



# 2016 MRFZ Competition Rules

## JUNIORS

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## 1. PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND BODIES

Any club, association or organisation wishing to participate in the game of football under the control of Mackay & Regional Football Zone Inc. (MRFZ) must be duly registered in accordance with the MRFZ constitution. Clubs, Players and Officials must comply with and agree to abide by the regulations of Football Federation Australia (FFA) and Football Queensland (FQ) and MRFZ including; FFA Statutes

- i. National Registration Regulations;
- ii. National Disciplinary Regulations;
- iii. National Code of Conduct;
- iv. National Grievance Resolution Regulations;
- v. National Member Protection Policy;
- vi. National Spectator Code of Behaviour
- vii. National Privacy Policy
- viii. National Anti-Doping Policy

These documents can be downloaded from the relevant websites:

- [www.footballaustralia.com.au](http://www.footballaustralia.com.au)
- [www.footballqueensland.com.au](http://www.footballqueensland.com.au)
- [www.mrfzone.com.au](http://www.mrfzone.com.au)

### 1.1 AFFILIATION

- a) Participation in any level of competition is subject to the payment of a registration fee to be notified by MRFZ. MRFZ will not accept nominations to participate in any competition if the Club is un-financial with MRFZ unless written agreement has been reached with MRFZ.
- b) Any club, affiliating with MRFZ shall with the application for affiliation lodge the necessary fees and particulars of the uniform of its team or 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.
- c) **Each club must supply the following to MRFZ a copy of current constitution.**

## 2. PLAYER AND COACH REGISTRATION

- a) Each year, all players and coaches must be registered via the FFA MyFootballClub registration system prior to their participating in any MRFZ competitions. For full details of the Registration procedures please see the Club Administrator's Manual.
- b) Any player not registered as per current FFA, FQueensland and MRFZ Registration Regulations is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in any MRFZ competition.
- c) A player may only be registered with one club at any one time
- d) Clubs shall be permitted to transfer registered players of their respective clubs to other registered clubs of MRFZ however this must be done before the 30 June each year if transferring to another club within the MRFZ region.
- e) No restrictions will be imposed on any player transferring into MRFZ from competitions outside the control of the zone.
- f) A new player's application for registration must be completed via the FFA My Football Club Registration system by midnight Thursday night prior to the scheduled date of the player's first match. If this deadline is not met, the player is not permitted to play in that given round of matches.
- g) MRFZ reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player who participants in any of its competitions
- h) Any player under suspension by MRFZ or any other Federation is deemed ineligible, and not permitted to participate in any match until that suspension is served.
- i) Any club who fields an ineligible player may be subject to disciplinary sanctions as determined by the MRFZ (See schedule of fines).

### 2.1.1. Junior Players (Miniroos U5 – U11)

Players must participate in their eligible age unless the Club has insufficient players that age for a team. In that circumstance, younger players may be included to make a team. An out of age player must not displace an age appropriate player.

- a) Juniors Players must be turning 5 by the end of the calendar year (born 2009) in which they wish to register.
- b) Players playing in Non-competitive Football (Miniroos) format may only be permitted to play up one age group.
- c) Under 11 players will not be allowed to play up into Junior Competitive divisions unless exceptional circumstances apply. See section 2.1.2.b)
- d) A player cannot play down into any age group lower than that for which the player qualifies, unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- e) All out of age players not playing in their appropriate age format require a Player Assessment Form, authorised by the parents and club and must be approved by MRFZ. **All player assessments will have an administration fee of \$15 applied to each assessment. All player assessments must be completed before 30 June 2016.**

### 2.1.2 Junior U12–U16

- a) Players must participate in their eligible age unless the Club has insufficient players that age for a team. In that circumstance, younger players may be included to make a team.
- b) A player from a younger age group may play up ONE (1) age group higher provided that player does not displace a player from the older age group, if available to play that fixture or for the season. I.e. if a team has the maximum number of players available for that age group, a younger player cannot be used either for that particular fixture match or for the season. All out of age players not playing in their appropriate age format require a Player Assessment Form, authorised by the parents and club and must be approved by MRFZ. **All player assessments will have an administration fee of \$15 applied to each assessment. All player assessments must be completed before 30 June 2016.**

U11 Players may be allowed to play up into U12, if a club can only field a team in U12 by using a **maximum of 4 x U11 players**. A club in this situation **MUST** provide clear supporting evidence including the registered player numbers in both their U11's and U12's.

**Any U11 players who are assessed and approved to play in the U12 age group are allowed to play back down into U11 age division.**

- c) There is no restriction on how many times a player can play up during the season.
- d) There will be a Premier and Division 1 competition in every designated junior competitive age group U12 – U16 unless there is exceptional circumstances.

To summarise

- Under 11 boys and girls are NOT permitted to play in Under 12 divisions.
- Under 12 boys and girls are permitted to play in Under 14 divisions.
- Under 12 boys and girls are NOT permitted to play in Under 16 divisions.
- Under 13 boys and girls are NOT permitted to play in Under 16 divisions.
- Under 14 boys and girls are permitted to play in Under 16 divisions.

### 2.1.3 Junior U18 Division

- a) Players must participate in their eligible age unless the Club has insufficient players that age for a team. In that circumstance, younger players may be included to make a team.

For younger players to play in U17/18, a Parent Permission Form and Player Assessment with supporting evidence must be completed and approval given by MRFZ. A club in this situation **MUST** provide clear supporting evidence including the registered player numbers in the affected divisions.

To summarise:

- Under 14 boys and girls are NOT permitted to play in the Under 18 division
- Under 15 and 16 boys and girls are permitted to play in Under 18 division.
- Under 16 and 17 boys and girls are permitted to play senior competition.

### 2.1.4 Female Players

- Female Players may play in both Girls only divisions and mixed divisions.
- Girls Only division may consist of players from more than one club.

## 3 COMPETITIONS

- MRFZ will arrange age restricted competitions for junior players as per the following table, dependent on the number of nominations received for the various age groups. Junior Competitions may be mixed or gender specific as determined by MRFZ.
- The composition of each division will be determined on an annual basis. MRFZ reserves the right to amend the size, structure and composition of any division.
- All junior competitive matches under the jurisdiction of MRFZ will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. This includes the Regular Season and Finals Series matches.
- The competition rules outlined below are in addition to those stipulated in the FIFA Laws of the Game ([www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com)).
- The Divisions for the 2016 are set out below but are subject to change based on the nomination of teams in the below age groups.

Competitive	Date of Birth
U 18's Division – Boys	1998, 1999
U15/16 Divisions – Boys	2000, 2001
U14 Divisions – Boys	2002
U13 Divisions – Boys	2003
U12 Divisions – Boys	2004
U 12 – U15 Division Girls Only	2001 – 2004
U 16 – U18 Division Girls Only	2000, 1999, 1998

AIA Vitality Mini-roos	
U11 Division – Boys	2005
U10/11 Girls Only Division	2005, 2006
U10 Division – Boys	2006
U8/9 Girls Only Division	2007, 2008
U 9 Division – Boys	2007
U 8 Division – Mixed	2008
U 7 Division - Mixed	2009
U 6 Division – Mixed	2010
U 5 Division - Mixed	2011

### 3.1 Nomination of Teams

- To register a team, each club provides a nomination list by MRFZ no later than the prescribed deadline. The players on this list must be fully registered and made "ACTIVE" on MyFootballClub. Players that are not active will not be available for team selection in Sporting Pulse.
- Guidelines for Minimum Number of players per age group division

**Age Groups/Division(s)**

Min. number of registered players

U5 to U7's	Four (4)
U8's and U9's	Seven (7)
U10's and U11's	Nine (9)
Junior Competitive Mixed Divisions	Eleven (11)
Girls Only Competitive Divisions	Seven (7 v 7)
Nine (9 v 9)	Eleven (11 v 11)

c) Clubs can nominate teams in divisions as they see fit and are responsible for grading players as the respective club sees fit.

**3.2 Miniroos - Non-competitive Football (Miniroos) (Under 5 to Under 11)**

Full details of formats and guidelines will be issued to clubs prior to the commencement of the playing season. They are available from the website: [www.miniroos.com.au](http://www.miniroos.com.au)

**3.3 Junior Competitive Age Groups**

Junior competitive age group divisions will conduct competitions in the above age groups, as required, which shall comprise of a series of compulsory grading matches (where applicable), a complete fixture and a final series competition.

Where possible for junior competitive grades there will be a Premier, First and Second Division for each age group.

- Within each age group clubs may field more than one team in any Division irrespective of the number of teams they field in other Divisions of that age group. Each team within that division must be able to field a full and separate compliment of members.
- Once grading games are completed, then the clubs will forward the player names per team to MRFZ for approval.
- Players may not play for another team in that Division within each age group from the same club. Clubs playing a player in both of its teams within the same age group and same division will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and may face disciplinary action and sanctions.
- MRFZ will determine the number of matches to be played in each division once the final composition of the division is determined.
- U18 Division Competitions play under Junior Competitive Rules however plays in the Senior Competition Draw. The only exceptions to this rule are documented in these rules.

**3.4 Clubs with more than one team in a division (Competitive age groups only)**

- If a club has two or more teams in the same division, the club will be required by MRFZ to provide a list of players allocated to each team prior to the commencement of the season fixtures.
- Once this list has been provided, the players are only permitted to play for the team to which they have been allocated when playing in that division. This does not preclude them from playing for other teams within the club in other age division
- When substitution into a division with multiple teams then individual players must nominate which team they are substituting into for the season.

**3.5 Borrowing of Players within Divisions****3.5.1 Non-competitive Football (Miniroos)**

There are no restrictions on borrowing players from within a club in age divisions as it is non-competitive.

### **3.5.2 Junior Competitive Age Divisions**

A player cannot play down into any age group lower division once they have played five fixture games excluding grading rounds in the higher division.

## **3.6 Borrowing of Players between Divisions**

### **3.6.1 Non-competitive Football (Miniroos)**

Not allowed unless under section 2.1.

### **3.6.2 Junior Competitive Age Divisions**

- a) A player cannot play down into any age group lower than that for which the player qualifies unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- b) A player cannot play up, regularly or casually, into an age group which includes players more than two (2) years older than the player unless the player has been approved under the MRFZ player age policy.
- c) There is no limit on the number of times that a player can sub up into any division of an age group above that player.

## **3.7 Additional Competitions**

MRFZ may conduct additional competitions as it deems appropriate before, during or after the competition season. The rules for these competitions will be provided prior to commencement. MRFZ may, from time to time, also schedule other competitions within the zone such as social, cup competitions etc.

## **4. DRAWS**

- a) MRFZ will conduct competitions and leagues for its affiliated clubs to play in divisions and in such manner as MRFZ sees fit.
- b) MRFZ will arrange and publish the dates, times and venues of all fixtures. MRFZ reserves the right to schedule or re-schedule a fixture or fixtures on any day, time and place as it deems appropriate.
- c) The Team listed first in the draw shall be the home team for that fixture.
- d) MRFZ will determine the number of matches to be played in each division once the final composition of the division is determined. MRFZ will endeavour to schedule matches such that lower divisions are played before higher divisions.
- e) MRFZ shall be empowered to draw up and determine the matches as it deems fit and in the best interests of MRFZ and the Game. Such matches shall be drawn up and made available where possible to all clubs prior to the commencement of the season of matches.
- f) MRFZ will endeavour to ensure that all teams play every other team an equal amount of times. All matches shall belong to, and the copyright therein, be deemed to be vested in MRFZ.
- g) Clubs shall not arrange matches unless sanctioned by MRFZ.

### **4.1 Application for Alterations to Fixtures**

- a) Any application for departure from fixtures during the season shall be in writing to the MRFZ and meet the criteria below.
- b) Any application for departure from fixtures must be provided at least ten (10) working days prior to the date scheduled. Each request will be determined on its merits (i.e. fields not available, carnivals).
- c) Any team with five or more players unavailable due to football representative duties approved by MRFZ may request in writing to have their match postponed.

### **4.2 Forfeits**

- a) In the event that a team is not ready to commence a match within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, the match will be deemed a forfeit and the opposing team shall be awarded the full points.



- b) Should any team claim such a forfeit, they must forward a completed Official Match Sheet signed by the appointed Match Official, or a club official, if one is not appointed noting the circumstances of the non-playing of the fixture to MRFZ.
- c) The team deemed to have forfeited may submit a report within three (3) working days to MRFZ should they believe the forfeit was caused by exceptional circumstances. MRFZ will review the submission and make a decision which will be final.
- d) Where any listed player on the team sheet in a forfeited match was to play out of his/her graded age group or division, then the fixture shall NOT be counted towards the player's tally of matches played up.
- e) Should a Club forfeit after a match has commenced, the opposing team shall be awarded the full points and be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0), or the actual goal difference, whichever is the greater.
- f) Should a Club forfeit a match prior to kick-off, the opposing team shall be awarded the full points and be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0).
- g) The opposing team to the forfeiting team may submit a team sheet (printed names only required) to MRFZ by the Tuesday of the week following the scheduled match days after the scheduled match if it is forfeited. These printed names will then be counted towards qualification of players for divisions.

### 4.3 Team Withdrawals

- a) If any team in the competition withdraws during the fixture season, then the recorded results for that team will be deleted and a forfeit in the competition will be substituted. No results will be recorded for all games played by the withdrawn team.
- b) If withdrawing a team during the season it shall be the lowest division team in that club that will be withdrawn.
- c) The club involved may be subject to disciplinary action.

### 4.4 Postponed Matches

- a) Matches may be postponed or delayed by the MRFZ as outlined in Clause 1.3 on advice from match officials, nominated representatives and venue clubs.
- b) The MRFZ reserves the right to reschedule all postponed matches at a place and time as it sees fit. Consideration will be taken as to where games were to be played originally.
- c) The MRFZ reserves the right to record any outstanding fixtures that have not been completed by no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of the fixture season as a 0-0 draw.

### 4.5 Abandoned Matches

Once a match has commenced, the Match Referee has sole responsibility to determine if the match should be suspended, or abandoned, due to severe adverse weather conditions or matters that may compromise the safety of the participants of the match.

#### 4.5.1 Request for Replay of Abandoned Match

- a) Should a fixture be abandoned the MRFZ shall take into consideration the following factors when considering a request for a replay:
  - i. Reasons why the fixture was abandoned
  - ii. Result of the game at the time of abandonment
  - iii. The impact on the final league standing of this fixture.
- b) Any Club who is found to be responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the abandonment of a fixture may be subject to disciplinary sanctions (i.e. loss of points and/or fines) to be determined by the MRFZ. Abandonment due to walk off by a team will be treated the same as a forfeit by that team.
- c) MRFZ may decide to direct any of the following outcomes in the case of play abandonment due to the action of one or both teams:

- i. That the match be replayed;
- ii. The game 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;
- iii. The game is recorded as a “NO RESULT”.

## 4.6 Extreme Weather

Decision is made by MRFZ President and/or his delegate, Match Officials Coordinator and the Junior Standing Committee Chairperson. This decision will be FINAL.

MRFZ is responsible for notifying Clubs by the methods below of any cancellations, postponements or changes to scheduled fixtures due to extreme weather.

The Clubs are responsible for checking incoming communication from MRFZ and communicating directly with their club members.

### 4.6.1 Decision made before the Scheduled Fixture Date

MRFZ will put notice of fixture cancellations out when notified by the Zone President of fixture cancellations via the following media formats:

- a) Contact Clubs via email using club contacts in Microsoft Outlook
- b) Contact Clubs using wet weather club contact details provided by clubs.
- c) Post audio message on the MRFZ Office phone.
- d) Advise Radio Stations any advice of cancellations
- e) Advise Daily Mercury (Promotions/Marketing) of cancellation
- f) Post notice on Home page of website. (See Wet weather)
- g) Update Facebook page

### 4.6.2 Decision made on the Day of Scheduled Fixtures

The President of MRFZ and/or his delegate will make a decision about the day's play by 7.30 am if not earlier. It will take about 15 minutes to notify all on the above contact list.

Squirts program and non-competitive games may be cancelled however competitive games will be postponed and played at a later date in the season depending on the advice of the Junior Standing Committee.

- a) Contact Clubs via email using club contacts in Microsoft Outlook:
- b) Contact Clubs using wet weather club contact details:
- c) Post notice on Office phone:
- d) Advising Radio Stations and advice of cancellations:
- e) Post notice on Home page of website:
- f) Update Facebook Page:

## 5. Matches

MRFZ will arrange and publish the dates, times and venues of all fixtures. MRFZ reserves the right to schedule or re-schedule a fixture or fixtures on any day, time and place as it deems appropriate.

The Team listed first in the draw shall be the home team for that fixture.

### 5.1 Duration of Matches

#### 5.1.1 Miniros

Competition	Duration	Interval
U5, U6 and U7	2 x 15 mins	Up to 5 mins
U8 and U9	2 x 20 mins	Up to 5 mins
U10 and U11	2 x 25 mins	Up to 5 mins

### 5.1.2 Junior Competitive Matches

Competition	Duration	Interval
U 18's Division	2 x 45 mins	Up to 10 mins
U16 Division	2 x 35 mins	Up to 10 mins
U14 Division	2 x 30 mins	Up to 10 mins
<b>U13 Division</b>	<b>2 x 30 mins</b>	<b>Up to 10 mins</b>
U12 Division	2 x 30 mins	Up to 10 mins

- The referee is solely responsible for the start and stoppage of the game as well as the duration of the game in competitive matches.
- All matches shall commence within fifteen (15) minutes of the stipulated time of commencement
- The half-time interval must be a minimum of five (5) minutes and no longer than ten (10) minutes in duration or as deemed by the referee.
- No extra time shall be allowed for injured players during a fixture match. The only exception to this rule is final series competitive matches.
- When a match commences later than the stipulated time, short time shall be played with two halves of equal duration so as to enable any following match to commence at the proper time.
- The referee has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player or referee safety.

## 5.2 Match Results

### 5.2.1 Non-competitive Football (Miniroos)

There is NO SCORING in non-competitive football matches and as such no records of match results are to be recorded on the team sheets provided.

### 5.2.2 Junior Competitive Age Divisions

Scoring and timing is conducted by the Match Official appointed for the match.

The following points will be awarded for matches during the Regular Season:

- Win = Three (3) points
- Draw = One (1) point
- Loss = Nil (0) points
- Bye = Nil (0) points
- No Result= Nil (0) points for either team

Teams shall not receive any points and/or goals for the results of any pre-season grading matches played to finalize placement of teams within divisions.

## 5.3 Entering Match Results into Sporting Pulse (Competitive only)

- Each club is responsible for entering match results into the online match results program – Sporting Pulse.
- Results must be entered by 12 pm **Monday** night after scheduled weekend fixtures. After this time the system will be electronically locked and you will be unable to enter team results.
- Failure to do by this timeframe will result in a fine of \$50 per team charged to the club concerned. No future results will be posted until the fine is paid.

## 5.4 Premiership Winners

- The position of each team on the ladder at the conclusion of the regular fixture season will be determined based on the highest number of points accumulated by a team.
- The team who accumulates the most points in each division at the end of the regular season will be declared the Premiership Winners
- If two (2) or more teams are level on points accumulated in any division, the following criteria shall be applied, in order, until one (1) of the teams can be determined as the higher ranked team.

- i. Highest goal difference which is the number of goals AGAINST subtracted from the number of goals FOR.
- ii. In the case of goal difference being equal the team scoring the greater number of goals FOR shall be determine the placing of the teams in the ladder.
- iii. Highest number of points accumulated in matches between the teams concerned;
- iv. Highest goal difference in matches between the teams concerned;
- v. Highest number of goals scored in matches between the team concerned;
- vi. Play off between the teams at a time and venue as determined by MRFZ

## 6. FINAL SERIES.

### 6.1 Final Series Details

At the conclusion of the regular fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams in each division will be determined as eligible to participate in the MRFZ Finals Series.

### 6.2 Procedures to Determine the Winner of Junior Finals Series Matches

- a) In the Semi Finals if scores are equal, the team in the higher position coming into the match shall progress through to the next match.
- b) In the Preliminary Final if scores are equal, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of ten (10) minutes will be played. If there is still no result, an extra two (2) equal periods of five (5) minutes will be played. If there is still no result, then the team with the highest points in the Premiership shall progress to the Grand Final.
- c) In all Junior Grand Finals, except U16 Premier Division and U18 Divisions, if scores are equal, then two (2) equal periods of ten (10) minutes will be played. After extra time, if scores are still equal there will be joint winners declared.
- d) In U16 Premier Division and the U18 Division if, after full time scores are still equal, then two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes of extra time each way shall be played in full. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken, in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the match.

### 6.3 Player Eligibility for Final Series

- a) A junior competitive player must have played five (5) games in a single division to qualify to play in the finals series for that division **including any U11 assessed and approved players.**
- b) Junior competitive premier players from a lower age group are not allowed to play up in the lowest division of the next highest age group.
- c) Nominated players for Finals are to be submitted to MRFZ two (2) days before any scheduled finals matches are to be played.
- e) Any request for exemptions from these qualification rules shall be in writing to MRFZ on club letterhead at least seven (7) days before the start of the final series.

## 7. MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

- a) Clubs hosting matches must have the field set up and properly dressed at least 30 minutes prior to kick off.
- b) Hosting clubs must ensure that their venue is compliant with the requirements of the hosting club venue requirements document.

### 7.1 Club Responsibilities

- a) Clubs are responsible for their appointed Team Officials (Coaches, Managers, and Medical Staff) and they should be made aware that they are governed by a Code of Conduct.
- b) A maximum of ten (10) persons are permitted to be within the confines of the technical area. They may include the coach, assistant coach, the substitutes and either the trainer or medical Staff.

- c) Team Official Identification Cards shall be worn at all times by the team coach, assistant/s, the Team manager and the team sports trainer. Only persons with such identification or designated players as listed on the match sheets shall be in the technical area.
- d) Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions to the players during the Match.
- e) The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area, except in special circumstances, for example, a team sports trainer or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured
- f) All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. They must wear bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to their and the opposition team strip, Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area, provided they are wearing bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to their and the opposition team strip. When warming up, substitutes are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.

**NOTE: Any undergarments (skins) must be the same colour as the shirt or shorts worn by the player.**

- g) All occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible 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.
- h) 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.

## 7.2 Team Responsibilities

- a) It has minimum number of seven (7) players to commence the match;
- b) That it does not list more than sixteen (16) players on the team sheet.
- c) **Only eligible** players **are allowed to take** the field play to play. A player whose name is not listed on the Match Sheet **prior** to the commencement of any MRFZ competition match is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in that match.
- d) All players taking the field of play are correctly listed with their printed names and playing numbers on the team sheet in legible writing. If the players name is declared illegible by the MRFZ, that player may be deemed as "not played".

If the said player receives a yellow/red card during the match then the club will be deemed to be in breach of the Rules of Competition in regards to Player Eligibility and the club may be subject to disciplinary action.

- e) All players wear the appropriate strip, before taking the field of play.
  - i. All first named clubs will be deemed the "Home" team and therefore will play in their nominated colours. All first named clubs on the published draw on the website are the home team. Away team wears alternative strip if required. Photos of club playing strips are available on the MRFZ website.
  - ii. In the event there is a clash of colours with the away team, it will be the responsibility of the visiting team to change into their alternative strip or numbered bib.
  - iii. Goalkeepers may wear any colour provided it does not clash with either team or Match Official/assistants.
- iv. MRFZ may be able to provide a set of numbered bibs for junior competitive age groups but it is on a first in, first served basis.
- f) All players must wear shin-guards whilst on the field of play. Prescription sports glasses are permitted upon approval by MRFZ. They should be approved and certified by an optometrist for use in sports and must be firmly secured with a sports band specially designed for use with protective sports glasses.
- g) No jewellery is worn by any player in accordance with FIFA 'Laws of the Game', Taped jewellery will not be accepted.
- h) All players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time.
- i) Only players' names listed on the team sheet are permitted to take part in the match.
- j) All substitutions/interchanges can only occur at a break in play with the approval of the referee and must take place at the halfway line.

- k) All substitutions/interchanges made at half time must enter the field from the half way on the referees signal just prior to kick off of the second half.
- l) All substitutes must be seated within the technical area.
- m) Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area, provided they are wearing bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to the team strip.

## 8. TEAM OFFICIALS

- a) All Team Officials must be registered with the MRFZ using MyFootballClub. This includes coaches, managers, assistant coaches and medical staff.
- b) Upon registration, an Identification Card will be issued which must be worn at all times when performing specified duties. If team officials do not have this Identification card, they will not be allowed in the technical area.
- c) All Team Officials must conduct themselves in accordance with the FFA Code of Conduct.
- d) Penalties or suspension of team officials, fines, and good behaviour bonds, can be levied upon such persons and clubs, where it is found that Team Officials have breached the Code of Conduct.
- e) Any team official removed from the technical area by the Match Official is subject to a MANDATORY match suspension as per the disciplinary policy and procedures.
- f) Team officials are only covered by insurance provided the club has appointed and registered them. With regards to team trainers or medical staff, clubs should not use the services of any other person to treat players in regard to injuries, unless such persons have their own insurance coverage to safeguard themselves if any legal action is implemented as a result of treatment of injuries.
- g) Team officials are responsible for ensuring players behave in an appropriate manner at all times before, during and after any game.
- h) Team officials are not to argue or address any disagreements or comment direct to a Match Official. Any complaints should be directed to the MRFZ on club letterhead.
- i) A team official can only enter the field of play when the Match Official indicates to do so.

## 9. TEAM SHEETS

- a) On match day, both teams are required to complete an official team sheet with the first name and last name written legibly on the team sheet prior to the commencement of any match.
- b) The team sheet must list all players taking part in the fixture and be provided to the Match Official at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off
- c) Officials must ensure that clubs do not list more than sixteen (16) players on the team sheet for any match and that the number of players taking the field equals the numbers of players listed on the team sheet.
- d) A player whose name is not listed on the Match Sheet prior to the commencement of any MRFZ competition match is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in that match. No names are allowed to be added to team sheet once it is handed to the Match Official.
- e) On match day, any team may ask to challenge the eligibility of any opposing player. Should the identity of a player be challenged at any match they are involved in then?
  - The player must allow for a photo to be taken on the day.
  - No player can refuse the request for such photo unless they have a letter from MRFZ.
  - The Match Official and team managers should note the challenge on the Team Sheet.
- f) No club official shall have the power to prevent an opposition player from taking the field for any reason.
- g) 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 MRFZ, within three (3) working days of the match. An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident will be undertaken immediately.
- h) In the event that the protest is upheld, the Fines and Sanctions as stated in the policy will apply. In the event that the protest is dismissed, then the match result will stand.
- i) The Team Official must cross off at the end of the game those who did not play and write DNP next to the player's name.
- j) That the details recorded by the Match Official on the completed team sheet are accurate and signed by a team official upon conclusion of the match.

k) It is the clubs responsibility to ensure that they collect their team sheet books after the game. Any team sheet books are to be collected by the host club and returned to the MRFZ office. Replacement books will be equivalent to the cost MRFZ pays for printing of the team sheet books each year.

l) Team Sheets, Match Official Summary & Send-Off/Incident Report Forms from the appointed Match Official will be accepted transcript. All decisions of the Match Official regarding the facts connected with play (including whether a goal is scored or not and the result of the match) are considered final.

## 10 MATCH OFFICIALS

### 10.1 Appointment of Match Officials

Match Officials for all MRFZ fixtures shall be appointed by the Match Officials Appointments Coordinator in conjunction with MRFZ and all such appointments shall be in accordance with a grading system of Match Officials and fixtures where practicable.

### 10.2 Non-attendance or unavailability of Match Official

a) Should the appointed Match Official fail to honour his appointment or is late on arrival, then the next most senior Match Official will be appointed to take charge of the fixture, provided the next Match Official has the experience and qualifications to do so.

b) In the event no registered Match Official is present to take charge of the match, then the teams shall consult each other and appoint a Match Official to take charge of the match.

c) This appointed Match Official has the same powers as a registered Match Official.

d) MRFZ will supply a set of flags per field and red/yellow cards at the grounds for all matches.

e) 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 on the above grounds, then:

i. 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.

ii. In the event both teams refuse to play, the MRFZ reserves the right to award a 'NO RESULT' and fines both clubs and take further disciplinary action.

## 11. INJURIES

For more information please see the FIFA Laws of the Game.

The Match Official must adhere laws of the game when dealing with injured players. For ease of Reference:

- Play is allowed to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in the opinion of the Match Official, only slightly injured
- Play is stopped if, in the opinion of the Match Official, a player is seriously **injured after questioning the injured player,**
- The Match Official may authorise a team official to enter the field of play. **No other person, parent or otherwise is allowed to enter the field of play.**
- **Injured players are not to be taken off the field by spectators.**
- Ground official to contact ambulance if required.

### 11.1 Blood Ruling

The Match Official may 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 Match Official 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.

### 11.2 Concussion

FFA have a document which sets out the guiding principles and provides general advice regarding the management of concussion in football in Australia. All clubs are required to familiarize themselves with the document and act accordingly if a player is suspected of having concussion.

### **11.3 Heat Management**

Match officials will determine if player safety is affected by heat and will take appropriate steps in accordance with FIFA rules.

## **12. MISCONDUCT**

The National Disciplinary Regulations and the MRFZ Disciplinary Policy will apply.

### **13. AWARDS (Junior Competitive Divisions only)**

All trophies shall remain the property of MRFZ, 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 MRFZ no later than 1 August in each year.

#### **13.1 Fixtures**

The competition premiership winners, the grand final winners and the grand final runners up in each division in each age grouping shall be awarded a shield/trophy/cup.

#### **13.2 Golden Boot**

At the conclusion of all fixtures (both Men and Women and Junior), the player with the most goals scored will be declared the winner of the Golden Boot for their division.

#### **13.3 Player of the Year (All Divisions)**

At the conclusion of EACH fixtures MATCH, the opposing coaches are required to fill in and submit Player of the Year votes on the Team Sheet (also known as the 3-2-1 points). All votes must be treated confidentially and are submitted to MRFZ on the team sheets.

Five (5) points is removed from the number of points for every red card obtained by each player during the season. This award is known as the Player of the Year award for each division.

#### **13.4 Goalkeepers Award (Youth Premier Division Only)**

At the conclusion of EACH fixtures MATCH, the opposing coaches are required to fill in and submit Goalkeeper votes on the Team Sheet. Each goalkeeper is rated on a 1 to 5 scale with 5 being the highest score. All votes must be treated confidentially and are submitted to MRFZ on the team sheets. Five (5) points is removed from the number of points for every red card obtained by each player during the season.

#### **13.5 Female Rising Star Award (U18 Division Only)**

A female player who is Under 18 from each team in the Premier League is nominated by their own club. Once nominations have been received from all Premier League clubs, then the nominated list is sent out to all of the clubs who must award points 3, 2, 1 to the nominees but are not allowed to vote for their own club nomination. Nomination Votes must be submitted to MRFZ by the final round of Competition Fixtures.

#### **13.6 Male Rising Star Award (U18 Division Only)**



A Male player who is Under 18 from each team in the Premier League is nominated by their own club. Once nominations have been received from all Premier League clubs, then the nominated list is sent out to all of the clubs who must award points 3, 2, 1 to the nominees but are not allowed to vote for their own club nomination. Nomination Votes must be submitted to MRFZ by the final round of Competition Fixtures.

#### 14 . PENALTIES AND FINES

As per the MRFZ Penalties list in the Club Administrators Manual. Once a fine has been issued, the club has thirty (30) days to pay the fine after this period club will accumulate no further points until fine is paid. Unless prior arrangements are made in writing and approved by MRFZ.

Playing Of Ineligible Player	To be determined based on offence.
Playing Of Unregistered Player	Fine to be equivalent to annual MRFZ registration fees per player.
Failure to Do Club Duty Roster	\$250 first offence, \$500 second and subsequent offences within the current season.
Failure to submit a team sheet	\$10
Failure to record voting results on competitive team sheets	\$50
Failure to enter match results in Sporting Pulse	\$50

#### 15. REVIEW OF COMPETITION RULES

These competition rules are subject to change, based on decision of majority of clubs and approved by MRFZ at annual review meeting. Standing committees or MRFZ may call a special meeting to amend any of these rules.

[www.mrfzone.com.au](http://www.mrfzone.com.au)

