



**FNQ Football**

**PLAY  
FOOTBALL**

# Competition Rules Open Age and Junior Competitive for Cairns Competitions

January 2016

# COMPETITION RULES

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## 1 PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND BODIES

- (a) Any club wishing to participate in the game of football under the control of FNQ Football must be duly affiliated in accordance with the Constitution.
- (b) FNQ Football shall have the power to impose such penalties as it sees fit upon affiliated clubs which are found to have brought the game into disrepute or in breach of these rules.
- (c) If a club is un-financial with FNQ Football at the closing date of nominations, FNQ Football will not accept the Club's nominations unless exceptional circumstances exist.
- (d) All official club correspondence shall be on club letterhead or in the form of an email from the nominated club representative.
- (e) All affiliated clubs are bound by FIFA,AFC,FFA,FQ and FNQ Footballs rules of Governance / Statutes and their regulations

### 1.1 AFFILIATION

Affiliation fees are determined by FNQ Football from time to time. Any club, affiliating with FNQ Football shall pay the prescribed fees and provide particulars of the uniform of its teams for affiliation purposes. Upon affiliation, the uniform of any affiliated club becomes the property of such club and shall not be worn by any other club.

## 2 PLAYER & TEAM OFFICIAL REGISTRATION

- (a) All registrations must be lodged via the MyFootballClub online process by the player (or parent or legal guardian if the player is under 18 years of age) or team official and shall be accepted by the affiliated club desiring their registration. Players must be made active in the MFC system to be eligible to participate in a fixture.
- (b) Any player not registered as per current National Registration Regulations and accepted by their club via the MyFootballClub online process is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in any FNQ Football competition.
- (c) Any team official not registered and accepted by their club via the MyFootballClub online process is considered unregistered and will not be permitted in the technical area of a fixture held by FNQ Football.
- (d) A player must de-register with one club and re-register with the other club via the MyFootballClub process. Players must not play for a club and a club shall not play a player, until that club has accepted their registration via the MyFootballClub process. Players cannot de-register and re-register with another FNQ Football Affiliated Club on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> July of each year.
- (e) All competition coaches, managers and other team officials / volunteers / club executives must be registered, as per the Football Queensland regulations, via the MyFootballClub program prior to the commencement of the official competition season or before participating in a fixture.
- (f) De-registration fees and refund policy will be advised by FNQ Football as received from Football Queensland.

## 3 COMPETITIONS

- (a) FNQ Football will call for nominations in the divisions as outlined below, however competitions may vary dependent on the number of nominations received for each division. Competitions will be gender specific as determined by FNQ Football.
- (b) FNQ Football may conduct the below competitions, which shall comprise of a fixture competition generally Seniors on a home and away basis, Junior Age at Endeavour Park primarily other rounds as deemed appropriate and a final series competition. The composition of each division will be determined based on nominations received.
- (c) Mens Premier

- Men's Premier
- Men's Reserve
- Premier 18
- U18B
- U16/17
- Men's First Division
- Men's Second Division
- Women's Premier League
- Women's First Division
- Junior Competitive Age 12 to 15
- AIA Vitality Mini Roos – 5 to 11 years of age Non Competitive

- (d) All clubs that nominate a Men's Premier League team must also nominate a Reserve Division team. Similarly, all clubs that nominate a Men's Reserve Division team must also nominate a Men's Premier League.
- (e) In the event that a Men's Premier League Team cannot field a team, their Men's Reserve Division is to take their place in the respective fixture and the Men's Reserve Division will forfeit their match if necessary.
- (f) The following shall apply to the respective competitions, including finals, in regards to player substitutes / returned substitution (interchange)
- i. Premier Men and Reserve Men's Competitions - Each team can make up to three (3) substitutions in any given fixture, with no more than five (5) substitutes permitted to be named on the Team Sheet.
  - ii. Under 16 Grade Fixtures and above not listed in 1 above– Each team can make up to five (5) returned substitutes in any given fixture, with no more than five (5) returned substitutes permitted to be named on the Team Sheet.
  - iii. Under 12 to Under 15 – unlimited interchange allowed - with no more than five (5) returned substitutes permitted to be named on the Team Sheet
- (g) A club cannot nominate more than 1 team in the above competitions unless that Club has a team competing in all eligible Divisions (E.g. A Club cannot nominate 2 x Second Division teams if they do not have a First Division team or 2 x Women's Reserve Division unless they have a Women's Premier League team as well)
- (h) There is no obligation for FNQ Football to accept late nominations however, FNQ Football may choose to accept a late nomination from a club should it be for a competition that requires additional teams to participate. FNQ Football may choose to charge a late nomination fee for such nomination.
- (i) The FNQ Football Competition will run from the 1<sup>ST</sup> March each calendar year to the last day of February in the next calendar year.
- (j) No team will be registered in a competition unless a minimum of 11 players are registered in a team and the player's registration has been accepted by the Club. Such players must be eligible for the nominated team and only be registered in one team.
- (g) The leading team at the end of the last round of fixtures in all divisions shall be declared Premiers of their respective division.
- (h) The four leading teams at the end of the last round shall play a final series as outlined in Rule 10.
- (i) FNQ Football may, from time to time, also schedule other competitions within the zone. Rules for these competitions shall be set prior to the commencement of any competition.

All Clubs are to provide FNQ Football with a colour photograph of their current playing strips (shirt, shorts and socks) and a colour photograph of an alternative strip(s). All first named Clubs in the draw will be deemed the "Home" team and therefore will play in their nominated home strips. In the event there is a clash of colours with the visiting team, it will be the responsibility of the visiting team to change into their alternative strip. Borrowing opposition club strips either in part or full to fulfil an away team alternate strip is strictly forbidden and may result in disciplinary action.

### 3.1 FIXTURES

- (a) FNQ Football will conduct competitions for its affiliated clubs to play in all grades / divisions and in such manner as FNQ Football sees fit.
- (b) All matches shall be 45 minute halves in duration with a 10 minute half time break. After normal time the appointed Referee may add on Injury / Stoppage Time as he/she sees fit. The Match Official has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.
- (c) All matches shall commence within fifteen (15) minutes of the stipulated commencement time.
- (d) If a match is abandoned at half time or later the scores at the time of abandonment will stand. Clubs will be responsible for the payment of Referee Fees for any match abandoned.

### 3.2 POINTS

- (a) In all competition fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

WIN	Three (3) Points
DRAW	One (1) Point
LOSS	Nil (0) Points
BYE	Nil (0) Points
- (b) If, at the end of the competition, teams are equal on points then goal differences will be taken into account in determining:
  - i. FNQ Football Premiers
  - ii. The four teams eligible for the semi-finals in each division.

### 3.3 GOAL DIFFERENCE

In cases where goal differences apply, the manner in which they will be derived shall be:

- (a) Number of goals FOR minus the number of goals AGAINST.
- (b) The highest resultant figure from such calculation shall be deemed to have the best goal differences and shall take precedence in determining positions.
- (c) In the event of teams being equal on goal differences so determined, the team having scored the highest number of goals FOR the season shall take precedence in determining team positions.
- (d) In the event of teams being equal on goal differences so determined, and being equal in relation to the highest number of goals scored FOR the season, then such teams shall be separated by results played in the fixture round when they played each other;
  - if the number of points is equal, then the team with the superior goal difference from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team;
  - if the goal difference and goals FOR are equal, then the team that scored the most away goals from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team.

### 4 DRAWS

- (a) FNQ Football shall be empowered to develop and determine the fixtures as it deems fit and in the best interests of FNQ Football and the game. Such fixtures shall be developed and made available to all clubs as soon as practical after the close of nominations. Clubs will be consulted in relation to the draw and where possible, preferences as to home games will be provided. FNQ Football will ensure all teams play every other team in the same competition an equal amount of times.
- (b) All fixtures shall belong to and the copyright therein be deemed to be vested in FNQ Football. The team listed first in the draw shall be the home team for that fixture.
- (c) Any application for the departure from fixture(s) must be made in writing at least ten (10) working days prior to the scheduled match. Each request will be determined on its merits. FNQ Football's decision and possible rescheduling of fixture(s) will be final.

- (d) Any other applications for changes to the draw shall only be considered by FNQ Football if it believes that reasonable circumstances exist.
- (e) Decisions by FNQ Football are final and FNQ Football reserves the right to amend, change or otherwise alter any draw or fixture at any time.
- (f) FNQ Football shall be empowered to enter into agreements to arrange fixtures, either interstate or intrastate, bearing in mind at all times the standing of the Zone, State and National Authority in such matters and the interests of the members and affiliated clubs of the Zone.
- (g) Where an affiliated club has two or more teams competing in the same division, a player can only play in a team but not both teams.
- (h) Clubs shall not compete in a match unless sanctioned by FNQ Football.

## 5 FORFEITS

- (k) In the event a team is not ready to commence the fixture **within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time**, the match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team and the points will be awarded to the opposing team. In the event that a Men's Premier League Team cannot field a team, their Men's Reserve Grade / Division is to take their place in the respective fixture and the Men's Reserve Grade / Division will forfeit their match if necessary.
- (a) Should any team claim such a forfeit the completed official Team Sheet, signed by the appointed Match Official, or a club official, if a Match Official is not appointed, noting the circumstances of the non-playing of the fixture must be provided to FNQ Football.
- (b) Where a player is listed on the team sheet, where the match was forfeited by the opposition, then the fixture shall count towards the player's tally of matches played in that division by the team not forfeiting.
- (c) For all Under 18 grade competitions and above, In the event of a forfeit a \$500 invoice will be imposed automatically to all forfeits. Upon receipt of payment of the fine, FNQ Football will credit the account to the opposition club \$250. For all Junior Competitive Age Groups up to U16 in the event of a forfeit a \$100 invoice.
- (d) In the event referees attend a match to officiate and it is forfeited, fines equivalent to the referees fees will also be awarded against the offending Club.
- (e) Any club which forfeits more than three (3) matches in any one division will be required to attend a show cause hearing as to why the team should not be withdrawn from the competition immediately and club fined accordingly.
- (f) The offending club may also be subject to further disciplinary action by FNQ Football.
- (g) FNQ Football will not accept a club signifying its intent to not play other club sides from the commencement of the season as a notice of forfeit.
- (h) Any club that refuses to play or walk-offs from a game will be cited to appear before FNQ Football to show cause why it should not be subject to a fine or suspension from the competition for the remainder of the season.

## 6 TEAM WITHDRAWALS AND LATE NOMINATIONS - U18 Grades and Above

- (a) Should a club, having nominated a team for competition and such team is accepted by FNQ Football, then elect to withdraw that team prior to two (2) weeks before the commencement of the competition, that club will be fined to a minimum of \$1000. Acceptance of a team is determined by its inclusion in any draft draw.
- (b) Should a club withdraw an accepted team after two (2) weeks of the commencement of the competition, that club will be invoiced to a minimum of \$1500. Acceptance of a team is determined by its inclusion in any draft draw.
- (c) In both cases mentioned above any nomination fee is forfeited on withdrawal of a team.
  - (d) Late nominations may be accepted by FNQ Football.
- (e) In determining a penalty FNQ Football will take into account all circumstances surrounding the withdrawal or late nomination of a team.

## 7 POSTPONED MATCHES

- (a) Matches may only be postponed by FNQ Football.

- (b) FNQ Football reserves the right to reschedule all postponed matches on any day, time and place as it deems appropriate. Consultations between the affected Clubs shall occur but ultimately the decision rests with FNQ Football.

## 8 ABANDONED MATCHES

- (e) If, through adverse weather conditions or other Acts of God, all fixtures are not played on a particular day/night, all matches will be replayed. If a single match is abandoned through any cause, discretionary power as to the award of points, replay or penalty shall be determined by FNQ Football. If a match is abandoned at half time or later the scores at the time of abandonment will stand. Clubs will be responsible for the payment of Referee Fees for any match abandoned.
- (a) FNQ Football reserves the right to determine the match result if it is satisfied that one (or both) of the competing teams, its players, officials, members or supporters were directly responsible for the abandonment of the fixture. This includes the abandonment of a match due to a team having less than seven (7) Players in an 11 a side match. If the allegation is proven, FNQ Football may decide to direct any of the following outcomes:
- the match be recorded as "NO RESULT"
  - the match be recorded as 0-0 draw
  - the match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the score at the time of abandonment was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team
  - Impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club, player(s) and official(s).
- (b) Replay requests must be made in writing within three (3) working days of the match being abandoned. The decision of FNQ Football regarding the request for a replay shall be final. FNQ Football shall take into consideration the following factors when considering a request for a replay:
- reasons why the match was abandoned
  - result of the match at the time of abandonment
  - the impact on the final league standing of a fixture
  - the impact on the finals series of a finals match

## 9 DIVISIONS

FNQ Football will create divisions and competitions according to nominations received. FNQ Football reserves the right to allocate teams to competitions as deemed necessary for the betterment of the game and/or competition.

### 9.1 TEAMS

- (a) To register a team, each club must name a minimum of eleven (11) players per team, such nomination to be received by FNQ Football no later than the prescribed deadline. Each player can only be nominated in one (1) team.
- (b) Clubs can nominate teams in divisions as they see fit, however the final decision will be approved by FNQ Football.
- (c) This applies to all open age grade / divisions, a Club who plays in their team, five (5) or more players in their team who have all started in a higher FNQ Football grade / Division fixture in their last match, shall be deemed guilty of stacking that team. This includes goalkeepers. Such players shall be deemed ineligible. The match shall be awarded to the opponents with the goals recorded 3 - 0 in their opponents favour. If both clubs are found guilty in the same match, both clubs will lose 3 Competition points each. For the purpose of determining the status of divisions:
- i. National Competition – FFA A-League deemed to be higher than National Premier League
  - ii. State Competition – National Premier League deemed to be higher than Premier League
  - iii. Premier League deemed to be higher than Reserve Division
  - iv. Reserve Division deemed to be higher than First Division
  - v. First Division deemed to be higher than Second Division
  - vi. Second Division deemed to be (Social Football for older players generally)

(d) FNQ Footballs decisions will be final

## 9.2 PLAYERS

- (a) A player is eligible to play in their team, provided they are registered in line with the National Registration Registrations, and is not under suspension by FNQ Football or other Competition Administrator.

Competition	Minimum Age In year of Competition
Men's	16
Women's	15

- (b) Special circumstances may be considered by FNQ Football upon written application
- (c) An Under 18 age player must be 18 years of age or under as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December for that playing year.
- (d) Where a player is listed as a reserve and does not take the field, they are deemed **not** to have played if the substitution rule is in place for that competition.

## 10 FINALS

- (a) No club will be permitted to participate in the finals series if they are un-financial with FNQ Football. FNQ Football prior to the commencement of the finals series will advise all clubs as to their respective financial status with regard to participating in the finals series.
- (b) To qualify for the final series a player has to have started a minimum of five (5) rounds (five total weekends) for the club, in any grade / division i.e. not five (5) rounds across two or more clubs. A player, who has started more matches in a grade / division, is ineligible to play in a lower division final series. In the event a player has started the same amount of matches in two or more different grade / divisions, the player will be deemed as a player of the highest grade / division. ***If a club qualifies for the Finals in both Premier and Reserve Grade, players who qualify are not restricted in competing in either team in the First week of finals. If a player starts in a finals match in a higher grade than which they are qualified to and that team is eliminated the player may still participate in the final series for which they qualify. If a player starts in a finals match in a lower grade than which they qualified to and that team is eliminated the player may no longer participate in the final series.***
- (c) A player who is eligible to play in finals at a particular divisional level is eligible to play in finals in any team higher than that level without affecting their eligibility for their qualified level. See (b) above for an exemption. Requests for exemptions must be in writing and sent to FNQ Football at least ten (10) working days prior to the finals series commencing.
- (d) Once a Goalkeeper qualifies to play in a higher division in the finals, he will not be considered for dispensation to play in a lower division in the finals should the lower division's regular keeper be injured / unavailable. Players are always allowed to play up.
- (e) FNQ Football reserves the right to declare eligible or ineligible as the case may be, any player it deems to have satisfied the intent and spirit of this rule.
- (f) The four leading teams at the end of the last round shall play the finals as follows:
- |        |   |  |
|--------|---|--|
| Week 1 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Semi Final                                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> placed team vs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> placed team      |
|        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semi Final                                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> placed team vs. 4 <sup>th</sup> placed team      |
|        | <i>Winner 1 v 2 progresses straight to Week 3 Grand Final</i> |  |
|        | <i>Loser 1 v 2 progresses to Week 2 Preliminary Final</i>     |  |
|        | <i>Winner 3 v 4 progresses to Week 2 Preliminary Final</i>    |  |
|        | <i>Loser 3 v 4 is eliminated</i>                              |  |
| Week 2 | Preliminary Final   | Loser 1 v 2 plays Winner of 3 v 4                                |
|        | <i>Winner progresses to Week 3 Grand Final</i>                |  |
|        | <i>Loser is eliminated</i>                                    |  |
| Week 3 | Grand Final   | Winner of Week 1, 1 v 2 plays Winner of Week 2 Preliminary Final |
- (g) The winner of the grand final shall be declared Grand Final Winners of their respective divisions and receive a FNQ Football trophy.

- (h) In the event of a match being drawn at the end of any of the finals games, then two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes extra time shall be played. If a result can't be achieved in any of the finals after extra time then to achieve a result a penalty shoot-out shall take place.
- (i) In a penalty shoot-out, a series of five (5) penalty kicks shall be taken by each team alternatively by different kickers. The goalkeeper may be replaced at any time. All players that were on the field at full time and not actively engaging in the taking of the penalty kick shall remain on the halfway line in the centre circle. Team officials and bench players are not permitted to enter the field of play. If, after both teams have taken five kicks, each has scored the same number of goals, then the taking of kicks from the penalty spot shall continue by a different player. All eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick in the same order until such time as each has taken the same number of kicks and one team has scored a total of goals which establishes it as the winner.

## 11 MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

### 11.1 HOST CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Any club whose facilities do not meet the below requirements at least 30 minutes prior to kick off may be fined, suspended or have its home fixtures played away:
  - i. the ground is correctly marked, including the technical area;
  - ii. the ground markings (by-lines) are set a minimum of 3 metres from the playing field fence (in all directions);
  - iii. it provides suitable goal nets and corner flags safely fastened or pegged to the ground;
  - iv. it provides toilet facilities and dressing room facilities that are hygienic and clean;
  - v. it has adequate refreshment / canteen facilities open to the public;
  - vi. it provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators;
  - vii. it provides a Referee's Room where referees can rest and leave their belongings while on the park. This area must contain seating and be secure.
- (b) Host Clubs will have substitute benches and technical areas clearly marked for all matches and will be on the side of the field opposite the crowd, where possible.
  - i. A maximum of ten (10) persons per team are permitted to be within the confines of their own technical area. They may include the coach, assistant coach, the substitutes and the trainer and/or medical staff. No person whilst suspended may enter the technical area or substitute's bench whilst on suspension. Any person (suspended) found inside the technical area or substitutes bench will be heavily sanctioned the offending club who the suspended player belongs to will also be heavily sanctioned. Sanctions may include monetary fines and loss of competition points for offending clubs and further suspensions in time for the offending individual.
  - ii. Team Official Identification Cards shall be worn and displayed at all times by the team coach, assistant/s, manager and sports trainers. Only persons with such identification or designated players as listed on the team sheets shall be permitted in the technical area.
  - iii. A team official may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match. The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area, except in special circumstances (E.g. a team sports trainer or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player).
  - iv. Team Officials are responsible for keeping all players behaving in an appropriate manner at all times before, during and after any game
  - v. All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. They must wear bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to their and their opposition's team strip.
  - vi. Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area, provided they are wearing bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to their and their opposition's team strip. When warming up, substitutes are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.
  - vii. All occupants of the technical area must behave in an appropriate manner. The Match Official has the right to expel any person from the technical area at any time as he or she sees fit. The match will not recommence until that person has left the playing field to the Match Official's satisfaction.
  - viii. Smoking or the consumption of alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence is strictly

prohibited. This includes the team bench within the technical area and all of its occupants, including players, coaching staff, and officials.

- (c) Players in all competitions must appear in proper apparel in the club's registered colours, shirts or jerseys and each with different numbers, in accordance with the laws of the match. In the case of a player infringing, the Match Official shall have the power to order the offending player off the field in order to rectify their apparel or footwear. Goalkeepers must appear in a distinct colour from that registered by the goalkeeper's own club or the opposing team.
- (d) Where two clubs are participating have the same registered colours the first named team will be classed as the home team and the away team must change colours.
- (e) The home club shall provide the appointed Match Official three (3) licensed Size 5 match balls, no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of the scheduled fixture. At the conclusion of the fixture, a home Club official shall request the return of the match balls. The home club is responsible for replacing balls at the half way mark on each side of the field during a match. Referees will be responsible for the match balls that are located each side of half way at half time and full time until they are returned to the home club at the completion of the fixtures at the grounds on the day..
- (f) It is the responsibility of the home Club to provide at least one (1) Ground Official for all sanctioned matches, who must be clearly identifiable and visible at all times by way of uniform, official's armband or vest and must identify themselves to the appointed Match Official prior to the commencement of each match. The Ground Official cannot be a Team Official whose game is in progress or the canteen supervisor. The role of the Ground Official is to ensure the progress of all scheduled matches at those grounds and be point of contact for Match Officials. If an official referee is not present, ensure that a referee is arranged by the club. If no ground official is available the match referee should record the fact of no Ground official on both team sheets.
- (g) Alcohol is only to be consumed in defined licensed areas at any club. Failure of any person to adhere to rules in this regard may jeopardise that club's liquor license and FNQ Football reserves to right to take any action or impose any penalty, they deem appropriate.
- (h) Every affiliated club is responsible to FNQ Football for the action of its players, team officials and supporters. All clubs are further required to prevent physical and verbal intimidation towards Match Officials, opposing team officials and players prior, during or at the conclusion of matches. It shall also be the responsibility of participating clubs to have suitably attired officials to ensure that adequate protection is given to Match Officials and assistants.
- (i) The results of fixtures must be input to the Competition Management System (CMS or FSP) by each club, or nominated person, by the home Club as directed by FNQ Football, no later than 11.00pm on the day of the fixture or for matches that commence at 4.00pm on Sunday, the deadline is 7.30pm. Failure to provide the match results by the required time will result in an automatic fine of \$100.00.
- (j) Clubs wishing to host night fixtures must submit certified field lighting audits when requested to do so by FNQ Football. Clubs will have one (1) calendar month from the date of the request to submit a certified field lighting audit. If not provided or does not meet the minimum Australian Standard night fixtures will not be granted.

## 11.2 TEAM SHEETS

- (a) Each team will be required to correctly and legibly, complete a team sheet and/or CSM / FSP generated team list for each match that must show in full the first name and last name of each and every player alongside the player's numbered shirt and FFA number.
- (b) It is the responsibility of the club official to ensure that all players who are expected to participate are listed on the team sheet. If a player participates in a fixture and is not listed they have to be treated as an ineligible player. Then that player will be deemed to be in breach of the Competition Rules and the club will be disciplined. Club will forfeit the match.
- (c) Both teams must hand their team sheets to the Match Official not less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of the game.
- (d) A team must not list more than sixteen (16) players on a team sheet for a match.

- (e) For a team to take the field, seven (7) or more eligible players must present themselves to play at the commencement of the match.
- (f) In the case of a club proven to have played an ineligible player the offending club shall forfeit the match to their opponents.
- (g) Challenging the Eligibility of a Player
  - i. On match day, any team may ask the eligibility of any opposing player.
  - ii. Should the identity of a player be challenged at any match they are involved in, the player must sign the Team Sheet in the presence of the Match Official. The player will be asked to provide photo identification. MFC allows the printing of Club Player FFA Id cards. No player can refuse the request for such a signature. The Match Official should note the challenge on the Team Sheet and note identification details supplied on the reverse of the team sheet.
  - iii. No club official shall have the power to prevent an opposition player from taking the field for any reason.
  - iv. Any club is permitted to lodge a letter of protest regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player. The protest must be in writing under club letterhead and be forwarded to FNQ Football, within three (3) working days of the match. An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident will be undertaken immediately.
  - v. In the event that the protest is upheld, the Fines and Sanctions as deemed appropriate will apply. In the event that the protest is dismissed, then the match result will stand.

### 11.3 PLAYER OF THE YEAR VOTES

- (a) Player of the Year Votes
  - i. Player of the Year and other individual award votes are not recorded during finals series fixtures.
  - ii. Clubs are responsible for entering their teams into the CMS / FSP system. If players names are not entered by clubs, their players will not be awarded Player of the Year points nor Golden Boot goals

### 12 MATCH OFFICIALS

- (a) Any Match Official who is also a registered player and is suspended from any match as a player shall be ineligible to act as a Match Official whilst under suspension as a player, as per the directive from FFA.
- (b) Match Officials shall be paid such fees as shall be from time to time determined by FNQ Football. Home clubs will be invoiced for the payment of fees. In the event of a forfeit, the forfeiting club is responsible for all match fees. Should the appointed match official fail to honour their appointment, then the next most senior match official will be appointed to take charge of the fixture. Failure by a Match Official to meet their appointments will result in the Referees Body being asked to show cause why the Match Official(s) should not be fined.
- (c) All Match Officials appointments will be available via FSP with appointments to be supplied by the Referees Body to FNQ Football by 4pm on Thursday of each playing week to ensure timely distribution to all clubs via the website.
- (d) If a registered Match Official is unavailable, an alternative Match Official may be utilised, providing both teams approve the selected person. If both teams cannot agree, then a person should be appointed by the home team to officiate the match. In circumstances where an assistant referee has not been appointed, each team is obliged to provide a club linesperson to assist the match referee.
- (e) Any person officiating in a match shall be deemed to have the same authority as a registered Match Official to control the match.
- (f) ***CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES*** *Each club should have a photocopier or similar device to copy the original team sheets. Once the original team sheet is completed by the Match Official and verified by the competing clubs say 15 minutes after the match, the Home Club Official is responsible to organise a copy of the team sheet to be obtained and given to the Home and Away clubs for their input to the CMS / FSP system.*

- (g) The Match Official is responsible for ensuring the following:
- i. The team sheet and any incident report forms are complete in all aspects.
  - ii. That no more than sixteen (16) players are listed for each team.
  - iii. That Club officials sign their respective team sheets verifying the correctness therein.
  - iv. That completed team sheets, red card and incident reports are submitted to FNQ Football by no later than forty eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the match or 8am the following Tuesday morning whichever is the earlier.
  - v. All players who take the field of play are wearing equipment that is safe to themselves and any other person. All players must wear shin-guards whilst on the field of play.
  - vi. Any player suffering an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood, that the injured player receive attention outside the field of play and only when they are satisfied that the injury or wound is safely covered and contained, will the player be permitted to re-join the game. The Match Official will instruct any player whose uniform is splattered with blood to change their uniform before being permitted to re-join the game.
  - vii. Clearly indicating the offence code on the team-sheet before submitting to club officials for a final sign off. A player may only appeal under Clause 11.3 of the National Disciplinary Regulations.
- (h) A Match Official should lodge a report into any incident that they believe warrants such action.
- (i) All decisions of the match referee are final and binding as far as the result of a match is concerned, and no protest can be lodged.
- (j) In extreme weather conditions, FNQ Football or the appointed match official reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture. If the appointed match official postpones delays or abandons any fixture due to extreme weather conditions, they must outline the reasons in writing within 48 hours of the decision.
- i. All clubs, players and match officials are requested to please note the following:
    - If the temperature is 32° or above, water bottles should be made available and placed along the sidelines to enable any player to take a drink during the course of the game *and*
    - If conditions are considered extreme by the match referee, he or she has discretion to allow a two (2) Minute break during the course of each half, or as they seem fit to do so, provided they inform all parties prior to the game of their intentions.
  - ii. If the home club considers a ground inspection is required, they are to contact FNQ Football before 8.00am on the day of the fixture to arrange an inspection.
  - iii. FNQ Football will be responsible for the rescheduling of matches if required.
- (k) All clubs are obligated to fulfil all fixtures regardless of whether the appointed match official is present to take charge. Should any club fail or refuse to participate in any fixture, then:
- i. The match will be awarded to the opposing team (as a 3-0 result),
  - ii. The club will be fined per offence, and maybe subject to further disciplinary action,
  - iii. In the event both teams refuse to play, FNQ Football reserves the right to award a NO RESULT, fine both clubs and impose further disciplinary action.

### 13 MISCONDUCT

- (a) All breaches of misconduct will be dealt with under the National Disciplinary Regulations which is available on FNQ Football's website. FNQ Football reserves the right to impose penalties and sanctions as it deems appropriate.
- (b) The Codes of Conduct clearly define the behaviour expected by all parties involved, and any breach of the Codes will be dealt accordingly. Codes of Conduct are available from FNQ Football's website.
- (c) No club, player or official shall make any statement for publication or contribute to any article or interview which might be published in any newspaper, magazine or other publication and which is or is likely to :-
- i. Reflect adversely on policy decisions of FNQ Football, or
  - ii. Be detrimental to FNQ Football, its member Clubs, Sponsors, or the game in general, or
  - iii. Reflect adversely on the performance of Match Officials, or
  - iv. Relate to any matter set down for hearing by, any decision of, or appeal to any Committee of Inquiry, Disputes Committee, or other Tribunal
- (d) Players and Officials shall not:-

- i. Disobey all reasonable directions given by FNQ Football Officials, Match Officials and Ground Officials, and
  - ii. Misbehave in public in a manner which reflects adversely on FNQ Football, its member clubs, sponsors or the game as a whole, and
  - iii. Do anything by act or omission, which in the normal course of events is likely to incite spectators or others to violence or disorderly acts.
- (e) No affiliated club shall:-
- i. Grant approval to any member of that club to enter into any sponsorship or advertising agreements involving any company or product which conflicts with the aims and objectives of FNQ Football or its sponsors, or
  - ii. Be obliged to grant approval to any member of that club to enter into any sponsorship or advertising agreement involving any company or product which conflicts with the aims and objectives of the club or its sponsors
- (f) FNQ Football shall appoint the Disciplinary Committee consisting of four members. (Chairman, 2 committee members and 1 referee's representative). FNQ Football shall nominate alternate members to fill in when required. This Committee shall meet as required on Tuesday evening each week to consider disciplinary matters during the playing season. Disciplinary matters include but not limited to:
- i. Appeals against suspensions
  - ii. Incident reports
  - iii. Misconduct reports/complaints
- (g) Decisions of the disciplinary committee and penalties for playing offences will be distributed electronically or by other nominated means to club contacts as advised to FNQ Football.
- (h) A member of the Disciplinary Committee shall not arbitrate on matters involving a member of his own Club
- (i) Quorum for the Disciplinary Committee shall be three, but in the event of Committee Members and alternates not being available the Chairman of the Committee can call upon a member of FNQ Football to make up the Quorum
- (j) Persons summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee must attend either in person or by telephone. Players can write to FNQ Football indicating that they have a valid reason for not attending and would like the charge(s) to be determined by the Committee in their absence. In this situation, the player must present their plea (guilty or not guilty) and detail their defence to the charge. If the player is not satisfied with the Committee's decision, they can lodge an appeal to the Board of Appeal
- (k) All persons summonsed to appear before any Disciplinary Committee shall be afforded natural justice.
- (l) Any suspensions incurred by players in a competition shall be served consecutively, until such time as those suspensions are completed. If at the conclusion of the competition season, a player was still under suspension, the suspension will carry over and shall be served in the next fixture(s) that player would normally be eligible to play.
- (m) Where a player is eligible to play both senior and junior fixtures for the one club and is suspended in either competition they must serve their suspension in both competitions and cannot participate in either, until the suspension has been completed.
- (n) A player under suspension is not allowed to play in that or any other division, whether senior or junior, until the day after the team in which they were playing when they were given a Red Card has played the relevant number of matches for which they were suspended.
- (o) If a player or team official disputes the disciplinary committee's determination, that player or team official must provide FNQ Football with an appeal notice within 7 days after the date on which the written determination was received, specifying the relevant facts and the reason for the dispute. A hearing will then commence within 14 days after the offence. An appeal application fee of \$250 shall accompany the appeal application which is refundable only if the appeal is upheld.
- (p) If the offender does not wish to lodge an appeal the suspension commences from the next match after the offence.
- (q) Should a player be suspended by another Competition Administrator (excluding International and Representative Teams), the player will not be permitted to play until that suspension has been served. FNQ Football reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player.

- (r) FNQ Football shall have the power to impose such penalty as they deem appropriate upon Clubs which they find to have brought the Code into disrepute by not playing their best teams in the appropriate divisions in which they are engaged.
- (s) FNQ Football may take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary, which may include one or a combination of the following; a fine, loss of points, a bond, expulsion or suspension, or any other action.

#### 14 MISCELLANEOUS

- a) All trophies shall remain the property of FNQ Football, and clubs holding any of these trophies shall be responsible for the preservation of those trophies and shall be responsible to restore or replace any trophy which has been damaged, mislaid, destroyed or stolen. All trophies are to be engraved and returned to FNQ Football no later than 1 August in each year.
- b) Match Balls  
AGE 12 and 13 Size 4, AGE 14 + Size 5
- c) Length of Games

Competition	Duration	Interval
Under 16	2 x 40 mins	10 mins
Under 15	2 x 40 mins	10 mins
Under 14	2 x 35 mins	5 mins
Under 13	2 x 30 mins	5 mins
Under 12	2 x 30 mins	5 mins

Matches for Open Age Groups 2 X 45 min halves min 10 minute interval

#### d) PLAYER IDENTITY

All players must have a passport-style photograph loaded into My Football Club every year as part of the Registration process. The photograph will be in accordance with FNQ Football Policy (see Appendix 1).

Managers are required to check the Player Identity of the entire opposing team. This action should be completed prior to the player/(s) participating in the game by the production of a My Football Club I.D team sheet or some other form of photographic ID such as a valid student card. If identification cannot be provided and a club wishes to challenge the identity of a player or players. The player/(s) in question must sign the Match Sheet. An image of the player/(s) whose identity is being challenged must also be obtained at this time.

**Under no circumstances are club officials to approach the referee seeking guidance for this instruction, the referees are responsible for officiating the rules of Football not the rules of competition.**

The Identity challenge information and image/(s) must be submitted to FNQ Football by the Club Secretary for investigation as defined in 14.3

#### 15 FINES AND SANCTIONS

- (a) Below is a schedule of fines that will be automatically imposed however FNQ Football reserves the right to impose additional or higher penalties and sanctions as it deems appropriate.
- (b) During the playing season, FNQ Football operates a "3 Zone" system in relation to caution and suspensions:
  1. Pre-Season and Inter City Friendlies to include all Pre-Season and authorised trial matches and Inter City friendlies directly sanctioned by FNQ Football.

2. Fixture season to include all Premiership Fixtures and Cup games.
  3. Finals Series to include all Finals Series games
- (c) Minor Infringements – Yellow Card Accumulation
- i. In Zone 1 and 3, two (2) cautions accumulated automatically means the player will be suspended for 1 match. This suspension is to take place in the next match in which this player would be involved.
  - ii. In Zone 2 a player accumulating five (5) yellow cards during the competition equates to a one (1) match suspension. A player accumulating eight (8) yellow cards during the competition equates to a two (2) match suspension. For every three yellow cards thereafter, a two (2) match suspension. For example, two (2) match suspension for 11 yellow cards and 14 yellow cards
  - iii. A player, who accumulates two (2) yellow cards during the course of the Finals Series, must serve a mandatory one (1) match suspension.
- (d) Serious Infringements – Red Card Accumulation - In addition to the minimum mandatory sanction as defined in the National Disciplinary Regulations (NDR) or as imposed sanction handed down by the CA / Disciplinary Committee for the relevant offence a Player who accumulates the following number of direct Red Cards during the Regular Season or Finals Series, must serve the following mandatory match suspension in addition.
- i. 1st occasion, equates to a one (1) match suspension;
  - ii. 2nd occasion, equates to a two (2) match suspension;
  - iii. 3rd occasion, equates to a three (3) match suspension; and
  - iv. 4th occasion, equates to a four (4) match suspension.
- (e) Any player that is consistently a repeat offender, may be asked by the Disciplinary Committee to Show Cause why the player should not be suspended until the duration of the season, or until advised by the disciplinary committee.
- (f) A red card is regarded as indirect if it is the result of the accumulation of two (2) yellow cards in the same match and as direct in all other cases. Where a player receives an indirect red card, he will serve a mandatory match suspension of one (1) match.
- (g) A Match Official may take action against a team official who fails to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may expel the team official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the technical area. A team official who has been expelled from the field of play by the Match Official must serve a mandatory match suspension of one (1) match.
- (h) Any player or official expelled from the match who fails to leave the field of play and return to the Club house/dressing room or who uses foul and abusive language towards the match official(s) after being expelled from the match, will incur at least an additional one (1) match suspension, in addition to any suspension handed down by the CA or Disciplinary Committee
- (i) FNO Football has set the penalties as the minimum standard penalty for each offence. As minimum standard penalties they are not subject to appeal other than on the basis of a claim of mistaken identity. If a penalty greater than the minimum standard penalty is applied by the CA / Disciplinary Committee then the additional penalty only may be appealed. The standard minimum suspensions will automatically be applied to offenders. If the match official indicates that the nature of the offence committed warrants a greater or lesser penalty than the standard minimum suspension the matter will be referred to the disciplinary committee for action.

Offence	Penalty
<b>Club</b>	
Accumulation of Yellow Cards	
i. Five Yellow Cards accumulated by a player	\$20
ii. Eight Yellow Cards accumulated by a player	\$40
iii. Eleven + Yellow Cards accumulated by a player	\$60
Direct Red Cards	
i. Second Red Card incurred by same player/official	\$50
ii. Third Red Card incurred by same player/official	\$100
iii. Fourth Red Card incurred by same player/official	\$150
Non wearing of armbands/vests/Club Official ID Tags by officials	\$100
Team-sheet being incorrectly completed or incomplete	\$100
Supply of incorrect team sheet	\$100

Players wearing incorrect shirt number	\$100
Non supply of club linesman or match referee as required	\$100
<b>Player/Official</b>	<b>Suspension (minimum)</b>
Serious Infringements - Red Card R6 (Expulsions)	
R6 - Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or gestures.	Auto + 2 Fixtures
3. Using language and/or gestures directed at a Match Official.	Auto + 4 fixtures
5. Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures.	Auto + 6 fixtures
7. Threatening or intimidating language or conduct toward a Match Official.	Auto + 8 fixtures + mandatory tribunal
8. Reasonably perceived threat of physical violence toward a Match Official or his/her family or property.	Auto + 12 fixtures + mandatory tribunal
9. Actual threat of physical violence toward a Match Official or his/her family or property.	Auto + 21 fixtures + mandatory tribunal
Detrimental statements to the media	\$1000 and/or suspension or both
Detrimental statements in public (non-media)	\$500 and/or suspension or both

## Junior Competition Rules For Age Specific.



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### FNQ Football – Junior Competitions

8 December 2015.

FNQ Football will conduct Age Specific Competitions.

All Mini Roo competitions are age specific, any Club found breaching this rule will be invoiced \$200.00 by FNQ Football in the 1<sup>st</sup> Instance.

If a Player turns 12 in the Calendar year of Competition they are expected to participate in Under 12's etc. This will apply to all Competitions U12 to U15. (See Rule 8).

FNQ Football may conduct Competitions based on separate Divisions within these Age Groups.

There could be a Premier Division (A), 1st Division (B), 2<sup>ND</sup> Division (C) or similar concept in each age group.

Clubs are to nominate teams in specific Age Group Competitions and or Age Group Divisions. Clubs should have as a minimum at least 11 players registered for their prospective teams before nominating a team. Clubs will be invoiced \$200.00 per team nomination. All Clubs who honour their nominations once a draw is published will receive a credit note per team nomination after Round 5. If a team is withdrawn from a published draw Club's will not receive a credit note for that Team Nomination.

All Clubs who participate in the Men's Premier Competition are expected to nominate teams in each age group. It is expected as a minimum the Men's Premier Competition Clubs team nominated for each age group will participate in Premier Division (A). ***This has been stipulated by the Presidents of the seven (7) Premier Clubs not FNQ Football.***

Men's Premier Competition Clubs and Non Men's Premier Competition clubs can nominate teams into the Premier Division Age Specific (A) competitions and also any other Age Specific Divisions should they be able to field teams in those competitions. Clubs can nominate more than 1 team per age group.

***The Presidents of the seven (7) Premier Clubs not FNQ Football, have stipulated that Premier Grade (A) competitions will be drawn the same as the Senior Club where possible and be played on a Home and Away basis and follow the Senior Men's draw. These competitions will also be played during the school holidays and either on a Saturday or Sunday. The Under 14, 15, 16 and Under 18 (A) grades will only follow this format. All Under 12, 13 (A) fixtures will be normally played out of Endeavour Park.***

Players who participate in the Premier Division Age Specific (A) competitions will be the only players considered to "play up" an age group, for the U12 to U15 age groups. Players who do not participate in the (A) competition will not be considered.

A player will only be considered to play up out of their own Age Group if the Team nominated in the Age Group they should be playing in participates in the Premier Division (A) competition. The team that they should be playing in the Premier Division (A) must have at least 13 registered players left in their squad (if the player is granted permission to play in their clubs Premier Division (A) age group above. Players will only be granted / considered to play up 1 (one) age group only in the (A) competition.

1. For example Club A has an Under 12 player who is playing in their clubs U12 Premier Division (A) age group. The clubs Director of Coaching advises that for Player Development this particular player should play up to the next level, (U13 Premier Division (A), FNQ Football will consider this request to allow the player to play up only on the following conditions.
  - a) The player's team must have a minimum of 13 players left in their Premier Division (A) squad.
  - b) The player will only be given permission to play in the clubs U13 Premier Division (A) squad.
  - c) Parental Consent form signed by the Players Carers / endorsed by the Clubs Director of Coaching and forwarded to FNQ Football Office for consideration. Form PA01
  - d) The player will not be given permission to play in the Clubs U13 1st Division (B) or the Clubs U13 2<sup>ND</sup> Division (C) squads even if the club has no U13 Premier Division (A) squad.
  - e) If a Club does not have an U12 (A) Team, a 12 year old player will not be given permission to play in the Club's U13(A) Team or any other U13 Grade / Division that the club participates in.
2. If a club has more than 1 (one) team in a Division players can only participate for 1 (one) team, players are not allowed to play in both teams within the same division. Players cannot be borrowed between these teams.
3. A player can be borrowed between Divisions within an age group only, FNQ Footballs approval is not required. (This rule does not apply for 2 above) If a player is borrowed between divisions in an age group, that player can only be borrowed a maximum of 3 times, this applies in total to all regular season and finals football matches. Players cannot be borrowed down a division. FNQ Football will investigate any breaches of this instruction if brought to its attention. ***Any club found breaching this rule will lose competition points and face a \$100.00 monetary fine in the 1<sup>st</sup> instance.***
  - a) A player is a member of a club's U12 2<sup>nd</sup> Division(C) Squad, the player can be borrowed to play in the Club's U12 Premier Division (A) squad or to the Club's U12 1<sup>st</sup> Division (B) squad. (A maximum of 3 (three) times only. 3 for (A) and 3 for (B).

- b) A player is a member of a club's U12 (B) squad and is borrowed 3 times to play in the club's U12 (A) squad. That player cannot play again in the club's U12 (A) team, this includes finals football. If they do the player would be classed as an ineligible player.
4. If a player is given permission to "play up" an age group by FNQ Football that player will not be allowed to "play back" down for their club even if it is the age group that they should be participating in.
5. With a view to maintaining / increasing participation levels within Junior Football, FNQ Football may conduct combined Age Group Competitions in Gender Specific / Mixed Age Groups. These competitions will be conducted as (B) or (C) Divisions. Players who participate in these competitions will be competition bound and not allowed to play out of those competitions. The "We are Football" principles are being applied.
6. Players will only be eligible to participate in Finals Football if they have participated in 5 rounds of competition for their club. A player, who has participated in more matches in a particular grade / division is ineligible to play in a lower division final series. In the event a player has participated in the same amount of matches in two or more different grade / divisions, the player will be deemed as a player of the highest grade / division.
  - a) A player is granted permission to play Under 13 Premier Division (A), the player is only 12 years of age this year. The player participates in 10 matches for the U13 (A) squad and is injured, he is not allowed to participate in any U12 grade Competitions. (See 4 above).
  - b) A player participates normally for the U 12(C) Division and plays 10 games for 12 (C), borrowed 3 times for 12 (B) and borrowed 2 times for 12 (A), the player is eligible for finals in only 12 (C) and could be borrowed to play up in 12 (A) as they have only been borrowed twice to play up in 12(A), in the later scenario they could only be borrowed once in the final series to play up in 12 (A)
7. Players are not allowed to participate up an Age Group without FNQ Footballs approval. Approval is when the Competition Administrator informs the club by email.
  - a) All approvals which reach the FNQ Football office in writing by clubs by 6.00pm of Wednesday of each week will be endeavoured to be processed prior to matches on the following Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Any requests received after 6.00pm of a Wednesday will not be processed until the following week.
  - b) FIFA rules state that 11 a side matches can be played with a minimum of 7 players. As clubs will always have a minimum of 13 players in their squads, player depth should not be an issue. If a club starts a match and is reduced to less than 7 players due to injuries, the match will not be abandoned and replayed. The team which can no longer participate will forfeit the match regardless of the score at the time. The match will be awarded to the team that did not forfeit 3 goals to nil. There would be no other penalties.
8. Male Players who turn 16 in the Calendar year are eligible to play AAM (All Age Men's Competitions) and Female Players who turn 15 in the Calendar Year are eligible to play AAW (All Age Female Competitions) without FNQ Footballs approval. Form PA01 should be completed and kept at Clubs for Insurance Purposes.
9. Any club found breaching any of these rules will lose any points received for a win result and minus 3 points if they lost the match, the match overturned and awarded to the opposition with a 3 to nil score line. All goals recorded by individuals will be removed from the data base and clubs fined \$100.00 in the first instance. If both clubs are found to be guilty, both clubs will be fined \$100.00 in the first instance and lose 3 competition points as well as the match recorded as a "No result". All goals recorded by individuals will be removed from the data base. Any Yellow or Red Cards issued to players will be recorded.

## **ADDENDUM 1**

### **FNQ FOOTBALL PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY**

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- 1 Clubs must ensure that the information entered about individuals, into My Football Club is handled in accordance with the *Football Federation Australia's Football Member Protection Policy*. This should also be taken into account if the club is to use extracts of this data for its own club databases or for any other purpose. Breaches of this policy may result in disciplinary action or litigation being taken against individuals and/or their club.
  
- 2 Clubs must ensure that all members are aware that the uploading of indecent or inappropriate photos to their records within My Football Club will be viewed as the inappropriate use of the National Registration System and a breach of the *Football Federation Australia's Code of Conduct*. This may result in disciplinary action being taken against individuals and/or their club or litigation. Therefore we recommend either do not use the photograph option (it is not mandatory) or use the following policy:

The standard of image to be uploaded will be very similar to that required for a Passport Photograph.

- Head shot only;
- Neutral expression mouth closed;
- Hair out of face edges of face visible;
- No hands in photograph;
- Look straight at the camera;
- Nothing obscuring eyes (except prescription lenses);
- No reflections on glasses or face;
- No shadows or red-eye;
- No head coverings (except religious purposes); and
- Plain light background.

