



REGULATION D: Playing Rules for Joint Zone Associations Competitions

Summary

These Rules and Regulations provide information about:

- i. Regulation D – Playing Rules for All Joint Football Zones Competitions**
 - **Age Grade Divisions 12 – 25**
 - **Over 35 Age Grade Divisions**
 - **Over 45 Age Grade Divisions**
 - **All-Age Grade Divisions**
 - **Women’s Age Grade Divisions 12 – 18,**
 - **Women’s Over 30, and All-Age Grade Divisions**

that the Joint Zone Associations 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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D01 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 Zone Association'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.

D02 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 involved in Joint Zone Associations Competitions of:
 - Age Grade Divisions 12 – 25
 - Over 35 Age Grade Divisions
 - Over 45 Age Grade Divisions
 - All-Age Grade Divisions
 - Women's Age Grade Divisions 12 – 18,
 - Women's Over 30, and
 - Women's All-Age Grade Divisions

may arrange through the Zone Association an alternative venue for that date and time. The Zone Association ***must be notified*** of any change of venue as soon as possible but not later than eight (8) days before the scheduled date.

- 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.

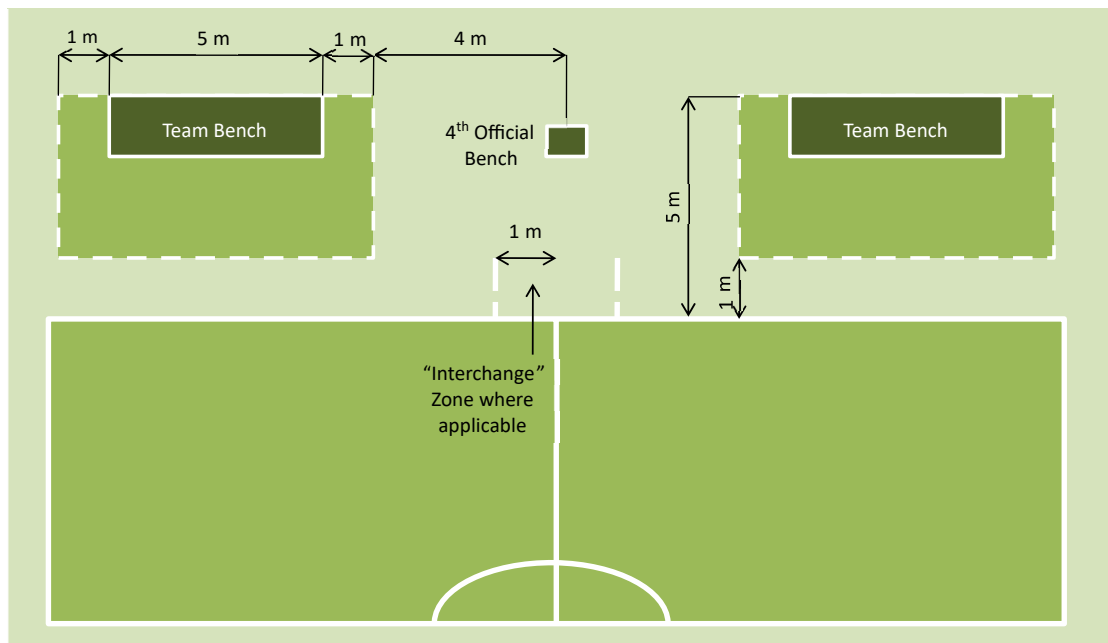
- c. Provide a **“TECHNICAL AREA”** on each field at their venue.

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

The Technical Area must:

- Contain two (2) team benches, capable of seating nine (9) people on each bench
- 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 ONE (1)** nominated and readily identifiable **GROUND OFFICIAL (DUTY OFFICER)** and **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 D08, Rule D19 and Rule D25**).

Failure to comply with this **Regulation D02** or part thereof will result in a forfeit to the opposing Team and a fine as determined annually.

- e. In the event that a Club Referee is appointed to a fixture/match, the result of each Fixture is to be uploaded to the “Online” 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 or by 9:00am of the following morning after a mid-week match(es); 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 is advised of the cancellation (refer to **Rule D44**).
- 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 D02 b.** and should report any breaches in writing to the Zone Association.

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 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 its Zone Association through their member Club 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 Zone Association and/or Competition Administrator together with the executive of the Club concerned shall inspect that Ground and determine the fitness of that Ground.

D03 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 be seated on the bench.
Only one (1) Team Official at a time is authorised to convey tactical/coaching instructions from the technical area.

D04 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.

In Final series we have teams who advance to the next Finals game who will be regarded as the lower team on the competitions points table however, they beat the higher placed team so as to advance to the next Finals game and are thus regarded as the Home team.

D05 POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME GROUND

Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Zone Association 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 that the Zone Association Competition Administrator **may determine** provided that reasonable notice is given to the Team(s) participating in the Competition.

D06 THE COMPETITION 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.

D07 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.

Footballs 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:-

- **6, 7, 8, 9 Age Grades**
 - use a Size 3 Ball – minimum diameter 53cm/max 59cm.
- **10,11,12,13 Age Grades**
 - use a Size 4 Ball – minimum diameter 61cm/max 66cm.
- **14,15,16,17,18, 25 Age Grades, All Age Grades, O/35, and other Seniors Grades**
 - use a size 5 Ball – minimum diameter 67cm/max 72cm.

D08 PLAYING TIMES

- a. The following shall be the Playing Times:

All Age Men's A, Women's Division A	45 minutes each half
All Age, O/35, O/45, All other Women's Divisions	40 minutes each half
17 – 25 Age Grade - Mixed and Female	40 minutes each half
15 & 16 Age Grade - Mixed and Female	35 minutes each half
13 & 14 Age Grade - Mixed and Female	30 minutes each half
12 Age Grade - Mixed and Female	25 minutes each half

- 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. ***NO extra time*** shall be added on to Playing Time for any Zone Association Joint Competition Age Grade Division including All Age Division A for reason of injuries or 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 Rule D29***.

D09 OFFICIALS AT FIXTURES

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

- a. To provide adequate security and welfare for the Officiating Referee (Appointed or Club Referee) 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 ONE (1)*** nominated and readily identifiable **GROUND OFFICIAL (DUTY OFFICER)** ***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 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 D02, Rule D19 and Rule D25***).

- 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 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.

D10 FINDING WINNERS

The Zone Association will 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 in each of the Joint Zone Associations Age Grade Competitions are concluded and the Competition Points allocated for each competing Team's performance, the Team who has achieved 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 D10 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 Associations.

8. Determination of all other ranking positions in the Points Table at the conclusion of the Joint Zone Associations Premiership Competition shall be decided as per this **Regulation D10 a. 1., 2., 3., 4., 5., 6. & 7.**

b. FINALS SERIES COMPETITION WINNERS

1. When all Premiership Fixtures in each of the Joint Zone Associations Age Grade Competitions are concluded and the Competition points allocated for each competing Team in the Competition, the top four (4) positioned Teams (those Teams in positions 1, 2, 3 & 4) on the Official Points Table as determined as per **Regulation D10 a. 1., 2., 3., 4., 5., 6. & 7.**, shall qualify to continue in a Final Series Competition.
2. The Two (2) Teams with the Two (2) highest positions on the Points Table **shall play each other** in the Major Semi-Final Fixture with the winning Team advancing into the Grand Final and the losing Team qualifying to play in the Elimination Final.
3. The Two (2) Teams with the Third and Fourth highest positions on the Points Table **shall play each other** in the Minor Semi-Final Fixture with the winning Team advancing into the Elimination Final and the losing Team being eliminated from the Final Series Competition.
4. The **losing Team** from the Major Semi-Final **shall play the winning Team** from the Minor Semi-Final in the Elimination Final Fixture **with the winning Team** advancing to the Grand Final and **the losing Team** being eliminated from the Final Series Competition.
5. The **winning Team** from the Major Semi-Final **shall play the winning Team** from the Elimination Final in the Grand Final Fixture, with the winning Team being the Grand Final Winner and the losing Team being the Grand Final Runner-Up.
6. If, at the conclusion (at the end of normal time) of any Final Series Fixture, the scores are level:
 - 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.

c. VENUES FOR FINALS SERIES MATCHES

Associations Joint Age Grade Competitions ***only***, the Venues

For the Zone for Final Series Matches shall be determined as follows:

- i. All Member Clubs of the Zone Association will be asked to nominate to hold Semi-Finals, Finals and/or Grand Finals.
- ii. The Zone Association Management will allocate Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals on a priority basis to the best available venues from Zone Association Member Clubs

D11 COMPETITION POINTS

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

<i>Win</i>	-	Three (3) Points
<i>Draw</i>	-	One (1) Point
<i>Bye</i>	-	Nil (0) Points
<i>Loss</i>	-	Nil (0) Points
<i>Forfeit</i>	-	Three (3) Points
<i>Abandoned</i>	-	As determined by Rule D28

D12 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:

1. Reserve/Interchange Players ***must remain seated*** on the Bench ***except*** when warming up in preparation to enter play.

2. Team Officials ***must remain seated*** on the Bench ***except*** that a **MAXIMUM** of two (2) such persons may stand at the Bench or within the Technical Area if this is required.
- b. Only the Team Coach, Team Manager, Team Official (if relevant) and Reserve/Interchange Players (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 D12 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 FORFEIT the Fixture as per ***Regulation D25.***

TEAM OFFICIALS ***must have*** their names indicated in the appropriate space on the team sheet before the game starts.

- d. Controlled limited Coaching will be permitted by the Eligible Registered Team Coach/Official whilst he/she is standing in 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/substitution or interchange 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.

If interchange/substitution of Players is to occur, it must be done as specified in **Rule D 36**.

- f. Should an injury occur, a Team Official (one (1) only) shall be called onto the field 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 an Eligible Registered 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 (***D12 a., b., c., d., e., f., g or h.***) 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 Association's 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.

D13 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 Associations upon application and notification by Members, from time to time, and this charge will be similar at ***ALL*** grounds for the same Competition.

D14 WINNERS' MEDALLIONS AND AWARDS

- a. Each Team winning the Joint Football Zone Competition (Premiers) or being Grand Final Winners or Grand Final Runners may receive the following:-

***ALL JOINT FOOTBALL ZONE AND ZONE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
COMPETITIONS***

(EXCEPT Over 35 & Over 45)

Competition Premiers

A set of eighteen (18) ***Gold*** Medallions.

Grand Final Winners

A set of eighteen (18) *Silver* Medallions.

Grand Final Runners-Up

A set of eighteen (18) *Bronze* Medallions.

FOR Over 35 & Over 45 COMPETITIONS

Competition Premiers

A set of eighteen (20) *Gold* Medallions.

Grand Final Winners

A set of eighteen (20) *Silver* Medallions.

Grand Final Runners-Up

A set of eighteen (20) *Bronze* 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. **ALL Medallions** (Premiers, Grand Final Winners, and Grand Final Runners-Up) 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.

D15 TROPHIES / AWARDS

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

D16 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 Joint Zone Associations 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 IFAB 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 Match Referee, and the Assistant Referee(s).
If long pants are worn by the goalkeeper, 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 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 Match Referee is final.

- i. A Club with a Team having a Player competing in the Competition not being properly equipped with Joint Football Zones Approved Gear **shall become liable to** forfeit Competition Points and to a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Association.

D17 EXPENSES

All and any expenses incurred in participating in a Joint Zone Associations Competition shall be the responsibility of the participating Team and/or Club.

D18 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.

D19 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- a. The Competition Administrator – Disciplinary may suspend, fine, reprimand, caution or otherwise deal with a Member Club, Player, Team, Team Official, Match Official, Spectators, or any Person participating in any manner at a Zone Association Fixture, Match, or event and such person/entity will submit

exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations who the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary 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.

D20 KICK-OFF TIMES

The Kick-Off Time for the Competition Fixture shall be as determined by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Associations and shall 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 to allow the following Fixture to start at the proper Time.

The consent of the Competition Administrator of the Zone Associations must be obtained before the Kick-Off Time can be altered from the arranged time.

- b. The Competition Administrator of the Zone Association, 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.

A Fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights providing any alteration to the Kick-Off Time has been approved by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association and providing also that the standard of lighting shall meet all requirements of the Zone Association.

- c. Finals Series Matches will be set with longer times between matches to allow for extra time and penalty shoot-outs where required.

These times will be advised in the Finals Series Draws notified by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association.

D21 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 the contact their Club and 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) *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.

D22 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS AND OTHER DETAILS

Results of *ALL* Joint Zone Association Competition Fixtures will be entered online by the appointed Match Officials, should a Club Referees officiate over a fixture, the Host Club, 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 that a Club Referee officiates on, (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.

D23 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.

D24 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).

D25 OFFICIAL FIXTURE LIST

All Fixtures to be contested between Teams in the Joint Zone Associations Competitions shall be prepared by the Competition Administrators of the Joint Zone Associations 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 Joint Board Competition Administrators of the Joint Zone Associations consider that the Competition is finishing too early in the season, a third (3rd) round may be played between such Teams as the Joint Competition Administrators of the Zone Associations deems fit.

- i. Any dispute between two (2) or more Teams as to the arrangements of Fixtures shall be referred to and decided by the Joint Competition Administrators of the Zone Associations.
- ii. Dislocation of any Fixture for any reason whatsoever shall be immediately reported to the Joint Competition Administrators 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 Joint Zone Associations Competition Administrators of the Zone Associations and their opponent of such dislocation.
- iii. Any proposed rearrangements of Fixtures by Team Clubs shall be submitted to the Joint Competition Administrators 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.

Junior Joint Zone Associations Competition Age Grade Fixtures shall be arranged for Saturday daytime where practicable.

Fixtures not played as scheduled may be rescheduled for a Sunday or as weeknights Fixtures or as determined by the Competition Administrators of the Joint Zone Associations.

- d. Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Joint Competition Administrators 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 Clubs involved are given a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior notice, wherever possible.
- e. The Joint Board of Directors/Joint Competition Administrators of the Zone Associations have the power to abandon any Fixture and organize any other Fixture if it deems such action necessary in the interests of the Zone Associations Competitions.

- f. Any washed-out Fixture of must be re-set ***where possible*** within two (2) weeks of the original scheduled date of the washed-out Fixture.

D26 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 for the Match.

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.
- c. A Team forfeiting on two (2) occasions without an explanation that is satisfactory to the Competition Administrators of the Joint Zone Associations may be removed from the Zone Associations Competition.
- d. 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 Joint Zone Association Competition Administrator.
 - The offending Team may be liable for further penalty and Fines as determined by the Joint Zone Associations Competition Administrator – Disciplinary who may impose further penalty/Fines.
- e. In the event of a Fixture being forfeited by a Team, the Home Club shall submit online the Match result as a forfeit by the forfeiting Team and a 3 – 0 win to the non-forfeiting 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.

- f. 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.
- g. In the event of a Team forfeiting a Competition Fixture, the notification of the forfeit must be received by the Joint Zone Associations Competition Administrators 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.
- h. In the event of a Team forfeiting its Fixture, a Fine of \$200 may 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.

- i. In the event of a Club/Team forfeiting its scheduled Fixture within any of the last 4 competition rounds, a double Fine of \$400 will be imposed on the Club/Team by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary and the team will be ineligible to participate in the Final Series; 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.

D27 APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS/FIXTURES

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

A Member Club shall seek the permission of the Competition Administrator of the Zone Association by emailing or in writing on Club letterhead of any Events including Club Gala Day(s) it proposes to conduct; and/or apply online to NSW Football for permission to conduct Football Clinics and/or Out of Season activities it may propose

Minimum notice required to the Competition Administrator of the Zone Associations, NSW 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 Competition Administrator of the Zone Associations, NSW Football will be subject to disciplinary action.

D28 DEFERMENT OF FIXTURES OR COMPETITION

- a. No Member Clubs ***may apply*** for deferment of a scheduled Fixture.
Only after the Joint Zone Associations Competition Administrators, having conferred and at their sole discretion, they may decide to:
 - defer a scheduled Fixture, or
 - defer a Competition (***Refer to Appendix A***)
- b. The Joint Zone Associations Competition Administrators shall arrange a re-scheduled date, time, and venue for the deferred Fixture,
or
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 Fixture and/or the Competition abandoned.
- c. The Joint Zone Associations Competition Administrators shall notify each competing Club/Team, Referees Association/Branch, and the Joint Zones Match Official Appointments Officer of the re-scheduled date, time, and venue for the deferred Fixture and/or Competition.
- d. A re-scheduled deferred Fixture not played in accordance with ***Regulation D28 Clauses b. and c.*** will not be recognized by the Zone Associations and the Teams concerned will be subject to Disciplinary action by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary including loss of points gained in the Fixture.
Only a Fixture authorized by the Competition Administrator of the Zone Associations shall be recognized as a legitimate Fixture.

D29 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 for 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 D28 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.

D30 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.

- a. 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 Competition Administrator of the Joint Zone Associations.

- b. 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.
- c. The score at the time of the abandonment and/or stoppage will be taken as the final Match score and Match result.
- d. 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.
- e. Refer to ***Rule D30 Clause a. and/or b*** above in making such determination.
above in making such determination.

D31 FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED

The Competition Administrator of the Joint Zones Associations, acting for the Joint Board of the Zones 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 D25 d. and e.*** shall apply.

Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Competition Administrator of the Joint Zones 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 Joint Zones Associations Age Division Competition Member Clubs involved are given a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior notice, wherever possible.

The Competition Administrator of the Joint Zones Associations 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 Competition Administrator of the Zones Associations 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 Associations Competition Administrators 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 ***D30 a., b. or c.***, the Joint Zones Associations Competition Administrators shall declare the Finals Series Event for that Age/Grade to be **CANCELLED**.
- e. In the event of the ***CANCELLATION*** of the Joint Zones Associations Competition ***SEMI-FINAL*** Matches, the ***FINALS*** round for the Age/Grade of those cancelled Matches will be set as:
- Team 1 will play Team 4 and Team 2 will play Team 3 (Team positions from the final competition points score ladder).
 - The two Winners will proceed directly to the Grand Final whilst the two Losers are eliminated.
- f. In the event of the ***CANCELLATION*** of the Joint Zones Associations Competition ***FINAL*** Matches, the ***GRAND FINAL*** round for the Age/Grade of the cancelled Match will be set as:
- Team 1 will play Team 2 (Team positions from the final competition points score ladder).
 - The Winner will be declared the Grand Final Winner; the Loser will be declared the Grand Finalist (Grand Final Runner-Up).
- g. In the event of the ***CANCELLATION*** of the Joint Zones Associations Competition ***GRAND FINAL*** match, the Grand Final round for the Age/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.

D32 TEAMS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITION & FINAL SERIES

In the event of a Team withdrawing or being removed from any of the Zones Associations 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 Competition Administrator of the Joint Zones Associations ***Rule D32 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 Competition Administrator of the Zone Associations acting for the Joint Board of the Zones Associations, 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 Joint Zones Associations 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 D32 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 Zones Associations.

D33 A COLOUR CLASH

In the event of a Colour Clash of playing strips of the two Teams participating in a Fixture, one Team may be required to change part or all of its strip (shirt, shorts, socks)

- 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. For all Joint Zones Associations Age/grade Competitions the **HOME TEAM** changes strip when instructed by the Referee.

Failure to observe this Regulation shall result in a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

- c. 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** (and consequently the one required to change in the event of the Referee declaring a colour clash).
- d. Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other Players, the Referee, and the Assistant Referee(s).

If long pants are worn by the goalkeeper, 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.

- e. 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.
- f. The Competition Administrator - Disciplinary shall deal with any failure to comply with **Regulation D33 a., b., c., d., & e.** and subject the offending Team's Club to a Fine and/or Sanction as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zones Associations.

D34 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 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. Team Sheets for MiniRoos Fixtures must be completed prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
- e. Changes to the Team sheet can only be permitted up till the scheduled kick-off time.

D35 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. For all Age Division Competitions (including every individual Age Grade, All Age, O/35, O/45 Competitions), 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 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) 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 ***D33*** 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. In the event of a discrepancy being identified by either Club, the Team Official must also report the Dispute to his/her Club, who shall 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 D21*).

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

D36 SUBSTITUTION AND/OR INTERCHANGE OF A PLAYER

The Interchange of Players shall be in accordance with the IFAB’s Laws of the Game.

The *INTERCHANGE* of Players Rule will apply to *ALL* Joint Zones Associations Age/Grade Competitions.

The Substitution Rule will *NOT* be used in any Joint Zones Associations Age/Grade Competitions.

Each Competing Team may at its discretion use the specified number of Interchange Players, one of whom may be the Goalkeeper, at any time in a Fixture (*Refer to D33 b.*).

Interchange *can only be made* when play has stopped for any reason and the Match Referee has given permission.

An Interchange Player’s name must be nominated on the Team Sheet prior to the 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.

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

D38 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 Joint Zones Associations 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. Whenever possible the appointed person for Age Grade Competitions **must not** be younger than fourteen (14) years of age and must be a minimum of two (2) years older than the Age Grade he/she is going to referee, plus he/she should have a reasonable understanding of the IFAB Laws of the Game and be of suitable fitness and health.

Should the appointed person be eighteen (18) years of age or older, he/she is entitled to referee Senior Joint Zones Associations Competitions.

- d. In the event of an Official Referee failing to appear the matter is to be reported by the Home Team to the Match Official Appointments Officer who shall keep a comprehensive list of all non-attendance of Match Official.

- e. Clubs are to keep an up-to-date register of Club personnel who have completed the Club Referee 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 PlayFootball (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.

D39 MATCH OFFICIAL - REFEREEING

Where possible a Referee should attend the ground at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled start time of his/her appointed Fixture.

- a. 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.
- b. The Referee shall decide as to the fitness of the ground for play in all Fixtures.
- c. 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.
- d. The Referee is to record each Player Caution and/or Send-Off on the 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 Zones Associations.

- e. The Referee is to record, on the Team Sheet, the total goals scored in the match by each team.

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 Zones Associations.

- f. A Club Official and/or Team Official may send in a report to the Zone Associations on the performance of a Referee during a Fixture.

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

Notice of such a complaint should be phoned in to the Zone Association by the Club Secretary on the day of the Fixture.

D40 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 Joint Zones Associations Competitions.

- a. In the Joint Football Zones Age/Grade Competitions 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 Zones Associations policies and procedures relating to Match Official payments.
- b. A Home Club that refuses to pay the Match Officials' Fees for the Fixture(s) in accordance with the Joint Zones Associations policies and procedures relating to this matter, shall be fined 10% of the total bill for that round of football matches the respective amount (unless there has been prior arrangement between the Joint Zones).
- c. The Joint Zones Associations Age/Grade Competition Administrator shall pay the Match Officials' Fees for any Joint Zones Associations Age/Grade Finals Series Fixtures, or a Zone Association Competition(s) Fixture.

D41 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 Zones Associations.

D42 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 Zones Associations.

D43 RING-INS

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

1. A Player playing under another name.
2. A Player playing from another State, Zone Association, or League.
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.

D44 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 or evening; such decision is to be given to the Joint Football Zone's Designated Wet Weather Officer ***no later than 6.45 am*** on Saturday and Sunday, and to the designated Zone Office ***by 4.00pm*** for midweek Joint Zones Associations Age/Grade Fixtures.

Failure of a Home Club to advise the Wet Weather Officer/Zone Associations by the stipulated time shall render the offending Club liable to a Fine, as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zones 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) Zones Associations to notify Saturday/Sunday ground changes.

- b. Information regarding and relating to closed grounds/washed out/moved Fixtures ***will be posted*** in each Joint Zone Association's website under "Wet Weather" by ***7.30am weekends*** and ***4.30pm midweek. And sent out via Squadi***

- i. The first step by the Competition Administrator after notification of a washed-out Venue, the Competition Administrator will contact the opposition Club to see if their venue is available, or
- ii. The second step, the game may be moved to a neutral venue if available, or
- iii. The third step, the game will be reset to a later date.

** Please note that if the venue is transferred, the game time may not be the same.

- c. In the event of a Ground being declared **unfit for play (CLOSED)**, that Ground shall not be used for any Fixtures **allocated to ground** during that day.
- d. Each Club shall be required to supply **two (2) only** contact names and phone numbers of Club Officials authorized to declare a **Ground unfit for play (CLOSED)**.

This information will be programmed into the Wet Weather Official's (WWO's) dedicated mobile phone Contacts.

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”.

- e. 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.

- f. A Ground that has been declared fit for play (**OPEN**) shall have its scheduled Fixtures played on it.

D45 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 is required to have a Code of Conduct Policy for its Players, Team Officials and Supporters relating to their behaviour at all Member Club events (training, fixtures, club arranged events, etc.,).

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.

D46 GROUND MARKINGS

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.).

D47 BORROWED PLAYERS' QUALIFICATIONS – COMPETITION AND FINAL SERIES –

The following shall apply in all Joint Zones Associations Age/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 Digital Official Team Sheet.
- b. A ***MAXIMUM of FOUR (4)*** Players borrowed from other Teams registered in the same Club shall be permitted in a 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.

That is, a **MAXIMUM of FOUR (4) BORROWED PLAYERS** are **PERMITTED**.

- c. **A BORROWED PLAYER** is one who is registered by the Member Club in any of that Club's Teams competing in the Joint Football Zones Age/Grade Competitions, but is:-
 1. Same age group - Must be from a lower division grade.
 2. Age grade one (1) below - Must be from a division grade that is equal or lower.
 3. Age grade two (2) below - No restrictions
 4. Clubs with only one Team in the lower (one (1) below) age grade - No restrictions regardless of relative division the lower Team grades of the borrowing Team and the 'borrowed age grade from'
 5. **No Player** registered in a higher age grade can play for a lower age grade.
 6. Age Groups are ordered (ranked) with All Age first, currently followed by O/35, then U/18's down to U/12's.
 7. If new age groups are added because of a need for the Competitions in these extra age groups, then they will be slotted into the appropriate chronological order.

The Age Group below does not necessarily mean this will be 1 year below in age e.g., Girls' competitions currently have a 2-

year age gap which means that U/14's is the next age group below U/16's.

- d. **A BORROWED PLAYER** can only take the field of play or be included in the starting eleven if there is **NO** 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. Providing ***Regulation D47 a., b., c., and d.*** are adhered to, there are no restrictions on the number of games in which a Borrowed Player may participate.
- f. Providing ***Regulation D47 a., b., c., and d.*** are adhered to, a Player may play in more than one (1) Semi Final, Final or Grand Final.
- g. Failure to comply with ***Regulation D47 a., b., c., and d.*** by the Club's Team shall result in loss of Match points and/or a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zones Associations.
- h. **NO PLAYER** or **PLAYERS** registered in an age grade can play for any lower age grade without obtaining a re-grade and being re-registered.

Any registered Player in a Member Club found playing for his/her Club in a division of an age grade lower than that for which he/she is registered, other than as above, without obtaining a re-grade and being re-registered, shall be deemed an **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** (See Rule C03 e.).

- i. In a designated over age Competition, the Player must have attained the age of the Competition prior to registration (e.g., attained 35 years of age for O/35 Competition). Proof of age shall be required.
- j. O/45 and older age grades are classified as social events rather than competitions and are as a consequence ungraded.

Such age grades **MAY NOT** draw on Players registered in All Age Teams despite the Player meeting the relevant age qualification, that is, ***NO BORROWED PLAYERS MAY BE USED IN O/45 AND OLDER AGE GRADES.***

- k. For any Age Grade Competition having two or more Divisions, the ***Borrowed Player Qualification - Regulations (D47)*** **MUST** be applied.

For example: A Player registered in a Club's All Age Friday B Team would be **ELIGIBLE** to be used as a Borrowed Player in the (same) Club's All Age Saturday A Team (because he/she would be borrowed into a higher Division).

BUT the Player registered in a Club's All Age Friday B Team would be **INELIGIBLE** to be used as a Borrowed Player in the (same) Club's All Age Saturday E Team (because he/she would be borrowed into a lower Division).

- l. Players may be borrowed between All Age Friday and All Age Saturday Teams; and O/35 Friday and O/35 Saturday Teams.

- m. **PROVIDED ALL GRADING RULES – D47 – ARE ADHERED TO AND AGE QUALIFICATIONS ARE MET** - A Player may play **UP** but **MAY NOT** play **DOWN**.

D48 TEAM CAPTAIN

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

For **all** Joint Football Zones Age/Grade Competitions failure to observe this Regulation will not currently result in imposition of a Fine.

D49 PLAYER PHOTO IDENTITY

Player Photo Identity is required for **ALL** Players in **ALL** Joint Zones Associations 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
ACCEPTABLE



Acceptable

ACCEPTABLE



Acceptable

ACCEPTABLE



Side on to camera



Insufficient Contrast

UNACCEPTABLE

UNACCEPTABLE



Background too dark

Hair obscuring face



Background not plain

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.

2. PHOTO REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

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:

- i. the Club has accepted the Player registration.
- ii. the Zone Associations has accepted the Player's uploaded registration photograph and Player registration.

Any Player who plays in any Zone Associations Competitions before completion of the above will be classed as an **INELIGIBLE** Player and the appropriate Regulations shall apply.

The Zone Associations will maintain, for each Competition Team, a Team Sheet showing the details and identification photograph of each Player registered for that Team.

3. PHOTO USAGE AND ABNORMALITIES

This may be used by the Joint Zones 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.

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 Member Club shall:

1. **Advise** the opposing Club of its intention to report the matter to the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary; and
2. **Submit** a written report from the Club Secretary by e-mail to the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary (disciplinary@macquariefootball.com) within two (2) days/forty-eight (48) hours of the Incident.

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

D50 FINAL SERIES PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The only criteria for eligibility of a Player for Finals Series Matches are the normal criteria for a Player to be eligible to participate in Age Grade Competition Matches during the regular season.

In regard to the Joint Zones Football Age/Grade Competitions:

- No number of matches played qualifications apply.
- Suspended Players **are not** eligible to play in **ANY** Competition or Finals Series Fixture until the complete suspension has been served.
- A Player may only be in the starting eleven (11) Players in **one** (1) Semi-Final, **one** (1) Final and one (1) Grand Final in any **one** year (***with the exception of designated goalkeepers***).
- The normal Rules on use of borrowed Players (**Rule D45**) apply to Finals Series Fixtures eligibility.

- For Joint Football Zones Age Grade Finals Series Fixtures, **no additional** Player Eligibility Rules apply; only normal Competition Player Eligibility Rules apply.
- A Team playing an **INELIGIBLE** Player (*see Rule C03 e.*) in the Finals Series may be fined and/or the Team removed from the Finals Series and/or have further penalties imposed following referral to the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary.

D51 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

For Joint Zones Associations Age/Grade Competitions **no direct system** of promotion and relegation applies.

Grading of Teams following Registration will be carried out prior to the start of each season by the Joint Zones Grading Committee using data such as previous year's performance, Team composition changes, etc. Member Club provides a suitable grading information for each Registered Team.

Approved and Issued: January 2025

Assessment/Review: **January 2026**

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.