

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

These regulations are to be read in conjunction with the FA Statutes and the FA National Registration Regulations. Club officials should also understand the FA Disciplinary Regulations, Grievance Resolution Process, and the National Code of Conduct. FMNC and its members are bound by these regulations and procedures.

There are different competitions within FMNC; following are the generic rules which apply to them all as well as specific rules for the various competitions.

The various competitions are: -

1. Mini-Roos (6-11 years)
2. Competitive junior age groups from 12's through to 17/18's
3. Zone League
4. Men's Northern League
5. Men's Southern League
6. Women's Northern League
7. Women's Southern League
8. Over 35's

Any Rules relating to a specific competition only (listed above 1-8) will be listed under a heading for that competition.

Players are not permitted to play across competitions unless it is specifically referred to within these rules.

These Rules supersede all sets of Competition Rules that were in use within Football Mid North Coast prior to 2025

Where an area is not specifically addressed, FIFA rules will apply

In all matters regarding these Competition rules the Board of Football Mid North Coast reserves the right to change, amend and/or interpret them as they see fit to ensure the smooth running of any competition under its control.

**FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST
COMPETITION RULES V20 2026**

Table of Contents

COMPETITIONS (THE).....	4
ADMINISTRATION OF COMPETITIONS.....	4
CLUB NAMES, REGISTERED UNIFORMS.....	4
COLOURS AND EMBLEM.....	4
CLASH OF COLOURS.....	5
HOME GROUND, HOME TEAM, DEFINITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	5
MOVEABLE GOAL POSTS.....	6
ALCOHOL AND PROHIBITED DRUGS.....	6
BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS.....	6
BALL (THE).....	7
COMPETITION POINTS.....	7
PLAYING TIMES.....	7
INTERCHANGE AND SUBSTITUTIONS.....	8
LEADING GOAL SCORER AWARD (ZONE LEAGUE 1).....	8
FULL STRENGTH IN A FIXTURE.....	8
POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME GROUND.....	8
REGISTRATION OF A PLAYER.....	8
<i>GENERIC RULES</i>	8
<i>ZONE LEAGUE</i>	10
AGE QUALIFICATION.....	10
TEAM NOMINATIONS (NUMBERS REQUIRED).....	10
CLEARANCES.....	11
TEAM OFFICIALS.....	13
<i>REGISTRATION</i>	13
<i>PERMISSION TO ENTER FIELD</i>	14
MATCH OFFICIALS.....	14
ONLINE TEAM SHEETS.....	15
ELIGIBLE/INELIGIBLE PLAYER.....	17
DISQUALIFIED PLAYER.....	18
TEAMS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWING FROM THE COMPETITION.....	18
PLAYING DOWN.....	19
REGISTRATION OF A PLAYER IN A HIGHER AGE GROUP (PLAYING UP).....	20
<i>MINI ROOS</i>	20
<i>JUNIOR COMPETITIVE PLAYERS</i>	20
<i>JUNIOR COMPETITIVE</i>	21
<i>PLAYERS AGED 14 (GIRLS) AND 15 (BOYS) YEARS AND OVER</i>	21
<i>IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS - MEN'S (ZL) AND</i>	22
ZONE REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS.....	22
DEFERRED FIXTURES.....	22
COMPETITION RESULTS.....	23
FORFEITS.....	23
<i>ZONE LEAGUE</i>	23
<i>POINTS AWARDED</i>	23
<i>LACK OF TEAM NUMBERS</i>	23
<i>NOTICE OF FORFEIT</i>	24
<i>LATE START OR FORFEIT</i>	24
<i>FAILING TO APPEAR</i>	24

**FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST
COMPETITION RULES V20 2026**

ABANDONED FIXTURES/SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE	25
MASS WALK-OFFS	25
MATCHES PLAYED OUTSIDE NORMAL ZONE COMPETITIONS	25
<i>TRIAL MATCHES</i>	25
<i>SOCIAL FIXTURES</i>	25
<i>SIX A SIDE AND SPECIAL COMPETITIONS</i>	25
<i>COACHING CLINICS</i>	26
CANCELLED FIXTURES	26
GROUND CLOSURES (INCL. WET WEATHER)	26
<i>RESCHEDULING OF COMPETITION MATCHES DUE TO WET WEATHER: -</i>	26
<i>THE COMPETITION ADMINISTRATOR HAS AUTHORITY TO: -</i>	27
ELIGIBLE PLAYER FOR FINAL SERIES	27
<i>JUNIOR COMPETITIVE</i>	27
<i>PLAYERS AGED 15 (MALE) 14 (FEMALE) YEARS AND OVER</i>	27
<i>PLAYERS PLAYING IN PREMIER, NORTHERN OR SOUTHERN LEAGUE OR OVER 35'S COMPETITIONS</i>	27
PREMIERS	28
<i>IN ALL COMPETITIONS IN WHICH SEMI-FINALS ARE INVOLVED: -</i>	28
<i>GOAL DIFFERENCE</i>	29
FINAL SERIES.....	29
FORMAT	29
<i>DETERMINING SEMI FINALS POSITIONS</i>	29
PLAY – OFFS (CHAMPIONSHIPS).....	30
<i>SEMI FINALS AND FINALS</i>	30
<i>GRAND FINALS</i>	30
<i>ZONE CHAMPIONSHIPS</i>	30
TEAM GRADING	31
MATCH SUSPENSIONS AND FINES	32
<i>THESE COMPETITION RULES ARE AN ADDENDUM TO THE ABOVE AND MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FA'S NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS AND NNSW DISCIPLINARY, INTEGRITY, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS REGULATION</i>	32
RULE CHANGES	33
DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS	34
APPENDICES A - E	35
<i>APPENDIX – A. REGISTRATION OF A PLAYER</i>	35
<i>APPENDIX – B. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION</i>	35
<i>APPENDIX – C. ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP</i>	35
<i>APPENDIX – D. FINES</i>	35
<i>Home Team – Home ground</i>	35
<i>Alcohol Related</i>	36
<i>Team sheets details</i>	36
<i>Emergency Paper Team Sheets</i>	36
<i>Washed out or doubtful fixtures</i>	36
<i>Forfeits</i>	36
<i>Late withdrawal</i>	36
<i>Match officials</i>	36
<i>Team officials</i>	37
<i>Registration of a player</i>	37
<i>Duty Officer/Ground Official</i>	37
<i>APPENDIX – E. SEMI FINAL FORMATS</i>	38

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

Competitions (the)

All Competitions conducted within the boundaries of Football Mid North Coast (FMNC) shall come under its jurisdiction. They may be designated as Zone Competitions, Northern or Southern Competitions, and will be identified by age groups or Division, and may be identified by gender.

Administration of Competitions

- The Competitions shall be administered in every respect by the Football Mid North Coast board which has the authority to delegate whole or part of their powers to a Person or Persons to administer the day to day running of the Zone's competitions.
- All fixtures shall be played in compliance with the Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with FIFA/FA and the Zone respectively. Provided that the Zone may decide from time to time to vary the Competition Rules.

Club Names, Registered Uniforms

No Club shall be accepted into a Zone Competition until their Playing Name has been approved by the Zone Board.

Each New Club, or an existing Club seeking a name change is required to submit at least three (3) playing names in order of preference for assessment and selection of one (1) that will be deemed as their playing name in the Competition.

Said names are to: -

- reflect the geographical area in which the Club is based i.e.. Its Home Ground
- may include a marketing name
- may include a sponsor or traditional identification

Each New Competition Member shall register with the Zone its uniform and designate on its application for registration both its regular strip and alternate strip colours. This shall be supplied by way of a colour photograph (or equivalent) at the time of applying for membership.

Colours and Emblem

- Permission to make any changes to Team colours or Emblem will be granted by the Competition Administrator only if it can be shown that the proposed changes do not clash with the Uniform (strip) or Emblem of another Member. Clubs should consult widely with other clubs and the FMNC Board before making any decisions on these matters.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

- Clubs changing playing strips from season to season must have this approved by FMNC prior to ordering of new strips.
- Shirt Numbers must be on the back of shirts, clearly visible and a contrast colour to that of the shirt. Shirt numbers for senior players must be a minimum size of 20cm and for juniors 15cm.
- All players taking the field shall be in full Club/Team strip, including shirt, shorts and socks. (Subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply).

Clash of Colours

- In the event of a clash of colours the away team shall change. If the game is played on a neutral ground, then the second named team on the draw shall change.
- All clubs are responsible for ensuring they can access an alternate strip for away games.
- The ball boy/s colours shall be distinct from those worn by either of the opposing Teams or the Referees.

Home Ground, Home team, definition and responsibilities

- A Home Team shall mean the Team which is competing on its Home Ground and/or in the case of a neutral ground the Team whose name appears first in the Official Draw.
- The Home club is to ensure their playing surface is in a condition suitable for match play, the ground is clearly and accurately marked, that nets and corner posts are provided and are of a correct standard and in good condition.
- Home or Host Clubs (Home team on a neutral ground) are responsible for ensuring spectator control on their home grounds. **An Adult Ground Official must be in attendance wearing a jacket/vest designating them as the Ground Official.** If the Ground Official appointed for the day is a coach or manager of a team, he must not be the Ground Official for the duration of the team's game. The Ground Official must have access to keys to access ground lighting, change rooms, toilets, and showers
- **Competition games will not commence until Match Officials are satisfied there is a Ground Official(s) present**
- Where an oval is fenced within three (3) metres of the playing surface, all spectators shall remain behind the fence. Where no fence is in place a rope or dotted line must be positioned three (3) metres back from both sidelines. In the case of junior matches a dotted line is to be marked out and adjacent to the sideline.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

- A technical area for each team must be designated for all competitive age games. The technical areas are to be on the same side of the field, equidistant from and on either side of half-way. The bench may include up to five players and three officials. Only players able to take the field may be substitutes on the bench. Only **registered Officials** named on the team sheet are allowed into the bench/technical area.
- All clubs and grounds must comply with relevant public health orders.
- A First Aid Kit and Stoppage Book are to be accessible at all games. Ideally an onsite person who holds a **current first aid certificate**. All injuries are to be recorded in the Injuries Book.
- Should a home ground (not a neutral ground) be deemed unplayable by the match official for reasons other than being rained out, e.g., poor surface or marking, a forfeit shall be awarded to the visiting side and the conditions applying to a forfeit shall apply to the home team. (See Rule on forfeits)
- For Zone League matches, the supply of three (3) FIFA approved match balls and where possible at least two ball boys. Four ball boy/s is the ideal number to supply.

Moveable Goal Posts

All portable or movable goal posts must comply with the relevant Australian Standard; AS 4866.1-2007.

Alcohol and Prohibited Drugs

- Drinking of alcohol is not permitted within three (3) metres of a playing field and its availability is subject to State Government Regulations & Local Government Ordinances.
- The sale or consumption of alcohol is not permitted at any Junior Fixture.
- No Club is permitted to sell Alcohol or other beverages in glass containers under any circumstances. Clubs found breaching this regulation will be dealt with under the FA's National Code of Conduct.
- Persons found to be using Prohibited Drugs will be referred to the Police.

Behaviour of Players, Officials and Supporters

Each Club shall be responsible for the behaviour of its Players, Team Officials, Clubs Officials and Supporters **at all times**. Where there are breaches of the relevant FA codes of conduct these matters will be referred to the Competition Administrator.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026
--

Ball (the)

- The Home team is responsible for supplying the match ball. It must be of a suitable quality and inflated to the correct pressure. The Referee has the right to reject a ball, which in his/her opinion is not up to standard.
- The balls used in Zone League matches must carry the FIFA approved stamp.
- Football Sizes
 - 6-9 years..... size 3
 - 10-13 years..... size 4
 - 14 years and over size 5

Competition Points

- Win Three (3) points
- Draw One (1) point
- Bye Three (3) points
- Cancelled Game..... Nil (0) points
- Abandoned As Determined by Competition Administrator

Playing Times

- Mini Roos (6-11 years) as per Mini Roos Handbook
- 12 Years 25 minutes each way
- 13 + 14 Years 30 minutes each way
- 15 +16 Years 35 minutes each way
- 17/18 Years 40 minutes each way
- YD1 40 minutes each way
- Open Women’s 40 minutes each way
- Northern and Southern Leagues 40 minutes each way
- Men’s 35 & over (4th Grade) 40 minutes each way
- Zone League 2 40 minutes each way
- Zone League 1 45 minutes each way

The above playing times may be varied at the discretion of the Competition Administrator to facilitate the smooth running of competitions.

- Half time breaks in all fixtures to be 5 minutes for junior competitive age groups and for Open Women’s, Northern & Southern Leagues, Zone League where the break shall be 10 minutes.
- There is to be no stoppage time played in any FMNC fixtures excluding Zone League 1.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

- Any Fixture abandoned or stopped during the first 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.
- Any Fixture abandoned or stopped during the half time break or second half (i.e. at any time after the blowing of the whistle by the Referee to conclude the first half) shall be deemed to have reached its natural conclusion and will NOT be re-scheduled. **Note: The centre referee is the sole timekeeper.**
- Junior fixtures commencing after the advertised starting time must finish on time. Match officials are to split the remaining available time for the match into two equal halves plus the half time break and advise team officials of the new times before the commencement of the match.

Interchange and Substitutions

Unlimited interchange is permitted in all FMNC competitions except Zone League 1 where up to a maximum of five substitutions per team per game is allowed. In Junior and Senior Competitions where unlimited interchange is allowed, a maximum of five (5) players per team per game are permitted. Interchange players should leave and enter field at half-way. It is regarded as contrary to the spirit of the game and therefore an abuse of interchange for Coaches/Managers to attempt to use it as a time-wasting tactic. Referees, at their discretion, will allow or disallow an interchange to take place and will report excessive cases to the Competition Administrator.

Leading Goal Scorer Award (Zone League 1)

At the end of all the home and away fixtures of the competition, the player who has scored the greatest number of goals in that competition will be honoured by being presented with a Golden Boot award.

Full Strength in a Fixture

A Club is required to always field its best team available when competing in fixtures.

Power to Direct a Change of Home Ground

Notwithstanding any other regulations, the Competition Administrator may direct a Team to play its home fixture(s) at a ground other than its Home Ground, provided that reasonable notice is given to the Teams.

Registration of a Player

Generic Rules

- The Registration of a player in any given year will be that process as laid down by the FA in its National Registration Regulations and regulations contained in the FMNC Zone Registration handbook, plus any updates given to clubs from time to time by the Zone Office.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

- Registration Photos

It is mandatory for all players to upload a photo at the time of registering.

Player & Team Officials Registrations are not valid without a correct passport style photograph.

A Registration photo must be clear, and the player must be easily identified.

The photo must be a passport style image of the head only. Hats and sunglasses should not be worn in the photo.

FMNC may reject any inappropriate photos and decline subsequent registrations.

All Electronic match sheets will display photos of registered players. If a valid photo is not on the Match sheet the player is ineligible to play

Junior player photos must be updated every two (2) years up until the age of 18.

Senior photos must be updated every five (5) years.

Player registrations are not valid without a correct passport style photograph

- A player may only be registered with one Club and one team at any time during the Player Registration time frame.
- Players may only be included in one team for the purpose of calculating team numbers when entering teams in a competition.
- The registration period for a player shall be between the 1st January and the 30th June in any given calendar year.
- Any registration submitted by a Club after its initial lists have been submitted is to be classed as a LATE REGISTRATION.
- Players registering for the first time must supply documentary evidence of proof of age and/or identity to their respective clubs.
- Women are not permitted to register in a men's competition where there is an equivalent women's competition available.
- In the event of a player signing for two Clubs, the first registration received by the Zone will be the Club with whom the player is registered. The date of each registration shall be recorded.
- Also refer to **Appendix A** for further information.
- No Junior or senior players can be added to competition teams after 30th June. Players may not be interchanged between teams under any circumstances after the 30th of June.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

Zone League

- A Club, when registering players for Zone League, needs to abide by the generic rules (above).
- Each year a Club will be required to lodge with the Zone on a nominated date prior to 'team nomination night', each player's completed registration. A minimum of Twelve (12) registered players is required. Failure to have the required number of registered players at this time may put a Club's position in the competition at risk.

Age Qualification

Age qualification of a player shall be determined by the age a player turns in any given year.

- A player may be registered with FMNC if that player is turning five (5) years of age by the end of the calendar year in which he/she is registering. (See Rule on Registration of a Player). That player may only play in a club sixes (6's) team.
- No junior player may play in the senior competition ranks until they attain the age of fifteen (15), fourteen (14) for women. (See rule on "Registration of a Player")
- Players wishing to play Over 35's must attain the age of 35 by the end of the calendar year in which he/she is registering. (See Rule on "Registration of a Player").

Team Nominations (numbers required)

The following minimum player numbers are required before Teams will be accepted into FMNC Competitions in any year.

Players may only be included in one team for the purpose of calculating team numbers when entering teams in a competition (see registration of a player rule).

- Competitive Junior Teams require a minimum of eleven (11) players. The Competition Administrator will have the discretion, where an explanation is provided, to accept less than the required number of players.
- Senior Teams require a minimum of twelve (12) players.
- Zone League clubs are required to nominate a minimum of 12 players, prior to commencement of their competition (see registration of a player, Zone League).

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

- Where more than one team is entered by a Club in any one age group, or single senior competition, then those teams shall be recognised by FMNC as separate entities and no interchange of players between these teams will be permitted. Players in breach of this rule will be deemed ineligible players. Girls playing in a girl's specific competition may also play in the mixed competition.
- Number of Teams per Division
 - Where there are 12 or more teams in a particular age competition, they may be divided into two divisions.
 - Where there is an uneven number of teams in a split competition and a bye spot becomes unavoidable, the bye spot is to be allocated in only one division, at the discretion of the Competition Administrator. However, in such situations the Competition Administrator cannot grade a team above its ability and reserves the right to regrade.

Clearances

Clearances are no longer required.

- Clubs can advise FMNC of any unfinancial player at the end of season who will then be blocked from registering with any other club in Australia.
- Players looking to transfer clubs during a current season must have the registration cancelled by current club before being able to register with the new club. If the transferring player is unfinancial the current club can contact FMNC to block the registration until debt is paid.

The Seven Day Approach Rule

This is the process that must be followed if a player is seeking to move from one club to another during the season.

Once the 7-day Approach Rule has been followed, the club/player can then commence the transfer of registration process, as outlined in the FMNC Registration Handbook.

THE SEVEN DAY APPROACH RULE

You want to speak to or approach a player signed with another club about signing for you.

A manager/coach wishing to speak to a player about joining their team, when the player is already registered with another club, **MUST** ask their club secretary to write

**FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST
COMPETITION RULES V20 2026**

(email) to the secretary of the players current club, giving seven days' formal written notice of their intention to speak to the player.

- This notice must be sent by email and acknowledgment must be obtained via email reply from the secretary of the player's current club.
- Once this has been done, the player can be spoken to on or after the eighth day and the player must be registered on or before the 21st day with the new club.
- If the player declines your offer to leave their current club/team and join your club/team then you cannot approach them again in the same season.
- You can only approach one player in the same team at any one time.
- You cannot approach another player in the same team within 28 days of an earlier notice of approach or acknowledgement.

The Seven Day Approach Rule allows the current club time to notify the player of the approach and persuade them to stay at the club.

Ultimately, the players have the power and it's their decision whether to remain with their current club or move to another club.

Any club wishing to make a protest of illegal approach can do so by contacting FMNC in writing within 14 days of the alleged illegal approach, together with any evidence.

ILLEGAL APPROACH

An illegal approach happens when clubs do not give notices of approaches to other clubs when wanting to sign or allow players to train with them.

Below are the rules which all clubs must follow.

NOTICE OF APPROACH

Formal written notice of approach needs to be given as outlined above.

This must be sent to the club secretary of the club before an approach is made to the player.

If a player makes an approach to your club, you must send the notice of approach to the club they are registered with before allowing this player to train or sign with your club.

It is the Clubs responsibility to make sure that notices of approach are sent to the Club that the Player is registered with.

Following the notice of approach being sent the following can then happen;

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

- the player maybe registered on or after the eighth day; and
- the player must have been registered on or before the 21st day.

The approaching club;

- may not approach the same Player a second time in the same playing season.
- may approach only one Player from a team at any time.
- may not approach another Player at the same team within 28 days of an earlier notice of approach or acknowledgement.

If a club is proved to have breached this rule, they may have the current registration of the Player cancelled and be subject to other penalties as FMNC deems appropriate.

- If FMNC become aware that a duplicate registration has been created to bypass this process the new registration will be cancelled/deregistered, and the player may be treated as an ineligible player.

Team Officials

Registration

- A Club must ensure that all team coaches and managers are registered on Play Football.
- All persons employed or volunteering their services as a Team Coach or Team Manager (hereinafter called a Team Official) must be registered annually with their club on Playfootball.
- Details of such persons' names, addresses, team and Coaching certificate held are to be completed in the FMNC Online Registration System.
- Should a competition team not have a registered Team Official prior to the start of the winter competition they will be ineligible to receive competition points until such time as they have a registered team official.
- It is mandatory for all team officials to upload a photo at the time of registering.

Team Official Registrations are not valid without a correct passport style photograph.

A Registration photo must be clear, and the team official must be easily identified.

The photo must be a passport style image of the head only. Hats and sunglasses should not be worn in the photo.

FMNC may reject any inappropriate photos and decline subsequent registrations.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

All Electronic match sheets will display photos of registered team officials. If a valid photo is not on the Match sheet the team official is ineligible to take part in match or be in the technical area.

Team Official photos must be updated every five (5) years.

- Team Official registrations are not valid without a correct passport style photograph
- A Club must provide the Zone with a List of all its coaches and managers on the Official Team Lists at the start of each season.

Permission to Enter Field

- No Team Official is allowed onto the field of play at any time during or immediately after a fixture (until match officials have left the ground) unless permission to do so is granted by the match Official(s).

Match Officials

- Each competition fixture, wherever possible, shall be played under the control of an Official Referee appointed by the FMNC Referee Administrator.
- Match Officials may be fined as per these rules at the sole discretion of the Competition Administrator.
- Wherever possible each fixture should be played under the control of an Official Referee and Assistant Referees. In the event of no official referee being appointed or the failure of a referee to appear within five minutes of the scheduled starting time of a match, the home team shall appoint a club or substitute referee. Failure to do so shall be regarded as a forfeit to the visiting team. If the visiting team fails to accept the substitute referee, then this shall be regarded as a forfeit to the home team. If both teams refuse to play under the appointed referee, then the match shall be regarded as an abandoned fixture and the incident referred to the Competition Administrator. The Clubs may also be charged under the FA's National Code of Conduct.
- *Where assistant referees are not appointed, we would encourage each Team to provide a Club assistant referee. This can be a player who is currently:*
 - i) *a substitute from each Team,*
 - ii) *Or a parent/guardian/other adult from each Team.*
- The substitute referee or club referee shall assume the full responsibility of an official referee and be treated accordingly.
- **The substitute referee or club referee must be registered as a volunteer with their club in playfootball.**
- In junior competitive fixtures, where possible, the appointed person should be at least two years older than the grade he is going to referee.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

- In senior fixtures, the referee should be age eighteen years or over. A Talented younger referee may be fast tracked on the recommendation of the Zone referee coach.
- If an Official Referee fails to appear after being appointed a notation is to be made on the Emergency Paper Team Sheet.
- The cost of match officials' fees is shared equally between the home and away club, except in the case of a forfeit when it is the responsibility of the forfeiting Club (team). FMNC will pay the match officials on behalf of clubs who will be invoiced weekly for match fees.
- A Club Official, Team Official, Zone Official, Federation Official may send in a written report to the Zone on the performance of a Referee during a fixture. Such report should be received by the Zone no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the fixture.

Online Team Sheets

- It is compulsory for all clubs to use the nominated online team sheet program for all official fixtures. In the event of the internet dropping out, FMNC will permit clubs to use the hard copy paper team sheets as an emergency measure (refer Emergency Paper Team Sheet).
- All team sheets referred to in this document are the online version unless specified. Any club found to be in breach of this rule by using hard copy team sheets when not an emergency may have sanctions imposed upon them by the Competition Administrator.
- Home clubs must ensure Emergency paper team sheets are available for all matches to be used as an emergency measure only.
- Online team sheets are to be published (green light) by the Coach or Manager at least **fifteen (15)** minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time. **Note the system automatically locks out at the scheduled kick off time.**
- The Match Official is to check that the team sheet has been published at least **fifteen (15)** minutes prior to the commencement of the match.
- Any player from a lower division substituting, can only be selected from the borrowed player drop down list on the online team sheet otherwise they are deemed an ineligible player
- On the online team sheet, all ticked players are deemed as taking part in the match.
- 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 number before or during a Fixture except on a change of Goalkeeper.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

- Online Team sheets must be completed for each competition match. Team sheets that are not published may result in a fine/penalty/loss of points for each sheet, as determined by Competition Administrator
- When a competition match is officiated by a non-appointed match official teams are still required to complete the online team sheet prior to kick off. The club match official can record match details on a hard copy team sheet.
- If the **Published** button is not pressed – **the team sheet was not submitted**. If the team/club experiences a technical issue with this, they must advise FMNC Operations and provide a paper team sheet to the Referee prior to kick off. ***Clubs must be aware that they will be able to access the online template for this paper team sheet, and it is their responsibility to distribute this to teams/coaches at the start of the season, so they have a back-up in place.*** Paper team sheets should be used in an emergency only - our expectation is that they would not be used at all for most teams, unless in an exceptional circumstance as explained above.
- Team sheets can be completed at any time before the fixture takes place and can be submitted prior to arrival at a fixture.
- *It is not a problem if a player name is on the team sheet and does not play in the fixture. A player not turning up when they are on a team sheet is no different to a player getting injured in a warmup and then not being involved.*
- The Referee must complete the team sheet after the match and enter the match score and any sanctions. The Referee will use his/her login to verify the result and yellow and red cards. No sign off by team Managers is required. A failure by the Match Official to comply with this rule shall subject the Referee to a Fine as determined annually by the Competition Administrator.
- Teams may list 16 Names on the Official Team Sheet; a Maximum of 16 Players (11 Starting + 5 Substitutes) shall participate in the Match. Players ticked on the team sheet are deemed to have played.
- Maximum Number of Borrowed players per game is 7
- A borrowed player into an age group with multiple teams in same competition should only be borrowed into one team for the duration of the season.
- A person found guilty of supplying false information on an Official Team Sheet shall be dealt with as determined by the Competition Administrator.

Should a Team Official have a reasonable doubt regarding the eligibility of an opposing Player(s) named on the Official Team Sheet, he/she should notify the Referee, prior to commencement of the game who will record the details in the online Team Sheet.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

- In the case where an emergency team sheet is required the home club official (team listed first on fixture) is responsible for emailing the completed team sheet to the Competition Office within 24 hours of the match.

Emergency Paper Team Sheets

- Home clubs (team listed first on fixture) must have hard copy paper team sheets in case of emergency e.g. internet failure. The Rules below cover the instances when paper team sheets are required only.
- Home clubs must fill out the date, ground, division, grade and participating teams on these team sheets. Paper team sheets are to be completed by the Coach or Manager at least **fifteen (15)** minutes prior to the scheduled kick off
- The Ground Official is to check that the team sheet has been completed at least **Ten (10)** minutes prior to the commencement of the match
- Any player from a lower division substituting up is to have their registered division and grade written clearly next to their name on the paper team sheet.
- Emergency hard copy paper team sheets should contain full names and registration numbers of all players taking part in or expected to take part in the match (including the names of nominated substitutes). Applicable shirt numbers are to be listed against each player.
- Should a Team Official have a reasonable doubt regarding the eligibility of an opposing Player(s) named on the Emergency Team Sheet, he/she should have it noted on the Emergency Team Sheet. The Player(s) will be allowed to play in the Fixture and the Competition Administrator Disciplinary shall determine the eligibility of the Player(s).
- A person found guilty of supplying false information on an Official Team Sheet shall be dealt with as determined by the Competition Administrator.
- (h) Failure by any Member Club, Registered Player or Official to adhere to the preceding Rules may be subject to action by the Competition Administrator, which could result in **Fine and/or loss of points and/or suspension.**

Eligible/Ineligible Player

- An ELIGIBLE PLAYER is one who has completed the required FA registration process and the Zone Office has received the completed paperwork along with the required registration payment in full.
- An INELIGIBLE PLAYER is one who has not completed satisfactorily the FA Registration process, or not paid to the required Registration fee, and/or has

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

not conformed to FMNC's Rules and Regulations in any circumstance. A Club who plays in Ineligible player in any fixture shall be ineligible for any points in that fixture and would be fined a sum as determined annually. In such cases, the full points associated with the fixture shall be awarded to their opponents and the score recorded as a 3-0 win – unless the opponents won the match by a margin greater than 3 goals, then the original result would stand. The matter would also be referred to the Competition Administrator.

Disqualified Player

- A DISQUALIFIED PLAYER is one who is under suspension from this or any other Zone, his/her Club, an Association or Federation.
- A club which has been found to have played a disqualified Player in a fixture will have any such game recorded as a 0-3 loss and winning points awarded to their opponents. A monetary fine will also be levied against the offending club and the matter will be referred to the Competition Administrator.
- If the Zone has any doubts as to the eligibility of any Player taking part in the Competitions, they have the power to call upon such a Player, the Team or Club with which he is registered, to prove that he is an eligible Player. Failure to provide satisfactory proof may result in such Player being disqualified and may also result in the removal of that Team from the Competition and the Zone may refer the matter to the Competition Administrator.

Teams Removed or Withdrawing from the Competition

In the event of a Team withdrawing or being removed from the Competition the following procedure will apply: -

- If time constraints allow, a redraw for the competition will be carried out and the Offending Club will be fined by the Zone for the late withdrawal of the team. The amount of the fine will be determined annually.
- In the event of a team being removed or withdrawing during the Competition, each opposing Team that has played that Team shall have the relevant points and goals deleted from its records 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.
- If a bye already exists in a competition, a redraw (if practicable) of the remaining rounds will be carried out to avoid having two byes per round.
- Teams withdrawing after a fixture list has been published will be subject to a fine as determined by the Competition Administrator.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

Playing Down

When signing up for a team and age group at the beginning of the season, the age the player is turning this year is the age group that they sign up for, for example if they are turning 11 this year, they are registered for the U11 age group.

However, FMNC have made provision for a criterion that may allow players to play down, subject to the following:

Should a player be approved to play down an age group that then makes them ineligible to play in their natural age group or above.

Biological Maturation

As part of FMNC's competitions policy, players that develop at a different rate from a physical perspective due to later biological maturity may be eligible to play in a lower age-group.

Although players may be similar in terms of chronological age, their biological age can vary substantially due to the timing of their adolescent growth spurt. Biological maturation testing allows players to develop their skills on a level playing field against an opposition more suited to their height, weight, speed and strength.

To identify those who may be eligible players, FMNC will utilise the process that was created by Northern NSW Football with Football NSW and Dr Ric Lovell (PhD).

Using the video tutorials, any players seeking to play down an age group are required to do a self-assessment and record their results when registering for a formal assessment and submit the results to FMNC on the prescribed form (link here).

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/FootballMidNorthCoast/PlayingDownOutOfAgeRequestForm>

Eligibility – 2026 Season

The following information seeks to clarify the eligibility of players for the 2025 Season in relation to Biological Maturation approved Players:

Players assessed as *Late Developers*:

Any Player that is assessed as a "late developer" by FMNC may be given approval status to play down an age grade at his/her club on the condition that the club has a position available in the team that the player is seeking to register for.

Players assessed as *On Time Developers and Early Developers*:

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

Any Player that is assessed by FMNC following a parental/Club request, and have followed the above process, who is deemed as an “on time developer” or “early developer” will NOT be permitted to play down an age grade at their club.

<https://www.northernnswfootball.com.au/talented-players/biological-maturation>

Measuring Standing Height - Biological Maturation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RT7QPRg-I9Q>

Measuring Seated Height - Biological Maturation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZtiF9bOiCI>

Measuring Body Mass - Biological Maturation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4xhbmH85mw>

Any request for a player to play down must be via the prescribed form, completed by Club Secretary and include all relevant facts to be considered and meet Biological Maturation eligibility. Requests with relevant other factors may be considered, with information provided via the form.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/FootballMidNorthCoast/PlayingDownOutOfAgeRequestForm>

Registration of a player in a higher age group (playing up)

Mini Roos

- In Mini Roos it is expected that Clubs will always make every effort to make sure that all players will be placed in their own age group.

Junior Competitive Players

Clubs will be permitted to register and play players in higher age group teams under certain circumstances when entering their Teams in FMNC Competitions.

- In Competitive Junior Competitions catering for the 12's to 18's Clubs may elect to play a player(s) in a competition group higher than their own age in any given year.
- There are no age-related restrictions on Players registering in the competition of their choice once they reach the age of fifteen (15) years, fourteen (14) for females. However, once registered in any given competition they are governed by the rules of that competition. E.g., a 15-year-old registering in a 17-18's team will be classed as being that age for competition purposes.
- A junior player must not play more than 2 years up.
- Once a player's name appears on a Competition Team Sheet for a competitive fixture, that player will be regarded as having played a competitive fixture and will not be entitled to any FMNC fee refunds. This does not apply to trial matches.

**FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST
COMPETITION RULES V20 2026**

- FMNC reserves the right to re-assign a team to an appropriate grade or age group to protect the integrity of its competitions.

HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE: - No player may change teams on a permanent basis after the 30th June each year under any circumstances (see Rule “Registration of a Player p9-p10”).

Playing up on a Casual Basis

Players playing up on a casual basis ideally should start the game on the bench unless the full complement of regular players are unavailable, however this is not enforceable.

Junior Competitive

During the season, a borrowed player may play up for an unlimited number of games. The player must be available to be selected from the borrowed player list on the online team sheet. Where the Emergency paper team sheet is required, the player playing up must have his/her original team marked beside their name. A junior player must not play more than 2 years up.

A Grade registered players cannot play down in lower grades.

Players aged 14 (Girls) and 15 (boys) years and over

- Players having attained 14 years girls, 15 years boys and over playing in age group competitions may play in their Club’s Senior Teams (not over 35’s) to help cover short term player losses, provided that girls only play in the women’s competitions and boys only play in men’s competitions.
- A player who has sought and received permission to play down in age-based competitions may not play up in an age group above the grade they are approved to play in.
- There are no qualification rules requirements for these players to take part in the respective finals’ series.
- There are special disciplinary rules relating to any red and yellow cards suspensions players may receive while playing up. It is the responsibility of a Club to make themselves familiar with these rules and advise their players accordingly (refer to the relevant rule).

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

In Senior Competitions - Men's (ZL) and Men and Women's Northern and Southern League's and Over 35's:

Players can play up from a lower grade competition on a casual basis providing the player is available to be selected from the borrowed player list on the online team sheet. Where the Emergency paper team sheet is required, the player playing up must have his/her original team marked beside their name.

Players may not play down between senior competitions. ZL registered players cannot play down to men's lower grades. A Grade registered players cannot play down in lower grades. B Grade registered players cannot play down in lower grades.

Zone League 1 teams must nominate 8 players who are ineligible to play down in lower grades when playing clubs who only play in Zone League 2 or lower grades sides.

Competition administrators reserve the right to allow player movement in special circumstances at their discretion upon formal application.

- Red and yellow cards are cumulative across all FMNC competitions. It is the **Responsibility of Clubs** to record and track individual cards and advise their players accordingly, as notification to the FMNC office may be delayed. This data is available on the competition management system.

Zone Representative Players

Players will be selected from time to time to represent the Zone in fixtures that will be classified as Zone Representative Fixtures.

- In the event of a clash between a Zone Representative Fixture and a Club fixture, a Player must always give preference to playing in the Zone fixture.
- Players selected to play for the Zone, and who for any reason withdraw from the Zone Team, will be prohibited from playing in any competition fixture scheduled for the same day.
- When Teams have three or more players involved in a Zone Representative Fixture, they may seek a deferral of their Club fixture through their Club Secretary (see rule "Deferred Fixtures" below).

Deferred Fixtures

A Team may seek permission of the Zone to have a fixture(s) deferred, providing that such a deferral shall be requested in time to give due notice to the opposing Team(s) and to the Referees Appointment Committee. Consideration for a deferral will be given when a club team has three players or more involved in Zone Representative duties at the same time as the fixture or other circumstances outside the control of the club.

- The Competition Administrator shall reschedule the date for the playing of a deferred fixture provided always that the Competition Administrator may at

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

his/her discretion declare the fixture a “Cancelled Fixture” (see rule “Cancelled fixtures”).

- The rescheduling of the fixture must take place within five (5) days of the deferral date, and it must be scheduled to be played within 14 days of the deferral date.
- The Competition Administrator shall notify each competing Club and the Referees Appointments Officer of the time, date, and venue of when the deferred fixture will be played.
- There will be no deferrals permitted for any teams playing in a FMNC Final Series Fixture.
- A deferred fixture not played in accordance with this regulation shall not be recognised by the Zone.

Competition Results

- The appointed Referee is responsible to enter match results into the online competition management system as soon as possible after the completion of the match.
- In instances where emergency paper team sheets are used, it is the responsibility of the home club official (team listed first on fixture list) to email emergency team sheet to admin@footballmidnorthcoast.com with 24 hours of the completion of the match
- ***Maximum recorded score will be no more than a 10-goal margin regardless of number of goals scored in competitive youth leagues (U12-U18 inclusive).***

Forfeits

Zone League

No forfeits are permitted in Zone League. Clubs will be fined (see appendix D) for failing to turn up to play a Zone League match.

Points Awarded

In all forfeits, three points will be awarded to the opponents of the forfeiting team with a 3-0 goal difference.

Lack of Team Numbers

- A Team must always field at least seven (7) of its eligible players in a fixture. At any time if the number drops below seven then the fixture is to be abandoned and a forfeit awarded to the opposing team.
- No fine would be applied to the forfeiting club under these circumstances.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026
--

Notice of Forfeit

In the event of a Club having to forfeit a fixture for any reason; the forfeiting Club's secretary must give notice in writing to: -

- The competition administrator, giving reason for forfeit.
- The opposing club secretary.
- The Referee Administrator.
- The club on whose ground the match is being played (if different to first point).
- No fine would be applied for forfeiting within the correct time frame.

Intention to forfeit must be notified by

- **12 midday for weekday fixtures**

- **6pm night before weekend (Sat/Sun) fixtures**

Late Start or Forfeit

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. If any Team, for whatever reason, fails to take the field at this time, it shall be deemed to have forfeited the fixture.

- The offending Team shall pay all appropriate Referees fees and Assistant Referees fees.
- Any other expenses as determined by the Competition Administrator.
- A fine may be levied on the Club by the Competition Administrator.

Failing to Appear

A Team that, without just cause, fails to fulfil an engagement to play a 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. The determination of these expenses is at the sole discretion of the Competition Administrator.

In the event of a team forfeit for failing to appear without notice: -

Winning points allocated for the fixture shall be awarded to its opponents and the score recorded as a three goal to nil victory.

- The offending Team shall pay all appropriate Referees fees and Assistant Referees fees.
- Any other expenses as determined by the Competition Administrator.
- In the event of a team forfeiting on two or more occasions without an acceptable reason, the Club Secretary would have to show cause to the

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

Competition Administrator why that team should not be withdrawn from the Competition.

- Fines for the late withdrawal of a team would apply.

Abandoned Fixtures/Spectator Interference

In cases where a fixture has been abandoned by the Referee through the invasion of the field by spectators or for other reasons the Zone shall investigate the circumstances of the abandonment and shall: -

- Determine the result of the abandoned fixture, determine whether the fixture should be replayed in full or in part and under what conditions
Impose such penalties as it shall deem fit on Teams, Team Officials, Players and/or spectators adjudged to be associated with the abandonment.
- Clubs are responsible for spectator behaviour.

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 Zone and a forfeit shall be awarded to the opposing team. The Offending side will be referred to the competition administrator for Disciplinary action.

Matches Played outside Normal Zone Competitions

Trial Matches

Clubs need to obtain a sanction from the competition administrator before they may conduct or participate in any trial match.

Applications made within **7 days** of the proposed match(es) will be sanctioned but may NOT have Match Officials appointed by FMNC

Any club conducting a trial that has not been sanctioned by FMNC will render club administrator(s) liable in the event of player injury or public liability claims

Social Fixtures

Clubs need to obtain permission from the Competition Administrator before they conduct or participate in any social match, e.g., Clubs or teams visiting the area.

Six a Side and Special Competitions

Clubs need to advise FMNC and obtain permission from Northern NSW before conducting any type of tournament (including six a side) of any duration. FMNC will not approve Special Competitions that are in direct competition with neighbouring clubs.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

Coaching Clinics

Clubs need to obtain permission from the Competition Administration before they conduct a Coaching Clinic at their Club.

Cancelled Fixtures

The Competition Administrator, in consultation with the Zone Executive, has the authority to declare a fixture or round of a competition “a cancelled fixture(s)”

In the event of a fixture or round being declared “Cancelled”, no points or goals will be allocated to either (any) team.

Ground Closures (incl. wet weather)

In the event of a Club having a Field(s) closed due to wet weather or any other reason at any time throughout the season the following procedure shall apply: -

The Club Secretary or his/her nominee must advise in writing (email): -

- The Competition Administrator
- The opponents Club Secretary.
- No later than 3.30pm on the day of any mid-week fixtures.
- No later than 7.00am on the morning of any week-end fixtures.
- FMNC Office will update fixtures on the Competition Management System and advise all parties.
- FMNC reserves the right to transfer fixtures at short notice to open venues.

Rescheduling of Competition matches due to Wet Weather: -

- Rescheduling of Matches or Fixtures affected by adverse weather will be automatically rescheduled as per below guidelines or as determined by Competition Administrator:-
- *Saturday games – Sunday fortnight after washout.*
- *Friday games – 3rd Monday after washout*
- *Wednesday 35s South games – 2nd Monday after Washout*

Note: Should the rescheduled games be weather impacted again then reset using same timeframe (approximately a fortnights time). Should this clash with any other rescheduled games then competition administrators will reschedule for the following week wherever possible.

Clubs/teams via mutual agreement can decide to play earlier than the automatic reschedule date, if not mutually agreed then the automatic reschedule is the official reschedule date.

Where a round is washed out, and the teams are unable to play the washed-out game before the commencement of semi-finals, the Competition Administrator will declare the games as a 0-0 draw.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026
--

The Competition Administrator has authority to: -

- Reschedule washed out or deferred fixtures.
- Reschedule washed out or deferred fixtures on a play or forfeit basis.
- In consultation with the Zone Executive, cancel rounds of a competition that are totally washed out, or where more than 80% of the grounds are closed by Councils.
- Direct that a fixture not played within the 14-day timeframe will result in that match being rescheduled on a play or forfeit basis.
- Declare a “cancelled game” for any fixture(s) not played as per the scheduled competition draw.

Any matters relating to wet weather and playing of deferred fixtures not specifically mentioned in these rules will be decided by the Competition Administrator at his/her absolute discretion.

Where both teams are in agreement and an alternate venue is available, matches may be moved/rescheduled at short notice.

Eligible Player for Final Series

Junior Competitive

Subject to any disciplinary restriction on a Player, a Registered Player of a Team is an Eligible Player to compete in their Team's Finals Series Fixtures. Ideally, such Registered Player of a Team should **not** be nominated as a Reserve, or left out of their Team, to allow a Player from another Team to take their place in any Finals Series Fixture, however this is not enforceable.

Players aged 15 (male) 14 (female) years and over

Players aged 15 (male) 14 (Female) years and over, who are playing in age-based competitions may play in the senior's finals series, provided that boys are only permitted to play in men's teams and girls only in ladies' teams.

Players Playing in Premier, Northern or Southern League or Over 35's Competitions

- Movement in Graded Competition is restricted in that higher graded players may not play down in lower grades
E.g., A Grade registered players may not play down to B Grade.

However, to qualify to play in the final series of the Northern, Southern or Over 35 competitions, a player must be registered to that team.

A Borrowed player from a lower grade must start from the reserve bench unless the team has less than the eleven starting players.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

For Clarity the hierarchy of Senior grades for Final Series eligibility is-

- Zone League (if applicable)
- A Grade Competition
- B Grade Competition
- C Grade Competition
- Over 35's Competition

ZPL2 Final Series Player Eligibility

applicable when a club has both ZL1 & ZL2 teams

- A Player who has not been ticked on the team sheet of Zone League 2 for two thirds (2/3rds) or more of the available matches within a season is Ineligible to play in the Zone League 2 Final Series.
- In the event of above not clearly defining a Player's eligibility, the Competition Administrator will make a determination.
- Each Club will be responsible for determining the eligibility of its Registered ZPL Players and must maintain a system of tracking each of its Players for the full Competition Season.
- Suspended Players are not eligible to play in ANY Competition or Finals Series Fixture until the complete suspension has been served. Such suspended Players are not eligible to have Competition Matches (whilst on such suspension) credited to their eligibility for participation in Finals Series Matches.
- A Designated Goalkeeper is a Registered ZL Player who has played for the majority of the Season in this specialist position and who must be named as a Designated Goalkeeper prior to the commencement of the Finals Series. Such Player will be exempt from these qualifying Regulations.
- A Team playing an INELIGIBLE Player 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

Premiers

In all Competitions in which semi-finals are involved: -

- When all premierships fixtures (home and away) are concluded and the Competition Points allocated, the Team with the highest number of points on the official points table shall be declared the "Premiers".
- Should two or more Teams in the same competition possess the same highest number of points the Team with the better goal difference shall be the highest.
- Should two or more Teams in the same Competition have the same goal difference, then the Team which has scored the greatest number of goals shall be declared the "Premiers".

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

- Should two or more Teams in the same competition have the same number of competition points, the same goal difference, and scored the same number of goals then they shall be declared “Joint Premiers”.

Goal Difference

In the cases where goal differences are considered the way they shall be determined shall be: -

Number of goals against subtracted from the number of goals for with the highest resultant plus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to plus goal difference. The lowest resultant minus figure from such subtraction shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to minus goal differences.

In the event of the goal difference being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals shall be considered the highest and where all other criteria are equal away goals will be recognised over home goals with Teams being recognised as the winner by scoring more away goals.

Final Series

Format

- The finals format for each competition will be decided after nomination night and communicated to clubs prior to season commencing, on an annual basis.
- Preferred final series format is for a **four team (3-week) series**.
FMNC reserve the right to determine alternate final series formats and alter final series formats due to unforeseen circumstance. *ie Weather Events*
Alternate formats could be five team, six team or eight team.
- The formats are laid out in appendix E of these competition rules.

Determining Semi Finals Positions

The position in which a Team listed on the Official FMNC Points Table (available on FMNC web site) at the end of the Home and away Series will determine the position they fill in any final series.

The top team will be the team that has amassed the largest number of points at the end of the competition rounds.

- If points are equal, the Team with the highest goal difference *i.e.*, goals for minus goals against will finish higher up the table.
- If still equal, the teams with most goals will finish higher up the table.

**FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST
COMPETITION RULES V20 2026**

Play – offs (Championships)

- Winners of Grand Finals will be declared “Champions” and the losing Team will be declared “Grand finalists.”
- Each Team playing in the final series must provide an approved match ball for their use.

Semi Finals and Finals

In all semi-finals and finals in competitions conducted by FMNC, the following rules will apply: -

- In all Competitions, in the event of a draw at full time, a five-minute break will be taken then two ten minutes halves with no break will be played. If the scores are still level after extra time, then a penalty shoot-out, conducted under FIFA rules, will take place to decide the winner.

Grand Finals

- In all Competitions, in the event of a draw at full time, a five-minute break will be taken then two ten-minute halves with no break will be played. If the scores are still level after extra time, then a penalty shoot-out, conducted under FIFA rules, will take place to decide the winner.
- In all Grand Finals played under the control of FMNC there will be a maximum of eighteen medals or any other style of trophy including one each for one coach and one manager supplied for each participating team.
- *Grand Finals may have to be scheduled for Saturday or Sunday of the same weekend to enable FMNC resources to cover matches. Consideration alternate – North/South - Saturday/Sunday each year.*
- *Grand Final Venues –*
 - *South: Suitable venue(s) as determined by Competition Administrator*
 - *North: Suitable venue(s) as determined by Competition Administrator*

Zone Championships

- Zone Championships are open to Men, Women, Junior Competitive Northern and Southern **Premiers**. In Graded Competitions the representative will be the A Grade **Premiers**.
- The **Premiers** Northern and Southern Team’s will contest the FMNC Zone Championships held ideally the week following the Grand Finals.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

Perpetual Trophy

- All perpetual trophies / shields remain the property of FMNC
- FMNC will retain possession of the perpetual trophy / shield immediately following the Trophy presentation ceremony.
- Should a perpetual trophy / shield be lost or damaged whilst under the care or custody of a Club, the latter shall refund to FMNC the cost of thorough repair or replacement in addition to any other penalty which FMNC may impose.

Team Grading

Grading of Teams

- The Competition Administrator shall review the team nominations and grade them for consideration by the Grading Committee.
- The grading of all teams shall be determined using the following criteria:
 - i. Team's previous year's competition placing.
 - ii. Experience of team members
 - iii. Promotion/ relegation for teams finishing as **Premiers / Champions** and last in each grade for single team competitions.

The Competition Administrator shall review the grades as above as soon as practical after team nominations. Minutes shall be kept explaining the reason and justification for any grading changes made.

Each year there will be promotion between Graded Competitions where applicable

The Rules and conditions for Promotion and Relegation between the various Competitions are laid out in Appendices B and C at the end of these Rules.

Grading Players Registering after Team Gradings

The following procedures will be followed for the placement of players into teams when an application to register is received after the team gradings have been completed:

- The Competition Administrator will place the player in the team and grade requested **ONLY** if the player's playing history is compatible with the grade requested.
- If the Competition Administrator considers the grade requested to be inappropriate, the request will be referred back to the Club for a formal written request for consideration by the Competition Administrator.
- The formal request should be based on the criteria listed in below

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026

Criteria for Requests for Grading and Regrading

- Requests to be based on:
 - (i) Playing history
 - (ii) Age of player
 - (iii) Skill level
 - (iv) Health or disability
 - (v) Player, team or Club hardship.
- Requests must include all relevant information to support the request, including a medical certificate to support

FMNC reserve the right to regrade teams who have had players added after the initial nominated team list has been submitted.

Match Suspensions and Fines

Refer to document ZONE REGULATORY AMENDMENT SCHEDULE DISCIPLINARY, INTEGRITY, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS REGULATION for Disciplinary Regulations and Grievance Resolution Process

It is the **Responsibility of Clubs** to record and track individual cards via their Club Secretary and advise their players accordingly. This data is available on the competition management system.

These Competition Rules are an addendum to the above and must be read in conjunction with the FA's National Disciplinary Regulations and NNSW DISCIPLINARY, INTEGRITY, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS REGULATION

These Rules will apply to all competitions conducted under the jurisdiction of Football Mid North Coast Referees.

NB. For the purposes of this document the words "he or his" refer to Referees of either gender

- Referees match reports, including send-off reports, must be in the hands of the Competition Administrator (or his/her nominee) no later than **24 hours** after the completion of the match.
- The Referee must inform, on request, at the end of a fixture, a Club Official, under what charges a player was dismissed.
- A Referee's Match Report is not required for a R7 send-off.
- In some instances, a Referee may need to be aware of article 5.5 in the National Disciplinary Regulations.
- If a Referee has not submitted his/her report in the required timeframe, the Referee may be fined by the Competition Administrator. The amount of the fine will be at the sole discretion of the Board of Football Mid North Coast but

**FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST
COMPETITION RULES V20 2026**

must not exceed \$100.00 for his/her first offence. This amount may be increased for any second and subsequent offences.

Rule Changes

In all matters regarding these Competition rules the competition administrator and/or Board of Football Mid North Coast reserves the right to change, amend and/or interpret them as they see fit to ensure the smooth running of any competitions under its control.

Definitions and Interpretations

Appendix A contains the detailed registration process for registering a player to play in approved FMNC competitions in any given year.

Appendix B contains the rules and conditions governing the Promotion and relegation of Teams.

Appendix C contains the rules and conditions governing the Zone Championship.

Appendix D lists the fines in place that may be levied by FMNC in any given year.

Appendix E lists the various semi-final formats available for use in the final series at the end of each year.

Code of Conduct means the National Football Code of Conduct as promulgated by FA from time to time, plus any Codes of Conduct that FMNC may have in place at any given time.

Competition means any competition conducted by Football Mid North Coast.

Competition Administrator means the entity responsible for the conduct and staging of a Competition within Football Mid North Coast. It can also refer to the independent person who is responsible for the issuing of Judicial Penalties in the first instance.

Competitions Rules means the rules and regulations governing the administration and conduct of competitions conducted by Football Mid North Coast.

Disciplinary Regulations means the National Disciplinary Regulations as promulgated by FA from time to time.

Junior means a player who is aged eighteen years or under.

Match(es) means a matchday for the relevant group of teams. E.g., Premier League, one match suspension would include first grade, reserve grade, men's league, and 18 years if applicable on that one match day.

Zone League relates to the Zone League 1 and Zone League 2 competition conducted by Football Mid North Coast.

Zone Championship relates to end of season competition conducted across the Zone by Football Mid North Coast between North and South Champions.

Northern or Southern Leagues relates to the Open Men and Women's Competitions as conducted by Football Mid North Coast.

Over 35's relates to the Competition for players aged 35 and over conducted by Football Mid North Coast.

Representative Team means a team representing Football Mid North Coast in a representative capacity.

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026
--

Appendices A - E

Appendix – A. Registration of a Player

This appendix is to be read in conjunction with the Rule – Registration of a player.

- At the beginning of each year Clubs will be advised on the latest updates and procedures to the Registration of a Player system. This will take place at Club Information Nights, which are conducted by the Zone on an annual basis.
- Clubs will be issued with updates at the Team Information night, containing the latest relevant information re the player registration process.
- Ongoing assistance for clubs is available in this area from the Zone Office.

Appendix – B. Promotion and Relegation.

For Graded Competitions promotion and relegation applies.

- Grading of Teams following Registration will be carried out prior to each season by the Competition Administrator using data such as previous year’s performance, Team composition changes etc to provide a suitable grading for each Registered Team.
- The right to re-grade mid-season is at the absolute discretion of the Competition Administrator.

Appendix – C. Zone Championship

Zone Championships will be played under FMNC Competition Rules (not final series rules except that if the match is drawn at full time, it will proceed direct to a penalty shoot-out, conducted under FIFA rules, to decide the winner).

Appendix – D. Fines

These fines may be levied by the Board of Football Mid North Coast or Competition Administrator. They may be in addition to any fines levied as a result of action taken under the FA’s Football Code of Conduct.

- All Fines listed are GST Inclusive and are per offence.

Home Team – Home ground

- Failure to prepare home ground \$110.00
- Failure to provide approved soccer balls \$55.00
- Failure to have away strip if required \$55.00
- Failure to field full Strength in all fixtures \$165.00
- Inducement to bring about a win \$550.00

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026
--

- Abandoned fixture
- Mass Walk-off.....\$1650.00 (max)
- Play a Ring in\$1650.00

Alcohol Related

- Sale of Beverages in Glass Bottles at ground\$1650.00 (max)
- Allowing consumption of beverages at home
ground from glass bottles\$1650.00 (max)
- Selling alcohol at Junior fixtures\$1650.00 (max)

Team sheets details

- Failure to complete online Team sheet\$55.00
- Failure to publish online Team Sheet\$55.00
- Supplying false information\$550.00 (max)

Emergency Paper Team Sheets

- Failure to Submit Emergency Team Sheet within 24hrs. \$55.00

Washed out or doubtful fixtures

- Club failure to advise\$55.00

Forfeits

- Failure to give correct notice\$275.00 (max)
- Failure to appear\$550.00 (max)
- Failure to start\$330.00 (max)

Late withdrawal

- Late withdrawal of team from competition\$220.00

Match officials

- Failure of a Club to provide substitute
referees (per Club)\$55.00
- Failure of a Match Official to file Send Off Report
on time (first offence).....\$110.00 (max)
- Failure of a Match Official to file Send Off Report
on time (second and subsequent offences).....\$220.00 (max)
- Failure of Match Official to appear
at appointed fixture\$55.00

**FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST
COMPETITION RULES V20 2026**

Team officials

- Failure to Register Team Official(s) – per
team official \$27.50
- Using ineligible Team Officials – per
team official \$27.50

Registration of a player

- Supplying false information \$275.00
- Registering with more than one club \$440.00
- Playing for another club \$550.00

Duty Officer/Ground Official

- Failure of Club to provide Duty Officer/Ground Official..... \$55.00

END of FINE LIST

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026
--

Appendix – E. Semi Final Formats

- Preferred final series format is for a **four team (3-week) series.**

Competitions with:

- 6 or less teams – four team semi finals
- 7, 8 or 9 teams - five team semi finals
- 10 or 11 teams - six team semi finals
- 12 teams or above - eight team semi finals

FOUR TEAM

Week 1 Semi finals	Week 2 Final	Week 3 Grand Finals
<u>ESF</u> 3 v 4 Loser eliminated	Winner ESF v Loser MSF	Winner MSF v Winner Final
<u>MSF</u> 1 v 2		

FIVE TEAM

Week 1 Semi Finals	Week 2 Qual finals	Week 3 Final	Week 4 Grand Finals
<u>ESF 1</u> 4 v 5 Loser Eliminated	<u>QF 1</u> 1 v Winner QSF 1	Loser QF 1 v Winner QF 2 Loser eliminated	Winner QF 1 v Winner final
<u>QSF 1</u> 2 v 3	<u>QF 2</u> Loser QSF 1 v Winner ESF Loser eliminated		

SIX TEAM

Week 1 Qualifying semi finals	Week 2 Semi Finals	Week 3 Elimination Final	Week 4 Grand Final
<u>QF 1</u> 3 rd placed team v 6 th placed team Loser eliminated	<u>SF 1</u> 1 st placed team v 2 nd placed team	<u>EF 1</u> Loser SF 1 v Winner SF2	Winner SF 1 v Winner EF 1
<u>QF 2</u> 4 th placed team v 5 th placed team Loser Eliminated	<u>SF 2</u> Winner QF 1 v Winner QF 2 Loser eliminated		

FOOTBALL MID NORTH COAST COMPETITION RULES V20 2026
--

EIGHT TEAM

Week 1 Qualifying finals	Week 2 Semi-Final 1	Week 3 Preliminary Final 1	Week 4 Grand Final
<u>QF1</u> 1 st Placed Team v 4 th Placed Team	Loser QF1 v Winner EF1	Winner QF1 v Winner SF2	Winner PF1 v Winner PF2
<u>QF2</u> 2 nd Placed Team v 3 rd Placed Team			
Elimination Finals	Semi Final 2	Preliminary Final 2	
<u>EF1</u> 5 th Placed Team v 8 th Placed Team	Loser QF2 v Winner EF2	Winner QF2 v Winner SF1	
<u>EF2</u> 6 th Placed Team v 7 th Placed Team			