



2012 MACKAY COMPETITION RULES

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1. COMPETITION RULES

1.1 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- a) All matches under the jurisdiction of Mackay Regional Football Zone Inc. (MRFZ) will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game. This includes the Regular Season and Finals Series matches.
- b) The competition rules outlined below are in addition to those stipulated in the FIFA Laws of the Game. (www.fifa.com)
- c) Clubs, Players and Officials must comply with and agree to abide by the regulations of Football Federation Australia and Football Queensland and Mackay and Regional Football Zone, 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. 2012 Mackay and Regional Football Zone (MRFZ) Rules of Competition.

1.2 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

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.

No affiliated club shall be permitted to commence playing in the MRFZ competition season if they un-financial with MRFZ at the commencement of competition unless written agreement has been reached with MRFZ.

MRFZ reserves the right to amend the size, structure and composition of any division. This includes varying promotion and relegation rules as it sees fit.

For the purpose of determining the status of divisions.

- a) National Competition – A League deemed to be higher than Queensland State League
- b) State Competition – Queensland State League deemed to be higher than Premier League
- c) Players from QSL League are only permitted to play in Premier League
- d) Premier League deemed to be higher than Reserve Division or 1st division
- e) Reserve Division deemed to be higher than Second Division
- f) Colts/Fillies is deemed to be equivalent to Senior 1st division
- g) Youth is equivalent to senior 2nd division.

Senior Divisions - Men's and Women's

- a) The composition of the Senior Divisions will be determined by the MRFZ on an annual basis following receipt of nominations from registered clubs. Where possible there will be a Premier, First, Second and Third Division for each gender.
- b) All participating clubs may field more than one team in any division other than Premier. In any seniors competition group (e.g. Men's seniors, Women's seniors) a Club must field a team in each division to be eligible to nominate a second team in a division. Acceptance of a second team will be at the discretion of the MRFZ.

Clubs with teams in the same Division

If a club has two or more teams in the same division or division level, the club will be required by MRFZ, to provide a list of players allocated to each team. 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 or division level. This does not preclude them from playing for other teams within the club in other division levels (subject to the Player Status Rule and the Player Age Policy.)

- c) The MRFZ will determine the number of matches to be played in each division once the final composition is determined.
- d) The team finishing with the most points in each Division at the conclusion of the competition fixture season will be crowned Premiership winners.
- e) At the conclusion of the fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up. (Refer to Section Final Series Rules.) No Club will be permitted to participate in the Finals Series if they are un-financial in the current season with **MRFZ** unless prior arrangements have been made in writing. MRFZ will advise all clubs of their financial status prior to the commencement of the finals series.

Junior Divisions – Under 12 to Colts (Youth is the oldest junior competition played at junior soccer grounds)

The composition of the Junior Divisions will be determined on an annual basis following receipt of nominations from registered clubs and a series of grading matches. Where possible there will be a Premier, First, Second Division for each age group.

- g) 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 must be able to field a full and separate compliment of members.
- h) 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 will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and may face disciplinary action and sanctions
- i) Players from a separate division in the age group may play into another of their club teams within the provision of Clause 2.6. (Player Registration and Eligibility)
- j) The MRFZ will determine the number of matches to be played in each division once the final composition is determined.
- k) The team finishing with the most points in each Division within each age group at the conclusion of the competition fixture season will be crowned Premiership winners.
- l) At the conclusion of the fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams in each division within each age group will participate teams will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up
- m) Junior Plate finals may be held for the 5th to 8th teams in each division at the end of the season. The matches will follow a similar format to the top four placed teams in the division where teams 5th v 6th and teams' 7th v 8th will play off.
- n) Competitions up to under 18 – play under Junior Rules but played in the Senior Competition Draw**

Junior Divisions – Small Sided Football

- m) The age groups of Under 6 to Under 11 will play the Optus Small Sided Football formats as per the specifications and guidelines issued by Football Federation Australia and Football Queensland.
- n) Full details of formats and guidelines will be issued to clubs prior to the commencement of the playing season, once received from FFA and Football Queensland.

Additional Competitions

- o) MRFZ may conduct additional competitions as it deems appropriate before, during or after the competition season, providing the rules for these competition prior to commencement. MRFZ

may, from time to time, also schedule other competitions within the zone. Rules for these competitions shall be set prior to the commencement of any competition.

1.3 COMPETITION DETAILS

Match Scheduling

- a) MRFZ will arrange 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.
- b) Each club wishing to host Senior home games shall provide a minimum of two (2) Men's teams, with one being a Premier team, and one (1) Women's team and meet all requirements to host games at the discretion of the MRFZ.
- c) Home ground rights will be awarded at the discretion of the MRFZ.

Match Results

- d) The following points will be awarded for matches during the Regular Season.

Win = 3 points

Draw = 1 point

Loss = 0 points

Bye = 0 points

No Result = 0 points

- e) The team who accumulates the most points at the end of the regular season will be declared Premiers.

Duration of Matches – Senior

- f) All matches will be played over two halves of 45 minutes each.
- g) After normal time in each half, the referee may add on Injury/Stoppage Time as he/she sees fit.
- h) 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.
- i) The referee has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

Duration of Matches – Junior

- j) In junior matches the following match duration will be played.
Under 6 to 11 game times shall be as per Small Sided Football Guidelines.
- Under 12/13 shall consist of two halves of 30 minutes each.
- Under 14/15 shall consist of two halves of 35 minutes each.
- Under 16/17/18 shall consist of two halves of 45 minutes each.
- k) After normal time in each half, the referee may add on Injury/Stoppage time as he/she sees fit.
- l) 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.
- m) The referee has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

Procedures to Determine Placings after Regular Season

- n) The position of each team at the conclusion of the regular season will be determined based on the following criteria;
 - i. Highest number of points accumulated during the Regular Season.
 - o) If two (2) or more teams are level on points accumulated in any senior division, the following criteria shall be applied, in order, until one (1) of the teams can be determined as the higher ranked.
 - p) Highest goal difference;
- If at the end of the competition, teams are equal on points, goal difference shall be taken into account in determining:

- The League Champions;
 - The team or teams eligible for promotion to a higher division if applicable;
 - The team or teams to be relegated to a lower division if applicable;
 - The teams eligible to enter the Semi-Finals in the respective divisions. In all cases where goal difference is taken into account the manner in which it shall be arrived at shall be as follows:
 - The number of goals AGAINST subtracted from the number of goals FOR.
 - The HIGHEST resultant plus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to plus goal difference;
- or*
- The LOWEST resultant minus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to minus Goal difference.
 - In the case of goal difference being equal the team scoring the greater number of goals FOR shall be declared the winner.

In the event of teams being equal as determined in the foregoing paragraphs, the teams shall play a one (1) game off to determine their respective positions. The final series rules will apply.

- ii. Highest number of goals scored;
 - 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 time and venue as determined by MRFZ.
- p) If two (2) or more teams are level on points accumulated in any junior division, the following criteria shall be applied, in order, until one (1) of the teams can be determined as the higher ranked.

- i. Highest goal difference;
- ii. Highest number of goals scored;

If all things remain equal, the trophy or premiership shall be awarded to both teams.

Substitution of Players

- q) For all Senior Premier Men's Division matches each team can make up to three (3) substitutions (including a goalkeeper), with no more than five (5) substitutes listed.
- r) 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.

A maximum of three (3) players in total from the previous higher division game as listed on the team sheet may play down a division.

- s) Only players' names listed on the team sheet are permitted to take part in the match.

1.4 APPLICATION FOR DEPARTURE FROM FIXTURES

- a) Any application for departure from fixtures during the season shall be in writing to the MRFZ shall be notified to MRFZ before the season starts.
- b) Any application for departure from fixtures at least four (10) working days prior to the date scheduled. Each request will be determined on its merits. ie fields not available, carnivals.
- c) Any team with five or more players unavailable due to football representative duties approved by Mackay and Regional Football Zone may request in writing to have their match postponed. Applications must be made at least ten (10) working days prior to the scheduled fixture.

1.5 NON-PARTICIPATION IN A MATCH

- a) In the event that a home or visiting 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 and be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0).
- b) 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).
- c) 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.
- d) A Club that fails to provide with 72 hours notice in writing to MRFZ of a forfeit will be fined and will be responsible for any referee fees in relation to the match. All forfeits will incur a fine. A team, which has forfeited more than 3 matches, may, at the discretion of **MRFZ**, be removed from that competition
- e) After 3 forfeits, a team may be removed from the competition at the discretion of MRFZ.
- f) The opposing team may submit a team sheet (printed names only required) to MRFZ within 5 days after the scheduled match if it is forfeited.

1.6 WITHDRAWAL FROM COMPETITION SEASON

- 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.
- b) Results from completed rounds will stand and a forfeit substituted for any subsequent rounds.
- c) The Senior club involved may also be subject to disciplinary action and sanction by the MRFZ.
- d) If withdrawing a team during the season it shall be the lowest division in that club that will be withdrawn.

1.7 DELAYED, POSTPONED AND CANCELLED MATCHES

- a) Matches may be postponed or delayed by the MRFZ as outlined in Clause 4.4 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.
- 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.

1.8 SUSPENDED OR ABANDONED MATCHES

- a) 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.

Request for Replay of Abandoned Match

- b) 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.
- c) 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 Fines), to be determined by the MRFZ, not limited to the following. Abandonment due to walk off, a fine will apply same as a forfeit.

- d) The 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 be recorded as "NO RESULT";
 - iv. Impose a Fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club(s), player(s) and official(s).

1.9 FINALS SERIES DETAILS

Format

MRFZ will arrange dates, times and venues of all Finals Series matches. **MRFZ** reserves the right to schedule or reschedule matches on any day, time and place as it deems appropriate.

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

The final series will be contested by the top four teams 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

c) The team who Regular Season will be considered to be the home team for any Finals finished in the higher position at the conclusion of the match.

d) The selection of venues for all Finals Series matches, including the Grand Final, will be at the absolute discretion of the MRFZ and a decision to allocate will be made based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to venue availability, commercial, marketing and financial considerations.

Procedures to Determine the Winner of Senior Finals Series Matches

e) 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.

f) 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

Procedures to Determine the Winner of Junior Finals Series Matches

g) 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.

h) 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.

- i) In all Junior Grand Finals, except Youth “Premier Division” 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.
- j) In Youth “Premier 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

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- a) Players participating in competitions under the jurisdiction of Mackay and Regional Football Zone may be registered as Amateur Players or Professional Players in line with the provisions established in the National Registration Regulations.
- b) Amateur Players are permitted to be registered at any time. However, amateur players are not permitted to re-register with another club within the Mackay and Regional Football Zone after 30 June each year. The Rules of Competition may also restrict a player’s eligibility for Finals Series.
- c) Professional players may only be registered during one of the two registration periods each year.
- d) The MRFZ may register a Professional Player outside the Registration Periods only if:
- i. That Player is not currently bound by a Professional Player Contract.
 - ii. That Player is a goalkeeper and the MRFZ is satisfied that the Club has a justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence;
 - iii. The MRFZ is satisfied, in its absolute discretion, that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a Player is seeking registration arising out of the termination of the Participation Agreement of his former Club or he has terminated his Standard Player Contract for Just Cause.
- e) The registration of a player with a Club is effective from the date of registration as entered on the MyFootballClub registration system unless cancelled earlier, registration is effective from the date of registration until 31st December each year.

2.2 AMATEUR PLAYER REGISTRATION PROCESS

- a) When registering an Amateur Player for the season, the Club must follow the FFA\FQ registration procedures with MyFootballClub for registering and new player registrations.
- b) Deregistrations must be approved by MRFZ using the MyFootballClub deregistration procedure before the player can reregister with another club. Deregistrations must be submitted by Wednesday of each week in order for a player to play on the weekend.
- c) Football Queensland will request any International Transfer Certificates (ITC) necessary for Players that were last registered with an overseas Federation.
- d) On 30th April, MRFZ will charge the Clubs 50% of their previous years bill for Registration Fees. The remainder will be charged at the end of the season.
- e) Any new registrations after July 31 must be accompanied with the prescribed registration fee. 1st July to 31st December – Full MRFZ registration fees will apply to any de-registrations in this period.
- f) Note that if a player or referee plays or officiates any 3 games then the club/referee will be charged registration fees.
- d) On fulfilment of all requirements, the Player will be registered to the Mackay and Regional Football Zone.
- f) Teams - Appropriate Representation
- The MRFZ shall have the power to impose such penalty as they deem fit upon Clubs which they find to have brought the Code into disrepute by not playing their best teams in the appropriate

divisions in which they are engaged.

2.3 PROFESSIONAL PLAYER REGISTRATION PROCESS

- a) When registering a Professional Player for the season, the Club must follow the FFA\FQ registration procedures with MyFootballClub for if applicable.
- b) As part of registration, players are to sign the acknowledgement that they have sighted and accepted the Player Injury Insurance cover.
- c) Football Queensland will request any International Transfer Certificates(ITC) necessary for Players that were last registered with an overseas Federation.
- d) On fulfilment of all requirements, the Player will be registered to the Mackay and Regional Football Zone.

2.4 PLAYER INSURANCE

- a) Player Accident and Associated Liability Insurance cover is taken out by Football Queensland. Policy details and claims procedures will be provided to all Clubs, Registered Players and Team Officials.
- b) All players must acknowledge that they have sighted and accepted the Player Injury Insurance cover provided by Football Queensland.

2.5 VISA PLAYERS

- a) If the player's country of birth is not Australia, clubs must check the Player's residential/visa status prior to registration. Clubs must abide by all appropriate regulations as advised by Football Federation Australia and Football Queensland.
- b) Football Queensland will request any International Transfer Certificates (ITC) necessary for Players that were last registered with an overseas Federation.
- c) Clubs are permitted to sign an unlimited number of visa players.

2.6 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

General

- a) The eligibility of a player to participate in matches under the jurisdiction of this MRFZ is finalised upon receipt and approval of all necessary electronic documentation and appropriate clearances by the MRFZ.
- b) A player is eligible to play in matches under the jurisdiction of this MRFZ, provided he / she are registered in line with Football Federation Australia National Registration Regulations, Football Queensland Registration Procedures and Mackay and Regional Football Zone Registration Procedures.
- c) A player is eligible to play in matches under the jurisdiction of this MRFZ, provided he / she are not under suspension by any Federation.

d) Minimum Age – Senior Players

Male - Players to be eligible to play in these divisions shall be turning fourteen(14) years

Female - Players to be eligible to play in these divisions shall be turning thirteen (13) years

- e) A registered player is eligible to take part in matches under the jurisdiction of this MRFZ provided their name and signature appears on the team sheet prior to the commencement of the match or by the conclusion of halftime as outlined in the Competition Rules.
- f) For matches using substitution rules, a player who is listed as a reserve and does not take the field is deemed not to have played.
- g) For matches using interchange rules, any player who is listed on the team sheet is deemed to have played.
- h) Preseason competition is not part the competition season.

Senior Competition

- i). This provision applies for all competition season and final series matches. Clubs may demote a maximum of three (3) players from a previous higher division game, provided that a player can only drop one senior division club team at a time. If a club does not nominate teams in consecutive divisions, then player(s) must sit out the required number of matches in order to meet the above requirement.
- j) In the event any team in the higher division has a bye/forfeit, that club may demote a maximum of three (3) players from the team sheet in that instance from for the previous higher division game. This provision applies for all competition season and final series matches.
- k) A Player is deemed to be eligible to compete in the Finals Series for any division in which they have played at least six (6) games during the competition season.
A player must first compete in the Semi-Final of the Division in which they have played the most games.
- l) If a player has played equal number of games in two or more divisions, they are then deemed eligible to play in all final series for those divisions no matter the order they are scheduled
A Player must compete in the semi-final of the Division that they have completed the most games in but not below that division OR may compete in a higher Division no matter what order the matches are scheduled.
- m) Nominated players for Finals to be submitted to MRFZ 2 days before any scheduled match
- n) Any request for exemption of these qualification rules shall be in writing on club letterhead at least 7 days before the start of the final series.
- o) Colts and above age groups can register more than 16 players in a team.
- p) When a junior registered player is playing in a Senior team, they are required to write (Junior or Jnr) after their name on the team sheet.

Junior Competitive

- q) Within each Junior Competitive age group the following rules apply:
 - i. A player may not play down into a lower division once they have played more than five fixture games (excluding grading rounds) in the higher division.
 - ii. A player may be promoted or demoted more than one division at a time. Once qualified, a player may be promoted or demoted more than one division at a time upon request in writing to MRFZ.
- n) Between Competitive age groups the following rules apply;
 - i. A player cannot play down into any age group lower than that for which the player qualifies.
 - ii. 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 Football Queensland Player Age Policy provisions.
 - iii. 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.
- o) A Player is deemed to be eligible to compete in the Finals Series for the highest division in which they have played at least six (6) fixture games. (Fixture games are those games which accrue points) Such players are ineligible to play in a lower division final series, unless that player has played in their qualified division and that team eliminated from the finals series.

2.7 PLAYER INELIGIBILITY

- a) Any player not registered in line with Football Federation Australia National Registration Regulations, Football Queensland Registration Procedures and Guidelines and Mackay and Regional Football Zone Registration Procedures for the current season is considered ineligible

and is not permitted to participate in any match

- b) Any player under suspension by any Association/Federation will be deemed ineligible, and is not permitted to participate in any match until that suspension is served.
- c) Any player in breach of the regulations for Senior and Junior Competition matches as outlined in Clause 2.6 is considered ineligible.
- d) Any club is permitted to lodge a letter of protest within 5 days of the scheduled match regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player. The protest must be in writing under club letterhead and be forwarded to MRFZ. An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident will be undertaken by MRFZ.
- e) The MRFZ reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player who participates in any of its competitions.

3. DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

3.1 COMPETITION

a) These Disciplinary Rules are set by Mackay and Regional Football Zone as the MRFZ and supplement the National Disciplinary Regulations in accordance with clause 1.2 of those Regulations.

3.2 SANCTIONS

a) The application of sanctions to be issued to Participants for direct red cards will be in accordance with the range of sanctions outlined in the National Disciplinary Regulations. Where a Player receives an indirect red card, he will serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) match. E.g. indirect red card is accumulation of 2 yellow cards.

b) A Player who accumulates the following number of yellow cards during the course of the Competition must serve the following Mandatory Match Suspension:

- i. Four (4) yellow cards, equates to a one (1) match suspension;
- ii. For every three (3) yellow cards thereafter, a two (2) match suspension. *(For example, The penalty imposed for 7 yellow cards under the rule as written is 3 match suspensions – 1 for the first 4 yellows and then another 2 for the next 3 yellows.)*

The number of yellow cards a player received during the regular competition is reset to zero and the yellow cards do not carry over into the Final Series

c) A Player who accumulates the following number of yellow cards during the course of the Final Series must serve the following Mandatory Match Suspension:

- i. Two (2) yellow cards, equates to a one (1) match suspension.

d) A Player who accumulates the following number of direct red cards during the course of the Competition or the Final Series must serve the following Mandatory Match Suspensions, in addition to any sanction for the offence. Preseason does count. If suspension warrants more than the minimum required, the player will be suspended from all games until suspension has been served in fixture matches.

- i. 1st occasion, equates to a one (1) match suspension;
- ii. Any subsequent occasion, equates to a two (2) match suspension.

Red cards carryover from regular competition season to final series and to next season under MRFZ jurisdiction.

3.3 MISCONDUCT

a) Clubs must ensure that their Participants do not engage in Team Misconduct. The MRFZ may, consistent with the FFA Statutes, sanction a Club whose Participants engage in Team Misconduct.

b) Team Misconduct in relation to a Club is where:

- i. Five (5) of its Players are cautioned during a sanctioned match;
- ii. Three (3) of its Participants are sent off or expelled during a sanctioned match;

- iii. Its Participants collectively show dissent towards a match official or collectively seek to intimidate, threaten or exert pressure on a match official to make or alter a decision; or
- iv. Its Participants engage in a melee or brawl.

3.4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- a) The published National Code of Conduct and National Spectator Code of Behaviour aims to promote and strengthen the reputation of football in Australia by establishing a standard of performance, behaviour and professionalism for its participants and stakeholders.
- b) Any breach of these Codes will result in disciplinary action and the imposition of sanctions by the MRFZ in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Code.

3.5 NOTIFICATION AND TIMEFRAMES

- a) The imposition of a mandatory match suspension is immediate. The MRFZ will send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Player or Team Official (through the Club) of the mandatory match suspension within three (3) days of the completion of the weekend. For the avoidance of doubt, the mandatory match suspension is effective regardless of whether or not the notice was received.
- b) If the MRFZ has determined that an Offence by a Player or a Team Official was such as to warrant a sanction in addition to the mandatory match suspension, a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Player or Team Official (through the Club) of the details of the Offence and of the disciplinary sanction imposed will be forwarded within three (3) days of the completion of the weekend.

3.6 TERMS OF SUSPENSION

- a) While serving a suspension, a Participant (player or team official) may not:
 - i. On the day of a Match, enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play, the Technical Area, the players' race, the dressing rooms or any other place within a venue where Participants are likely to assemble to prepare for that match;
 - ii. If attending a Match, be seated in an area normally reserved for Participants;
 - iii. Within one hour of the start of match from which the Participant is suspended and within one hour of the conclusion of the match from which the Participant is suspended have any contact with any media where the purpose of such contact is for it to be electronically broadcast to the public, including (but not limited to) participating in any post-match press conference and participating in television or radio interviews;
 - iv. Within one hour of the start of match from which the Participant is suspended and within one hour of the conclusion of the match from which the Participant is suspended have any contact with any Participant whilst that Participant is in an area listed within clause 3.6 a) i.
- b) Any suspension from the Finals Series (or the competition fixtures if not already served in the Finals series) will carry forward into the following season and will be served in competition fixtures. If suspension warrants more than the min required, player will be suspended from all games until suspension has been served in fixture matches.
- c) If a suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards the execution of the suspension. A bye or a match forfeited by the participant's team does not count towards the execution of the suspension.

3.7 DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES

- a) Except in the case of obvious error, there is no appeal from a mandatory match suspension

Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee has jurisdiction over breaches of the MRFZ Code of Conduct for Players/Coaches, Club Officials, and Referees and is the initial arbitrator on all Disciplinary

Matters. The Management Committee of the MRFZ may also refer any matter to the Disciplinary Committee for investigation and adjudication

The Disciplinary Committee is independent of the Management Committee of the MRFZ but shall report all its findings to the Management Committee of the MRFZ for ratification

The Disciplinary Committee shall conduct Hearings into

(i) Appeals against suspensions

(ii) Incident reports

(iii) Misconduct reports/complaints

b) All Appeals/Report/Complaints must be lodged within seven (7) days after the offence And must be submitted with a \$100 application fee. and hearings to commence no later than fourteen (14) days after the offence. The outcome of the hearing should be provided within 14 days of the hearing.

This fee will be returned to the appeal fee if the decision of the appeals panel is in favour of the appealee.

The MRFZ shall annually in accordance with National Grievance Resolution Regulations appoint panel of members to the Disciplinary Committee . A panel shall consist of 3 of the persons from the panel of members. The MRFZ shall nominate alternate members to fill in when required

This Committee shall meet as required to consider disciplinary matters during the playing season.

(i) A member of this Committee can only be removed by two (2) week's notice of motion thirds majority to be passed by the MRFZ,

(ii) A member of the Disciplinary Committee shall not arbitrate on matters involving a member of his own Club

(iii) Quorum for the Disciplinary Committee shall be three, but in the event of Committee Members and alternates not being available the Chairman of the Committee can call upon a member of the MRFZ to make up the Quorum.

c) An appeal from a MRFZ's disciplinary sanction must be heard by a Disciplinary Committee.

When determining any appropriate sanction, a Disciplinary Committee may consider:

i. The nature and severity of the infringement;

ii. The offender's past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;

iii. The culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless);

iv. Any reasons prompting a the offender to commit an infringement;

v. The remorse of the offender; and

vi. Any extenuating circumstances.

3.8 SANCTIONS UNDER FFA STATUTES

a) Subject to these Regulations, the following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed against a Club:

i. a reprimand;

ii. a Fine;

iii. place the Club on a bond;

iv. a deduction or loss of competition points;

v. ban on the registration or transfer of any Players for a specified period of time;

vi. annulment of registration of a Player;

vii. suspension from participation in matches;

viii. exclusion, suspension or expulsion from the Competition;

ix. playing a match without spectators or on neutral territory;

- x. a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
 - xi. annulment of the result of the match; or
 - xii. such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes.
- b) Subject to these Regulations, the following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed against a Participant:
- i. a reprimand;
 - ii. a Fine;
 - iii. return of award;
 - iv. place the individual on a bond;
 - v. ban on registration of Player with any Club for a specified period of time;
 - vi. annulment of registration of a Player;
 - vii. suspension from participation in matches;
 - viii. suspension or expulsion from the Competition;
 - ix. suspension or cancellation of licence or accreditation, including Licensed Player Agent's licence or coaching accreditation;
 - x. termination of registration or playing contract;
 - xi. a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
 - xii. a ban from entering a stadium;
 - xiii. ban on taking part in any football related activity; or
 - xiv. such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes.

3.9 Carnivals or Cup Competition Suspensions

- i. Players suspended during the other cup or carnival competition, shall serve their suspension within that competition, unless the suspension occurred in the competition final or during the game in which the player's team was knocked out of the competition. If no suspension is served in this period, the player shall remain suspended until he/she has served their required suspension in a match of the same standard in which he/she was sent-off or accumulated multiple yellow card cautions.
- ii. A match of the same standard may include a match within the player's standard fixtures.
- iii. In the case the send-off requires the player to receive a multiple match suspension; this suspension shall be served before the player can take the field in standard fixtures. The suspension can be partially or wholly served by missing matches within the player's standard fixtures.
- iv. Players suspended in the premiership shall remain eligible to play in the federation cup, other cup or carnival competitions. However, if the suspension exceeds four (4) matches, then the player is suspended from all competitions, including the representative competition, until the suspension is served.

4. FOOTBALL AND MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

4.1 FACILITIES / GROUND CONDITIONS

- a) Each hosting club must take all reasonable steps to maintain its pitch in good condition throughout the season. The MRFZ may require a Club to take such steps as it may prescribe from time to time if it is not satisfied that the pitch is being maintained to an adequate and acceptable standard. Each hosting club must fill out Match/Grounds checklist for insurance purposes.
- b) The hosting club must ensure prior to matches occurring;
 - *The ground is correctly marked, including the technical area, as per*

- *the ground markings (by-lines) are set a minimum of 3 metres from the playing field fence (in all directions);*
- *it provides suitable goal nets and corner flags safely fastened or pegged to the ground;*
- *It provides toilets / dressing rooms for players and match officials that are hygienic and clean;*
- *It has adequate toilet / refreshment / canteen facilities open to the public;*
- *It provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators.*
- *It provides a Referee's Room where referees can rest and leave their belongings while on the park. This area must contain seating and be lockable*

c) Any club (who has agreed to host matches); whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be liable to disciplinary action by the MRFZ. E.g. it does not apply to a junior clubs grounds where there are no matches scheduled.

4.2 THE TECHNICAL AREA

- a) Each club hosting games must have Technical Areas clearly marked as stipulated by FIFA guidelines and provide sufficient seating to allow all personnel to be seated during the match.
- b) The technical area should be clearly marked out, extending no further than one (1) metre on either side (left and right) of the designated seating area (extra seats should be available for use in addition to permanent seating if necessary) and extends forward up to a distance of one (1) metre from the touch line
- c) For all matches played during the Regular Season and Finals Series, a maximum of ten (10) persons are permitted to occupy the Technical Area for each Club during any fixture. This includes the five (5) named substitutes and up to five (5) registered Team Officials.
- d) Occupants of the Technical Area must be either a registered Player or a registered Team Official and wear the appropriate accreditation at all times.
- e) A Player or Team Official who is under suspension must not occupy a seat in the Technical Area
- f) Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match and he must return to his position after giving these instructions..
- g) The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area, except in special circumstances, for example, a team physio or doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player.
- h) All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. 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.
- i) All occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner. The referee has the right to eject any person from the technical area at any time as he/she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left to the referee's satisfaction.
- j) Smoking and drinking 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

4.3 LIGHTING

- a) Clubs wishing to host night fixtures during the season must submit field lighting audits as requested and have approval for competition play by the MRFZ
- b) Recommendations for football field lighting detailed in the Australian Standard AS2560 Part 2.3 "Lighting for Football" includes; Minimum Service Illuminance Lux (Average) 100 and Minimum Uniformity Ratio (Min: Ave) 0.5 for Competition.

4.4 MEDICAL

- a) All clubs hosting matches must provide spectator and player medical support service during scheduled matches.
- b) All clubs should endeavour to provide that a person trained in first aid is available during matches.
- c) All hosting clubs is required to have injury ice or like, available to players at every match.

c) If any player is deemed to have suffered an injury which is determined by Match and/or Club Officials to warrant calling an ambulance to transport the injured player to hospital or medical facility, the player should not be moved until assessed by ambulance personnel

Ambulance Access

d) Unrestricted access to the field of play shall be provided for Ambulance vehicles when required and be clearly signed.

All injuries where an ambulance has been called, MUST be reported to MRFZ within 7 days of the incident.

Water Bottles

e) For safety reasons, water bottles are not to be thrown either on or off the field. Due to health concerns, buckets and sponges are banned, and water bottles or individual cups are recommended.

Blood Ruling

f) 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 rejoin the game

g) In the event the player's uniform or attire is splattered with blood, the referee will instruct that player to change his attire before being permitted to rejoin the game.

h) 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.

Heat Management Strategy

i) When high temperatures occur on match day, the Match Referee, Club Officials or the MRFZ delegate may determine;

ii. To play the match with provision for extra breaks for consumption of fluid;

iii. To delay the match; or

iv. To postpone the match.

j) The decision to incorporate these provisions should be based primarily on the assessment of the potential medical risk of playing in the heat to both the Players and Match Officials.

k) All clubs, players and match officials are requested to please note the following when high temperatures occur on match day;

i. If the temperature is 32° or above, water bottles should be made available and placed along the sidelines to enable any player to take a drink during the course of the game; *and*

ii. If conditions are considered extreme by the match referee, he or she has discretion to allow a two (2) minute break during the course of each half.

Extreme Weather Conditions

l) In extreme weather conditions, the MRFZ in conjunction with the appointed match official, hosting club official, MRFZ representative and referee coordinator reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture.

m) 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.

n) 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?
- 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?

o) The designated representative will then reach a decision regarding the schedule of matches with the MRFZ responsible for advising the opposition club and appointed Referees in the event

matches are to be postponed.

p) 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 referee will inspect prior to the match itself. Ground inspections for mid-week matches will be arranged via the MRFZ.

q) 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

4.5 TEAM OFFICIALS

a) All Team Officials must be registered with the MRFZ. Upon registration, an Identification Card will be issued which must be worn when performing specified duties.

b) All Team Officials must conduct themselves in accordance with the FFA Code of Conduct. 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. 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

c) The MRFZ may impose disciplinary action upon such persons and Clubs, where it is found that Team Officials have breached the Code of Conduct.

d) 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.

e) Team Officials must remain within the Technical Area and are required to wear their Identification Card at all times. Team Officials not wearing the appropriate identification will not be permitted to be situated in the area during the match.

f) Team officials are responsible for ensuring players behave in an appropriate manner at all times before, during and after any game.

g) Team officials are not to argue or address any disagreements or comment direct to a referee. Any complaints should be directed to the MRFZ on club letterhead.

h) A team official can only enter the field of play when the referee indicates to do so.

4.6 GROUND OFFICIALS

a) It is the responsibility of the hosting club to provide at least one (1) Ground Official for all sanctioned matches

b) Ground Officials must be in clearly identifiable uniform official's armband or vest and must identify themselves to the appointed match official prior to each match

c) Ground Officials are to be visible at all times and one must be designated to provide an escort to all match officials before kick-off, at half time and full time.

d) The ground official cannot be the coach or manager whose game is in progress on the park.

e) The duties of the club ground official, on match days, are many and varied. The smooth running of the day calls for an efficient and vigilant ground official ready for whatever comes along. The ground official should:

Before the Match

1. Check the referees' designated area and make sure it is clean and comfortable.

2. Check the Dressing Rooms and make sure they are clean and comfortable.

3. Upon arrival of the referees, introduce themselves as the ground official in the event they need assistance.

4. If an official referee is not present, ensure that a referee is arranged either by the club or by consent of the two teams playing.
5. Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees to the field of play, if requested.
6. Ensure that 3 appropriate match balls are available for referees. See Section 4.7

During the Match

1. Ensure that the spectators' behaviour is orderly and is not abusive to the referee or his assistants, players or other spectators
2. Direct and assist any ambulance if called to attend a player or any other person.
3. Escort Referee and Assistant Referees, if requested, to and from the field of play at the half-time break.
4. Be of assistance where possible.
5. Ensure at all times that the Laws of the Game and the MRFZ Competition rules, governing the technical area are adhered to.

After the Match

1. Ensure the referees' safety at all times.
2. Ensure that both teams leave the grounds in a proper and orderly manner.
3. Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees from the field of play, if requested

4.7 MATCH DAY INFORMATION

Match Balls

a) The MRFZ shall provide each host club with a quantity of match balls prior to the commencement of the season fixtures. . Under 11, 12 and 13 shall play with a size four (4) match ball and Under 14, 15 and 16 shall play with a size five (5) match ball.

b) The Hosting Club shall provide the appointed Match Referee **Three (3) Licensed Match Balls** (Size 5), NO LATER THAN Thirty (30) Minutes prior to the commencement of the scheduled fixture. At the conclusion of the fixture, the Hosting club official shall request the return of the match balls.

All MRFZ fixtures must use a licensed match ball of 'match ball' quality from one of the following licensed ball manufacturers as per Appendix1.

c) Referees will report breaches of the match ball licensing arrangement to the MRFZ. Failure to use any of the prescribed brands will result in the club being fined.

d) Licensing regulations provide that any clubs that breach the licensing requirements may be liable for a Fine for each breach.

Playing Strips

d) All clubs must nominate a "Home" and have available an "Alternate" strip. The alternate strip (shirts, shorts& socks) should not clash with their nominated "Home" strip. All gear ordered must have the "Q" logo attached by the manufacturing company. This should be requested when ordering. See Appendix 1.

e) All first named clubs will be deemed the "Home" team and therefore will play in their nominated colours. All first names clubs on the published draw

f) In the event there is a clash of colours with the visiting team, it will be the responsibility of the visiting team to change into their alternative strip or numbered bib.

g) Goalkeepers may wear any colour provided it does not clash with either team or referee/assistants. *NB: Goalkeepers MUST wear licensed strips (i.e. no replica strips allowed).*

h) Referees will report breaches of the apparel licensing arrangement to the MRFZ.

i) Licensing regulations provide that any clubs that breach the apparel licensing requirements may be liable for a Fine for each breach. Football Queensland regulations provide that any clubs that breaches the apparel licensing requirements will be liable to a **fine of up to a maximum of**

\$1,000.00 for each breach.

j) Each club affiliated to Mackay and Regional Football Zone shall provide to the MRFZ the details and a photograph of their regular and alternate strips, (including socks), for approval and registration of colours. Approval must be given by the MRFZ prior to any club purchasing new strips. Failure to do so may render such strips unable to be worn.

k) All playing strips must have numbers on the back of the jerseys with the exception of the non-competitive small sided football formats.

l) Junior teams are not permitted to advertise any alcohol or tobacco related products on their respective playing strips.

Player Equipment

m) It is the match referee's responsibility to ensure all players taking the field of play are wearing equipment that is safe to themselves and other persons. All players must wear shin-guards whilst on the field of play.

Jewellery

n) In accordance with FIFA 'Laws of the Game', a player is forbidden to wear any jewellery.

Alcohol

o) It shall be the Hosting Club's responsibility to enforce all Liquor Licensing requirements in the sale and consumption of alcohol.

p) Should persons be seen to be in breach of these rules, the ground official should advise such person to conform to the rules immediately. Should such person/s refuse to adhere to that request, the ground official shall be at liberty to contact the police to have such person/s removed.

National Flags, Slogans, Emblems

q) No club should display national flags, slogans or emblems at home venues under any circumstances, with the only exception being the Australian flag. Clubs will be allowed to dress/decorate their respective social clubs (internally) as they see fit provided flags, slogans or emblems are not visible from the playing arena

r) The MRFZ reserves the right to request the removal of any national flags or slogans at any time. The incorporation of national flags, slogans or similar emblems on any part of the player's attire or the uniform worn by a Club official is strictly prohibited.

s) Clubs found to be in breach of this provision may be subject to disciplinary action and sanctions.

4.8 MATCH DAY TEAM SHEETS – COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

a) On match day, both teams are required to complete an official 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 referee 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.

d) Where possible, all players must ensure that they have signed the team sheet before it is given to the match referee.

e) In the event a player is unable to sign the team sheet prior to the start of the fixture, it is the responsibility of the club official to ensure that player is listed on the team sheet. That player then has until the conclusion of the half time interval to sign the team sheet and must do so in front of a match official.

f) Should any listed player fail to sign the team sheet by the conclusion of the half time interval and participates in the fixture, then that player will be deemed to be in breach of the Rules of Competition and the club will be sanctioned as follows:

i. If it is established that the player was legitimately registered and was eligible to play, then the

club may be fined for each offence, and the match result will stand.

- ii. If it is established that the player was not legitimately registered or was ineligible to play, then the penalties for playing an ineligible player will apply
- iii. In the event that both clubs are found to have failed to list a player who takes part in the same competition match, then both clubs will be disciplined and the match will be deemed 'NO RESULT'.
- g) In the event a club official approaches the match referee seeking to protest the fielding of an ineligible player, the referee should instruct the club official to lodge an official protest.
- h) At the conclusion of each match, the referee shall consult and confirm with his/her assistants prior to completing all copies of the Team Sheets, Referee Summary and any Send Off/Incident Report Forms.
- i) A Club Official must sign the team sheet once the referee has completed the team sheet. 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.
- j) Team Sheets, Referee Summary & Send-Off/Incident Report Forms from the appointed match official will be accepted transcript. All decisions of the match referee regarding the facts connected with play (including whether a goal is scored or not and the result of the match) are considered final.

Club Responsibilities

It is the club's responsibility to ensure:

- k) It has minimum number of seven (7) players to commence the match;
- l) That it does not list more than sixteen (16) players on the team sheet;
- m) All players taking the field are eligible to play;
- n) All players taking the field of play are correctly listed 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.
- o) All players taking the field of play have signed the team sheet; Failure to do so the player will be deemed not to have played.
- p) All players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time;
- q) All players wear the appropriate licensed apparel, before taking the field of play.
- r) That the details recorded on the completed team sheet are accurate and signed by a club official upon conclusion of the match.
- s) Each hosting club to hold Red Card book available for referees.

4.9 TEAM SHEETS NON COMPETITIVE (U6 – U11)

- a) On match day, both teams are required to complete an official team sheet prior to the commencement of any match. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure that all Coaches/Managers are advised of this.
- b) The team sheet must legibly list all players taking part in the fixture. Players are not required to sign the team sheet.
- c) The completed team sheet must be placed in the box located outside of the referee's room on conclusion of the match

4.10 NON-ATTENDANCE OR UNAVAILABILITY OF MATCH OFFICIAL

- a) Should the appointed match official fail to honour his appointment, then the next most senior match official will be appointed to take charge of the fixture.
- b) In the event the appointed match official is late on arrival, then the replacement match official (as above) will take charge of the fixture until the appointed match official is ready to take over.
- c) In the event no registered match official is present to take charge of the match, then the

designated "Home" club shall consult the visiting team and appoint a match official to take charge of the match. This match official has the same powers as a registered match official. The designated "Home" club shall be responsible for forwarding both team sheets to the MRFZ

d) 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. Where the offence is committed by a senior team, the club will be Fined per offence, and may be subject to further disciplinary action.
 - iii. In the event both teams refuse to play, the MRFZ reserves the right to award a 'NO RESULT', Fine both clubs and take further disciplinary action.
- e) In circumstances where only one assistant referee has been appointed to a Seniors game, the designated 'home' team is obliged to provide a club assistant to assist the match referee.

4.11 MATCH OFFICIALS INFORMATION

Appointment of Referees

Referees for all MRFZ fixtures shall be appointed by the Referees appointments coordinator in conjunction with MRFZ and all such appointments shall be in accordance with a grading system of Referees and fixtures where practicable.

Referees appointments for hosting venues are to be supplied by the Referees Body to MRFZ by 4pm on Thursday of each playing week to ensure timely distribution to all clubs.

Substitution of Players

a) For all senior Premier Division matches each team can make up to three (3) substitutions (including a goalkeeper), with no more than five (5) substitutes listed.

b) 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.

A maximum of three (3) players in total from the previous higher division game as listed on the team sheet may play down a division.

c) Only players' names listed on the team sheet are permitted to take part in the match.

d) 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.

e) 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.

f) All substitutes must be seated within the technical area.

g) 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.

Team Sheets, Referee Summary and Send Off/Incident Report Forms

h) At the conclusion of each match, the referee shall consult and confirm with his/her assistants prior to completing both Team Sheets and Send Off/Incident Report Forms.

i) Referees must complete all aspects of the Team Sheet including all information pertaining to licensing requirements and, where requested, Player of the Year votes.

j) Once completed, the referees must ensure that Team Sheets and any Send Off/Incident Report Forms are forwarded to the MRFZ through the appropriate channels. It is crucial that these forms reach the MRFZ by no later than two (2) working days after the weekend, i.e. by close of business, Tuesday.

k) In the event a club official approaches the match referee seeking to protest the fielding of an ineligible player, the referee should instruct the club official to lodge an official protest in writing under club letterhead to MRFZ. The referee should note this on the Team Sheet. A referee can also lodge a report alleging a club has used an ineligible player

l) The referee must check that the number of players on the field equals the numbers of players on the team sheet.

m) Please note that the Team Sheets, Referee Summary & Send-Off/Incident Report Forms from the appointed match official will be accepted transcript

o) Referee Fees

Both competing Clubs shall be responsible for the payment of Referees' fees in accordance with the scale as laid down by the MRFZ. Current match official fees are set out in Appendix 2.

5.0 AWARDS

5.1 Fixtures

- i. The competition premiers in each division in each age grouping shall be awarded a shield/trophy.
- ii. The club winning a trophy shall be responsible for the arranging at its own cost, the engraving on the trophy/shield of the club's name and the year it was won. This must be done prior to the trophy being returned to MRFZ. If such engraving has not been carried out by the Club when the trophy is returned, MRFZ shall complete the engraving on behalf of the club and shall levy a charge to recover that cost.
- iii. If a trophy has not been returned by mid-August, a new trophy may be purchased with the replacement cost being borne by the offending club

5.2 Club Championship

- i. This award is based on the where each team finishes 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

- ii. If 2 teams in same division, the higher team gets the points.

5.3 Golden Boot

- i. At the conclusion of all senior Premier Division fixtures (both Men and Women), the player with the number of games divided by the number of goals – most goals scored.

5.4 Player of the Year

- i. At the conclusion of all senior Premier Division fixtures the referee is required to fill in and submit Player of the Year votes on the Team Sheet. All votes must be treated confidentially and are submitted to the MRF office. 5 points is removed from the number of points for every red card obtained by each player during the season.
- ii. In the Youth Premier Division, the opposing Coaches shall award Player of the Year points, on a 3/2/1 basis, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Game. This should be recorded on the team sheet. Failure to submit points for players of the opposing team may invalidate the teams Player of the Year points. Therefore points submitted by the referees will be counted twice.
- iii. Player of the Year votes are not recorded during preseason or finals series fixtures.

5.5 Club Fair Play Award

- i. This is awarded to the club who has the minimum number of red cards divided by the total number of teams in the club.

5.6 GRAND FINAL – Player of the Game

- i. This is awarded to the best player of either side by the referee at the end of the game.

5.7 Most Dedicated Player of the Year Award (Junior Only)

- i. Clubs submit a player with a short story on why this player should get this award

5.8 Rising Star Award – (Women Only)

A player from each club is nominated then clubs must award points 3, 2, 1 but are not allowed to vote for their own club.

5.9 GoalKeepers Award

i At the conclusion of all senior Premier Division fixtures the referee is required to fill in and submit Goalkeepers rating 1-5 on the Team Sheet.

6.0 SPONSORSHIP

Players and Officials of Member Clubs and Affiliates shall not enter into any individual sponsorship or advertising agreements without the prior written approval of their Club, provided that such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld in the absence of conflict with this Code of Conduct.

No member Club shall:-

- i. Grant approval to any Player or Official of that Club to enter into any sponsorship or advertising agreements involving any company or product which conflicts with the aims
- ii. and objectives of the MRFZ or it's sponsors, or
- iii. Be obliged to grant approval to any Player or Official of that Club to enter into any Sponsorship or Advertising agreement involving any company or product which conflicts with the aims and objectives of the Club or its sponsors

Should **MRFZ** engage a sponsor, a condition of entry into a **MRFZ** competition is that clubs are required to uphold any requirements stipulated in the sponsorship contract? Such requirements may include signage, the display of logos on club websites etc.

MRFZ will endeavour to ensure that any requirement by a sponsor has minimal financial impact on clubs and will not impact existing sponsorship contracts. At all times **MRFZ** will negotiate with clubs to minimise any disadvantage to a clubs existing sponsorship.

7. SCHEDULE OF FINES

Misconduct / Bringing the game into disrepute: *To be determined based on offence.*

Once a fine has been issued, 30 days to pay after this period club will accumulate no further points until fine is paid. Unless prior arrangements are made in writing and approved by MRFZ.

Senior Competitions:

Playing of Ineligible player: \$200.00

Playing of Unregistered player: \$500.00

Team withdrawal - after publishing of fixtures - Premier League: \$300.00

All other divisions: **\$250.00**

Team Forfeit (less than 72 hours' notice) Premier League: \$400.00

All other divisions: **\$250.00**

Please note, that if a team forfeits with at least 72 hours' notice prior to scheduled kick off, there will be no Fine. In all circumstances, when a team forfeits a fixture game without 72 hours' notice, the opposition club will be eligible for reimbursement of gate fees paid by its players and officials. The MRFZ will refund the money to the club and arrange the payment of referees from the forfeit Fine

Illegible listed player incurring disciplinary sanction (Clause 4.8n): \$100.00

Failure to submit team sheet; \$100.00

Failure to submit Player of the Year Points: \$50.00

Junior Competitive Divisions:

Playing of Ineligible player: *To be determined based on offence.*

Playing of Unregistered player: \$500.00

Failure to submit team sheet; \$50.00

Failure to submit Player of the Year Points: \$50.00

Are determined on an annual basis and ratified by **MRFZ**. These fees are payable within fourteen (14) days of the date of the account

Failure to do Club Duty Roster - \$250 first offence, \$500 second and subsequent

8. 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.

Appendix 1 – Licensed Suppliers

Marketing Licence Program commenced on 1st October 2010 and continues through to 30th October 2013.

The following people have indicated their take up of a licence and therefore are effective immediately.

Clubs are able to continue to use any existing apparel and balls from previous suppliers until they need to be replaced, however they cannot purchase any new apparel / balls from expired licensees.

2010 - 2013 Licencees

Wednesday, 06 October 2010

The Football Queensland Marketing Program has renewed for another 3 year period 1.10.10 – 30.9.2013

The Companies listed below have taken up a licence for this period and is effective immediately.

Clubs should note that existing apparel and balls can continue to be used until new stocks are required. The new stocks can only be purchased through the new Licencees and not previous suppliers.

Company	Contact	Email
Adidas	Jimmy Campbell	Jimmy.Campbell@adidas.com
Attack	Stephen Hayes	sales@attacksports.com.au
Gorilla	Mike Hayes	mike@gorillasports.net.au
Covo	Jim Leone	mail@covosports.com
Mitre	David Selikman	davids@skyegroup.com.au
SSI	Lawrence Whitty	lwhitty2000@yahoo.com.au
Statewide Sports (UhlSport)	Bruce Leggatt	bruce.statewide@ozemail.com.au
Alanic Group	Tony Bieg	tony@alanic.com
ONLY SPORT	Bill Papageorgiou	onlysport@optusnet.com.au
Nike	Chris Fifer	christopher@ipexports.com
Veto	Tariq Riaz	admin@vetosports.com

Appendix 2 – Match Official Fees

2012 Referee Payments

	Premier Men	1st Division Men/Premier Women	2 nd & 3 rd Division Men & Women	Under 16/17/18	Under 14/15	Under 12/13	Under 11
Centre	\$ 90.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$20.00
Line	\$ 45.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$15.00	\$12.50	\$10.00
4 th (only finals)	\$ 30.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00				

Junior Carnival Referee fees- If game) time is shorter than a standard game, fee is worked out by time as a percentage (%)

Pocket Referees - These are referees in training and are eligible to be pocket referees from the age of 12. They may be deemed suitable to referee games for U10 & U11.