

# **Playing Rules of the Manly Warringah Football Association Inc.**



**MANLY WARRINGAH**  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**2018>>>> Edition**  
**Can be downloaded from**  
**[www.mwfa.com.au](http://www.mwfa.com.au)**

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## PLAYING RULES OF THE MANLY WARRINGAH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

### SECTION A REGISTRATIONS

**A1** Registration of players in their teams is to be made on registration forms the format of which is specified by the Association, and are to be lodged in duplicate with the Registrar or such other person nominated by the registrar.

#### **A2**

(a) Registration for individual players, coaches, managers or volunteers in a team must be accompanied by a digital photograph uploaded to the Registration Program as well as any other documents necessary to complete the registration process.

Players over 10 years of age who did not play for an affiliated club in the previous season must complete an Application to Register with the MWFA. The form must accompany the registration being submitted to the Association Registrar.

If registration forms, photographs and all other relevant documents are not properly submitted registrations will not be accepted by the MWFA and Player ID Cards will not be issued.

(b) Eligibility to play in any age limited competitions is determined by the player's age in the current football year. The minimum age for any player is Five (5) years old in the current football year. Proof of birth, which shall be either a copy of birth certificate, passport or drivers licence, shall accompany the first registration of all players seeking to be registered in competition teams.

In the event of birth certificates or passports not being available, a Statutory Declaration, on a form obtainable from the Secretary may be lodged as proof of age. Any exception to this rule will be decided by the E.C.

Photo Identity, which shall be either a copy of a passport or drivers licence, shall accompany the first registration of all players seeking to be registered in competition teams in Senior Divisions.

(c) Any new player over 10 years of age and under 18 years of age who is not an Australian Citizen, or who last played for an Overseas Club must apply for an International Transfer Certificate. Depending on the player's circumstances there may be additional documentation required before this registration can be completed. Clubs should apply to the Registrar for details of this documentation.

(d) Any Senior player who last played for an Overseas Club must apply for an International Transfer Certificate. Depending on the player's circumstances there may be additional documentation required before this registration can be completed. Clubs should apply to the Registrar for details of this documentation.

**A3** Registrations must be completed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the season. Late registrations of individual players must be completed on an official registration form (separate forms for each team) and lodged with the Registrar, at the Registrar's house, on or before 8pm on the Wednesday, immediately prior to the match in which it is proposed to play the new player. Final lodgement of registrations of players in Competition teams shall be with the registrar by 8pm on the last Wednesday in June.

An endorsed copy of the registration forms and any subsequently issued Player, Coach, Manager or Volunteer ID cards will be available for collection at the registrars house, or at an agreed alternative location, after 3pm on the following Friday unless otherwise notified.

**A4** Clubs which fail to submit team registrations by the due date, shall be liable to a fine as specified in section 10.6.

**A5**

- (a) Players registering with the Association should first register with FFA and obtain an "FFA Number" which shall from that time apply to the so named player for the duration of his playing career in Australia.
- (b) The FFA Number shall be imprinted by the registrar upon the Player ID Card where applicable.
- (c) Registration shall be completed when the Registrar signs the Registration Form, issues a Player ID Card and returns both to the club concerned.
- (d) In all age groups from U/9-U/21, no more than five (5) players registered in any one Competitive team with a Club in any one season may register with a different Club the following season as a player in the same team unless the players' previous Club has ceased to exist. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the EC on a case by case basis.

**A6** The E.C. has the right to reject the registration of any team, player or official. Appeals against decisions in this respect may be made to Council, whose decision shall be final

**A7** **PLAYER GRADING AND QUOTAS**

(a) **Player Grading Committee**

A Player Grading Committee (PGC) will be formed to determine the Grade of players registering for MWFA competition teams (U12 and above) who were not registered with a MWFA Club in the immediately previous football year.

The PGC will be made up of a chairman, Senior Vice President of MWFA, Deputy Chair, President of MWFA and four Club representatives, voted in by the Council of Clubs.

When assessing the grade of a player, any Club representative from the club which is registering the player may not take part in any discussion or voting.

(b) **Playing History**

Any player who was not registered with a MWFA Club in the immediately previous football year must provide a history of their football participation to the MWFA. This is provided on the MWFA form.

As a minimum this history must be for the previous five years and include the Club, Association/ League and Country for any football team in which they have played.

If a player provides a false Playing History, the player will immediately be deregistered and the EC will determine when the player may be re-registered.

A player will not be registered until their Playing History is provided which contains the minimum required history.

(c) **Player Grades**

For all players required to provide a Playing History, the PGC will determine if a Grade is to be assigned to the player and if so what Grade is assigned.

The following Grades will be used:

Grade 1: Equivalent to A league Standard

Grade 2: Equivalent to NPL1 standard

Grade 3: Equivalent to FNSW State Competition Standard below NPL1  
(eg NPL2, State Leagues 1&2)

The assigned Grade is not solely determined by the Player's team registration in the immediately previous football year and, as a minimum, the previous five years Playing History will be taken into account.

The PGC may take into account the MWFA Club of Origin of the player in determining if a Grade will be assigned. If a player wishes the PGC to take into account evidence of previous Playing History they must provide such evidence.

The PGC may take into account the competition, age group and division into which the player is registering and the last competition, age group and division played.

The PGC will determine the Grade for overseas and interstate players registering in the MWFA and will establish the equivalence of the respective overseas leagues to FNSW competitions.

The Registering Club may make a submission to the PGC for exemption from a Grade being applied and/or which Grade should apply, if any.

(d) **Retention of Grade:**

The Grade of a player is retained independent of the MWFA Club in which they registered.

A player who is initially given a Grade 1 retains that grading for two football years before dropping to Grade 2 for a further two years.

A player who is initially given a Grade 2 retains that grading for two football years before dropping to Grade 3 for the third year.

A player who is initially given a Grade 3 retains that grading for two football years.

This is irrespective of them being registered with the MWFA in intervening football years.

(e) **Grade 1 Club Quota**

Clubs can only register a Grade 1 player with an exemption from the PGC.

(f) **Graded Player Quota**

In any Football Year, any MWFA Club can only register *maximum of* three Graded Players in any MWFA Competition. For the purposes of this clause a single MWFA Competition is constituted by the group of teams in:

- a single age group in Youth or Women's Youth from U12-U18
- Men's Premier League, All Age Men's, O35 Men's and O45 Men's Divisions constitute a single MWFA Competition.
- Women's Premier League, All Age Women's, O35 Women's Divisions constitute a single MWFA Competition.

In the three Graded Players in any MWFA Competition, there can be only one Grade 1 or Grade 2 player.

(g) **Graded Player Deregistration or Movement**

Once a Graded Player is registered in an MWFA Club the player may not be deregistered or transfer to another MWFA Club without permission of the EC.

Once the quota of three Graded Players has been registered in a MWFA Competition, these Graded Players may not be deregistered or moved to different MWFA Competitions to be replaced by a different Graded Player during the same football year.

(h) **Appeals of PGC Grading**

Any appeals against a PGC decision is to be directed to the MWFA Appeals Committee in the Football Year in which the Player Grading Committee makes a determination. Further appeals will be to Football NSW.

## **A8 DUAL REGISTRATION**

- (a) Dual registration is not permitted to a Club affiliated with the FNSW State League Clubs.

- (b) Players de-registering from Clubs affiliated with FNSW State League, and re-registering with an MWFA Club must obtain approval from the E.C.
- (c) Where MWFA registered players participate in training or skills programs containing players from multiple MWFA Clubs, the EC may impose restrictions on the participant's MWFA Club registration where a participant changes Club as a result of participation in the program.

## **A9 AMATEUR STATUS**

- (a) A Professional player is a player who has a written contract with a Club, under which he or she is paid to play football for that Club. An Amateur player is any player that is not a Professional.
- (b) An Amateur player may not receive financial gains from playing football for their Club or other considerations to play football for their Club (other than reasonable participation expenses). These gains include any kind of financial incentive to play football at the Club, including direct or indirect payment by the Club and direct sponsorship by any person or organisation.  
Notwithstanding the above, a Club may pay for or reimburse to an Amateur player reasonable expenses incurred without affecting that player's Amateur status, including travel, kit, equipment or insurance premiums. The onus is on that Club to satisfy the MWFA that the amount paid accurately reflects the expenses incurred by that player. The total amount a player may receive over the season for these expenses is \$1000. This includes averaged sponsorship allocated directly to any team or squad.
- (c) If any amount greater than this is received the Player will be deemed to be a Professional player.
- (d) All players registered in the MWFA must be Amateur in status.
- (e) Any player registered in the MWFA who is deemed to be a Professional player will be de-registered immediately and will not be permitted to re-register in the same football year.
- (f) Nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any Amateur player in return for any services actually rendered to the Club. In these circumstances the Club must declare to the MWFA such services and the amount paid to the player.
- (g) **Player and Club Official Amateur Status Undertaking Declaration for Premier League and League 1**

The MWFA requires specific undertakings confirming compliance with the above Amateur Status requirements from Players, Club Officials and Team Officials for squads in Men's Premier League., Women's Premier League and Men's Amateur League One. This undertaking is confirmed by completion of the appropriate MWFA Amateur Status Undertaking Form (which is a legal document) by the individual registered players in the squad, the Club President, Club Secretary, Club VP of Senior Men or Women (or equivalent), and by the squad coaches and managers.

The completed forms must be submitted by the first round of the season. Failure to submit all forms prior to this date will result in the affected team playing for no Competition Points in both grades until all forms are correctly submitted. After four weeks, if forms are still not received the squad will be withdrawn from the competition.

- (h) **Failure to Comply with Amateur Status**

The punishment for any Club for non-compliance during a season will be automatic loss of all points in both grades and no further Competition Points for the remainder of the season. The Club will also incur a fine for the first offence as specified in Section 10.6.

A subsequent breach shall incur automatic suspension of the team for the remainder of the season, with the Club being fined as specified in 10.6 and a final warning that affiliation will be withdrawn if there is another breach of the player payment rules. Any subsequent breach shall incur automatic suspension of the whole Club for that season and the Club shall be required to present a case at a special general meeting as to why the club should not have its affiliation immediately revoked

The punishment for any individual player is a minimum 1 year suspension from all football activities.

Players willing to assist with evidence can apply for a reduction in suspension.

- A10** A player may downgrade to a lower division in his registered age group or to a lower age group in which he is eligible to play once per season by following the procedure below:
- (a) before 30<sup>th</sup> April by the Club submitting the amended player ID card and team sheets to the MWFA registrar in the same way as a new registration.
  - (b) after 30<sup>th</sup> April a written application must be provided to the E.C. for approval stating the details of and reasons for the movement. Once the EC has given approval, the amended player ID card and team sheets are submitted to the MWFA registrar.
- A11** Players in the Amateur League Divisions or Women's Divisions who wish to act as substitutes for divisions in any Over 35 competition must be 35 years of age or over on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December on the previous year and have their ID card marked "Over 35 Reserve" by the registrar.  
Players in the Amateur League Divisions or Men's O35 Divisions or Women's Divisions or Women's O35 Divisions who wish to act as substitutes for divisions in any Over 45 competition must be 45 years of age or over on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December on the previous year and have their ID card marked "Over 45 Reserve" by the registrar.
- A12** Only female players may be registered in Womens Competitions. Dual registration of female players in both the Saturday Competitions and the Womens Competitions is permitted.  
Players who wish to register in both Competitions must register for a team in each Competition and obtain a separate ID card for each Competition.  
Any borrowed players in either Competition must be registered for a team in that Competition and have the appropriate ID card. The normal borrowing rules of section D then apply.

## **SECTION B COMPETITIONS**

### **B1 COMPETITIONS**

- (a) Competitions conducted by the Association shall be open to all affiliated clubs, unless otherwise provided.
- (b) Entry by affiliated teams into competitions, other than those conducted by the Association, must be approved by the M.C. which may require a bond of \$100.00 to

- be lodged with the Treasurer. Such bond shall be refunded if, in the opinion of the E.C., the teams lodging the bond have properly fulfilled their obligations to the competition.
- (c) In consultation with a forum of five (5) club representatives, duly elected at the AGM, and at least 14 days prior to the February Council meeting, the MC shall publish a document called "M.W.F.A. Competition Guidelines" for the current Football Year. This document shall include:
- the dates of the competitions for the current football year
  - the competition format for all age groups and divisions
  - guidelines for the Grading Committee's formation of competitions
  - guidelines for the Grading Committee's allocation of teams to divisions
- the details of procedures for washed out and replay rounds.
- (d) Modifications to the "M.W.F.A. Competition Guidelines" document may be submitted to the MC during the Football Year for consideration by the Competition Committee and adoption at the following February Council Meeting.
- (e) The February Council meeting shall ratify the document.
- (f) The M.W.F.A. Competition Guidelines shall take precedence over the Playing Rules.
- (g) The MC may schedule Fixtures on evenings, Sundays and Public Holidays, subject to availability of grounds:
- i. To ensure that complete competition rounds are played
  - ii. To play Matches moved due to State Cup or similar commitments
- (h) **2018 MWFA Premier League Competition**

The 2018 MWFA Premier League will play one match per round at Cromer Park on the Friday evening to assist in alleviating pressure on fields on Saturday afternoons and to further elevate the status of the MWFA Premier League and forge closer links between all of the Northern Beaches Football Community.

The matches will be identified at the release of the Premier League draw with an even spread of home matches for the 10 participating clubs where possible.

The First Grade game kicks off at 7pm on the Friday evening at Cromer Park No. 1 and the Reserve Grade match to be played on Saturday afternoon at the ground of the home team with one rule change that states: **With the exception of the goalkeeper, any player who starts the First Grade on Friday evening is not permitted to take part in the Reserve Grade game. Where the goalkeeper from the First Grade match plays in the Reserve Grade match the player must play as a goalkeeper.**

## **B2 AGE GROUPS AND DIVISIONS**

- (a) Competitions shall be conducted in age groups as decided by the Grading Committee following the M.W.F.A. Competition Guidelines. In each competition the number of divisions and the number of teams in each division shall be decided by the Grading Committee based on the M.W.F.A. Competition Guidelines. Notwithstanding any other rule elsewhere stated, the Grading Committee may grade any team into a higher age group than that for which it is eligible by age.
- (b) Team nominations including desired competition, registered players and previous player history will be submitted in a manner and before a date as specified by the M.W.F.A. MC to be considered by the Grading Committee. Team nominations with less than seven (7) players for a single team and less than fourteen players for a first and



reserve grade competition will only be included in any competition at the absolute discretion of the Grading Committee.

- (c) At the discretion of the EC, any Club withdrawing a team from a competition after the commencement date of the draw as advised by the MWFA will be subject to the nominated fee(s) or any other fine as deemed necessary by the EC.
- (d) If the team withdrawal is in dispute of a Grading Committee decision players registered in the withdrawing team who choose:
  - to de-register in the current football year will not have the MWFA portion of their registration fee refunded,
  - to re-register in another team either at the same or another Club in the current football year will only be permitted to re-register in a team of the same or higher grade as the withdrawing team was originally graded. The EC may also allow the player to re-register in an equivalent or higher division in a different competition for which the player is eligible to play.

Team registrations on G2 forms listing less the seven (7) players, at the discretion of the Grading Committee, may not be included in the considerations of the Grading Committee when allocating teams into divisions.

### **B3 GROUND ALLOCATIONS AND FITNESS**

- (a) The Association shall allocate the grounds for all competition matches and all matches ordered shall be played thereon. Any club allocated a ground for the season, shall mark that ground exactly as shown in the Referees Chart and Players Guide to Association Football, with an approved line marking substance (NOT LIME), prior to the commencement of each days play as shown in the scheduled draw.
- (b) The Club shall also erect goal nets and put in place corner posts with a flag on top except as defined below.

The following applies to all competition teams (U12 to All Age, O35 and O45 teams).

- At least 45 minutes before the start of the first Match on a field, the Club who is allocated the field by the MWFA must deliver nets, flags and other necessary items for the setup of the field. These should be placed at the centre of the field.
  - The teams who are playing the first Match on the field on that day must each setup half the field, including the net in one goal and the flags for half a field. Any containers and other equipment must be stored near one of the goals. This must be completed at least ten minutes before the start of the Match.
  - The teams who are playing on the last Match on the field must each dismantle half a field and place the equipment in the containers provided in the middle of the field. Unless otherwise indicated this will be the 3pm Match on any field. This includes corner flags and one net.
  - The Club must then come and pick up the equipment for storage as appropriate.
- In order that there is no possibility for ambiguity, each team will be responsible for the setup or takedown of half a field. It is up to the individual teams to decide which half of the field they will setup/take down.
- (c) Any Club found not complying with this rule shall be fined in accordance with 10.6 of the By-Laws for each item. The fine shall also apply if a Club fails to provide the necessary equipment for setting up a ground in the required timeframe. This includes adequate materials to adhere nets to goalposts.

If a team fails to perform this function the following penalties will be imposed:

- On the first offence a formal warning will be issued by the MWFA. The Club of the offending team must provide proof the team has received the notice.
- On the second occasion, the team will lose one Competition Point
- On the third occasion, the team will lose three Competition Points

- On the fourth occasion, the team will be asked to provide reasons as to why they should not be removed from the competition.

The imposition of these penalties is at the discretion of the MC.

- (d) Before commencement of play the fitness of a ground for play is determined after inspection by the Club Groundsman or MWFA MC members or senior members of the MWFA, who will notify the MWFA as soon as possible, preferable before 7:30am. Based on the report the MWFA will determine:
- If the ground is closed for the rest of the day
  - If the ground is to be re-inspected in the mid-morning to allow afternoon Fixtures to be played.

The MWFA may attempt to reallocate Fixtures to alternative fields on the same day to allow the Fixtures to be played.

Once play has commenced for the day, grounds may be closed by the Club groundsman, MWFA official or referee. Once a ground has been closed by the groundsman no Fixture may be played on the field unless specifically approved by the MWFA.

Referees should not allow a Match continue if a ground becomes unfit for use during the course of play. In such cases the Match should be postponed and a report sent to the MWFA. The EC will determine whether the Match will be rescheduled.

A Club Groundsman or MWFA official may declare a ground unfit for play during the course of a Match refereed by a Junior Referee or Player Referee. The referee must stop the Match at this point and write a report for the MWFA regarding the closure.

Where a Match is under the control of a Junior Referee and no Club, MWFA or MWFA official is available, the decision to declare a ground unfit for play is left to the team officials to agree. If a mutual decision cannot be made, but one team refuses to continue, the Match will be stopped and a protest made to the MWFA by the dissenting team explaining the circumstances as to why the Match should have continued.

#### **B4 ABANDONMENT OF COMPETITION**

The Council has the power to abandon any of the competitions if it deems such action necessary in the interests of the code.

#### **B5 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**

- (a) The League Championship shall be decided by each division of each age group playing the allotted number of Fixtures as dictated by the M.W.F.A. Competition Guidelines. For each Match played three (3) Competition Points shall be awarded to the winning team. In the event of a draw, one (1) Competition Point will be awarded to each team. No Competition Points or goals are awarded when a team has a bye Fixture. The team which, at the end of the competition, has received the most Competition Points shall be declared the Major Premier. The team with the next number of Competition Points shall be declared the Runner Up.
- (b) In the event of more than one team finishing the competition on equal highest Competition Points, the League Champion and Runner Up will be determined using the criteria outlined in the MWFA Competition Structure.

#### **B6 SEMIFINAL COMPETITION.**

- (a) After the League Championship Competition, the top four teams in each division of each age group shall play off in a second competition to determine the Minor Premier. The first Fixtures of the competition (semifinals) shall decide two teams who will play off in a final. The winner of the final shall be declared Minor Premiers.
- (b) The format of the semifinal competition to decide these two teams shall be as outlined in the M.W.F.A. Competition Guidelines, and may be a knockout or round robin series

- (c) Where a Fixture in this competition is a knockout and must have a winner declared at the end of the Match the procedure will be outlined in the M.W.F.A. Competition
- (d) In order to be eligible to compete in the Semi Final Competition, including any final Fixture, all players registered in a team must have played in at least four (4) Competition Fixtures for that team within the current season. Any exemption to this rule can only be provided by the EC prior to the commencement of the Semi Final Competition.

#### **B7 PENNANT COMPETITION**

- (a) A Pennant competition may be held for teams finishing fifth or lower on the competition table for the age groups and divisions as outlined in the M.W.F.A. Competition Guidelines.
- (b) The team winning the Pennant Series will receive a presentation on Finals Day.
- (c) The Fixtures during the Pennant Competition are subject to the same forfeit rules as outlined in section B11.
- (d) In order to be eligible to compete in a Round Robin Competition, including any final Fixture, all players registered in a team must have played in at least four (4) Competition Fixtures for that team within the current season. Any exemption to this rule can only be provided by the EC prior to the commencement of the Round Robin Competition.

#### **B8 KICK OFF TIME**

All Fixtures must commence at the correct time. Unless otherwise indicated the scheduled kickoff time of the Fixture is the time listed on the draw:

- For morning Fixtures the normal kickoff times are 8:30am 10:00am 11:30 am.
- For afternoon Fixtures the normal kickoff times are 1pm and 3pm.

If for any reason, other than either team not being ready to take the field as per B11(a), the Match is late starting, the playing time shall be reduced so the Match finishes five minutes before the scheduled start of the next Fixture also allowing for a five minute half time, subject to the two halves being of equal time. If there is no fixture following on the field judgement must be used to ensure enough light remains for safe playing conditions.

If the playing time is less than the duration of one full half of the scheduled Fixture then the Match should not commence and it will be re-scheduled.

If a team does not have at least seven (7) of its registered players present and ready to play within five (5) minutes of the specified time, it shall forfeit the Match as per rule B11.

For U18, U21, Open and O35 and O45 Fixtures, the referee is empowered to add on time for stoppages, as per Referee's chart.

#### **B9 DRAW**

- (a) The Association shall publish, as near as possible to the commencement of the competition, a list of Fixtures to be known as the "Draw". This may be subject to amendment by the E.C. at any time.
- (b) The M.W.F.A. will advise date(s) for the commencement of the Draw(s) and nominated fee(s) for the withdrawal of a team. As a minimum the nominated fee will be equal to the playing fees of the team for the season.
- (c) Deleted

- (d) The date of any special day must be advised to the Association Secretary before the compilation of the draw.
- (e) At all times the Fixtures scheduled in the draw shall take precedence over any other activity scheduled by the affiliated Clubs.

#### **B10 MATCH SHEETS**

- (a) Match Sheets must be provided for each Fixture by the 'home' team to an 'away' team official at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Once completed and prior to the commencement of the match, an official from each team must sign the Match Sheet before the Match to verify the player identity and then after the match to verify the score. The referee will return the Match Sheet to the home team and the home team manager will ensure the Away team manager signs for result.
- (b) Match Sheets must contain the clearly identifiable names and MWFA identity numbers of all players participating in the Fixture. Players not correctly listed on the Match Sheet are ineligible to participate in that Fixture.
- (c) If the player's shirts are numbered, the numbers on the Match Sheet shall correspond to the player's number worn during the Match.
- (d) The registered age group and division of any Borrowed Players must be marked on the Match Sheet. Refer also to Section D of these Playing Rules dealing with substitutes and borrowed players.
- (e) Players may only be added to the Match Sheet after the commencement of the Match as per Playing Rules D3 and/or D12.  
Players who fail to arrive for the Fixture as anticipated by Playing Rule D3 must be removed from the Match Sheet at the completion of the Match. If a registered player of the team is accidentally crossed off the Match Sheet at the start of the Match, but subsequently arrives late, that player may take part in the Match and the Match Sheet is adjusted at the completion of the Match.
- (f) Any player who is listed on the Match Sheet, is present and identified by the opposition team official and is available as a substitute during the Match shall be deemed to have played in that match even if they do not take the field. Such a player must not be removed from the Match Sheet as per (f) above.
- (g) Any team containing players with similar names shall mark the Match Sheet in such a manner as to enable those players to be identified.
- (h) Where any form of pre-printed label is used to complete the Match Sheet, it is that team's responsibility to ensure that the details remain permanently attached to the Match Sheet. Should the two become separated, the offending team's players may be deemed ineligible to have competed in the match.
- (i) Deleted
- (j) Once signed by the Team Managers, all information contained on Match Sheet will be deemed as correct, unless an Official Letter from the Club, showing proof to the contrary, is received within 48 hours of the finish of the match.
- (k) All Match Sheets must be delivered to the MWFA office by the home team's Club. Unless otherwise notified by the MWFA the delivery must be made no later than 9am on the second business day after the Match. On some occasions the delivery time may be varied. In these cases the MWFA will give the Clubs at least 24 hours notice.

#### **B11 FORFEIT, ABANDONMENT AND RESCHEDULING OF FIXTURES AND MATCHES**

- (a) Teams must be present at the time and ground indicated in the draw, unless the Competition Secretary has advised that the Fixture has been transferred, in which case they will be at the new ground and at the new time. If a team does not have at least seven (7) registered players present and ready to play within five (5) minutes of the specified time, it shall forfeit the Match. The only exception to this rule shall be Junior Fixtures.

- (b) If a team intends to forfeit a Fixture the Secretary of the forfeiting team's Club must notify the MWFA as soon as possible before the scheduled date and time of the Fixture. Upon notification the MWFA will notify the Club of the opposing team and the MWFA of the forfeit. Notification should be made to the MWFA office during normal business hours or the Association Secretary at other times.
- The notifications should be made no later than:
- For Fixtures scheduled for during the day on a weekend or public holiday, no later than 7:30 pm on the day before the Fixture.
  - For Fixtures scheduled on a weeknight, no later than 1:00pm on the day of the Fixture.
- If notification is made after these times a fine shall be imposed at the discretion of the EC on the forfeiting Club as defined in Section 10.6.
- If the forfeiting Club does not notify the MWFA of the forfeit in sufficient time before the start of the scheduled Fixture the offending Club will also pay all appropriate referees fees plus any other compensation as may be determined by the EC.
- (c) If a competition team forfeits two (2) times, in addition to any fine imposed and Competition Points lost as specified in (f), the team will lose two (2) additional Competition Points.
- (d) If a competition team forfeits three (3) times, the Club involved will be required to show cause as to why the team should not be removed from the Competition. If permitted to remain in the competition, in addition to any fine imposed and Competition Points lost as specified in (f), the team will lose four (4) additional Competition Points.
- The EC will determine additional sanctions for further forfeits.
- (e) It is competent for the E.C. to declare any Fixture abandoned or forfeited, where it is apparent that the Laws of the Game and/or the Association playing rules and the constitution have not been properly observed.
- (f) If the whole round in any competition is abandoned and cannot be rescheduled in its entirety, the manner in which the Competition Points are allocated to teams for the round is described in the MWFA Competition Structure document.
- (g) Any team forfeiting will automatically allow its opponents:
- In league matches to gain three (3) Competition Points and a five (5) goals to nil (0) win.
  - In knockout Fixtures to progress to the next round
  - In finals to be declared the winner.
- (h) If a team claims a forfeit when the team is present at the field at the scheduled time of the Fixture, the manager of the team claiming the forfeit must request the referee to endorse the Match Sheet to that effect as evidence of a forfeit by the opposing team.
- (i) If the EC determines a team forfeit was to deliberately affect the competition or that the forfeit significantly affected the outcome of a competition, the EC may impose additional penalties including replay of the forfeited Fixture.
- If a team refuses to replay a forfeited fixture as required by the EC, the EC will take other actions against the team as it sees fit.

- (j) Should the Fixture be rescheduled due to the M.W.F.A. not notifying all clubs of ground and time changes, the ground and time of the rescheduled Fixture must be notified to both clubs a minimum of 48 hours prior to the rescheduled time.
- (k) Any team that forfeits three (3) times from the M.W.F.A. competition, for which they have been drawn, may be removed from any further competition during the current season.
- (l) In the event of any Team withdrawing or being removed from an MWFA competition, the following procedure will take effect depending on the date the Team was removed or withdrawn:
- if before Competition has started a bye will be added to the competition in place of the Team unless another team can be added by regrading.
  - if before a specific round is completed all opposing teams that have played the Team will have the results for the round removed and replaced with a bye and teams that have not played the Team will have the Fixture replaced with a bye.
  - If after a specific round has been completed all results of Matches acquired during the completed round by opposing teams will be retained. All subsequent rounds will have their Fixtures replaced with a bye.
- (m) Where a team forfeits before a competition round and the round is declared washed out, if the round is successfully replayed the forfeit will stand for that Fixture and the Fixture will not be replayed. If the round is abandoned, the forfeited Fixture is cancelled and all teams are awarded no Competition Points for the round.
- (n) Postponed Fixtures and Matches
- a) Fixtures and Matches may only be postponed by the referee or the MWFA MC or EC. A report detailing the reason for postponement and the time of postponement is required within 24 hours of the Match.
  - b) In the event of any Fixture or Match not being played owing to weather or other causes over which neither Club has any control, on being ordered to be rescheduled or completed, it shall be played within fourteen (14) days of the first postponement
  - c) After the postponement Clubs will be required to determine if they wish to reschedule the Match. If both teams agree not to reschedule the Match then the result will stand. The MWFA will set a time limit by which Clubs must respond, after which the EC will vote to determine if the Match will be rescheduled.
  - d) After the commencement of the Match, should play be postponed due to injury, poor weather, failed lighting, state of the pitch or any other reason as determined by the referee, and the Match cannot be completed in full, and the EC has approved the rescheduled match, it will recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full. The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the Match:
    - i. The Match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the Match was initially postponed unless a player has received a Suspension in matches conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match.
    - ii. Should a player have received a Suspension in a match conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match that player:
      - a. Will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled match

- b. Will not be able to count the match as a stand down in relation to any fixture Suspension
  - c. The club will not be permitted to replace the player on the team sheet
  - d. If the player was on the field of play at the time of the postponement the player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the team sheet as long as the team has available substitutions as per the Regulations
  - e. If the Player was a substitute the number of available Players to substitute will decrease as they player cannot be replaced
  - iii. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the team sheet
  - iv. The Teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the Match was postponed
  - v. Players sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced
  - vi. the MWFA will endeavour to appoint the same Match Officials to the completion of the Match, however may appoint replacements should any or all of the Match Officials be unavailable
  - vii. The referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged against the actual elapsed time as recorded by the referee
  - viii. Should a Match be abandoned due to the fault of one (1) Team, or should it be determined by the MWFA that one (1) Team / Club is responsible for the delay to the Match, the remaining minutes will not be rescheduled for completion, and the Match will be determined as a forfeit against the Team / Club that is deemed guilty of the abandonment or responsible for the delay
  - ix. Where a fixture is incorrectly reported as abandoned by the Referee where circumstances show clearly that the match was actually postponed, the MWFA will treat the Match as postponed
- (o) Abandoned Matches
- a) In cases where a Fixture has been abandoned by the referee, the MWFA may investigate the circumstances of the abandonment and impose such penalties as it deems fit on Clubs, Club Officials, Players and/or Spectators adjudged to be associated with the abandonment
  - b) When a Match is not played or is abandoned for any reason over which neither Club was responsible, the Match will be replayed on a date to be arranged at the earliest reasonable opportunity by the EC, in accordance with these Regulations
  - c) When a Match is abandoned for any reason other than stated in (b) above the match may only be replayed by the authority of the EC
  - d) Should a Club, Club Official, its Players or Spectators be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Club to the opposition

## **B12 IDENTITY CARD SYSTEM**

- (a) All matches played under the auspices of the Association shall be subject to the identity card system. Every registered player shall have an ID Card issued by the Association as per Rule A2.  
This rule shall not apply to players registered in Junior competitions unless a player is to act as a substitute in competition matches.

- (b) Before the commencement of every Fixture the ID card of each player from both teams must be checked using the following procedure:
- At the designated Fixture start time both teams shall line up in the middle of field of play with the referee.
  - Each team manager or designated official will check each name of the opposition team's players on the Match Sheet against the name on the ID. card, and the player's appearance against the photo on the card, as well as the division in which the player is registered, to establish the player's eligibility to play in the match.
  - After completion of this process the manager
 

**either:**

If completely satisfied with the eligibility of the players listed on the Match Sheet, must sign the Match Sheet in the space marked "IDENTITY" under the column listing the opponent's team. Such signature shall indicate the manager's conviction of the eligibility to play in the match concerned.

**or**

If not completely satisfied shall follow the dispute procedure in section (i).

**or**

If not all players listed on the Match Sheet have arrived postpone final signing of the Match Sheet until after the players have arrived and each player's ID card has been checked before they take the field. Signing of the Match Sheet for Identity can then be done at half time or at the end of the Match.

**or**

If the player ID cards of one of the teams is not present at the start of Match but arrive during the Match, the following procedure will be followed:

    - The identity check for the team with the ID cards present will be performed.
    - The Manager of the team whose ID cards are not present will identify each player on the Match Sheet to the opposing team manager who will mark them off as being present and sign "STA" for Identity.
    - Depending on when the ID cards are available, either at half time or within five minutes of the end of the Match the identity check for the team will be carried out ensuring each player marked off at the start of the Match is identified. If the manager is satisfied with the identity then the "STA" should be crossed out and the manager should sign for identity. The back of the Match Sheet should be annotated explaining why the STA was crossed out.

Further instructions in relation to the Identity Card system are contained in Attachment "A" to these Playing Rules. These further instructions form part of Playing Rule B12(b).
- (c) Players that arrive late cannot take the field until their ID card has been checked by the opposition manager. The opposition manager must make a note of the player's name and at the half time break or at the end of the Match, ensure the player was on the Match Sheet.
- (d) A player who arrives late and whose name is not on the Match Sheet may not play in the Match. The exception is where less than eleven players are present at the start of the Match being made up to full strength by the use of late comers, whether entered on the Match Sheet or not. All such player's names shall be entered on the Match Sheet at half time or at the end of the Match.
- (e) The referee shall witness the checking process (without being responsible for it) and may not start the Fixture until these formalities have been completed. Should teams be tardy in carrying out these formalities, the referee must shorten the Fixture duration to the extent that the teams may have delayed its commencement.



- (f) If a team refuses to complete the identity check as specified in (b) the opposition manager shall follow the dispute procedure in section (i).
- (g) If a player who arrives late does not pass the identity check and the signature for Identity has already been completed, the signature for "IDENTITY" must be crossed out and the dispute procedure followed in section (i).
- (h) Should an ID Card not be available for an individual player, the player shall not be eligible to take the field in any Fixture. The only exception is where the lack of ID card has been notified to the Association Secretary prior to the Fixture, and permission to play is granted in writing by the Association Secretary. Where such permission in writing has been granted, the player must present this correspondence to the opposing team manager before the start of the Fixture.
- (i) **Dispute Procedure:** A team manager who has a dispute with the opposition under any of these clauses shall mark the Match Sheet "STA" (Subject to Adjudication) under the column listing the opponent's team in the space marked "IDENTITY". The Fixture shall be played, the result recorded in the usual way. The Secretary of the Association must be notified in writing by letter, fax or email as per 14.9 (1) by the Club raising the dispute within 48 hours of the Match being completed
- (j) Any player who knowingly plays without an ID card shall incur a suspension. The penalty for playing without an ID card but having the name entered correctly on the Match Sheet shall be one (1) Fixture and the penalty for a currently registered player playing under an assumed name shall be four (4) Fixtures. For other ID card and player registration offences the EC shall determine the punishment.
- (k) If a team cannot produce its ID cards before the commencement of the Fixture the procedure followed in section (b) should be followed. If the ID cards fail to arrive, the dispute procedure in section (i) must be followed.
- (l) Any team guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall be penalised according to the circumstances:

If the protesting team follows the procedure in (i)

- If the team wins or draws the match it shall be regarded as a forfeit to the opposition
- If the team loses the Match, the Match shall be regarded as a forfeit unless the goal difference of the score was greater than five in which case the original score shall hold.

Or, if the protesting team does not follow the procedure in (i) or the breach of these rules arises from an investigation by the MWFA the result of the match will stand.

However, unless varied by the EC, the offending team shall be penalised Competition Points for every Match where such a breach occurred as per the following:

- If the offending team won the Match it shall lose three Competition Points
- If the offending team drew the Match it shall lose one Competition Point
- If the offending team lost the Match no Competition Points shall be deducted.

These Competition Points are in addition to any other penalties which are imposed for other breaches.

If the Match is a knockout semifinal or final the EC will determine the course of action, which may include:

- Replay of the Fixture
- Forfeit by the offending team

- Fine to the Club of the offending team.
- (m) Teams failing to carry out the checking of player ID in the manner required within this rule will incur a penalty of one Competition Point for each instance in which the procedure was not followed.
- (n) Any team manager who signs a Match Sheet indicating that he has identified all players thereon as eligible, which is subsequently found to be incorrect, may render the team liable to a loss of one Competition Point at the discretion of the E.C.
- (o) Notification of a breach of this Clause B12 shall be made in writing to the offending Club or Clubs within fourteen (14) days of the alleged breach coming to the attention of the MWFA. Notification will include the time, place and any relevant details of the breach. Clubs wishing to appeal against any such penalty imposed in line with a correctly notified breach of this clause, shall do so through the Appeals Committee using the procedures outlined in the MWFA Constitution.

### **B13 SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO FIRST AND RESERVE GRADE**

- (a) The EC will state in the MWFA Competition Structure which divisions will play with first and reserve grade teams.
- (b) The EC will specify which divisions playing first and reserve grade will be played on a promotion/relegation system based on the results of the first grade teams in each division at the end of the season. The rules surrounding this system will be specified in the Competition Structure document.
- (c) In any division playing first and reserve grade in the event of a Club being unable to provide sufficient players to take the field in both the reserve and first grade Fixtures they must forfeit both the first grade and reserve grades.

### **B14 SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO ONLY PREMIER LEAGUE, AMATEUR LEAGUE DIVISION 1**

- (a) The mens premier League and Amateur League 1 competitions will play with the first and reserve grade teams.
- (b) The Premier League Competition will consist of a ten team made up of first and reserve grade teams forming a squad.  
Participation in the Premier League will be on an annual basis. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club has no right to any renewal or extension to participate in future Premier League Competitions and the E.C has the right to determine, in its absolute discretion, whether any right to participate in the Premier League is renewed or extended. Before the start of each Season, the EC will invite ten Clubs to submit applications for participation the Premier League Competition. The issuance of these invitations shall be at the discretion of the E.C. and no appeals against the decision will be allowed. Each year, applications for the Premier League by invited Clubs are to be made on the following forms:
- MWFA Premier League Participation Agreement
  - MWFA Premier League Application and Terms and Conditions
- and submitted by the date in those documents.  
The MWFA will distribute the prescribed FNSW documents in the year preceding each Season.

By completing these Agreements the Club agrees to participate in the Premier League Competition on the terms and conditions as set out in the documents. Completion of these Agreements is mandatory for participation in the Premier League.

Any Club which does not complete these documents will not participate in the Premier League for that season and the E.C. may invite another Club to substitute for this Club.

- (c) Prior to the commencement of the Mens & Womens MPL, WAL1 & WPL competitions. the club responsible for the ground, shall rope off an area not less than one metre from the touchline on the main spectator side, and will remark the Penalty Area, Goal Area, Penalty Spot and Centre Circle
- (d) **That there be unlimited borrowing of players from Men's U18s Age Group to the Men's Premier League (first or reserve grade side). If a Club has no Men's PL side the rule will apply to the Club's Men's AL1 team (first or reserve grade side). That there be unlimited borrowing of players from the Women's U18s Age Group to the Women's Premier League and/or Women's AL1 teams.**

**B15 JUNIOR MATCHES**

- (a) The Format of U/6-U/11 Age groups (number of players, field size, goal size, ball size, duration) will be as specified by the FFA Small Sided Game Rules.
- (b) The Playing Rules for the U/6-U/11 Age groups will be the FFA Small Sided Game Playing Rules.
- (c) The table below specifies MWFA specific local competition organisation for each age group.

	<b>U6</b>	<b>U7</b>	<b>U8</b>	<b>U9</b>	<b>U10</b>	<b>U11</b>
<b>Grading</b>	Y – Nominate Weak teams	Y – Nominate Weak Teams	Y – Teams Teams Allocated: Strong – 20% Middle – 70% Weak – 10%	Y – Teams Teams Allocated: Strong – 25% Middle – 50% Weak – 25%	Y – Players Teams allocated Red – 25% Blue – 25% Green – 50%	Y - Players Full Grading into individual divisions.
<b>End of Season Groups</b>	N	N	N	N	Y Groups of 6 play final round of five Fixtures	Y Groups of 6 play final round of five Fixtures
<b>Regrading during season</b>	N	N*	N*	Y	Y	Y
<b>MWFA Results</b>	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y
<b>MWFA ID Cards</b>	N	N	N	N	N Y for U12 Res	N Y for U12 Res
<b>Match Format</b>	Zoned into groups. All teams in a zone play at the same venue each week. Venues rotate .	Zoned into groups. Play on dedicated U7 fields.	Play on dedicated U8 fields	Play on dedicated U8 fields.	No zoning. Play on dedicated ¾ fields.	No zoning. Play on part of full sized field from penalty area to penalty area.

\* The MWFA may move individual sides between groups based on results if requested by the team's Club

- B16** There shall be no night Fixtures organised for players in the U6 – U11 age groups starting after 7pm.

**B17** There shall be no deferments of any Fixtures scheduled in the draw except by a decision of the EC or where a team is participating in a Competition conducted by Football NSW. M.W.F.A. Fixtures scheduled on the same day as any competition Fixtures may be deferred, but M.W.F.A. Fixtures scheduled on the previous day to a Competition Fixture may be deferred on request of the competing Club only if the Fixture venue is outside a radius of 250 km from Sydney or the Fixture is a final of the Competition. The decision of the EC on deferred Fixtures is final and not subject to any appeal.

**B18 M.W.F.A. CHALLENGE CUP**

- (a) This competition shall be open to all affiliated clubs, maximum sixteen (16) teams may be entered, with a minimum of eight (8) to be entered. Clubs shall enter teams worthy of a first class amateur team.
- (b) The competition rules will be published in the M.W.F.A. Competition Structure before the start of each Challenge Cup.
- (c) The dates of the rounds will be determined by the M.C.

**B19 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE**

- (a) At the end of the League Championship, teams may be invited by the E.C. to represent the Association in the Football NSW Ltd Champions of Champions competition.
- (b) Where the MWFA has a Competition in an age group represented in the Champion of Champions, the team representing the MWFA must have competed in that age group during the current season. Any variation to this rule must be made by the EC prior to the start of the season and be in compliance with the Champion of Champions rules.
- (c) The EC may enter teams into age groups not held as competitions in the MWFA but made available by FNSW. In such instances the members of the team and officials need to comply with eligibility rules of the tournament. If more than one team wishes to compete the EC will determine a method of selecting the team to represent the MWFA.
- (d) Teams entering the Champion of Champions must read and comply with all rules and playing conditions. The EC will apply sanctions against teams who fail to comply with the tournament rules including fines and withdrawal from the Champion of Champions.
- (e) The EC may refuse to submit the application of any team to represent the MWFA in any FNSW competition.

**B20** Deleted

**B21 TECHNICAL AREA**

- (a) On each MWFA field used for competition Fixtures two Technical Areas must be clearly marked on the same side of the field by the responsible Club as stipulated by FIFA guidelines. It is desirable that Clubs provide sufficient seating to allow all personnel to be seated during the match. Where no Technical Area is marked, teams must still respect an equivalent area for each team either side of the halfway flag.
- (b) Only currently registered players, coaches and team officials are allowed in the Technical Area during Matches. The only players permitted in the Technical Area are those named on the Match Sheet. Coaches and team officials are limited to a maximum of four (4).
- (c) Team Coaches, Managers and other team officials shall wear (displayed on the front and visible at all times) current MWFA ID card for the period during which they are acting in that capacity at official MWFA Matches.

- (d) Team Officials may only convey technical and tactical communications and perform other match duties such as arranging substitutes from the Technical Area.
- (e) A Team Official in the Technical Area not wearing any MWFA ID can be requested by the Referee or MWFA Official to leave the Technical Area until they can produce MWFA ID card. Until that MWFA ID card is produced they may not return to the Technical Area.
- (f) Team failing to comply with this requirement will render their team a punishment as specified Section K. at the discretion of the EC.
- (g) A Player or Team Official who is under suspension must not occupy a seat in the Technical Area.
- (h) All eligible Players in the technical area must wear a bib that contrasts with the colours worn by players of both Teams, Match Officials and the bibs of the Opposing Team.
- (i) Where seating is provided all substitutes in the technical area must remain seated unless moving to and from warm-up.
- (j) All occupants of the Technical Area must behave in a responsible manner. The Referee has the right to eject any person from the technical area at any time as he/she sees fit. The Match will not recommence until that person has left to the referees satisfaction.
- (k) Every team must be represented by an identified official or nominated Manager for the entire period of a Match. A Manager playing in a match is NOT relieved of the duties and responsibilities of the position.

## **SECTION C LOCAL LAWS**

- C1** Variations shown in this section, from the laws as contained in the Referees Chart shall prevail in the Association competitions.
- C2** In matches played on full sized fields in the MWFA two variations to the FIFA Laws of the Game may be allowed:
- Goal Kicks and Free Kicks in Penalty Area  
Goal kicks will be taken from an area enclosed by imaginary lines drawn through the penalty spot, parallel to the goal line, and the side lines of the goal area if they were extended to meet the imaginary line.  
Free kicks awarded to a defending team for an infringement in the penalty area between the goal line and the imaginary line drawn through the penalty spot and parallel with the goal line, shall be brought forward, parallel to the touch line, and taken from an imaginary line drawn through the penalty spot.
  - Corner Kick  
Corner Kicks shall be taken from an imaginary 1 metre arc drawn from a point 7 metres out from where the boundary of the penalty area meets the goal line.
  - 25 Metre rule  
The Clearance Zone is a rectangular area bounded by the touchlines, the goal line and an imaginary line parallel to the goal line, at distance determined by the age group. This line must be indicated by a cone, pole or other marking to assist the referee.  
For nominated age groups the distance from the goal line is 25 metres.
    - i. Opposition players will be required to retreat outside the Clearance Zone for both Goal Kicks and Free Kicks to the Defending Team in the Penalty Area.
    - ii. Goal Kicks must be taken by the Goalkeeper.
    - iii. An Opposition Player will not be able to encroach inside the Clearance Zone until a player from the team taking the kick has touched the ball once the whole of the ball has vacated the Penalty Area.

- iv. The ball cannot be kicked directly beyond the Clearance Zone. If this occurs, the kick is to be retaken.
- v. If an Opposition Player enters the Clearance Zone prior to a player from the team taking the kick having his/her first touch then the kick will be retaken.
- vi. If in the opinion of the Referee, the 25 metre rule is being utilised to waste time by either the attacking or defending Team, the Players guilty of the perceived time wasting will be cautioned.

**C3 DURATION OF FIXTURES**

(a) The duration of Fixtures in the various age groups shall be:-

Age groups

6,7	15 minutes each way
8,9	20 minutes each way
10,11,12	25 minutes each way
13,14	30 minutes each way
15,16	35 minutes each way
18 up	45 minutes each way

(b) A break of 5 minutes shall be taken between halves of all Matches.

(c) On any day when unusual or exceptional conditions prevail, the E.C. may decide the duration of any Fixture scheduled for that day.

**C4 EQUIPMENT**

(a) All players in all Matches shall appear in proper football uniform consisting of their clubs approved strip (shirt, shorts socks, shin pads) and footwear, unless given special dispensation by the E.C. All players U12 to Premier League shall wear numbered shirts, those numbers shall correspond with the player's name on the Match Sheet.

(b) Players, except the goalkeeper, shall not wear any protective headgear of any description, unless authorised by the E.C. in conjunction with the M.W.F.R.A.

(c) Where, in the opinion of the referee, a change of strip is necessary, the away team shall change (second team mentioned in the draw is the away team). Away teams unable to meet such a request shall forfeit the Fixture. The M.C. is to closely monitor the strips of all clubs to minimise colour clashes.

(d) In all Matches each team shall have a ball of the correct size for the particular age group, fit and ready for use. The referee shall be the sole judge as to the fitness of the ball.

(e) The correct size for balls in the relative age groups shall be:-

Age groups	U6 to U9	Size 3	56/58 cm circ.
	U10 to U13	Size 4	62/65 cm circ.
	U14 to A/A	Size 5	67/70 cm circ.

(f) If a Club wishes to change design of the approved strip or alternate strip the Club must present a sample of the new strip or a realistic likeness the Council of Clubs for approval. Once approval has been granted the Club has three years to completely equip all teams in the new strip.

(g) Clubs will only be permitted to have one alternate strip design for all of its teams.

**SECTION D SUBSTITUTES AND BORROWED PLAYERS**

**D1 DEFINITIONS**

A substitute is a registered player of a team, or a borrowed player as defined in D6 (1) and meeting the eligibility requirements who is in excess of the prescribed eleven

players. A substitute shall be permitted to replace a player on the field at any time, subject to compliance with all other conditions relating to substitutes.

- D2** The maximum number of substitutes permitted in any Match shall be five (5). The maximum number of substitutes permitted for O35 and O45 competitions permitted in any Match shall be seven (7). The maximum number of borrowed players shall be four (4), except for the round robin or knockout semi finals or finals series where the maximum number of borrowed players shall be two (2).
- D3** A substitute may take the field if not present at the start of the Fixture, provided the player's name has been included on the Match Sheet.  
The exception to this is when a team starts a Match with less than eleven players then late arriving players, both registered team members or borrowed players, may be added to the Match Sheet until the team has eleven players on the field.  
These late arriving players are subject to the rules relating to player identification and the referee's permission to take the field.  
If at least eleven eligible players are present at the start of a Match, the team must play eleven players and late players cannot be added to the Match Sheet.
- D4** In all age groups unlimited player interchange is permissible at any time during the Match. The only exception is Men's Premier League First Grade.

The interchange procedure is as follows:

- (a) "Interchange Zone" will be an area one meter either side of the halfway line.
- (b) An interchange is one, which is made when the ball is out of play or play has been stopped and for which the following conditions shall be observed:
- (i) The permission of the referee to make the interchange has been obtained by a team official wearing the MWFA ID card described in D4.
  - (ii) The player leaving the field may leave the field at any point, and is not obliged to leave at the Interchange Zone. (iii) The player entering the field shall also do so from the interchange zone but not until the player has passed completely over the touchline.
  - (iv) A player nominated for interchange shall be the subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee whether called on to play or not.
  - (v) The interchange is completed when the player who was off the field enters the field. From this moment they become a player and the player who they replaced ceases to be a player.
- (c) The number of interchanges during the Match is unlimited. A player who has been replaced may return to the field for another player. The number of players able to be interchanged during a Match is as per rule D2.
- (d) If, during an interchange, an interchange player enters the field before the replaced player has completely left the field, the referee shall ensure the replaced player leaves the field, caution the interchange player and then restart the Match.
- (e) If, during an interchange, an interchange player enters the field or a replaced player leaves it from a place other than the interchange zone, the referee shall caution the offending player.

(f) The interchanging of players will cease at the completion of normal and any extra time. If at this time penalty kicks are required to determine a result, the eleven players on the field at the end of extra time are the only players permitted to participate in the penalty kicks. No interchanging at this time is permissible. If during the penalty kicks the goalkeeper is injured he may be replaced providing the replacement is on the Match Sheet.

**D5** Substitutes must be entered onto the Match Sheet prior to the start of the Fixture. Only five substitutes or seven substitutes for O35 and O45 may be nominated, and they must be identified by the opposing team manager prior to the commencement of the Fixture.

## **D6 Player Borrowing**

### **(1) Definitions**

**Borrowed Player** – a registered player who acts as a player for a team within the same Club different from the player's registered team. All the requirements of this clause must be met to ensure the borrowed player is legally used.

**Age Group** – a group of teams whose players are subject to the same qualifying age restriction.

**Division** – teams grouped within the same Age Group based on ability.

**Open Competition** – a group of teams formed into a Division by the MWFA that has no age restrictions other than a minimum age of sixteen (16) years in the current football year or through an exception granted by the EC.

**Amateur League** – any division in the Open Competition other than Premier League.

### **(2) General Principles**

#### **(i) Need to Borrow**

A player may not be borrowed by a team where a registered member of that team is available and would not play at least half a Match because of such player being borrowed (except in the case of injury during the Match). The exception to this rule is a goalkeeper being borrowed due to injury of the team's regular goalkeeper.

If the E.C. determines the borrowing of certain players in a Match was not in the spirit of fair play and in particular to strengthen a team beyond its normal standard, the E.C may order the Match to be replayed without borrowed players.

#### **(ii) Number of Borrowed Players**

The maximum number of borrowed players in any team in any Match is four (4), except for Matches played within a round robin, knockout semifinal or final series Match where the maximum number of borrowed players is two (2).

#### **(iii) Borrowing Limit**

A Borrowed Player may be borrowed by a team a number of times up to a maximum as specified in the Borrowing Eligibility Rules below.

#### **(iv) Exceed Maximum Borrowing Limit**

A player who has played the maximum limit of Matches as a Borrowed Player for a Borrowing Team in accordance with the Borrowing Eligibility Rules below, may not play for that team again in the current season as a Borrowed Player. In order to play again with the Borrowing Team the player must be re-registered in that team by submitting the change in registered team to the



MWFA in the usual manner. Re-registration of a player in Competition teams will not be permitted after the Final Registration Date in Section A3 except by a decision of the EC.

If a team tries to re-register more players than the borrowing quota the EC may stop additional players re-registering unless reasonable justification can be provided.

A player who does not re-register in this way and plays additional Matches for the Borrowing team above the maximum will be regarded as an ineligible player in each Match above the maximum limit and may not play for any team until re-registered in the Borrowing team.

If a player changes teams in such a manner they may not be borrowed by the originally registered team no matter if allowed by these rules.

**(v) Duty of Care**

Clubs and their Team Officials must exercise a duty of care to ensure players are not playing beyond their physical capability. In particular special care needs to be taken when Youth players are playing more than two years beyond their normal Age Group or in Open Divisions.

**(vi) Applicable to Women's Competitions**

Unless specifically stated these rules also apply to Women's Competitions.

**(vii) Women Playing in Other Competitions**

A player registered in a Women's Competition may not be borrowed by a team in another equivalent competition without a separate ID card for that Competition.

**(viii) First & Reserve Grade**

Where a Division is played as first and reserve grade, both teams are regarded as having the same division for the purposes of these Borrowing Rules. For the purposes of Matches played for a team the first grade and reserve grade shall be considered separate teams.

**(ix) Further Eligibility Restrictions**

The MWFA may impose restrictions on the number of players who may be in a single team based on certain criteria. These number restrictions cannot be circumvented by borrowing players from other teams who meet the criteria. In any Fixture the number of players used by the team including borrowed players cannot exceed this number. An example is the quota of Graded Players in A7(e).

**(3) Borrowing Eligibility Rules**

Borrowing Team	Borrowing Option A		Borrowing Option B		Borrowing Option C	
	Age Group	Limit	Age Group	Limit	Age Group	Limit
U6	U6	NO				
U7	U7	NO	U6	NO		
U8	U8	NO	U7	NO	U6	NO
U9 & Womens U10	U9	NO	U8	NO	U7	NO
U10	U10	NO	U9	NO	U8	NO
U11	U11	NO	U10	NO	U9	NO
U12	U12	4	U11	4	U10	4
U13	U13	4	U12	4	U11	4
U14	U14	4	U13	4	U12	4
U15	U15	4	U14	4	U13	4
U16	U16	4	U15	4	U14	4
Womens U16	U16	4	U14	4	U13	4

U18	U18	4	U16	4	U15	4
U21	U21	4	U18	4	U16	4
PL	AL	4	U21, O35, O45	4	U18*,U16*	Unlimited
AL1	AL	4	U21, O35, O45	4	U18*,U16*	Unlimited
AL	AL	4	U21, O35, O45	4	U18*,U16*	4
O35	O35	4	AL	4	O45	4
O45	O45	4	O35	4	AL	4

\* See rule D(iii)(e) re age eligibility requirement

For the avoidance of doubt, no MWFA Competition team may borrow the same player more than four times except for age eligible U16 and U18 players being borrowed into Premier League and Amateur League Division 1.

All borrowing must be in accordance with the table above and the additional requirements listed below:

**(i) U6 to U21 Age Groups**

- (a) In all Youth borrowing Options A, B and C should be followed in that order wherever possible.
- (b) Where a Club has no eligible team in either Option A, B or C, a Borrowed Player may come from a team registered in the next MWFA Age Group in which the Club has a team. In this case particular attention must be paid to (2) (vi) Duty of Care.
- (c) In U12 to U21 Age Groups, the permitted division of the borrowed player's team is further restricted relative to the division of the Borrowing team as per below.

Borrowing Option	Allowed Divisions As Borrowed Player
Option A	Same ( <i>except first division restriction (e) below applies</i> ) or Lower Division
Option B	One Higher Division and Below
Option C and borrowing under (b)	Any Division

- (d) U11 teams will be graded into divisions by the Grading Committee. Players wishing to act as substitutes will have player ID cards issued based on this initial grading. This initial grading will determine the borrowing eligibility of the players into the U12 age group, irrespective of any regrading of teams during the season.

U10 players graded in a Red team are only eligible to be borrowed to play in the U11/1, U11/2. Players in all other U10 Team Groups are eligible to substitute in any Division of the U11 Age group.

- (e) Under Option A, where a Club has more than one team in a First Division Competition, the MWFA will label the teams 'A', 'B', 'C' etc in order of the strength of the team. A first division team may only borrow from another team in the same first division if it is of lower strength. Thus 'A' can borrow from 'B' but 'B' cannot borrow from 'A'. For sake of clarity the U/21 competitions classified as first division for this rule.

**(ii) Open Competition**

- (a) Teams in Open Competitions may borrow players registered in teams in the same Open Competition provided they are registered in the same or a lower Division than the Borrowing Team.
- (b) Teams in Men's Open Competitions may borrow players registered in Over 35 Competitions provided that such players are registered in the same or a lower Division than the Borrowing team's division in the Open Competition. Teams in Open Competitions may borrow players from O45 Competition as follows:
  - AL-2 division and above may borrow from O45-1
  - AL-4 division and above may borrow from O45-2
  - Any AL division may borrow players from O45-2 and below

Teams in Women's Open Competitions may borrow players from WO35 Competition as follows:

**Where there are two divisions of WO35**

- WAL3 and above may borrow from any WO35
- WAL4 and below may only borrow from WO35-2

**Where there are three divisions of WO35**

- WAL2 and above may borrow from any WO35
- WAL3 may borrow from WO35-2 and WO35-3
- WAL4 and below may borrow from WO35-3

- (c) Teams in Open Competitions may borrow players from the U18 Competition as follows:
  - AL3 and above may borrow from U18-1
  - Any AL Division may borrow from U18-2 and below
 Teams in Womens Open Competitions may borrow players from the W18 Competition as follows:
  - WAL2 and above may borrow from W18-1
  - Any WAL division may borrow players from W18-2 and below

A true age player registered in an U16 Age Group can play as a Borrowed Player in any Open Division

- (d) Where a Club has more than one team in a Premier League or Amateur League Division One Competition, the MWFA will label the teams 'A', 'B', 'C' etc in order of the strength of the team. A team in the same division may only borrow from another team in the same division if it is of lower strength. Thus 'A' can borrow from 'B' but 'B' cannot borrow from 'A'.
- (e) Where a borrowed player is from a team in an U16 or U18 competition, that player must meet the minimum age eligibility requirement for players in the Open Division specified in D6 (1).

**(iii) Over 35 and Over 45 Age Groups**

- (a) Borrowed Players in Over 35 and Over 45 competitions must be age qualified to play in these competitions, having had their ID card previously endorsed by the MWFA Registrar before they play as a borrowed player.
- (b) The level of the divisions in the Over 45 competition will be declared by the MWFA at the start of the season (eg Division1, Division 2, etc).
- (c) Teams in Over 35 or Over 45 competitions may not borrow players registered in the Premier League Competition.

- (d) Teams in Over 35 competitions may borrow players in other Over 35 competitions provided players are registered in the same or a lower division than the borrowing team. All teams in Open Competitions may borrow players from the O45 Competition as follows:
  - O35-2 division and above may borrow from O45-1
  - O35-4 division and above may borrow from O45-2
  - Any O35 division may borrow players from O45-2 and below
- (e) Teams in Over 35 competitions may borrow players registered in Open Competitions provided that such players are registered in a **lower** Open Division than the borrowing team.
- (f) Teams in Over 45 competitions may borrow players in Over 35 competitions provided the players are registered in an Over 35 division at least two (2) divisions lower than the borrowing team.
- (g) Teams in Over 45 competitions may borrow players registered in Open Competitions provided the players are registered in an Open division at least three (3) divisions lower than the borrowing team.
- (h) Where a Club has more than one team in O35 or O45 First Division Competition, the MWFA will label the teams 'A', 'B', 'C' etc in order of the strength of the team. Another team in the same division may only borrow from another team in the same division if it is of lower strength. Thus 'A' can borrow from 'B' but 'B' cannot borrow from 'A'.

#### **(4) Penalty for Breach**

This section covers breaches of the Borrowing Rules

##### **(a) Offence Correctly Notified by Opposition**

When a breach of these rules is notified by the Opposition team using the correct dispute procedure and subject to a finding of the Protests & Disputes Committee, the match shall be regarded as a forfeit to the Opposition.

##### **(b) Other Notification**

If a breach of these rules is notified in another way, such as by the Opposition but not following the correct dispute procedure or by an MWFA official, the result of the match will stand. However, subject to a decision of the EC, the offending team may be penalised Competition Points for every Match where such a breach occurred as per the following:

- If the offending team won the Match it shall lose three Competition Points
- If the offending team drew the Match it shall lose one Competition Point
- If the offending team lost the Match no Competition Points shall be deducted.

These competition points are in addition to any other penalties which are imposed for other breaches.

If the Match is a knockout semifinal or final the EC will determine the course of action, which may include:

- Replay of the Match
- Forfeit by the offending team
- Fine to the Club of the offending team.

- D7** Deleted
- D8** Deleted
- D9** Deleted
- D10** Deleted
- D11** Deleted
- D12** Any player who is an official referee or Youth team coach and is officiating on the day of a Fixture, and who, because of this arrives late at a match for a team which he is a registered player, may be entered on the Match Sheet and will be permitted to play subject to proper identification by the opposing team.
- D13** Substitutes named on the Match Sheet and present at the Match, shall sit on a bench near the halfway line, or if a bench is not available, then adjacent to the halfway line. The named substitutes to be covered by means of a tracksuit top or other garment to cover the players team shirt.
- D14** Deleted

## **SECTION E REFEREES**

- E1** The appointment of Match Officials to officiate at Fixtures shall, wherever possible, be made by the Appointments Officer of the M.W.F.R.A.
- E2** In the event of the M.W.F.R.A. not appointing officials to a Fixture or the appointed referee not attending, then one may be appointed by any member of the M.C. of either the Association or the M.W.F.R.A. Failing this, the captains or officials of the competing teams must appoint a person to control the Match. If no joint decision can be reached, the team first on the draw must provide a referee. As a guideline, in Youth Matches such a person should be at least 14 years of age and should referee age groups at least two years below their own age. For adult competitions such a person should be over 18 years of age. Any person appointed to officiate in a Match has the rights and responsibilities as if the appointment were made under E1. The same person, where possible, should referee the whole Match.
- E3** Where required, Clubs must appoint referees to control Fixtures played on fields under their control. In such cases the E.C. may decide to pay Clubs such fees as it decides.
- E4** In all cases, Fixtures will be controlled in accordance with clause 1.4 of the Articles of Association and Playing Rules.
- E5** Any affiliated official referee shall be entitled to referee their own Club Fixtures if no official referee is appointed.
- E6** **MWFA TEAM REFEREES**
- A** **Provision and Duties of Team Referees**

- (a) Each team in the MWFA Senior Men's Competitions: AL2 and below, all O35 and O45 divisions (Any exception to this requirement will be notified by the MWFA) must:
1. Nominate at least two team referees who are qualified members of the MWFRA to be available to officiate in Fixtures.  
The nominated person does not have to be a player but must be a current member of the MWFRA and cannot be a team referee for more than one team. Where the nominated person is a registered player of a different team, the fulfilment of their team referee duties takes precedence over playing in their registered team.
  2. On each competition day where the team is playing as an away team one of the team referees must officiate:
    - where the team is playing as the away team at 3pm one of the team referees must officiate in the 1pm Fixture at the same field unless otherwise directed
    - where the team is playing as the away team at 1pm one of the Team Referees must officiate in the 3pm Fixture at the same field unless otherwise directed.
    - where a Fixture is not scheduled as part of a 1pm/3pm pair the affected teams will be notified of the requirements for the provision of Team Referees by the MWFA.
    - for a Fixture where there is no other options for the provision of a Team Referee from a different team than those playing, one of the Team Referees of the home team must officiate.
  3. The penalties applied to a team which fails to provide a properly attired Team Referee for a Match are listed in Section L. In addition to the punishment of the Team any person who fails to wear a proper referee uniform will forfeit the referee's fee for that Match.
- (b) The MWFRA reserves the right to appoint a referee to any division provided at least 24 hours notice is given to the MWFA who will then advise the Clubs involved.

## **B Registration of Team Referees**

- (a) All persons who wish to nominate as Team Referees must be qualified and registered members of the MWFRA for the current football year in which they are to be a team Referee.  
Once a nominated Team Referee has registered with the MWFRA and an ID card will be issued which must be carried by the team referee when officiating at a Match to be shown to the teams before the start of the Fixture he is officiating.
- (b) Any team which does not have two qualified Team Referees by the first round must provide a qualified referee to officiate in any Fixtures it is obliged to officiate. A team which does not have two qualified referees by 30<sup>th</sup> April will accumulate no Competition Points for each Match they play where they do not meet this requirement up to a maximum of three rounds.  
After these three rounds the team will be removed from the competition, and the players in the team will not be permitted to re-register in any other team for the rest of the season.

## **C. Notification of Red and Yellow Cards by Team Referees**

The Team Referee must mark the match card with "Y" and "R" for those players who were given red and yellow cards during the Match. A team referee who gives a player a red card is required to provide a report to the MWFRA.

**D. Team Referee ID Check before Matches**

Each team must check the ID card or photo ID of the Team Referee officiating their Match to verify they are a qualified Team Referee. Any issues should be reported to the MWFA.

Where it is subsequently found an unqualified person was permitted to referee the Match, at the discretion of the EC, each team will lose one Competition Point.

Where a person referees a Match but falsely uses the name of a qualified Team Referee on the Match Sheet as well as penalties to each team the EC will apply the following penalties to the individual offender:

- Where the person is a registered MWFA player that person shall serve a one Fixture suspension for each instance that the offence took place
- Where the person is not a registered MWFA player the EC may apply additional penalties to the offending Team including loss of Competition Points.

**SECTION F RESULTS**

**F1** The results of all Matches must be notified to the MWFA using a means specified by the MWFA. Unless otherwise notified by the MWFA results must be notified no later than 9am on the next business day. On some occasions the submission time may be varied. In these cases the MWFA will give the Clubs at least 24 hours notice.

**F2** Failure to comply with this requirement will result in fines as per section 10.6 being applied at the discretion of the EC. If the result of an individual team is not notified the Club may notify the MWFA that the team was responsible for not providing the result on time. In such a case the team shall be subject to the sanction specified in Section K Group 3.

**SECTION G TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

**G1** All transfers of Amateur players between Clubs within Australia, whether initiated by the player or the player's first Club shall be carried out in accordance with the FFA National Registration Regulations, Section 9.4.

**G2** No transfer shall be granted after 30th June each year.

**G3** Any player may change his Club registration once only during the season.

**G4** For transfer of Clubs within the MWFA the payment of the MWFA fee is the responsibility of the second Club. Where the player has paid the registration fee to the first Club, the player's first Club must refund in full all but the Club component of the Player's registration fee. The amount of the Club fee refunded to the player is at the discretion of the first Club.

**G5** Non-payment of the Registration fee is not ground for refusing a transfer within the MWFA.

**G6** If a player de-registers from a Club during the season and then subsequently re-registers at another Club in the same season they shall be regarded as having transferred between Clubs. G4 does not apply in this case as the refund of registration fees has been completed.

**SECTION H MISCONDUCT**

All parts of this section have been revised and are in Appendix A.

## **SECTION I TROPHIES AND MEDALLIONS**

- I1** The Association shall award trophies as it sees fit and based on the recommendation of the E.C.
  
- I2** All annual trophies awarded may not leave the Presentation Area on Finals Day. If a Club wishes to borrow the trophies for a Club event a deposit must be paid which is refunded on return of the trophies. The size of the bond is detailed in the MWFA Schedule of Fees.



**I3** The Association may award special trophies in the following categories:-

<u>Name of Trophy</u>	<u>Awarded For</u>
President's Cup	Club Award
Syd Russell Shield	Club Award
Executive Award	Club Award
Ron Saveall Memorial Cup	Team Award
Fair Play Award	Team Award
Soccer Post Website Award	Club Award
M.W.F.A. Cup	Team Award
Champion Team	Team Award
Encouragement Award	Team Award
<b>Special Premier League Awards</b>	
Clubman of the Year	Personal Award
Rookie of the Year	Personal Award
Goalkeeper of the Year	Personal Award
Lorna Gale Player of the Year	Personal Award

**I4** Awards shall be made on the following basis:-

**President's Cup**

For best performance in competition age groups U12 to U18 in a Club. Points are determined by team performances in individual competitions over all divisions.

**Syd Russell Shield**

For performance in all aspects of administration.

**Executive Award**

For best performance in competition age groups All Age to Over45 in a Club. Points are determined by team performances in individual competitions over all divisions.

**Ron Saveall Memorial Cup**

For the best and fairest Premier League team, determined by referees on both grades, cautions issued to teams and the number of players sent off from each team.

**Fair Play Award**

For the best and fairest Amateur League Division 1 team, determined by the referees on both grades, cautions issued to teams, and the number of players sent off from each team.

**M.W.F.A. Cup**

For winners of the Association Senior K.O competition

**Champion Team (Union Jack Cup)**

For best performance by a Division 1 team. Points are determined by the team's performance in the main competition.

**Soccer Post Website Award**

For the Club with the best website

**Craig McGrath Memorial Encouragement Award**

To the team who are in most need of encouragement

**I5** None of these special trophies may leave the control of the Association. Where applicable, replicas shall be retained by the recipient of the award.

**SECTION J EC SPECIAL POWERS**

**J1 Repeat Offences:**

If a team receives an official sanction either under section D6 Borrowed Player or B12 Identity Card System and subsequently commits another similar offence, in addition to any penalties applied for the subsequent offence the team will be further penalised as follows:

- For the second offence two (2) Competition Points will be deducted

- For the third offence four (4) Competition points will be deducted and the Club will be required to demonstrate that the team will commit no further offences or the EC may remove the team from the competition.

**Multiple Offences:**

Where the citing of a team consists of offences over multiple Matches, in addition to applying the penalties for each individual Match, the EC may apply additional penalties including:

- Further loss of Competition Points
- Suspension of players and/or team officials
- Fines to the offending team's Club

**J2 Spectator Code of Conduct and Discipline**

1. Spectators in any activity held by or under the auspices of the MWFA must adhere to the MWFA Spectator Code of Conduct comprising the FFA Spectator Code of Conduct plus any other requirements as may be displayed at Grounds or advertised through mass media (website, email distribution and distribution to Clubs for forwarding to their members).
2. Clubs shall promote and encourage adherence to the MWFA Spectator Code of Conduct amongst their members to maximise their awareness. Clubs must ensure that any materials provided by the MWFA are prominently displayed and circulated promptly.
3. Clubs are responsible in the first instance for the control of their spectators. Where possible the onus for corrective action should be taken by Clubs on their spectators and/or supporters.
4. Clubs must attempt to maintain control of spectators, to prevent any disturbance and to generally assist Match Officials and Officials of the MWFA, MWFA EC or MC in adherence to the MWFA Spectator Code of Conduct at any Match.
5. The MWFA may investigate any incident which in its opinion is relevant to whether or not a charge of breach of the Spectator Code of Conduct ought to be laid. Such investigation may be initiated on the basis of a written report or complaint of a Member or on the basis of any other evidence which in the opinion of the MWFA is credible. Clubs are required to cooperate fully with the MWFA in the conduct of that investigation within the timeframe specified in any correspondence issued by the MWFA. This includes identification of any spectators involved. A Club consents that any information provided may be used as evidence in bringing a charge under this section.
6. At any time, the EC may determine whether any charge of a breach of the Code of Conduct is to be laid. If a charge will be laid by the MWFA, it will issue a Notice of Charge against the parties and the EC will hold a formal hearing of the charges.
7. If the EC determines a breach of the MWFA Code of Conduct has occurred sanctions will be applied including:
  - (a) reprimand;
  - (b) direction to make verbal or written apology;
  - (c) period of suspension from attending matches;
  - (d) place the individual on a bond;
  - (f) loss of Competition Points and/or imposition of team disciplinary points for the team;
  - (h) deregistration of any related players from the MWFA
  - (i) if a Participant a period of suspension from taking part in any Football related activity;

- (i) suspension from participation in a Match or Matches;
- (l) such other sanction as is appropriate in all the circumstances.

## **SECTION K ADVERTISING**

**K1** Advertising shall be permitted on any affiliated club's equipment, subject to the approval of the M.C., with the following specifications:-

- (a) All printing in the playing strip shall not exceed 5cm in height
- (b) Shirt numbers must be clearly visible
- (c) All logos must be approved by the M.C.
- (d) Sleeve patches must be approved by the M.C.

## **SECTION L TEAM PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES**

In order to place greater responsibility back on individual Club teams the MWFA EC proposes for certain offences the replacement of the system of fines to Clubs with penalties which have a more direct effect on the teams. The offences which are covered by this change are:

### **Group 1: Ground Offences**

- Coach and manager not wearing ID card in technical area.
- Other persons in the technical area without ID apart from reserves for the Match.
- Coach and other coaching/managing staff not keeping to the technical area; either a marked area or within 5 metres of the halfway flag and both teams on the same side of the field.
- Consumption of alcohol on School Premises where a playing field is situated

### **Group 2: Uniform Offence**

- Team not wearing MWFA Club strip.
- Failure to provide an alternate strip.
- Team not having numbers on shirts for age groups U12 and above.

### **Group 3: Team Referee Offences**

This group applies to teams who must supply Team Referees as required under E6

- Failure to provide a team referee for a Fixture
- A Team Referee fails to wear the appropriate referee uniform

If a team commits either a Ground, Uniform or Team Referee Offence, at the discretion of the MC:

1. for the first time the team is issued a formal warning in writing that they have committed an offence and further offences of a similar nature will mean loss of points.
2. for the second time the team will lose one Competition Point.
3. for the third time the team will lose three Competition Points
4. for the fourth time will be required to show cause why they should not be removed from the competition.

### **Group 4 Match Sheet and Result Submission Offences**

If a home team fails to supply a Match Sheet, or if a team fails to correctly complete the appropriate portions of the Match Sheet or the MWFA is notified by the team's Club that the team did not notify the Club of the result so it could be submitted before the required time, the team shall be subject to the following sanctions at the discretion of the EC:

1. For the first time the team is issued an informal warning in writing that they have committed an offence.
2. For the second time the team is issued a formal warning in writing that they committed an offence and further offences of a similar nature will mean loss of Competition Points.
3. For the third and subsequent times the team will lose one Competition Point.

The MWFA will issue a sample Match Sheet specifying the requirements of the Home and Away Team for completing parts of the Match Sheet.  
The punishment will only apply for one or more errors on the same Match Sheet.

Offences within each group are treated separately as far as these punishments are concerned.

Clubs are required to provide evidence that the formal warning has been provided to the team. Non-receipt of a warning by a team will not be accepted as a valid reason for further offences.

If more than one instance of an offence within a Group occurs in the same Match on the first or second time these count as a single instance and are not cumulative (eg coach not in technical area and not wearing ID tags in the same Match only counts as one instance).

## **APPENDIX A Judiciary Committee**

### **6.0 JURISDICTION**

6.0 The Judiciary Committee adjudicates on any infringement of the Laws of the Game by any Player or Team Official during a Match under jurisdiction of the MWFAs. For the sake of clarity the Match includes a period before the start and after the completion of the match when the players, team officials and referee are in the vicinity of the ground. Suspensions and penalties of the Judiciary Committee shall also apply to any player or official registered within its jurisdiction.

The Judiciary Committee shall have the power to refer any matter to the EC for determination .

### **6.1 JUDICIARY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

(a) The Judiciary Committee consists of three principal members drawn from a panel of five appointed at the AGM which shall hold office for a term of twelve (12) months from the date of appointment.

(b) A casual vacancy in the principal members will be filled by the EC. A person appointed under this paragraph holds office until the end of the term of the person in whose place they were appointed.

The change will be notified no later than the next Council meeting.

(c) Before the AGM the EC may determine a number of additional members of the Judiciary Committee that will be drawn from member Clubs. The EC will determine whether the provision of these members shall be required. Any such members shall be additional to the principal members and shall not contribute to a quorum for the Judiciary Committee. Additional members shall have the right to participate in proceedings.

(d) The MWFRA may have an observer present at meetings of the Judiciary Committee. This observer may not take part in the proceedings apart from providing advice on the Laws of the Game if requested.

(e) The EC will appoint a Judiciary Secretary who will be responsible for all administrative proceedings of Judiciary. The Judiciary Secretary will keep a true and accurate record of proceedings during each meeting including attendance, charges and decisions. The Judiciary Secretary shall not take part in proceedings apart from providing advice on procedural matters if requested.

6.2 The Judiciary Committee members will be independent and impartial. A member of the Judiciary Committee shall not arbitrate on matters where that member has a current relationship with the Club, team, player(s), or any individual, appearing before the Judiciary Committee.

6.3 Quorum for the Judiciary Committee shall be three (3) principal members. The committee shall appoint its own chairperson from this quorum. A determination of the Judiciary Committee must be made according to a majority decision of the Committee. Where a quorum is not available from the principal members, the EC may appoint a temporary member to sit on the Committee for that meeting. This may include a member of the MC/EC. This temporary member only holds office for the meeting in question.

6.4 The Committee shall meet at least once a week, if required, during the playing season, at a time and place to be determined by the EC. Clubs shall be notified prior to the commencement of the season of the meeting day and place for the Judiciary Committee.

Players shall be deemed to have received notice from the club as to the meeting day of the Judiciary Committee.

6.5 For the purpose of defining suspensions, competition Fixtures shall be deemed to be any Fixture played by the player's registered team in the teams:

- MWFA competition including major and minor premierships fixtures and finals
- MWFA sanctioned Cup fixtures
- FNSW and FFA competitions in which the MWFA enters teams such as FNSW State Cup, Champion of Champions and FFA Cup.

Where a competition has a separate team registration process, the suspended player must be registered in the team for that competition in order for the fixtures to count towards the suspension.

Cancelled fixtures and byes are not included in the suspension.

The following will occur should a fixture be forfeited during a suspension: -

- a. If the opposition team forfeits – the match is counted towards the suspension.
- b. If the players team forfeits – the match does not count towards the suspension.

Abandoned fixtures do not count towards the suspension unless the abandoned fixture is not replayed.

## 6.6 PLAYERS SENT OFF

A player shall be sent from the field for the following offences as prescribed for in the Laws of the Game;

- R1 The player is guilty of serious foul play
- R2 The player is guilty of violent conduct
- R3 The player spits at an opponent or any other person
- R4 The player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goal keeper within his or her own penalty area)
- R5 The player denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.
- R6 The player uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- R7 The player receives a second caution in the same match

For the purpose of these Regulations, reference to a player during a match includes a substitute and a substituted player.

- (a) Players sent from the field shall incur a minimum one (1) match suspension. This one (1) match suspension is mandatory and is not subject to challenge, appeal or waiver by the Judiciary Committee. The only exception is in the case of mistaken identity in which the player must provide follow the process as described in (f) below.
- (b) The Referee of a match in which a player has been shown a red card and sent from the field will provide a Sendoff or Citation Report to the Judiciary Secretary.
- (c) The Judiciary Committee will meet and determine the penalty after reviewing the offence. The Judiciary Secretary will provide a copy of the Sendoff or Citation Report and the Judiciary Committee's decision to the player's Club.
- (d) For all players notified of a suspension the Club must ensure the player's ID card is delivered to the MWFA office by 5pm Friday of the week of the notification. In the situation the player has been required to appear before the Judiciary earlier than this time rule (i) applies and the player must produce the ID card before their case will be heard. A player may not play in any Fixtures from the start of the suspension as per 6.9 to the end of

suspension determined by the Judiciary Committee, irrespective of the player's ID card being in the possession of the MWFA.

- (e) Where a penalty is issued greater than the Minimum Suspension of the Offence there are two options:-

- (a) Accept the penalty as stipulated, or
- (b) Challenge the penalty but only on the grounds below.

Where the penalty issued is equal to the Minimum Suspension it cannot be challenged, except in the case of Mistaken Identity.

- (f) The Club shall notify the Judiciary Secretary no later than 5pm on the Tuesday of the week after receiving notification of suspension whether the Judiciary decision is to be challenged, the ground for the challenge as described below, the required statements and any additional evidence.

In the event that a player challenges a determination by the Judiciary Committee the player is required to stand down until the challenge is heard. This also applies to a challenge on the basis of mistaken identity where the required documentation is not provided in sufficient time to be reviewed by the Judiciary Committee before the one mandatory match suspension occurs.

In all circumstances the Judiciary Secretary will issue such notices no less than 48 hours before any hearing.

A Judiciary Committee decision can only be challenged on the grounds of mistaken identity or exceptional circumstances or severity of sentence. The Judiciary Committee may prescribe from time to time the form that written statements are required to take for written statements submitted for a challenge.

- (i) Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off or Citation Report

If a Player claims that he or she was mistakenly identified in a Match Official Send-off or Citation Report, he or she (or the Player's Club) must notify the Judiciary Committee by submitting the following:

COMPULSORY: a signed written statement by the Player who was reported by the Match Official in a Match Official Send Off Report or Incident Report that he or she was not responsible for the Offence and identifying to the best of their knowledge the name of the Player responsible; AND

OPTION 1: a signed written statement by the Player who was responsible for the Offence; OR

OPTION 2: a signed written statement from the Club identifying to the best of its knowledge the name of the Participant who was responsible for the Offence; AND

Any other evidence which may support the claim for mistaken identity including but not limited to any video or photo evidence.

After considering the evidence, the Judiciary Committee will decide whether the claim for mistaken identity should be rejected or upheld.

If the Judiciary Committee rejects a claim for mistaken identity, the original penalty applies.

If the Judiciary Committee upholds the mistaken identity claim, a Notice shall be issued to the appropriate identified Player, who shall serve the Suspension immediately. The Notice of Suspension issued to the original Player will be rescinded.

- (ii) Challenging a Notice of Suspension - Exceptional Circumstances



This applies only in exceptional circumstances. It is envisaged that, in the vast majority of matters, any Penalty applied by the Judiciary Committee will be appropriate and will be applied. The provisions set out in this section are not intended to encourage or lead to the systematic or regular review of standard Suspensions and are reserved for exceptional cases only.

A Player (or the Player's Club) may in very limited circumstances seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of a Suspension by demonstrating to the Judiciary Committee that the circumstances of an incident leading to a Suspension were exceptional, such that the Suspension that has been notified would be clearly and demonstrably excessive.

Exceptional circumstances means circumstances operating at the time of the Offence and relating to the commission of the Offence and not to the impact which a sanction may have.

The following may constitute exceptional circumstances:

- i. a Player may have an intellectual or physical disability;
- ii. a Player has experienced a recent trauma within the family; and
- iii. any other personal circumstance that may have contributed towards a Player's actions which lead to the Offence being committed.

The following do not constitute exceptional circumstances:

- i. the significance or importance to the Player or his or her Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed;
- ii. the significance or importance of any Match, Fixture or tournament in which the Player will be ineligible to participate because of the imposition of a Suspension given within the range in the Table of Offences;
- iii. the point in the Match at which the Offence was committed;
- iv. the conduct, including actions, words or gestures of any Player during or related to the Match; and
- v. any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision by a Match Official during the Match.

Any Player bringing a challenge under this section may not challenge the Offence via mistaken identity.

In considering a claim of this type, the Judiciary Committee is concerned with only the question of whether the Suspension should be altered in view of the circumstances of the case.

If a Player wishes to lodge a challenge to a Suspension based on exceptional circumstances the Player must submit the following:

A signed written statement by the Player setting out the grounds upon which he or she believes the Suspension set out in the Notice of Suspension should not be applied; AND

OPTION 1: video or photo evidence; AND/OR

OPTION 2: signed written statements by other Members.

A challenge on the basis of exceptional circumstances will only be successful where it satisfies the Judiciary Committee that:

- i. the circumstances of the Suspension under review are exceptional; and
- ii. as a result of the exceptional circumstances the Suspension would be clearly excessive.

If the Judiciary Committee upholds the challenge on the basis of exceptional circumstances, it shall impose such Suspension, if any, as it deems to be appropriate taking into consideration the circumstances of the subject incident, which revised Suspension shall not be subject to any further challenge or appeal.

If the Judiciary Committee rejects a challenge on the basis of exceptional circumstances the Judiciary Committee may impose an additional penalty by one or more fixtures - up to the maximum number of fixtures as prescribed in the Regulations.

If the Judiciary Committee considers that a rejected challenge had no prospects of success and amounted to an abuse of process, it shall refer the matter to the EC who may charge the Player and/or the Club for Misconduct.

- (g) Players may inform the Judiciary Secretary in writing, no later than twenty four (24) hours prior to the hearing, that they consent to the matter being heard ex-parte and submit written evidence in support of their defence or in mitigation of penalty.
- (h) Persons summoned to appear before the Judiciary Committee shall be suspended until such time that they appear. It is at the discretion of the Judiciary if those fixtures occurring before time the person appears count towards any suspension resulting from the appearance.
- (i) If not previously lodged as per 6.6 (d), any player appearing at Judiciary Committee must produce his ID card before his case will be heard. Failure to produce the ID card to the Judiciary will render the player automatically suspended until he/she attends Judiciary with his ID card. Dual Registered players must produce both ID cards before the case will be heard.
- (j) The following persons are eligible to attend the Judiciary Committee for the hearing of a case: -
- The Player
  - The Player's Coach and/or Manager
  - One Club Official
  - Player's parent if the player is under the age of 18 years
  - Witnesses necessary to the case at the discretion of the Chairman.
- Character witnesses are permitted, but the number of such witnesses and the weight given to this evidence is at the discretion of the Judiciary Committee. Character witnesses may only appear in a challenge to support Exceptional Circumstances. General evidence of good character not specifically related to the Exceptional Circumstances is not admissible in a challenge.
- The Judiciary Committee Chairman has the right to call a halt to repetition or duplication of evidence.
- The Judiciary Committee has the right to rule on the relevance of evidence to the case at hand.
- (k) Additionally, the Judiciary Committee shall have the power to call such persons as it deems necessary to appear to properly hear the case. In cases in Section 6.15 Section B "Offences by players and team officials against match officials" the Judiciary Committee shall also have the discretion to call the referee concerned together with a member of the MWFRA EC to attend the hearing. The referee and MWFRA EC member may be present during the proceedings and may question the player.

**6.7** In cases of emergency the Judiciary Committee shall meet at short notice to hear cases of players sent off in mid-week fixtures. In such cases players and Referees shall receive 48 hours notice to be in attendance.

**6.8** Players failing to appear before the Judiciary Committee when requested to do so will be considered suspended from playing until such time as their matter is dealt with by the Judiciary Committee. Players sent from the field and who do not attend the Judiciary Committee as required, will receive notice from the Judiciary Secretary to attend a further Judiciary Committee Meeting. Such players are suspended from

taking part in any Fixtures in the meantime or until such time that the sentence has been served as specified. If such a player fails to attend this rescheduled meeting, the matter will be dealt with in their absence.

#### **6.9 PLAYERS DISMISSED FROM THE FIELD OF PLAY**

A player who has been sent from the field will not participate in another match on the same day. The EC may determine the player's suspension starts immediately and notify the Club as soon as practicable to make arrangements for removal of the player's ID card.

Unless determined by the EC, any suspension does not commence until the Club has been notified by the Judiciary Secretary. Once such notification has been received by the Club the player is suspended until he/she has served the suspension imposed by the Judiciary Committee or appeared before the Judiciary to challenge the suspension. A player who has been suspended by the Judiciary Committee shall be ineligible to play until the player's ID card is collected from the Judiciary Secretary after serving the suspension.

#### **6.10 TEMPORARY DISMISSALS (Sin bins)**

IFAB has approved the use of temporary dismissals (sin bins) subject to the approval of the competition's national FA. The FFA Referees Committee has approved the use of temporary dismissals.

In Australia, any competition that wishes to use temporary dismissals must adhere to these basic guidelines:

1. Any player who is **cautioned for dissent** will be punished by a yellow card and a temporary dismissal period of:
  - Ten (10) minutes, for matches greater than 60 minutes in duration; and
  - Five (5) minutes, for matches of 60 minutes or less in duration.
2. All other cautionable offences are punished with a yellow card.
3. The referee will manage the timing of the dismissal period and/or may delegate this responsibility to one of The Other Match Officials.

#### **6.11 SUSPENDED PLAYERS - TRIAL MATCHES AND PLAYING WHILE SUSPENDED**

##### **(a) Trial Matches:**

A player under suspension for a number of competition Fixtures shall not be permitted to play in trial Matches without the specific sanction of the EC.

##### **(b) Playing While Suspended:**

A player under suspension within the MWFA of any other body affiliated with the FFA who registers for an MWFA competition and/or plays in any MWFA sanctioned Matches will be cited to appear before the EC and additional suspension, fine and/or sanction may be imposed as determined by the EC. Any Club or team that allows a suspended player to play will be cited to appear before the EC and the match involving that player will be deemed forfeited. The EC may impose further penalties.

#### **6.12 MATCH CAUTIONS**

(a) A player shall be cautioned for the following offences as prescribed for in the Laws of the Game;

- Y1 The player is guilty of unsporting behaviour
- Y2 The player shows dissent by word or action
- Y3 The player persistently infringes the Laws of the Game

- Y4 The player delays the restart of play
- Y5 The player fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- Y6 The player enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
- Y7 The player deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission
- (b) A player shall be cautioned during the course of a MWFA Match for any offence under the Laws of Association Football which is deemed necessary by the Referee.
- (c) The Referee may reprimand a player during the course of play, without the showing of a yellow card.
- (d) An official booking (or caution) is administered by the Referee recording a player's name and number and the offence committed on MWFA Referees Report form at the conclusion of the match.  
There shall be no appeal against the receiving of a caution from the Referee except on grounds of mistaken identity. The appeal must be lodged with the Judiciary Secretary within 2 weeks of the caution being issued. Such determination will be resolved solely by the Judiciary Committee on the production of evidence supporting the mistaken identity which shall also identify the correct player. In these cases where successfully proven, the original perpetrator will be have the caution recorded against their name.
- (e) After an individual player has received four (4) official cautions, the player shall serve a one (1) fixture suspension and the player's team shall be penalised one (1) disciplinary point. There shall be no appeal against a one (1) fixture suspension after receiving four (4) official cautions.
- (f) Any player who accumulates a further three (3) official cautions, making a total of seven (7) shall be suspended for a further two (2) fixtures and the player's team shall be penalised two (2) disciplinary points.
- (g) Any player who accumulates a further three (3) official cautions making a total of ten (10) shall be suspended for a further three (3) fixtures and the player's team shall be penalised three (3) disciplinary points.. The player shall also be called to appear before the Judiciary Committee who may apply a further penalty, bond, fine or suspension.
- (h) Any player who accumulates more than ten (10) cautions in any one season shall be called to appear before the Judiciary Committee, who may apply further penalty, bond, fine, suspension or team disciplinary points for each official caution given to the player thereafter.
- (i) Cautions shall not carry over from season to season. The termination of a season shall be at the conclusion of the Matches used to determine the major premiership. Accumulated yellow cards will not be carried into any finals or round robin series.
- (j) The suspensions in (e), (f) and (g) do not commence until the Club receives notification from the Judiciary Secretary. There are no restrictions on playing in fixtures until this notification is received.
- (k) Any player who is dismissed from the field upon being cautioned for a second yellow card offence, the initial yellow card during that Match shall not be taken into account for the purpose of the accumulation of cautions for the application of suspension in accordance with Regulation 6.11 (e). If during a fixture a player receives a caution and then commits a sendoff offence apart from R7 then the caution will be recorded

and accumulation of cautions for the application of suspension in accordance with Regulation 6.11 (e).

### **6.13 FINDINGS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Judiciary Hearings shall not be bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to proceedings in a court of law. The findings shall be made on the balance of probabilities.

The Judiciary Committee has the power to:

- (a) Consider the reports of Referees, assistant referees and others.
- (b) Decide if the offence is proved.
- (c) Determine and set whatever punishments or sanctions that it considers appropriate in accordance with the guidelines.
- (d) Make such recommendations to the EC as may be appropriate in the determination of any matter
- (e) Refer a case to another duly constituted tribunal for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee may not see or take into account any material which is not available to the accused unless there are exceptional circumstances. These circumstances must be explained to the accused.

### **6.14 PUNISHMENT**

If the Judiciary Committee considers that the offence is proved it must select the punishment from the following guidelines. Suspensions are calculated in fixtures or a time frame. The Judiciary Committee is only empowered to set punishments outside these guidelines only in Exceptional Circumstances. These Exceptional Circumstances must be detailed in the Judiciary Committee's determination which is sent to the offender's Club.

The Judiciary Committee may recommend to the EC that a variation in Team Disciplinary Points be applied to Team(s) depending on the circumstances leading to a player or team official charged. In particular:

- Where a player is charged to appear before the Judiciary as the result of an incident in which multiple players from either team were involved but only one charged.
- In cases of unidentified aggressors the Judiciary Committee may impose additional Team Disciplinary points.

In all cases where additional Team Disciplinary Points are applied beyond these guidelines notice will be given to the Club including the reasons for the variation.

**6.15** In determining the punishment the Judiciary Committee has the right to consider:

- (a) the minimum recommended penalties as specified in 6.15
- (b) the nature and severity of the infringement;
- (c) the offender's past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;
- (d) the culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless);
- (e) the age of the offender
- (f) any reasons prompting the offender to commit an infringement;
- (g) any exceptional circumstances;

The Judiciary Committee, in the determination process must impose a sentence between the minimum and maximum set in section 6.15. Based on its consideration of the above the Judiciary Committee may vary the proportion of the sentence which takes immediate effect,

the balance being imposed as a suspended sentence as per section 6.26. Such considerations will be minuted by the Judiciary committee.

### 6.16 PENALTIES

The Judiciary Committee shall impose penalties within the following guidelines:

#### **SECTION 'A' - Offences by players against other players or any other person Sending-Off Offences (In accordance with the guidelines of FIFA Law 12)**

Offence Code and Designation	Detailed Breakdown	Minimum Games	Maximum Games	Team Disciplinary Points
(a) R1 Serious Foul Play	General Range	2	12	1
	Violent Tackle from behind that endangers the safety of an opponent	3	10	1
	Rugby Tackle	2	8	1
	Violent Charging	2	8	1
	Over the Ball Tackle	2	12	1
(b) R2 Violent Conduct	Head Butting	5	24	5
	Punching /Fighting	2	8	2/5*
	Kicking	2	12	2
	Elbowing to the head	4	16	2
	Elbowing to the body	2	10	2
(c) R3 Spitting	Spitting at an opponent or any other person	8	1 Year	5
(d) R4 Deny Goal Scoring Opportunity	Handball	1	4	0
(e) R5 Deny Goal Scoring Opportunity	Holding, tripping or impeding	1	6	0
(f) R6 Using Offensive or Insulting or Abusive Language and/or Gestures	Using offensive, intimidating, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	2	8	2
	Making offensive, intimidating, insulting or abusive gestures	4	20	1
	Indecent Actions	4	20	2
(g) R7 Second Caution	Second Caution in the same match.	1		1

\* covers violent conduct of the most serious nature where the person intends to cause serious bodily harm to other person(s).

Note: Section 'A' applies also for "Offences by players against match officials after having been sent from the field".

#### **SECTION 'B' - Offences by Participants against match officials**

Offence Code and Designation	Detailed Breakdown	Minimum Suspension	Maximum Suspension	Team Disciplinary Points
(h) R2 Violent Conduct	Threatening or intimidating a Match Official by word or action	12	Life	10
	Tripping a Match Official	1 year	Life	10
	Pushing with an open hand, shoulder or hip	1 year	Life	10
	Striking with the ball or other object	1 year	Life	10
	Punching, Kicking or elbowing	Life		10

(i) R3 Spitting	Spitting	8	Life	10
(j) R6	Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against or about Match Officials	4	20	5

### SECTION 'C' - Other offences by Participants

Detailed Breakdown	Minimum Games	Maximum Games	Team Disciplinary Points
(k) Inciting the crowd	10	6 years	10
(l) Attacking or fighting with spectators	1 year	Life	10
(m) Bringing the Game into disrepute	6	Life	10
(n) Deliberately misleading the Judiciary Committee or any other tribunal	10	2 years	10
(o) Spitting at or onto spectators	8	Life	10
(p) Failure to provide a safe environment for Participants or to maintain public order at a Match.	5	2 years	10
(q) Other offences by players or Team Officials as specified in Match Official Report	1	1 year	10

For the purposes of these rules a charge of “Bringing the Game into Disrepute” shall be considered as a charge of “misconduct or of behaviour prejudicial to the interests of the Game” when referring to disciplinary procedures, penalties and other disciplinary matters.

Any Participant found guilty of a breach of the code of conduct and/or an offence against a match official will receive team disciplinary points against his team/squad, and a suspension within the guidelines as set out in the above MWFA tables.

In tables B and C above unless otherwise obvious, where a Participant is a player the suspension is in Fixtures whilst for all other Participants the suspension is in duration of Weeks.

### 6.17 TEAM OFFICIALS – REPORTING AND MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSION

A Referee may take action against Team Officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner during a Match and may expel the Team Official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the technical area.

In such instances the Referee must follow the same procedure as described in 6.6. The Judiciary will also follow the same procedure for a Player who has been sent off in considering the Referee’s Sendoff or Citation Report.

Team Officials will be issued timed suspensions.

A Team Official who has been expelled from the field of play or technical area by a referee must serve a mandatory one week suspension.

Based on the severity of the offence the Judiciary will determine the nature of the suspension from football activity. The options may include:

1. cannot carrying out training, team selection or assisting the team/ squad away from Matches in any capacity as a coach.
2. cannot coach at Matches from outside the technical area
3. cannot perform duties associated with coaching at the field such as taking warmup, communicating tactics to assistant coaches
4. cannot be present in the technical area during the Match
5. cannot communicate with the team 30 minutes before the Match until 30 minutes after the Match
6. cannot be present at the ground during the course of a Match.

Where the Judiciary determines suspension is from all football activity this will include all the options above.

During the period of timed suspension the Team Official may not perform duties as specified by the Judiciary above for any team, including teams in any FFA or FNSW competition or any competition in other FNSW Associations.

Any Club, with whose team(s) the Team Official has duties, is responsible for the enforcement of any suspension. Any breach of the suspension will result in the team/squad losing 3 competition points and the Team Official will receive an additional 2 weeks suspension. Any further breach will be referred to the EC.

#### **6.18 ABANDONED MATCHES, CAUTIONS AND SEND OFFS**

A yellow card issued during an abandoned match will be annulled if that match is replayed and upheld if that match is not replayed

A red card issued during an abandoned match will be upheld, regardless of whether the match is replayed or not.

#### **6.19 FINES & BONDS**

The Judiciary Committee is also empowered to additionally place a player or team official or Club on a bond.

#### **6.20 PERSISTENT OFFENDERS**

(a) In cases of repetition, that is, if the same player or team official during the same season is reported for other offences, even if the infraction is not of the same nature, more severe sanctions may be taken.

(b) In cases of repetition, that is, if the same player receives a second red card (excluding R7) during the same season for other offences, even if the infringement is not of the same nature, two (2) extra weeks will be added to the minimum recommended sentence and even more severe sanctions may be taken by the Judiciary Committee.

#### **6.21 VIOLENCE**

All cases of violence will be severely punished. The Judiciary Committee will increase a suspension where serious injury is suffered by the victim to which the offence has been alleged.

#### **6.22 UNABLE TO DETERMINE OFFENCE**

Should the Judiciary Committee be unable to decide what category a particular offence falls under the EC shall decide.

#### **6.22 USE OF EVIDENCE**

Facts contained in match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.

Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided.



If there is any discrepancy in the reports from the various match officials and there are no means of resolving the different versions of the facts, the referee's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play.

The admissibility and weight to be given to evidence including electronic, audio, visual material ie: video, DVD recordings in the proceedings shall be at the discretion of the Judiciary Committee.

Visual aids (video, films, etc) to support or question a referee's report regarding an offence punishable by expulsion can be used only to verify the player's identity.

(a) Audio visual evidence is to be used solely as additional proof in disciplinary cases.

(b) Decisions of fact made by referees are final and not subject to appeal and shall not be modified on the basis of video recordings (e.g. offside, penalty, goals, etc.).

(c) Decisions should be based principally on the reports of the referee and assistant referees, as well as those of the EC or MC, referee inspector and other MWFA officials. The Judiciary may require the referee to clarify the report either in writing or by appearance at an adjourned meeting.

(d) Video recordings shall not be used as a means of restricting the authority and decisionary power of the referee, but only as the most accurate way of investigating the truth when disciplinary action is required. Such film evidence may also be referred to, if further sanctions are to be imposed on the guilty player.

## **6.24 APPEALS**

All appeals to a determination of the Judiciary Committee are to be made to the Appeals Committee.

A party affected by any determination of the Judiciary Committee has the right to appeal against part or all of the determination.

Such Appeals must be lodged within seven (7) days of receiving a written determination of the decision or finding being notified to the appellant.

An Appeal may only be made on one or more of the following grounds:

- a) Failure to afford procedural fairness
- b) Lack of jurisdiction
- c) Insufficient evidence (on which the *Judiciary* made a decision)
- d) Incorrect interpretation of the by-laws or appropriate Association rules.
- e) Severity of sentence

The lodged submission must state all of the grounds to be used in the Appeal. Additional grounds cannot be raised at the appeal hearing if they have not been nominated in the lodged submission.

Where a player can challenge a Judiciary decision based on the grounds in 6.6(f), an Appeal cannot be lodged until the Judiciary has heard the challenge.

A appeal fee of \$150 is to accompany any appeal.

Appeals may not be lodged with the Appeals Committee unless the Judiciary Committee has first heard the player's challenge as specified in 6.6(e).

If an EC/MC member sits on the Judiciary Committee during a determination subject to appeal, the appeal may still be heard by the Appeals Committee.

No appeal shall fail solely on the ground that it was not lodged on time if the Appeals Committee is satisfied that there is a reasonable explanation for the delay or that the delay is not the fault of the complainant or appellant.

## **6.25 APPLICATION OF FIXTURE VERSUS TIME SUSPENSIONS**

Any suspensions which cannot be served in the current football year due to the number of fixtures remaining being less than those in the suspension shall be carried over to the next football year.

In this case the Judiciary Committee shall nominate a date after which the player's suspension is completed. In this case the number of fixtures relating to the offence shall be determined and then extend the length of the suspension by the period from the start of the next season to coincide with the number of remaining fixtures after the end of the current season.

In the case of some serious offences the Judiciary Committee may impose a fixed time period. A suspension imposed in terms of time (such as days, weeks or months) affects a Player's participation for both that Player's eleven-a-side or Futsal Team, regardless of whether the infringement was committed in eleven-a-side football or Futsal.

A player does not have to be registered before the finish date of the suspension to be deemed to have completed the suspension. If a player registers before the finish date of the suspension their ID card will be retained by the Judiciary Secretary until after the suspension is complete.

If the suspended player's team participates in a competition as defined in Section 6.5 before the start of the normal season and the player is registered in the team for that competition, the date of completion of suspension will be adjusted to take this into account.

## **6.26 NO LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

No legal representation is permitted at Judiciary Meetings. This does not prevent a person with legal qualifications from appearing before the tribunal in a role specified in 6.6(j).

## **6.27 SUSPENDED SENTENCE**

The Judiciary Committee may order that part of a suspension:

- (a) comes into immediate effect; and
- (b) the other part does not come into effect unless and until an additional Offence is committed during a specified probationary period (i.e. is suspended).

In the case a suspended suspension is imposed the Judiciary Committee must specify:

- (a) the types of Offences (excluding red cards for R7) which, if committed, activate the suspended part of the ban; and
- (b) the length of the probationary period which must be a period between 6 months and 24 months. Unless otherwise specified the length of a suspended sentence will be 12 months from the date on which the suspension was handed down.

Where the Judiciary Committee imposes a match suspension where part is suspended, if the offender commits an Offence that triggers the suspended part within the specified probationary period, that suspended part is then to be served in addition to any sanction that is imposed for the new Offence.

## **6.28 FNSW COMPETITIONS**

All cautions and sendoffs in competitions run by the Football NSW Ltd will be noted against the player's MWFA record and will be served in the next Fixture(s) his team is drawn to play and for which he would otherwise have been eligible to play in State or local competition matches.

Any suspension on a player by an affiliate of FNSW or FFA is also a suspension from football activities of any and all other FNSW or FFA affiliates. This is unless a specific ruling to the

contrary is included in the determination of the authority who has applied the suspension at the time the suspension is announced.

### **6.29 SUSPENSION PLAYING RESTRICTIONS**

Suspensions in terms of Fixtures apply only to the style of football in which they were received that is 11 a side. Whilst under suspension, a player shall not take part in any Match, whether or not the Match counts towards the accumulation of the sentence. A Dual Registered player may not play in Fixtures in either competition whilst suspended. The term Fixture applies to the entire day on which the required Fixture is played. Where a player is a registered as a member of a squad (such as Premier league) a Fixture is counted as the First and Reserve Fixtures of that round.

The Judiciary Committee also has the jurisdiction to extend the suspension to other forms of football and football related activities (eg FUTSAL, Summer Football in a FNSW sanctioned competition and MWFA Masters Soccer). The notice of suspension will indicate if there are additional restrictions on the player during the suspension.

If only one grade of a squad reaches the semi-finals or finals these Matches do not count towards the suspension of a player from that squad. If both grades reach the semi-finals or finals the suspension is reduced by the number of Matches completed by both the first and reserve grades.

### **6.30 UNIDENTIFIED AGGRESSORS**

If, in the case of violence, it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s), the Judiciary Committee may sanction the Team and/or Club to which the aggressors belong.

### **6.31 NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS FOR OFFENCES AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS**

Where an offence is committed against a match official as in 6.15 Section B, the MWFA will be notified of the suspension at the same time the Club is notified.

### **6.32 BEHAVIOUR IN JUDICIARY HEARINGS**

Any persons present at hearings conducted by the Judiciary Committee who show contempt, by word or actions, of the committee, may be suspended for a period of up to four (4) weeks, in addition to any other sentence imposed by the Committee.

### **6.33 PARTICIPANT CITED BY EC OR REFEREE**

The EC may cite a Participant to appear before the Judiciary Committee in relation to a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention. In this case the EC will provide a report to the Judiciary Committee outlining the offence. The Judiciary Secretary will send notice to the Club based on this report. The Judiciary Committee Notice must provide:

- (a) reasonable detail of the alleged Offence;
- (b) notice of possible sanctions; and
- (c) date, time and place of the disciplinary hearing.

The report and any other evidence to be used by the Judiciary Committee must also be provided to the accused.

In addition to a match official being able to sendoff or cite a Participant under the same categories as Section 6.15 during the course of the Match or at other breaks including half time, a match official may sendoff or cite a Participant under these categories:

- before the start of the Match
- after the completion of a Match while the Participants are in the vicinity of the ground.

Such a citation shall be lodged on a Match Official Sendoff or Citation Report form and submitted in the usual way to the MWFA.

#### **6.34 SERVICE TO CLUB**

Before the start of the season MWFA Clubs will be required to provide a prime and backup electronic contact for service of .Notices and Decisions for Judiciary Committee proceedings. Service of notice will be deemed to have been completed if delivery is made to these electronic contacts.

#### **6.35 TIME LIMITS ON INCIDENT REPORTS**

An incident report (including any Sendoff or Citation Report) must be submitted within 14 days of the incident. If submitted after this time, the report can only be considered by the Judiciary Committee if it has first been endorsed by the EC.

#### **6.36 PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL JUSTICE**

All hearings must be conducted in accord with the principle of natural justice including that the offender has had:

- i. Reasonable and sufficient detail of the alleged infringement;
- ii. The opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of the infringement and sanction;
- iii. An opportunity to view the evidence to be used to decide the case.

The offender must hear all evidence on which the Judiciary Committee makes its determination. During the time evidence is given the only persons present in the Judiciary are the offender alone or if the offender is under 18 years of age the offender and also one other adult.

Any witness that a party intends to call to give evidence in a hearing must remain outside the hearing room until called to give evidence.

#### **6.37 NOTICE OF DECISION**

Within the guidelines of these rules, the notice of decision must be specific as to what the accused is suspended from, including coaching, refereeing, FUTSAL etc. Where there no specific statement of the restrictions, any suspension shall be seen as suspension from all football activities.

The notice must state either the number of fixtures or a period of time of any suspension. Where applicable the notice must state the procedure for appeal of the decision and the time limits for submission of any appeal.

#### **6.38 POWER TO ADJOURN PROCEEDINGS**

The Judiciary Committee shall have the power to adjourn the consideration of a Sendoff or Citation Report or a hearing for the following reasons:

1. to call for new evidence
2. to call for clarification of a report
3. to call for clarification of the charges being brought
4. to refer the consideration of the case to a different tribunal of duly constituted committee for consideration.

### **7.0 MWFA TEAM DISCIPLINARY POINTS**

7.1. For each team in the MWFA disciplinary points will be applied for offences by players, team officials and spectators and accumulated over the season.

7.2. Nominated Offences carry a number of demerit points which are accumulated to the team. The EC will provide a list of all offences and penalties each season.

7.3 As the team accumulates points over the season sanctions are applied against the team according to the number of disciplinary points accumulated:

- Stage 1 – First Warning

When a team accumulates a given number of disciplinary points the team is given a warning including what may constitute further action. The Club must provide written proof that the team has been served with the warning.

- Stage 2 – Loss of Match Points

When a team accumulates a further number of disciplinary points the team loses three competition points and, at the discretion of the EC, may also be required to forfeit their next Fixture.

- Stage 3 – Team Withdrawal

When a team accumulates the maximum allowed number of disciplinary points the team is withdrawn from the competition for the rest of the season. Team expulsion will only occur after the team and its Club have appeared before the EC and have failed to show reasonable cause why they should not be withdrawn. In the case the team is withdrawn all players from the team will not be permitted to play for another team for the rest of the season.

7.4 The table below shows accumulated disciplinary point limits for reaching these three stages.

Accumulated Team Points	First Warning	Loss of Three Match Points	Team Withdrawal
All Open Competitions run as squads	18	25	36
U/15-AL single teams	9	14	18
U10-U15	9	14	18
U6-U9	5	8	10

7.5. At the start of the season the EC may vary the number of points for the withdrawal of particular teams based on the previous disciplinary history of the team.

7.6. If the EC is convinced that corrective actions taken by a team which has accumulated the maximum number of disciplinary points will result in a significant improvement in team discipline the EC may allow the team to continue to play but assign a new number of disciplinary points. (An example is that a team may remove a player with a persistent discipline problem etc).

7.8. Notwithstanding and previously listed penalties the EC may determine that disciplinary points will be applied to team(s) that are involved in on-field melees or post Match fights between players, officials or spectators.

7.9. If a Club has a significant number of teams that accumulate significant numbers of disciplinary points the EC may cite the Club, if, in its opinion, the Club is not performing its role of applying discipline to teams.

7.10. This clause does not supersede other rules in which the penalty may be the withdrawal of a team.

7.11 The team disciplinary points to be applied for offences under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee are listed in Section 6.16.

7.12 The table below lists other offences which attract disciplinary points not covered above:

Offence	Team Disciplinary Points
Excessive Cautions 5/Match/Team	1
Breach of the Code of Conduct by an Official	5
Breach of Code of Conduct by Team Spectators	2-10

The number of team disciplinary points applied for the breach of the FFA Spectator Code of Conduct will be determined by the EC based on the seriousness of the offence.

7.13 The EC can impose additional Team Disciplinary points at its discretion, including recommendations of the Judiciary, any other Tribunal or based on its own findings. In these circumstances the Club will be notified of the additional penalty and the reasons for imposing such a penalty on the team.

7.14 Notification of the imposition of Team Disciplinary Points shall be made in writing to the offending Club within fourteen (14) days of either the alleged offence occurring or of the EC becoming aware of an offence. Notification will include the time, place and all relevant details of the offence. Clubs wishing to appeal against any such penalty imposed in line with the imposition of Team Disciplinary Points, shall do so through the Appeals Committee using the procedures outlined in the MWFA Constitution.

7.15 The EC may, at its discretion:

- Carry over part or all of a team’s disciplinary points from the previous season.
- Impose disciplinary points on teams whose members are from a different team who has accumulated disciplinary points.