



# 2016 MACKAY COMPETITION RULES -Seniors-

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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 (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 and Regulations

- 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
- ix. 2016 MRFZ Rules of Competition.

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 to MRFZ a copy of their 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, FQ 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 and may only play for 3 clubs in any one year
- 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 August 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) Clubs will notify MRFZ if a registered player is not of the status - amateur. An amateur player is defined in the FFA Registration Regulations.
- h) Professional or contract players are defined in FFA Registration Regulations.
- i) 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.

## **2.1 Player Age Policy**

- a) MRFZ reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player who participates in any of its competitions.
- b) Any club who fields an ineligible player may be subject to disciplinary sanctions as determined by the MRFZ.
- c) Open Age male competitions should not permit players born 2001 (U15) or after to compete unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- d) Open Age female competitions should not permit players born 2002 (U14) or after to compete unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- e) Exceptional circumstances in c) and d) are defined as identified players who participate at State or National level affiliated competitions OR where Clubs having insufficient players to field teams. This would be more likely to be supported for lower than higher Division Open Senior teams.
- f) MRFZ Player Assessment forms with parent and club approval and supporting evidence must be completed for those players outside the age policy above and forwarded to MRFZ for approval prior to those players playing in Open Age competitions using the prescribed form.

### **2.1.1 U18 Division Players**

- a) Players must participate in their eligible age division unless the Club has insufficient players that age for a team. In that circumstance, younger players may be included to make a team however this is at the discretion of MRFZ.

- b) Under 15 boys are NOT permitted to play in the senior competition unless section 2.1 is applied for.

Under 15 girls are permitted to play in senior women's competition.

Under 16 and 17 boys and girls are permitted to play senior mens competitions.

- c) Player Assessment forms with parent and club approval and supporting evidence must be completed for those players outside the age policy above and forwarded to MRFZ for approval. *All player assessments will have an administration fee of \$15 applied to each assessment. All player assessments must be completed before 30 June 2016.*
- d) The U18 Division is played in accordance with the Junior Rules however is included in the Senior draw as this division plays at senior venues.

### 3. COMPETITIONS

MRFZ will arrange competitions for senior players (born 1997 or earlier) as per the following table, dependent on the number of team nominations received for the various divisions. MRFZ reserves the right to amend the size, structure and composition of any division.

LEAGUES	DIVISIONS
Mackay Premier League	Premier Mens
	Premier Reserve Mens
Mackay Club League	Mens Division 1
	Mens Division 2
Mackay Womens League	Womens Division

The competition will consist of a complete regular season and a final series competition. The composition of each division will be determined on an annual basis. This includes varying promotion and relegation of teams after Round 1. A review of the divisions by MRFZ may be conducted and consultation with clubs concerned as it sees fit.

All matches under the jurisdiction of MRFZ will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. 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)).

### 3.1 Nomination of Teams

a) 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 Min numbers of players are:

1 team	17 players
2 teams	32 players
3 teams	48 players

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

(c) MRFZ reserves the right to regrade teams if they have been not been nominated in their correct division.

### 3.2 Clubs with more than one team in a division

- a) 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.
- b) 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 divisions.
- c) When substitution into a division with multiple teams then individual players must nominate which team they are substituting into for the season.

### 3.3 Substitution of Players within Divisions

- a) For all senior Premier Men’s Division matches each team can make up to three (3) substitutions (including a goalkeeper) per match, with no more than five (5) substitutes listed on the team sheet

*For all senior Reserve Men’s Division matches each team can make up to five (5) substitutions (including a goalkeeper) per match, with no more than five (5) substitutes listed on the team sheet.*

- b) The players who have not played in the match are to be crossed off the team sheet by the manager at the end of the game and therefore the games are not counted towards qualification of number of games played for the division.
- c) For all other divisions, unlimited interchange will be permitted, with no more than five (5) substitute players permitted to be named on the team sheet
- d) Only players names listed on the team sheet before the match are permitted to take part in the match

- e) All substitutions/interchanges can only occur when the ball is out of play with the approval of the Match Official and must take place at the halfway line. The players will be required to be on the centre line ready to change.
- f) All substitutions/interchanges made at half time must enter the field from the half way on the Match Official's signal just prior to kick off of the second half.
- g) All substitutes must be seated within the technical area and wear a bib or alternate strip.
- h) 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.

### **3.4 Borrowing of Players between Divisions**

Teams in a division within the same club may borrow players from other divisions. There is no limit to the amount of times a player can play up a division however the following rules apply for players to play down a division after playing a match in a higher division.

A player may only be allowed to drop down one consecutive division at a time. If a club does not nominate teams in consecutive divisions, then the player(s) must sit out the divisional rounds in order to drop one division per week.

*NOTE: BYES and FORFEITS (if the player is in the forfeiting team) are not defined as matches and therefore do not count as sitting out a round.*

#### **3.4.1 Borrowing Players between Premier Mens & Reserve Mens**

Players can move between both divisions until a player has played 40% +1 MRFZ available matches in that division. Once that limit has been reached, then the player (including goalkeepers) must remain in the higher division for the remainder of the competition including finals. Exclusions are U18 players only.

#### **3.4.2 Borrowing Players Between Reserve Mens & MCL Div 1 Mens**

Players can move between both divisions until a player has played 40% +1 MRFZ available matches in that division. Once that limit has been reached, then the player (including goalkeepers) must remain in the higher division for the remainder of the competition including finals. Exclusions are U18 players only.

#### **3.4.3 Borrowing Player between MCL Div. 1 & Div. 2 Mens**

Players can move between both divisions until a player has played 40% +1 MRFZ available matches in that division. Once that limit has been reached, then the player (including goalkeepers) must remain in the higher division for the remainder of the competition including finals. Exclusions are U18 players only.

#### **3.4.5 Borrowing Players in Womens Division**

As there is only one division of Womens teams, section 3.2 applies.



### 3.4.6 Between U18 Division and All Divisions

Under 18 division players are allowed to substitute into Senior Competition matches. These players are allowed to move back into the U18 division however if movement is within senior divisions from one match to the next then the ruling of 3.4 shall apply.

### 3.5 Additional Competitions

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

All competitions must be sanctioned by MRFZ and FQ. Rules for these competitions shall be forwarded to MRFZ and FQ before sanctioning will be considered. An additional fixtures/sanctioning procedure will be issued to all clubs and be available on the website.

## 4. DRAWS

MRFZ will conduct competitions and leagues for its affiliated clubs to play in divisions and in such manner as MRFZ sees fit. This includes varying promotion and relegation of teams after Round 1, a review of the divisions by MRFZ may be conducted and consultation with clubs concerned as it sees fit.

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.

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.

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 to all clubs prior to the commencement of the season of matches.

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.

Clubs shall not arrange matches unless sanctioned by MRFZ including preseason friendly matches.

Hosting ground rights will be awarded at the discretion of the MRFZ executive committee with reference to the MRFZ Hosting Venue Requirements.

Every club is eligible to host games however the MRFZ draw requirements will determine the final outcome of hosting grounds.

The clubs must also meet all requirements to host games decided at the discretion of the MRFZ. A guideline to these requirements is contained in the MRFZ hosting venue requirements document.

#### 4.1 Application for Alterations to Fixtures

Any application for departure from published fixtures during the season shall be in writing to the MRFZ and meet the criteria below.

- a) 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). Applications for alterations due to “social functions” (e.g. weddings, christenings, or other social and religious events) will not be considered. MRFZ’s decision in regards to the rescheduling of matches will be final.
- b) 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.

*If a club has both a Premier Mens team and a Reserve Mens team then the Reserve Mens team must forfeit first.*

- 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.
- h) A Club that forfeits will be fined with the fine penalty increasing if the forfeit is notified to MRFZ with less than 48 hours’ notice. Fifty percent of the penalty fine will be paid to MRFZ and fifty percent will be paid to the hosting club venue unless it is the hosting club team who forfeits. If the forfeit is on the day of the match, then Match Officials would be paid separately by MRFZ out of the fine monies.

- i) Extenuating circumstances to be reviewed by MRFZ on a case by case basis. .E.g. bus crash etc.
- j) A team, which has forfeited more than 3 matches, may, at the discretion of MRFZ, be removed from that competition.

#### 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 for that club in the relevant mens or womens competition 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 on advice from Match Officials, nominated representatives and venue clubs.
- b) *Postponed matches are to be played within two (2) weeks of the postponement of the original fixture. Failure to do so will result in a 'no result' being recorded for the match.*

The MRFZ then 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 Official 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. If 50% of the match has been played when the match was abandoned, then the results will stand.

##### 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 division 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 Procedure**

- a) In extreme weather conditions, the MRFZ in conjunction with the appointed Match Official, hosting club official, MRFZ representative and Match Official coordinator reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture.
- b) If the hosting club considers a ground inspection is required, they are to ring the nominated MRFZ representative before 8.00am. The name and contact details for the designated representative is to be advised at the commencement of the season.
- c) The MRFZ representative is to then meet with a club official and jointly inspect the field to ascertain a number of factors, which will include:

Is the ground considered safe for the players and the match to proceed?

- i. If so, how many matches can be played, taking into account all factors including the likely weather conditions and the expected state of the ground.
  - ii. Should the MRFZ representative not be available for inspection then the club has the right to make the decision and must contact the MRFZ President at earliest possible convenience.
  - iii. The designated representative will then reach a decision regarding the schedule of matches with the MRFZ responsible for advising the opposition club and appointed Match Officials in the event matches are to be postponed.
- d) Early morning inspections are only to be organised with the designated representative when conditions are such that there is doubt as to the safety of the ground. In cases of light rain only, the Match Official will inspect prior to the match itself. Ground inspections for mid-week matches will be arranged via the MRFZ.
  - e) In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of a fixture through rain rendering grounds unplayable, all such fixtures shall be played or replayed at a time and under such conditions as the MRFZ shall determine, provided however, that any such fixture shall be played or replayed on the host club's ground's where possible.

## **5. MATCHES**

### **5.1 Duration of Matches**

- a) All Senior competitive matches will consist of 2 x 45 minutes halves.
- b) The Match Official is solely responsible for the start and stoppage of the game as well as the timing of the duration of the game.
- c) All matches shall commence within fifteen (15) minutes of the stipulated time of commencement
- d) 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 Match Official.
- e) Extra time for injuries and stoppages will be at the discretion of the Match Official.
- f) The Match Official has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player or Match Official safety.

## 5.2 Match Results

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

## 5.3 Entering Match Results into Sporting Pulse

- a) Each club is responsible for entering match results into the online match results program – Sporting Pulse.
- b) Results must be entered by 11:59 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.
- c) 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

- a) 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.
- b) The team who accumulates the most points in each division at the end of the regular season will be declared the Premiership Winners
- c) 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
- d) Should a team be regraded into another division, that regraded team will take on the average points of the division into which it is moving into. Goal difference will be zero.

# 6. FINAL SERIES

## 6.1 FINALS 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 FINAL SERIES FORMAT

- a) The top four (4) teams at the conclusion of the Regular Season will participate in the Finals Series.
- b) The Finals Series format will be as follows:
  - i) Week 1:
    - 1st Semi Final 1st placed team vs. 2nd placed team
    - 2nd Semi Final 3rd placed team vs. 4th placed team
    - Winner 1 v 2 progresses straight to Week 3 Grand Final
    - Winner 3 v 4 progresses to Week 2
  - ii) Week 2:
    - Preliminary Final - Loser 3 v 4 is eliminated
    - Week 2 Preliminary Final Loser 1 v 2 plays winner of 3 v 4
    - Winner progresses to Week 3 Grand Final
    - Loser is eliminated
  - iii) Week 3:
    - Grand Final - Winner of 1st v 2nd Semi-Final v Winner of Preliminary Final

## 6.3 Determining the Winner of Senior Finals Series Matches

- a) If, at the conclusion of any match in the Finals Series, the scores between the teams are equal, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played. The conditions of FIFA Law 8 will apply.
- b) 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.

## 6.4 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

### 6.4.1 Premier Mens & Reserve Mens Divisions

A Premier Men's and Reserve Men's Player is deemed to be eligible to compete in the Finals Series in any division in which they have played at least three (3) fixture games (Fixture games are those games which accrue points).

Once qualified in a lower division, then a player is eligible to play in a higher divisions for that club during the final series.

If a player is deemed to be a Premier/Div. 1 player during the regular competition (40% plus 1 games), the player must remain in that division for the entire final series.

Games played during the final series do not add onto the games during the regular season which may lock a player into a higher division during the final series.

### 6.4.2 All other Divisions

All other division players (Premier women, MCL Division 1 Womens, MCL Division 1 Mens, MCL Division 2 Mens) are deemed to be eligible to compete in the Finals Series in

any division in which they have played at least six (6) fixture games (Fixture games are those games which accrue points).

Once qualified in a lower division, then a player is eligible to play in a higher divisions for that club during the final series.

#### **6.4.3 U18 Division Players**

U18 players (who also play for junior divisions) are allowed to play for any division in the final series however they need to have played three (3) games in the division in order to play in the finals for that division.

#### **6.4.4 Borrowing of Players during Final Series**

- a) Once a player is deemed a higher division player during the regular season, the player must remain in that higher division for the final series.
- b) The borrowing of players rule (see section 3.4) is used in the final series starting after the first semi-final game. (The borrowing rules do not carry over from premiership fixtures to the grand final series as they are two separate competitions).
- c) Nominated players for Finals are to be submitted to MRFZ two (2) days before any scheduled finals matches are to be played.
- d) 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.

#### **6.4.5 Additional Requirements during the Final Series**

- a) An eligible player (see above) must compete in the Semi-final (week 1) of the Division in which they have played the most games. Such players are ineligible to play in a lower division final series, unless that player has played in their higher division and that team eliminated from the finals series.
- b) If a player has played an equal number of available games in two or more divisions, they are then deemed eligible to playing all final series for those divisions no matter the order in which they are scheduled.
- c) If the player has played fewer games in a division rather than another division then, as long as the player has played the maximum number of games possible in the division with lesser games then the player is deemed as having played an equal number of games in each division. Consideration will be taken account with regards to amount of matches available in each division over the course of a season.
- d) A player must compete in the semi-final of the division that they have played the most games in however not below that division OR may compete in a higher division no matter what order the matches are scheduled.

## **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 in the technical area 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.
- 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) All players taking the field are eligible to play and are made ACTIVE in MyFootballClub by their club. 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.
- 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) Captain must be easily identifiable for every team via an identifying armband.

## 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 MyFootballClub. 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) A team will not list more than sixteen (16) players on a team sheet for a match. Note: U18 players to be noted with an '18' and if a player did not take the field to be noted with 'DNP'.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.
- f) The top copy of the team sheet is to be provided to the opposing team manager 10 mins prior to the match commencing.
- g) 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,

- 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.
- h) No club official shall have the power to prevent an opposition player from taking the field for any reason.
  - i) 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.
  - j) 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.
  - k) 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.
  - l) 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.
  - m) 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.
  - n) 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 from the hosting club to take charge of the match
- c) If there is no assistant referees then the following will apply:
  - i Missing 1 assistant referees - then must be supplied by the home club
  - ii Missing 2 assistant referees - then 1 AR must be supplied by the home club and 1 AR by the away club.

Failure to provide club referees for centres and lines when no registered referees are available or appointed by MRFZ will result in a fine equivalent to the full match official's fees per vacancy.

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

### 10.3 Match Balls

*Each host club must supply size 5 balls of game ball quality (3 balls per field) prior to the commencement of the fixtures.*

Match Officials are to report if match balls are not available at venues or are not up to the standard required by the Laws of the Game. It is the responsibility of the club to contact MRFZ and arrange purchase of new match balls if required. This is to ensure consistency of match balls across all clubs and the competition.

### 10.4 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.

Ground official to contact ambulance if required.

### **10.3.1 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.

### **10.3.2 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.

### **10.3.3 Heat Management**

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

## **11. MISCONDUCT**

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

## **12. AWARDS AND TROPHIES**

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.

### **12.1 FIXTURES**

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

### **12.2 GRAND FINAL – PLAYER OF THE GAME**

a) This is awarded to the best player of either side by the match officials at the end of the game.

### **12.3 MRFZ CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

a) This award is based on where each team finishes in both the junior competitive (from U12 up) and senior fixtures on the points table during the fixture season. (excludes finals series)

1st = 10 points

2nd = 7 points

3rd = 5 points

4th = 4 points

Remainder = 1 point

b) If 2 teams in same division, the higher team position on the ladder gets the points.

## 12.4 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.

## 12.5 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

At the conclusion of all fixtures the opposing coaches are required to fill in and submit Player of the Year votes on the Team Sheet. Players voted for MUST have taken part during the match. All votes must be treated confidentially and are submitted to MRFZ on the team sheet. Failure to record votes for the opposing team will result in a penalty fine.

Five (5) points is removed from the number of points for every red card (direct and indirect) obtained by each player during the season.

For the Premier Mens division - This award is known as the Ken Lorimer Shield.

For all other divisions – This award is known as the Player of the Division.

Player of the Year votes are not recorded during preseason or finals series fixtures.

## 12.6 CLUB FAIR PLAY AWARD

### **Respect - Team Points Competition**

This is a competition aimed at bringing together on-field performance, fair play and good administration.

#### **Who Is Involved?**

All competition teams competing in all competitions excluding preseason and final series and cup competitions.

#### **How does it work?**

a) Each Team is allocated 25 Respect points for each regular season match.

b) Points are added to reward positive play, good behaviour and good administration.

- c) Points are deducted for poor player behaviour.
- d) Teams whose nominated coach has been sent from the technical area by a match official during any regular season match shall not be eligible to progress in the competition.

**Pts Reason and Comments**

- +1** For each goal scored - rewards positive play
- +5** If team receives no Cautions or Send Offs in a match - rewards positive behaviour
- +3** If team submits team sheets to referee and MRFZ in accordance with comp regulations – rewards good administration
- 1** Caution codes Y1, Y3, Y6, Y7
- 2** Caution Codes Y2, Y4, Y5 \*
- 3** Send Off Codes R1, R4, R5, R7
- 6** Send Off Codes R2, R3, R6 \*

\*Towards a match official then points will be doubled.

### 12.7 RISING STAR AWARD (U18 Players Only)

- a) A female player and a male from each team in the Premier League is nominated by their own club. The nominated list goes out to each of the clubs who must award points 3, 2, 1 to the nominees but are not allowed to vote for their own club nomination.
- b) Youngest promoted into premier women's team
- c) Must be submitted by the final round of Competition Fixtures.

### 12.8 GOALKEEPER'S AWARD

At the conclusion of all senior Premier Division fixtures, the referee is required to fill in and submit Goalkeepers rating per game on the Team Sheet. There are only 5 points available to be awarded per game with 5 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. Points must therefore be awarded in the following combinations: 0 – 5, 1 – 4, 2-3. The team name must be listed alongside the rating awarded to each Goalkeeper.

## 13. FINES AND PENALTIES

As per the MRFZ Penalties list in the Club Administrators Manual

Infringement	Definition	Fine Amount	Additional Penalty
Playing an Ineligible Player	Is defined as a player who has an illegible printed player name on a team sheet or failing to show MRFZ photo identification card	\$200	
Playing an Ineligible Player	Is defined as a player who is playing under a fictitious name or number, a player not appearing on the team sheet,	\$200	The team shall forfeit the match concerned and three (3) goals will be

	a player in breach of the substitution rules, a player under suspension or sanction		awarded to the opposing team or the actual goal difference whichever is the greater.
Playing Of Unregistered Player:	Is defined as a player who is not registered and made active in MyFootballClub in accordance with MRFZ timelines lines	\$300	The team shall forfeit the match concerned and three (3) goals will be awarded to the opposing team or the actual goal difference whichever is the greater.
Team Withdrawal -	After publication of fixtures on Sporting Pulse	Premier League: \$300	
		All other divisions: \$250	
Forfeit	More than 48 hours' notice to MRFZ	\$1000 \$250	Premier Mens All other divisions
	Less than 48 hours' notice to MRFZ	\$1000 \$300	Premier Mens All other divisions
Failure to provide club referees	for centres and lines when no registered referees are available or appointed by MRFZ	Will result in a fine equivalent to the full match officials fees per vacancy	All divisions
Failure to enter team results into Sporting Pulse	Failure to do by this timeframe by the specified time of midnight Tuesday night in the week following the match.	\$50 per team charged to the club concerned.	No future results will be posted until the fine is paid.
Failure to vote on players points on team sheet	Failure to record player votes for the opposing team at the end of the match on the team sheet	\$50 per team charged to the club concerned.	All divisions

#### **14. 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 the rules.