



**MACKAY REGIONAL**  
**FOOTBALL ZONE**  
FOOTBALL  
**QUEENSLAND**

**2020**  
**COMPETITION RULES**

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## 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. MRFZ reserves the right to decline a club's application without prejudice.
- b) Any club wishing to participate in any competition within the control of MRFZ must apply for and lodge a Club Affiliation Pack and the necessary fees by 1 March 2020.
- c) Each club must supply to MRFZ a copy of current club constitution.

## 2 APPLICATION and DEFINITION

- 2.1 These Rules shall apply to all Mackay and Regional Football Zone (MRFZ) Mackay Premier League, Mackay City League, Junior Competitive, Small Sided Games and Sanctioned Matches.
- 2.2 All matches under the jurisdiction of MRFZ will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game and Men's, Women's and Junior Competition appendix. This includes the Regular Season and any Final Series matches.
- 2.3 Competition Regulations means these Rules which apply to the MRFZ Leagues, administered by MRFZ for Players as amended and updated by MRFZ from time to time.
- 2.4 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)).
- 2.5 Clubs, Players and Team Officials must comply with and agree to abide by the regulations of Football Federation Australia and Football Queensland, including but not limited to;
  - (a) Football Federation Australia National Registration Regulations;
  - (b) Football Federation Australia National Disciplinary Regulations;

- (c) Football Federation Australia Code of Conduct;
- (d) Football Federation Australia Grievance Resolution Regulations;
- (e) Football Federation Australia and Football Queensland Member Protection Policies;
- (f) Football Queensland By-Laws;
- (g) Mackay and Regional Football Zone By-Laws

### 3 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 3.1 The season will comprise of club's teams nominated and approved by Mackay and Regional Football Zone.
- 3.2 MRFZ reserves the right to decide on, or amend the size, structure and composition of any competition. These Regulations shall apply to all:
- 3.3
  - i. MRFZ Senior Competition Fixtures;
  - ii. MRFZ Junior Competition Fixtures (U12 – U16)
  - iii. MRFZ Mini-Roos (U5-U11)

*Collectively referred to in these Regulations as 'MRFZ Competitions'.*

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

- 3.4 MRFZ determines the number of teams to play in each age group in any particular season.
- 3.5 The Season will consist of a Regular Season with a finals series.
- 3.6 The following points will be awarded for competition matches during the Regular Season.

Win = 3 points

Draw	=	1 point
Loss	=	0 points
Forfeit	=	3 points
Received	=	0 points
Forfeit Given		

3.7 The NPL licensed teams are permitted to play in the MRFZ competitions and are eligible for the division premierships and Grand Finals series in Senior Competitive and Junior Competitive.

3.8 Up to the top four (4) teams at the conclusion of the Regular Season will participate in the Finals Series.

### **Men**

- 3.9 There will be two (2) leagues of Senior Men's competition –
- Mackay Premier Men's League consisting of Premier League and Premier Reserve
  - Mackay City League consisting of 1<sup>st</sup> division and 2<sup>nd</sup> division
- 3.10 MRFZ reserves the right to allocate teams into a division for the benefit of the competition.

### **Women**

- 3.11 There will be two (2) divisions in the women's competition –
- Mackay Premier Women's Division
  - Mackay Premier Reserve Women's Division
- 3.12 MRFZ reserves the right to allocate teams into a division for the benefit of the competition.
- 3.13 For all Under 12 to Under 16 year age groups, players are required to play in their correct age Division, according to their year of birth. A club may choose to play a player from one age Division below up to the next age Division.
- 3.14 A player cannot play more than one age Division above their current relative age group. If a Club requires consideration of playing a player greater than one age Division up then a request can be made to MRFZ on the FQ Player Age Request Form along with a \$40 nomination cost. Player assessments will be conducted during round one of the Junior Competitive Season and nominations must be received prior to the player taking the field in the higher age division however can play in the higher age division whilst assessment is carried out.
- 3.15 A player can play from their own age competition from their Division One

substantive team into their clubs Premier Division Team and finals qualifications will entail Final Series Eligibility.

- 3.16 U11 players may be allowed to play up into U12 a maximum of four (4) x U11 players may play up each week. For a Club that has multiple U12 Teams this would be four (4) per team.
- 3.17 The Junior Competitive Divisions for the 2020 season are set out below but are subject to change based on the nomination of teams in the below age groups.

U15/16 Division	2005/04
U13/14 Division	2007/06
U12 Division	2008

- 3.18 Clubs can have multiple teams in the competition however they must identify a team to be included in the Mackay Premier League. Clubs that field more than one team must nominate their Premier team prior to the first round. Teams are to be a maximum of 16 players. Once nominated players cannot play in the club's other team in that division (No Cross Pooling).
- 3.19 Clubs nominating two teams in same Competition/Division cannot cross pool players in the same Competition/Division.
- 3.20 Clubs playing a player in both of its teams within the same Competition/Division will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and may face disciplinary action and sanctions.

## Player Age Policy

### **Men**

- 3.21 Males who are turning 16 years of age or older are permitted to play in the Men's competition in accordance with the player age policy.
- 3.22 Males who are less than 15 years old are required to undergo assessment as per the player age policy.

### **Women**

- 3.23 Females who are turning 15 years of age or older are permitted to play in the women's competition in accordance with the player age policy.
- 3.24 Females who have not turned 14 years of age are required to undergo assessment as per the player age policy.

## Finals Series Eligibility and Player Movement

- 3.25 Should teams be level on points accumulated at the completion of the Regular

Season, the below criteria will apply to determine the final placings:

- (a) Highest number of points accumulated during the Regular Season;
- (b) Where two (2) or more teams are level on points accumulated, the following criteria shall be applied in order:
  - i. Highest goal difference;
  - 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. Lowest number of red cards accumulated;
  - vi. Replay the match as a knockout and then penalty shootout;

3.26 The Teams finishing in positions 1 to 4 at the conclusion of the Regular Season will qualify for the Finals Series.

3.27 The venue for all Finals Series matches, including Semi and Grand Finals, will be Mackay Football Park, 10 Hewitt Way, Glenella, Queensland, 4740.

### ***Senior Players Eligibility - Finals Series***

3.28 To be eligible to play in the final series, a player must have played the minimum amount of 6 (six) games to qualify in a division.

3.29 A player may play in a higher division if needed, but not play down any division. If a player has played the same amount of games in 2 divisions, they must play in the higher division for all final series games.

3.30 A junior player who has played 8 (eight) games in the junior competition and is eligible under the Player Age Policy can play for their club in the Seniors Finals series if they have played four (4) games to qualify them to play in that particular Senior Division.

### ***JUNIORS - Player Movement***

3.31 A junior competitive player must qualify for each division and age group they wish to play final series for.

3.32 A junior competitive player must have played four (4) games in the division they wish qualify for play in the finals series for that division. This includes any players playing up from lower age divisions and also those that require player assessments to play up to the higher age group and have been approved. It also includes U11 players playing up into U12 teams.



- 3.33 Nominated junior players for Finals are to be submitted to MRFZ six (6) days before any scheduled finals matches are to be played.
- 3.34 Any request for exemptions from these qualification rules shall be in writing to MRFZ on club letterhead at least six (6) days before the start of the junior final series and any decision by MRFZ is final.
- 3.35 A junior player cannot play down into any age group lower than that for which the player qualifies unless exceptional circumstances apply and supported by Football Queensland.
- 3.36 A junior player cannot play up, regularly or casually, into an age Division which includes players more than two (2) years older than the player unless the player has been approved as per the player eligibility requirements.
- 3.37 There is no limit on the number of times that a junior player can sub up into any division of an age Division above that of the player, provided they meet the requirements of 2.17
- 3.38 Premier division junior players cannot substitute down to division one in the same age division.
- 3.39 Players in junior Premier Division can only substitute up into the next highest age division into their junior Premier Team.

### ***MENS- Player Movement***

- 3.40 In **Mackay Premier League** there will be unlimited movement between the Premier and Premier Reserve teams
- 3.41 In the **Mackay City League** there will be unlimited movement between 1<sup>st</sup> division and 2<sup>nd</sup> division.
- 3.42 Once any player has played one game in the Premier League, either in Premier or Premier Reserve division, a player cannot play in the City League 2<sup>nd</sup> division.
- 3.43 Movement between Premier Reserve and 1<sup>st</sup> division will be unlimited players up from 1<sup>st</sup> Div. to Premier Reserve but limited to ONLY 3 (three) players down from Premier Reserve to 1<sup>st</sup> Div. between games.
- 3.44 In Premier Division only, a player who has been substituted may NOT return to the field.
- 3.45 In Premier Division only, up to 5 (five) substitutions. Premier Reserve, Division 1, Division 2 are unlimited interchange.

### ***WOMENS - Player Movement***

- 3.46 Movement between Premier and Premier Reserve will be unlimited players up from Premier Reserve to Premier Division but limited to ONLY 4 (four) players

down from Premiers to Premier Reserve between games. In the case where a Club has more than one team in Premier Reserve, unlimited players up from Premier Reserve to Premier Division will be allowed, however, 4 (four) players ONLY IN TOTAL will be permitted to return to the Premier Reserve teams between games.

3.47 Premier and Premier Reserve have unlimited interchange during the game.

### **Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals Series Matches**

3.48 If, at the conclusion of any single match in the SENIOR Finals Series, the scores between the 2 (two) teams are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played. The conditions of FIFA Laws of the Game.

3.49 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

3.50 If, at the conclusion of any single match in the JUNIORS Finals Series,

*a) In the Semi Finals 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, then the game will be decided by a penalty shootout. Only the 11 players per team on the field at the end of the extra time period are eligible to take part in the penalty shootout.*

## **4 HOSTING RIGHTS FOR THE MACKAY PREMIER LEAGUE (MPL) COMPETITION**

4.1 Any club wishing to nominate for the MPL must field a team in the following divisions; Men's Premier League, Premier Women's team, Men's Premier reserve.

### **FACILITIES / GROUND CONDITIONS**

4.2 Each club must take all reasonable steps to maintain its pitch in good condition throughout the season. 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.

4.3 The home club must ensure;

(a) The ground is correctly marked, including the technical area, in accordance with Law 1 of the FIFA Laws of the Game;

- (b) It provides suitable goal nets, safely fastened to the ground and corner flags;
- (c) It provides toilet and dressing room facilities for players and match officials that are hygienic and clean;
- (d) It has adequate refreshment / canteen facilities open to the public; and
- (e) It provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators.

4.4 Any Club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be liable to disciplinary action by MRFZ.

4.5 MRFZ reserves the right to allocate venues to host games.

## **5 THE TECHNICAL AREA**

5.1 Each club 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.

5.2 The technical area should be clearly marked out, extending no further than one (1) meter 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) meter from the touch line.

5.3 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 Team during any fixture. This includes five (5) named substitutes and up to three (3) registered Team Officials.

5.4 Players not participating in the match are not permitted to occupy the Technical Area. Only players listed on the team sheet and the Team Officials displaying appropriate accreditation are permitted to do so.

5.5 A Player or Team Official who is under suspension must not occupy a seat in the Technical Area.

5.6 Only one (1) 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.

5.7 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.

5.8 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 alternate coloured uniform to the team strip.

- 5.9 All occupants of the Technical Area must behave in a responsible manner. The Match Referee has the right to eject any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left to the Match Referee's satisfaction.
- 5.10 Smoking within the confines of the player barrier/fence is strictly prohibited. This includes the team bench within the Technical Area and all of its occupants. No smoking at Mackay Football Park.

## 6 LIGHTING

- 6.1 For the 2020 season each club must have two fields lit to an average of 100 lux on each field.

## 7 APPLICATION FOR ALTERATION TO SCHEDULED FIXTURES

- 7.1 Any application for alteration to scheduled fixtures must be agreed to by both clubs before presenting to the MRFZ within 7 days of the scheduled fixture. The application must be in writing on the host team's official letterhead.
- 7.2 **Any application must be accompanied with a \$100 administration fee.**

## 8 FORFEITED FIXTURES

- 8.1 Should a Club forfeit a fixture 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).
- 8.2 Should a Club forfeit a fixture 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.
- 8.3 A Club who forfeits a fixture will also be subject to a fine (as per TABLE OF OFFENCES and FINES IMPOSED). Further possible sanctions by MRFZ will be applied if a team forfeits three times 3x in a season.

## 9 WITHDRAWAL FROM FIXTURES

- 9.1 If a Club withdraws a team after drawing of fixtures, then the recorded results for

that team will be deleted and a bye in the competition will be substituted.

- 9.2 A Club who withdraws a team after drawing of fixtures will also be subject to sanction by MRFZ.

## 10 DELAYED, SUSPENDED AND ABANDONED FIXTURES

- 10.1 The following alternatives apply to matches in relation to severe adverse weather conditions or major injury issues;

- (a) *Delay* – the commencement to a fixture may be delayed but not for a time period exceeding two (2) hours or to a kick-off time later than 9pm. The decision to delay a fixture must consider, but not be limited to, the impact on travel arrangements, particularly for afternoon/evening fixtures;
- (b) *Suspend* – a fixture may be suspended but not for an unreasonable length of time;
- (c) *Abandoned* – a fixture may be abandoned post commencement with the game to be rescheduled at the discretion of MRFZ.

### Pre-match Monitoring

- 10.2 Should severe adverse weather be active or forecast, the home club must notify the MRFZ as soon as is reasonably feasible, who will then contact all relevant parties.

### Decision to Delay or Postpone a Match

- 10.3 The decision to delay or postpone a match prior to the scheduled kick-off time as a result of severe adverse weather conditions will ultimately be made at the match venue by the Match Referee and/or a MRFZ delegate, after an assessment has been made by the Match Referee of the potential risk of playing to Players and Match Officials.

- 10.4 Should the match be considered unplayable due to severe adverse weather conditions at the scheduled time, the Match Referee must advise MRFZ of the decision to delay or postpone the match immediately.

### Decision to Commence a Delayed Match

- 10.5 A delayed match may be commenced in accordance with the provisions of clause 9.1 (a). This decision will be made at the match venue by the MRFZ delegate or Match Referee. The Match Referee has the discretion to confer with the key match day stakeholders prior to the decision being taken.

### **Decision to Suspend or Abandon a Match**

- 10.6 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. The Match Referee has the discretion to confer with the key match day stakeholders prior to the decision being taken.

### **Decisions to Re-Start a Suspended Match**

- 10.7 A suspended match may be restarted in accordance with the provisions of clause 9.1(b).
- 10.8 This decision will be made at the match venue by the Match Referee. The Match Referee has the discretion to confer with MRFZ, and the key match day stakeholders prior to the decision being taken.

### **Determining the Score of an Abandoned Match**

- 10.9 In the event of a match being abandoned at half-time or during the second (2nd) half of the match due to adverse weather or any cause over which neither club or Match Referee has control, the match result at the time of abandonment will be declared the final result.
- 10.10 In the event of a match being abandoned before half-time due to weather conditions or any cause over which neither the Club or Match Referee has control, the match will be declared a postponed match and rescheduled at the discretion of MRFZ
- 10.11 Any Club who is found to be responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the abandonment of a fixture will be subject to sanctions. In the case of loss of points, the opposing team will be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0), or the actual goal difference, whichever is greater.

### **Decision to Cancel a Match**

10.12 The decision to cancel a match or matches will be made at MRFZ's sole discretion and will not be open to appeal. A cancelled match will be recorded as a goalless draw (0-0).

### **Decision to Delay, Postpone, or Abandon a Match – Finals Series**

10.13 The decision to delay, postpone or abandon any Finals Series matches will be made at MRFZ's sole discretion and will not be open to appeal.

### **Non-attendance or unavailability of Match Officials**

10.14 Should the appointed Match Official fail to honour their 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.

10.15 In the event no registered Match Official is present to take charge of the match, then the teams shall consult each other and appoint a Match Official to take charge of the match as per FIFA Laws. This appointed Match Official has the same powers as a registered Match Official. All clubs are obligated to fulfil all fixtures regardless of whether the appointed Match Official is present to take charge.

Should any club fail or refuse to participate in any fixture on the above grounds, then:

- i. The match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team.
- ii. In the event both teams refuse to play, the MRFZ reserves the right to award a 'NO RESULT' and fines both clubs and take further disciplinary action.

## **11 MEDICAL**

11.1 All clubs must provide spectator and player medical support service during scheduled matches.

### **Ambulance Access**

11.2 Clearly signed, unrestricted access to the field of play shall be provided for Ambulance Vehicles when required.

## Water Bottles

11.3 For safety reasons, water bottles are not to be thrown either on or off the field.

## Blood Ruling

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

11.5 In the event the player's uniform or attire is splattered with blood, the referee will instruct that player to change his or her attire before being permitted to re-join the game.

11.6 If an injured player is required to change his or her uniform, and a shirt displaying the same number as the original shirt is unavailable, the Match Official may in his or her discretion allow the player to wear an alternative numbered or blank shirt.

## Concussion

11.7 For advice on Concussion, refer to the FFA Concussion guidelines.

## 12 ADVERSE WEATHER

12.1 If the Host Club considers that the field may be unplayable they must contact MRFZ to arrange a ground inspection. Host officials should be mindful of travelling time for opposing teams on that day and seek early inspections to save on unnecessary travel.

12.2 When high temperatures occur on match day, the Match Referee and/or MRFZ delegate may determine: (Refer to FQ Hot Weather Guidelines)

- (a) To play the match under standard conditions;
- (b) To play the match with provision for extra breaks for consumption of fluid; or
- (c) To delay the match.

12.3 The decision to invoke these provisions should be based primarily on an



assessment of the potential medical risk of playing in the heat to both Players and Match Officials.

- 12.4 All clubs, players, match officials and Match Commissioners are requested to please note the following when high temperatures occur on match day;
- (a) 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
  - (b) 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.
  - (c) Any decision to play a match under altered match conditions can only be made with reference to the published Competition Regulations
  - (d) If, due to adverse weather, fixtures are postponed, the competing teams will be notified on MRFZ Competitions website.

### 13 TEAM OFFICIALS

- 13.1 All Team Officials must conduct themselves in accordance with the FFA Code of Conduct.
- 13.2 MRFZ may impose disciplinary action upon such persons and Clubs, where it is found that Team Officials and/or Club Officials have breached the Code of Conduct.
- 13.3 Team officials are only covered by insurance provided they are registered in Play Football and hold an **'active'** registration. 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.
- 13.4 Team Officials must remain within the Technical Area and are required to display their Accreditation at all times. Team Officials not displaying the appropriate accreditation will not be permitted to be seated in the Technical Area during the match and will be removed by Match Officials.
- 13.5 Team Officials are responsible for ensuring players behave in an appropriate manner at all times before, during and after any match.
- 13.6 Team Officials are not to argue or address any disagreements or comment through to a Match Referee. Any complaints should be directed to MRFZ on club letterhead.

13.7 A Team Official can only enter the field of play when the referee indicates to do so.

## 14 GROUND OFFICIALS

14.1 It is the responsibility of the Home Club to provide a minimum of one (1) club volunteers to act in the role of 'Ground Official'. Failure to provide the required number of Ground Officials within fifteen (15) minutes of the nominated kick off time will result in the offending Club/Team being sanction at the discretion of MRFZ.

Ground Officials must:

- a. Be at least 18 years of age;
- b. Be in clearly identifiable vest/uniform;
- c. Be visible from the Field of Play at all times; and
- d. Escort the Match Official(s) to and from the change rooms and the Field of Play at the commencement of the Competition Fixture, at half time and at full time; and
- e. Where required, assist the Match Official(s) to ensure a safe playing environment for all players, Club Officials and spectators.

14.2 MRFZ may vary the minimum Ground Official requirements for any MRFZ Competition Fixture at any time.

## 15 MATCH DAY INFORMATION

### Playing Time and Match Ball Size

15.1 The following will apply to all scheduled matches.

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 12    | 30 minutes each half – Size 4 ball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 13/14 | 35 minutes each half – Size 5 ball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 15/16 | 40 minutes each half – Size 5 ball |

*Ten (10) minutes half time break in these age groups.*

- |                                       |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior teams | 45 minutes each half – Size 5 Ball |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

*Fifteen (15) minutes half time break in these age groups.*

15.2 The Hosting Venue shall provide the Match Official with three (3) Quality match balls no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition

Fixture.

## Playing Strip

- 15.3 All Clubs must nominate a 'main' playing uniform and have available an 'alternate' playing uniform. The alternate playing uniform must comprise of different colour jersey, shorts and socks from the nominated 'main' uniform and must be worn, in whole or part of, by the away team when there is a clash of colours.
- 15.4 All Club on-field uniforms must be approved by MRFZ prior to manufacturer or by the commencement of a new season, whichever comes first.
- 15.5 Numbers on playing jerseys must be clearly distinguishable from the colour of the shirt and, where applicable, playing shorts.
- 15.6 All first named clubs will be deemed the 'Home' team and therefore will play in their nominated 'Main' colours.
- 15.7 In the event there is a clash of colours (shirts, shorts or socks) with the visiting team, it will be the responsibility of the visiting team to change into all or part of their alternate strip unless otherwise authorised by MRFZ.
- 15.8 The Match Referee has the sole discretion with regards to clash of colours.

## Referee Fees

- 15.9 Match Official fees for all MRFZ Competition matches will be paid by MRFZ in the first instance and then re-charged to Clubs. All teams will be charged 50% of the referee's fees in matches in which they participate. Refer to Schedule 1 which sets out the 2020 Match Official Fees. Referee fees are subject to change.
- 15.10 MRFZ is not responsible for the payment of Match Officials for any pre-season competition or friendly matches. Clubs participating in these matches are to make payments directly to the Match Officials prior to kick off.

## Player Equipment

- 15.11 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.
- 15.12 All players must abide by the Laws of the Game in relation to wearing of shin

guards, undergarments, undershorts and tape on socks.

## **Jewellery**

15.13 In accordance with FIFA 'Laws of the Game', all items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewellery is not permitted.

## **Captain Armbands**

15.14 Captain armbands must be worn at all times during Senior Men's and Women's matches. Captains leaving the field of play shall pass the armband to another player.

## **Interchange of Junior Players**

15.15 For all Competition Fixtures (U12 to U16) a maximum of 16 Players may be named on the Match Record.

15.16 In all competitions, unlimited interchange is permitted, a player who has been substituted may return to the field for another player.

15.17 Unless otherwise stated in the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, or in these Regulations, a Player listed on the team sheet for games played with Interchange will be deemed to have participated in the match.

## **General Interchange/Substitution Rules – All Competitions**

15.18 Only players listed on the match record before the match commences are permitted to take part in the match.

15.19 All interchange/substitute players must be seated within the Technical Area.

15.20 Interchange/substitute players are permitted to warm up outside of the Technical Area provided they are wearing bibs or an alternate coloured uniform to the team uniform.

15.21 All interchanges/substitutions can only occur at a break in play with the approval of the Referee and the change must take place at the halfway line.

15.22 All player changes made at half time must enter the field of play from the half way line on the referees signal just prior to kick-off of the second half.

15.23 Where substitution is used, a Player listed on the match record is only deemed to have participated in the match if they entered the field of play.

## 16 MATCH DAY FORMS AND REPORTS

### Match Records (Team Sheets)

16.1 All team sheets are to be completed online via Play Football by midnight Monday immediately after game day fixtures.

16.2 Clubs are required to note the shirt number of each Player in Play Football. This information appears automatically next to the Player's name on the team sheet.

16.3 On match day, both participating teams will be required to provide a printed paper copy of their electronic team sheet to the referee 30 minutes prior to the commencement of any match.

16.4 A Completed Team Sheet must include:

- (a) List all match details (age group, division, date, participating teams, and venue);
- (b) List all players taking part in the match with first name, surname, shirt number and FFA number;
- (c) List all borrowed players (Junior Competitions), and the club name of where they are borrowed from;
- (d) Not list more than 16 players for any fixture;
- (e) List all Team Officials; and
- (f) Indicate the team Captain with a 'C' beside the relevant person's name in MRFZ Competition Fixtures only.

- i. The Match Referee is responsible for ensuring the names of all Match Officials are listed on the team sheet. (match record)

16.5 Changes to the team sheet will be permitted any time until ten (10) minutes prior to kick off, at which point the following will apply:

- (a) The number on the back of the Player's jersey will correspond to the

numbers on the match record handed to the Referee before the commencement of the match. There must be no change of numbers from ten (10) minutes prior to or during a Match (this includes goalkeepers).

## Procedures Following a Match

16.6 Following the match, a Team Official from both the home and away Club together with the Match Referee are to approve the match record at the completion of a match to confirm the accuracy of final result, game details (red cards, cautions, goal scorers and times), including the Players listed, Match Officials listed, players cautioned or expelled, that the listed half time and full-time scores are correct and the player of the match details have been completed. Any changes made to the match record should be initialled by both club representatives and the Match Referee.

- For the avoidance of doubt, these match records are the official 'Match Record' and as such there will be **no** appeal against the score line shown, goal scorers or the recipients of yellow and red cards issued on a match sheet once it has been signed post-match by all relevant parties.

16.7 MRFZ may impose a fine on clubs that fail to complete match records.

16.8 When a match is forfeited, the match record will be endorsed accordingly by the Match Referee.

16.9 Ineligible Player protests must be directed to MRFZ via email. Please note that this is not the Match Officials responsibility.

16.10 If a player that is originally listed on the match record is no longer participating in that Competition Fixture, then that change must be acknowledged by the Match Referee prior to the commencement of the Competition Fixture. Failure to comply will deem the player to have played that fixture.

16.11 Clerical errors by either team on the match sheet may result in a fine.

Clerical errors may include, but are not limited to, duplicate shirt numbers, incorrect shirt numbers, team Captain not being identified and failing to sign off on the match record.

## Match Result Reporting

16.12 For all MRFZ Competition matches, the results of Competition Fixtures must be entered by the teams in the Competition Management System, Sports TG (or the Competition Management System in place at the time of the fixtures). MRFZ may impose a fine on Clubs that fail to record their match data within the required timeframe which is midnight Monday night immediately after the weekend fixture. After this time, the system will lock out all teams from entering match information.

- (a) As a minimum Clubs are required to enter the following match record information into Sports TG for all grades;
  - i. Player of the Year Points (1/2/3 points awarded for Seniors and Junior Competitive);
  - ii. Halftime and Fulltime Score (for all competitions);
  - iii. Goal Scorers and the time in which goals were scored (for all competitions);
  - iv. Infringements (Yellow and Red Cards) Issued (for all competitions); and
  - v. Substitutions and the time the player was substituted (Premier Men's)

16.13 Failure to comply with any part of this article may result in a fine being issued.

## 17 TABLE OF OFFENCES and FINES IMPOSED

17.1 Some aspects of these regulations incur fines for Breaches in MRFZ Competitions. The Table of Offences is outlined below:

Offence	Fine Imposed
Misconduct / Bringing the Game into Disrepute (per offence), player and club official.	Amount determined by MRFZ.
Ineligible / Unregistered Player (per offence)	\$250 (Senior) \$120 (Junior)
Junior Competitive Forfeits (per fixture)	Forfeit a match after midday Friday – Junior Competitive - \$50 per match
Senior Team Forfeits – after drawing of fixtures (per fixture)	Premier Men's - \$2000 All other senior divisions - \$300  Premier Men's on the day prior to kick off - \$1500 All other senior divisions - \$500  A show cause notice <b>may</b> be issued.
Team Withdrawal – after drawing of fixtures (per offence)	Premier League: \$3000 All other divisions: \$1000
Failure to forward Match Records as defined in the Rules of Competition	\$100 per fixture
Failure to record fixture results in Sports TG by Monday midnight post-match	\$100 per fixture
Failure to record voting results on Sports TG PLAYER OF THE YEAR	\$100 per fixture
Failure to complete Team Sheets legibly, accurately and comprehensively.	\$50 per fixture
<b>JUNIORS ONLY</b> Failure to do Club Duty Roster	<b>\$250 first offence, \$500 second and subsequent offences within the current season.</b>



## 18 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 18.1 A Player must be registered for a Club before they are eligible to take the field of play.
- 18.2 Players participating in MRFZ Competitions may be registered as Amateur Players or Professional Players in line with the National Registration Regulations (NRR).
- 18.3 Clubs are required to record the status of each Player on Play Football by having the player register as either an Amateur or Professional.

### Status of Players

- 18.4 As per the FFA National Registration Regulations:
  - (a) A Player participating in football is either an Amateur or a Professional;
  - (b) A Professional is a Player who has a written contract with a Club (NRR05), under which he or she is paid to play football for that Club;
  - (c) An Amateur is any player that is not a Professional;
  - (d) A Club may pay or reimburse a player for any expenses incurred by that Player without affecting the Amateur status, including for travel, kit, equipment, or insurance premiums. If, however, an Amateur is reimbursed more than the amount permitted by a Club, the onus is on that Club to demonstrate to Football Queensland that the amount paid accurately reflects the expenses incurred by the Amateur Player. If the Club fails to satisfy this onus, that player will be deemed to be a Professional;
  - (e) A Player may only be registered with one (1) Club at any time in line with the FFA National Registration Regulations and FIFA. Football Queensland has discretion to permit players to play in multiple clubs that do not compete in the same competition (ie. Shadow Players); and
  - (f) A Player may be registered to up to three (3) Clubs within a season, but may only play for two (2).

### Process for Registration of an Amateur

- 18.5 All Amateur Players must be registered via the Play Football system. The registration of an Amateur Player with a Club is effective from the date the individual is made active by the Club within the system, unless they also require an International Transfer Certificate
- 18.6 Players new to a Club must provide the Club with evidence of their name, age, and citizenship by producing an original Birth Certificate, Passport or Driver's Licence.
- 18.7 Amateur Players are permitted to register at any time. However, if the player(s) previous registration was with an MRFZ Club then they are not permitted to register with another Club in the same Competition after the 30th June 2020.
- 18.8 Unless cancelled earlier, an Amateur registration is effective from the date of being made active in Play Football until the end of the competition season in which the player is registered.

### **Application Process for Registration of a Professional**

- 18.9 A Player is eligible to be registered as a Professional with a Club only if the Club with which the Player wishes to be registered has lodged with Football Queensland an original NRR05 Professional Contract, signed by the Club and the Player seeking to be registered, during the prescribed registration period.
- 18.10 The player must also register via the Play Football system as a Professional Player with the Club.
- 18.11 The registration of a Professional with a Club is effective from the date of registration as entered by the Competitions Manager on the Prescribed Form and continues in accordance with the Professional Player Contract.
- 18.12 Professional players may only be registered during one (1) of the two (2) Registration Periods each year. For 2020, the registration periods will be:
- (a) Period One  
**11th December 2019 to 16th February 2020;** and
- (b) Period Two  
**4th June to 22nd June 2020.**
- 18.13 Football Queensland may register a Professional Player outside the Registration Periods only if:

- (c) That Player is not bound by a Professional Player Contract before the expiry of the Registration Period;
- (d) That Player is a goalkeeper and Football Queensland is satisfied that the Club has a justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence;
- (e) Football Queensland 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 or her former Club or he or she has terminated his or her Standard Player Contract for Just Cause; or
- (f) That Player is a Replacement Player.

### **Application Process for Registration of an International Transfer**

18.14 In accordance with FIFA Statutes, a Player who was last registered (current or otherwise) with an overseas Club, inclusive of Players who are permanent residents or Citizens of Australia, requires an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) from the National Association of that overseas Club in order to be registered in Australia.

- (g) In addition to FIFA Statutes any foreign national registering to play football in Australia for the first time will require an International Transfer Certificate, regardless of previous playing history.
- (h) For the avoidance of doubt, players previously registered to a US College team will require an International Transfer Certificate.

18.15 An ITC is an official document, physical or electronic, issued by a National Football Association, bearing its logo and physically signed by an authorised officer of that National Body. It can only be received by a Club via Football Federation Australia or Football Queensland.

18.16 In accordance with FIFA Statutes, Football Federation Australia is only able to request an ITC from another National Association during the Registration Periods for Football Federation Australia, as specified in FIFA TMS (Transfer Management System).

18.17 In accordance with the National Registration Regulations 4.5(b), a player is not registered unless and until the ITC document is received.

- 18.18 Regardless of whether the player is made 'active' in Play Football or not, a player requiring an ITC is not eligible to play any Competition Fixtures for any MRFZ Club until the ITC document has been received by the Club.
- 18.19 It is the Clubs responsibility to ensure an ITC document has been received prior to fielding the Player in a match. Clubs failing to satisfy these criteria will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will be dealt with accordingly under these Competition Regulations.
- 18.20 On fulfilment of all requirements, the Player can be added to the club's Player Roster.

### **Application Process for Registration of Team Managers and Coaches**

- 18.21 All Coaches and Team Managers must be registered in order to be involved with a Club participating in MRFZ Competitions.
- 18.22 An application for registration as a Coach or Team Manager by a Club shall be made by completing the following requirements:
- (i) Registration on Play Football;
  - (j) Working with Children Criminal History Record Check in accordance with Blue Card Services, Justice Services Queensland.
- 18.23 The registration can be affected once the Club accepts the Team Officials' registration and makes them 'active' in Play Football.

### **Registration of Sports Trainers, Doctors and Physiotherapists**

- 18.24 All Special Care Volunteers must be registered in order to be involved with a Club participating in MRFZ Competitions.
- 18.25 An application for registration as a Sports Trainer, Doctor or Physiotherapist shall be made by completing the following requirements:
- (k) Registration on Play Football;
  - (l) Working with Children Criminal History Record Check in accordance with Blue Card Services, Justice Services Queensland; or
  - (m) Providing a copy of relevant medical qualification to the Club. This would be either Sports Trainer Accreditation where a check has been carried out, or a Certificate of Registration as a Doctor or

Physiotherapist.

18.26 The registration can be affected once the Club accepts these registrations and make the applicant 'active' in Play Football.

### **Change in Registered Information**

18.27 If any changes occur in the information registered for your Clubs Players and Coaching and Support Staff, the Club is required to ensure the relevant person whom the information relates shall update their information in Play Football no later than 72 hours of the change occurring.

### **Submission of Registrations**

18.28 All registrations to be processed prior to a weekend fixture must be completed via Play Football no later than 10.00am on the Thursday preceding the weekend's matches.

18.29 All Clubs must submit approved registrations for all players and officials on the 'Player Roster' as listed in these Competition Regulations.

### **Player De-Registration**

18.30 The de-registration is effective:

- (a) When the other party (i.e. Club or Player as the case may be) has confirmed the notification or cancellations;
- (b) Amateur Players: seven (7) days from the date the Player/Club requested the de- registration in Play Football system unless a Grievance has been lodged with MRFZ;
- (c) Professional Players require a Mutual Termination of Professional Player Contract (Prescribed Form NRR09) for the de-registration to be processed. If both parties do not agree to mutually terminate, then one of the parties would need to lodge the relevant paperwork to initiate the Grievance Procedure.

18.31 For players Deregistering from a Club, refer to the website, [www.footballqueensland.com.au](http://www.footballqueensland.com.au) for the policy document.

## 19 PLAYER INSURANCE

- 19.1 Player Injury and Associated Liability Insurance cover is taken out by Football Queensland.
- 19.2 Policy details and claims procedures are available on the Football Queensland website [www.footballqueensland.com.au](http://www.footballqueensland.com.au) or the Gow Gates Sports website: <http://www.gowgatessport.com.au/football>

## 20 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 20.1 It is the Clubs absolute responsibility to ensure that only eligible Players take the field in any MRFZ Competition match.
- 20.2 A player is eligible to play in a MRFZ Competition match, provided:
- a) They have been registered in line with Football Federation Australia National Registration Regulations and Football Queensland Registration Procedures and Guidelines, and is not under suspension by MRFZ or any other Federation;
  - b) Their name appears on the team sheet prior to the commencement of the match;
  - c) They have been given written consent from MRFZ to participate under 'Exceptional Circumstances'.
  - d) They are playing within their designated age group, unless otherwise approved by MRFZ;
  - e) They have not been expelled from a match on the day/s prior to the match but before an infringement notice has been issued;
  - f) They have not been expelled from a match on the same day as the match but played earlier in the day; or
  - g) They are not deemed ineligible due to any article of these Regulations and the Football Queensland By-Law.
- 20.3 Any Club who fields an ineligible player will automatically be deemed to have

lost the match, be fined and may be subject to further disciplinary action. In the case of loss of points the opposing team will be awarded the full points and be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0), unless the score at the end of the match was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team.

- 20.4 Additionally, the Club, Team Officials and Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with Football Queensland By-Law.
- 20.5 For Finals eligibility, refer to Applicable Appendices – Juniors or Men’s and Women’s Senior Competition.

### Exceptional Circumstances /Relative Age Effect (RAE)

- 20.6 Junior Players (U12 to 16) must play in their designated age group as determined by their date of birth unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- 20.7 Males who are 16 years and turning 16 years of age are permitted to play in the Men’s competition in accordance with the player age policy.
- 20.8 Males who are less than 16 years old are required to undergo assessment as per the player age policy.
- 20.9 Females who are 15 years (2005) and older are permitted to play in the women’s competition in accordance with the player age policy.
- 20.10 Females who are less than 15 years old are required to undergo assessment as per the player age policy.

## 21 MINIMUM SQUAD SIZES AND PLAYER ROSTERS

- 21.1 During the MRFZ season, Clubs are required to have a minimum number of players registered and active in Play Football at all times. Refer to schedule below for the 2020 requirements:

MRFZ reserves the right to allow variations to these numbers.

<b>MRFZ Team</b>	<b>Min Squad Size</b>	<b>Max Squad Size</b>
Premier Men’s (and Reserve Men’s combined)	20	30

Senior Teams	12	25
Under 12 to 16	12	16

### Exceptional Circumstances

- 21.2 Exceptional circumstances will only apply where a club would be prevented from fielding a team and/or a specialist goalkeeper in a scheduled match or through Long Term Injury. For the avoidance of doubt, Clubs fielding a player from a different competition, without prior written approval will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and the matter will be dealt with under these Competition Regulations.

### Long Term Injury List

- 21.3 Should a Club suffer a long-term injury, a club can submit a request in writing to the MRFZ for a replacement player.

## 22 National Disciplinary Regulations (NDR)

The following policy must be read in conjunction with the Football Federation of Australia (FFA) National Disciplinary Regulations (NDR) and is a supplement to those regulations. This policy may be revised subject to any alterations to the NDR.

### Match Review Panel

- (a) Mackay and Regional Football Zone will appoint suitably qualified persons to a Match Review Panel to deal with:
- (i) Disciplinary matters in any MRFZ Competition
  - (ii) Appeals against Additional Disciplinary Sanctions
  - (iii) Misconduct and other incidents
  - (iv) Appeals against penalties applied by Clubs on their members
- (b) The Match Review Panel has jurisdiction over breaches of the Code of Conduct for Players, Coaches, Club Officials and Referees and is the initial arbitrator on all disciplinary matters.
- (c) The Match Review Panel is independent of Mackay and Regional Football Zone. A Match Review Panel should consist of three (3) members. However, if, for any reason, a third member is unavailable, it may convene with two (2) members and the Chair will have a deciding vote if required.



(d) The Match Review Panel will conduct Hearings into:

- (i) R2 Grade 4 send offs
- (ii) R3 Grade 2 send offs
- (iii) Other send offs as it deems appropriate
- (iv) Appeals against Additional Disciplinary Sanctions
- (v) Incident reports
- (vi) Misconduct reports/complaints
- (vii) Appeals against penalties imposed by clubs

(e) Hearings on (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) should commence no later than the 10th day after the offence and as soon as practicable for (v), (vi) and (vii). If the number of incidents to be dealt with warrants such an action, there may be several hearings operating at the same time and staffed by alternate Match Review Panels.

(f) It must be noted that:

- (i) Permission must be sought from Mackay and Regional Football Zone for the attendance of Legal Representation at any Match Review Panel Hearing and Mackay and Regional Football Zone will determine the conditions for such an attendance
- (ii) A Club representative will be required to attend any Match Review Panel Hearing into the actions of individuals connected to such Club
- (iii) All representatives at a Match Review Panel Hearing will only address the hearing with the permission of the Chair.

(g) Any party summoned to appear before the Match Review Panel will receive at least three (3) working days notification prior to the hearing.

(h) Any party summoned to appear before the Match Review Panel is required to attend. The Match Review Panel reserves the right to sanction any party that is summoned to a hearing that fails to appear and has not advised their non-attendance.

(i) If there is a valid reason for not attending, a party can write to MRFZ requesting a postponement of a maximum of one (1) week. This request must be submitted in writing as soon as possible after the notification of the hearing.

(j) Hearings may be conducted by teleconference. If any party summoned to appear wishes to participate by teleconference, it is their responsibility to make certain that they can both hear and participate in the hearing.

(k) Any party can request that they would like the charge(s) determined by the Match Review Panel in their absence. In this situation, the party must present their plea (guilty or not guilty) and detail their defence to the charge (if pleading not guilty).

(l) Persons entitled to appear before a Match Review Panel Hearing

are:

(i) Summoned party accompanied by a Club Representative

(ii) Player's Parent or Guardian (Junior Players only)

(iii) Summoned party's Witness

(iv) Appointed Match Official(s) accompanied by a Referee's Representative

### **Definition of Penalties**

Penalties fall into two (2) categories:

(i) Mandatory match suspensions

(ii) Additional Disciplinary Sanctions (as per FFA NDR 5.2 and Part V of the FFA Statutes)

The **accumulation of Yellow Cards** in Pre-Season Matches will not carry over into the Fixture Season Competitions

The accumulation of Yellow Cards in Pre-Season Competitions will not carry over into the Fixture Season. However, should a player receive a suspension as a result of a Red Card in Pre-Season Competitions, the suspension will carry over into the Fixture Season.

## Yellow Card Offences (Cautions)

For Players

A Player will be cautioned if they commit any of the following seven offences:

Y1 Unsporting behaviour

Y2 Dissent by word or action

Y3 Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game

Y4 Delaying the restart of play

Y5 Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw in

Y6 Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission

Y7 Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission

A Substitute, Substituted or Return Substitute Player will be cautioned if they commit any of the following three offences:

Y1 Unsporting behaviour

Y2 Dissent by word or action

Y4 Delaying the restart of play

Y6 Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission.

Referees must indicate the offence code on the team-sheet before submitting to Club Officials for final approval.

If a Player receives two yellow cards during the same match and therefore receives a red card (an indirect red card), the two yellow cards are expunged from their record.

If a Player receives a yellow card and then a direct red card in the same match, the yellow card will not be expunged and will be counted in the Player's accumulation of yellow cards

If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a Player, this does not nullify the caution.

## Accumulation of Yellow Cards

Two yellow cards accumulated in more than one (1) match automatically means the player will receive a mandatory one (1) match suspension.

Yellow cards accumulated in more than one (1) match will have the following mandatory suspensions applied:

- (i) Five (5) yellow cards accumulated by a Player, 1 match suspension
- (ii) Eight (8) yellow cards accumulated by a Player, 2 additional matches suspension
- (iii) Ten (10) yellow cards accumulated by a Player, 3 additional matches suspension
- (iv) Twelve (12) yellow cards accumulated by a Player, 4 additional matches suspension

### **Red Card Offences (Send Offs)**

For Players

- (a) A Player, Substitute or Substituted Player will be sent off if they commit any of the following offences:

R1 Serious foul play

R2 Violent Conduct

R3 Spitting at an opponent or any other person

R4 Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a Goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

R5 Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the Player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick

R6 Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures

R7 Second caution in the same match

- (b) A Player, Substitute or substituted Player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and technical area and return to the dressing room.
- (c) All Players who are sent off receive a mandatory match suspension, which is not appealable except in the case of alleged mistaken identity (see Clause 11.2 of the NDR). They may be subject to an additional disciplinary sanction depending on the offence.

## Suspensions for Red Card Offences

(a) The following Standard suspensions will apply for each offence (mandatory match suspension plus any additional disciplinary sanction):

OFFENCE	GRADE	MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSION (non-appealable)	ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY SANCTION (appealable)	TOTAL (STANDARD) SUSPENSION
R1	Grade 1	1 match	1 match	2 matches
R2	Grade 1	1 match	1 match	2 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	1 match	3 matches
	Grade 3	2 matches	3 matches + Review	5 matches + Review
	Grade 4	2 matches	+ Hearing	2 matches + Hearing
R3	Grade 1	2 matches	5 matches	7 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	+ Hearing	2 matches + Hearing
R4		1 match		1 match
R5		1 match		1 match
R6	Grade 1	1 match	1 match	2 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	4 matches	6 matches
	Grade 3	2 matches	1 match	3 matches
	Grade 4	2 matches	3 matches	5 matches
R7		1 match		1 match

(b) Any Player who uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures towards any Match Official(s) after being sent off will incur at least an additional one (1) match suspension.

(c) Any Player who fails to leave the field of play and the technical area and immediately return to the dressing room after being sent off will incur at least an additional one (1) match suspension.

(d) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a Player, this does not nullify the sending off offence.

## Imposition of Red Card Suspensions

Suspensions incurred for the receipt of Red Cards come into effect immediately.

### Accumulation of Direct Red Cards

The following suspensions will apply for the accumulation of direct red cards in a season:

- (i) Second Direct Red Card Standard + 1 additional match
- (ii) Third Direct Red Card Standard + 2 additional matches
- (iii) Fourth Direct Red Card Standard + 3 additional matches

These **additional match suspensions are mandatory** and **cannot** be appealed against.

## Suspensions

- (a) A match suspension means a ban from taking part in a match, either as a Player, a Team Official or a Match Official, or to attend it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- (b) A suspension can either be for a number of matches or for a specified period. If the suspension is for a number of matches, the number of matches specified in the suspension relate to the division of the competition in which the Player or Official incurred the suspension. Therefore, a Player or Official under suspension is not allowed to play or be involved in that or any other division, whether Senior or Junior, until the day after the team in which they were playing in or involved in when they incurred the suspension has played the relevant number of matches for which they were suspended.

In the event that an individual receives a carry-over suspension in a competition which commences significantly later than another competition the individual is involved in, MRFZ reserves the right to review and amend the suspension length. For instance, a junior coach who is also senior player.

- (c) Any match suspensions incurred by Players or Team Officials in any MRFZ Competition will be served consecutively, until such time as those suspensions are completed.
- (d) If, at the conclusion of the Fixture season, a Player or Team Official had incurred a suspension or was still under suspension, then that suspension will carry over and will be served in the next Competition match(es) (including finals) that the Player or Team Official would normally be eligible to play in or be involved in.
- (e) If a Player receives a yellow card and then a direct red card in the same match and this leads to the imposition of more than one suspension from the same game, then these suspensions will be served consecutively.
- (f) If a Player or Team Official is suspended for an offence incurred in a non-MRFZ FFA sanctioned competition (excluding International and Representative Teams), that player or official will not be permitted to play or have any involvement until that suspension has been served.

### Player of the Year Awards

- (a) A suspension incurred by a Player through the accumulation of five (5) yellow cards **will not** render that player ineligible for any such award.
- (b) A suspension incurred by a Player as a result of a send-off in a fixture match or through the accumulation of eight (8) or more yellow cards, **will** render that Player **ineligible** for any such award.

### Incident Reports/Misconduct

- (a) Reports on misconduct will be accepted from Club Officials, Team Officials, Club Members and Spectators. These reports must be factual (i.e. not based on supposition and/or third party allegations). They must be submitted through the Club (i.e. via the Club Secretary).
- (b) Reports can be submitted via letter or email and must contain the Name and Contact Details of the person submitting the report.
- (c) Reports must be lodged within five (5) working days of the incident and Mackay and Regional Football Zone will make all the necessary investigations and gather any other reports it deems necessary. (Refer Attachment 3 for Procedures)
- (d) Mackay and Regional Football Zone will refer the reports to the Match Review Panel for consideration as required.

### **Penalties for Misconduct**

Clubs are ultimately accountable for the behaviour of their Club Members and Supporters. If a Club Member or Supporter is the subject of a Judiciary Hearing to answer any allegation(s) of behaving in a manner which brings the game into disrepute, then the Judiciary Panel is empowered to impose upon the Club any sanction as specified in Part V of the FFA Statutes. Any fines so imposed will be paid under the terms of the Mackay and Regional Football Zone Debtors Policy.

### **Disciplinary Fines**

- (a) For Senior Competitions (Male and Female), disciplinary fines will be imposed against clubs for offences by players on the following basis:
  - (i) **Accumulated yellow cards in the same season**
    - Five (5) yellow cards accumulated by the same player (including sin bin offences) \$50
    - Next Three yellow cards (Eight [8] in total) accumulated by the same player (including sin bin offences) \$30
    - Next Two yellow cards (Ten [10] in total) accumulated by the same player (including sin bin offences) \$20
    - Next Two yellow cards (Twelve [12] in total) accumulated by the same player (including sin bin offences) \$20
  - (ii) **Accumulated red cards in the same season**
    - Indirect red card (2 Yellow cards in same game) incurred by a player \$25

- First Direct red card incurred by a player \$50
- Second Direct red card incurred by the same player \$75
- Third (or subsequent) Direct red card incurred by the same player \$100

(iii) Team Discipline

Five (5) or more players from one team cautioned or sent off during one (1) match

- First offence by a team \$50
- Second Offence by the same team \$100
- Third (or subsequent) offence by the same team \$200

Three (3) or more players from one team sent off during one (1) match

- First offence by a team \$100
- Second offence by the same team \$200
- Third (or subsequent) offence by the same team \$400

(b) For Junior Competitions (Male and Female), **no disciplinary fines or Disciplinary Bond** are applicable for offences by Players.

(c) For all Competitions, disciplinary fines will be imposed against clubs for offences by Team Officials on the following basis:

Accumulated Dismissals from Technical Area (in the same season)

First offence by a team official

Grade 1 \$25

Grade 2 \$50

Second offence by the same team official

Grade 1 \$50

Grade 2 \$100

Third offence by the same team official

Grade 1 \$75

Grade 2 \$200

(d) Clubs will be invoiced for Disciplinary Fines at regular intervals during the season.

## Appeals



- (a) A Player cannot appeal against a yellow card (caution) (including sin bin offences) This also includes being sent off for a second cautionable offence in the same match.
- (b) A Player or Team Official cannot appeal against a mandatory match suspension, except in the case of alleged mistaken identity (see Clause 4.3 (b) of the NDR). In the case of alleged mistaken identity, the alleged actual offender must be named and a statement from the offender must be submitted admitting the offence. (This does NOT include a Player being sent off for a second cautionable offence in the same match.) Any appeal on the basis of alleged mistaken identity must be submitted two days prior to the first match the player would be suspended for (eg if a player was sent off on a weekend and the team's next match is on the following Saturday, the appeal must be submitted by the 5PM Thursday).
- (c) If a Player or Team Official is considering an Appeal, they should request their Club Secretary to obtain a copy of the Match Official's report. The Club Secretary should email the request to [mackay.rfz@gmail.com](mailto:mackay.rfz@gmail.com)
- (d) Under Clause 11.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations, a Player or Team Official can appeal the Additional Disciplinary Sanction imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice by notifying Mackay and Regional Football Zone **within 7 days of the date on which the Disciplinary Infringement Notice was received** using the Appeal Form available on the Mackay and Regional Football Zone website, and signed by the Player or Official and the Club President or Secretary. **It must include all documentation relevant to the Appeal (Player's Statement and any witness Statements).**

**A \$200 Appeal Fee is applicable for appeals against a Disciplinary Infringement Notice issued in relation to Senior Competitions. The \$200 Appeal fee must be paid at the time of lodgement of the Appeal.**

**NOTE: NO fee is applicable for Appeals against a Disciplinary Infringement Notice issued in relation to Junior Competitions.**

- (e) The Appeals Panel will review the submitted documentation to assess whether the Appeal has sufficient grounds to be heard. The onus is on the Appellant to provide sufficient argument in that documentation to convince the Match Review Panel that the Appeal should be heard. Facts contained in the Match Officials' reports are presumed to be accurate. Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports can be provided by any party.
- (f) If an Appeal is to be heard, any further documents supporting the charge, Appeal conditions and notification of the date and time of the hearing will be forwarded to all parties as soon as the Appeal is scheduled.
- (g) If an Appeal against the Additional Disciplinary Sanction is unable to be heard prior to the commencement of that suspension, the Player or Team Official will be allowed to participate in the next match pending the Hearing of the Appeal. The fact that a Player is participating in that next match signifies that a lodged Appeal will proceed. If the Appeal is withdrawn, then the result of such a match will be recorded as a 3-0

win in favour of the opposing Team, unless the final result was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing Team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing Team.

- (h) If a Player or Team Official is found not guilty of the offence with which he has been charged (on the grounds of mistaken identity), then mention of this offence will be expunged from their record.
- (i) In hearing an Appeal, the Appeals Panel has the power to overturn, confirm, increase or decrease the additional disciplinary sanction against which an Appeal is made.
- (j) A Party can appeal the decision of the Judiciary Panel by notifying Mackay and Regional Football Zone **within 7 days of the date on which the decision of the Match Review Panel was received** using the Appeal Form available on the Mackay and Regional Football Zone website, and signed by the Player or Official and the Club President or Secretary. **It must include all documentation relevant to the Appeal. The \$200 appeal fee must be paid at the time of lodgement of the Appeal.**
- (k) An Appeal against a decision of the Judiciary Panel will not be allowed unless the person seeking to appeal satisfies MRFZ that one or more of the following grounds of appeal are involved:
  - (i) That significant new or additional evidence has become available
  - (ii) That the penalty imposed by the Judiciary Panel is not in accordance with the provisions of this Policy or the FFA NDR
  - (iii) That the Match Review Panel or Judiciary Panel failed to follow procedures or requirements of this Policy or the FFA NDR to the significant detriment of the person seeking to Appeal.
- (l) **NOTE – For any Appeal, failure to adhere to the conditions outlined in (d) or (j) above will render that Appeal invalid and the original penalty will stand.**

### Match Review Flow Chart

MRFZ receive an Incident Report or Referees Send Off Report ⇒ Match Review Panel considers report and advises MRFZ of action to be taken ⇒ MRFZ notifies club of Match Review Panel's decision and outcome for the club. ⇒ If a Disciplinary Infringement Notice is issued to a club then a Judiciary Panel Hearing will be held, or in the case of an Incident Report, MRFZ will follow procedure as per Attachment 3. If a Disciplinary Sanction is issued as a result of the Judiciary Panel Hearing a club can accept the decision or appeal as per the appeals process.

### Appeal Fees

- (a) Hearing of an Appeal against a Disciplinary Infringement Notice - \$200 (Senior Competitions ONLY)

If the additional disciplinary sanction is partially overturned or if the Appeal is upheld - the \$200 fee will be refunded

NOTE: NO fee is applicable for appeals against a Disciplinary Infringement Notice issued in relation to Junior Competitions.

- (b) Hearing of an Appeal against a penalty imposed by a Club - \$200 If the Appeal is upheld - \$200 fee will be refunded.
- (c) Hearing of an Appeal against a penalty imposed at a Judiciary Panel Hearing - \$200  
If the Appeal is upheld - \$200 fee will be refunded

# ATTACHMENT 1

## Grading of Offences

### R2

- Grade 1 Pushing with no punches thrown
- Grade 2 Striking, kicking, elbowing or head-butting (including attempting these offences)
- Grade 3 Intends to cause significant bodily harm to any person, involvement in a brawl
- Grade 4 Against a Match Official

### R3

- Grade 1 At a Player or other person
- Grade 2 At a Match Official

### R6

- Grade 1 Against a Player or other person
- Grade 2 Discriminatory language
- Grade 3 Against a Match Official
- Grade 4 Unsporting conduct toward a Match Official

### Dismissal from Technical Area

- Grade 1 Persistent dissent/argument (not involving offensive/insulting/abusive language and/or gestures)
- Grade 2 Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures



# ATTACHMENT 2

## Assaults on Match Officials

Mackay and Regional Football Zone Guidelines for Disciplinary Sanctions to be imposed for assaults on Match Officials.

### **CATEGORY 1 OFFENCE**

Deliberately striking a Match Official by way of physical contact with any part of the body or the use of any object.

Sanction: 6 months to Life suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official) \$5000 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

### **CATEGORY 2 OFFENCE**

Attempting to strike a Match Official by way of physical contact with any part of the body or the use of any object.

Sanction: 6 months to 3 years suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official) \$1500 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

### **CATEGORY 3 OFFENCE**

Spitting at or on a Match Official.

Sanction: 12 months to 18 months suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official). \$1000 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

### **CATEGORY 4 OFFENCE**

Deliberate physical contact with a Match Official not covered in categories 1, 2 or 3. Such conduct would include, but is not limited to, deliberately pushing a Match Official.

Sanction: 5 matches to 2 years suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official) \$500 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

# ATTACHMENT 3

## **ACTIONS ON RECEIPT OF INCIDENT REPORT FROM TEAM OFFICIAL, CLUB OFFICIAL, CLUB MEMBER OR SPECTATOR**

- Email alleged offending Club advising receipt of report providing details of allegation
- Request confirmation or denial of allegation
- If allegation confirmed:
  - Request explanation
  - Request advice of Club action in relation to incident
  - Assess explanation
  - Assess Club action
  - Determine Penalty to be applied
- If allegation denied:
  - Go back to originator of protest/report for further evidence if available
  - Provide any further evidence to alleged offending Club requesting response
- If allegation confirmed:
  - Request explanation
  - Request advice of Club action in relation to incident
  - Assess explanation
  - Assess Club action
  - Determine Penalty to be applied
- If allegation still denied
- Convene Match Review Committee.

# GLOSSARY

**Abandoned Match** means a Competition Fixture which has commenced but was stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion.

**Competition Regulations** means these Rules which apply to the PlayStation4 NPL and Queensland Premier League competitions, administered by MRFZ for males as amended and updated by MRFZ from time to time.

**Competition Fixture** means any match played for competition points that is administered by MRFZ.

**Cup Fixture** means any knock-out cup match, fixture or other event organised and/or administered by MRFZ or FFA before, after or in conjunction with a Regular Season and includes, but is not limited to the Westfield FFA Cup.

**Division** means a particular age group or level within MRFZ Competitions.

**Field of Play (FOP)** means:

- i. At an enclosed pitch the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or
- ii. At an open pitch the entire area within three (3) metres of the boundary line of the football pitch.

**Final** or **Finals Series** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings or champion of a specific competition administered by MRFZ.

**Fixture Suspensions** means a suspension imposed on a participant that prevents them from being involved in subsequent match/s.

**Forfeit** means failure to participate in a Competitive Fixture if the Club or team in question has failed to notify MRFZ at least three (3) days prior to the scheduled Competitive Fixture.

**MRFZ** means Mackay and Regional Football Zone



**Goal Difference** means the difference between goals scored by a Club/Team (Goals For) and goals scored against a Club/Team (Goals Against) in a match or season.

**Home Club** means the Club named first in a Competition Fixture.

**Host Club** means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at its home venue, whether or not that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals Series matches or not.

**Illuminance (Lux)** means the total amount of visible light illuminating at a point on a surface from all directions above the surface. The standard unit of luminance is Lux (lx). For a lamp it normally refers to the total-light emitted irrespective of the directions in which it is distributed.

**ITC (International Transfer Certificate)** is a certificate provided from one national association to another to facilitate the transfer of a player between countries.

**Match Official** means a match official as defined in the LOTG.

**Match Record** means the official log (hard copy) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.

**Misconduct** is defined as unsporting, rude, offensive, or aggressive behaviour against officials, competitor players, coaches, or fans.

**No Result** means recording a nil all score line in a Competitive Fixture with no points or goals awarded to either team. A 'No Result' is recorded as a Competition Fixture played.

**Non-Participation in a Fixture** means a player listed on the official Competitive Fixture (Match Record) who did not take to the Field of Play (FOP) during the match.

**Normal Time** means the maximum length of two (2) equal periods not including added time as specified in Rule 15.1, unless any time reduction is otherwise determined by Match Officials.

**Play-off Match** means a Competitive Fixture played to determine the final standings of a

League or the eligibility for promotion/relegation of a Team between Leagues.

**Played** means the same as defined in the Competition Regulations.

**Postponed** means a Competition Fixture that does not commence as scheduled.

**Registered** means a player or club official who is registered in accordance with the applicable MRFZ Registration Regulations, and/or FFA National Registration Regulations, including without limitation seeking an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) where applicable.

**Regular Season** means the time and Competition Fixtures between the first and last round of the relevant competition in addition to any Play Off Matches required for the league in question.

**Rule** or **Rules of Competition** means a rule/s set out in a clause or clauses of these 2020 Rules of Competition.

**Sanctioned Match** means any match/s MRFZ approves to be played in accordance with the MRFZ Sanctioning Policy. This includes matches to which MRFZ does not appoint Match Officials to.

**Team** means a Football Team entered by a Club in to MRFZ Competitions.

**Technical Area** is as defined in the LOTG and Venue Standards Minimum Requirements document.

**Tribunal** means the specialist, independent panel of appointed members that hears and determines allegations of Misconduct. Tribunal cases may include on field Misconduct, Suspensions and Member Protection matters, and /or other Misconduct offences as warranted by MRFZ to the jurisdiction as prescribed by the MRFZ By-Laws. References to the Tribunal may be a reference to the first instance panel, or Appeals Board, as relevant in the circumstances.

**Unregistered** means a player or Club Official who is not registered.

**Visa Player** means a player who is not an Australian Citizen, Permanent Resident of Australia and / or resident in Australia on a 'permanent' Visa Class issued by the

Australian Government.

# Schedule 1 – Match Official Fees

## REGISTERED REFEREES

### Match Official Fees

<i>Competition</i>	<i>Referee</i>	<i>Assistant</i>	<i>Assistant</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Official</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Premier League*	90.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	\$225.00
City League	65.00	32.50	32.50	N/A	\$130.00
U15/16	50.00	25.00	25.00	N/A	\$100.00
U13/14	35.00	17.50	17.50	N/A	\$70.00
U12	20.00	10.00	10.00	N/A	\$40.00

\* Premier League – Premier Men’s, Reserve Men’s, Premier Women’s, Premier Reserve Women

## CLUB REFEREE

### Match Official Fees

<i>Competition</i>	<i>Referee</i>	<i>Assistant</i>	<i>Assistant</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> Official</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Premier League	40.00	20.00	20.00	N/A	\$80.00
Club League	30.00	15.00	15.00	N/A	\$60.00

## Schedule 2 – Grading of Offences

<b>OFFENCE</b>	<b>GRADE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>R2</b></p> <p>Is guilty of violent conduct</p>	<b>Grade 1</b>	Pushing with no punches thrown
	<b>Grade 2</b>	Striking, kicking, elbowing or head-butting (including attempting these offences)
	<b>Grade 3</b>	Intends to cause significant bodily harm to any person, involvement in a brawl
	<b>Grade 4</b>	Against a match official
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>R3</b></p> <p>spits at an opponent or any other person</p>	<b>Grade 1</b>	At a player or other person
	<b>Grade 2</b>	Against a match official
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>R6</b></p> <p>uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures</p>	<b>Grade 1</b>	At a player or other person
	<b>Grade 2</b>	Discriminatory language
	<b>Grade 3</b>	Against a match official
	<b>Grade 4</b>	Unsporting conduct toward a match official