

**FOOTBALL FEDERATION TASMANIA LIMITED**



**FOOTBALL FEDERATION  
TASMANIA**

**2017**

**COMPETITION RULES**

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## 1. Definitions

In these Rules the following words, terms and phrases shall have the following meanings:

**"Board"** shall mean the Board of Directors of FFT.

**"By Laws"** shall mean the By Laws promulgated by Football Federation Tasmania in accordance with the Constitution.

**"Club"** shall have the same meaning as defined in the Constitution and in addition include unincorporated bodies entered into FFT competitions.

**"Chief Executive Officer"** shall mean the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from time to time of the Company.

**"Company"** shall mean FFT.

**"Competition"**, unless otherwise stated, shall mean any competition that is administered by FFT.

**"Constitution"** shall mean the Constitution of FFT

**"Disciplinary Code"** means the disciplinary code contained within the Competition Rules of FFT.

**"FFA"** shall mean Football Federation Australia Ltd.

**"FFT"** shall mean Football Federation Tasmania Ltd.

**"FIFA"** shall mean Federation Internationale de Football Association (International Federation of Association Football).

**"Home team"** shall mean the team named first in any match fixture published by the Company..

**"Match"** shall mean any match played in any competition conducted by or under the auspices of the Company

**"Member"** shall have the same meaning as defined in the Constitution

**"National Disciplinary Regulations"** shall mean the disciplinary regulations published by FFA from time to time.

**"National Registration Regulations"** shall mean the registration regulations published by FFA from time to time.

**"Offences"** shall mean behaving contrary to or not in accordance with these Rules or the Constitution or By Laws.

**"Official"** shall mean any Official registered with FFT in accordance with the registration requirements published by FFT from time to time.

**"Participant"** shall have the same meaning as Participant Members and Registered Participants as defined in the Constitution and include Clubs, Registered Players and Officials.

**"Playing year"** shall mean period of twelve months between the 1st day of November and the 31st day of October the following year.

**"Registered Player"** or **"Player"** shall mean a player competing in an FFT competition and registered in accordance with the National Registration Regulations

**"Rules"** shall mean these competition rules of FFT.



## 2 Commencement of Rules

These Rules shall come into effect on the date on which the Board shall resolve to adopt them and they shall replace all other rules, which prior to that date had been adopted by the Company.

## 3 Compliance with Rules

These Rules are to be read in conjunction with the National Registration Regulations, National Disciplinary Regulations, FFA Code of Conduct and FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations. Where there is any inconsistency between the Rules and the National Regulations, the National Regulations will apply to the extent of the inconsistency.

Each Club of FFT shall comply with these Rules and such other rules and directions as from time to time may be adopted or made by the Company.

Subject to the Constitution and By-Laws, any Club competing in a Company competition that shall breach or fail to comply with any of these Rules, or such other rule or direction adopted or given by the Board, shall be liable to disciplinary action as may be determined by the Board.

If it is considered that Clubs, registered players and or officials have breached or failed to comply with FFT Rules, By Laws or Constitution, they may be charged accordingly and a hearing may be held as appropriate to deal with the alleged charge(s).

## 4 Status of Participants

All players and team officials shall be registered with the Company as per the National Registration Regulations in one of the following categories;

**Senior:** a player who is over 18 years of age at commencement of the calendar year in which the competition is played.

**Youth:** a player who is under 16 years as at the commencement of the calendar year in which the competition is played and is playing in an FFT administered competition.

**Under 17 & Under 18:** a player who has turned 16 years of age but has not yet turned 18 years of age at the commencement of the calendar year in which the competition is played.

**Team Officials:** deemed to be coaches, trainers, team managers.

**Match Officials ?**

## 5 Registration of Players and Age Criteria

The National Registration Regulations govern the registration of all players, and subsequent clauses are in addition to the National Registration Regulations.

A player registration and registration fee must be received by FFT before midday on Thursday in order for the player to be eligible to play in that weekend's games.

The transfer deadline for currently registered players is the last Thursday prior to 31 May. A new player (i.e. not previously registered in the current year) may not be registered after the second Thursday in August.

## 1. Definitions

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If any Club shall play an unregistered player or a player registered by another Club in any match it shall be deemed to have lost that match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0) plus any further penalty imposed by the Company in accordance with these Rules.

Any junior player registered with a Club can complete a supplementary registration with their local junior association to enable the player to compete within the association's competitions.

### 5.1 Age Criteria

Any player who is eligible to play for a senior open-age (i.e. above Under 18's) team at any point during the season can play for that team from the start of the season.

In its simplest form this means that a player turning 16 during the calendar year will now be eligible to play senior football in Tasmania. Additionally if a player is 34 and turns 35 during the season, they can play the entire season in the Over-35.

It is recommended that youth players participate in competitions for their own age banding (see 14.3 Youth Competition Eligibility) with the exception of identified players who may participate in appropriate and agreed competition.

## 6 Registration Fees

Prior to the commencement of the playing season, the Company shall determine the registration fees to be paid by participants in the following categories;

- i) Senior players
- ii) Youth players (13- 16)
- iii) Under 17- 18 players
- iv) Team Officials
- v) Match Officials

## 7 Managers

### 7.1 Match Managers

- All Clubs shall nominate a match manager who shall perform such duties as listed below and as shall be directed from time to time by the Company.
- The match manager must be present at all Challenge League, Championship, Championship 1, Under 20, Under 18s, Women's Championship, Women's Championship 1 and Statewide Cup matches and be responsible to perform the duties as defined in section 7.3.
- The match manager must be aged at a minimum of 18 years.
- The match manager must not consume alcohol whilst performing the duties of match manager.

### 7.2 Match day requirements

- A match manager will be provided by the home club and identified to the referee prior to the commencement of the match.
- The match manager must at all times wear an identifying jacket.



- The match manager must be identifiable and visible to the match officials and spectators at matches.

### 7.3 The Duties of the Match Manager

The match manager shall:

- Ensure that an appropriate stretcher is readily available and that the stretcher complies with any relevant by-law or health regulation as may be laid down from time to time.
- Ensure that the technical area is properly defined as laid down in the Laws of the Game and these Rules.
- Ensure that all gate personnel and other persons assisting at the venue are fully conversant with their duties.
- Have available to them a means of summoning the police or ambulance or other such civic personnel as may be required in the event of an emergency. (eg burst water main, loss of electricity supply, loss of keys).
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure the good order and behaviour of spectators,
- Assist match officials where required (eg organise assistant referees) and assist with the security of the match officials whilst at the venue.
- The match manager shall be responsible for the texting of the half time and full time scores in Championship matches to the approved FFT number during matches.

### 7.4 Team Managers

All Clubs shall nominate a team manager for each team who shall perform such duties as listed below and as shall be directed from time to time by the Company. This requirement applies to all Club teams in all Company competitions.

### 7.5 Duties of the Team Manager

The team manager shall:

- Ensure that match balls, which comply with the requirements of the Laws of the Game and Rules, are provided to the referee at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled kick-off time.
- Ensure that the fully completed team sheet is provided to the referee at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
- As soon as practical at the conclusion of the match, report the score and goal scorers to the Company via text message, email or directly via the Sporting Pulse system.
- If no match manager is present, the home team manager will assume the duties of the match manager and ensure that all home team responsibilities are fulfilled.
- If no referee is appointed to the match, the home team manager is to ensure the match record is completed and forwarded to the Company by close of business on the Tuesday following the match.
- The match record consists of the completed Club Match Report to which is attached the team sheets for both the home and away teams on the day.

The Club Match Report may be forwarded by post to PO Box 371, Glenorchy, 7010 or



1. *Definitions*

by fax to (03) 6272 8868 or  
by email to [competitions@footballfedtas.com.au](mailto:competitions@footballfedtas.com.au)

## **7.6 Breaches of Rule 7**

Failure of a match manager to fulfil the requirements of Rule 7.3 may result in a fine of \$300 being imposed on the match manager's Club.

Failure of a team manager to fulfil the requirements of Rule 7.5 may result in a fine of \$100 being imposed on the team manager's Club.

## **8 Officials**

Where, at any match, there is an absence of either a referee or assistant referee, the home team shall be required to provide a referee or assistant referee as the case may be for that match.

In the case where two assistant referees are required, it is the responsibility of both teams competing to provide an assistant referee.

In the case where a referee and two assistant referees are required the home team is responsible for providing the referee and one assistant referee, and the away team one assistant referee.

## **9 Grounds**

All clubs are must take all reasonable steps to ensure that a ground, nominated for any competition match throughout the season, is in a playable condition.

### **9.1 Team benches & Technical Areas**

On grounds where a Technical Area is marked and team benches are available, only the Team and Support Staff shall be permitted in the Technical Area and allowed to sit on the bench during matches. All must be named on the team sheet submitted to the referee.

This means that seating for 9 persons (5 substitutes, 4 non-playing team staff) for each side should be supplied and placed in position by the home team.

Smoking is prohibited at the Ground including on the team bench and in the technical area.

### **9.2 Pitch exclusion zone**

All persons, apart from those named on the relevant team sheets, referees or assistant referees, must be behind fences surrounding enclosed pitches or a minimum of two (2) metres away from all sidelines or four (4) metres from all goal lines at all matches.

Such an area shall be termed the "pitch exclusion zone".



Those grounds that are not enclosed are required to have marked a secondary line outside the field of play, preferably in an alternate colour identifying the pitch exclusion zone.

### **9.3 Ground marking, goals and dressing rooms**

The home Club is responsible to ensure that the ground markings as per FIFA Regulations are precise and clear and in paint – no lime product is to be used for line marking.

All portable goals must be secured as per the Standards Australia guidelines, HB227-2003 Portable Football Goalposts Safety Handbook. All fixed goals must be properly secured and not have any sharp edges.

Corner posts must be provided and conform to the Laws of the Game.

Clubs are to provide two dressing rooms and a separate referee's dressing room each equipped with showers and toilets that must be maintained at an adequate standard of hygiene and convenience.

### **9.4 Ground size**

Grounds must meet appropriate size recommendations for each level of football competition. A minimum of 90 metres in length and 60 metres in width and maximum of 120 metres in length and 90 metres in width shall apply for senior football. Pitches for youth football should be appropriately modified to suit the developmental level of the players.

### **9.5 Lighting and night matches**

Clubs wishing to host night fixtures during the season must submit field lighting audits as requested and have approval for competition play by Football Federation Tasmania.

Recommendations for football field lighting detailed in the Australian Standard AS2560 Part 2.3 "Lighting for Football" includes; Minimum Service Illuminance Lux (Average) 100 and Minimum Uniformity Ratio (Min: Ave) 0.5 for Competition.

### **9.6 Medical support/ stretcher/ Blood Rule**

All clubs must provide player medical support services during scheduled matches and the home club must ensure the availability of at least one stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use at all fixtures.

Clubs must ensure that stretchers are placed inside the barrier/fence in a safe and accessible position to first aid staff. Unrestricted access to the field of play shall be provided for Ambulance vehicles when required and be clearly signed.

In the event a player suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood, the match official will request that the injured player receive attention outside the field of play and only when he/she is satisfied that the injury or wound is safely covered and contained, will the player be permitted to re-join the game.

In the event the player's uniform or attire is splattered with blood, the referee will instruct that player to change his attire before being permitted to re-join the game. Should the injured player be required to change his uniform, then the match official will show discretion in allowing the player to wear an alternative numbered shirt if necessary.

## 10 Laws of the Game

All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as decided by the International Football Association Board and distributed by FIFA, and the Rules of FFT.

## 11 Uniforms and Badges

No Club shall permit any of its teams to wear any uniform in any match, which has not first been approved by the Company. The colour of the shirts and socks of a Club's away strip shall be different to that of its home strip.

In the event of there being a colour clash at a match, the away team shall change its strip, the only exception to this rule is if the "home" team changes from its designated "home" strip, then it is the responsibility of the "home" team to change.

In the event of a goalkeeper's shirt colour clashing with the referee it is the responsibility of the goalkeeper to change.

All Clubs are required to advise the Company in writing thirty (30) days prior to the season commencing their designated "home" and "away" playing strips for the upcoming season. The Company shall make available to Clubs prior to the roster season commencing a full list of team "home" and "away" playing strips.

When named as the "home" team, the "home" team must wear the Clubs registered "home" strip, unless otherwise arranged with FFT. It is the responsibility of the "away" Club to ensure that at all times that there is no clash of colours to the "home" team designated "home" strip, the only exception to this rule is if the "home" team changes from its designated "home" strip, then it is the responsibility of the "home" team to change. Any breach of these Rules may result in fines being imposed on the offending parties.

For the purposes of Rule 11 there shall be deemed to be no colour clash by reason only of opposing teams wearing the same coloured shorts in a match.

All players' uniforms, including the goalkeepers, shall show legible numerals at least 23cm high on the back of the playing shirt, and such numerals shall correspond with the name of the player wearing the uniform and that player's name on the team sheet.

No Club shall permit any of its teams to wear any badge or logo on its uniform in any match, which has not first been approved by the Company.

The Company may in its absolute discretion refuse to approve any uniform, badge or logo submitted to it by a Club for approval but shall advise the Club of its reason or reasons for any such refusal.



Except with the prior written approval of the Company a Club shall not permit any form of advertising on its teams' playing uniform other than the distinguishing mark, badge or emblem of the manufacturer of that uniform.

Each Club shall ensure that its Players shall wear on their uniforms such Company sponsor's badge as shall from time to time be directed by the Company.

If thermal undergarments are worn under playing shorts and are visible, they must be the same colour as the playing shorts. Also, they may extend beyond the knee. Also, they may extend beyond the knee and be full length, but must be the same colour as the playing shorts. Undershirts, if they extend beyond the shirt sleeves must have sleeves the same colour as the playing shirt sleeves.

Shin guards must provide 'a reasonable degree of protection'. To fulfil their protective function, shin guards must cover the shins, that is, the portion of the leg from the ankle to the knee. The most vulnerable section of the leg in Football is the lower part of the shin, so the shin guard must start there. Shin guards for adults should be a minimum of 18 cm long. Referees will ensure that the players' shin guards are providing adequate protection.

Players must ensure any tape placed over their socks to hold shin guards in place must be the same colour as the sock being worn by their team as required under Law 4 of the Basic Equipment section of the FIFA Laws of the Game.

## **12 Team Nomination, Payment of Fees and Fines**

Subject to these Rules each Club shall pay to the Company a team nomination fee. The Company may prescribe such team nomination fees as from time to time it deems appropriate. Such team nomination fees to be payable within the time specified by the Company.

Any Club withdrawing a team from the competition that has been entered and accepted for that competition by the Company shall lose all or part of its nomination fee as the Board may determine and shall be liable to such fine or other penalty as the Board may prescribe.

The Company will advise Clubs of the payment requirements of team nomination fees prior to the season commencing.

Except as may be otherwise prescribed in these Rules all monies due and payable to the Company by a participant shall be paid within thirty (30) days of being invoiced. All accounts that are sixty (60) days or more overdue shall incur an interest charge at the rate of 10% per annum as per the Company Credit Policy.

Once outstanding debts to FFT reach 90 days, all teams in the Club will no longer accrue points for any further games, until such time that the debt has been paid.

The Australian Government has confirmed that GST is payable on all team nominations, player registrations, and player insurance imposed by the Company. GST shall be included in all invoices.

## 13 Substitutes

A maximum of sixteen (16) players may be named on the team sheet in any competition.

In the Northern and Southern Championships, Challenge League, and Women's Super League, five (5) players: four (4) outfield and one (1) designated goalkeeper, may be named as substitutes. Any three players of the five may be used as substitutes in matches.

In all other competitions, including Northern Women's Championship, Northern Championship 1, Southern Women's Championship, Southern Championship 1, Under 18s and all other social and youth competitions interchange of players will be permitted.

Players named on the team sheet of sixteen shall be deemed to have played regardless of whether the player takes the field. However, the player must be physically present at the match and eligible to play (i.e. not injured) to be deemed to have played.

Clubs who contravene Rule 13 will be subject to disciplinary action which may include loss of points, forfeit of the game and/or fine at the Company's discretion.

During the League Cup five (5) players: four (4) outfield and one (1) designated goalkeeper, may be named as substitutes. Any three players of the five may be used as substitutes.

### 13.1 Challenge League

Southern Championship Clubs participating in the Challenge League shall consist of any player the club names in that team regardless of age as long as they meet the minimum age requirement.

### 13.2 Player movement - Challenge League

Players are able to play in the Southern Championship and/or Challenge League in the same weekend regardless of which is played first. There is no restriction on movement between the Southern Championship and the Challenge League.

### 13.3 Interchange

#### **Youth Leagues, Challenge League, Southern Championship 1, Southern Women's Championship & Southern Women's Championship 1**

Clubs may only make a maximum number of interchanges during each half in these leagues and Youth Cup matches; but this is not limited to one single player. Clubs may change as many players as they wish at each interchange stoppage.

Teams may make changes during the half time break in matches and must advise the referee of the changes that have occurred to the team during the break prior to the commencement of the 2nd half. The referee must be informed and give permission before any interchanges can take place. Interchanges are only permitted at stoppages in play.

All interchanges shall take place at the half way line and players to be interchanged must leave the field of play before the replacement player can enter the field of play.

Competition	No. of Change breaks per half		Competition	No. of Change breaks per half
Challenge, SC & SWC 1	3		Under 13s/ 14s	2
Under 15s/16s/ 18s	3		Junior Youth Girls	2
Senior Youth Girls	3			

In the

event of a player(s) being injured following the use of the final interchange by the player's team in the second half of a match, a replacement for the injured player is permitted provided there is more than five minutes of play remaining. The injured player who is replaced may not take any further part in the match.

In all cases there shall be no interchange permitted within two minutes of the completion of either half of a match.

### 13.3.1 Playing Time – Youth Matches

In all youth league and youth cup matches, up to and including Under 18 level competitions, all players listed on the team sheet for a match MUST receive 50% of the match playing time participating on the field.

## 14 Player Restrictions

### 14.1 Player Eligibility

Players are eligible to participate in any Company competition match provided all the following are met;

- they are currently registered with the Company;
- the Company has received the prescribed registration fee;
- they are not under suspension;
- they meet all the age requirement qualifications;
- they have no outstanding debt greater than 60 days with the Company;
- they are listed on the team sheet prior to the commencement of the match;
- that rule 14.2 Team Stacking is not contravened.

### 14.2 Team Stacking

## 1. Definitions

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The following restrictions apply only to players who are not regular players for the team. A regular player for a team is defined as any player who has played the majority of their games in the playing year for that particular team.

The following definitions shall apply to determine which level a player defined as playing in;

### **a) Northern and Southern Championship:**

A player who has played for their club's Championship Team (defined as being either the senior team for men and women, Challenge League, unable to play for a social team (as defined in 14.2 (b) ) for their club during that weekend's fixtures regardless of which match is played first.

If required, a maximum of four (4) social players are able to play for a social team (as defined in 14.2 (b)) and a Championship 1 team for their club in the same weekend.

A player who was listed as a substitute player but did not take the field in a Senior (Championship) match will be eligible to play for another team from their club on that weekend.

### **b) Social Leagues:**

A player may play for any Social League Team (defined as being Southern League 1, 2, 3, 4 or Over 35 team, Southern Women's League 1 and 2 or Northern League 2) in any weekend's fixtures so long as they have not played for their club's senior (NPL TAS, Championship, Challenge League) Team as defined in 14.2 a), regardless of which game is played first.

Teams may only use a maximum of four (4) players who are not regular players in that team in any given week of competition. An exemption may be granted at the discretion of FFT in exceptional circumstances. This exemption must be sought prior to the weekend's round of matches.

### **c) Over 35 Competition.**

The Over 35s Competition is open to players who are over the age of 35. No player under the age of 35 shall be permitted to play in any match in this League.

## **14.3 Eligibility for Youth Competitions:**

For all youth league and cup competitions, an age group shall be considered as being an eighteen month age band from 1<sup>st</sup> October of the previous year through until 31<sup>st</sup> March of the following year.

For example, in 2017 the U14 age group would traditionally be limited to players born in 2003. Under the new scope, players born between the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2002 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004, are now included in this age band.

### **14.3.1 Youth Competition Tier 1**

Teams entering into the top level of an age-band competition shall be able to nominate up to sixteen (16) players on their team sheet for each match. Of these sixteen players, a minimum



of 75% (twelve players), must fall into the correct age-band for that competition. The additional four players are either from the correct age band or are additional players identified and cleared to play at that level following consultation between the club’s TD and the Technical Director of FFT. Such consultation and agreement for variation shall have taken place no later than close of business (5pm) on the Thursday prior to a match.

Where a club, competing in a Tier 1 Youth competition, does not have 16 players available for participation in a match, then the restriction with regards to players outside of the age-band shall still apply.

# of available players	# of correct age band	# of ‘exemptions’
16	12	4
15	12	3
14	11	3
13	11	2
12	10	2
11	9	2
<11		1

It is expected that Tier 1 players will not drop back to ‘fill in’ in lower competition levels, rather players from lower age bands are moved to higher levels when necessary to aid their development.

**14.3.2 Youth Competition – Other levels**

Teams entering into all other levels (divisions) of an age-band competition shall be able to nominate up to sixteen (16) players on their team sheet for each match. Of these sixteen players, a minimum of 50%, (eight players), must fall into the correct age-band for that competition. The remaining players are either from the correct age band or are additional players identified and cleared to play at that level by the club’s TD.

Where a club does not have 16 players available for participation in a match, then the restriction with regards to players outside of the age-band shall still apply. Irrespective of the number of available players, eight (8) players must be of the correct age-band.

**14.3.3 Female Youth Competition**

Female Youth Competitions shall be graded into two levels of competition. These shall be known as the Senior Youth Girls (SYG) and the Junior Youth Girls (JYG) competitions.



## 1. Definitions

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Teams entering into these competitions shall be able to nominate up to sixteen (16) players on their team sheet for each match. Nominally, the age bands (18 month span) for these two competitions shall be Under 15 (SYG) and Under 13 (JYG). At the discretion of the club TD and in consideration of the developmental stage of individual players, a player from outside of these age bands may be permitted to play in the other competition.

No girl who has played senior football at Championship 1 level or higher, may play in a female youth competition.

### **14.3.4 Female players in youth male competitions**

For their individual and/or collective development, it may be advantageous for an individual female or female team to participate in a youth boys' competition. Where an individual or team participates in a boys' competition it shall not be at a level lower than 2 years below the age category of the female player.

For example, a female player who is in the traditional age group of Under 16 shall not be permitted to participate in a competition below the Under 14 age band of a youth boys' competition.

### **14.4 Clubs with two teams in same League**

In the case where Clubs have two teams in the same League, any player who played for team A in that League and intends to play for team B in that League is regarded as one of the three (3) players who are not regular players for that team.

### **14.5 Special Circumstances**

Senior players returning from injury are eligible to play for any senior team in which they are eligible to play without restriction in any competition as long as they have missed a minimum of one game due to injury.

A Championship player as defined in 14.2 a) may play for a Social Team when returning from injury, however, they shall be ineligible to play for both a Championship and Social League team in the same weekend of roster matches.

### **14.6 Penalty for Breach of Player Restriction Rules**

Where a Club is found to be in breach of the Player Restriction Rules the offending team will be deemed to have lost the match by forfeit and will be fined \$200 per offence.

## **15 Fixtures and Forfeits**

### **15.1 Nomination requirements**



Clubs will be required to nominate teams in competitions offered by FFT a minimum of six weeks prior to competitions commencing. Clubs will be required to reconfirm their ability to field teams in competitions nominated in 4 weeks prior to commencement of the roster.

2 weeks prior to the competition clubs will be required to give final confirmation of team entry into competition so that competition rosters can be drawn. Any teams withdrawn after this confirmation may be penalized by FFT.

### 15.2 Fixtures

A fixture list for each Company competition will be published and, whenever practicable, finalised by the Company no later than three weeks (3) weeks prior to the commencement of each competition, FFT may at its discretion change any fixture list at any time with consultation of both clubs involved. However if no agreement is made FFT will determine the roster in consultation with the home team.

### 15.3 Match Duration

The duration of League matches for in each age group are outlined in the table below:

Age Group	Each Half	Half Time break
Seniors/ Under 20/18s	45 minutes	15 minutes
Under 16s/17s	40 minutes	10 minutes
Under 14s/15s	35 minutes	5 minutes
Under 13s	30 minutes	5 minutes

### 15.4 Forfeits

Any Club that, without just cause, fails to fulfil an engagement to play the fixture/s or any of them on the appointed date, time or venue/s shall forfeit that fixture/s. The offending Club shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents relative to that fixture or fixtures. The Company Disciplinary Committee may then deal with the offending Club.

Matches shall start within fifteen (15) minutes of the stipulated starting time. Any team that refuses to begin a match after this period shall have forfeited the match. When a match starts later than the stipulated time, short time shall be played. Two (2) equal halves shall be played at all times.

Teams must field at least seven (7) of its registered players, who are eligible to compete in that league competition, at the start of any match. Failure to do so will result in the offending team forfeiting the match.

In the event of a match being called off or abandoned due to insufficient numbers of players on one team as per FIFA Regulations, then the team responsible for the match being called off or abandoned shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.

If a team fails to enter the field of play or has insufficient players for the match to proceed after fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time the referee shall inform team officials present that the

## 1. Definitions

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game has been called off. The team responsible for the match being called off shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.

If a team informs FFT or a rival club they are unable to field a team less than 96 hours prior to the scheduled match, the match will be a FORFEIT and will not be postponed.

### **15.5 Penalties for Forfeits**

In the event that a team forfeits its match, then full points shall be awarded to their opponent and the goals recorded according to three (3) goals scored by the team getting the points to nil (0) by the team who has infringed the Rule. Clubs must advise the Company in writing that they will be forfeiting a match by no later than 12.00 pm on the Friday prior to fixtures.

If a Club fails to provide sufficient notice as set out in 15.5, the following penalties may be imposed on the offending Club: -

- May be fined \$200.
- Pay all appropriate referee and assistant referee's fees and ground hire costs.
- Pay compensation to opposing Clubs as determined by the Company.

Teams forfeiting on three (3) occasions without a satisfactory explanation provided in writing to the Company shall be removed from the competition.

If a Southern Championship club (in Men or Women's) has a team removed from either Championship or Championship 1 due to forfeits, they will be required to play Championship 1 and will be removed from the Championship competition. They will also receive a nine (9) point penalty.

In the event of a walk-off by one Club prior to the completion of a match the team will be considered to have forfeited the match and the Club shall be liable to penalties under Rule 15.3(a), in addition to other penalties and/or sanctions as the Company sees fit.

#### **15.5.1 Youth Competition forfeits**

If a Club fails to provide sufficient notice as set out in 15.4(a) & 15.4(b), the following penalties may be imposed on the offending Club:

1. it may be fined 50% of the fee for forfeiting a senior match; and
2. will be required to pay all appropriate referee and assistant referees fees should the notice of forfeit not be received prior to the match officials attending the ground.

### **15.6 How Forfeits Affect Suspensions**

When the forfeiting Club has a player suspended in that division, the match forfeited by their Club, will not count as a match served on their suspension.

When a Club receives a forfeit, any player under suspension in that division will have one match deducted from their suspension.



### **15.7 Postponed Matches/ Weather Conditions**

In the event of any match not being played owing to weather, either due to ground closure by the respective local council, or by the home club or a decision taken by the referee under Law 5 of the Laws of the Game, or other cause over which neither Club has any control, on being ordered to be replayed, it shall be at a time and place decided by the Company. The Company shall determine a new venue and date as soon as possible. When the home team's ground is closed, it shall, where practical, promptly inform visiting teams and the Company of the closure.

If the grounds are closed by Friday by the relevant Councils, the Company shall notify the local radio stations and the appropriate referee's co-ordinators of the cancellation of those League games and place a message on the FFT website. In the event of all games in the league round being cancelled, they shall be replayed on the first available weekend.

If clubs give appropriate notice (5-10 days) on the need to postpone, games shall be postponed through negotiation with rival club and FFT. A date for the postponement will be immediately set at the time of the request.

If, however, no weekend is available, and an alternative date for these games cannot be supplied by either the Clubs or the Company, the result shall be recorded as a 1-1 result.

In the event of some games being played and others not when the Company has not cancelled the games and the Councils have not closed the grounds (or the game(s) are at grounds not under the Council's control), the results for the played matches shall stand and the unplayed games shall be played on the first available date. In the event that not all rostered games can be played in the playing year (generally as a consequence of ground unavailability), the Company will record any unplayed fixtures as 1-1 results.

Clubs may request the postponement of any fixture if the Company receives such a request fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled date of the match. Whilst the Company shall endeavour to accommodate such requests, they will not be automatically granted. Where such a request is made, the team that has requested the postponement must make arrangements with the opposing club to have the game played within 30 days of the postponement. If the postponed match has not been either played or scheduled to be played within 30 days then the Team requesting the postponement will be deemed to have forfeited. In the event a suitable date is not agreed to by the teams, FFT will determine the fixture date.

### **16 Match Balls**

For all matches, the home team is responsible for providing three Competition approved match balls from the FFT approved ball sponsor.

Breach of rule 16 will result in a fine of \$50 for each offence.

## **17 Match Results**

All match results and goals scored in matches shall be recorded by FFT from the official Match Report submitted to the Company at the conclusion of each match.

The Match Report will be submitted by the appointed referee. Where no referee has been appointed, the Match Report must be submitted by the home team manager.

It is the responsibility of the home Match Manager in any Championship game to advise FFT by phone or text message of the half time score and full time score, within thirty (30) minutes of completion of the game. FFT shall advise the contact number prior to the start of the rostered fixtures each year.

## **18 Admission Fees**

### **Southern and Northern Championship**

Admission fees to all matches shall be determined by the Company prior to the commencement of each season and no Club shall charge a fee greater than that which has been determined by the Company:

Adults \$6

Concession \$3

Children 12 and Under Free

## **19 Ladder Positions and League Cup**

### **19.1 Ladder Positions**

In all roster competitions conducted by the Company, ladder placing shall be decided by awarding three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss. The team finishing first on the table shall be deemed the League Champions.

Goals difference shall be decided by deducting the number of goals scored against a team from the number of goals scored by that team and goal difference will be applied to decide a team's placing where its points are equal to the points scored by another team.

In the event that the goals difference is also equal, the team scoring the greatest number of goals shall be deemed the better team for placing purposes.

If still equal, the position on the ladder shall be decided by the team that has scored the greater number of away goals. If teams are still equal, a playoff match between the equal teams shall take place. If this is not possible the position will be decided by drawing lots.

### **19.2. League Cup**

At the conclusion of the respective Northern and Southern Championships a Cup Competition involving the top six (6) NPL-TAS clubs and the Northern and Southern Champions will be held. In the event that a NPL-TAS Club wins the Northern Championship, the highest placed non NPL-TAS club will



replace them in the League Cup. The teams involved will go into a draw for the knock out matches in the League Cup.

The first drawn team will play the second drawn team (Quarter Final 1). The third drawn team will play the fourth drawn team (Quarter Final 2), the fifth drawn team will play the sixth drawn team (Quarter Final 3) and the seventh drawn team will play the 8<sup>th</sup> drawn team. The first drawn team will host the Quarter Final at their home ground.

If scores are equal at the end of normal time in both Quarter Finals and Semi Finals, extra time of two periods of 15 minutes shall be played. If, at the end of the extra time, the winner of the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty spot, in accordance with FIFA rules.

Only the winning teams will progress. The teams involved will go into a draw for the knock out matches in the Semi Finals.

The winning teams from the Semi Finals will progress to the Final. FFT shall determine the venue, day and time for the Final.

If scores are equal at the end of normal time in the Final then an extra time of two periods of 15 minutes shall be played. If, at the end of the extra time, the winner of the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty spot, in accordance with FIFA rules.

FFT will be responsible for the administration of Semi Final and Final games in the League Cup and will be responsible for referees, ground staff management and will run the gates at these matches.

## **20 Abandoned Matches**

Should a match be abandoned after 65 minutes of play, the score shall stand unless the abandonment of the match is the consequence of disciplinary or similar action taken by the referee, and in such case the Company shall determine whether the score shall stand.

If the match is abandoned on or before the 65<sup>th</sup> minute of play, the match shall be replayed, unless the abandonment of the match is the consequence of disciplinary or similar action taken by the referee. In such case the Company shall determine whether or not the match shall be replayed.

In such cases as prescribed in Rules 20(a) and 20(b) the home team Club shall be responsible for the payment of match fees to all referees assigned to the match in any capacity.

## **21 Intrastate, Interstate and Overseas Matches**

At all times during a playing year a Club shall make its players available for such interstate, intrastate or representative matches as may from time to time be conducted, organised or controlled by the Company.

### **21.1 Overseas Matches**

If a Member wishes to send a team overseas, such Member shall provide the Company with full details of its proposed itinerary together with supporting letters from the governing body proposed to be visited, and upon receipt of such material written permission for the visit shall be sought by the Company from FFA in accordance with FIFA Rules and Regulations.

## 21.2 Interstate Matches

No Member shall send a team to play any match interstate without first obtaining the written consent of the Company.

The Company may in its absolute discretion refuse to give its approval for a member to send a team interstate and shall not be required to give any reason for such refusal.

No Member shall host a match against an interstate team without first obtaining the written consent of the Company. Written consent will only be given to matches or tournaments that adhere to FIFA Laws of the Game. No variations to the FIFA Laws of the Game will be approved.

The Company may in its absolute discretion refuse to give approval for a Member to host a match or competition against any opposition and shall not be required to give any reason for such refusal.

## 21.3 Intrastate Matches

This rule pertains to any game which is not a match in a Company approved competition.

No Member shall send a team to play intrastate without first obtaining written consent from the Company. The Company may in its absolute discretion refuse to give its approval for a member to send a team intrastate and shall not be required to give any reason for such refusal.

## 22 Disciplinary System

For the purposes of this Rule, the term “Company” does not include either the Tribunal or Appeals Board.

### 22.1 General (all competitive leagues)

Any breach of the FIFA Laws of the Game, Constitution, By Laws or Rules shall be dealt with, where applicable, with the imposition of either:

- a) Caution (yellow card)
- b) Expulsion (red card)
- c) Misconduct charge against a participant in accordance with the provisions of these Rules.

### 22.2 Caution (Yellow Card Offences)

A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a player during a match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature (Law 12 of the FIFA Laws of the Game).

A player receiving two cautions during the same match will incur an expulsion (indirect red card and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match). The two cautions that incurred the indirect red card are rescinded.

If a player is guilty of a sending off offence as defined in Law 12 of the FIFA Laws of the Game and is sent off, any other caution he has previously received in the same match is upheld. The only exception to this is for the case of an indirect red card as per 22.2 (b).

## 22.3 Administration of Cautions

The Company will regulate and record cautions (yellow cards) as follows:

- a) When a player accumulates five (5) cautions during the same season in the same competition, they will receive a one-match suspension, as determined by the Company. The Company will also impose a fine of \$ 50 on the player's Club.
- b) The Company will notify Clubs whose players are suspended before the next rostered match. If the company has not notified the club of the suspension then the player is free to play until such time the company does advise the club of the player's suspension.
- c) If any player receives an additional three (3) cautions (that is, eight (8) cautions in the same season, in the same competition), they will receive a further one (1) match suspension. The Company will also impose a fine of \$100 on the player's Club.
- d) If any player receives an additional two (2) cautions (that is, ten (10) cautions in the same season, in the same competition) they will receive a further one (1) match suspension and be required to appear before the Tribunal. The Tribunal will decide whether to suspend the player for the rest of the season. The Company will also impose a fine of \$200 on the player's Club.

### 22.3.1 Serving of accumulated cautions suspension

A player who receives a suspension for accumulated cautions must serve that suspension in that relevant competition. For the avoidance of doubt, this means if the player receives a suspension in the Championship then it will be served in Championship and not League Cup, FFA Cup or Lakoseljac Cup competitions. Clubs are responsible for tracking the accumulated cautions of their players.

## 22.4 Expulsion (Red Card Offences)

An expulsion is the order given by the referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitutes' bench, during a match.

Expulsion takes the form of a red card for players. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour as defined by Law 12 of the FIFA Laws of the Game; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards.

A player shall be deemed to have served a suspension in full when the team in which the player was playing when suspended has played the equal amount of games as the player's suspension allocated, and the round of matches for that week has been fully completed, even if served in a match that is later abandoned and/or cancelled.

The player may not play in any other games sanctioned by the Company during the period of their suspension.



## 1. Definitions

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The match referee shall record the player's identification number and lodge the send-off report and/or misconduct form with the Company.

The Company will impose a Club fine for send-off offences in the competition. For each player sent from the field of play, the amount of the fine shall be \$50 for the first, \$100 for the second and \$200 for the third send off offence. Any subsequent offences shall incur a fine determined by the Company.

Any player sent off the field of play on two (2) occasions in the same season, will incur an additional one (1) match suspension. This suspension cannot be appealed and must be served immediately after the automatic game suspension as defined in the Fixed Penalty System.

Any player sent off the field of play on three or more occasions in the same season will incur an additional two (2) match suspension, on top of the fixed penalty handed down by the Company. This suspension cannot be appealed and must be served immediately after the automatic game suspension. The player will be required to appear before the Tribunal. The Tribunal will decide whether to suspend the player for the rest of the season.

Expulsions (red cards) will be governed by the Fixed Penalty System.

### **22.4.1 Fixed Penalty System**

A Fixed Penalty System shall apply to all expulsions (red card offences) incurred during the Company competition season.

The Company reserves the right to refer any send-off report to the Tribunal for determination, which may result in the penalty being increased above the fixed penalty suspension specified.

A player who receives a red card in a Company fixture shall be subject to the suspensions at Schedule 1.

### **22.4.2 Participant Misconduct**

After being shown the red card and/or ordered to leave the field of play, technical area or surrounds of the ground, if a participant or non playing participant refuses to comply or commits an additional offense in particular MFP10, 11, 12 or 13 as prescribed in Schedule 2 of Misconduct fixed penalties, the sanction will be added to the original send off sanction for that participant.

For the avoidance of doubt the content of a match official's report is deemed accurate unless proven otherwise on balance.

### **22.4.3 Substantiating evidence**

Should a club wish to challenge a sanction of participant misconduct based on the statements in a match official's report on the basis that it is inaccurate then the club must present all relevant



evidence to the Competitions Manager who at his/her discretion may withdraw the additional sanction issued after the send off if there is sufficient evidence to warrant this action.

#### **22.4.4 Match suspensions**

A suspension from a match is a ban on taking part in a future match or competition or to attend it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.

The suspension is imposed in terms of matches/games, days, months or years.

Suspensions incurred by participant shall be served in consecutive fixtures, until such time as those suspensions are completed (and may carry over to the subsequent Playing Year).

Should a participant be suspended in another competition and/or with another affiliated organization (excluding International and Representative Teams), that Player will serve the suspension accordingly in the Company competition.

#### **22.4.5 Tribunal request against Misconduct Fixed Penalty**

A Club whose player has been expelled (red card) and suspended in accordance with the Fixed Penalty System may lodge a Tribunal Request. The Tribunal Request may only relate to the severity of the additional fixed penalty.

The only evidence that can be presented to a Tribunal as to the inaccuracy of a match officials match report is that evidence previously presented to the Competitions Manager under section 22.4.3.

The Tribunal cannot dismiss the expulsion (red card) and/or automatic one (1) game suspension from the player's record.

The Tribunal Request will give the Club and player an opportunity to present to the Tribunal a case for the reduction of the fixed penalty (except for the automatic game suspension).

The Club must lodge with the Company within five (5) business days of notification of the fixed penalty:

- a letter under Club letterhead and signed by the Club secretary outlining the intention of the Tribunal Request;
- a payment of a fee of \$150.00 (GST inclusive).

Any Tribunal Request that is successful in reducing the penalty, partly, or wholly, will have 50% of the fee being refunded to the Club. The Company will not accept a Tribunal Request that fails to meet all the requirements as specified under 22.4.4 a) and b).

Once a Player has served the automatic one game suspension, then the Player will be eligible to play pending the outcome of the Tribunal decision.

### **22.5 Misconduct**

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The Company may initiate an investigation into any matter considered relevant to whether a Participant may have committed an offence.

The investigation may be initiated on the basis of a match official's report, a Club complaint, video evidence that may be available, a report from any other relevant person or on the initiative of the Company administration.

Where there has been a report or a matter, which could constitute a serious breach of FIFA Laws of the Game, the Constitution, By Laws or Rules, the Company may appoint an Investigating Officer.

Participants shall comply with all reasonable requests made to them by the Investigating Officer or the Company for the purposes of an investigation. A failure or refusal to comply with a request, without reasonable excuse, shall constitute misconduct and hence be capable of being heard, upon charge, before the Tribunal.

The Company reserves the right to decide whether any alleged breach of the FIFA Laws of the Game, the Constitution, By Laws, Rules or registration and transfer procedures is to be referred to the Tribunal as a Misconduct Charge or dealt with by the Misconduct Fixed Penalty System or whether no action is to be taken.

An additional sanction will be imposed on a Club for the misconduct of a team, including when:

- a) Five players are cautioned or sent off in one match; or
- b) Three players are sent off in one match; or
- c) Several players together make threats or show force against a match official; or
- d) Its participants engage in a melee or brawl.

### **22.5.1 Misconduct Charges**

The Company reserves the right to charge Participants with misconduct or with behaviour prejudicial to the interests of the game and/or the Company, which shall be heard and determined by the Tribunal. The alleged misconduct or behaviour prejudicial to the interests of the game may include, but shall not be limited to breaches of the FIFA Laws of the Game, the Constitution, By Laws, Rules or registration and transfer procedures.

### **22.5.2 Misconduct Fixed Penalties**

The Company has adopted a Misconduct Fixed Penalty System that may be applied to allegations of misconduct.

The Misconduct Fixed Penalty System sets out minimum penalties for each breach and are detailed in Schedule 2 of these Rules, specifically MFP1- 9.

The Company shall investigate alleged breaches detailed in a Misconduct Report, Incident Report and/or any other relevant evidence presented. The Company may then issue any one of or a combination of Misconduct Fixed Penalties.

A Misconduct Fixed Penalty Notice shall clearly specify the alleged conduct upon which the Notice is based.

The Company reserves the right to refer any misconduct charge to the Tribunal but reserves the right to withdraw any charge on the basis of insufficient evidence.

In the event of a team receiving 5 or more cautions in a game and the official match referee submitting a match report to that effect, FFT will issue the offending club with the prescribed fine for the MFP 9.

Should a club wish to challenge the MPF finding 1-9 then it must do so under the process prescribed in section 22.5.3.

### **22.5.3 Tribunal request against Misconduct Fixed Penalty**

The Misconduct Fixed Penalties outline the minimum penalty for each offence. Parties that have been issued with a Misconduct Fixed Penalty cannot request a Tribunal hearing against the severity of the penalty under any circumstances.

Parties that have been issued with a misconduct fixed penalty can lodge a Tribunal Request against the finding of guilt only. Accordingly, such parties must enter a not guilty plea. There shall be no leniency or reduction in the penalty by the Tribunal or the Company for a guilty plea or a guilty finding. If the Tribunal finds the Club guilty of the charge, then the tribunal may only confirm or increase the initial penalty.

A Tribunal Request against the Misconduct Fixed Penalty must:

- a) be lodged with the Company within five (5) business days of notification of the penalty
- b) The Tribunal Request must be on Club letterhead, must clearly outline the basis for pleading not guilty to the charge(s), and
- c) be signed by the Club Secretary.
- d) A payment of \$250 must accompany each Tribunal Request.

The payment of \$250 shall be fully refundable when a Tribunal Request against the Misconduct Fixed Penalty is successful.

Once a Club formally lodges a Tribunal Request against the misconduct fixed penalties, no penalties issued under the Misconduct Fixed Penalty System shall be imposed while the Tribunal decision is pending.

## **22.6 Disciplinary Procedure**

### **22.6.1. Rationale**

As per the Football Federation Australia (FFA) National Disciplinary Regulations, and FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations, Football Federation Tasmania (FFT) has the right to impose disciplinary

sanctions to enforce and encourage compliance with the FFA National Registration Regulation and the FFT Competition Rules.

### **22.6.2 FFT's Jurisdiction**

22.6.2.1 This Disciplinary Procedure shall apply exclusively to facilitate the expeditious and fair resolution of disputes that arise between participants within the State of Tasmania, including an entity (Association or Club) and/or an individual (including a Player, Official, or Coach).

22.6.2.2 Each entity and/or individual shall submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of this Disciplinary Procedure, and agrees that unless this procedure has been exhausted, it will not attempt to resolve the grievance in accordance with the FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations, or in a court of law.

### **22.6.3. Establishment of the Tribunal**

22.6.3.1 A Tribunal shall be established by FFT that is independent and impartial.

22.6.3.2 The Tribunal shall consist of at least three (3) persons appointed by the Board, one (1) of whom shall be chair. Employees of the Company and members of the Appeals Board may not be appointed to the Tribunal.

### **22.6.4. Jurisdiction of the Tribunal**

22.6.4.1 The Tribunal shall hear and determine, and where appropriate impose sanctions against an entity and/or individual in respect of:

- i) any report, charge or matter referred to it under the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations and FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations;
- ii) any report, charge or matter referred to it under the FFT Competition Rules, FFT Player Code of Conduct, Officials Code of Conduct, or Coaches Code of Conduct; and/or
- iii) any other report charge or matter referred to it under this Procedure.

22.6.4.2 A member of the Tribunal shall not hear or determine any infringement if that member has a conflict of interest, actual or perceived, including if there is any reason where a private or personal interest could influence the way the member performs his or her duties.

22.6.4.3 Each member of the Tribunal shall have a single vote and all decisions of the Tribunal will be made by majority vote. If there is an equality of votes the sitting Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

### **22.6.5. Timeframes**

22.6.5.1 An entity and/or an individual shall submit a signed written report to the Competition Manager.

The report shall detail any contravention of any rule or regulation which is observed and warrants a sanction greater than that determined by the FFT Competition Rules in accordance with the recommended FFA sanctions for major infringements.

The report shall be submitted by post, e-mail or fax or in person within 48 hours, where possible, following the alleged infringement.



22.6.5.2 The Competition Manager shall defer the report to the Tribunal for determination at a hearing.

22.6.5.3 The Competition Manager shall send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice to the club or entity notifying them of a disciplinary hearing within 48 hours, where possible, following receipt of the written report.

22.6.5.4 The Disciplinary Infringement Notice shall provide:

- i) the name of the individual or club or entity to appear at the hearing
- ii) reasonable and sufficient detail of the alleged infringement
- iii) notice of possible sanctions as outlined in the rules and regulations and
- iv) date, time and place of the disciplinary hearing

22.6.5.5 The Competitions Manager shall only make available to the parties to the matter those matters as detailed above prior to the Tribunal Hearing.

22.6.5.6 The Competition Manager, where possible, will set a disciplinary hearing before the next applicable match, or within five (5) business days of the alleged infringement.

22.6.5.7 The Tribunal/Appeal Hearing will proceed at the date and time specified on the Disciplinary Infringement Notice/Appeal Notice as provided by the FFT. Any adjournment will be at the discretion of the Tribunal.

22.6.5.8 The entity representative and/or individual shall have the opportunity to make submissions in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction prior to the Tribunal hearing.

## **22.6.6. Procedure at Tribunals**

22.6.6.1 Tribunal hearings shall not be bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to proceedings in courts of law, but all hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

22.6.6.2 Alleged infringements shall be determined by reference to relevant FFA statutes and FFT rules and regulations, including the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations, FFA National Registration Regulations, FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations, and FFT Competition Rules.

22.6.6.3 The entity representative and/or individual shall have had reasonable and sufficient notice of the alleged infringement, and the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.

22.6.6.4 The Tribunal shall hear additional evidence from the individual/entity and witnesses, prior to making a decision and determining any appropriate sanction.

22.6.6.5 Legal practitioners shall not act as advocates for respondents or the Company.

22.6.6.6 The Tribunal may:

- i) permit individuals and entities to attend the hearing in person or by telephone, with a representative;
- ii) a participant may write to the Company outlining a valid reason for not appearing before the Tribunal and agreeing to the charge being determined in their absence. In this situation the participant must present a plea (guilty or not guilty) and must outline a defence to the charge;
- iii) order the attendance of any person under the jurisdiction of these procedures as a witness for the purpose of asking questions relevant to the infringement;
- iv) refuse entry to any person not directly involved in the matter, including the media
- v) admit and request the production of documents, reports from a Match Official, statements from the parties and witnesses, expert opinion and video or audio recordings and may require documents and statements to be submitted prior to any hearing;
- vi) grant or order an adjournment to provide parties with additional time or to consider additional information;

- vii) take into account the contents of the Referee's Report;
- viii) hear and determine a matter in a party's absence if the individual or entity fails to attend a hearing, including determining an infringement and/or sanction.

### **22.6.7. Disciplinary Sanctions**

22.6.7.1 When determining any appropriate sanction against an entity and/or individual, the Tribunal may consider:

- (i) Recommended sanctions as contained in the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations;
- (ii) the nature and severity of the infringement;
- (iii) the offender's past record and whether or not this is a repeated offence;
- (iv) the culpability of the offender;
- (v) any reasons prompting a player to commit an infringement;
- (vi) any remorse of the offender; and/or
- (vii) any extenuating circumstances;

22.6.7.2 The Tribunal may impose penalties in accordance with the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations and the FFT Competition Rules and Regulations.

### **22.6.8. Tribunal Determination**

22.6.8.1 The Tribunal shall present its findings in person at the conclusion of the hearing. The Competition Manager will provide a written determination of these findings as determined by the Tribunal including any sanctions against an entity and/or an individual within five (5) business days to the club or entity where possible.

### **22.6.9. Appeals of a Tribunal Determination**

22.6.9.1 An appeal notice against any determination of the Tribunal shall be submitted to the Competition Manager together with the appeal fee within five (5) business days after the date of which the written determination was received.

22.6.9.2 Process of appealing;

- A letter under Club letterhead and signed by an authorised officer of the Club outlining the basis for the appeal;
- A payment of a fee of \$500.00 (GST incl.)

The Company will not accept an Appeal that fails to meet all the requirements as above.

Any appeal that is upheld, or is successful in reducing the penalty, partly, or wholly, will result in 50% of the fee being refunded to the Club.

All applications for appeal must fully state the grounds of the appeal as well as include supporting documentation.

Appeals may only be initiated by Clubs or FFT.

No matter from the Tribunal may be brought to the Appeals Board unless:

- The disciplinary process has not been complied with or;
- Procedural fairness has been denied to the appellant or;
- The Tribunal's decision is in breach of the Constitution, By Laws or FFA Statutes and Regulations or;
- The Tribunal's penalty is either manifestly inadequate or excessive.



22.6.9.3 An appeal of any determination shall only be made by a person who was party to the hearing, unless that person can satisfy that exceptional circumstances exist and that they are affected by the determination and have an interest justifying variation of that determination.

22.6.9.4 The Appeals Board shall hear and determine appeals against any determination, taking into account any information that was put before the original Tribunal, and new or additional evidence.

22.6.9.5 The Appeals Board shall dismiss, allow in whole or part, or vary (reduce or increase) the determination, and impose any appropriate sanctions.

22.6.9.6 Participants summoned to appear before the Appeals Board must attend when advised, otherwise the appeal will be determined in their absence. The Appeals Board reserves the right to fine a participant that fails to appear.

22.6.9.7 A participant may write to the Company outlining a valid reason for not appearing before the Appeals Board and agreeing to the appeal being determined in their absence. In this situation the participant must outline the reasons the appeal should be upheld.

22.6.9.8 Participants shall comply with all reasonable requests made to them by the Appeals Board. Failure to do so will constitute misconduct.

#### **22.6.10. Establishment of the Tribunal Appeals Board**

22.6.10.1 The Company will appoint an Appeals Board to hear appeals against the decisions of the Tribunal. The Appeals Board shall consist of at least two (2) persons appointed by the Board, one (1) of whom shall be chair.

Employees of the Company and members of the original Tribunal may not be appointed to the Appeals Board.

22.6.10.2 The Tribunal Appeals Board shall follow the same jurisdiction, timeframes, procedure and sanctions as the original Tribunal hearing as contained in this procedure.

#### **22.6.11. Appeals of a Tribunal Appeals Board Decision**

The decisions of the Appeals Board shall be final and binding on all parties.

#### **22.7 Offences by non- playing participants**

22.7.1 A referee may expel a non-playing Club Official (coach, assistant coach, manager or sports trainer) from the field of play, its surrounds and the technical area if the Club Official is, in the opinion of the referee, guilty of Misconduct.

22.7.2 An expelled non-playing Club Official may not be present inside the perimeter fence or barrier, where one is present, or within 20 metres of the field of play where no perimeter fence or barrier is present, until at least 15 minutes following the end of the Match.

22.7.3 A non-playing Club Official who has been expelled from the field of play, its surrounds and the technical area, must serve an Automatic Match Suspension of 1 Match. The Company shall also impose a fine of \$200 (MFP 1/MFP 2) on the non-playing Club Official's club.

22.7.4 A non-playing Club Official who has been expelled from the field of play, its surrounds and the technical area on 2 occasions during a Competition Season, must serve an Automatic Match Suspension of 2 Matches. The Company shall also impose a fine of \$400 (MFP 1/MFP 2) on the non-playing Club Official's club.

22.7.5 A non-playing Club Official who has been expelled from the field of play, its surrounds and the technical area on 3 occasions during a Competition Season, must serve an Automatic Match Suspension of 3 Matches and will need to attend a hearing of the Disciplinary Tribunal to determine if further sanction is required. In addition the Company shall also impose a fine of \$800 (MFP 1/MFP 2) on the non-playing Club Official's club.



22.7.6 The imposition of an Automatic Match Suspension is immediate. For completeness, Football Federation Tasmania must issue a Disciplinary Infringement Notice in accordance with this By-Law, but for the avoidance of doubt, the Automatic Match Suspension is effective regardless of whether or not the Disciplinary Infringement Notice is received by the Club of the expelled non-playing Club official before the next match.

22.7.7 A non-playing Club Official who is expelled by a referee in accordance with paragraph 1 may not participate in any Football Federation Tasmania match on the same day either as a Player, coach, ground official, Club referee, Club assistant referee or in any other official capacity for the Club.

22.7.8 In addition to the Automatic Match Suspensions prescribed in clauses 3, 4 and 5, the non-playing Club Official will be subject to additional penalties in accordance with the Table of Offences as prescribed in Schedule 1- Fixed penalty suspensions of the Competition Rules.”

## **22.8 Misbehaviour by Supporters/Fans**

Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their supporters and fans regardless of whether they are the home or away team in a fixture.

- a) The home team’s Club has responsibility for evicting supporters or fans that do not adhere to the conditions of entry to the ground, especially with respect to the possession or consumption of alcohol.
- b) The possession and/or lighting of flares or other flammable objects or the throwing of objects is strictly prohibited at all fixtures.
- c) Any behaviour that creates danger, nuisance, and serious annoyance or is of offensive nature is strictly prohibited at all fixtures.
- d) The home team’s Club is responsible for admission into the ground or entry to the ground precinct. The home team Club may prevent entry to the ground and may evict any person suspected of being in possession or to have been in possession of flares, flammable objects or other items that are capable of creating danger, nuisance or serious annoyance at a fixture.

Any Club whose supporters, members or patrons have been found to be in breach of (b), (c) or (d) above, will be held fully accountable for the actions of their supporters, members or patrons. Clubs found to be in breach of (b), (c) or (d) shall be fined \$500 for each offence.

If the home team Club is found to have not reasonably carried out its responsibilities in this Rule 22.8, it shall be fined \$500.

Each Club must take steps to ensure that their supporters, members or patrons are made aware of these prohibitions and do not breach these requirements, regardless of whether they are playing at home or away.

The Company reserves the right to take further disciplinary action if it deems that it is necessary.



## **22.9 Code of Conduct/ Behaviour**

All Clubs, players, supporters and Team Officials (coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, sports trainers) must adhere to the Football Federation Australia codes of conduct as adopted by FFT and available on the FFT website, [www.footballfedtas.com.au](http://www.footballfedtas.com.au). The codes relate to behaviour of coaches, parents, players, spectators, Administrators and match officials at all matches.

Penalties may apply for breaching the specific codes and sanctions could include suspensions and or monetary fines dependent upon the nature of the breach.

## **22.10 Payment of Fines**

All fines imposed for breaches of the disciplinary system will be invoiced to and be payable by the Club for which the participant who has breached the Rules is registered.

## **23 Awards**

The following competitions will have Golden Boot and Best and Fairest awards attached to them: NPL-TAS, Challenge League, Southern Championship, Northern Championship, Southern Championship 1, Northern Championship 1, Women's Southern Championship, Women's Northern Championship, Women's Southern Championship 1.

Golden Boot awards will be awarded to the highest goal scorer in each of those competitions.

For the Best and Fairest Awards, the referee for each fixture will award votes. Three votes will be awarded to the best player, two votes to the next best player and one vote awarded to the third best player as judged by the referee.

The player who receives the most votes over the course of the season will win the Best and Fairest Medal for the competition, so long as the player has not received a suspension offence of two or more games during the season and become ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award.

If two or more players receive the same number of votes, the prize will be split and joint winners announced.

If a player receives two or more game suspensions (e.g. Violent Conduct, Serious Foul Play etc.) they will be ineligible to win the Best and Fairest Award for that season.

## Schedule 1 – Fixed penalty suspensions

Item	Offence	Minimum Penalty
<b>R1</b>	Serious foul play (e.g. when challenging for the ball)	Auto + 1 match
<b>R2(a)</b>	Violent conduct (e.g. assault on a player when not challenging for the ball)	Auto + 1 match
<b>R2(b)</b>	Violent conduct – serious nature causing or potentially causing significant bodily harm to any person	Auto + 4 matches
<b>R2(c)</b>	Violent conduct – premeditated or prolonged assault or inciting a brawl	Auto + 5 matches
<b>R3(a)</b>	Spitting at an opponent	Auto + 5 matches
<b>R3(b)</b>	Spitting at a Match Official	Auto + 12 months
<b>R4</b>	Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball	Auto
<b>R5</b>	Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick.	Auto
<b>R6(a)</b>	Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gesture not directed at a match official.	Auto
<b>R6(b)</b>	Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gesture against a match official	Auto + 2 matches
<b>R6(c)</b>	Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist	Auto + 4 matches
<b>R7</b>	Receives a second caution during the same match	Auto

**Schedule 2 – Misconduct fixed penalties (MFP)****Participant Misconduct**

The following constitute misconduct prejudicial to the objects and/or interests of the Company and the sport of football. The following sanctions represent the minimum penalty that shall be imposed. The Company reserves the right to refer any misconduct charges directly to the Tribunal.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
<b>MFP 1</b>	When Participants use Offensive, Insulting or Abusive language towards the match official/s during and/or after a fixture	\$200.00
<b>MFP 2</b>	When Participants use intimidating behaviour towards match official/s during and/or after a fixture	\$200.00
<b>MFP 3</b>	When Participants use Threatening language and/or behaviour towards the match official/s during and/or after a fixture	\$300.00
<b>MFP 4</b>	When Participants enter the field of play without the permission of the match official during a fixture	\$200.00
<b>MFP 5</b>	When a Club fails to take all reasonable steps to control participants during and/or after the fixture	\$500.00
<b>MFP 6</b>	When Club fails to complete team sheets and/or match report as per the Rules of Competition in a fixture	\$25.00
<b>MFP 7</b>	When several players together are involved in a melee during and/or after a fixture	\$300.00
<b>MFP 8</b>	When several players together use intimidating, offensive, insulting or abusive language against the match official/s after a fixture	\$300.00
<b>MFP 9</b>	When a team is guilty of Team Misconduct.	\$300.00

**Player, non playing participant Misconduct**

Item	Offence	Penalty
<b>MFP 10</b>	When player, or non playing participant uses threatening language, intimidating behaviour and/or gesture/s , offensive, insulting or abusive language against the match official/s after being sent-off or removed from the technical area and/or after a fixture	Suspended for three (3) additional games in addition to any fixed penalty relating to the send off in Schedule 1.
<b>MFP 11</b>	When player, or non playing participant uses obscene gesture/s against the match official/s after being sent-off or removed from the technical area and/or after a fixture	Suspended for one additional game to any fixed penalty relating to the send off in Schedule 1
<b>MFP 12</b>	When player, or non playing participant fails when instructed by the match official/s to leave the field of play and the area immediately surrounding the field of play.	Suspended for one (1) game in addition to any fixed penalty relating to the send off in Schedule 1.
<b>MFP 13</b>	When player, or non playing participant interferes in the officiating of a match by the match official/s.	Suspended for three (3) games in addition to any fixed penalty relating to the send off in Schedule 1.