



# **FOOTBALL TOOWOOMBA**

## **COMPETITION RULES**

CURRENT UPDATE:

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**Competition Rules, Football Toowoomba Competition, South West Zone, Queensland**

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# 1. COMPETITION RULES

## 1.1 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

- a) All matches under the jurisdiction of the Football Toowoomba Competition Administrators (CA) shall 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 subordinate and supportive to those stipulated in the FIFA Laws of the Game. ([www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com))
- c) Clubs, Players and Officials shall comply with and agree to abide by the regulations of Football Federation Australia; Football Queensland; Football South West Queensland and the Football Toowoomba CAs, including;
  - National Registration Regulations;
  - National Disciplinary Regulations;
  - FFA Code of Conduct;
  - Grievance Resolution Regulations;
  - Member Protection Policy;
  - Football Toowoomba Rules of Competition & By Laws

## 1.2 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- Participation in any level of competition is subject to the payment in full of a registration fee to be notified by Football Toowoomba.
- Football Toowoomba will not accept nominations to participate in any competition if the Club is un-financial with Football Toowoomba.
- No affiliated club shall be permitted to commence playing in the Football Toowoomba competition season if they are un-financial with Football Toowoomba at the commencement of competition, unless written agreement has been reached with Football Toowoomba.
- Football Toowoomba reserves the right to amend the size, structure and composition of any playing division.

### SENIORS

#### Football Toowoomba Premier League: Men

- a) Clubs will be invited to apply to Football Toowoomba to participate in a Premier League. The criteria to be used by the CA for entry will be as follows:
  - A squad of a minimum 28 registered male players
  - Clear evidence of adequate field facilities including appropriate field and spectator field markings; sunshades / dugouts; and an adequate / secure referees room

- The club shall have a match reporting officer responsible for reporting on and promoting the activities of the Premier team to Football Toowoomba and others, including provision of game reviews
- b) These squads will play each week as Premier and Reserve Men. There will be a free exchange of players between Premier and Reserves. Unlimited player interchange is allowed for all Divisions except for Premier Men.
  - c) Two clubs may be allowed to contribute players to these squads co-operatively. If this occurs all players shall be registered with the one (1) club who nominates the squad. This clause is subject to the approval of the CA, with consideration to the needs of the competition as a whole.
  - d) Premier League players will not be allowed to play in any other division other than Colts (should they be eligible), except with the written authority of the Football Toowoomba CA. Such player(s) would then cease to play in the Premier League.

#### **Men's Division 1 and Division 2:**

- e) For all Clubs currently unable to meet the criteria for entry to the Premier League, a Division 1 and Division 2 competition may be conducted (should numbers permit). Clubs will be allowed to self-nominate for either of these divisions, although the CA will reserve the right to allocate a Club team's playing division for the purpose of eliminating byes within the draw and balancing the competition. Where necessary, placement will be determined by the previous year's playing form.
- f) Two clubs will be allowed to contribute players to these teams co-operatively. If this occurs all players must be registered with the one (1) club. The team may but will not be required to play under a combined identity. This clause is subject to the approval of the CA, with consideration to the needs of the competition as a whole.
- g) All Division players will only be registered with the one (1) club and may only play for other teams from that club, if eligible.
- h) Division 1 or 2 players will be allowed to play up into the Premier League for a maximum number of two (2) games. On the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) game they will be deemed permanent Premier League players within the Football Toowoomba competition and will not be allowed to return to Division 1 or 2 without written application and subsequent written approval by the CA.
- i) Colts players will be allowed to join Division 1 and 2 teams for their club if eligible, unless they are also a Premier League player.

#### **Football Toowoomba Premier and Division One Women:**

- j) Clubs will be invited to apply to Football Toowoomba to participate in the Women's Premier. The criteria to be considered by the CA for entry into the Women's (Ladies) Premier Competition will be as follows:
  - A squad of a minimum 14 registered and age eligible female players
  - Clear evidence of adequate field facilities including appropriate field and spectator field markings; sunshades / dugouts; and an adequate / secure referees room

- A match reporting officer responsible for reporting on and promoting the activities of the Premier team to Football Toowoomba and others, including provision of game reviews
- k) The Women's competition will be administered on the same basis as the Men's Division 1 and 2. The one exception will be that there will be no restrictions placed upon Women's Division 1 players playing up into the Women's Premier League. Fillies will be allowed to play up into either Division 1, Premier or both, should they be eligible.
  - l) Two clubs will be allowed to contribute players to these teams co-operatively. If this occurs all players must be registered with the one (1) club. The team may but will not be required to play under a combined identity. This clause is subject to the approval of the CA, with consideration to the needs of the competition as a whole.
  - m) All Premier League and Divisional players shall only be registered with the one (1) club and may only play for other teams from that club, if eligible.
  - n) The Ladies Premier Division will be restricted to between four and six teams, dependent upon the overall number of Ladies teams nominated. Where too many clubs apply for Ladies Premier, placement will be determined by the CA on the basis of the previous year's playing form.

**Football Toowoomba Senior Premier and Divisions - General:**

- o) The CA will determine the number of matches to be played in each division once the final club composition of each division is determined.
- p) The team finishing with the most points in each Division at the conclusion of the competition fixture season will be crowned Minor Premiership winners.
- q) 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.
- r) Finals for Mens Premier and Reserve Grades – players nominated to play in the Reserve Finals shall have played the majority (ie., minimum 50%) of their games played in Reserves through the regular season. The CA reserves the right to reject application/s from players who fail to meet this criteria.
- s) Finals for Mens Premier and Reserve Grades – there is no restriction on who can play Premier Finals, provided nominated players have played at least four (4) games with the club through the season. Players eligible for Reserve Finals may also be nominated for their Premier team in the finals.

**Clubs with multiple teams in the same Division:**

- t) No club or entity will be allowed to nominate 2 teams in the same division (for Colts and Fillies ONLY, clubs or entities may still have multiple teams);
- u) If a club has two or more teams in the same division or division level (Colts and Fillies), the club shall provide to Football Toowoomba a complete list of players nominated for each team within that division. Once this list has been provided, the players shall only be permitted to play for the team to which they have been nominated 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 for their Club.

#### **Football Toowoomba Junior Divisions - Colts and Fillies:**

- v) Colts and Fillies players will play in a Friday night league and will also be allowed to play in other senior divisions. Colts and Fillies players will be included in the senior competition draw, but will continue to be regarded as Junior players and teams

## **1.2 COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

### **Football Toowoomba Junior Divisions – Under 12 to 16:**

- a) The composition of the Junior Competitive Divisions will fall into the following age groupings:
  - U12
  - U13/14
  - U15/16
- b) All teams will play in the same (A) division except where Football Toowoomba has resolved that:
  - there are special criteria to be considered for a particular team to play in a lower (B) level division; and
  - there are sufficient teams in the age division and sufficient teams with special considerations to support a lower (B) competition within that age division
- c) Special criteria to be considered might include but are not limited to the following:
  - the necessity for a majority of younger (13 or 15 year olds) and / or “out of age” players to play in a team;
  - a club can demonstrate that they have engaged in internal grading processes and already have teams in the higher (A) division for that age grouping;
  - a team has an established history of poor performance in lower divisions.
- d) Each team must be able to field a full and separate compliment of members, and players may not play for another team in the same Division;
- e) In exceptional circumstances a lower (B) division player or “out of age” player may play in the higher (A) division of that age grouping (see section 2.4, Age Eligibility). Clubs playing a player in teams outside the Age Eligibility guidelines and / or without clearance from Football Toowoomba may be deemed to have played an ineligible player and may face disciplinary action and sanctions;
- f) A player from a younger age group or lower division may play up a grade higher provided that player does not displace a player from the older age group, if available to play that fixture match. I.e., if a team has a reasonable (12 or more) number of players available for that age group;
- g) Final placement of teams into divisions is at the discretion of Football Toowoomba;
- h) There is no restriction on how many times a junior player can play up with CA’s permission during the season;
- i) The CA will determine the number of matches to be played in each division once the final composition is determined;
- j) Where the CA has determined that there exist sufficient teams of appropriate skill level for a lower (B) division within that age competition, and has allocated teams to the (A) and (B) competition based

upon likely team abilities, the allocation of teams will be reviewed by the CA at the completion of the first four (4) rounds of the competition. In this situation the CA may change the placement of teams in (A) and (B) divisions as it sees fit to best meet the needs of the competition as a whole. **NO CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE CA FROM ANY CLUB OR ITS MEMBERS REGARDING ANY CHANGE IMPOSED;**

k) Where the CA changes the allocation of a team from (A) to (B) divisions or from (B) to (A) divisions, that team shall have their previous points and goal difference removed and shall be allocated the MEDIAN points for the new division at the end of round four (4), and a "0" goal difference. **NO CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM ANY CLUB OR ITS MEMBERS REGARDING THIS METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF POINTS;**

l) The team finishing with the most points in each Division at the conclusion of the competition fixture season will be awarded as the Minor Premiership winners;

m) Where all teams within the Age Division play in a single competition, at the conclusion of the fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams will participate in a Major Finals Series to determine the Major Grand Final Winners and Runners Up. The next four highest placed teams at the conclusion of the fixture season will play in a Minor Finals Series to determine the Minor Grand Final Winners and Runners Up.

n) Where there exists an (A) and (B) division within an age grouping, at the conclusion of the fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams in the (A) division will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up, and the top four (4) placed teams in the (B) division will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up.

#### **Junior Divisions – Mini Roos**

- a) The age groups of Under 6 to Under 11 will play the Mini Roos formats as per the specifications and guidelines issued by Football Federation Australia and Football Queensland. This includes the stipulation that there will be no grading of either individual players or teams.
- b) Football Toowoomba is required to provide Mini Roos in every designated age group from u6-U11. If numbers are low in some age groups, certain age groups may have to be combined. Variations on application will be considered by Football Toowoomba.
- c) Clubs within the Football Toowoomba Competition may have to combine age groups to field full compliments of teams (except where players would be required to move from Mini Roos to competition rules). Generally, players will play up in the appropriate age format – U6/U7 in 4 a side; U8/U9 in 7 a side; U10/U11 in 9 aside. Variations on application will be considered by Football Toowoomba.

#### **Additional Competitions**

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

## 1.3 COMPETITION DETAILS

### Match Scheduling – Seniors, Colts & Fillies

- a) The CA will arrange and publish the dates, times and venues of all matches, taking into account the following criteria:
  - All games will be randomly assigned on an even home and away basis;
  - Where a team is unable to host a home game at the assigned time on the home field(s), relocation will be made to either (a) an alternate time, or (b) an alternate field. There shall be NO swapping of home games by Clubs to preferred alternate weeks;
  - Alternate times will be on the same day or the Saturday night, and will not be automatically approved by the CA for reasons other than field availability;
  - Where a home game is reallocated to an alternate field, the home team's Club remains responsible for ensuring the field is appropriately prepared for the scheduled start of play, and shall provide a GROUND OFFICIAL who is not a team official for that game.
- b) Rescheduling of any game will be at the discretion of the CA. This will be on the basis of availability of referees, the impact on other teams and clubs, the reasons provided for the reschedule request and adequacy of notice to the CA. Generally, requests for reschedules should be made prior to the season's commencement based on the draft draw provided to clubs. Teams requesting more than 20% of their games to be rescheduled will be considered ineligible for that competition.
- c) Failure to provide a minimum of two (2) weeks' notice to the CA of field unavailability at the host Club will incur a penalty (see schedule of fines) and possible game forfeiture to be ruled on by the CA.

### 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 = 1 point
- e) The team who accumulates the most points at the end of the regular season will be declared Minor Premiers and the top 4 according to final points make up the final series.

### Duration of Matches – Senior

- f) All men's (including Colts) matches shall be played over two halves of 45 minutes duration in each direction.
- g) Premier Women' matches will be played over two halves of 45 minutes duration in each direction. All other women's matches (including Fillies) will be played over two halves of 40 minutes duration in each direction.
- h) After normal time in each half, the referee may add on Injury/Stoppage time as he/she sees fit (as per FIFA Laws of the Game)
- i) For Divisional matches the half-time interval must be a minimum of five (5) minutes and no longer than ten (10) minutes in duration in each direction, or as deemed by the

referee. For Premier and Reserve matches the duration of the half-time interval must be a minimum of (10) minutes and no longer than (15) minutes

- j) The referee has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

#### **Duration of Matches – Junior & Junior Competitive**

- k) In junior matches the following match duration will be played.
  - Under 6 to 11 game times shall be as per the Mini Roos Guidelines.
  - Under 12 shall consist of two halves of 25 minutes in each direction.
  - Under 13/14 shall consist of two halves of 30 minutes in each direction.
  - Under 15/16 shall consist of two halves of 35 minutes in each direction.
- l) After normal time duration in each half, the referee may add on Injury/Stoppage time as he/she sees fit. (as per FIFA Laws of the Game)
- m) 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.
- n) The referee has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety

#### **Procedures to Determine Placing after Regular Season**

- o) The table position of each team at the conclusion of the regular season will be determined based on the following criteria;
  - Highest number of points accumulated during the Regular Season.
- p) If, at the conclusion of the regular season 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.
  - Highest goal difference;
  - Highest number of goals scored;
  - Highest number of points accumulated in matches between the teams concerned;
  - Highest goal difference in matches between the teams concerned;
  - Highest number of goals scored in matches between the team concerned;Play off between the teams at time and venue as determined by Competition Administrator.

#### **Substitution of Players**

- q) For all male senior Premier 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. Substitutions cannot be made in the last 10 minutes of a game unless through injury.

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

#### **1.4 APPLICATION FOR DEPARTURE FROM FIXTURES (RESCHEDULE)**

- a) Any request for departure from fixtures (by reschedule) shall be in writing to the CA at least two (2) weeks prior to the date scheduled. Each request will be determined on its merits by the CA, including the impact on other team(s), referees, and other reschedules

requested by the Club team making application. Consequently clear reasons supporting the application for the reschedule MUST be provided to the CA in the written submission.

### 1.5 NON-PARTICIPATION IN A MATCH (FORFEIT)

- 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 at the time of forfeit.
- d) A Club that fails to provide sufficient notification to Football Toowoomba of a forfeit (minimum two (2) weeks) may be fined (the sum determined by the CA) and will be responsible for payment in full of any Referee fees arising in relation to the match. Where a Club team forfeits after the match has commenced, the Club may (at the discretion of the CA) also be required to show cause as to why they should not be fined.
- e) A Club team which persistently forfeits matches may, at the discretion of the CA be disqualified in competing in that competition.

### 1.6 WITHDRAWAL FROM COMPETITION SEASON

- a) If any Club team in the competition withdraws during the fixture season, then the recorded results for that team will be deleted and a bye in the competition will be substituted.
- b) Results from completed rounds will stand and a bye substituted for any subsequent rounds.
- c) The withdrawing Club may also be subject to disciplinary action and sanction by the CA.

### 1.7 DELAYED, POSTPONED AND CANCELLED MATCHES

- a) Matches may be postponed or delayed by the CA on advice from match officials, or nominated representatives of host venue clubs.
- b) field closures will be determined on the following basis:
  - Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) closes all its' fields by midday Fridays – all **Senior** and **Junior** games across the FT competition will be cancelled for that weekend except for Senior Premier and Reserve games which will still be played if, when and where possible.
  - TRC fields are open at midday Fridays but there are adverse weather events between this time and game time – For **Seniors** – the decision to play specific games or not will be made by the match referees in consultation with the coach and manager of both teams, based on field conditions; - For **Juniors** – the decision to play Junior games or not will generally be made by the President or nominated representative of the home club by 8am Saturday, and advised to the CA.

- These guidelines do not in any way override the rights of match referees to cancel specific games based on their own judgements of the field conditions and safety of players.
- c) The CA reserves the right to reschedule all Premier and Reserve games at a place and time as it sees fit. Consideration will be given as to where games were to be played.
- d) The CA reserves the right NOT to reschedule any other game (Senior or Junior) and to record any outstanding fixture(s) that have not been ruled 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 CA shall take into consideration the following factors when considering a request for a replay:
  - Reasons why the fixture was abandoned
  - Result of the game at the time of abandonment
  - 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 inappropriate or reckless abandonment of a fixture may be subject to disciplinary sanctions (i.e. loss of points and fines), to be determined by the CA.
- d) The CA may resolve to direct any of the following outcomes in the case of play abandonment, due to the action of one or both teams:
  - That the match be replayed;
  - 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;
  - The game be recorded as "NO RESULT";
  - 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

Football Toowoomba will arrange dates, times and venues of all finals series matches. Football Toowoomba 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 (see 1.2n for Junior Competitive eligible teams) will participate in the Finals Series.
- b) The Finals Series format will be as follows
  - *Week 1: Semi-Final - 1<sup>st</sup> v 2<sup>nd</sup>, Semi-Final - 3<sup>rd</sup> v 4<sup>th</sup>*
  - *Week 2: Preliminary Final - Loser of 1<sup>st</sup> v 2<sup>nd</sup> v Winner of 3<sup>rd</sup> v 4<sup>th</sup>*
  - *Week 3: Grand Final - Winner of 1<sup>st</sup> v 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi-Final v Winner of Preliminary Final*

- c) The team who finished in the higher position at the conclusion of the Regular Season will be considered to be the home team for any Finals match.
- d) The selection of venues for all Finals Series matches, including the Grand Final, will be at the absolute discretion of the CA 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**

- a) If, at the conclusion of any match in the Finals Series, the scores between the teams are equal, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes shall be played.
- b) If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall 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**

- c) 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 10 (10) minutes shall be played.
- d) If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks shall 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 Football Toowoomba may be registered as Amateur 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 Football Toowoomba after 30 June each year. The Rules of Competition may also restrict a player's eligibility for Finals Series.
- c) The registration of a Player with a Club is effective from the date as entered at date of registration. Unless cancelled earlier, registration is effective from the date of registration until 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.

### **2.2 AMATEUR PLAYER REGISTRATION PROCESS**

- a) When registering an Amateur Player for the season, the Club must follow the My Football Club online registration process.
- b) Players are to tick the acknowledgement that they have sighted and accepted the Player Injury Insurance cover provided by Football Australia.

- 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 with their club.

### **2.3 PLAYER INSURANCE**

- a) Player Accident and Associated Liability Insurance cover is taken out by Football Australia. Policy details and claims procedures can be found on the Football Queensland website. During this process all players shall acknowledge that they have sighted and accepted the Player Injury Insurance cover provided by Football Australia.

### **2.4 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

#### **General**

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

#### **Administrative Requirements – Senior players**

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

#### **Administrative Requirements – Junior players**

- g) A registered player is eligible to take part in matches under the jurisdiction of this CA provided their name appears on the team sheet prior to the commencement of the match or by the conclusion of half-time as outlined in the Competition Rules.
- l) For matches using interchange rules, any player who is listed on the team sheet is deemed to have played.
- m) A Player is deemed to be eligible to compete in the Finals Series for the highest division in which they have played at least three (3) fixture games. Such players are ineligible to play in a lower division final series.

### **Senior Competition – Men’s Premier & Reserves**

- n) Premier League players shall not play in any other division other than Colts (should they be eligible), except with the written authority of the Football Toowoomba CA. Such player(s) would then cease to play in the Premier League.

### **Senior Competition – Mens Divisions 1, 2, & 3; Ladies Premier and Divisions 1 & 2**

- o) Clubs may demote a maximum of three (3) players from the starting eleven (11) players from the previous higher division game, provided that no player shall be demoted more than one club team, ranked by division, at a time. This provision applies for all competition season BUT NOT final series matches.
- p) In the event any team in the higher division has a bye, that club may demote a maximum of three (3) players in that instance from the starting eleven (11) players for the previous higher division game. This provision applies for all competition season BUT NOT final series matches.
- q) A Player is deemed to be eligible to compete in the Finals Series for any division in which they have played the last three (3) games during the competition season OR the division in which they have played the most games during the competition season, EXCEPT for the RESERVES division. A player is deemed eligible to play in the Reserve finals if they have played at least half (50% or more) of their games played during the competition season in the Reserve division.
- r) If a player has played an equal number of games in two or more divisions, they are then deemed eligible to play in the final series for that division they have most recently played three (3) games.

### **PLAYER AGE ELIGIBILITY: (MINI ROOS GAMES U6–U11)**

- a) Minimum Age - Players must be turn 5 by the end of the calendar year in which they wish to register
- b) Players must participate in their eligible age unless the Club has insufficient players that age for a team. In that circumstance, younger players may be included to make a team
- c) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLUBS FIELDING TEAMS ONLY, players may play up in the appropriate age format – U6/U7 in 4 a side; U8/U9 in 7 a side; U10/U11 in 9 aside. An out of age player must not displace an age appropriate player.
- d) For any U5 player to play in a combined U6/U7 side a Parent Permission Form and Player Assessment must be completed and approved by Football Toowoomba.
- e) No Mini Roo game players will be allowed to play outside their age format. All out of age players playing in their appropriate age format require a Parent Permission Form and must be approved by Football Toowoomba.

- f) Under 11 players will not be allowed to play up into Junior Competitive divisions unless exceptional circumstances apply. The CA reserves the right to decide all cases of this nature and further correspondence will not be entered into upon notifying that decision.
- g) A player cannot play down into any age group lower than that for which the player qualifies, except where players may be suited to a lower age group due to their physical and/or social sense. In this circumstance, a written application accompanied by supporting medical or educational evidence should be considered by the Competition Administrator.

#### **PLAYER AGE ELIGIBILITY: (JUNIOR COMPETITIVE U12–U16)**

a) Players must participate in their eligible age grouping unless the Club has insufficient players of the appropriate age(s) for a team. In that circumstance, and appropriate number of younger players may be included to make a team

b) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLUBS FIELDING TEAMS ONLY, a player from a younger age group may play up ONE (1) grade higher provided that the player does not displace a player from the older age group, if available to play that fixture or for the season. If a team has an adequate number of players available for that age grouping (ie., 13 or more players), a younger player cannot be used either for that particular fixture match or for the season. This restriction also applies to the use of lower (B) division players from the same age grouping

c) For any “out of age” player playing up for either individual games or the season a Parent Permission Form and Player Assessment Form must be completed and approved by Football Toowoomba.

d) U11 Mini Roos Players may be allowed to play up into U12, if a club can only field a team in U12 by using a number of U11 player(s). A club in this situation MUST provide clear supporting evidence to the CA, including the registered player numbers in both their U11’s and U12’s. Use of U11 out of age players is also governed by a) to c) above. The CA reserves the right to decide all cases of this nature and no further correspondence will be entered into.

e) For individual games an “out of age” (A) division player can only play up into a (B) division team where specific circumstances have been cited by the club and this measure is supported by Football Toowoomba

f) A player cannot play down into any age group lower than that for which the player qualifies, except where players may be suited to a lower age group due to their physical and/or social sense. In this circumstance, a written application accompanied by supporting medical or educational evidence should be considered by the Competition Administrator.

#### **PLAYER AGE ELIGIBILITY: (COLTS AND FILLIES)**

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

play in Colts or Fillies, a Parent Permission Form and Player Assessment with supporting evidence must be completed and approval given by Football Toowoomba. The CA reserves the right to decide all cases of this nature and no further correspondence will be entered into.

b) Colts are defined as U16 – U18. Fillies are defined as U15 – U18. No U15 male will be allowed to play up into Colts and no U14 female will be allowed to play up into Fillies unless exceptional circumstances apply. Exceptional circumstances are defined as identified players who participate at State or National level competitions OR where Clubs having insufficient players to field teams.

c) Open age male competitions may permit players turning 16 years or older in the year of competition to participate.

d) Open Age female competitions may permit players turning 15 years or older in the year of competition to participate.

e) For a 16 year old male or a 15 year old female to play in an Open Senior competition, a Parent Permission Form and Player Assessment with supporting evidence must be completed and approval given by Football Toowoomba.

## **2.5 PLAYER INELIGIBILITY**

- a) Any player not registered in line with Football Federation Australia National Registration Regulations, Football Queensland Registration Procedures and Guidelines and Football Toowoomba Registration Procedures for the current season is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in any match within the Football Toowoomba competition.
- b) Any player under suspension by any Association/Federation shall 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 2.4
- d) Any club is permitted to lodge a letter of appeal regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player. The appeal must be in writing under club letterhead and be forwarded to the CA.
- e) The CA reserves the right to comprehensively investigate the eligibility of any player who participates in any of its competitions.

### **Penalties and Outcomes**

- f) Any club who fields an ineligible player may be subject to disciplinary sanctions as determined by the CA.
- g) If it is established that a player competing in any match was not legitimately registered or was ineligible to play, then the following will apply:
  - The club found guilty shall forfeit any goals scored and points gained in that match and the points and match will be awarded to the opposing team.

- The game 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.
  - The CA may impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club or player.
- h) In the event that it is established that both clubs competing in any match fielded players who were not legitimately registered or were ineligible to play, then the following will apply:
- The match will be deemed as a 'NO RESULT', whereby, no points will be awarded.
  - The CA may impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending clubs and/or players.

## **3. DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS**

### **3.1 COMPETITION**

- a) These Disciplinary Rules are set by Football Toowoomba as the CA and supplement the National Disciplinary Regulations in accordance with clause 1.2 of those Regulations.

### **3.2 SANCTIONS**

- a) A player who is sent off, or a Team Official who is given an expulsion from a game, shall serve a mandatory one match suspension (except for a serious error such as where the wrong player or official was identified as the offender). The application of sanctions to be issued to Participants for red cards or expulsions will additionally be guided by the range of sanctions outlined in the National Disciplinary Regulations.
- b) Where a Player is sent off for having received a second caution (yellow card) in the same match, he or she shall serve a mandatory 1 match suspension, provided no additional incidents related to the send-off have occurred.
- c) A Player who accumulates the following number of yellow cards during the course of the Competition shall serve the following Mandatory Match Suspension:
- Four (4) yellow cards, equates to a one (1) match suspension.
  - For every three (3) yellow cards thereafter, a two (2) match suspension.
  - For every two (2) yellow cards thereafter, a three (3) match suspension.
  - Although this schedule does not continue into the Final Series, any acquired match suspension(s) do.

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

- Two (2) yellow cards, equates to a one (1) match suspension.
- d) A Player who accumulates the following number of red cards during the course of the Competition or the Final Series shall serve the following Mandatory Match Suspensions, in addition to any sanction for the offence.

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

e) A suspension must usually be served in the DIVISION in which it is acquired. A suspension is not served by a suspended player's team having a bye; but may be served by a competitor's forfeit, or game cancellation in the relevant division competition, or other extraordinary circumstance, at the discretion of the CA. A suspension may need to be completed in the season following the one in which it was acquired.

f) A player may not take part in any other game under Football Queensland's control, until the suspension is served.

### **3.3 MISCONDUCT**

a) Clubs have a duty to ensure that their Participants do not engage in Team Misconduct. The CA 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:

- Five (5) of its Players are cautioned during a sanctioned match;
- Three (3) of its Participants are sent off or expelled during a sanctioned match;
- 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
- Its Participants engage in a melee or brawl.

### **3.4 CODE OF CONDUCT**

a) The published FFA Code of Conduct 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 the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action and the imposition of sanctions by the CA 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 CA will send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Player or Team Official (through the Club) of the mandatory match suspension within seven (7) days of the completion of the weekend. To remove any doubt, the mandatory match suspension is immediate and effective regardless of whether or not the notice was received.

b) If the CA 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 seven (7) days of the completion of the weekend.

### **3.6 TERMS OF SUSPENSION**

- a) While serving a suspension, a Participant (player or team official) shall not:
- 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;
  - If attending a Match, be seated in an area normally reserved for match Participants;
  - 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;
  - 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)
- 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.
- 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 one (1) match suspension.
- b) A Club, Player or a Team Official may appeal the disciplinary sanction imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice by notifying the CA in writing within seven (7) days after the date on which the Disciplinary Infringement Notice was received, outlining the grounds for the appeal and enclosing the Appeal Fee of \$100. This fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld and the CA decide not to appeal that result
- c) An appeal from a CA's disciplinary sanction must be heard by a Disciplinary Committee. When determining any appropriate sanction, a Disciplinary Committee may consider:
- The nature and severity of the infringement;
  - The offender's past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;
  - The culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless);
  - Any reasons prompting the offender to commit an infringement;
  - The remorse of the offender; and
  - Any extenuating circumstances.

### **3.8 SANCTIONS UNDER FFA STATUTES**

- a) Subject to these Regulations, the following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed against a Club:
- a reprimand;
  - a fine;
  - place the Club on a bond;
  - a deduction or loss of competition points;
  - ban on the registration or transfer of any Players for a specified period of time;
  - annulment of registration of a Player;
  - suspension from participation in matches;
  - exclusion, suspension or expulsion from the Competition;
  - playing a match without spectators or on neutral territory;
  - a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
  - annulment of the result of the match; or
  - 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:
- a reprimand;
  - a fine;
  - return of award;
  - place the individual on a bond;
  - ban on registration of Player with any Club for a specified period of time;
  - annulment of registration of a Player;
  - suspension from participation in matches;
  - suspension or expulsion from the Competition;
  - suspension or cancellation of licence or accreditation, including Licensed Player Agent's licence or coaching accreditation;
  - termination of registration or playing contract;
  - a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
  - a ban from entering a stadium;
  - ban on taking part in any football related activity; or
  - such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes.

## **4. FOOTBALL AND MATCH DAY OPERATIONS**

### **4.1 FACILITIES / GROUND CONDITIONS**

- a) Each club must take all reasonable steps to maintain its football playing pitch in good condition throughout the season. The CA may require a Club to take such steps as it may prescribe from time to time if it is not satisfied that the playing pitch is being maintained to an adequate and acceptable standard.
- b) The home club must ensure;
- The ground is correctly marked, including the technical area, as per FIFA Laws of the Game;
  - It provides suitable and effective goal nets that are safely fastened to the ground as well as halfway and corner flags;
  - 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.
- c) Any club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be liable to disciplinary action by the CA.

#### **4.2 THE TECHNICAL AREA**

- a) 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.
- 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 be present within the designated and marked Technical Area.
- f) Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match and he/she must return to his/her position within the technical area 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 CA.
- 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 must make provision for spectator and player medical support during and immediately after scheduled matches

##### **Stretchers**

- b) Clubs must ensure the availability of at least one stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use at all scheduled matches.
- c) Clubs must ensure that stretchers are placed inside the barrier/fence in a safe and accessible position to first aid staff.

### **Ambulance Access**

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

### **Water Bottles**

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

### **Blood Ruling**

- f) 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 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 re-join 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 CA delegate may determine
  - To play the match under standard conditions;
  - To play the match with provision for extra breaks for consumption of fluid;
  - To delay the match; or
  - 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;
- l) 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*
- m) 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**

- n) In extreme weather conditions, the CA in conjunction with the appointed match official reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture.
- o) If the home club considers a ground inspection is required, they are to ring the nominated CA representative before 8.00am. The name and contact details for the designated representative is to be advised at the commencement of the season.
- p) The CA representative shall, with the club President or nominated representative, consider the following criteria, which will include (but is not limited to):
  - Whether the ground is considered safe for the players and the match to proceed?
  - If so, how many matches can be safely played, taking into account all factors including the likely weather conditions and the expected state of the ground?
- q) The designated representative will then reach a decision regarding the schedule of matches with the CA responsible for advising the opposition club and appointed Referees in the event matches are to be postponed.
- r) 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 CA.

#### **4.5 TEAM OFFICIALS**

- a) All Team Officials must be registered with the CA. 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.
- c) The CA 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 individual legal action is pursued 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 Technical area during the match.
- f) Team officials are responsible for ensuring their Club 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 CA on club letterhead.
- h) A team official can only enter the field of play when the referee indicates permission to do so.

#### **4.6 GROUND OFFICIALS**

- a) It is the responsibility of the home club hosting senior matches to provide a Ground Official for all matches.
- b) Ground Officials must be clearly identifiable by either a uniform or identify vest marked "Club Official" 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 shall not 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
  - Check the referees' room and make sure it is clean and comfortable.
  - Upon arrival of the referees, introduce themselves as the ground official in the event they need assistance.
  - If an official referee is not present, ensure that a match referee is arranged either by the club or by consent of the two teams playing.
  - Ensure that 3 match balls in appropriate condition are available for referees.
  - Take all reasonable steps to ensure that the spectators' behaviour is orderly and is not abusive to the referee or his assistants, player's or other spectators.
  - Direct and assist any ambulance if called to attend a player or any other person.
  - Be of assistance wherever possible.

#### **4.7 MATCH DAY INFORMATION**

##### **Match Balls**

- a) The CA shall provide each senior club with a quantity of match balls prior to the commencement of the season fixtures at cost price.
- b) The designated home team at each match shall ensure that three (3) match balls are supplied to the Match Official prior to the commencement of the match. All three balls shall be of the

same brand and must be a licensed match ball of 'match ball' quality (in accordance with Law2 of the FIFA Laws of the Game).

- c) Referees will report breaches of the match ball licensing arrangement to the CA. 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 first named clubs will be deemed the "Home" team and therefore will play in their nominated colours.
- e) 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.
- f) Goalkeepers may wear any colour strip but it shall not clash with either team's field player's strip or referee/assistants uniforms.
  
- g) Referees will report breaches to the CA if a team does not have the correct strip (shirts, shorts and socks). Clubs may be liable for a fine for each breach.
- h) Each club affiliated to Football Toowoomba shall provide to the CA 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 CA prior to any club purchasing new strips. Failure to do so may render such strips unable to be worn.
- i) All playing strips must have numbers on the back of the jerseys. Numbers shall be in a contrasting colour and readily identifiable.
- j) Jersey numbering is not mandatory for non-competitive Mini Roos football formats.

### **Player Equipment**

- k) It is the match referee's responsibility to ensure all players taking the field of play are wearing equipment that does not create a hazard to themselves and/or other persons, in accordance with Law4 of the FIFA Laws of the Game. All players must wear shin-guards whilst on the field of play.

### **Jewellery**

- l) In accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game, a player is forbidden to wear any jewellery

### **Alcohol**

- m) It shall be the Host Club responsibility to enforce all Liquor Licensing requirements in the sale and consumption of alcohol.
  
- n) 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**

- o) No club should display national flags, slogans or emblems at home venues under any circumstances, with the only exception being the Australian flag or where Football Toowoomba has provided written authorisation. 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.
- p) The CA 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.
- q) 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:
  - 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.
  - 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
  - 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.
- 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 CA, 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;
- p) All players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time;
- q) All players wear the appropriate strip or alternate strip, 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.

#### **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 given to the host club on conclusion of the match.

#### **4.10 NON-ATTENDANCE OR UNAVAILABILITY OF MATCH OFFICIAL**

- a) Should the appointed match official fail to honour his/her appointment, then the AR1 will be regarded as the new match official to take charge of the fixture. Where a 4<sup>th</sup> official is present, then the 4<sup>th</sup> official shall appoint the new match official.
- b) In the event the appointed match official is late on arrival, then the replacement match official (as above) will continue to take charge of the fixture unless he or she requests the originally appointed match official to take over. In most cases the originally appointed match official should take over in the highest available position (usually AR2).
- 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 CA.
- 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:
  - 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;
  - Where the offence is committed by a senior team, the club will be fined per offence, and may be subject to further disciplinary action;
  - In the event both teams refuse to play, the CA reserves the right to award a 'NO RESULT', fine both clubs and take further disciplinary action;
  - In circumstances where only one assistant referee has been appointed to a Senior 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**

- a) Referees for all Football Toowoomba fixtures shall be appointed by the Referees Appointments coordinator in conjunction with FT and all such appointments shall be in accordance with a grading system of Referees and fixtures where practicable.

##### **Substitution of Players**

- b) For all male senior Premier Division matches each team is permitted to make up to three (3) substitutions (including a goalkeeper), with no more than five (5) substitutes listed on the team-sheet
- c) For all other divisions, unlimited interchange will be permitted, with no more than five (5) substitute players permitted to be named on the team sheet.
- d) Only players' names listed on the team sheet for that day are permitted to take part in the match.

- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) All substitutes must be seated within the technical area wearing a bib of contrasting colour to the team strip.
- h) Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area, and officials are to ensure substitute players continue to wear bibs or a contrasting coloured uniform to the team strip.

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

- i) 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.
- j) Referees must complete all aspects of the Team Sheet including all information pertaining to correct uniform. Once completed, the referees must ensure that Team Sheets and any Send Off/Incident Report Forms are forwarded to the CA through the appropriate channels. It is crucial that these forms reach the CA 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. The referee should note this on the Team Sheet.
- l) The referee must check that clubs do not list more than sixteen (16) players on team sheet for any match.
- m) Please note that the Team Sheets, Referee Summary & Send-Off/Incident Report Forms from the appointed match official will be accepted transcript.

### **Referee Fees**

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

## **5. AWARDS**

### **5.1 Fixtures**

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

### **5.2 Club Championship**

- d) This award is based on each senior team's point accumulation during the fixture season (excluding the final series). The total for all of a club's teams is then divided by the number of teams each club has in the competition. Clubs must have a minimum of three (3) teams (may include Colts and Fillies) competing in the senior competition to be eligible for Club Championship.
- e) If two clubs finish on equal points, the club with the larger number of teams shall be declared the winner.

### 5.3 Golden Boot

- f) At the conclusion of the Senior Division fixtures (both Men and Ladies) fixtures, excluding finals, the player with the most goals scored shall be declared the winner of the Golden Boot for that division.

### 5.4 Player of the Year Votes

- g) At the conclusion of all senior Premier Division fixtures each team is required to fill in and submit Best & Fairest votes for members of their team on the Team Sheet.
- h) Best & Fairest votes are not recorded during preseason or finals series fixtures.

### 5.6 GRAND FINAL – Player of the Match

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

## 6. SPONSORSHIP

- a) 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.
- b) 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 and objectives of Football Toowoomba or its sponsors, or
  - ii. 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
- c) Should **FT** engage a sponsor, a condition of entry into a **FT** 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 and/or other means of support deemed reasonable and appropriate by **FT**.
- d) **FT** will endeavour to ensure that any requirement by a sponsor has minimal financial impact on clubs and minimal impact on existing sponsorship contracts previously approved by Football Toowoomba or a Club. At all times **FT** will negotiate with clubs to minimise any disadvantage to a club's existing sponsorship.

## 7. MEDIA

- a. All media releases related to the general operations of Football Toowoomba Inc, and it's Sponsors and any activities and/or incidents related to more than one club affiliated with Football Toowoomba Inc must be authorised by the CA
- b. All media releases related to the activities of South West Queensland Zone or higher Football bodies must be authorised by South West Queensland Football

## 8. SCHEDULE OF FINES

### 4. FOOTBALL TOOWOOMBA SCHEDULE OF FINES: For 2015 the following penalties shall apply:

- a) Playing an Ineligible Player: Juniors - \$100 per offence; Seniors - \$200 per offence
- b) Playing of an Unregistered player: \$500 per offence
- c) Failure to sign a team sheet: Juniors - \$30; Seniors - \$50
- d) Player identity illegible on team sheet: Juniors - \$30; Seniors - \$50
- e) Failure to submit team sheet: Junior Competitive - \$50; Seniors - \$100
- f) Club Official not available at field for match - \$100
- g) Failure to provide 2 weeks' notice of field unavailability: \$100
- h) Failure to provide more than 2 weeks' notice of team unavailability: Premier Division - \$150; All other Senior Divisions - \$75; Junior Competitive Divisions - \$50; Rooball Divisions - \$25 (+ game forfeiture where applicable).
- i) Failure to provide more than 48hrs notice to Football Toowoomba prior to the scheduled game time of team unavailability: Premier Division - \$300; All other Senior Divisions - \$150; Junior Competitive Divisions - \$100; Rooball Divisions - \$50 (+ referee fees + game forfeiture where applicable).
- j) Team withdrawal after publishing of fixtures – Premier Division - \$500; all other Senior Divisions - \$250; Junior Competitive Divisions - \$200; Rooball Divisions - \$100
- k) Team Misconduct - \$200;
- l) Football Toowoomba reserves the right to impose additional sanctions as listed under the FFA Statutes, to cover circumstances where the game is brought into disrepute or the good order of the game is disrupted due to the actions of a club, club official, player, spectator or other agent.

*Once a fine has been issued, clubs have 3 weeks to pay. After this period the club will accumulate no further points until the fine is paid, unless prior arrangements are made in writing and approved by FT.*

*These penalties are determined on an annual basis and ratified by **Football Toowoomba**. They do not exclude the imposition of a loss of points penalty that may be imposed in some situations.*

## **9. Review of Competition Rules**

These competition rules are subject to change, based on the decision of a majority of clubs and approved by FT at either an annual review meeting; bimonthly delegates meeting; or via a directive from South West Queensland Zone, Football Queensland or Football Australia.

<<< END >>>

## Appendix 1 – Match Official Fees

### FOOTBALL TOOWOOMBA INC

#### MATCH OFFICIALS PAYMENT SCHEDULE & MATCH DURATIONS

##### 2015 SEASON

#### JUNIORS

DIVISION	MATCH DURATION	REFEREE	ASSISTANTS	4th OFFICIAL*
Under 11	20x20	20.00\$	10.00\$	-
Under 12B	25x25	23.00\$	11.50\$	6.00\$
Under 12A	25x25	24.00\$	12.00\$	6.00\$
Under 13/14B	30x30	27.00\$	13.50\$	7.00\$
Under 13/14A	30x30	29.00\$	14.50\$	7.00\$
Under 15/16B	35x35	32.00\$	16.00\$	8.00\$
Under 15/16A	35x35	34.00\$	17.00\$	8.00\$

#### SENIORS

DIVISION	MATCH DURATION	REFEREE	ASSISTANTS	4th OFFICIAL*
Fillies^	40x40	42.00\$	21.00\$	10.00\$
Colts^	45x45	52.00\$	26.00\$	15.00\$
Ladies' Division 1^	40x40	44.00\$	22.00\$	15.00\$
Ladies' Premier^	45x45	50.00\$	25.00\$	15.00\$
Mens' Division 2	45x45	50.00\$	25.00\$	15.00\$
Mens' Division 1	45x45	54.00\$	27.00\$	15.00\$
Mens' Reserve	45x45	58.00\$	29.00\$	15.00\$
Mens' Premier	45x45	82.00\$	41.00\$	20.00\$

\* = Fourth Official payments apply to Grand Finals only and are paid to referees by Football Toowoomba.