



Rules of Competition (Senior) 2012

December 2011

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1 COMPETITIONS

1.1 Competition Structure

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

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

1.1.1 Men's Competitions

Premier Competition

The Premier Competition will consist of three (3) divisions (Premier League, Premier Division 1, Premier Division 2). All participating clubs are required to field a "Senior" team and a "Reserves" team. These competitions shall be contested on a "Home and Away" basis where possible.

Clubs participating in a Premier Division Competition may not participate in any other Premier Division Competition.

Metropolitan Competition

The Metropolitan Competition will consist of Metropolitan 1, Metropolitan 2, Metropolitan 3 etc. Entry into the Metropolitan Competition is only available to clubs from within the Brisbane Zone. All clubs in the Metropolitan 1 Division are required to field a "Senior" team and a "Reserves" team. The composition of each division will be determined on an annual basis. Each division will consist of twelve (12) teams where possible and shall be contested on a "Home and Away" basis where possible.

Under 21 Competition

The Under 21 Competition will consist of Under 21 Division 1, Under 21 Division 2 etc. Entry into the Metropolitan Competition is only available to clubs from within the Brisbane Zone. The composition of each division will be determined on an annual basis. Each division will consist of twelve (12) teams where possible and shall be contested on a "Home and Away" basis where possible.

Under 19 Competition

The Under 19 Competition will consist of Under 19 Division 1, Under 19 Division 2 etc. The composition of each division will be determined on an annual basis. Each division will consist of twelve (12) teams where possible and shall be contested on a "Home and Away" basis where possible.

1.1.2 Women's Competitions

SEQ Diamond League

The SEQ Diamond League shall consist of a minimum of eight (8) teams. This competition shall be contested on a "Home and Away" basis where possible.

Sapphire League

The Sapphire League shall consist of a minimum of eight (8) teams. This competition shall be contested on a "Home and Away" basis where possible.

Divisional Competition

The Divisional Competition will consist of Division 1, Division 2, Division 3 etc. Entry into the Divisional Competition is only available to clubs from within the Brisbane Zone. The composition of each division will be determined on an annual basis. Each division will consist of a minimum of eight (8) teams where possible and shall be contested on a "Home and Away" basis where possible.

Under 19 Competition

The Under 19 Competition will consist of Under 19 Division 1, Under 19 Division 2 etc. The composition of each division will be determined on an annual basis. Each division will consist of a minimum of eight (8) teams where possible and shall be contested on a "Home and Away" basis where possible.

1.1.3 Competition Winners

In all Competition Divisions, the team finishing with the most points in each division at the conclusion of the “Home and Away” season will be declared Premiers.

1.1.4 Finals Series & Winners

At the conclusion of the fixture season, a Finals Series will be conducted to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up. The number of teams in the Finals Series will be the top six (6) teams in the Men’s Premier competitions and the top four (4) in all other competitions.

1.2 Promotion and Relegation

1.2.1 Men’s Competition

Due to the restructure of the Mens Competitions in 2013, there will be no promotion and relegation at the end of the 2012 season.

1.2.2 Women’s Competition

For the 2012 season, the rules for Promotion and Relegation will be as follows:

- There is no automatic promotion and relegation between Diamond and Sapphire Leagues.
- At the completion of each season the last placed club in the Diamond League must apply in writing to Football Brisbane, who will review the request, to remain in the Diamond League.
- If not already in the Diamond league, the Club that finishes first in the Sapphire League may apply to be admitted to the Diamond League. This application will only be reviewed by Football Brisbane should a vacancy become available in the Diamond League.
- The last placed team in Sapphire League will be relegated to Division 1 if the Club finishing first in Division 1 wishes to be promoted and is not already in the Sapphire League.
- The first placed team in Division 1 will be automatically promoted to the Sapphire League provided they do not already have a team in that League.
- If a team which has automatically qualified for promotion to the Sapphire League advises that they do not wish to exercise the privilege, they must provide their reasons in writing to Football Brisbane, who will review the request. If the request is granted, the team that finished last in the Sapphire League shall remain in that Division.
- If a team in Diamond or Sapphire Leagues advises that it wishes to be relegated they must provide their reasons in writing to Football Brisbane, who will review the request. If the request is granted, the team that finished last shall remain in that Division. If that team was not relegated, Football Brisbane can, if they choose, seek applications from any other club to fill the vacancy.
- If a team in the Diamond or Sapphire Leagues does not enter for the following season, the team that finished last shall remain in that Division. If that team was not relegated, Football Brisbane can, if they choose, seek applications from any other club to fill the vacancy.

1.3 Divisional Structure

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

1.4 Cup Competitions

Football Brisbane may conduct Cup Competitions before, during and after the conclusion of the fixture season. Additional Rules for these Cup Competitions shall be set prior to their commencement. All Cup Competitions are subject to and should be read in conjunction with these Rules of Competition and the additional Cup Rules. In the event of an omission or inconsistency between these Rules and the additional Cup Rules, Football Brisbane will determine and rule on the interpretation.

2 FIXTURE DETAILS

2.1 Scheduling

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

2.2 Duration of matches

All fixtures will be played over two halves of 45 minutes each (a total of 90 minutes). After normal time in each half, the match official may add on Injury/Stoppage Time as they see fit.

The match official has the right to abandon any fixture match if, in their opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

2.3 Half Time Interval

The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than fifteen 15 minutes in duration.

2.4 Points

In all fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

WIN	Three (3) Points
DRAW	One (1) Point
LOSS	Nil (0) Points
BYE	Nil (0) Points
NO RESULT	Nil (0) Points for either team

2.5 Goal Difference

If, at the end of the fixture competition, any two or more teams are equal on points, goal difference shall be taken into account in determining:

- the Premiers
- the team or teams eligible for promotion to a higher division
- the team or teams eligible to be relegated to a lower division
- the teams eligible to play in the Finals Series in the respective divisions
- all other positions on the points table

Goal difference shall be calculated by subtracting the total number of goals AGAINST from the total number of goals FOR in all fixture matches:

- the team with the higher or highest resultant plus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the superior goal difference and shall be the higher or highest placed team
- the team with the lower or lowest resultant minus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the superior goal difference and shall be the higher or highest placed team
- in the case of goal difference being equal, the team having scored the most goals FOR shall be the higher or highest placed team

In the case of teams having an equal goal difference and having scored an equal number of goals FOR:

- the team with the higher or highest number of points from matches played between the teams in question shall be the higher or highest placed team
- if the number of points is equal, then the team with the superior goal difference from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team
- in the case of goal difference being equal, the team having scored the most goals FOR from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team
- if the goal difference and goals FOR are equal, then the team that scored the most away goals from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team

If teams are still equal after taking into account all of the above considerations, the following will apply:

- to determine Premiers/Promoted teams/Relegated teams - the clubs concerned shall play off one or more deciding matches on neutral ground(s), the format, timing and venue(s) of which shall be determined by Football Brisbane
- to determine all other positions on the table - an official of each team will be required to meet with an official of Football Brisbane and lots will be drawn

2.6 Application for Alteration to Fixtures

Any application for an alteration to scheduled fixtures shall be submitted, using the appropriate form, to Football Brisbane at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the scheduled fixture.

Each request will be determined on its merits. Applications for alterations due to “social functions” (e.g. weddings, christenings, confirmations or other social or religious events) or “work commitments” will not be considered.

Any team with three or more players unavailable due to outdoor football representative duties approved by Football Brisbane (excluding school football) may be entitled to have their fixture rescheduled upon application. Applications must be made at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the scheduled fixture.

Football Brisbane’s decision in regards to the rescheduling of fixtures will be final.

2.7 Non-Participation in a Match

Any member club or affiliated club that fails to fulfil any of its fixture or finals obligations arranged by Football Brisbane, shall be fined per offence, and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

In the event the home or visiting team is not ready to commence a fixture or finals match **within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time**, 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. The offending club may be subject to further disciplinary action.

Should any team claim such a forfeit they must forward a completed Official Match Sheet, signed by the appointed referee. If a Referee is not appointed, a club official must forward an Official Match Sheet noting the circumstances of the non-playing of the fixture to Football Brisbane.

A team deemed to have forfeited may submit a report, within three (3) working days to Football Brisbane, if they believe the forfeit was caused by exceptional circumstances. Football Brisbane will review the report and make a determination. Football Brisbane’s decision in regard to the forfeit will be final.

In the Premier and Metropolitan 1 Divisions, if a club does not have sufficient players to field a reserve and senior team, the senior team shall take priority. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action against the offending club and both the reserve and senior fixtures will be awarded 3-0 to the opposition.

Should any team forfeit a fixture for any reason on two or more occasions in the same competition season without satisfactory explanation provided in writing to Football Brisbane, they will be asked to show cause as to why they should not be withdrawn from the competition.

2.8 Withdrawal/Removal/Suspension from Fixtures

If any team in the competition withdraws, is removed or suspended, then the following will apply:

- if the team is withdrawn, removed or suspended before the competition has started and they cannot be replaced - a bye in the competition will be substituted
- if the team is withdrawn, removed or suspended during the first round - the recorded results for that team will be deleted and a bye in the competition will be substituted
- if the team is withdrawn, removed or suspended during the second or subsequent rounds - all points and goals acquired for completed rounds will be retained by opposing teams; the recorded results for that team in the uncompleted round(s) will be deleted and a bye in the competition will be substituted in the uncompleted round(s) and any following rounds

The club involved may be subject to disciplinary action.

If the team to be withdrawn is not the lowest divisional team in the club, the club will be asked to show cause as to why it should be allowed to withdraw the higher divisional team.

2.9 Postponed Matches

Matches may only be postponed by the appointed match official or by Football Brisbane. Football Brisbane reserves the right to reschedule all postponed matches on any day, time and place as it sees fit.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to record any outstanding fixtures that have not been completed by **NO LATER THAN** one (1) week after the conclusion of the fixture season as a NIL-ALL (0-0) DRAW.

2.10 Abandoned Matches

Should the match official abandon a Football Brisbane match at half time or later, **then the match result will stand**, unless:

- a) one or both of the competing clubs request the match to be replayed, or
- b) the matter is referred to Football Brisbane for determination

All replay requests must be made in writing within five (5) working days of the match being abandoned. Any request after this time will be disregarded and the match result will stand.

Football Brisbane shall take into consideration the following when considering a request for a replay:

- reasons why the match was abandoned
- result of the match at the time of abandonment
- the impact on the final league standing of a fixture
- the impact on the finals series of a finals match

The decision of Football Brisbane regarding the request for a replay shall be final.

Any match abandoned before half-time will be replayed unless both teams agree to forego the replaying of the match

Football Brisbane reserves the right to determine the match result if it is satisfied that one (or both) of the competing teams, its players, officials, members or supporters were directly responsible for the abandonment of the fixture. This includes the abandonment of a match due to a team having less than seven players on the field.

If it is determined that one (or both) team(s) is (are) responsible for the abandonment, Football Brisbane may decide to direct any of the following outcomes:

- the match be recorded as "NO RESULT"
- the match be recorded as 0-0 draw
- the match 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
- impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club(s), player(s) and official(s)

Football Brisbane's determination on the outcome of any abandoned match shall be final.

2.11 Finals Series

2.11.1 Scheduling

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

2.11.2 Duration

All finals matches will be played over 2 halves of 45 minutes each (a total of 90 minutes). After normal time in each half, the referee may add on Injury/Stoppage Time as they see fit.

Should the scores be equal after normal time, then 2 x 15 minute periods of extra time shall be played in full. Should the scores still be equal after extra time, a penalty shoot-out in accordance with FIFA regulations will be taken to determine the winner

The match official has the right to abandon any match if, in their opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

2.11.3 Half Time Interval

The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes.

2.11.4 Format - 4 team Finals Series (Divisions of 12 teams or less)

Week 1 Semi Final - 1st placed team (home) v 4th placed team (away)
Semi Final - 2nd placed team (home) v 3rd placed team (away)

Note: Semi Final Matches will be held at the home team venue.

Week 2 Grand Final - between winners of the two (2) Semi-Finals

2.11.5 Format - 6 team Finals Series

Week 1 Qualifying Final A – 1st placed team (home) v 2nd placed team (away)
(Mid-week) Winner of A to Grand Final, Loser to Preliminary Final

Qualifying Final B – 3rd placed team (home) v 6th placed team (away)
Qualifying Final C – 4th placed team (home) v 5th placed team (away)
Winners of B & C to Semi Final

Week 2 Semi Final – Winner B v Winner C (highest placed team at home)
(Mid-week) Winner of Semi Final to Preliminary Final

Week 2 Preliminary Final – Loser of Qualifying Final A (home) v Winner of Semi Final

Note: Qualifying, Semi & Preliminary Final Matches will be held at the home team venue.

Week 3 Grand Final - Winner Qualifying Final A v Winner Preliminary Final

2.11.6 Venues

Grand Final matches for all Mens Premier Divisions and Womens Diamond & Sapphire Leagues will be held at neutral venues where possible.

Grand Final matches for Men's Metropolitan/Under 21/Under 19 competitions will be held at neutral venues where possible.

Grand Final matches for Women's Divisional/Under 19 Competitions will be held at neutral venues where possible.

Grand Final matches for all Reserve Divisions may be held at the ground of highest placed team on the points table after the completion of fixtures that is competing in the Grand Final or at neutral venues where possible.

2.12 Substitution/Interchange Rules

In the following competitions, each team can make up to three (3) substitutions in any given match, with no more than five (5) substitutes listed on the team sheet:

- Men's Premier League & Reserves
Premier Division 1 & Reserves
Premier Division 2 & Reserves
- Women's SEQ Diamond League

In all other Men's and Women's Competitions, unlimited interchange will be permitted, with no more than five (5) substitutes permitted to be named on the team sheet. Only players' names that appear on the team sheet are permitted to take part in the match. A player who has been interchanged may return to the field for another player. In these Competitions, a player whose name appears on the team sheet is deemed to have participated in the match.

Teams are only permitted to list sixteen (16) players on their team sheet. If a team is found to have listed more than sixteen (16) players, they will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as described in Section 3.4.

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. All substitutions 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.

All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. They must wear bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to both team strips. Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area, provided they are wearing bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to both team strips. When warming up, substitutes are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.

3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Amateur players who have not previously registered for the 2012 season are permitted to be registered up until the last Wednesday before 31 July each year. Amateur players who have previously registered in the Football Brisbane Zone for the 2012 season are not permitted to re-register with another club within the Football Brisbane Zone after the last Wednesday before 30 June each year.

Amateur players who have registered outside the Football Brisbane Zone for the 2012 season may apply to Football Brisbane to allow an exemption to register within the Football Brisbane Zone after the last Wednesday before 30 June each year. The decision of Football Brisbane will be final in considering any such application.

Professional players may only be registered during one of two Registration Periods each year. The first period runs from 1 January to the last Wednesday before the first fixture round. The second period runs for four weeks ending on the last Wednesday before 30 June each year.

Unless cancelled earlier, registration is effective from date of registration until 31 December of that year.

3.1 Fair Play Rules

These rules/restrictions are designed to ensure fair play in the context of each divisional level and to minimize the practice of "stacking" as much as possible. Clubs should attempt to play within the spirit of the rules as much as by the letter of them. Please note that these should be read in conjunction with the Rule 3.2.2: Player Eligibility - Finals Series and 3.3: Player Age Restrictions.

3.1.1 Premier Divisions

Players may play without restriction between Senior and Reserve teams in fixtures. A player who has started in Premier Senior and Reserve Grade games more than six (6) times in total, is ineligible to play in a Metro division or Under 21 match.

3.1.2 Womens SEQ Diamond League and Sapphire League

A player who has started in the SEQ Diamond League more than six (6) times, is ineligible to play in a Sapphire League match.

A player who has started/been listed in the SEQ Diamond League and Sapphire League more than six (6) times in total, is ineligible to play in a Womens Divisional match.

3.1.3 Metropolitan Division 1 and Reserves

Players may play without restriction between Senior and Reserve teams in fixtures. A player who has started/been listed in these or higher divisions more than six (6) times in total, is ineligible to play in a lower Metro division match.

3.1.4 Metropolitan Division 2

A player who has started/been listed in any higher divisions more than six (6) times in total, is ineligible to play matches in this Division. A player who has started/been listed in this or any higher division more than six (6) times in total, is ineligible to play in a lower Metro division match.

3.1.5 Under 21

Players may play in any competition subject to the following restriction:

- A player who has started more than six (6) matches at Premier Division level is ineligible to play in an Under 21 match.

3.1.6 Under 19 Division 1

Players may play in any competition subject to the following restrictions:

A player whose name has been listed on a match sheet in this Division more than six (6) times is ineligible to play in any of the following divisions:

- All other Youth Divisions
- Metro 3 or lower Divisions
- Under 21 Divisions

3.1.7 Metropolitan Division 3 and below/Women's Divisional

A player who has started/been listed in any higher divisions more than six (6) times in total, is ineligible to play in a lower Metro match or Women's Divisional match.

3.1.8 Other Under 19 Divisions

Players may play in any competition subject to the following restriction:

- A player whose name has been listed on a match sheet in any higher Under 19 Division more than six (6) times in total, is ineligible to play in a lower Under 19 Division match

3.1.9 Junior Players in Senior Competitions

Any player eligible to play in the Junior Competition (including those who have received an exemption for Exceptional Circumstances) who has started/been listed in any Senior Division more than six (6) times in total, is then no longer eligible to play in the Junior Competition.

NOTE – In relation to all of the rules above, “has started” refers to matches played under the Substitution rule; “been listed” refers to matches played under the Interchange rule.

3.1.10 Player Transfers Mid-Season

Should a player change clubs during the season, then the “count” of matches played at a level does not carryover from their previous club to their new club. Therefore, there is no restriction on what division a player is able to take part in subject to the rules above applying at their new club. This does not include Cup Competitions where restrictions do apply if a player changes clubs – see relevant Cup Competition Rules.

3.1.11 Exemptions

Clubs may apply to Football Brisbane to allow an exemption to these rules in exceptional circumstances. The decision of Football Brisbane will be final in considering any such application.

3.1.12 Note

Clubs should ensure that they register sufficient players to fulfil all fixture requirements when nominating teams. Football Brisbane reserves the right to rule on any interpretation of these rules should any dispute arise. Clubs are advised to seek clarification from Football Brisbane if in any doubt as to the meaning of these rules.

3.2 Eligibility of Players

3.2.1 Ineligible Players

Any player not registered as per FFA National Registration Regulations and Football Brisbane Registration Procedures and Guidelines for the current season is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in any Football Brisbane competition.

Any player under suspension by Football Brisbane or any other Federation is considered ineligible, and is not permitted to participate in any fixture until that suspension is served. This includes automatic suspensions for yellow and red cards along with penalties determined by a Disciplinary Committee.

Any player who would be in contravention of the Player Age Restrictions (see 3.3) in relation to a particular match, is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in that match.

A player whose name is not listed on the Match Sheet prior to the commencement of any Football Brisbane competition match is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in that match.

A team must not list more than sixteen (16) players on a Match Sheet for a match. If a team does so, then any player(s) over and above the sixteen players first listed is (are) considered ineligible.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player who participates in any Football Brisbane competition.

3.2.2 Player Eligibility – Finals Series

Premier Divisions Reserves

A player who has started more matches in the Seniors than in the Reserves, is ineligible to play in the Reserve Team finals series.

Metropolitan 1 Reserves

A player who has been listed on the match sheet in more matches in the Seniors than in the Reserves, is ineligible to play in the Reserve Team finals series.

NOTE – “has started” refers to matches played under the Substitution rule; “been listed” refers to matches played under the Interchange rule.

Other Metropolitan Divisions/Womens Divisions/Under 21/Under 19

A player who is eligible to play in a fixture for a team at the completion of the fixture season as per the Fair Play Rules (Section 3.1), is then eligible to play in the finals for that team.

Playing Up in Finals

A player who is eligible to play in finals at a particular divisional level is eligible to play in finals in any team higher than that level without affecting their eligibility for their qualified level.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to declare eligible any player it deems to have satisfied the intent and spirit of this rule.

3.2.3 Protest – Playing Ineligible Player

Any club is permitted to lodge a letter of protest regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player. The protest must be in writing under club letterhead and be forwarded to Football Brisbane within three (3) working days of the completion of the match. An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident will be undertaken as soon as possible.

In the event that the protest is upheld, the Penalties and Outcomes as stated in 3.4 below will apply. In the event that the protest is dismissed, then the match result will stand.

3.3 Player Age Restrictions

3.3.1 Male

Players who have attained the age of 17 years may play in all Senior Competitions without requiring approval.

Players who have attained the age of 16 years may apply, with parental/guardian approval, for “Exceptional Circumstances” status (see 3.3.3 below) to play in the Under 19 competition or the Premier Competition.

Players must have attained the age of 17 years to play in the Metropolitan Competition i.e. Metro 1 and below.

For the 2012 season only: Players who played 7 or more times in an Under 18 Competition in 2011 and who will attain the age of 17 in 2012 will be permitted, with parental/guardian approval, to play in the Under 19 Competition. The definition of ‘played’ in this instance is that the players name was listed on the match sheet. Clubs must lodge an exemption request with accompanying documentation proving this criteria has been met and receive approval from Football Brisbane before allowing the player to participate in the competition.

3.3.2 Female

Players who have attained the age of 17 years may play in all Senior Competitions without requiring approval.

Players who have attained the age of 16 years may play in the SEQ Diamond or FB Sapphire Leagues with parental/guardian approval (PA01).

Players who have attained the age of 15 may apply, with parental/guardian approval, for “Exceptional Circumstances” status (see 3.3.3 below) to play in the SEQ Diamond or FB Sapphire Leagues.

Players must have attained the age of 17 years to play in the Women’s Divisional Competition i.e. Division 1 and below.

For the 2012 season only: Players who played seven (7) or more times in a Senior Women’s Competition in 2011 and who will attain the age of seventeen (17) years at any time in 2012 will be permitted, with parental/guardian approval, to play into the Senior competitions. The definition of ‘played’ in this instance is that the players name was listed on the match sheet. Clubs must lodge an exemption request with accompanying documentation proving this criteria has been met and receive approval from Football Brisbane before allowing the player to participate in the competition.

3.3.3 Exceptional Circumstances

Clubs may apply to Football Brisbane for an exemption to these rules in exceptional circumstances. Any application must contain all supporting documentation. The decision of Football Brisbane will be final in considering any such application.

3.4 Penalties and Outcomes

If it is established that a player competing in any Football Brisbane competition match 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
- Football Brisbane may impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club or player

In the event that it is established that both clubs competing in any Football Brisbane competition match fielded players who were ineligible to play, then the following will apply:

- the match will be deemed as a **NO RESULT**, whereby, no points will be awarded
- Football Brisbane may impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending clubs or players

If a Finals Series match or Cup match is declared a “No Result”, Football Brisbane may determine that the match be replayed.

3.5 Clubs with teams in the same Division

If a club has two or more teams in the same division or division level, the club will be required by Football Brisbane, to provide a list of players allocated to each team.

Once this list has been provided, the players are only permitted to play for the team to which they have been allocated when playing in that division or division level. This does not preclude them from playing for other teams within the club in other division levels (subject to the Fair Play Rules and the Player Age Restrictions.)

4 CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Facilities/Ground Arrangements

Each club must ensure their compliance with the published “Playing Facilities Standards” available on the Football Brisbane website.

The home club must ensure:

- the ground is correctly marked, including the technical area
- that if portable goals are used, they are anchored as per the Australian Standards
- it provides suitable goal nets, safely fastened or pegged to the ground and corner flags
- it provides toilet facilities and dressing room facilities that are hygienic and clean
- it has adequate refreshment/canteen facilities open to the public
- it provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators
- it provides a Referee’s Room where referees can rest and leave their belongings while officiating

The dimensions of the playing field shall conform to the Laws of the Game and preferably shall be consistent with the dimensions specified in the Laws for International matches. The minimum acceptable dimensions for the Premier Divisions are 90 metres (100 yards) long and 60 metres (66 yards) wide.

Any club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be fined, suspended or have its home fixtures played away.

4.2 Player Identification

Each club should ensure that players listed on the official team sheet have in their possession some legitimate form of photographic identification which should be produced at the request of the Match Official or opposing Team Manager. Legitimate forms of photographic identification may include a Drivers Licence, School/University ID Card, or passport.

If the player is unable to produce photographic identification, he/she is still permitted to participate in the match. The match official should note this on the Referee Summary Sheet (providing details). The opposing club should then submit a protest as per Section 3.2.4.

4.3 Team Officials

Clubs are accountable for their appointed team officials (coaches, managers, and medical staff) and they should be made aware that they are governed by a Code of Conduct. Penalties of suspension of team officials, fines, and good behaviour bonds, can be levied upon such persons and clubs, where it is found that team officials have breached the Code of Conduct.

Team officials must remain within the technical area and are required to wear a Football Brisbane Identification Card at all times in the technical area. Failure to do so may incur a disciplinary fine.

Team officials are responsible for trying to keep players behaving in an appropriate manner at all times before, during and after any game.

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

4.4 Match Sheets

On match day, both teams are required to complete an official Football Brisbane match sheet prior to the commencement of any match. The match sheet must list all players taking part in the fixture. The match sheet **MUST** be supplied to the match referee **at least 15 minutes** prior to the scheduled kick-off.

Where possible, all players must ensure that they have signed the match sheet before it is given to the match referee. In the event a player is unable to sign the match sheet prior to the start of the fixture, it is the responsibility of the club official to ensure that player is listed on the match sheet.

Providing a player's name has been listed on the match sheet prior to kick-off, that player may sign the match sheet prior to it being completed by the Match Officials.

Should it be found that a club failed to list a player who takes part in a competition match, then the club will be disciplined as follows:

- a) If it is established that the player was legitimately registered and was eligible to play, then the following will apply:
 - The club will be fined for each offence
 - The club 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
- b) If it is established that the player was ineligible to play, then the Penalties and Outcomes listed in 3.4 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 as a **NO RESULT**.

It is the team official's responsibility to ensure:

- it has minimum number of seven (7) players to commence the match
- that it **does not list** more than 16 players on the team sheet
- all players taking the field are eligible to play
- all players taking the field of play are correctly listed on the team sheet in legible writing
- all players taking the field of play have signed the team sheet
- all players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time
- all players wear the appropriate licensed apparel, before taking the field of play

4.5 Ground Officials

It is the responsibility of the home club to provide at least one ground official who must be in clearly identifiable uniform and must identify themselves to the appointed match official prior to the match.

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

A ground official cannot be the coach or manager whose game is in progress on the park, nor can the ground official be the canteen supervisor.

The ground official should:

Before the Match

- Check the referees' room and make sure it is clean and comfortable.
- Upon arrival of the referees, make known to them that you are the ground official in case they need assistance.
- If an official referee is not present, ensure that a referee is arranged either by the club or by consent of the two teams playing.
- Check with the equipment officer that an alternate strip is available if required.
- Ensure payment of referee fees **before the commencement of the game**.
- Ensure that 3 appropriate match balls are available for referee.
- Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees to the field of play.

During the Match

- Ensure that the spectators' behaviour is orderly and is not abusive to the referee or his assistants, players or other spectators.
- Direct and assist any ambulance if called to attend a player or any other person.
- Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees to and from the field of play at the half-time break.
- Be of assistance wherever possible.

After the Match

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

4.6 Match Balls

The home club shall provide the appointed match referee **three (3) Match Balls** (Size 5), **at least 15 minutes** prior to the commencement of the scheduled fixture. All three balls shall be of the same brand and must be of 'match ball' quality from a licensed supplier.

4.7 Playing Strips

All clubs must nominate a "Home" and have available an "Alternate" strip. The alternative strip (shirts, shorts & socks) should not clash with the nominated "Home" strip. All playing strips must be from a licensed supplier and must have the "Q" logo (except socks) attached by the supplier. This must be requested when ordering. All playing strips must have numbers on the back of the jerseys.

Sponsorship advertising on playing strips shall conform to the Football Queensland guidelines which are available on the Football Brisbane website.

All first named clubs will be deemed the "Home" team and will play in their nominated colours. In the event there is a clash of colours, it will be the responsibility of the **visiting team** to change into an alternative strip. **Visiting teams must take their away strip (shirts, shorts and socks) to every match.**

Team managers should check the strip worn by their opponents on a weekly basis to avoid the likelihood of a clash. Goalkeepers can wear any colour provided it does not clash with either team or referee/assistants. **NB - Goalkeepers MUST wear licensed strips (no replica strips allowed).**

4.8 Results of Fixtures

Mens Premier Divisions/Womens SEQ Diamond League

Both participating teams in Mens Premier Divisions matches (excluding Reserve Divisions) and the Womens SEQ Diamond League **must** enter their results through the ResultsVault system **as soon as possible and within two (2) hours** of the completion of the match.

Other Divisions

Both participating teams must enter their results through the ResultsVault system **within 18 hours** of the completion of the match.

To ensure the media report contains all the weekend's fixture results, it is imperative that results are entered using the online reporting system by 5.30pm Sunday. Results that are entered after the 5.30pm deadline may be omitted from the published report.

Football Brisbane may impose a fine on clubs that fail to register their scores as required.

4.9 Team Lists

Clubs are required to enter team lists via the ResultsVault system. Team lists must be entered by 9.00am on the Tuesday after the match for weekend matches.

Team lists for midweek matches must be entered by 9.00am on the second day after the match (i.e. for a Wednesday match, team lists must be entered by 9.00am Friday).

Football Brisbane may impose a fine on clubs that fail to enter their team lists as required.

4.10 Admittance to Grounds

Clubs must honour all honorary admission passes issued by Football Federation Australia, Football Queensland and Football Brisbane.

4.11 Technical Area

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:

- A maximum of ten (10) persons are permitted to be within the confines of the technical area. They may include the coach, assistant coach, the substitutes and either the team trainer or medical staff.
- Identification Cards shall be worn at all times by the team coach, assistant/s, the team manager and the team physio. Only persons with such identification or designated players as listed on the team sheets shall be in the technical area.
- Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match.
- 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.
- All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. They must wear bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to their and the opposition team strip. Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area, provided they are wearing bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to their and the opposition team strip. When warming up, substitutes are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.
- All occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner. The match official has the right to expel any person from the technical area at any time as he or she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left the playing field to the match official's satisfaction.
- Smoking or the consumption of alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence is strictly prohibited. This includes the team bench within the technical area and all of its occupants, including players, coaching staff, club marshals and officials.

5 MATCH OFFICIALS

5.1 Match Officials

5.1.1 Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official

Should the appointed match official fail to honour his appointment, then the next most senior match official will be appointed to take charge of the fixture, provided they are qualified to officiate the match in question.

In the event the appointed match official is late on arrival, then the replacement match official will take charge of the fixture until the appointed match official is ready to take over.

In the event no registered match official is present to take charge of the fixture, then the designated "Home" club shall appoint a match official to take charge of the fixture. This match official has the same powers as a registered match official. Once a game has commenced, neither team can change their agreement to the appointed match official.

If the home team is unable to provide a match official, the away team may provide the match official. If neither team is able to provide a match official, they may choose to postpone the match. This should be advised to Football Brisbane as soon as possible. Both teams must agree within five (5) working days on a date for the rescheduling of the match and advise Football Brisbane. If a reschedule is not agreed upon within this time, a 0-0 draw will be recorded as the result of the match.

If the match goes ahead, the designated "Home" club shall be responsible for forwarding both team sheets to Football Brisbane.

In circumstances where only one assistant referee has been appointed, **the home team is requested to provide a club assistant to assist the match referee**. If necessary, the away club may be asked to provide an assistant. However, the game cannot start without 2 assistants if the match referee requests them.

In circumstances where no assistant referees have been appointed, **the home team is requested to provide two club assistants to assist the match referee**. If necessary, the away club may be asked to provide an assistant. However, the game cannot start without 2 assistants if the match referee requests them.

5.1.2 Extreme Weather Conditions

In extreme weather conditions, Football Brisbane or the appointed match official reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture. If the appointed match official postpones delays or abandons any fixture due to extreme weather conditions, they must outline the reasons in writing within 48 hours of the decision.

All clubs, players, team officials and match officials are requested to note the following:

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

For weekend fixtures, if the home club considers a ground inspection is required, they are to ring their Referee Area Controller **before 8.00am**. The name and contact details of the Referee Area Controller for each club is advised at the commencement of the season.

The designated Referee Area Controller is to meet with a club official who will then jointly inspect the field to ascertain a number of factors, which will include:

- Is the ground considered safe for the players and the match to proceed?
- If so, how many matches can be played, taking into account all factors including the likely weather conditions and the expected state of the ground?

The Referee Area Controller and club official will then reach a decision regarding the schedule of matches. The Referee Area Controller will then advise Football Brisbane who will advise the opposition club and the appointed match officials.

Early morning inspections are **ONLY** to be organised with the Referee Area Controller 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 co-ordinated via Football Brisbane.

Should any HOME club not abide by the Wet Weather Procedures, they will be deemed to have forfeited any matches due to be played on that particular day at their ground. The penalties as outlined in paragraph two of Section 2.7 will then apply.

In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of a fixture through rain rendering grounds unplayable, all such fixtures shall be played or replayed at a time and under such conditions as Football Brisbane shall determine, provided however, that any such fixture shall be played or replayed on the home team's ground where possible.

5.1.3 Blood Rule

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 they are satisfied that the injury or wound is safely covered and contained, will the player be permitted to rejoin the game.

In the event the player's uniform or attire is splattered with blood, the referee will instruct that player to change his attire before being permitted to rejoin the game. Should the injured player be required to change his uniform, then the appointed match official will show discretion in allowing the player to wear an alternative numbered or unnumbered shirt if necessary.

6 APPLICATION FOR VARIANCES

Applications for variances to these rules should be lodged from the Club Secretary to the General Manager Football Brisbane with all supporting documentation.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to change or amend these rules at its absolute discretion.
