



Rules of Competition (Senior) 2009

1 February 2009

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1 COMPETITIONS

1.1 Competition Structure

1.1.1 Men’s Competitions

Premier Competition

The Premier Divisions Competition will consist of three (3) divisions (Premier League, Premier Division 1, Premier Division 2) of twelve (12) teams each where possible. All participating clubs are required to field a “Senior” team and a “Reserves” team. These competitions shall be contested over twenty-two (22) fixtures on a “Home and Away” basis where possible.

Metropolitan Competition

The Metropolitan Divisions Competition will consist of Metropolitan 1, Metropolitan 2, Metropolitan 3 etc. Entry into the Metropolitan Divisions 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 over twenty-two (22) fixtures on a “Home and Away” basis where possible.

Under 21 Competition

The Under 21 Divisions Competition will consist of Under 21 Division 1, Under 21 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 over twenty-two (22) fixtures on a “Home and Away” basis where possible.

Youth Competition

The Youth Divisions Competition will consist of Premier Youth, Youth Division 1, Youth 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 over twenty-two (22) fixtures on a “Home and Away” basis where possible.

1.1.2 Women’s Competitions

Premier League

The Premier League shall consist of a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of ten (10) teams. All participating clubs are required to field a “Senior” team and a “Reserves” team. This competition shall be contested over either twenty one (21) fixtures (8 team competition) or eighteen (18) fixtures (10 team competition) on a “Home and Away” basis where possible.

Clubs participating in Premier League may not field a team in Division 1.

Senior Competition

The Senior Divisions Competition will consist of Division 1, Division 2, Division 3 etc. The composition of each division will be determined on an annual basis. All Senior Divisions will participate in three (3) grading matches prior to the season to assist in determining the composition of each division.

Each division will consist of ten (10) teams where possible and shall be contested over eighteen (18) fixtures on a “Home and Away” basis where possible.

Youth Competition

The Youth Divisions Competition will consist of Youth Division 1, Youth Division 2 etc. The composition of each division will be determined on an annual basis. All Youth Divisions will participate in three (3) grading matches prior to the season to assist in determining the composition of each division.

Each division will consist of ten (10) teams where possible and shall be contested over eighteen (18) fixtures 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. At the conclusion of the fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams in each division will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up.

1.2 Promotion and Relegation

1.2.1 Men's Competition

At the conclusion of the fixture season the following promotion and relegation process will apply:

(**NOTE:** these are subject to the recommendations of the competition review being undertaken in 2009.)

Premier League

The last placed team and the 2nd last placed team will be automatically relegated to Premier Division 1.

Premier Division 1

The 1st placed team and the 2nd placed team will be automatically promoted to Premier League. The last-placed team and the 2nd last placed team will be automatically relegated to Premier Division 2.

Premier Division 2

The 1st placed team and the 2nd placed team will be automatically promoted to Premier Division 1. The last-placed team and the 2nd last placed team will be automatically relegated to Metropolitan 1.

Metropolitan 1

The team that finishes in 1st place, providing that they meet the standards for entry into the Premier Competition and does not already have a team in the Premier Competition, will be automatically promoted to Premier Division 2.

If the team that finishes in 1st place already has a team in the Premier Competition, then the team that finished in 2nd place, providing that they meet the standards for entry into the Premier Competition, and does not already have a team in the Premier Competition, will be automatically promoted to Premier Division 2.

Other Promotion/Relegation Issues

If a team which has automatically qualified for promotion between Premier Divisions 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 second last in the division higher shall remain in that division.

In the event that both teams who have automatically qualified for promotion between the Premier Divisions advise that they do not wish to exercise these privileges, they must provide their reasons in writing to Football Brisbane, who will review the requests. If the requests are granted, then the two teams that finished second last and last will remain in the division higher.

If a team from any Premier Division 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 second last shall remain in that division. If the second last team was not relegated, the team that finished last (if relegated) shall remain in that division. If neither team was relegated, Football Brisbane can, if they choose, seek applications from any other club to fill the vacancy.

If a team from any Premier Division does not enter for the following season, the team that finished second last shall remain in that division. If the second last team was not relegated, the team that finished last (if relegated) shall remain in that division. If neither team was relegated, Football Brisbane can, if they choose, seek applications from any other club to fill the vacancy.

If a team withdrawal or request for relegation causes a vacancy in a lower Premier Division after the application of the above rule, Football Brisbane can, if they choose, seek applications from any other club to fill the vacancy to fill the vacancy.

1.2.2 Women's Competition

At the conclusion of the fixture season the following promotion and relegation process will apply:
(**NOTE:** these are subject to the recommendations of the competition review being undertaken in 2009.)

Premier League

The last placed team will be automatically relegated to Division 1.

Division 1

The 1st placed team will be automatically promoted to Premier League, providing that they meet the standards for entry into the Premier Competition.

Other Promotion/Relegation Issues

If a team which has automatically qualified for promotion to Premier 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 Premier League shall remain in that division.

If a team in Premier League 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 Premier League 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. Rules for these Cup Competitions shall be set prior to their commencement.

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” (eg 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 will be entitled to have their fixture rescheduled. Applications must be made at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the scheduled fixture.

School Football

Applications due to involvement in Inter-School sport will not be considered. Any Youth Competition team with three or more players unavailable due to school football representative duties approved by Football Brisbane will be entitled to have their fixture rescheduled. 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.

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.

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 deems appropriate.

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 DRAW.

2.10 Abandoned Matches

Should the match official abandon a Football Brisbane match, **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 the Zone Council for determination

All replay requests must be made in writing within 72 hours 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 factors 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 or to have the matter referred to the Zone Council for determination shall be final.

The Zone Council 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.

The Zone Council's determination on the outcome of any abandoned match shall be final.

If the allegation is proven, the Zone Council 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)

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.

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 (Men & Women)

Week 1 Semi Final - 1st placed team (home) vs. 4th placed team (away)
 Semi Final - 2nd placed team (home) vs. 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

Note: Grand Final matches for Men will be held at neutral venues.
 Grand Final matches for Women will be held at Carmichael Park
 (excluding Women's Premier League)

For all finals matches, 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.

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, Premier Youth
- Women's Premier League & Reserves

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.

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 their 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 team strip. When warming up, substitutes are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.

3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Amateur players are permitted to be registered at any time. However, amateur players are not permitted to re-register with another club within the Football Brisbane Zone after 30 June each year.

Professional players may only be registered during one of two Registration Periods each year. In 2009, the first period runs from 1 January to 4 March. The second period runs from 1 June to 30 June.

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

3.1 Player Status

All players must have a playing status corresponding to a competition.

Clubs must nominate a playing status for every player it wishes to register. A player status list including the names of players and their FFA numbers must be provided to Football Brisbane prior to the start of the season.

Senior Competitions – Premier Divisions

Player status list must include a minimum of twenty-six (26) players who will only be eligible to play in the Premier Divisions.

There are no player restrictions between Premier Divisions (except for rules relating to finals).

Players classified to the Premier Band will not be eligible to play in any other senior competitions.

Senior Competitions – Other Divisions (excluding Under 21 & Youth)

Player status lists must include a minimum of eleven (11) players (per team).

Players may not participate in a competition that is two or more bands lower than their playing status, ie players can only play down one band immediately below their playing status.

Teams may only include on the match sheet a maximum of three players with a one band higher playing status, ie only three (3) players can play down in any team.

Players may play in any division that is higher than their playing status.

Under 21 and Youth Competitions

Player status lists must include a minimum of eleven (11) players (per team).

There is no restriction on players classified to this band from participating in other Football Brisbane Senior Competitions, unless they have been classified as a Premier Division status player. A player who is classified as a Premier Division status player is ineligible to play in the Under 21 or Youth Competitions. An Under 21 or Youth status player is eligible, subject to the Football Brisbane Age Policy, to play in any other Senior Competition on the same weekend regardless of his or her participation in an under 21 or Youth Competition fixture.

Within the Under 21 Competition, teams may only include on the match sheet a maximum of three (3) players who have played in any other division in the Under 21 Competition on the same weekend.

Within the Youth Competition, teams may only include on the match sheet a maximum of three (3) players who have played in any other division in the Youth Competition on the same weekend.

Reclassification of Players

Once a player has played in a higher band competition match on more than six (6) occasions they must have their playing status reclassified upwards. For matches using substitution rules, a player who is listed as a reserve and does not take the field is deemed not to have played. For matches using interchange rules, any player who is listed on the team sheet is deemed to have played.

Clubs may apply to have a player's status reclassified downwards during the season. All requests for downwards reclassification must be received by 30 June. The reasons for the request must be specified (eg returning from long term injury, has not played in the higher classification). Football Brisbane's decision to allow or disallow any such request will be final.

3.1.1 Player Status Bands

Player Status Bands will be as follows:

Premier Band	Mens Premier League, Premier 1 & Premier 2, Womens Premier League
Band 1	Men's Metro 1 & 2 / Women's Division 1 & 2
Band 2	Men's Metro 1 Reserves, 3 & 4 / Women's Division 3 & 4
Band 3	Men's Metro 5 & lower / Women's Division 5 & lower
Under 21/Youth Band	All Under 21 Divisions/Youth Divisions

3.2 Eligibility/Non-Eligibility of Players

3.2.1 Eligible Players

A player is eligible to take part in a Football Brisbane competition match, provided they have been registered in line with Football Federation of Australia National Registration Regulations and Football Brisbane Registration Procedures and Guidelines, and they are not under suspension by Football Brisbane or any other Federation.

A player is eligible to take part in a Football Brisbane competition match provided their name has been listed on the team sheet prior to the commencement of the match, except in the case where more than sixteen (16) players are listed.

3.2.2 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 the Disciplinary Committee.

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

If a team lists more than sixteen (16) players on the team sheet for a match, 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.

3.2.3 Player Eligibility – Finals Series

To compete in the Finals Series, a player is not eligible to play in any division that is outside their player status band.

Where a club has more than one (1) team in the same band, a player must not play more than two (2) of the last five (5) fixtures of the current season in the higher division, otherwise they are ineligible to compete in the Finals Series in the lower division.

For the purposes of this rule, all Premier Divisions are deemed higher competitions than Metro/Senior Divisions, which in turn are deemed higher than Under 21/Youth Divisions.

If a player is suspended for any period of time during the last five (5) fixtures, they will be deemed to have participated in the fixtures in the division which they incurred the suspension.

For matches using substitution rules, a player who is listed as a reserve and does not take the field is deemed not to have played. For matches using interchange rules, any player who is listed on the team sheet is deemed to have played.

3.2.4 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 24 hours of the completion of the match. An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident will be undertaken immediately.

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

3.3 Penalties and Outcomes

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

3.4 Borrowing Players

3.4.1 Youth Competition

Registered Junior Competition players may be borrowed to play in the Youth Competition, subject to the Football Brisbane Age Policy, but may only do so for a maximum of four (4) matches. The maximum number refers to the total number of games played up and not to each team they may play in.

Borrowing a player or players from a lower age group or division should not advantage the borrowing team's performance when compared with its usual squad.

A team playing in a fixture shall be permitted to borrow a maximum of two (2) players per match from any higher divisions in any lower age groups e.g. U16 (1) playing in Youth Division 3.

Players graded into BJJ competitions can only be borrowed into Premier Youth or Youth Division 1.

A Junior Competition player playing up or borrowed (with or without their Identity Card being available) is to sign the Match Sheet and their usual team is to be noted in the Substitutes Column.

3.4.2 Regrading of Players

If a Junior Competition player will be playing more than four (4) matches in the Youth Competition, that player **MUST** be re-graded prior to participating in a fifth (5th) match. This re-grading is **NOT** automatic, and must be initiated by the player's club as a formal regrading.

A player may be regraded into the Youth Competition at any time during the fixture season, provided the re-grading is performed prior to the last fixture of the season played by that player's original graded team.

Once a player has been regraded into the Youth Competition, that player shall not play any further matches with their original Junior Competition team.

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
- 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.

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

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 3.3 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 two ground officials for Premier Division matches and at least one ground official for all other Division matches, 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

1. Check the referees' room and make sure it is clean and comfortable.
2. Upon arrival of the referees, make known to them that you are the ground official in case they need assistance.
3. 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.
4. Check with the equipment officer that an alternate strip is available if required.
5. Ensure payment of referee fees **before the commencement of the game**.
6. Ensure that 3 appropriate match balls are available for referee.
7. Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees to the field of play.

During the Match

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

After the Match

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

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

Premier Divisions

Both participating teams in Premier Competition matches (men and women – excluding Reserve Divisions) **must** phone their full-time and half-time scores, and their goal scorers, to 3849 1106 **within one (1) hour** of the end of the first-team match. The results may also be entered through the online reporting system (**football.resultsvault.com**).

Other Divisions

Match results **must** be entered through the online reporting system (**football.resultsvault.com**) by **both** participating teams **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 new online system by 6.00pm Sunday. Results that are entered after the 6.00pm deadline will be omitted from the published report.

Football Brisbane will impose a fine on clubs that fail to register their full-time scores as required.

4.9 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) 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.
- b) 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.

- c) Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match and he must return to his position after giving these instructions.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.

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 consult the visiting team and appoint a match official to take charge of the fixture. 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 Football Brisbane.

All clubs are obligated to fulfil all fixtures regardless of whether an 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
- the club will be fined per offence, and will be subject to further disciplinary action

In the event both teams refuse to play, Football Brisbane reserves the right to award a **NO RESULT**, fine both clubs and recommend further disciplinary action.

In circumstances where only one assistant referee has been appointed, **the home team is obliged to provide a club assistant to assist the match referee.**

In circumstances where no assistant referees have been appointed, **the home team is obliged 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.

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, match officials and match commissioners are requested to please 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, with the **CLUB** being responsible for advising the opposition and Football Brisbane in the event matches are to be postponed.

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.

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 shirt if necessary.

6 PLAYER AGE POLICY

See the Football Brisbane Player Age Policy as at 1 February 2009.

7 DISCIPLINARY

See the Football Brisbane Disciplinary Policy as at 1 February 2009.