

OFFICIAL



| Rules and
Regulations



REGULATION C: Registration/Retention/Eligibility of Registered Players and Team Officials

Summary

These Rules and Regulations provide information about:

- **Regulation C – Registration/Retention/Eligibility Of Registered Players And Team Officials**

that the Joint Zone 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 NNSW 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.

Issued: **February 2024**

Review: **January 2025**

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C01 DEFINITION OF PLAYER CLASSIFICATION

The following are the definitions of Player Classification:

a. **PROFESSIONAL PLAYER**

A Professional Player is a Registered Player with a current contract or service agreement to play for a Member Club of the Zone Association during the period for which the club declares him/her as a Professional Player as per FA National Registration Regulation, Status and Transfer Regulations April 2023 *and Succeeding Documents*.

b. **AMATEUR PLAYER**

An Amateur Player means any player that is not a Professional, who is involved with the code for personal satisfaction, pleasure and without any thought to monetary or financial reward whatsoever *as defined in article 4.1 (c)* of the FA National Registration Regulations, Status and Transfer Regulations April 2023 *and Succeeding Documents*.

A Club may pay or reimburse a Player any expenses incurred by that Player without affecting his or her status as an Amateur, including but not limited to travel, kit, equipment, or insurance premiums. If, however, an Amateur is paid or reimbursed more than \$115 a week by a Club, the onus is on that Club to satisfy the Joint Zone Associations Competition Administrator that the amount paid accurately reflects the expenses incurred by that Player. If the Club fails to satisfy this onus, that Player will be deemed to be a Professional.

C02 PROOF OF BIRTH DATE

Proof of date of birth of a Player shall be supplied to the Zone Association by the Member within seven (7) days of the Zone Association requesting such proof of birth date during the Season.

- a. The Zone Association shall accept as proof of date of birth the following:
- Birth Certificate or Extract of Birth Certificate
 - Passport or documents of identity.

Failing availability of the above, such documents as may be acceptable to the Zone Association.

- b. A Team playing an **OVERAGE** Player in an Age Grade Competition Fixture without the approval of the Zone Association shall be ineligible for points associated with that Fixture.

The Player will be deemed an **INELIGIBLE** Player (see Rule C03 (e)) and the Player and/or the Member Club shall be referred to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) for further determination of any penalties/fines to be imposed.

In such cases the full points associated with the Fixture shall be awarded to the opponent Team and the score recorded as three (3) goals by the Team getting the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed the Regulation.

A Member may submit a written request seeking approval from the Zone Association to play a Player as an Over Age Player in a Lower Age Grade Fixture, providing full and clear reasoning for the request.

C03 ELIGIBLE PLAYER

An Eligible Player shall be defined from time to time by the Zone Association and his/her Eligibility shall be as per the requirements of the Regulations. Only Eligible Players shall be permitted to play for any Team in the Zone Association Competitions.

- a. An **ELIGIBLE PLAYER** is one who is one who has completed fully an online registration with Football Australia and been accepted by the Member Club and Zone Association for the Competition referred to on the Zone Association Competitions Form and only when the said Member Club has paid the Registration Levy and duly received from the Zone a confirmation of payment of the Registration Fee is the Player eligible to play in Zone Association Competitions.
- b. In addition to the above Regulations, in order to qualify for Amateur Competitions, eligibility is restricted to a Player who qualifies as a Player under the Regulation governing Player Status.
- c. In addition to the above Regulations, in order to qualify for Age Grade Competitions, eligibility is restricted to a Player who in that calendar year shall attain the age of the Age Grade in which he/she wishes to play; ***except that a Player seeking to play O/30, O/35 or O/45 must attain that age before registration.***
- d. A Member Club may seek special dispensation regarding a Registered Player's eligibility by applying in writing to the Zone Association.
- e. A Team playing an **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** in any Fixture shall be ineligible for any points associated with the Fixture. In such cases the full points associated with the Fixture shall be awarded to the opponent Team and the score recorded as three (3) goals by the Team getting the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed the Regulation. The Member Club and the Ineligible Player will be referred to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) for further determination of penalties/fines to be imposed.
- f. If the Zone Association or Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) has any doubts as to the eligibility of any Registered Player taking part in the Zone Association's Competitions it has the power to call upon such Player, the Team, or the Member Club with which he/she has registered to prove that such person is an Eligible Player according to the Regulations now in use. Failure to provide satisfactory proof may result in the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) disqualifying such Player, the

Team being removed from the Competition and the imposition of such penalties as the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) deems fit.

- g.** A Member Club Registered Team shall not allow any Registered Player who is under disqualification from the Zone Association or any other Association or Federation to play in the Competitions. Any Team playing a disqualified Player during his/her period of disqualification shall be dealt with by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary). Such Player shall be declared an INELIGIBLE PLAYER (see Rule C03 (e)).

C04 NUMBER OF PLAYERS REGISTERED

Subject to the following Regulations a Member Club may register sufficient Registered Players to fulfil the requirements of the Team(s) it has nominated in the Zone Association's Competitions.

- a.** There is no maximum limitation on the total number of Players registered by a Club in the Zone Football League Divisions Competitions or in the Age Grade Divisions Competitions.
- b.** All approval for Registrations of Players to participate in the Zone Association's Competitions shall cease at the date set from time to time as the cut-off – currently 30 June each year.
- c.** Where a Club registers more than sixteen (16) Players in an Age Grade Competition Team, a maximum of sixteen (16) Registered Players from that Team will be able to participate in any Match involving that Team i.e., eleven (11) Starting Eleven Players plus up to five (5) Interchange Players.
- d.** By the designated Team/Player Registration day, all Joint Zones Associations Member Clubs must have registered a minimum of 11 Players in a Team to register a Team for the Joint Zones Associations Age/Grade Competition.

C05 MID-SEASON MOVEMENT OF AN AMATEUR PLAYER

- a.** An Amateur cannot be transferred within Australia or loaned.
- b.** If an Amateur player no longer wants to play for his/her club, he or she may allow the Registration to elapse.
If an Amateur player wants to change clubs during a season, then he/she needs to complete a Deregistration request in their PlayFootball Account.
- c.** If a Club no longer wants an Amateur player to play for their Club, that Club needs to complete or approve a Deregistration request in PlayFootball
- d.** The deregistration is effective:

- i. immediately when the request is approved by the Player, Club and relevant Zone Association prescribed
 - or,
 - ii. seven (7) days from the date the Deregistration request is submitted by one party and lodged with the relevant Zone Association unless a grievance has been initiated with the Zone Association in accordance with the Grievance Resolution Regulations.
- e. The registration of an Amateur Player with a new Club is effective from the date the player requests to register in their PlayFootball account for the new Club and the Club and Zone Association approves the registration is able to continue until the end of the season.

C06 PLAYER RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

A Registered Player, or in the case of a Registered Player under 18 years of age his/her Parent or Guardian, shall, at the time of Registration with the Member Club and from time to time thereafter inform himself/herself and/or be conversant with the Zone Association's Regulations and in particular Regulations relating to Player Rights and Obligations.

The Player shall also give an undertaking upon Registration to abide by and comply with the Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations of FA, Northern NSW Football and the Zone Association made thereunder.

C07 PLAYER BRINGING CODE INTO DISREPUTE

A Registered Player guilty of bringing the Code, his/her Member Club, the Zone Association, or its Competitions into disrepute shall be liable to such penalties as the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) may determine. A Player shall seek the permission of his/her Member Club before contributing to the press, television and/or radio. It is the responsibility of the Member Club to ensure that any permission granted is not used by a Player in such a manner that could bring the Code, his/her Member Club, the Zone Association, or its Competitions into disrepute.

C08 AN UNFINANCIAL PLAYER

In the event that a Fine imposed on a Registered Player by the Zone Association remains unpaid at the conclusion of his/her Competition and such a Fine renders Member Clubs unfinancial with the Zone Association, the Member Club shall advise the Zone Association of that fact and the Player will be deemed an Ineligible Player (see Rule C03 (e)) and thus unable to participate in further Competition until such fine is paid.

A Player seeking to register with a new Club must be cleared by his/her previous Club as having no financial encumbrance. The onus is on the Club to show to the Zone Association that a Player is unfinancial with respect to Registration Fees, whereupon the

Zone Association will flag the unfinancial Player on the Zone Association data base for the information of any new Club seeking to register the unfinancial Player.

C09 REGISTRATION OF PLAYER

The Registration of a Player to compete in the Zone Association's Competitions shall be carried out in the following manner:

- a. Each Registered Player shall be registered for the Zone Association's Competition by his/her Member Club on a season-to-season basis. A Team playing an Unregistered Player not meeting this condition shall have such Player declared an ***INELIGIBLE PLAYER*** (see Rule C03 (e)).
- b. Each Registered Player and his/her Member Club ***shall as soon as possible*** but certainly by the Zone Association designated Registration Day submit the completed Team Player Registration Form together with the appropriate Player Registration Fee to the Zone Association Office.

The Club shall receive confirmation of the Registration from the Zone Association before permitting the Player to play in any Zone Association Competition or Finals Series Fixture.

The above Registration procedures also apply to a Player who has changed his/her Club during the season or has changed his/her Player Status.

- a. Subject to the appropriate Regulation, no Player shall be considered Registered for another Member Club without the proper Registration process completed and received by the Zone Association.
- b. The Registration of a Player in a Zone Association Competition Team shall take place not later than COB (Close of Business) time at the Zone Association Office on ***THURSDAY*** to allow the Registered Player to be eligible to play in the next weekend's fixtures.

A Director of the Zone Association has no authority to accept a Team Player Registration Form or to allow a Registered Player to play in any Zone Association Competition Fixture if the Player has not been correctly registered as per the relevant ***Regulation C10 d.***

- c. A Player supplying false information on a Team Player Registration Form shall be automatically suspended from the Competitions for a period as determined by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary.

C10 PRIORITY OF REGISTRATION

In the event of a Player creating more than one online Player Registration account for more than one Member Club, priority of Registration shall be the deciding factor.

The Competition Administrator -Disciplinary shall investigate the circumstances under which the Players Registration accounts were created and, having made his/her determination, shall notify the Club submitting the later Registration of the prior Registration.

A Player found to have wilfully created a Player Registration account for more than one (1) Member Club, or any Club found to have knowingly induced a Player to create another Player Registration account with that Club in the knowledge that the Player has previously created a Player Registration account with another Club, then both the Player and the Club shall be dealt with by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary as he/she deems fit and the Player will be treated as an **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** (see Rule C03 e.).

C11 LATE REGISTRATION FOR JOINT ZONE ASSOCIATIONS COMPETITIONS (including ZONE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (ZFL) COMPETITIONS)

A Member Club Team involved in a Pre-Season Competition shall have arranged Registration of sufficient Players for its needs prior to the start of that Competition.

A Club Team not involved in a Pre-Season Competition shall have arranged Registration of sufficient players for its needs prior to the start of the Zone Association's Competition.

A Player registered after the Zone Football Team Registration Day shall be deemed to be a Late Player Registration.

No Player Registration will be accepted after the date set by Joint Zone Associations from time to time as the ***cut-off – currently 30 June each year.***

A Player registering as a Late Player Registration must register online and the Club lodge with the Zone Association ***not later than*** COB (Close of Business) time at the Zone Football Office on THURSDAY to allow the Registered Player to be eligible to play in the next weekend's Fixtures.

A Late Player Registration Fee will apply.

C12 REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Except as provided for otherwise in the Regulations, the Registration of a Team Player in the Zone Association's Competition shall cease at the date set by Zone Association from time to time as ***the cut-off – currently 30 June each Season.***

A registered Player cannot Transfer, De-Register or be granted a Transfer by a Member Club after the closing date of Registrations for that Season.

C13 DUAL REGISTRATION

As per FA National Registration Regulations, Status and Transfer Regulations April 2023 and Succeeding Documents, no Dual Registration of a Player will be permitted between Member Clubs Registered with FA.

A Registered Player may be registered with one (1) Member Club ONLY in order to be eligible to participate in the Zone Association's Competition & Final Series.

C14 MULTIPLE REGISTRATION

A Player may register for more than one Team WITHIN the one Club by completing the appropriate Zone Football Multiple Competition Registration Form (including signing and having it certified by a Club Official), submitting it to the Zone Association and paying the appropriate Multiple Registration Fee as set by the Zone Association from time to time – currently \$25-00 Junior; \$50-00 Senior – to the Zone Association.

The **PRIMARY** Registration is to the Club Team with which the Player first registers; the Player must pay the full Registration Fee applicable to this Club Team; the Player's first priority and obligation is to this Primary Club Team.

The **SECONDARY** Registration is to the Club Team with which the Player registers second; the Player must pay the Zone Multiple Registration Fee (currently \$25-00 Junior; \$50-00 Senior); the Player's second priority and obligation is to this Secondary Club Team.

In the event of a clash of fixtures of the Primary and Secondary Club Teams, the Player **MUST** play in the Primary Club Team (unless the Player is surplus to this Primary Club Team's requirements at this time).

The Primary Club Team is unrestricted on the number of Multiple Registered Players it uses in any one match.

The Secondary Club Team is restricted to the use of a **MAXIMUM** of three (3) Multiple Registered Players in any one match – such Players must be clearly marked as 'MR' or 'M' on the Team Match Sheet. Note that any of the Multiple Registered Players may be used in the Secondary Club Team but only to a maximum of three (3) players per match.

In the unlikely event of a Player wishing to Multiple Register with more than two (2) Club teams, application must be made to the Zone Association for referral to the Joint Zones Board of Directors and/or Zone Management which will determine the conditions that will apply to this Multiple Registration and the procedures to be followed in order to affect this Multiple Registration.

C15 PLAYER REGISTERED WITH OR PLAYING FOR ANOTHER ZONE/ASSOCIATION

A Player registered with another Association shall not be eligible to play in any Competition or Final Series conducted by this Zone Association.

Date of effect: February 2024

A Player registered by his/her Member Club of the Zone Association who registers for a Team with another Association shall be automatically suspended from the Zone Association's Competitions and is subject to any Disciplinary Action determined by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary.

Such Player will be deemed an **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** (see Rule C03 e.).

C16 PLAYER PLAYING FOR ANOTHER CLUB

A Registered Player who competes in a Fixture for a Team of another Club other than the Club that holds his/her Registration shall be declared an **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** (see Rule C03 (e)) and shall be automatically suspended from his/her normal Competition for a period as determined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).

The offending Player, together with the Team and Club, shall be subject to any further disciplinary action as determined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).

C17 TEAM SHORT OF PLAYING NUMBERS

A Team with a shortage of available Registered Players in an Age Grade Division Competition Fixture may draw players registered with that Team's Club that will be deemed '***Borrowed Players***'.

Players playing as '***Borrowed Players***' may do so under the following conditions:

a. PLAYING IN A HIGHER AGE GRADE OR DIVISION

1. A Player playing one (1) year higher than his/her Registered Age Grade Division Team must play in a Division equal to or higher than the Division in which he/she is currently registered except in the case where there is no such Division in his/her Club in which case he/she may play in the next lowest Division in his/her Club in the higher Age Grade Division.
2. A Player playing two (2) years higher than his/her Registered Age Grade Division Team shall have no Division restriction placed on him/her in the higher Age Grade Division.
3. A Player playing in a higher Age Grade Division Team may only do so if that Borrowing Team is short. Refer to Rule D 47 for detail.
4. A Player who plays for his/her Club in a higher Age Grade Division but lower than the stated requirements of the previous Regulations without being Re-Graded shall be dealt with by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) who may impose such penalties as he/she deems fit, and the Player shall be deemed an **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** (See Rule C03 (e)).
5. In the Age Grade Division Competition an available Registered Team Player may **NOT** be nominated as an Interchange Player or

left out of the Team to allow a Player borrowed from another Team to take his/her place in a Fixture. Should this eventuate the Borrowed Player i.e., Non-Team Registered Player shall be declared an **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** (See Rule C03 (e)).

b. PLAYING IN A LOWER DIVISION

A Registered Player of a Higher Division Graded Team cannot play in a Lower Division Graded Team of the same Age Grade unless the Player has been Re-Graded by the Zone Association.

A Team playing such Player in a Lower Division not correctly Re-Graded shall have such Player declared an **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** (see Rule C03 (e)).

Upon the granting of a Re-Grade by the Zone Association, the Player shall become a Registered Team Player of the Lower Division Graded Team.

c. PLAYING IN THE SAME AGE GRADE

A Registered Team Player of a Lower Division Graded Team is permitted to play in a Higher Division Graded Team of his/her Club in the same Age Grade.

There is no restriction on the number of times this may be done provided other requirements of the Regulations are fulfilled.

d. USING A REGISTERED TEAM PLAYER FROM ANOTHER REGISTERED TEAM ('BORROWED PLAYER')

The Name of any Player of a Registered Team temporarily playing in another Registered Team shall have his/her Name and the Registered Team in which he/she is properly Registered recorded on the Team Sheet by the Club Team Official who has arranged the 'borrowing' of the Registered Player.

e. RESERVE PLAYERS

In Age Grade Division Competitions, a Registered Team is **not permitted** to play more than four (4) '**BORROWED**' Registered Team Players from another Registered Team in its Registered Team in any Zone Association Competition or Final Series Fixture.

There is **no limit** on the number of times a 'Borrowed Player' may be used during the Season.

If more than four (4) 'Borrowed Players' are used in any Competition or Final Series Fixture, then they shall be deemed as **INELIGIBLE PLAYERS** (see **Rule C03 e.**).

C18 GRADING OF A PLAYER

In the Age Grade Division Competitions, a Member Club shall as far as practicable, grade each Player according to his/her ability and, upon Grading, place him/her in a Team to compete in the various Joint Zones Associations Age Grade Division Competitions.

The Club shall register the Player's Grading with the Zone Association on the Online Team Registration Form as supplied by the Zone Association.

- a. Upon lodgement of the Team Grading Form a Registered Player on such a Form shall constitute a Registered Player of that Team.
- b. Should a Player's Name appear on more than one (1) Team Grading Form the Player will be graded to the highest grading of the Team Grading Form on which the Player's Name appears.

C19 REGRADING OF A PLAYER

In the Age Grade Division Competitions, should a Registered Team Player appear to have been incorrectly Graded, his/her Club may apply in writing to the Zone Association on Club letterhead seeking to have the Player Re-Graded to another Division.

- a. A Re-Grade shall not be considered if the Player has competed in a minimum of three (3) Zone Association Competition Fixtures.
- b. A Re-Grade shall not be considered should more than three (3) Registered Team Players from the original Registered Team have been previously Re-Graded to other Registered Teams.
- c. Upon the granting by the Zone Association of a Re-Grade, the Player shall become a Registered Player of the Team to which he/she has been Re-Graded.
- d. A Re-Grade ***shall not*** be allowed after the Registration Cut-off date set by the Zone Association in any Season.
- e. A Player ***shall not*** be Re-Graded on more than one (1) occasion in any Season.

C20 ELIGIBILITY OF A TEAM OFFICIAL

Any person employed or volunteering his/her services as a Team Coach, Team Manager, Team Masseur or Team Trainer (hereafter called a Team Official) shall be Registered annually by his/her Club with the Zone Association.

The Eligibility and Qualifications of Team Officials shall be determined from time to time by the Zone Association and their Registration shall be as per the Requirements of the Regulations.

No person other than an Eligible Team Official shall be permitted to control a Team in the Competitions of the Zone Association.

- a. An Eligible Team Official is one who has completed the Online Registration process via PlayFootball seeking Registration by the Zone Association for

the Season as a Team Official for the Club for whom he/she registered to; and only when the said Club has paid the Registration Fee (if any) and duly received from the Zone Association a receipt of Registration is the said Team Official eligible.

- b. The Zone Association will issue all eligible Team Officials with an approved Identification Card (laminated card on a lanyard) that **MUST** be worn at all Zone Association Competition and Final Series Fixtures.
- c. Alternatively, for a Competition where another Zone Association Member Club is competing, an Eligible Team Official is a Team Official who has been registered as per the Regulations of the Zone Association and has been endorsed by the Zone Association as being an Eligible Team Official to compete in Zone Association Competitions.
- d. Notwithstanding the above Regulations, the Zone Association reserves the right to refuse Registration of a Team Coach who does not have the following minimum coaching qualifications as per FA curriculum:

* ***5 – 8-year-old players:***

MiniRoos Grassroots Football Certificate – Discovery Phase

* ***9 – 13-year-old players:***

Skill Training Certificate – Skill Acquisition Phase

* ***13 – 17-year-old players:***

Game Training Certificate – Game Training Phase

* ***17 years and older players:***

Senior Coaching Certificate – Performance Phase

* **Zone Football League**

AFC C Diploma – Advanced Coaching Pathway

- e. A Team **USING AN INELIGIBLE TEAM OFFICIAL** in any Fixture shall be ineligible for any points associated with the Fixture. In such cases the full points associated with the Fixture shall be awarded to the opponent Team and the score recorded as three (3) goals by the Team given the points to nil (0) goals by the Team which has infringed the Regulation.

The Member Club and the Ineligible **TEAM OFFICIAL** will be referred to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) for further determination of penalties / fines to be imposed.

C21 REGISTRATION OF A TEAM OFFICIAL

A Member Club shall not appoint a person to be a Team Official unless that person undertakes to register with the Zone Association each season.

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- a. *A Team Official shall be registered with the Zone Association by his/her Member Club on a season-to-season basis by completing the Online Registration process via PlayFootball.*
- b. A Registered Team Official shall become eligible through his/her Club for Insurance Cover of the Sports Injury and Liability Insurance, as negotiated by the Zone Association from time to time.
- c. For each Team Official Registered with the Zone Association, the Club employing or engaging his/her services and effecting his/her Registration undertakes to provide him/her with adequate and satisfactory facilities and equipment to allow him/her to fulfil his/her duties and shall pay to each Team Official such fees and other guaranteed obligations that are due in accordance with the Schedule listed in any written Agreement between the Club and the Team Official.

C23 TEAM OFFICIAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

A Team Official, or in the case of a Junior Team Official his/her Parent or Guardian, shall at the time of Registration of the Team Official with the Club and from time to time thereafter inform himself/herself and be conversant with the Zone Association Regulations and in particular Regulations relating to the Team Official's Rights and Obligations. The Team Official shall also give an undertaking to abide by and comply with the Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations of FA, Northern NSW Football and the Zone Association made thereunder.

C24 TEAM OFFICIAL BRINGING CODE INTO DISREPUTE

A Team Official guilty of bringing the Code, the Zone Association, his/her Club, or any Zone Association Competitions into disrepute shall be liable to such penalties as the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) may determine.

A Team Official shall seek the permission of his/her Club before contributing to the press, radio and/or television.

It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that any permission granted is not used by such person in a manner that could bring the Code, the Zone Association, his/her Club, or any Zone Association Competitions into disrepute.

Approved and Issued: February 2024

Assessment/Review: **January 2025**