



NORTH COAST FOOTBALL

By-law 7

Competition Rules 2016

Status

This By-law is made by the Zone Committee under the powers conferred on it by the Constitution of North Coast Football Zone. It is to be known as By-law 7.

Interpretation

Words and phrases defined in the Constitution have the same meanings in this By-law, which is to be read in conjunction with (and subject to) the Constitution.

Purpose

This By-law provides rules for the conduct of Football competitions within the Zone.

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INTRODUCTION - Objects & Functions

North Coast Football Zone Inc. (Extract from NCF Constitution November 2010)

The objects for which the Zone is established are:

to be the member of NNSWSF in respect of the Jurisdiction and to comply with the constitution and by-laws of FFA & NNSWSF;

to control Football throughout the Jurisdiction, prevent infringement of the constitution and by-laws of NNSWSF and protect Football from abuse;

to foster friendly relations among the officials and players of Football and encouraging Football games in the Jurisdiction;

to prevent racial, religious, gender or political discrimination or distinction among Football players in the Jurisdiction;

to promote, provide for, regulate and manage Football tournaments and games in the Jurisdiction;

to promote, provide for, regulate and manage Football players representing the Jurisdiction;

to co-operate with NNSWSF, other members of NNSWSF and other bodies in the promotion and development of, or otherwise in relation to, Football, the Statutes and Regulations and the Laws of the Game;

to facilitate the provision and maintenance of grounds, playing fields, materials, equipment and other facilities for Football in the Jurisdiction; and any other object which, in the opinion of the Zone Committee, is in the best interests of Football.

Subject to article 7.1 of the Zone Constitution, the Zone Committee in general meeting may amend, repeal and replace this By-law.

The Zone Committee shall be the only body empowered to interpret this By-law and its decisions shall be final.

A1 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

A1.1 CLUB MEMBER BEHAVIOUR

Each member club is responsible for the behaviour of its players, team officials and supporters. Any person or club found guilty of misconduct or of bringing Football into disrepute shall be liable to suspension and/or such other penalties as may be determined by the Disciplinary Committee and/or the Zone Committee.

A1.2 CLUB FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Each member club is responsible for its financial obligation to NCFZ. Unfinancial Clubs will not be accepted into the final series.

A2 DEFINITION OF HOME TEAM/CLUB

The first team/club named in each fixture is the home team/club, and shall normally host the fixture on its home ground.

The home team/club for any finals fixture in a series of special competition shall be the team that finished in the higher position on that competition points table.

A2.1 HOME TEAM/CLUB'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Home teams/clubs are solely responsible for fulfilling each of the following requirements.

A2.1.1 Ensure that the designated home ground is available on the date and at the time specified for the fixture.

A2.1.2 In the event of the ground being unfit or unavailable (except by wash out, - see Section A4) consult with the Competition Administrator for that competition, to arrange an alternative venue, date and time.

A2.1.3 Notify the visiting team, and the Competition Administrator of any change of venue as soon as reasonably practicable but within no later than 24 hours of a decision being made.

A2.1.4 Carry out whatever ground maintenance may be necessary to ensure conditions are safe and playable.

A2.1.5 Mark the field of play clearly and in accordance with Law 1 - FIFA Laws of the Game. (See also A15).

A2.1.6 Equip all goal posts with nets, which are to be safely secured to the goal posts and to the ground.

A2.1.7 Secure goal posts to comply with Australian Standards.

A2.1.8 Ensure the presence of a Duty Officer for the duration of each fixture. The Officer is responsible for the good order and conduct at fixtures and shall wear some distinctive identification.

A.2.1.9 Ensure that a 'level 3' first aid Officer and an adequate first aid kit is accessible at all times for emergency situations.

A2.1.10 Ensure adequate security provision for the safety, welfare and protection of team officials, match officials, players and the public.

In the case of match officials this obligation applies from the time they arrive at the ground until the time they depart.

A3 GROUND UNFIT OR UNSAFE FOR PLAY

A 3.1 The match referee is the deciding official on all matters relating to the field of play and is required to submit a written report to the Competition Administrator on any problems.

A3.2 Should a referee refuse to commence a fixture due to unsatisfactory markings, goal-posts, nets, corner flags, lighting or an unsafe playing surface, the home club shall be liable for the match officials' fees in full and a win by forfeit shall be awarded to the visiting team. An exception is in the case of a neutral ground having been arranged for the fixture, in which case the home team's liability is limited to the match officials' fees and the fixture will be rescheduled.

A3.3 Any protest by a team against the condition of a ground must be lodged with the Duty Officer (**Section A2.1.8**) before the scheduled starting time of the fixture. The Duty Officer is required to make the match referee aware of any such protest.

Any formal protest subsequently lodged must be in writing on a club letterhead, and be delivered to the Zone office **by noon on the second normal working day following the fixture.**

Notwithstanding any protest lodged with a Duty Officer, the fixture in question shall be played as scheduled, and the fact that a protest has been lodged may not invalidate the result of the fixture.

In the event of two or more protests being received by the Competition Administrator about any particular ground within a four-week period then a representative of the Zone Committee or Competition Administration may inspect that ground, accompanied by a management representative of the club concerned, to decide on the fitness of the ground and/or any remedial work required.

A4 WASHED OUT OR DOUBTFUL FIXTURES

(See also A.34)

A4.1 Clubs shall provide the Competition Administrator with a written list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of officials authorised to declare a ground unfit for play.

A4.2 If inclement weather or other conditions preceding a fixture create reasonable doubt about play being possible, the home club must arrange an inspection of the ground before 7am on the day of the fixture and decide whether play can take place.

A4.3 The Nominated Zone Wet Weather Coordinator(s) must be advised of the outcome of any unfavourable ground inspection by no later than 7.00 am on the day of the fixture. (Also see Rule A34)

A4.4 Information on postponed fixtures must be widely communicated to all interested parties as soon as possible after 7.00 am on match days.

A4.5 In the event of a ground being declared unfit for play on the day scheduled, it remains unfit until declared fit by re-inspection by a senior match official or Competition Administrator.

A4.6 A club using more than one home ground of which only one is declared unfit for play may have others deemed playable. In such cases each separate ground must be clearly identified by number or name, as in the official fixture list, to eliminate any possible confusion.

A4.7 More than 50% of the fixtures in any round of a junior grade or division must be played for the round to be counted. The Competition Administrator may re-schedule fixtures or declare that the round is 'washed out' at its absolute discretion.

A4.8 Junior Competition – Final Series

A4.8.1 Should a Junior **Semi Final** be washed out the following will apply:

- (a) the team finishing higher on the competition points table in the Major Semi Final shall progress to the Grand Final. The other team shall progress to the Preliminary Final
- (b) the team finishing higher on the competition points table in the Minor Semi Final shall progress to the Preliminary Final, the other team is eliminated.

A4.8.2 Should a Junior Preliminary **Final** be washed out the following will apply:

- (a) the team finishing higher on the competition points table shall progress to the Grand Final.
- (b) The other team is eliminated.

- A4.8.3** Should a Junior Grand Final be washed out the following will apply:
- (a) the team finishing higher on the competition points table shall be declared the winner.
 - (b) the team finishing lower on the competition points table shall be declared the runner-up.

A4.9 **Junior Wet Weather Weekends** may be nominated by the Competition Administrator for playing catch up matches required due to inclement weather.

A5 POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME GROUND

The Competition Administrator may direct a team to play any fixture(s) at a ground other than its home ground for disciplinary reasons; or because of changing room or toilet facilities that fail to meet competition standards; or for any other reason the Competition Administrator may think fit provided that 7 days' notice is given to the team(s) affected.

A6 COMPETITION RULES AND THE LAWS OF THE GAME

All fixtures shall be played in accordance with the Official Laws of the Game – as set down and published from time to time by FIFA and FFA except: That the Competition Administrator may decide from time to time to set and/or vary these competition rules, including the duration of fixtures, provided that reasonable advance notice of such variations has been given to each competing club/team, the Referees', and other affected parties.

A6.1 INTERCHANGE

Unlimited Interchange will apply in all grades except Men's Premier League (They will use three substitutes).

A6.1.1 It is regarded as contrary to the spirit of the game and therefore an abuse of interchange for coaches/managers to attempt to use it as a time-wasting tactic. Referees, at their discretion, are entitled to report cases to the Competition Administrator.

A6.2 MODIFIED GAMES INCLUDING 'AIA Vitality Miniroos, FOOTBALL CLINICS AND GALA DAYS

Please refer to the FFA Website for the Rules and Regulations on Miniroos.
www.footballaustralia.com.au

A7 FOOTBALLS

A7.1 Provision of Match Balls

The home team in all senior games is responsible for providing the match referee with 3 correctly inflated footballs, of an approved brand and size, no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off.

The Competition Administrator is to advise clubs of the approved brands. Home teams that fail to provide the required footballs may be fined \$50.

In a finals series fixture, each senior team is responsible for providing the referee with 2 correctly inflated footballs of an approved brand and size no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off. The referee will select the ball to be used, the other(s) being reserved as spare(s).

In all junior games, each team is responsible for providing the match referee with one correctly inflated football, no later than 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off.

A7.2 Football sizes

Senior men and women	Size 5
14 to 17 grades	Size 5
10 to 13 grades	Size 4
6 to 9 grades	Size 3

A8 OFFICIAL FIXTURE LIST

A8.1 Fixture List:

All dates and times of fixtures in each competition shall be published as the Official Fixture List by Competition Administrator as soon as practical after the announced closing date for team nominations.

A8.2 Number of Rounds:

Where practicable, a competition shall consist of 2 rounds with each team playing every other twice. Should the Competition Administrator recommend that such a competition is insufficient, then whole rounds may be played between such teams as the Competition Administrator deems fit.

A8.3 Playing Start Time:

The Competition Administrator may schedule daytime fixtures to commence from 8.30 am on any day.

A8.4 Disputes between teams:

Any dispute between teams about fixture arrangements shall be referred to and be decided by the Competition Administrator. Any perceived problems, such as the timing or location of a fixture (or any other reason) shall be immediately reported to the Competition Administrator by the team(s) concerned.

A8.5 Rearrangement of Fixture:

Any proposed rearrangement of a fixture shall be submitted in writing to the Competition Administrator for approval no later than 14 days before the scheduled date. If there is no written approval no change may be made.

A8.6 Fixture not played as scheduled:

The Competition Administrator may re-schedule a fixture or determine the result of a fixture at its sole discretion.

A8.7 Competition Administrator Authority:

Any alteration or amendment to any fixture date, venue or kick-off time is at the absolute and final discretion of the Competition Administrator, which has delegated authority from the Zone Committee to alter or amend any fixture at any time, providing that reasonable notice (normally, but not essentially, a minimum of 7 days) is given to both teams.

The Competition Administrator has delegated authority from the Zone Committee to abandon any fixture and/or organise any other fixture(s) should such action be deemed necessary in the interests of the competition.

A9 FORFEITED FIXTURES (also note rule: A24.4)

A9.1 Any team failing, without reasonable cause, to fulfil an engagement to play a fixture on the appointed date, time or venue shall forfeit that fixture, and in addition senior teams may also be liable for a fine plus any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents in relation to that fixture.

(Ref: A24.4 and also see Appendix A- Fines)

A9.2 Fixtures should kick off at the stipulated times. However a fixture may have a late start no more than 10 minutes after the stipulated time. Any team unable or unwilling to begin a fixture after this period shall be deemed to have forfeited the fixture. (See also A11.3).

A9.3 A team forfeiting on 2 occasions in the one competition without an explanation considered satisfactory by the Competition Administrator may be removed from that competition. (See also A25).

A9.4 A 'win by forfeit' shall be awarded to the opposing team, which shall be credited with a score of 3-0 together with three competition points.

A9.5 A forfeiting team shall pay all appropriate match officials' fees and compensation and may be liable for a fine as determined by the Competition Administrator. If inadequate notice of a forfeit was given the compensation due may include reimbursement of travelling costs incurred by the visiting team.

A9.6 A forfeit is classified as a fixture, and as such, a suspension may be served by a player (but only in the team receiving the forfeit) provided that a Match Sheet showing same is provided to the Zone office as per A26.9.

A10 PLAYING TIMES

The normal duration of fixtures shall be two equal halves of:

Senior men and women	45 minutes
17 age grade	40 minutes
15 and 16 ages grade	35 minutes
13 and 14 ages grade	30 minutes
12 age grades	25 minutes
Miniroos*	

* For modified games refer to A6.2

A10.1 The playing time for each fixture commences at the time designated as the kick-off time in the fixture list.

A10.2 A half-time interval must be taken and shall be a minimum of 5 minutes.

A10.3 In the Men's and Women's Premier League only, and at the discretion of the match referee, playing time may be added to either half in accordance with FIFA Law 7

A10.4 If, for any reason, a fixture falls short of the stipulated playing time it shall be deemed to have been completed unless the referee decides to abandon play prematurely.

A11 KICK-OFF TIMES

A11.1 The kick-off time for each fixture shall be set by the Competition Administrator and published in the official fixture list.

A11.2 Kick-off times may not be changed without the prior consent of the Competition Administrator.

A11.3 Any delay to the start of a fixture will result in 'short time' being played in two equal halves to allow succeeding fixtures to start at their designated times. Match referees are solely responsible for applying this rule at their discretion.

A12 DEFERMENT OF FIXTURES

A12.1 A Club may seek permission of the Competition Administrator to have a fixture deferred. This must be requested no later than 14 days before the fixtures scheduled date. Each request will be considered on its merits and it will be at the sole discretion of the Competition Administrator as to whether the application has sufficient merit to grant a deferment.

A12.2 Should an opposing team be unable to recoup expenses resulting from an agreed deferment, the Competition Administrator shall decide the amount of compensation to be paid by the team granted that deferment.

A12.3 The Competition Administrator shall arrange a rescheduled date for the playing of a deferred fixture or, alternatively, may at its discretion declare the fixture void.

A12.4 The Competition Administrator shall notify each competing club of the time, date and venue of a deferred fixture and shall also notify the Referees' Administrator. (Ref: A.8.7)

A12.5 A deferred fixture not played may render the club(s) and/or team(s) concerned liable to disciplinary action by the Competition Administrator.

A13 FINDING WINNERS

The Competition Administrator will determine methods of finding winners for the various competitions as follows: (The Competition Administrator, at its discretion, reserves the right to change this format).

A13.1 Competition Winners

A13.1.1 On completion of the season's league fixture list the team with the highest points total on the official points table shall be Premiers.

A13.1.2 Should 2 or more teams in the same competition be equal on points, the team with the best goal difference shall be Premiers.

A13.1.3 In the event of goal difference being equal, the team, which has scored most goals, shall be Premiers. Should this not decide the issue, the team scoring most away goals in the competition shall be Premiers.

A13.1.4 As a last resort, if 2 or more teams remain equal, they shall be joint Premiers.

A13.2 Junior Finals Series

A13.2.1 On completion of the season's league fixture list the top four (4) teams on the official points table shall compete in a finals series competition.

- (a) In Junior Football the two highest placed teams compete in the Major Semi-Final at the home ground of the first placed team. The winning team qualifies for the Grand Final. The losing team qualifies for the Preliminary Final.
- (b) In Junior Football the 3rd and 4th placed teams on the official points table compete in the Minor Semi-Final at the home ground of the third placed team. The winning team qualifies for the Preliminary Final. The losing team is eliminated from the competition.

A13.2.2 If, at the conclusion of any competitive Junior division Semi Final or Preliminary Final the scores are level then 2 periods of 10 minutes extra time shall be played. (Teams shall swap ends at the completion of each time period.)

A13.2.3 If a competitive Junior Semi Final or Preliminary Final fixture remains a draw after extra time, the result of the fixture shall be determined by 'kicks from the penalty mark', as defined in FIFA laws 'Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match'.

A13.2.4 In a Junior Division Grand Final if the teams are still tied after the completion of extra time the result of the fixture shall be determined by 'kicks from the penalty mark', as defined in FIFA laws 'Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match'.

A13.3 Senior Final Series

On completion of the season's league fixture list the top four (4) teams on the official points table shall compete in a finals series competition.

A13.3.1 Draw:

Week 1	4	v	1
	3	v	2
Week 2	2	v	3
	1	v	4

The following criteria will be applied until one (1) team can be determined as the winner.

- (a) Highest aggregate of goals scored over the two (2) legs.
- (b) Highest number of away goals (away goals rule) over the two (2) legs.

A13.3.2 Drawn Fixtures – Semi Final Series

If the winning teams for grand final placings cannot be determined by the above criteria, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the second Semi-Final leg;

- (a) Extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played in accordance with FIFA Law 8.
- (b) If at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, a winner has not been determined, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine Grand Final placings.

A13.3.3 Senior Division Grand Final

If the teams are tied after the completion of regular time, then 2 periods of 10 minutes extra time each way shall be played.

In Men's and Women's Premier League only, 15 minutes each way extra time shall be played.

If the fixture remains a draw after extra time, the result of the fixture shall be determined by 'kicks from the penalty mark' – as defined in FIFA laws 'Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match'

A14 COMPETITION POINTS

Win	3 points
Draw	1 point
Win by forfeit	3 points + 3 goals for
Loss by forfeit	-1 point + 3 goals against

(See also A24.4 and 'Attachment A - Fines / Fees' for senior teams forfeiting)

A15 PLAYING AREA REQUIREMENTS

(see also A2.1.4 to A2.1.7)

During any fixture, no spectator is allowed within 2 metres of the field of play and technical area.

Where no permanent boundary fence defines a field perimeter, a rope or a painted line should be used to indicate the 2 metres and no encroachment within is allowed.

In the event that a Club is unable to fulfil these requirements, special dispensation must be obtained from the Competition Administrator.

A15.1 The Technical Area (Law 3 International F.A. Board Decision 2)

During play the technical area is under the jurisdiction of the match officials.

- (a) In the absence of special 'dug-outs', then 2 benches or the equivalent in chairs must be placed on one side of the playing field. Each bench or set of chairs and any other structures or equipment shall be located equidistant each side of the half way line and at least 2 metres back from the touchline.
- (b) Each designated seating area is for the coach, manager, medical assistant and interchange players of one team.
- (c) Team officials must wear approved NCF identification tags and players must wear bibs.
- (d) No other persons are permitted in the technical area.
- (e) All occupants of each team's seating area should remain seated (or stand immediately behind the bench/chairs) and behave in a responsible manner. All are subject to the jurisdiction of the match officials.
- (f) Coaching from any place other than the technical area is prohibited.
- (g) Any team official who leaves or refuses to remain within the technical area or who gives instructions from any other place outside that area shall forfeit any rights to organise the activities of the team for the duration of the fixture.
- (h) Any team official dismissed from the technical area by the referee may not return to it for any reason for the duration of that fixture and must move to a position where they can have no influence of any kind on the remainder of the match. Failure to abide by this requirement will result in additional disciplinary action.
- (i) The referee has the right to suspend play until he/she is satisfied that the rules have been complied with and shall send a written match report on the circumstances to the Competition Administrator within 48 hours of the end of the match.
- (j) Suspended players/officials and players/officials sent from the field during a match are not permitted in the technical area until after the full suspension is served.

Should any person persist in infringing these rules to the detriment of the fixture, it is the responsibility of the home club Duty Officer to see that he/she is escorted from the ground.

A15.2 Injury to a player

Safety of players is paramount. In the event of injury to a player the referee may call a First Aid Attendant and/or one team official only onto the field to assess the injury.

In a case involving serious injury or suspected serious injury, treatment or movement of the injured player is solely at the discretion of the First Aid Attendant and the Match Official.

A16 ADMISSION CHARGES

Any admission charges for any competition, including parking fees (if vehicles are permitted into the ground), will be assessed by the Competition Administrator from time to time. Any such charge will apply at all grounds for the same competition.

Application to introduce charges for any fixture must be made, formally and in writing by a club, to the Competition Administrator no later than one calendar month prior to the date of the fixture.

Clubs must honour all honorary admission passes issued by Football Federation Australia, Northern NSW Football and North Coast Football.

A17 WINNERS' MEDALLIONS AND AWARDS

Each Premiership winning team, and each Grand Final Winner and runner-up in a competition will receive a set of 16 trophies or medallions.

Further trophies or medallions may be purchased from the Competition Administrator by a qualifying team at a cost set by the Competition Administrator.

A18 PLAYERS' UNIFORMS / EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

A18.1 Strip Approval:

The Competition Administrator must approve all playing strips/colours.

Each jersey / shirt must have a large, clearly legible identifying number fixed on the back.

A18.2 Advertising on the playing strip, tracksuit or equipment bag is allowed:

- (a) The NCFZ emblem /badge;
- (b) Any distinguishing mark, badge or emblem of the equipment manufacturer;
- (c) The name/emblem of any competition sponsor.

The Competition Administrator must approve any further advertising, e.g. team sponsors. This approval must be sought in writing. Such consent will not be unreasonably withheld where identification of a team's sponsor is involved.

A18.3 Team Sponsor's name.

- (a) This may be printed in letters not exceeding 75mm high across the front or back of the shirt (between the collar and the top of the shirt number).
- (b) A sponsor's logo and name may be placed on a shirtfront or sleeve.
- (c) In any competition, any team fielding a player not wearing an approved uniform may be liable to fine and forfeit competition points.

A18.4 Colour clash

- (a) Each team must wear colours that readily distinguish players from the opposition. The perception of a colour clash and any changes required as a consequence of this rule shall be at the sole discretion of the match referee.
- (b) In the event of teams in any fixture wearing strips with similar colours, the visiting team shall change to an alternate strip that must be readily distinguishable from the home team's (in the opinion of the match Referee).
- (c) In any finals series or special competition fixture the team named second in the draw shall be deemed to be the visiting team.
- (d) If there are ball-persons at any fixture they shall wear colours that clearly distinguish them from players and match officials.

A19 EXPENSES

Any and all expenses incurred in participating in a competition shall be the responsibility of the participating club in the event that no funds are available from other sources such as sponsorship or grants.

A20 DISPUTE OVER FIXTURE SCORES/RESULT

In the event of a dispute about the scores/result in a fixture, the scores/result recorded by the match referee shall be the official result.

Should the match referee have failed to record the score(s)/result both team officials should sign to certify the score/result and any final decision shall rest with the Competition Administrator.

A team manager should not sign the match card if the club disputes the final score. (See A26.7).

All disputes must be made in writing to the Zone office no later than 14 days after the completion of the fixture

A21 NOTIFICATION OF UNTOWARD INCIDENTS

A21.1 In the event of any untoward incident occurring at a ground or in a fixture, the home club shall advise the Competition Administrator of the circumstances and facts as soon as reasonably practicable.

A21.2 In the event of any team/club responsible for the incident(s) being a visitor from outside the Zone, the Competition Administrator shall report to the appropriate authority requesting that appropriate action be taken.

A21.3 Persistent or repeated problems with untoward incidents may result in a club being called to appear at a Disciplinary Tribunal.

A22 INTER ZONE OR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL CLEARANCES

A22.1 No player(s) or team may play outside the Zone's geographical area without prior written approval, in the first instance, from the Zone Competition Administrator after which approval will be sort from NSW Football and/or the appropriate administrative entity.

A22.2 No club team may play in any competition (other than those specifically approved by the Zone), without prior written approval from the Competition Administrator.

A23 GALA DAYS / TRIAL MATCHES

A club must seek and obtain written permission from the Competition Administrator for any Gala Day(s) or trial matches it proposes to conduct.

A24 ABANDONMENT OF FIXTURE/ INCOMPLETE FIXTURE

A24.1 Competition Administrator Investigation:

If a fixture is abandoned by the match referee before its scheduled completion time, for whatever reason, the referee must submit a written report detailing the reasons for this action to the Competition Administrator. The Competition Administrator will investigate and report on the circumstances to the Zone Committee who will then decide as follows:

- (a) The result of the abandoned fixture.
- (b) Whether the fixture should be re-played and under what conditions.
- (c) Whether any disciplinary action needs to be taken.

A24.2 Refusal to start a fixture and/or continue play;

A team refusing to commence a fixture or causing a fixture to be terminated before its natural conclusion through a refusal to allow play to continue may be deemed to have committed serious misconduct. Any such fixture shall be awarded as a win by forfeit to the opposing team with a 3-0 score credited to the opposing team. The offending team shall be liable to such further penalty as shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

A24.3 Breaches of Section A24:

Any decision of the Zone Committee shall be final and not subject to appeal to any other authority. The action of the Zone Committee in respect of penalties imposed shall be distinct from any decisions of the Disciplinary Committee in respect of persons charged with offences by a match official.

A24.4 Club Forfeiting a Senior Fixture:

Any club forfeiting a senior fixture will be deducted one existing competition point **plus incur a \$200 fine** on each occasion. The result of the forfeit will be recorded as a 3-0 win to the opposing team.

As a condition of team registration senior clubs will be required to lodge a pre-season bond of \$1,000 with NCF, from which any such fines incurred shall be deducted.

A26.2.1 Junior Non Competitive - Home Club Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of each home club to generate the completed official match sheet for each fixture played on their home ground. These are **not** to be sent to the Zone Office. Each home Club is responsible for the safe keeping of the non-competitive match sheets for a period of five (5) years for insurance and record keeping purposes. They must also be available to the Competition Administrator upon request.

A26.2.2. Senior - Match Officials Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of the Senior Match Official (Referee) to send the completed match sheets of all NCFZ Senior fixtures to arrive at the NCFZ office by close of business on the second normal working day following the match.

Failure to submit the match sheet by the required time to the Zone Competition Administrator shall render the referee to a fine (See appendix A-Fines / Fees).

A26.3 Junior Competition Home Team Manager / Coach Responsibility:

The team manager / coach is responsible for recording junior competition, division, grade, date, venue, team names and kick-off time in the spaces provided. Each team manager / coach and the match referee are responsible for ensuring that their official match sheet is fully and correctly completed.

A26.4 Team Manager/Coach Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of each team manager/coach to ensure that the full name and registration number of each player is clearly and legibly entered on the official match sheet against that player's shirt number. Any discrepancies or mistakes in relation to players' details on an official match sheet will be regarded by North Coast Football as the responsibility of the club.

All players' names must be entered on the match sheet prior to kick off. Player's names cannot be added to the match sheet once the game has commenced. A player not named on the official match sheet shall not play.

Players in breach of this Rule shall incur a fine for their Club of \$50 for Junior players and \$100 for Senior Players.

NCF encourage team managers from each club to complete the referee's evaluation sheet in an effort to maintain or improve the standards of referees.

A26.5 Senior match sheet and junior match card to Referee:

The completed official match sheet / card must be ready to be presented to the match referee 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.

A26.6 Custody of junior match card / sheet:

The official match card / sheet is the initial responsibility of the two team managers / coaches who then pass to the match referee (or the senior assistant referee) for the duration of the match.

The match referee is responsible for signing and returning the duly completed official junior match card to the canteen after the match.

A26.7 Signing of Match sheet / card:

The manager / coach of each team must sign the official match sheet / card after the match to certify its accuracy. In the event of a dispute regarding the recorded result, and if the referee is unable or unwilling (then or subsequently) to alter the result, a team manager / coach must not sign the match sheet / card and is responsible for referring a disputed result to their club, which may decide to lodge a written protest with NCFZ within 14 days of the match.

A26.8 Player Numbers:

The number on a player's shirt must correspond with the official match sheet at all times. The only exception to this is in the case of a goalkeeper substitution.

A26.9 Starting Team:

The starting team players names of a seniors fixture must be clearly marked, as required, on the official match sheet. A maximum of eleven names can be listed as starting and then up to 5 additional players will be identified as interchange players.

Suspended Players/Coaches/Managers names MUST be written in the appropriate section of the Match Sheet to indicate that they are standing down from that particular fixture.

If a Team Official has omitted to record a suspended person on the match sheet, the Club Secretary may telephone email or write to the Zone Office BEFORE the next scheduled fixture for that team to have the suspension recorded.

A26.10 Substitution:

Three substitutions will be allowed in Men's Premier League only.

Unlimited interchanges will apply in all other grades (See Section A6.2).

A26.11 Event Forfeiture:

In the event of a fixture being forfeited, the match sheet / card, if possible, must be submitted and shall be signed to this effect by the match referee and the relevant team official(s).

A26.12 Fielding an ineligible or unregistered player

A team / club found to have fielded an ineligible or unregistered player shall be deemed to have been guilty of misconduct, and will forfeit the fixtures to their opponents with a 3-0 win awarded to the opposing team.

The team / club shall be liable to such further penalty as shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee. (See appendix A-Fines / Fees)

A26.13 Player Identity in question:

On match day, any team may ask to check the identity of any opposing player(s). NCF recommends that all players should have a passport-style photograph loaded into My Football Club updated every year as part of the Registration process. The photograph will be in accordance with policy defined in My Football Club registration requirements.

Team Officials may check the player identity of any player(s) on the opposing team. This action must be completed prior to the player(s) participating in the game by the production of a My Football Club ID team sheet or some other form of photographic ID such as a driver's licence or valid student card. If identification cannot be provided and a Club wishes to challenge the identity of a player(s), an image of the player(s) must be obtained at this time.

In the event of a Team Official having a reasonable doubt about the identity or eligibility of an opposing player named on a match card, they should record this in the dispute box and advise the Zone office by noon on the first normal working day following the fixture; following this up with a full report of the alleged circumstances and evidence on club letterhead, delivered to the Zone office by noon on the third normal working day following the fixture.

Notwithstanding any such dispute, the player(s) concerned will be allowed to play in the fixture. The Competition Administrator shall adjudicate on eligibility as soon as practicable.

A26.14 Misuse / Defacing match sheet:

The official match sheet is the formal document of record of a match. If any person misuses or defaces a match sheet, or supplies false or misleading information on a match sheet, the actions will be treated as serious offences warranting disciplinary action.

A27 MATCH OFFICIALS

A27.1 It is the Zone Committee's policy that all reasonable efforts should be made to ensure that each match is played under the control of appropriately trained and accredited match officials..

A27.2 In the event of no suitably qualified match official being in attendance and able to officiate, the home team shall appoint a 'Club Referee' for that fixture.

Failure to do so shall be treated as a forfeit to the visiting team.

Refusal of the visiting team to accept an appointed 'Club Referee' shall be treated as a forfeit to the home team.

Failure of either team to take the field within 10 minutes of the scheduled starting time will result in a forfeit to the opposing team.

The appointed 'Club Referee' shall assume the full responsibility of an Official Referee and shall be treated accordingly.

A27.3 In the event of an appointed Match Official failing to appear, the fact is to be clearly recorded by the home team on the match card and reported to the Competition Administrator.

The Competition Administrator shall refer the report to the Referees Administration Officer for investigation.

The Referee may incur a fine if they fail to appear to an appointed match.

A27.4 A person appointed 'Club Referee' is entitled (on request) to receive the appropriate match fee.

A27.5 A person appointed as a 'Club Referee' who is not an adult, must be at least 14 years old and at least 2 years older than the age grade they are being asked to referee.

No person under the age of 18 should be appointed 'Club Referee' in senior competitions.

A27.6 Any club failing to pay match officials' fees as directed by the Zone Competition Administrator may be subjected to Disciplinary action. They may also be ineligible for participation in the final series.

A27.7 A Club and / or Team Official may report to the Competition Administrator on the performance of a match official during a fixture. It is important that such a report should not be trivial or lightly entertained. Such a report may be made orally in the first instance to the Zone office by noon on the first normal working day following the match, and confirmed in writing either through the Northern NSW Football Website form or on club letterhead, to be received by the Competition Administrator by noon on the third normal working day following the match.

All such reports shall be referred initially by the Zone Referees Administration Officer for a response prior to consideration by the Competition Administrator.

Vexatious, malicious and/or unsubstantiated reports shall render the reporting club liable to disciplinary action by the Zone Committee

A28 RESPONSIBILITIES OF REFEREES

In general it is desirable that a match referee should be present at least 30 minutes before scheduled kick-off time.

A28.1 Suspending Play:

In suspending play due to inclement weather, ground conditions or other cause the match referee shall wait a reasonable length of time before deciding to abandon the fixture and may consult whoever they consider appropriate before arriving at a decision.

A28.2 Player Send-off Notice:

Having sent-off a player, the match referee must on request, inform a club official of the team in question of the charge / offence for which a player was sent off at the conclusion of the match.

The match Referee shall confirm that a player was sent off in the appropriate place(s) on the official match sheet, identifying the player by name and shirt number.

A28.3 Recording Send Off / Caution:

The match referee shall record details of each caution and send-off on the match sheet, and must submit a written report to the Zone office on each sending-off to arrive by close of business on the second normal working day following the match.

Failure to submit a written report by the required time to the Zone Office shall render the Referee to a fine. (See appendix A-Fines / Fees)

A28.4 Match Officials Fees:

Match Officials' fees shall be determined by the Competition Administrator after consultation with the Referees' Association and shall be fixed prior to the commencement of the competitions. In the event of disagreement the Competition Administrator reserves the right to apply interim match fees.

A28.5 Referees are to submit all Senior (Men and Women's) Match Sheets to the Zone Office.

A29 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

Each Club is required to adhere, in the first instance, to the National Registration Regulations (2013) as issued by Football Federation Australia.

A29.1 Each club must ensure they have activated all players within the online registration system (My football Club) prior to participation in the current season competition matches. .

A29.2 A player must be turning 5 years of age or more during the season calendar year to be accepted and activated by a Club.

A29.2.1. No male can play in a female team.

Junior females can play in junior male teams.

Junior females can request for permission from the Competition Administrator to play down one age division in a junior male team.

Females can only play in senior male teams at the discretion of the Competition Administrator.

A29.3 Clubs entering teams in the junior competitions must have their Registrar sight, verify and record the birth certificate details of each new player. Failure to comply with the above conditions will result in a player being classified as unregistered.

A29.4 A person registering to play after the competition has commenced must have an active My Football Club status with their Club, 24 hours before participating in any fixture. Failure to abide by this requirement will result in the player being deemed an ineligible player.

A29.5 A junior players' grade eligibility will be determined by the age attained during the calendar year in which the competition takes place.

A29.6 No club may register more than the following number of players in any one team, without written application to and approval from the Competition Administrator:

Years 6, & 7,- Players are registered with Minirooms as individuals with clubs, not as teams.

Years 8, and 9, playing Minirooms - Ten (10) players

Years 10, & 11, playing Minirooms - Twelve (12) players

Years 12 to 18 playing Junior Football - Sixteen (16) players

Senior Men, Women and Over 35's Men - Minimum eleven (11) players. No maximum.

A29.7 Should a player leave a team's registered list they may be replaced.

A29.8 Players registered or playing with any other Club, Zone or Federation shall not be eligible to register or play with any Club affiliated with the Zone. Procedures relating to Movement of an Amateur/Professional as per the National Registration Regulations (2013) need to be observed.

A29.9 Any club nominating more than one team in a junior competitive age group must register the players separately for each team, with a minimum of 12 in each.

A29.10 Any club nominating a junior competitive team that has 6 (six) or more NCF Representative (Skills Acquisition Program or Game Training Program) players aged 12, 13 or 14 years registered in that team must play up one age division or play for no competition points.

Any club nominating a junior competitive team that has 8 (eight) or more NCF Representative Players, must play up one age division and will not compete for points.

The 3 competition points and a 3 – 0 score will be awarded to the opposition team. Clubs may lodge a written submission to the Zone Committee requesting an exemption to this rule if they believe that special circumstances need to be taken into consideration. Any application received will be considered on an individual basis.

A29.11 Any player playing / registering at a level below their recognised playing age without prior written approval from the Competition Administrator may have their registration rescinded at any time.

A29.12 Between the end of one season and the start of the next, no junior player may drop more than two grades without prior written approval from the Competition Administrator.

A29.13 Dual registration; A player can only be registered with one Club at a time. Dual registration will not be allowed.

A player may be registered for a maximum of three (3) Clubs during the period 1 January until 31 December. During this period, the player is only eligible to play in Matches for two (2) Clubs. Refer to FFA National Registration Regulations (2013)

A29.14 No new registrations or transfers will be accepted after 30th June in any season.

A29.15 Registration Period:

Once registered with a Club, a player shall remain registered until such time as:

- (a) The Player allows the registration to lapse
- (b) The player or the Club completes a Notification of Cancellation of Amateur Registration (NRR08 – Online Form) and a Supplementary Registration Form (NRR11 - Online Form) should the player be transferring mid-season prior to the cut-off date, that being the 30th June in any year.
- (c) A player's registration shall otherwise terminate at midnight on 31st December in any year.

A30. CLUB ELIGIBILITY FOR SENIOR FOOTBALL

A30.1 Team Nominations

Clubs nominating teams to participate in senior division football must also provide teams in the Zone junior divisions. Departure from this criterion will only be permitted under exceptional circumstances (e.g. a university-based club as opposed to a community-based club).

- (a) Any club nominating any team to participate in any senior competition shall be required to deposit a club bond with the Zone at the time of team nominations. This pre-season bond shall be \$1,000 (see appendix A – Fines / Fees) per club (NOT per senior team). From this bond will be deducted all fines imposed by the Competition Administrator and Zone Committee. The residue of any bond so deposited shall be refundable at season's end.
- (b) A senior player can only be named in two (2) teams per competition round. (See A30.1.1 to A30.1.3 and also A32.1)

A30.1.1 Men's Premier League and Reserve Grades:

- (a) Clubs participating must have two teams: Premier League and Reserve grade.
- (b) A 'one team club' cannot nominate for Men's Premier League.

- (c) Clubs may in addition, nominate Men's 2nd & 3rd divisions.
- (d) Clubs participating need only have one team. However, if a 2nd division club has more than one team – the other teams must compete in the 3rd division and these players can be regarded as 'reserve' players for their 2nd team.

A30.1.2 Senior eligibility for 2nd, 3rd divisions, Byes & Forfeits:

In the event of a bye or forfeit in men's and women's Premier League divisions, the 11 named starting players from the previous played Premier League fixture are deemed ineligible for 2nd division on the day the bye occurs. A competition point's fine may also apply to this if a breach is detected.

In the event of a bye or forfeit any player named on the Premier League, Reserve and 2nd division starting eleven match cards from the previous week's fixture is deemed ineligible to play in the 3rd division. A competition point's fine may also apply to this if a breach is detected.

A30.1.3 Senior Player eligibility for 2nd, 3rd divisions – multiple teams

In the event of a Club nominating two teams in a division, players can only play in one of the two teams in the same division. Any player being named on the match card cannot be played in the other team in the same division for that season.

A30.2 Promotion and Relegation

- (a) Any club that does not have teams in the Premier League and Reserve divisions may apply in writing to the Competition Administrator to be considered for promotion to the Premier League and Reserve Grade divisions in the following year. It is expected that the 2nd division will comprise of clubs that have this ambition in mind.
- (b) To be promoted, a Club must fulfil the two-team and Premier League Division ground facilities criteria.
- (c) Written applications must be submitted prior to the 31st of January in the year the season is to be played.

A30.3 Club Eligibility (Women's divisions)

- (a) Any member Club nominating for Women's Premier League must also nominate a Reserve grade team. Clubs may apply to the Competition Administrator to be given permission to "buddy up" to complete the two team requirement (ie one club entering Premier League and another club playing as the Reserve Grade team).

- Dual registration across these two clubs will not be permitted and players must only participate in their own club's team.
- (b) A club cannot field two teams in the same division unless they nominate four or more teams.

A30.4 Senior Eligibility

Any registered player must turn 15 in the calendar year to be eligible to play in a senior competition.

A30.5 Senior Eligibility – Finals Series

A30.5.1 The highest division team entered by a Club in both Men and Women's competitions:

No restrictions

A30.5.2 Reserve division:

The player must have played (starting line-up) at least One third of that team's premiership-playing season in the Reserve Grade division.

A30.5.3 For Men's and Women's 2nd and 3rd divisions:

The player must have played (starting line-up) at least one third of that team's premiership-playing season in the respective grade.

A30.5.4 For Men's Over 35:

The player must have played (starting line-up) at least One third of that team's premiership-playing season in the respective grade.

A30.6 Senior Divisions Eligibility

In both men's and women's senior football, a player having been named three times in the starting line up in any season on a Premier League match card can only play down one division to the next lowest division that their Club competes in. Players cannot play any lower than 2nd division without the express written consent of the Competition Administrator.

In both men's and women's senior football, a player having been named three times in the starting line up in any season on a Premier Reserve Grade match card can only play down one division to the next lowest division that their Club competes in. Players cannot play 3rd division without the express written consent of the Competition Administrator.

A30.7 Age Qualification for over 35 Competitions

A player must have passed his 35th birthday by January 1st to be eligible to register for that year's over 35 Competition.

Any player fulfilling the over 35 age criterion and registered with a club is entitled to play in that club's over 35 team regardless of their membership of other teams in their club.

A30.8 Age Qualification for over 30 Women's Competition

A player must turn 30 in the calendar year to be eligible to register for that year's over 30 Competition.

Any player fulfilling the over 30 age criterion and registered with a club is entitled to play in that club's over 30 team regardless of their membership of other teams in their club.

A31 TRANSFERS AND CLEARANCES

Each Club is required to adhere, in the first instance, to the National Registration Regulations (2013) as issued by Football Federation Australia.

A32 **PLAYER QUALIFICATION JUNIOR FOOTBALL**

A32.1 **Junior Football “borrowed player”**

- (a) The name and grade of any registered player temporarily playing in a higher grade as a “borrowed player” must be recorded on the match card with ‘B/P’ after their name.
- (b) A maximum of 3 players from other teams shall be permitted in any fixture in this fashion.
- (c) A “borrowed player” may not take part in a match by taking precedence over a player registered in that team.
- (d) Borrowed players can only be used to make the team up to twelve players (therefore only one (1) borrowed player can be used as an interchange).
- (e) A player may only be named on the match card in one Junior Semi-Final, one Junior Preliminary Final and one Junior Grand Final in any one year.
- (f) Players are restricted to ‘playing up’ two competition age groups (e.g. a 12 year-old may play 13’s or 14’s).
- (g) Any registered player must turn 15 in the calendar year to be eligible to play in a Senior competition.
- (h) Players may ‘play up’ grades and divisions – but not down or across divisions. Therefore a player in the 11-year 2nd division may play 11 year 1st division or 12 or 13 years, but may not play for another 11-year 2nd division team. Similarly, a 1st division junior player may not play for a 2nd division team in the same age grade.
- (i) In special circumstances (e.g. physical or intellectual disability) a club may request to play a player down. The club must put their request in writing on club letterhead stating the reason for this special request. The Competition Administrator will assess this request and advise the Zone Committee and Club of the outcome.
- (j) A junior player can only be named in three teams per week a maximum of 3 times in any season without the express written consent of North Coast Football (one game being in seniors and two games at a maximum – as per rule 30.b – pertaining to seniors).

A32.2 **Miniroos:**

Players may play for their Club in any team in their correct age division or in an appropriate higher age grade.

A32.3 **Re –grading:**

The Competition Administrator reserves the right to re-grade any team deemed to be incorrectly nominated.

A33 SIX-A-SIDE / SEVEN-A-SIDE / SUMMER COMPETITIONS / TOURNAMENTS

Clubs intending to apply to host six-a-side / seven-a-side / summer competitions or tournaments need to note the following:

A33.1 The Club hosting the tournament / competition must seek, in the first instance, approval from NNSWFF. This request must be in writing and needs to be lodged at least two (2) months prior to the commencement of the tournament / competition.

NNSWFF will confirm with the NCFZ Competition Administrator that the Zone ratifies this proposal.

A33.2 If approved and ratified by the NCF Competition Administrator, final approval from Northern NSW Football is to be sought on the Clubs behalf by NCF.

Upon receipt of approval from NNSWF, a tournament / competition package is to be forwarded to the Club detailing all administrative requirements.

A33.3 All pre-season six-a-side and summer competitions are to be scheduled to be finished on or before the end of February in any year.

A33.4 All Players competing in special competitions need to be registered and activated for that competition via My Football Club.

A33.5 Any registered player must turn 15 in the calendar year to be eligible to play in a senior competition.

A34 WET WEATHER PROCEDURE (See A.4)

In the event of Wet Weather, the following procedure is to be followed by all Clubs hosting Competition games.

A34.1 Cancellation Monday to Friday:

If cancellation is being advised Monday to Friday before 4.30pm, contact North Coast Football Office on (02) 66 51 2159 and advise that your Club's Home Ground is closed.

North Coast Football will advise:

- (a) visiting team(s);
- (b) referees;
- (c) post notice to NCFZ website; and
- (d) advise relevant media.

A34.2 After Hours – Midweek Fixtures

If the home / host Club's ground is unsuitable for play after 4.30pm, it will be the responsibility of the home / host clubs to:

- (a) advise all visiting teams;
- (b) advise referees;
- (c) advise media;
- (d) advise NCFZ wet weather coordinator

A34.3 Weekend Fixtures

After 4.30pm on Friday, the Home Club will be responsible for:

- (a) Advising all visiting Clubs of the Ground Closure. Refer to the Affiliated Clubs Executive Listing for the Wet Weather Contact details.
- (b) Contact the designated Referees representative
- (c) Contact NCFZ wet weather coordinator advising of the cancelled fixtures
- (d) Contact Website Administrator advising of cancellation

A34.4 The Playing of Wet Weather Catch up Games

The home club is responsible for arranging the wet weather catch up game. This fixture should be played within 14 days unless written permission to postpone the fixture/s is received from the Competition Administrator by the home club.

If clubs cannot agree on a suitable date, the Competition Administrator will arrange the fixture on a non-negotiable revised date.

If either team refuses to play this fixture on the revised date, the result will be awarded to the other team as a 3-0 forfeit.

If both teams refuse to play this fixture the result will be recorded as a 0-0 draw.

APPENDIX A – FEES / FINES (GST inclusive)

FEES

1.	Appeals to Disciplinary Committee Fee	\$220 per appeal
2.	Appeals to Appeal Board Fee	\$440 per appeal
3.	Appeals to North Coast Football Zone Committee Fee	\$880 per appeal
4.	Pre-season bond (senior clubs only)	\$1,000 per club
5.	Pre-season bond (junior clubs only)	\$500 per club

FINES

a)	Failure to appear as directed by Disciplinary Committee Maximum fine	\$220 per offence
b)	Failure of club official to attend Disciplinary Committee Fine	\$55 per offence
c)	Guilty of unseemly conduct at a Disciplinary Committee.	Maximum fine \$330 per offence
d)	Vexatious appeal / attempt to circumvent NCFZ regulations	Maximum fine \$330 per offence
e)	Failure to appear as directed by Appeal Board	Maximum fine \$220 per offence
f)	Failure of club official to attend Appeal Board	Maximum fine \$110 per offence
g)	Guilty of unseemly conduct at an Appeal Board	Maximum fine \$330 per offence
h)	Failure to comply with the requirements of a Commission	Maximum fine \$275 per offence
i)	Failure to submit match card to NCFZ office by close of business on the second normal working day after the match	Maximum fine \$50 per offence

j)	Incorrect or incomplete information on match card	Maximum fine \$50 per offence
k)	Failure to submit Referee Send Off or Referee Conduct Report by 6.00pm on the second normal day after the Match.	Maximum fine \$50 per offence
l)	Fielding an ineligible or unregistered player	Minimum fine \$100 per offence
m)	Club Forfeiting a Senior Fixture	Minimum fine \$200 per team
n)	Club failing to attend AGM, EGM or All Clubs meeting	\$200 per offence
o)	Club failing to submit a match report on Premier League. games (Men's and Women's)	\$50 per offence
p)	Club withdrawing a senior team mid-season	Minimum fine \$500 per offence

FFA Disciplinary and Grievance Regulations.

PLEASE NOTE

The January 2015 FFA Disciplinary and Grievance Regulations supersede NCFZ By-law 9 (Commissions/Inquiries Disciplinary/ Appeal Boards ~ February 2006)

These FFA Regulations are available on the FFA website. All clubs are recommended to download the FFA regulations and become familiar with them.

End of By- Law 7