



**NORTHERN
SUBURBS
FOOTBALL**
EST. 1957

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

2. COMPETITION FOOTBALL

2023

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2.1 INTRODUCTION

These regulations apply equally to all competition football age groups unless otherwise stated.

Genders used within this Regulation are in line with Football NSW and Football Australia. Consideration will be given for differing genders to participate where they are not explicitly expressed in NSFA's Regulations. Clubs are required to raise this with the NSFA Competitions Department for consideration.

The NSFA Competitions Department will make any relevant competition-related decision(s) and they will be final. **BOD 03/23**

2.2 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **Abandon/Abandoned** – a match stopped by the referee after it has started and then not restarted.
- **Age-eligible** – eligible by date of birth to play in an age group.
- **Bye** – in divisions with an odd number of teams, where a team does not have an opponent in a round of matches.
- **Cancel/Cancellation** – a match that has been cancelled will not be re-scheduled.
- **Club Championship** – awarded to the club that meets the criteria and has the best ratio of points to matches played.
- **Competitions Department** – NSFA office staff that manage all Junior Mixed, Girl's, Senior Men's and Women's competitions.
- **Diamond League** – highest division of Girl's Under 12, Under 13, Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 football. **BOD 03/23**
- **Dispensation** – permission for an exception to a regulation.
- **Division** – a group of a minimum of six (6) teams or squads determined by the Competitions Department that play round robin fixtures. **BOD 03/23**
- **Division Championship** – combination of both grades in Senior Men's Premier League, All Age Division Two and All Age Division Three to determine promotion and relegation between the three divisions. **BOD 03/23**
- **Division One** – highest division in an age group and includes Super League, Diamond League and Premier League.
- **EMC** – Electronic Match Cards
- **FA** – Football Australia
- **FIFA** – Federation Internationale de Football Association
- **Fixture** – in squad divisions refers to both grades of a round.
- **Fixed goalposts** – goalposts that are fixed into sleeves in the ground and remain in place for the duration of the season.
- **Forfeit** – where one team or squad is unable field a full team or squad in a match or fixture.
- **Friendly** – a match organised between two teams that is not included in competition tables.
- **Game** – the sport of football (soccer) in general.
- **Grading** – the initial placement of teams and squads into divisions based on the division request from the club and previous history.
- **INSPIRE** – NSFA's on-going coach-education and support program.
- **Interchange** – temporary replacement of a player during a match.
- **KDFRA** – Ku-ring-gai & District Football Referees Association; sole supplier of qualified match officials to NSFA.
- **Match** – contest between two (2) teams or squads.
- **NSFA** – Northern Suburbs Football Association Ltd.
- **P.D. & D.C.** – Protests Disputes & Disciplinary Committee
- **Player Registration System** – computer program used to store player registration details and formulate competition draws.

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- **Portable goalposts** – goalposts that can be put in place and then removed and stored elsewhere.
- **Postpone/postponed** – a match that has been postponed may be rescheduled later.
- **Premier League** – highest division in Senior Men’s and Women’s All Age football.
- **Premiership** – the Round Robin competition played in divisions where squads/teams that finish in first place are declared “Premiers”.
- **Promotion** – moving to the next-highest division based on a squad/team’s finishing position in the previous season.
- **Re-grading** – moving a team to a higher or lower division based on results after three rounds of matches have been played.
- **Relegation** – moving to the next-lowest division based on a squad/team’s finishing position in the previous season.
- **RLO** – Referee Liaison Officer
- **Round Robin** – every team plays the other teams in its division over a nominated period.
- **Special Time Request** – a request to play matches at the same time or day.
- **Squad** – in Senior Men’s All Age and Over 45 where two (2) teams play at the same venue at consecutive times with unrestricted sharing of players.
- **Super League** – highest division of Junior Mixed Under 12 to Under 16 and Under 18 football.
- **WWC Number** – Working with Children Number. This is a legal requirement for any person employed by a club in a position involving supervision of children.

2.3 COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT

The Competitions Department shall be empowered to deal with all competition matters pertaining to the relevant competition categories (subject to the authority of the Board):

- a) Senior Men’s Football – all Senior Men’s football over the age of 18.
- b) Junior Mixed Football – all Junior Mixed competition football from Under 12 to Under 18.
- c) Girls/Women’s Football – all female-only competition football from Under 12 to Over 35.

The NSFA Competitions Department reserves the right to alter any articles within this document at its sole discretion (subject to the authority of the Board) **BOD 03/23**

2.4 COMPETITIONS OFFERED

The following competitions are available for entry provided the Competitions Department receives enough entries:

2.4.1 Junior Mixed Competitions

- a) Under 12s – top division Super League; league format.
- b) Under 13s – top division Super League; league format.
- c) Under 14s – top division Super League; league format.
- d) Under 15s – top division Super League; league format.
- e) Under 16s – top division Super League; league format.
- f) Under 18s – top division Super League; league format.

The Competitions Department will look to schedule these fixtures primarily on a Saturday morning, however the Competitions Department may schedule matches on Friday nights or Sundays (see **Section 2.11** of these Regulations). **BOD 03/23**

2.4.2 Senior Men’s Competitions

- a) All Age – two-team squads or single teams; top division Premier League; league format.
- b) Over 35s – single teams; league format.
- c) Over 45s – two-team squads; league format.

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d) Over 55s – single teams; league format.

The Competitions Department may schedule Senior Men's matches anytime from 6:00 PM kick-off on Friday nights to 5:00 PM kick-off on Sunday afternoons, however they will primarily be played on Saturday afternoons (see **Section 2.11** of these Regulations). **BOD 03/23**

2.4.3 Girls/Women's Competitions

a) Under 12 Girls' – single teams; top division Diamond League; league format.

b) Under 13 Girls' – single teams; top division Diamond League; league format. **BOD 03/23**

c) Under 14 Girls' – single teams; top division Diamond League; league format.

d) Under 16 Girls' – single teams; top division Diamond League; league format.

e) Under 18 Girls' – single teams; top division Diamond League; league format.

f) All Age Women's – single teams; top division Premier League; league format.

g) Over 35 Women's – single teams; top division Division 1; league format. **BOD 03/23**

h) Over 30 Women's – 6-a-side teams; league format.

The Competitions Department will schedule fixtures for **clauses a) to e)** above on Sunday mornings (see **Section 2.11** of these Regulations).

The Competitions Department will schedule fixtures for **clauses f) and g)** above on Sunday afternoons. The Competitions Department may schedule fixtures for clauses f) and g) on a Friday night (see **Section 2.11** of these Regulations). **BOD 03/23**

The Competitions Department will schedule fixtures for **clause h)** above on Saturday afternoons.

2.4.4 Club Championship

a) In addition to these competitions, NSFA will award a Club Championship to recognise the aggregate league performance of the winning club's teams. In order to be eligible for the Club Championship, a Club must have at least one (1) team in each of the following categories:

- i. Senior Men
- ii. Senior Women
- iii. Junior Mixed
- iv. Junior Girls

b) Upon meeting all requirements as per the above, the formula for Club Championship is as follows;

- i. Total competition points acquired in the Home and Away season by all competition teams divided by the total number of matches played. **BOD 03/23**

2.5 TEAM/SQUAD NOMINATION

a) The Competitions Department shall publish a closing date for the entry of teams into its competitions.

b) Each club on the NSFA player registration system must submit details of the number of teams entered in each group by the published date. Each entry shall indicate the division that the club is requesting for the team.

c) Each team/squad entry must include the name and contact details of the team/squad manager, coach and any assistants. The Competitions Department will not schedule any matches for teams until they have complied with this clause.

d) Clubs must verify the WWC number of all team officials in teams/squads from Under 12 to Under 18, or any All-Age team/squad that may from time to time include players under the age of eighteen (18). The Competitions Department will not schedule any matches for teams until they have complied with this clause.

e) Following the closing date for entries, the Competitions Department shall arrange suitable competitions for each age group. The Competitions Department shall release these competitions to clubs and convene a President's Meeting for club presidents to discuss the draft divisions and determine final positions.

f) In Senior Men's football, the Competitions Department may invite team entries for, or may later form teams into, quasi-squads. A quasi-squad comprises two

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- teams from different clubs that are paired together to play in divisions that are in squad format.
- g) Each club entering a squad or team in Senior Men's football must supply the name of the club's Referee Liaison Officer (RLO) who will be the club's point of contact for all matters relating to Referees. (Refer **Appendix 2A** of these Regulations for role description).
 - h) Each club entering a squad or team in Senior Men's football is required to supply at least the minimum specified number of referees who are current members of KDFRA or who have committed to qualifying as KDFRA members early in the season. Nominated referees must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
 - i) Each club, through its RLO, must ensure that those whom it has nominated in accordance with **clause h)** above (or enough other *in lieu*) become current KDFRA members.
 - j) The minimum number of referees required is calculated as follows:
 - i) Premier League – no requirement.
 - ii) Senior Men's All Age Division Two– no requirement.
 - iii) Senior Men's All Age Division Three – one per squad.
 - iv) All other Senior Men's squads – two per squad.
 - v) All Senior Men's single teams (whether formed into quasi-squads or not) – one per team.
 - k) Penalties for non-compliance with requirements in relation to referees are set out in **Section 2.23.5** of these Regulations.
 - l) All clubs entering a team in Junior Mixed Under 12 Super League to Under 18 Super League and Girls' Under 12 Diamond League to Under 18 Diamond League must ensure that the team coach has satisfied the minimum coaching requirements as outlined in **Section 2.5.1** of these Regulations.
 - m) Clubs entering teams in Senior Men's football must register a minimum number of fourteen (14) players in any one team. There is no maximum number.
 - n) Clubs entering squads in Senior Men's football must register a minimum number of twenty-six (26 players) in any one squad. There is no maximum number.
 - o) Clubs entering teams in Junior Mixed, Girls and/or Women's football must register a minimum number of thirteen (13) players in any one team. There is no maximum number.

2.5.1 Minimum Coaching Requirements

Clubs entering teams into the following divisions and age groups must comply with the following Minimum Coaching requirements and accreditation:

- a) For Junior Mixed Under 12 Super League to Under 18 Super League, and Girls Under 12 Diamond League to Under 18 Diamond League:
 - i) The Club agrees that team(s) will be trained and play in a manner consistent with the FA national curriculum; and
 - ii) The Coach must attend a pre-season workshop conducted by the NSFA Technical Director and/or Community Football Manager.
 - iii) The Coach must join **INSPIRE** and comply with all requirements of membership.
- b) Coaches of Junior Mixed Under 12 Super League to Under 14 Super League and Girl's Under 12 Diamond League to Girl's Under 14 Diamond League must have achieved an FA Skill Training Certificate and/or an FA Game Training Certificate, or an Advanced 'C' Licence (Youth) or higher; and
- c) Coaches of Junior Mixed Under 15 Super League to Under 18 Super League and Girl's Under 18 Diamond League must have achieved an FA Game Training Certificate, or an Advanced 'C' Licence (Youth) or higher.
- d) If a team does not comply with **clauses a) to c)** above by May 31 of each year, all competition points gained from that date will be suspended. The points will be reinstated if the team subsequently complies before June 30.
- e) If the team fails to comply with this **clauses a) to c)** above by June 30 then all points gained from that date will be nullified.

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2.5.2 Grading

Teams are subject to grading by the Competitions Department. The basis of grading includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- a) Previous year's performance.
- b) Promotion/relegation criteria.
- c) Information provided by clubs.

2.5.2.1 Re-grading

- a) Re-grading will only occur in Junior Mixed football, Girls football and Women's football, at the discretion of the Competitions Department.
- b) Re-grading will occur only after three (3) competition rounds, although further re-grading may be necessary in extreme circumstances at the discretion of the Competitions Department.
- c) The Competitions Department will designate all matches played by a re-graded team before re-grading as "friendlies", unless a full round has been completed.
- d) A re-graded team will be required to play make-up matches against the teams it has not played in its new division.
- e) If the team that has been re-graded has played four (4) or more fixtures, the Competitions Department will not require those make-up fixtures to be played due to time constraints. Instead, the NSFA Competitions Department will apply the average number of points accumulated in the division divided by the number of teams in division (rounded up to the nearest integer) BOD 03/23

2.5.3 Promotion & Relegation

- a) In Senior Men's football, squads/teams are subject to promotion and relegation between divisions from year to year in the following manner, subject to b) below:
 - i) The Competitions Department may relegate the club(s) in squad divisions whose First-Grade team finished in either of the bottom two positions in their divisions in the previous year to the next lower division. In Premier League, All Age Division Two and All Age Division Three, the Competitions Department may relegate the club(s) whose teams finished in either of the bottom two positions in the respective Division Championship in the previous year to next lower division (see **clause b) ii)** below).
 - ii) The Competitions Department may promote the club(s) in squad divisions whose First-Grade team finished in either of the top two positions in their division in the previous year to the next higher division. In All Age Division Two and All Age Division Three the Competitions Department may promote the club(s) whose teams finish in either of the top two positions in the respective Division Championship in the previous year to the next highest division.
 - iii) The Competitions Department may promote the club(s) in single-team divisions whose team finishes in either of the top two positions of the division in the previous year to the next higher division.
 - iv) The Competitions Department may relegate the club(s) in single-team divisions whose team finishes in either of the bottom two positions of the division in the previous year to the next lower division.
 - v) The Competitions Department may invite any club that finished in either of the top two positions of the highest single-team division in the previous year to form a squad or quasi-squad and promote such squad or quasi-squad to the lowest squad division.
 - vi) The Competitions Department may relegate a club that finishes in either of the bottom two positions of the lowest squad division, by splitting the squad into single teams, and placing the teams into one or more single-team divisions.
 - vii) If a club that finishes in either of the top two positions of a squad division is unable to accept promotion to the next higher division in

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accordance with **clauses b) i) and ii)** below, only those squads that finished in the top two positions can accept promotion into the higher division.

- viii) The Competitions Department may grant further promotions if a club holding a position in the higher division cannot field a squad/team.
 - ix) The Competitions Department will place new squads into the lowest squad division unless a position becomes available in a higher division.
 - x) The Competitions Department will place new single teams in the lowest single-team division.
- b) In Senior Men's football, promotion/relegation decisions as per **clause a)** above are subject to the following:
- i) A club may have no more than one (1) squad in Premier League.
 - ii) In Premier League and All Age Division Two, a Division Championship will decide promotion and relegation between the two divisions. This will also apply to promotion and relegation between Division Two and Division Three. Clubs will be awarded triple (3x) points for every point earned in First Grade and one (1) point for every point earned in Reserve Grade, which will be added together to determine final placings in the Division Championship(s).
 - iii) In All Age Division Two, the club(s) finishing in the last two (2) positions in the Division Championship may be relegated to All Age Division Three. In All Age Division Three and lower **Section 2.5.3 clause a) ii)** of these Regulations will apply.
 - iv) A club may have no more than three (3) teams in any division (excluding clauses i), ii) and iii) above.
 - v) No quasi-squads may enter Premier League and/or All Age Division Two.
 - vi) All decisions as to the composition of divisions, including promotion or relegation of squads or teams, are subject to the discretion of the Competitions Department.
- c) In Women's football, teams are subject to promotion and relegation between divisions from year to year in the following manner:
- i) In All Age, the Competitions Department may relegate the team that finished in the lowest position in a division in the previous year to the next lowest division.
 - i. In Women's All Age Premier League and Women's All Age Division Two, promotion and relegation will be in place. The team that finishes in the top position in Women's All Age Division Two will be promoted to Women's All Age Premier League.
 - ii. The team that finishes in the bottom position in Women's All Age Premier League will be relegated to Women's All Age Division Two.
 - ii) In All Age, the Competitions Department may promote the team that finished in the top position in a division in the previous year to the next highest division.
 - iii) In Over 35, due to changes in the number and composition of teams from season to season, the Competitions Department will determine division allocations at its discretion.

2.6 LATE TEAM/SQUAD ENTRY OR WITHDRAWAL

- a) The Competition Department may accept late entries if it leads to the elimination of a bye in a relevant division. Clubs must pay a late entry fee as prescribed in **Section 2.23.1** of these Regulations.
- b) Clubs must submit withdrawals in writing. Clubs are subject to a withdrawal fee as prescribed in **Section 2.23.1** of these Regulations.

2.7 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The following criteria define player eligibility:

- a) Players must register in accordance with the provisions of **NSFA Competition Regulations 1 – Participant Registration**.
- b) Players are not permitted to receive any monetary payment to play for an NSFA Member club in an NSFA competition or tournament, whether received as a one-off or per-match payment or payment based on personal or team achievements including (but not limited to) match wins and/or goals scored).
- c) Players under suspension are not eligible to play until they have served their suspension (Refer **NSFA Competition Regulations 4 – Grievance & Discipline**).
- d) Persons of any gender may play in Junior Mixed competitions
- e) Only female players may play in Girls and Women’s competitions.
- f) Only male players may play in Senior Men’s competitions.
 - i) However, if a female wishes to play in Senior Men’s competition football, they will be required to sign a consent document to play in Senior Men’s competitions. This can be obtained from the NSFA Competitions Department.
- g) Players may not play in a lower division within the age group in which they are registered.
- h) Where clubs have more than one (1) team/squad in a division, players may not play for more than one (1) team/squad in that division, even if they have registered in a lower division or different age group.
- i) Players may play up to six (6) matches in a higher division in the same age group than that in which they are registered and continue to play in their registered team/squad. This clause does not apply to a player playing in a higher age group in which he/she is registered, except for a player registered in Senior Men’s Over 45 Division Two (and lower) and playing in Senior Men’s Over 35 Division One.
- j) Female players may play in a Junior Mixed team from the same club as that in which they register provided they are age eligible.
- k) Junior players must meet the age criteria of the competition in which they are playing. Age Eligibility document can be found on the NSFA website - [click here](#)
- l) No junior player shall play in an age group more than two (2) years higher than they are qualified for, unless they have been granted dispensation by the Competitions Department (refer **Section 2.7.3 clause b**) of these Regulations).
- m) Junior players may play in a lower age group than that in which they are registered if they meet age requirements. However, the following conditions are to be met;
 - i) Article (m) is only applicable in NSFA-sanctioned competitions (including NSFA Cup and Shield competitions alongside NSFA League competitions)
 - ii) A player can play in a lower age group a maximum of five (5) times in a season. NSFA Cup and Shield competitions are not counted towards this five (5) match limit.
 - iii) In a single fixture, a maximum of two (2) players from the same team can play in an age group lower than that in which they are registered.
- n) Junior Mixed players may play in a higher age group (or competition) than that in which they are registered if they meet the age requirements, including **clause i**) above. However, Super League players from a lower age group may only play Super League of the next highest age group within the Junior Mixed competition.
- o) Players registered in Under 18 Super League are only permitted to play in Senior Men’s All Age Division Three and above.
- p) Junior Girls may play in a higher age group in Girl’s football than that in which they are registered if they are age-eligible and with the following exceptions:
 - i) Diamond League players are not eligible to play in any non-Diamond League Girl’s Competition.
 - ii) G18 Diamond Leagues may only play Women’s All Age in Division Three (3) and above.
- q) To be eligible to play in Senior Men’s Over 35 or Women’s Over 35, players must be 35 years of age or older on or before December 31 of the current year (see exception in clause p) below).

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- r) In 2023, teams entering Women's Over 35 may register a maximum of three (3) players who are aged from thirty (30) to thirty-four (34) as at 11:59pm December 31, 2022. **BOD 03/23**
- s) To be eligible to play in Senior Men's Over 45, players must be 45 years or older on or before December 31 of the current year (subject to **Section 2.6 clause s) iii** of these Regulations).
- t) No player shall play in Senior Men's or Women's All Age competitions if he/she is fifteen (15) years of age or younger on the day of the match, unless he/she has been granted dispensation by the Competitions Department (refer **Section 2.7.3** of these Regulations).
- u) Players registered in Senior Men's All Age or Women's All Age competitions may play in age-restricted competitions, provided they meet the age requirements. In Women's football, however, an All-Age player may not play in an Over 35 division that is lower than the All-Age division in which they are registered.
- v) Players registered in Senior Men's or Women's Over 35 or Over 45 may play in All Age and Over 35 without restriction, with the following exceptions:
 - i) Players registered in Premier League may not play in Senior Men's Over 35 Division Two or lower, or Senior Men's Over 45 Division Two or lower.
 - ii) Players registered in Senior Men's Over 35 Division One may not play in Senior Men's Over 45 Division Two or lower.
 - iii) Players registered in Women's Over 35 Division One may not play in Women's All Age Division Four or lower.

2.7.1 Borrowing Players

- a) A girl registered for an NSFA club in the Girl's football competition may be borrowed by another NSFA club to play in the Junior Mixed football competition provided that:
 - i) She is age eligible.
 - ii) The club for which she is currently registered does not enter [a] team(s) in the relevant age group in the Junior Mixed football competition.
- b) A girl registered for an NSFA club in the Junior Mixed football competition may be borrowed by another NSFA club to play in the Girl's football competition provided that:
 - i) She is age eligible.
 - ii) The club for which she is currently registered does not enter [a] team(s) in the relevant age group in the Girls' football competition.
- c) A girl registered for an NSFA club in the Junior Mixed football competition may be borrowed by another NSFA club to play in the Diamond League competition provided that:
 - i) She is age eligible.
 - ii) The club for which she first registers has given permission via the Club Secretary, in writing, for the other club to borrow her.

As Diamond League is a development league, she may play in that league even if her Junior Mixed football competition club offers Girls' teams in the relevant age group.
- d) Where two single teams from different clubs have formed a quasi-squad to play in a squad division, each team may borrow players from the other team at any time with no restrictions.
- e) A player registered in a Women's Over 35 team may be borrowed by a team from another NSFA club playing in the Women's Over 30 6-a-side competition, and vice versa, provided that:
 - i) The club for which she is registered does not enter a team in the relevant age group.
 - ii) The club for which she is currently registered has given permission via the Club Secretary, in writing, for her to be borrowed by another club.

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2.7.2 Eligibility for Finals Matches

- a) For a player to be eligible to play in the finals series for Reserve Grade in divisions with squads and/or quasi-squads, his/her name must be listed on the Reserve Grade match card for four (4) of the last seven (7) competition matches.
 - a.
- b) If players do not meet this rule due to suspension, injury or other absence, the NSFA Competitions Department may consider special dispensation in exceptional circumstances
- c) For a player to be eligible to play in the finals of a single-team division in which he or she is not registered, his/her name must be indicated on match cards as having played in three (3) of the last (5) competition matches for that team.

2.7.3 Dispensation

Clubs may apply to the Competitions Department for dispensation from the restrictions in **Section 2.7** of these Regulations. The following conditions must apply for the Competitions Department to consider dispensation:

- a) Applications for dispensation may be made using **CF15A – Special Dispensation Form** ([click here](#)) to the Competitions Department no later than seven (7) days before the intended match and must include:
 - i) The player's name and ID number.
 - ii) The playing history of the player.
 - iii) The player's height and weight if a junior seeking to play in a different age-group than he/she is eligible for.
 - iv) The reason for the application.
 - v) Any information from third parties that the Competitions Department may require to reach a decision.
- b) Any player wishing to play or register in a team in Junior Mixed or Girl's football that is more than two (2) years above the age group for which he/she is eligible may apply for dispensation. He/she may be required to attend a training session with a suitable Northern Tigers team to be assessed by a suitably qualified coach as to his/her ability to play in the higher age group. If approved the player's parent or guardian is required to sign a **CF15B – Playing Above Age Consent Form** which is available on the NSFA website – [click here](#).
- c) Clubs may apply for a player to play in a lower age group if a qualified practitioner has assessed the player as physically and/or developmentally unsuitable to play in the age group for which he/she is eligible. Any application must include a letter from the relevant qualified medical practitioner.
- d) Any player wishing to play or register in a team in Senior Men's or Women's All Age football who has not yet turned sixteen (16) years of age may apply for dispensation. He/she may be required to attend a training session with a suitable Northern Tigers team to be assessed by a suitably qualified coach as to his/her ability to play in the higher age group. If approved, the player's parent or guardian is required to sign a **CF15B – Playing Above Age Consent Form** which is available on the NSFA website – [click here](#)
- e) Any player wishing to play or register in a team in Senior Men's or Women's Over 30, Over 35 or Over 45 who is not turning the relevant age in the current calendar year may apply for dispensation. The Competitions Department will only consider approving dispensation if the player is turning the relevant age in the following calendar year and the addition of this player will allow the team/squad to reach the minimum number of players required to register for the team/squad to participate in competition matches.

2.7.3.1 Relative Age Effect

- a) The Relative Age Effect (RAE) principle allows for players born in the last three (3) months of the calendar year to offset any physical disadvantage to players born in the earlier months of the year by

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applying for dispensation to play in the next lower age group. To gain dispensation, players must have height and weight results below the 50th percentile as per the prescribed NSFA guidelines.

- b) The Competitions Department will only consider requests under RAE up to Junior Mixed Under 15 and Girl's Under 14.
- c) Players who are born in the first nine (9) months of the calendar year who have height and weight results below the 50th percentile as per the prescribed NSFA percentiles may apply for dispensation to play down an age group. Such players may be required to attend a training session with a suitable Northern Tigers team for a suitably qualified coach to assess them as to their suitability to play in the lower age group.
- d) No Super League team shall contain more than one (1) player that is eligible to play in the lower age group under **clauses a) to c) above**.
- e) No non-Super League team shall contain more than four (4) players that are eligible to play in the lower age group under **clauses a) to c) above**.

2.8 MATCH CARDS – DRIBL

- a) All matches must use an Electronic Match Card (EMC) – including friendly matches. If the EMC is not operable, **both** teams must use a pre-printed paper match card.
- b) Electronic Match Cards:
 - i) Each team is required to submit an EMC no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the published start time of the match. To include a player on the EMC, each player needs to have a unique shirt number and be marked as “Available” and “Playing”. All players listed but not taking part in the match should be marked “Not Available” and “Not Playing”.
 - ii) In matches where substitutes are used (as opposed to interchange), only the eleven (11) players starting the match shall be marked as “Available”, “Playing” and “Starting”. Any substitute shall be marked as “Available” and “Playing” but must not be marked as “Starting”.
 - iii) The team manager must select borrowed players from the “Borrow Player” menu and be marked as “Available”, “Playing” and “Starting” (or do not select them as “Starting” if they are a listed substitute in a match where substitutes are used) and have a unique shirt number assigned.
 - iv) Should the Team Manager be unable to locate an eligible player in the “Choose Player” list, he/she can enter the details of the player (Full name, FA ID number & shirt number) into the ‘Disputes’ section of the Electronic Match Card.
 - v) **The presence of a player on EMC as “available for selection” does not indicate that the player is eligible to play in the match.** Team managers must be aware of the eligibility rules in **Section 2.7** of these Regulations.
 - vi) Team Managers must review and accept the opposition match card no later than five (5) minutes before the published start time of the match. A match will not commence until both team managers have completed this step.
- c) Paper Match Cards
 - i) If the EMC does not operate for one or both teams, **both teams** must use a pre-printed paper match card.
 - ii) Each team is required to have a pre-printed paper match card available for each fixture. Each pre-printed match card will include the names and ID numbers of all registered players in the team/squad. Pre-printed paper match cards must clearly indicate which players are taking part, either by inserting shirt numbers, ID numbers and names

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for those taking part, or by crossing out the pre-printed names of those not taking part. **BOD 03/23**

- iii) Team managers must complete any other amendments to the match card, including the listing of borrowed players, by hand and in ink.
 - iv) In matches with substitutes (as opposed to interchange), the match card must clearly identify the substitutes to distinguish them from the starting eleven (11).
 - v) Managers must sign each match card confirming ID acceptance prior to commencement of any match. If the opposing manager does not produce the approved ID sheet upon request, then the manager should mark the match card “Match in Dispute” and follow the procedure set out in **Section 2.8.1** of these Regulations.
 - vi) Winning managers (or home managers in the case of a draw) must return the match cards to the NSFA office no later than 5pm on the Wednesday following the match, using one of the following methods:
 - Hand delivering the original to the NSFA Office; or,
 - Emailing to competitions@nsfa.asn.au; or,
 - If the Competition Department requires, via the club recorder who will in turn forward the original or a legible copy to the office.
 - vii) All match cards sent by email must be saved in a .pdf file and must comply with the following protocol:
 - Match cards named as the following: Division Grade Date (2023MMDD) Home Team v Away Team (team you are submitting on behalf of in capitals). For example, "WAA2 20230721 Northbridge v LANE COVE"
 - Clubs must save each match card as an individual .pdf file. Clubs may not save multiple match cards within one .pdf file.
 - viii) If an emailed match card is received which does not comply with the protocol described in **clause vii**) above, it will be returned to the sender and a fine issued to the club as per the relevant Regulations. Failure to provide the NSFA Office with a correctly named match card file by the deadline prescribed in **clause vi**) above, will result in the same penalties as failing to lodge a hard copy match card.
- d) General (applicable to either match card method).
- i) Managers may list players who are not present at the start of the match. However, he/she must give the opposing manager the opportunity to perform ID checks before players take the field.
 - ii) The manager may not alter the match card after he/she has had the EMC confirmed by the opposition manager via EMC or handed it to the referee if using a pre-printed paper match card.
 - iii) Only players listed on the match card prior to the commencement of the match may play in the match.
 - iv) The Competitions Department will deem that players indicated on the match card as “Available” and “Playing” have taken part in the match, whether they took to the field or not.
 - v) Only eligible players may play, or appear on the match card as having played, in the match.
 - vi) If a player’s ID number is missing and the Competitions Department deems that the player has played in the match, a penalty is applicable as per **Section 2.22.3 clause g)** of these Regulations.
 - vii) If a player’s name is missing but is otherwise eligible to play in the match, and the Competitions Department deems that the player has played in the match, a penalty is applicable as per **Section 2.23.3 clause h)** of these Regulations.

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2.8.1 Matches in Dispute

- a) Managers are encouraged to settle any dispute at the ground at the conclusion of the match. However, if this is not possible, a manager may mark the match card as “Match in Dispute” at the conclusion of any match if his/her club wishes to dispute the result due to an alleged breach of the competition regulations or an error at law by the match official. BOD 03/23
- b) The Competitions Department will only consider “Match(es) in Dispute” once the club has submitted its dispute in accordance with **clause d)** below.
- c) The Competitions Department will not consider any “Match in Dispute” claim on the grounds of player identity if the disputing team did not conduct a pre-match identity check.
- d) Where the dispute is due to an error at law by the match official, the Competitions Department shall nullify the goal-in-error and if it deems, at its absolute discretion, that the error effected the result of the match, it will nullify the result of the match and order the match to be replayed.
- e) The dispute procedure is as follows:
 - ii) The disputing manager must notify his/her Club Secretary of his/her intent to dispute the match.
 - iii) The disputing manager must submit a report in writing via their Club Secretary to the Competitions Department, using the **CF16E – Match in Dispute Form**, within seven (7) days of the match. The form is available on the NSFA website – [click here](#).
 - iv) The Competitions Department shall notify the opposition club of the dispute and seek a written statement from them. The Competitions Department shall then consider the dispute and determine what action it will take to resolve the matter.
 - v) The Competitions Department may determine to conduct a hearing into the matter. The Competitions Department shall notify both parties of the time and place when the hearing will take place. The parties may make written submissions to the Competitions Department and/or make personal representations at the hearing.
 - vi) The Competitions Department may seek further evidence from additional sources.
 - vii) When the Competitions Department has made a determination, it will advise both parties of the result and their right to challenge the decision.

Note: The Competitions Department may also initiate proceedings without a “Match in Dispute” where a breach of the rules or error at law by the referee is evident.

2.9 DUTIES OF TEAM MANAGERS

Team managers shall perform the following duties on match days:

- a) The home team manager is to ensure that alternate strip is available in the event of a clash.
- b) Check playing field for safety – ensure no safety hazards.
- c) Check that the gate(s) permitting ambulance entry to field are unlocked. If locked, make every reasonable effort to rectify the situation.
- d) Home team manager to ensure that the technical area(s) is/are marked out as per FIFA Laws of the Game.
- e) Both managers to introduce themselves to the referee and assist the referee as requested.
- f) Provide officials in accordance with **Section 2.13** of these Regulations if the required number of qualified referees are not present.
- g) Provide an approved, legible printed copy of team photos to identify players if requested by the opposition team manager.
- h) Perform a photo ID check and sign the opposition team’s match card (either electronically or on the pre-printed match card) prior to the commencement of the match.

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- i) Ensure all players are wearing the correct attire.
- j) Provide a FIFA-approved, properly inflated match ball prior to the start of the match.
- k) Ensure cleanliness of dressing rooms and/or any other area used by your team before leaving.
- l) Ensure players sent from the field of play leave the vicinity of the ground.
- m) Ensure alcohol is not present.
- n) Where pre-printed paper match cards are used, the manager of the winning team (or, in the case of a draw, the “home” team) must collect the completed match card(s) from the referee at the conclusion of the match. The manager must ensure that he/she returns the match card(s) by the published deadline. The NSFA office will issue fines for card(s) received after the published deadline.

2.10 FORFEITS

2.10.1 Forfeits

- a) Where a team forfeits a match, the opposition team shall be awarded a 3-0 win.
- b) Where both teams forfeit a match, neither team shall be awarded any goals or competition points.
- c) Where a team forfeits a match in relation to a round that (for that entire division) is postponed, the Competitions Department will reschedule the match later in the season and the forfeit will not stand. BOD 03/23

2.10.2 Forfeit with Notice

- a) Clubs must notify the Association of all forfeits using the ‘Forfeit Request’ functionality within Dribl at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled commencement of the fixture. Alternatively, teams can use the **CF11A – Forfeit Form** and email it to NSFA at least 48 hours prior to the commencement of the fixture. The form is available on the NSFA website – [click here](#). BOD 03/23
- b) In squad divisions, a club may not forfeit a First-Grade match without a corresponding forfeit in the Reserve Grade match. This restriction does not apply to a quasi-squad.
- c) Clubs forfeiting after 4pm of the last working day in any week must advise the opposition Club Secretary, KDFRA and the Association.
- d) A team that forfeits must, nonetheless, fulfil any refereeing/assistant refereeing duties that it has in relation to other matches.

2.10.3 Forfeit without Notice

- a) Where a team has not reported to the referee by the scheduled kick-off or does not have the required minimum number of players present (as per **Section 2.3.5 clause a)** of these Regulations), the team may claim a ten (10) minute grace period, which the opposition must allow. After the ten (10) minute grace period has passed, a team failing to report to the referee shall automatically forfeit to its opponents if the opponents have reported in good order to the referee.
- b) Teams forfeiting in these circumstances will be penalised as per these Regulations.

2.10.4 Ineligible Players

- a) Any team found to have played an ineligible player in a premiership match shall have a forfeit awarded against it, as per **Section 2.10.1 a)** of these Regulations.
- b) If the team that played the ineligible player lost the match in question, the club will be fined as per **Section 2.21.4 a) of these Regulations**.
- c) If the non-offending team wins the match in question by a greater margin than 3-0, the match score will stand. If the margin is the same but the non-offending team scored four (4) goals or more, the match score will stand.
- d) Any team found to have played an ineligible player in a finals-series match will be disqualified and their opponents will be awarded a forfeit win.

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- e) If the Competition Department determines that the club or its representative has knowingly played an ineligible player, it may refer the matter to the P.D. & D.C.

2.10.5 Ineligible Team Officials

- a) Where the Competitions Department has postponed a match as per **Section 2.5 clause c) and 2.5 clause d)** of these Regulations it shall award a forfeit win to the opposition.
- b) Where both teams are in breach of **Section 2.5 clause c) and d)** of these Regulations, the Competitions Department shall record the match as “cancelled” and the fixture will not be rescheduled.

2.10.6 Consecutive Forfeits

The Competitions Department may ask teams/squads forfeiting on successive occasions without good reason to show cause as to why it should allow the team to continue to participate.

2.10.7 Point Deduction

When a club forfeits a Reserve Grade fixture in a squad division, the First-Grade team will have one (1) competition point deducted per forfeit. This does not apply to quasi-squads.

2.11 COMPETITION DRAW

The Competitions Department will publish the draws on the NSFA website – [click here](#).

- a) The Competitions Department shall publish the finish date of competition matches prior to the start of the season (Subject to washouts).
- b) The Competitions Department will publish all other competition draws before the first scheduled competition weekend.
- c) In five-, six-, seven- and eight-team competitions, the Competitions Department will schedule either fourteen (14) rounds or fifteen (15) rounds. The draw in six and eight-team competitions will then continue from Round 1 with “extra” rounds until any available weekends are exhausted. In five- and seven- team competitions, the Competitions Department will schedule “friendlies” for any spare weeks prior to finals.
- d) In nine- and ten-team divisions, the Competitions Department will schedule Round 18 in the second weekend in August. The first weekend in August will remain vacant for postponed matches.
- e) The draw, once published, is final and only the Competitions Department can make alterations.
- f) The Competitions Department may change the date and/or time of a published fixture at any time. However, if the proposed change occurs within ten (10) days of the date of the published fixture, both teams affected must agree to the change.
- g) The Competitions Department may change the venue of a fixture at any time without the agreement of both clubs. However, if the changed fixture is moved to a time when a club has booked the ground for a club activity (e.g., training), then the club that has booked the ground must give permission for the match to proceed.

2.11.1 Fixture Alteration Requests

- a) Clubs may request a change to a published fixture by completing the **CF11B – Fixture Alteration Form** no later than ten (10) days before the date of the match in question. The form is available on the NSFA website – [click here](#).
- b) The club making the request must obtain written agreement to the proposed change from the opposition club, including an agreed date, time and venue for the re-scheduled match.
- c) All written requests must be endorsed by the secretary, president or nominated official of the club initiating the request before submission.

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- d) The request must be submitted no later than ten (10) days prior to the published time of the match.
- e) The Competitions Department may deny the request at its discretion. If both clubs cannot agree to the proposed change of fixture, then the match will go ahead at the time and place indicated in the published draw.

2.12 ABANDONED/CANCELLED/POSTPONED MATCHES

2.12.1 Abandoned/Cancelled matches

- a) All matches must be played, except where:
 - i) Postponed or cancelled by the NSFA Competitions Department, in consultation with the ground owner and/or dressing club; or
 - ii) Abandoned by the KDFRA referee appointed to control the match; or
 - iii) Abandoned by mutual agreement by both managers if no KDFRA-appointed referee is present.
- b) The Competitions Department, at its discretion, may reschedule abandoned matches, in accordance with **Section 2.14.4 clause k)** of these Regulations.
- c) The Competitions Department will not reschedule cancelled matches.

2.12.2 Postponed matches

2.12.2.1 Senior Men's Football

- a) The Competitions Department will reschedule matches postponed before the June long weekend onto the Monday of the June long weekend.
- b) The Competitions Department will reschedule complete rounds postponed after the June long weekend to any spare weekend.
- c) The Competitions Department will reschedule individual matches postponed after the June long weekend to the earliest possible available Sunday.
- d) In all cases above, teams may negotiate with each other to find an alternate date to play postponed matches.
- e) The Competitions Department requires that all postponed matches in nine- or ten-team competitions are played before Round 18.

2.12.2.2 Junior Mixed Football

- a) The Competitions Department will reschedule complete rounds that it postpones to any spare weekend. Where there are no spare weekends the Competitions Department will give priority to matches in Rounds 1-14 in seven- and eight-team competitions and Rounds 1-15 in five- and six-team competitions over "extra" rounds.
- b) The Competitions Department will reschedule individual matches that it postpones to the earliest possible available Sunday.
- c) In all cases above, teams may negotiate with each other to find an alternate date to play postponed matches.
- d) The Competitions Department will endeavour to reschedule all postponed matches in nine- or ten-team competitions before Round 18.

2.12.2.3 Girls/Women's Football

- a) The Competitions Department will reschedule complete rounds that it postpones to any spare weekend. Where there are no spare weekends the Competitions Department will give priority to matches in Rounds 1-14 in seven- and eight-team competitions and Rounds 1-15 in five- and six-team competitions over "extra" rounds.
- b) The Competitions Department will reschedule individual matches that it postpones to a time and date that suits both teams.
- c) The Competitions Department will endeavour to reschedule all postponed matches in nine- or ten-team competitions before Round 18.

When the Ground Controller closes grounds on a match day, the Competitions Department may reschedule fixtures to different venues and/or times on the same day. The Competitions Department may give preference in the use of grounds that are

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open to specified divisions or teams. This means that a match may be moved or postponed even if the ground on which it was originally scheduled is open; and conversely, that a match may go ahead at a different time and/or location even if the ground on which it was originally scheduled is closed.

The Competitions Department will publish changes to fixtures on the NSFA website - [click here](#).

2.13 REFEREES

2.13.1 Provision of referees and assistant referees

- a) All matches must have a referee and two assistant referees.
- b) KDFRA appoints referees to matches. It may also appoint one or two assistant referees to the match.
- c) In respect of each day on which a club has a home Senior Men's fixture scheduled, each club must ensure that enough of the referees it nominated in accordance with **Section 2.5** of these Regulations make themselves available, via KDFRA, to referee its quota of Senior Men's matches. The club's quota of Senior Men's matches is equal to the number of home matches scheduled for the club, excluding matches in Senior Men's Premier League and Senior Men's Division Two.
- d) The referees made available in accordance with c) above must include at least one (1) who is able to fulfil each of the refereeing responsibilities that the club would have in accordance with **Section 2.13.2** of these Regulations. KDFRA may appoint those referees to a home match of the club that nominated them where it is practicable (and considering the notified playing commitments of the official), KDFRA may switch referees to matches not involving their own club.

2.13.2 Process in the absence of one or more match officials

To the extent that KDFRA has not appointed match officials, or the nominated officials do not arrive, or, for other reasons, are not able to officiate, the following must occur:

- a) In squad and/or quasi-squad divisions in Senior Men's football, the home squad or quasi-squad team must appoint a Referee and each team must provide one assistant referee.
- b) In Senior Men's football, when two or more single matches are played consecutively on the same field (regardless of whether in the same age group or not), the home team must provide a referee to the alternate fixture, and each team must provide one (1) assistant referee to the alternate fixture.
- c) An "alternate fixture" for a 1pm match means the Senior Men's 3pm fixture on the same field and vice versa for the 3pm fixture. For matches played at other times (e.g., 12:00pm and 2:00pm or 5:00pm and 7:00pm), "alternate fixture" may mean the Senior Men's fixture immediately before or after the match. If there is an odd number of Senior Men's matches on the same field, team managers should confer (with each other and KDFRA prior to the day of the match) to make special arrangements for each match to be covered.
- d) In Senior Men's football; if there is no alternate fixture, the home team must provide a referee to referee its own match and each team must provide one assistant referee.
- e) In Senior Men's football, if the home team or squad fails to provide a referee when required by these Regulations to do so, the away team may claim a forfeit, but only if it does this prior to the match starting.
- f) In meeting its obligation to provide a referee in accordance with the provisions of this **Section 2.13**, a squad or team should provide a qualified referee if one is available.
- g) For Junior Mixed, Girls' and Women's Football, the home team must provide a person to referee the match and another person to act as an assistant referee. The away team must provide a second assistant referee. If the home team fails to appoint a referee, the away team may provide one. However, the away team should note this on the match cards.

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- h) Only one person should referee the entire match, unless the KDFRA-appointed referee arrives after either the match has started, or the starting referee is unable to continue through illness or injury.

2.14 LAWS OF THE GAME – MODIFICATIONS

2.14.1 The Field of Play

- a) On fields where combined football/rugby goalposts are used, the ball shall be considered out-of-play if it touches any part of the rugby-specific sections of the goalposts.
- b) Playing surfaces may consist of a hybrid of natural grass and synthetic material provided they are not dangerous.
- c) Junior Mixed Under 12, Girls' Under 12 and Girls' Under 13 matches play on 'Half' Fields (60 metres x 40 metres).
- d) Junior Mixed Under 12, Girls' Under 12 and Girls' Under 13 matches are to have a penalty area that measures ten (10) metres x twenty (20) metres, with the penalty mark to be perpendicular from the centre of the goal line at a distance of ten (10) metres.

2.14.2 The Ball

Under 12 & Under 13 matches use a FIFA-approved Size 4 ball that is properly inflated. **BOD 03/23**

Under 14 to Over 45 matches use a FIFA-approved Size 5 ball that is properly inflated. **BOD 03/23**

2.14.3 The Duration of Play

- a) Under 12s – 50 minutes (25 minutes per half).
- b) Under 13-14s – 60 minutes (30 minutes per half).
- c) Under 15-16s – 70 minutes (35 minutes per half).
- d) Under 17-18s – 90 minutes (45 minutes per half).
- e) All Age, Over 35, Over 45, Over 55– 90 minutes (45 minutes per half).
- f) Women's' Over 30 6-a-side – 50 minutes (25 minutes per half).
- g) The half-time interval shall not exceed five (5) minutes in any match.
- h) It may be necessary to reduce the halves of a delayed start match, so that it concludes within the allotted time.
- i) Referees in any Senior Men's fixture, at their discretion, may add, at the end of each half, time lost through substitutions, assessment and/or removal of injured players, wasting time, disciplinary sanctions or any other cause provided that the match would finish no later than ten (10) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the next match on the same field.
- j) A match is not valid if less than two-thirds of the match is completed. (e.g., 40 minutes of a 60-minute match; 60 minutes of a 90-minute match).

2.14.4 The Players' Equipment

- a) Players must not wear jewellery of any kind except for medical alert bracelets and/or necklaces that the player must tape securely to the wrist and/or chest.
- b) Players must not wear plaster or similar rigid casts.
- c) All equipment, including spectacles, is subject to the referee's authority as per the Laws of the Game. However, NSFA strongly recommends safety glass be used where spectacles are needed.

2.14.5 The Number of Players

- a) The minimum number of eligible registered players to start and complete a match is seven (7).
 - i. The minimum number of eligible registered players to start and complete a match in Junior Mixed Under 12s, Girls Under 12s and Junior Girls Under 13s is six (6).

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- b) A maximum of sixteen (16) eligible players from each team may take part in any match, except as per **clause c)** below.
- c) In Senior Men's Over 35, Senior Men's Over 55 and Women's Over 35, a maximum of eighteen (18) eligible players may take part in a match. Teams may name players on the match card who are sixty (60) years of age or older by the end of the calendar year, in addition to the maximum of eighteen (18).
 - a. In Senior Men's Over 55 competition, teams are allowed to register a maximum of three (3) players that will be between the ages of fifty-two (52) and fifty-four (54) to their teams. Special Dispensation forms will still be required to be submitted to the Competitions Department. **BOD 03/23**
- d) In Junior Mixed and Junior Girls' Under 12's and Junior Girls' Under 13's, a maximum of nine (9) players shall be on the field for each team at any one time, one of whom must be a goalkeeper, with a maximum of thirteen (13) eligible players allowed to take part in the match. **BOD 03/23**
- e) Senior Men's Premier League (First Grade only): teams may make up to five (5) substitutions. Once substituted, a player cannot return to the match.
- f) Interchange shall apply in all other competitions. Players who are interchanged during a match may still take further part in the match if the referee has not sent them from the field of play.

2.14.6 Under 12 and Under 13 – Offside

The Offside rule shall apply in Junior Mixed and Girl's Under 12 and Under 13 matches.

2.14.7 25m Playing Out from the Back Rule

In Junior Mixed Under 13's, goal kicks are taken from within the goal area.

However, the following conditions apply:

- a) All opponents must stay behind the twenty-five (25) metre line that shall be marked by cones (or similar). It is the responsibility of the home team manager to ensure the distance is marked prior to the start of the match.
- b) Opponents may only enter the twenty-five (25) metre zone when the ball is in play.
 - a. The ball is in play from a goal kick when it is kicked and clearly moves.
- c) Long kicks or throws by goalkeepers are to be discouraged unless there is a purposeful distribution (e.g., counterattack).

2.14.8 Under 12 and Junior Girls Under 13 – Goal Kicks

In Junior Mixed and Girls' Under 12's and Junior Girls' Under 13's, goal kicks are taken from within the penalty area. The goal kick is taken as per normal FIFA Laws of the Game. **BOD 03/23**

2.14.9 Under 12 and Girls Under 13 – Goalkeepers Releasing the Ball into Play

In Under 12 and Girls Under 13, goalkeepers can release the ball into play by throwing it OR by placing it on the ground and kicking it OR by kicking it out of their hands. Goalkeepers must throw or kick the ball within six (6) seconds of gaining control of the ball.

2.14.10 Temporary Dismissal

- a) If a referee cautions a player for the offence of Y2 (**dissent by word or action towards a match official**), and the referee has not previously cautioned that player in the same match, the referee shall also temporarily dismiss the player from the field of play.

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- i) The referee shall indicate this by issuing the yellow card to the player that has committed the dissent by word or action towards a match official and then pointing with two (2) extended index fingers towards the technical area.
- b) A team cannot replace a player whom the referee has temporarily dismissed until the temporary dismissal period has finished.
- c) The player must remain in the “technical area” for the duration of the temporary dismissal period. The referee will indicate when the temporary dismissal period has ended at which point the player may re-enter the field of play at the halfway line.
- d) If the referee cautions a player for a second time in the same match for any offence, he or she shall dismiss the player from the field of play for the remainder of the match.

2.14.11 Sanctioning of Team Officials

- a) Referees may sanction any team official by issuing a caution and/or a send-off.
- b) Team officials are subject to the same penalties as players under **NSFA Regulation 4 – Protests, Disputes & Disciplinary and Appeals**.

2.15 MODIFIED COMPETITIONS

- a) The Competitions Department manage one (1) modified competition: Senior Women’s Over 30 6-a-side.
- b) Senior Women’s Over 30 6-a-side matches are scheduled on Saturday afternoons.
- c) Matches are played in accordance with **NSFA Competition Regulation 5 – Modified Football** (available on NSFA website - [click here](#)) with the following exceptions:
 - i) Field Size – Maximum length sixty (60) metres: maximum width forty (40) metres.
 - ii) Duration of matches – seventy (70) minutes (two (2) halves of thirty-five (35) minutes each).
 - a. The duration of Senior Women’s Over 30 6-a-side fixtures will be two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes duration.
 - iii) The half time interval shall not exceed five (5) minutes.

2.16 COMPETITION POINTS AND TABLES

- a) Competition points shall be awarded as follows:
 - i) Win = Three (3) points.
 - ii) Draw = One (1) point.
 - iii) Loss = Zero (0) points.
- b) Team positions in competition tables for all divisions **except Diamond League** shall be ordered by:
 - i) Competition points; then
 - ii) Goal Difference (‘goals scored’ minus ‘goals conceded’); then
 - iii) Goals Scored; then
 - iv) Head-to-head results in the current season **BOD 03/23**
- c) Team positions in competition tables for **Diamond League divisions only** shall be ordered by:
 - i) Competition points; then
 - ii) Head-to-head results in the current season; then
 - iii) A single play-off match at a neutral venue. If scores are level at the conclusion of normal-time, kicks from the penalty mark (“penalty shoot-out”) will determine the winner. **BOD 03/23**
- d) Head-to-head results are defined as the following: **BOD 03/23**
 - a. Greater number of points obtained in the League between the teams concerned

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- b. Greater number of goals scored in the League between the Teams concerned

For example, if Team A and Team B are level on competition points, goal difference and goals for in a division that is not Diamond League then they will be separated by head-to-head results. Team A and Team B played two games (1-1 draw and a 2-1 win to Team B). Team B received four competition points in the two games between Team A and Team B, with Team A only receiving one competition point. Therefore, Team B would be placed in the higher position of the two.

- e) If teams are level on points and occupy two (2) positions on the competition ladder and one (1) team is required to finish above the other (for reasons other than deciding the Premiership (1st and 2nd position) and none of the tiebreakers listed in b) or c) are able to separate the teams, a coin toss will be conducted by the Competitions Department at the NSFA Office in the presence of one (1) official from each Club. This will be used to determine who will finish in the higher spot on the competition table. This will only be utilised if teams are still unable to be separated after all tiebreakers have been exhausted in article b) or c).
- f) If more than two (2) teams are level on points and occupy two (2) or more positions on a competition ladder and two (2) or more teams are required to be separated for reasons other than deciding the Premiership, the drawing of lots will be conducted by the Competitions Department at the NSFA Offices in the presence of one (1) official from each Club. This will be used to determine who will finish in the higher position on the competition ladder. This will only be utilised if teams are still unable to be separated after all tiebreakers have been exhausted in article b) or c). **BOD 03/23**
- g) The team in first position at the end of the competition is the “Premiers”.
- h) If teams are still level after applying the tiebreakers in b) or c) above, the Competitions Department will declare “Joint Premiers”.
- i) Competition tables will be published on the NSFA website – [click here](#)

2.17 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

The Board shall invite the Premiers (“First Past the Post” as per **Section 2.16 clause b) and c)** of these Regulations) of Division One / Super League / Diamond League / Premier League (see **Section 2.2** of these Regulations) in each age group to represent NSFA in the Football NSW Champion of Champions tournament held in September/October, with the following exceptions: **BOD 03/23**

- a) Where NSFA does not offer a competition in an age group, the Board may call for nominations from eligible clubs to enter in that age group. If more than one club nominates for an age group, then the Board may consider relative positions in competition tables to determine which club it will invite to represent NSFA. If the Board believes that two or more teams equally deserve selection, it may conduct a play-off to determine which club it will invite to represent NSFA (see **Section 2.17.1** of these Regulations).
- b) Where the Board has invited a club from another association to enter its competitions and that club wins Division One, the Board may invite the highest placed NSFA-affiliated club to represent the Association at the tournament in that age group.
- c) Where NSFA has formed a combined competition with another affiliated association, the Board may invite the highest placed NSFA-affiliated club in the combined competition to represent the Association at the tournament in that age group.
- d) Where a club does not meet the criteria set down by Football NSW and/or NSFA for entry to the competition, the Board may offer the position to the next highest placed eligible team at their discretion.

2.17.1 Champion of Champions Play-Offs

Where two (2) clubs apply to represent the NSFA as per **Section 2.17 clause a)** of these Regulations OR teams are declared joint-premiers as per **Section 2.16 h)** and

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the Board cannot identify a clear candidate, the Competitions Department may conduct a play-off over two (2) matches to determine the successful club. The procedure for the matches is as follows:

The Competitions Department will schedule matches on a “Home and Away” basis on each club’s usual “Home” ground if available.

- a) Normal NSFA Competition Regulations apply.
- b) The Competitions Department shall determine which club is the “Home” team in the first match. The “Home” team in the first match becomes the “Away” team in the second match.
- c) If combined scores from the two matches are level at the end of normal time of the second match, the teams shall play extra time in accordance with **Section 5.15.3 of NSFA Competition Regulation 5 – Knock-out Tournaments** (Refer **Appendix 2B** of these Regulations). If the scores are still level after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will determine the winner in accordance with the procedures described in **FIFA Laws of the Game**.

2.18 FINALS SERIES

- a) At the completion of the competition in 5-team, 6-team, 7-team and 8-team divisions, the four highest-placed teams will play a finals-series.
- b) At the completion of the competition in 9-team and 10-team divisions in Senior Men’s Football and Women’s Football, the four highest-ranked teams may play a finals-series, provided all competition matches are completed. There will only be a finals-series in 9-team and 10-team Junior Mixed and Girl’s divisions and any Junior Mixed Under 12 division if time permits.
- c) In the event a competition contains more than ten teams, the Competitions Department shall determine the structure of the competition prior to the start of the season and shall advise clubs at that time whether it will conduct a finals-series.
- d) In the finals-series, the teams finishing first and second in single-team divisions will receive “home-ground” advantage where circumstances allow.
- e) In all semi-finals, the first placed team in the competition will play the fourth-placed team and the second-placed team will play the third-placed team. The winner of each semi-final will progress to the Grand Final.
- f) If the Competitions Department cancels a semi-final for any reason, the higher-placed team in the competition will progress to the Grand Final.
- g) If scores are level at the end of normal time in semi-finals and Grand Finals, the knockout procedure outlined in **Section 5.15.3 of NSFA Competition Regulation 5 – Knockout Tournaments** will take place (see **Appendix 2A** in these Regulations).
- h) The winning team of the Grand Final will be the “Finals Series Winner.” This is distinct from the winning team of the competition, which will be the “Premiers”. The Premiers of Division One qualify for invitation to “Champion of Champions”.
- i) If the Competitions Department cancels a Grand Final for any reason, there is no “Finals Series winner.”

2.19 CLUB STRIPS

- a) All clubs must provide current photographs and descriptions of approved strips at the time of application for affiliation each year.
- b) Teams may only wear the approved main strip in any match. Clubs will have one approved main strip and one approved alternate strip. The **NSFA Policy - Club Strips** is available on the NSFA website – [click here](#).
- c) If the approved main strip of the home club clashes with the approved main strip of the opposition, the home club must wear its approved alternate strip.
- d) All shirts must have permanent numbers – tape is not acceptable **unless all other avenues of unique numbering have been entirely exhausted**. The numbers must correspond to the match card. BOD 03/23

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2.19.1 Advertising BOD 03/23

- a) NSFA permits advertising on club strips in accordance with **NSFA Policy – Playing Strip Advertising**, found on the NSFA website – [click here](#).
- b) Clubs may apply different advertising to different teams. However, the Board must approve all advertising, in accordance with the NSFA Policy.

2.20 GROUND DRESSING

Prior to the start of each season, NSFA will assign grounds to clubs that they will be responsible for dressing each match day. Dressing clubs:

- a) Must ensure that the ground owner has anchored fixed goal posts properly into the ground so that they will not fall over, become a hazard to any persons present at the ground or break. BOD 03/23
- b) Must ensure that in the event portable goal posts are used the club must anchor posts with either metal spikes or pegs (if permitted by ground owner) or sandbags as per the **NSFA Policy - Goal Post Safety** (available on NSFA website – [click here](#)).
- c) Must fix nets securely and safely to both sets of goals and place corner posts with a flag at the top in each corner of the ground. Clubs may also place a post one (1) metre from the sideline level with the halfway line on each side.
- d) Referees will not officiate matches if posts are not present in all four (4) corners of the field.
- e) Must ensure that the technical area is marked out (either by ground marking or cones).
- f) Must ensure that dressing rooms are open and are clean and tidy.
- g) Must unlock the emergency gate, where possible, to allow access by ambulance if required.
 - a. Some councils may not provide a key to a specific ground. In such cases, the NSFA Grounds Controller will advise the dressing club of the procedure teams shall adopt in the event they need to call for an ambulance to attend the ground.
- h) Must remove nets and corner posts, clean and close dressing rooms and relock emergency gate where possible, at the end of the day.
- i) Must report any damage or rubbish found prior to the first match to NSFA as soon as possible.

2.21 TROPHIES

- a) NSFA will present perpetual trophies to the Premiers in each division of competition football.
- b) NSFA will present medals to the players from the Premiers in each division of competition football. BOD 03/23
- c) NSFA may award prizes for other achievements within Association competitions (including to players in runner up teams), as determined by the Board at the beginning of each season.

2.21.1 Perpetual Trophies

- a) Where a shield, cup or other trophy is in existence for annual competition, it shall be handed to the appropriate winner by the Association at the end of the season, or as soon as practicable thereafter.
- b) All perpetual cups, trophies and the like shall remain the property of the Association.
- c) Clubs shall return all perpetual trophies to the Association upon demand by the Association. Failure to return trophies by any club will render it liable to the penalties as prescribed in **Section 2.23.7** of these Regulations.
- d) Clubs must return all trophies in good condition. The holders of trophies are liable for full replacement value of the trophies damaged or lost whilst in their possession. The NSFA will engrave all trophies when returned.

2.22 SPECIAL TIME REQUESTS (JUNIOR MIXED ONLY)

The Competitions Department may grant Special Time Requests to teams meeting the following criteria:

- a) Playing time requests may be accepted for:
 - i) Saturday 8:30am; or
 - ii) Saturday late morning (usually 11:20am onwards); or
 - iii) Sundays.

However, Special Time Requests are at the absolute discretion of the Competitions Department and will be viewed in the context of what is best for the overall competition and all its competing teams.

- b) For option ii) above, clubs cannot request specific times. Actual times allotted will depend on other Special Time Requests and available grounds.
- c) For option iii) above, a minimum of eight (8) players in any team from Under 13 to Under 18 must be subject to an inability to participate in a team before the Competitions Department will grant a Special Time Request application. For Under 12 teams the minimum number is six (6) players.
- d) Proof of need for request:
 - i) Where the request is necessary for school reasons or preferences, the club must supply a letter from the Principal of the school for each player involved; or
 - ii) Where the request is necessary for religious requirements, the club must provide a statement from an official of the religious institution for each player involved.
- e) Clubs must submit all Special Time Requests on form **CF11C – Special Time Request – Competition Ages** that is available on the NSFA website - [click here](#).
- f) Clubs must submit Special Time Requests to the Competitions Department prior to completion of the draw.
- g) Special Time Requests only apply during school terms. Clubs must indicate term dates on the Special Time Request Form.
- h) If there is a conflict between two Special Time Requests on a Saturday, the Competitions Department will honour the request of the “home” team. Teams may still request a change to the fixture in accordance with **Section 2.11 clause i)** of these Regulations.
- i) Special Time Requests will apply to semi-finals matches in finals series but not to grand finals.

2.23 SCHEDULE OF FEES, FINES & PENALTIES

The number of competition points deducted is at the discretion of the Competitions Department.

2.23.1 Team Entry Fees

- a) Late entry (after the date advised by the Board for nominations) – 10% of entry fee.
- b) Withdrawal fee (prior to draw finalisation) – 10% of team entry fee.
- c) Late withdrawal fee (fewer than thirty (30) days prior to start of season) – 50% of team fees.

2.23.2 Forfeits

- a) Late forfeit fee (within forty-eight (48) hours and two (2) hours of kick-off time of match) – \$100 & additional KDFRA costs. **BOD 03/23**
- b) ‘No Notice’ forfeit fee (zero (0) to two (2) hours notice given to either KDFRA and/or the Association): **BOD 03/23**
 - i) First offence – \$200 + ground and referee costs.
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence(s) – \$400 + ground and referee costs.

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- c) Subsequent offences may result in additional fines, deduction of competition points and/or suspension from the competition. **BOD 03/23**

2.23.3 Match Cards/ID Checks

- a) Failure to complete match card by stipulated time (refer **Section 2.8.1** of these Regulations):
 - i) First offence – \$50.
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence – \$100 plus deduction of point(s).
- b) Failure to provide printed match card before match (if electronic match card unavailable): **BOD 03/23**
 - i) First offence – \$25.
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence – \$50 + deduction of points.
- c) Failure to lodge match card by 5:00pm on the Wednesday following the match: - \$25
- d) Failure to lodge match card within fourteen (14) days of match (match card deemed lost):
 - i) First offence – \$100.
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence – \$100 + deduction of points.
- e) Failure to use the protocol outlined in **Section 2.7 clause n)** of these regulations when submitting match cards by email:
 - i) First offence - \$25.
 - ii) Second offence - \$50.
 - iii) Third offence - \$100 + deduction of points.
- f) Incorrect information (names, shirt numbers, ID numbers) – \$10 per offence, maximum \$50 per match card.
- g) Missing ID number – \$10 per offence, maximum \$50.
- h) Player's name missing but otherwise properly registered – \$50.
- i) Failure to verify opposing player IDs – \$50.
- j) Failure to provide ID sheet when requested – \$100.

2.23.4 Players

- a) Ineligible player(s) in a match – a \$100 fine **per** ineligible player deemed to have played in the match.
- b) Players playing two (2) years over their age group eligibility:
 - i) First offence – \$50.
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence(s) – \$100 and/or deduction of points. **BOD 03/23**
- c) Playing under an alias name – refer to P.D. & D.C.
- d) Incorrect strip – team not wearing approved strip:
 - i) First offence – \$100 + letter of reprimand.
 - ii) Second offence – between \$300 and \$500 + cited by P.D. & D.C.. **BOD 03/23**
 - iii) Third/subsequent offence(s) – between \$500 and \$800 + deduction of point(s). **BOD 03/23**

2.23.5 Referees

- a) In Senior Men's football:
 - i) Failure to provide names in accordance with **Section 2.5 clause h)** of these Regulations when nominating squads or teams – \$100 per person.
 - ii) Failure to ensure that the required number of club members committing to qualify or re-qualify as KDFRA members do so (in accordance with **Section 2.5 clause i)** - \$100 per person.
 - a. First failure (without adequate reason) to ensure that referees are made available in accordance with **Section 2.13.1 and Section 2.13.2** of these Regulations - \$50 per person.
 - b. Second such failure (without adequate reason) - \$100 per person + deduction of one (1) point.

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- c. Subsequent such failure (without adequate reason) – fines not exceeding \$1000 per person + deduction of further point(s), and further penalties that may include exclusion from the remainder of the competition.
- b) In other competitions:
 - Failure to supply match officials when required:
 - i) First offence – \$50
 - ii) Second/subsequent offence – \$100

2.23.6 Results

Failure to notify match results by the stipulated time – \$50 fine and/or deduction of point(s).

2.23.7 Trophies

Failure to return perpetual trophy by stipulated time – \$100 + replacement cost.

2.23.8 Grounds

- a) Failure to provide at least four (4) corner flags* – \$200.
- b) Failure to provide nets* – \$25.
- c) Failure to open emergency access – \$100.
- d) Failure to open change rooms (where available) – \$25. **BOD 03/23**
- e) Recurring failure to dress grounds may result in heavier fines, deduction of point(s) and/or suspension from a competition.
- f) Failure to remove rubbish and/or clean ground and dressing rooms after match:
 - i) First Offence - \$250.00
 - ii) Second Offence - \$500.00 and/or deduction of competition point(s) **BOD 03/23**
 - iii) Third & subsequent offence – deduction of points and/or exclusion from the remainder of the competition.

*** Note: Corner flags and nets must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game.**

2.24 ISSUING OF FINES AND PENALTIES

- a) The NSFA office will issue fines and penalties within twenty-one (21) days of the offence or receipt of the match card.
- b) Clubs who wish to dispute a fine or penalty must apply in writing to the NSFA Board within seven (7) days of receiving fine notice. **BOD 03/23**
- c) The Competitions Department has discretion on what fines / penalties it may dispense and these can alter from what is written in these regulations.

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Northern Suburbs Football Association
4 Bridge Street Pymble, NSW, 2073
Phone: 02 9449 4933

APPENDIX 2A

Role of Referee Liaison Officer (RLO)

The role of the Referee Liaison Officer (RLO) is to facilitate communication between the club and the KDFRA, and to help ensure that clubs meet the requirement of the Association to nominate qualified officials according to the Association Regulations.

The role would be most suitable for a current or former KDFRA member.

Within the club

The RLO should act as the principal point of contact within a club between coaches, managers, players, and the club-affiliated referees. The RLO should be able to resolve any query or issue relating to refereeing within the club, including:

- Work with teams within a club to ensure the correct number of referee nominations are made according to the Association Regulations; and
- Following up returning KDFRA referees within the club to make sure they fully complete the KDFRA registration procedures each season; and
- Generally, encourage club members and their associates to become practising referees; and
- Advise referees and prospective referees on KDFRA courses and accreditation requirements; and
- Encourage club referees to make themselves available as required to officiate at matches; and
- Following up with club referees and teams should qualified club referees do not make themselves available for appointment to fixtures.

Liaising with the KDFRA

The RLO is the principal person for the communication between the club and KDFRA on referee issues concerning the club, including:

- Follow up those who have been nominated by the club to attend KDFRA courses to become new referees and help ensure they have completed the course and fully completed the KDFRA registration procedures
- Communicating with the KDFRA Appointments Officer to help coordinate appointment of club referees as necessary; and
- Answer queries on KDFRA or forward such questions as appropriate to the relevant qualified person (e.g., KDFRA Secretary); and
- Manage feedback on the performance of referees (both good and bad) from a club official and pass it on to the correct person (e.g., KDFRA Branch Coach or NSFA Competitions Department) as appropriate.

APPENDIX 2B

Extra time in Champion of Champions play-offs

- a) Where scores are level at the conclusion of normal time, extra time will take place, if there is enough available light. The golden-goal rule shall apply (i.e., the team scoring the first goal in extra time wins the match). However, if scores are still level after extra time then kicks from the penalty mark will decide which team progresses to the next round. (Please refer to **Section 5.13 clause b)** of **NSFA Competition Regulations – Knockout Tournaments**).
- b) Where matches are played entirely under floodlights, **clause a)** above only applies to those matches where there is at least two (2) hours and thirty (30) minutes of available time between kick-off and the scheduled shut down of floodlighting. In matches where there is not sufficient available time, and the scores are level at the end of normal time there is no extra time. Kicks from the penalty mark shall decide which team progresses to the next round. (Please refer to **Section 5.13 clause b)** of **NSFA Competition Regulations – Knockout Tournaments**).
- c) The length of each period of extra time depends on the normal duration of the match, as follows:
 - i) For matches of 90-minute normal duration – two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes each.
 - ii) For matches of less than 90 minutes normal duration – two (2) periods of ten (10) minutes each.

APPENDIX 2C – Disrupted season due to extraordinary circumstances

1. Scope and Application

- a) This Appendix 2C is to be read in conjunction with the remainder of the Regulations and does not constitute the complete Regulations applicable to the Competitions.
- b) This Appendix 2C is specific to situations where extraordinary circumstances affects the ability of Teams or Clubs to participate in the Competitions and/or the ability of NSFA to conduct the Competitions.
- c) Health and safety are NSFA's highest priority; our aim is to provide our stakeholders with a safe environment within which to train, play and participate in our game.
- d) Should any scenario occur which is not covered within these Regulations, then the matter shall be referred to the NSFA Board who will determine the most appropriate outcome in its absolute discretion.
- e) In this Appendix 2C, "50% of the Premiership" means exactly half of the total number of round robin Matches (both home and away) in which, at the commencement of a NSFA Competition, all of the Teams in that Competition were scheduled to compete.

2. Disruptions to Teams and Competitions

- a) In circumstances where NSFA has determined that a Finals Series Match cannot proceed for extraordinary circumstances, that Match will be cancelled, and the highest ranked Team, based on the Premiership table standings at the end of the Premiership, will be deemed the winner of the Match.
- b) In circumstances where NSFA has determined that a Grand Final of a Competition cannot proceed for extraordinary circumstances, that Match may be rescheduled, provided that, as determined by the NSFA Board in its absolute discretion, it can be played within a reasonable period of time after the original Match date. If the Grand Final cannot be played within a reasonable period of time, it will be deemed a cancelled Match, and there will be no winner of the Competition.

3. League Tables and Points – Premiership

In circumstances where the NSFA Board has determined that a Competition cannot be completed for extraordinary circumstances, the following principles will be applied to determine the final standings for the Premiership:

- a) A Team will only be recognised as Premiers of a Competition, and premiership trophies and medals will only be awarded, if at least 50% of the Premiership has been played at the time when the NSFA Board made its decision not to recommence that Competition.
- b) If at least 50% of the Premiership has been played at the time when the NSFA Board makes its decision not to recommence the Competition and every team in the Competition has, at that time, played the same number of Matches, the final standings for the Premiership will be determined in accordance with Article 2.16.
- c) If at least 50% of the Premiership has been played at the time when the NSFA Board makes its decision not to recommence the Competition but the Teams in the Competition have not played an equal number of Matches, the final

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standings for the Premiership will be determined by means of the average points per game formula (APPG), as follows:

$$APPG = \frac{\textit{number of points}}{\textit{number of matches played}} \text{ BOD 03/23}$$

4. NSFA Board

- a) The NSFA Board's decision regarding the commencement, cessation and/or resumption of competitions will be final and in accordance with the relevant orders and policies issued by governing bodies. BOD 03/23