds when necessary.

***Only those Club Official*** contacts registered can call out grounds – calls from any contact/number not registered ***will not*** be taken seriously and any information given will not be posted on the website under "Wet Weather".

- d. Where a Club has ***two (2) or more*** Home Grounds and ***only one (1)*** Home Ground has been declared unfit for play (***CLOSED***), then the other Home Ground(s) shall be deemed playable (***OPEN***).

In such cases the separate Grounds must be clearly identified by number or name, as in the Fixtures Draw, so that there is no confusion about games that are on or off.

- e. A Ground that has been declared fit for play (***OPEN***) shall have its scheduled Fixtures played on it.
- f. For the Zone Football League (ZFL) Division/Grade Competitions ***only***:

- i. In the event of a Fixture being washed out, the Fixture may be reversed at the discretion of the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator.
- ii. In the event of a Fixture being washed out, it shall be the responsibility of the Home Club in agreement with the Visiting Team Club to reset the Fixture.

Once the Clubs have agreed on the date, the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator must be notified of the re-scheduled arrangement; and he/she must approve the arrangement and shall arrange for Referees to be appointed to the re-set Fixture.

- iii. ***Refer to Rule E24 f. ii.*** A Washed-out Fixture ***MUST BE RESET*** within one (1) week of the Fixture being washed out and ***MUST BE PLAYED*** within three (3) weeks of the Fixture being washed out.

If the Clubs cannot reach agreement on the re-scheduled Fixture by the end of the one (1) week period from the original washout, the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator shall re-set the Fixture; in such a case the Fixture shall be played (or forfeited) under this arrangement.

- iv. Re-scheduled Weeknight Fixtures are subject to the condition that the latest time for such a Fixture to kick-off is 8.00pm.  
***No later times are permitted.***
- v. Any washed-out Fixture not re-set and played by the end of the Final Competition Round shall be declared a 1 – 1 drawn result.

## **E45 BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS, AND SUPPORTERS**

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

Each Member Club shall ensure that all Players, Team Officials and Supporters are made aware of the Code of Conduct regarding behaviour required to be demonstrated, when attending any event (training, trial games, Official Fixtures, etc.,) held at their Home ground(s) or at Away grounds.

A person or persons found guilty of misconduct, thus bringing the Code and his/her Club and/or Team into disrepute, shall receive penalties and/or Fines as determined by the Competition Administrator -Disciplinary.

## **E46 GROUNDS**

F.I.F.A. - IFAB Laws of the Game - Law 1 – The Field of Play, this applies for all ground surfaces, Ground markings, dimensions, goal areas, fixtures (goal

posts, corner posts, commercial advertising, logos, and emblems, etc.), and fittings (nets, technical area dugouts and benches, etc.).

## **E47 BORROWED PLAYERS' QUALIFICATIONS – COMPETITION AND FINAL SERIES –**

The following shall apply in all Zone Football League (ZFL) Division/Grade Competitions and their Finals Series:-

- a. The name and grade of any registered Player(s) temporarily playing in a higher grade (referred to as ***BORROWED PLAYER(S)***) shall be recorded on the Official Team Sheet
- b. A ***MAXIMUM of FOUR (4)*** Players borrowed from other Teams registered in the same Club shall be permitted in a Zone Football League (ZFL) Team that is short of some of its own registered Players irrespective of the total number of Players registered in that Team and the number of registered Players of that Team unavailable.

But if the Player(s) are registered to a Zone Football League (ZFL) Team they are eligible for the ***lowest grade Team only*** i.e.,

ZFL1, ZFL2 – Third Grade only.

ZFL3 – Reserve Grade only.

- c. ***A BORROWED PLAYER*** is one who is not registered for Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition but is registered by the Member Club in any of that Club's Teams competing in the Joint Zone Associations Age/Grade Competitions.
- d. ***A BORROWED PLAYER*** can only take the field of play or be included in the starting eleven if there is ***NO*** ZFL Team Registered Player(s) on the Bench (i.e.: named as an Interchange, Substitute or Reserve on the Official Team Sheet); otherwise, such Borrowed Player(s) must start from the Bench.
- e. ***A BORROWED PLAYER*** may not take the field of play (as an Interchange, Substitute or Reserve on the Official Team Sheet) in precedence of a Registered ZFL Player if that Registered ZFL Player is named on the Official Team Sheet.
- f. Providing ***Regulation E47 a., b., c., d, and e.*** are adhered to, there are no restrictions on the number of games in which a Borrowed Player may participate.
- g. Providing ***Regulation E47 a., b., c., d, and e.*** are adhered to, a Player may play in more than one (1) Semi Final, Final or Grand Final.
- h. Failure to comply with ***Regulation E47 a., b., c., d, and e.*** by the Team's Club shall result in loss of Match points, Semi Final, Final or Grand Final and/or a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zones Association.

## E48 TEAM CAPTAIN

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

For ***all*** Zone Football League (ZFL) Division/Grade Competitions, failure to observe this Regulation may result in a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zones Association.

## E49 PLAYER PHOTO IDENTITY

Player Photo Identity is required for ***ALL*** Players in ***ALL*** Zone Football League (ZFL) Competitions.

### 1. PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

The photograph ***must be*** a high-definition coloured photograph that is not more than twelve months old and taken as a 'passport style', that is, showing:

- full face,
- front on,
- from top of head to top of shoulders,
- Clear, focused image with no marks or 'red eye'.
- Plain white or light grey background that contrasts with your face.
- Uniform lighting (no shadows or reflections), with appropriate brightness and contrast to show natural skin tone.
- Face centred and looking at the camera straight on; not tilted in any direction.
- Hair off your face, so that the edges of your face are visible.
- Eyes open, mouth closed.
- Neutral expression (not smiling, laughing, or frowning)
- Photos have to be 35mm to 40mm wide and 45mm to 50mm high.
- The size of the face from chin to crown can be up to a maximum of 36mm, with a minimum of 32mm.

#### ACCEPTABLE



#### UNACCEPTABLE



Acceptable

Side on to camera

Hair obscuring face

**ACCEPTABLE**

**UNACCEPTABLE**



Acceptable

Insufficient Contrast

Background not plain

**ACCEPTABLE**

**UNACCEPTABLE**



Acceptable

Background too dark

Eyes/edges of face obscured

**ACCEPTABLE**

**UNACCEPTABLE**



Acceptable

No glasses

Shadows on image and background

© [Photo Requirements | Australian Passport Office](#)

**a. *Head coverings***

If you usually cover your head for religious reasons, then you can wear the covering in your Player Photo Identity.

Religious head coverings have to be plain, without patterns (even small patterns), and be worn in a way that shows your face from the bottom of the chin to the top of the forehead.

The edges of your face on either side also have to be visible.

***NO HATS, CAPS OR BANDANAS ARE ALLOWED.***

**b. *Jewellery and piercings***

Jewellery can't obscure any part of your face, especially the area around your eyes, mouth, and nose.

There can't be any reflection from rings or studs.

**c. *Glasses***

Glasses of any sort are ***not allowed*** in Player Photo Identity.

If you cannot remove your glasses for medical reasons, the frames can't obscure your eyes and there can't be any reflection from the lenses.

***Note:*** vision impairment alone is not an acceptable reason to wear glasses in a Player Photo Identity.

When such Player registers on-line, he/she must also upload his/her photograph as part of the online registration process.

The photograph ***must be*** of a quality acceptable to the Zone Association, which reserves the right to reject any sub-standard photographs and require another suitable photograph to be submitted.

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

- the Club has accepted the Player registration.
- the Zone Association has accepted the Player's uploaded registration photograph and Player registration.

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

The Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator will maintain, for each ZFL registered squad, a set of Team Sheet showing the details and identification photograph of each Player registered in the ZFL registered squad.

This may be used by the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary and/or Joint Zone Associations Directors/Officials in checking Player identity, submitted protests on Player eligibility, disputes on alleged ‘ring-in’ players; and may also be used in checking Players taking to the field in matches, either on a random or specific basis (such as Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Final Fixtures).

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

- \* **Advise** the opposing Club of its intention to report the matter to the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary.
- \* **Sign** the Disputes Box on the Team Match Sheet; and
- \* **Submit** a written report by e-mail to the Competition Administrator -Disciplinary (disciplinary@macquariefootball.com) within two (2) days/forty-eight (48) hours of the Incident (**Refer to Regulation E33 j.**).

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

## **E50 FINAL SERIES PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

1. The only criteria for eligibility of a Borrowed Player for Finals Series Matches are the normal criteria for a Borrowed Player to be eligible to participate in Competition Matches during the regular season. For all ZFL squad players to qualify for the Final Series:-
  - a. The grade a Player has played the highest percentage of their Matches in is the lowest grade in which they are eligible to participate in the Final Series.
    - i. A Player is eligible to participate in the lowest grade they qualify for in accordance with (a) and grades above.



Grades on the one day in Qualifying Rounds is evaluated as *playing in the higher Grade*.

- \* A **NON-PLAYING** Substitute, Reserve, or Interchange Player i.e., a Player who has been listed on the Official Team Sheet for a Match but has not actually taken to the field of play for that Match *is deemed not to have participated* in that Match for the purposes of eligibility.

## **D51 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

Club shall be promoted or relegated by the following means:-

- a. The last placed Team (based on First Grade Competition Premiership Points) shall be relegated for the next season; the first placed Team (based on First Grade Competition Premiership Points) shall be promoted for the next season.
- b. Promotion and Relegation shall be **COMPULSORY** between Northern League 1, Zone Leagues 1,2,3.
- c. In the event of a Club withdrawing from the Competition the Joint Zone Associations Board may seek to replace that Club by promoting a Club on the basis of:-
  - i. Position on Competition Points Table of previous Season.
  - ii. Calling for nominations to fill the position with criteria as determined by the Joint Zone Associations Board Panel of the Zone Associations and the Zone Football League (ZFL) Competition Administrator being used to select a suitable replacement.
- d. The Joint Zone Associations Board of the Zone Associations reserves the right to vary or change the number of Clubs participating in the ZFL Division Competitions on the basis of criteria, performance, applications, discipline, or any other reasons it believes are valid, fair, and equitable.

## **RESOURCES:**

Northern NSW Football: [Promotion, Relegation & League Structure](#)

## **APPENDIX A:**

### **SUPPLEMENTAL PLAYING RULES FOR DEFERRED COMPETITIONS**

*(to be read in conjunction with the Joint Zone Associations Regulation D or E Playing Rules)*

These rules are to be in force if there is a need by the Joint Zones Associations to alter competitions from the normal scheduled Winter Season of Football.

***Should a conflict occur between these Supplemental Playing Rules and the normal Joint Zone Associations Playing Rules, these rules will take precedence.***

## **1. REGISTRATION CUT-OFF**

**1.1. No registration** will be accepted after 5.00pm on the **last scheduled** day of Round 7 of the altered Competition

**1.2.** This cut-off date also includes any Deregistrations for the altered season.

## **2. RESCHEDULING OF WASH OUT, DEFERRED, OR ABANDONED FIXTURES**

In the event of a fixture being washed out, deferred, or abandoned the score will be recorded as 1-1.

## **3. MID-WEEK GAMES**

**3.1** In the event fixtures need to be scheduled mid-week, these games will take preference over training.

**3.2** Where possible mid-week games will be allocated in the original draw.

## **4. FORFEITS**

**4.1** All forfeits will be reviewed by the Joint Competition Administrators and if necessary, will be referred to the Joint Competition Administrator – Disciplinary.

## **5. KICK OFF TIMES**

**5.1** In the event that a Kick Off time has to be changed every attempt will be made by the Competition Administrator to notify the Teams/Match Officials involved.

The decision of the Competition Administrator for the new time is final.

## **6. FINAL SERIES**

**6.1** The choice of whether a Final Series will be played will be dependent on the time available for the deferred competition.

**6.2** The Joint Board will determine whether a Final Series will be held prior to the commencement of the competition

## **7. COMPETITION WINNERS**

**7.1** In the event there is no Final Series the winners of the Competitions will be decided by who comes first on the table (Premiers).

**7.2** Gold medals will be awarded to the Premiers

## **8. SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

- 8.1** If warranted, any special regulations that are required for the deferred competitions, these will be distributed to Clubs prior to the season start.

Approved and Issued: February 2024

Assessment/Review: **January 2025**