



RULES OF COMPETITION

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1.0 Summary of Definitions

Abandoned – A Competition Fixture which has failed to commence for any reason or has commenced but has been stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion.

Been Listed – Refers to a player appearing on a team sheet under the Return Substitution (Interchange) rule.

Borrowed – Using a player in that game that ordinarily would play or has been graded into another side e.g. An U13 Division 1 player being used by an U14 Division 1 team (in the same club).

Cautions – Yellow and red cards received during a match.

Club Assistant – An Assistant Referee provided by the club for the fixture.

Clubs – A body or incorporated association that has been accepted for affiliation and admittance into Football Queensland's competitions.

Competition Fixture – Any match that is administered by Football Queensland, within a competition.

Conference – Metro or refers to any region that exists as a member of Football Queensland.

Division – A particular grade or level of competition within Football Queensland.

Facilities Lighting Standards – refers to the Football Queensland Facilities Lighting Standards Policy as available through Football Queensland and adhering to the Australian Sports Lighting Standards.

Forfeit – A failure to participate in a Competition Fixture.

Graded – The team/competition that a player has been allocated and deemed to be eligible for.

Goal Difference –The difference between goals scored by a Club/Team (Goals For) and goals scored against a Club/Team (Goals Against) in a match or season.

Has Started – Refers to a player who commenced a match as part of the starting 11 under the Substitution rule.

Highest Placed Team – The team which finished in the higher position on the competition ladder after the fixture season.

Joint Winners – Both participating teams in the grand final will be declared joint winners.

League – A particular competition.

Legends League –The league as organised by Football Queensland for Women over the age of 30 and played Monday-Friday.

No Result – Recording a '0-0' score line in a Competition Fixture with no points or goals awarded to either Team. A 'No Result' is recorded as a Competition Fixture played.

Penalties – A penalty shoot-out, in accordance with FIFA regulations will be taken to determine the winner.

Playing Facilities Standards –The minimum standards a club must adhere to, to be eligible to play games at and host fixtures, in accordance with the Football Queensland Playing Facilities Standards Policy.

Postponed – A Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled and is to be rescheduled.

Regular Season –The duration of the season, not including Finals Series

Replica Strip – An imitation shirt/shorts/attire of another club or team, be it professional or amateur (e.g., Brisbane Roar Replica jersey)

Team – A football team entered by a Club in a League/Competition administered by Football Queensland.

2 COMPETITIONS

2.0 General

Football Queensland reserves the right to amend, change or alter these Competition Rules on an annual basis. In addition, Football Queensland reserves the right to amend, change or alter these Competition Rules should, in its opinion, the need arise during a season. The purpose of this is ensure transparency, consistency and best practice. The changing of the Rules mid-season would only occur in extraordinary circumstances.

This document is specific to the following Competitions:

FQPL2-3 Women
FQPL3-6 Men
Senior Metro Leagues
U20 Men
NPL Girls
NPL Academy Juniors
NPL Development Juniors
FQPL Development Juniors
Metro Junior Leagues
Metro Divisional Juniors

2.1 Competition Structure

Football Queensland reserves the right to decide on or amend the size, structure and composition of any competition. Clubs who are members of Football Queensland are eligible to nominate for any competition within the Football Queensland structure, provided they meet the minimum and mandatory requirements for the competition in which they nominate. New Clubs are required to apply to compete in Football Queensland Competitions by November 1 of each year. For further information, please contact Licensing.

2.1.1 All Competitions

All competitions within Football Queensland will be contested on a “Home and Away” basis, where possible.

2.1.2 Senior Competitions

FQPL2 Women, FQPL3 – 6 Men, FQPL3 Women

All participating Clubs in the above are required to field a “First Grade” team and an “Under 23’s” team. These competitions will be contested on a “Home and Away” basis where possible.

Men’s & Women’s Metro Leagues, Men’s Under 20 & Women’s Legends

Entry into these leagues is available to Clubs from within the SEQ Region and the decision will be based on upholding competition integrity. The composition of each competition will be determined on an annual basis.

2.1.3 Junior Competitions

Football Queensland will organise age restricted competitions for junior players from Under 13 – Under 18. Competitions may be mixed or gender specific as determined by Football Queensland.

Junior Competitions

The NPL/Metro Competitions that are relevant to this Rules of Competition document are as follows:

- NPL Academy
- NPL Development (including Girls only teams)
- FQPL Development
- Metro Youth Leagues
- Metro Divisional (including Girls only teams)

The composition of Metro Youth and Divisional competitions will be determined on an annual basis, based on club nominations and results from the previous season.

2.2 Competition Winners

In each Competition, the team finishing with the most points at the conclusion of the “Regular” season will be the Premier. In the event of multiple teams having equal points, the ranking of the teams shall be determined in accordance with Section 3.11.

2.3 Promotion & Relegation - All Competitions

All competitions use a promotion/relegation system. Some competitions will still rely on club nominations for the following season to finalise composition

2.3.1 Senior Competitions

FQPL2 Women, FQPL3 – 6 Men, FQPL3 Women

The 1st and 2nd placed teams at the completion of the regular season will be eligible for promotion or play off. The teams placed last and 2nd last at the conclusion of the regular season will be relegated to the competition below for the subsequent season.

To earn promotion into FQPL2 Men or FQPL1 Women, Clubs must also meet the Grounds and Facilities criteria, which is outlined in the Licence Agreements provided by Football Queensland.

If one or both Clubs eligible for promotion do not meet the requirements for promotion into the FQPL2 Men/FQPL1 Women, then the process outlined in "Promotion/Relegation Requests/Withdrawal" will be implemented.

The exception to the relegation rule is the lowest tier in Men's and Women's FQPL, where there will be no relegation.

Promotion & Relegation Requests/Withdrawal

If one or both teams who have qualified for promotion to the above competitions advises that they do not wish to exercise the privilege, they must provide their reasons in writing to Football Queensland for review. If the request is granted, Football Queensland will approach clubs to enter, based on results and ability to fulfil the Competition requirements.

If it is a Competition where there was no relegation, Football Queensland can, if they choose, seek applications from any other Club to fill the vacancy.

If a team withdrawal or request for relegation causes a vacancy in FQPL, Football Queensland can, if they choose, seek applications from any other Club to fill the vacancy.

Note: Promotion and relegation rules/procedures may be subject to change, due to variations in competition structures.

All Men's & Women's Metro Leagues, Women's Legends & U20 Competitions

There is no promotion to FQPL from Metro League Division 1. The composition of each of the Metro League divisions will be determined on an annual basis based on a combination of the previous season's results and collaboration with the nominations submitted by each Club.

Mandatory grading matches will be arranged by Football Queensland to determine each team's Division for the upcoming season.

Following the conclusion of Round 3 of the regular season, a Club may apply to have a team regraded. These applications will be assessed, and results taken into consideration when deciding the appropriate division for all teams. Football Queensland will also assess the results of each Metro League competition following the first 3 rounds and may seek to regrade a team based on their initial results. Football Queensland's determination on any regrade application or regrading of a team must be followed and will be final. If a club requests to regrade from Round 4, a fee may be applicable if Football Queensland grant the request. There shall be no appeal against the decision of Football Queensland.

2.3.2 NPL Academy, NPL Development, NPL Girls, FQPL Development

Under 13 – Under 18

All clubs competing in these competitions will not be subject to relegation, as placement is based on Licence Agreements.

2.3.3 Junior Divisional Competitions

Under 14 – Under 18

The composition of each of these divisions will be determined on an annual basis based on a combination of the previous season's results and collaboration with the nominations submitted by each Club.

Several timeframes will be offered to Clubs in which to apply to have a team regraded. These applications will be assessed, and results taken into consideration when deciding on the appropriate division for all teams.

Under 13 Divisional Qualification Process

Each year, a grading process will occur to establish what divisions in which teams will participate in for the regular season. All teams nominated for Under 13 are required to play four (4) grading matches to determine their final division placement. The final composition across all divisions of Under 13 will see eight (8) teams selected per age group. The final placement of teams into respective divisions will be based on results from the mandatory grading matches.

The divisions will be split into North and South, with exception Metro Junior League and potentially Division 1, which may be Cross River.

2.4 Other Competitions & Play-Off Matches

Football Queensland may conduct other competitions and/or Cup Competitions before, during and after the conclusion of the fixture season, including Finals Series. This includes any play-off matches which may need to occur to establish the composition of a competition. Additional Rules for these Competitions shall be set prior to their commencement.

All Cup Competitions are subject to (and should be read in conjunction with) these Rules of Competition and the additional Cup Rules. In the event of an omission or inconsistency between these Rules and the additional Cup Rules, Football Queensland will determine and rule on the interpretation.

2.5 Monies Owing to Football Queensland By A Club

All amounts owed by a Club to Football Queensland must be paid within 21 days of the date of the invoice (7 days in the case of match official payments) issued by Football Queensland in relation to that amount.

If a Club fails to pay any amount owing to Football Queensland in accordance with this, Football Queensland may issue a notice, giving the Club a further 14 days to pay that amount.

If a Club fails to comply with a notice issued in accordance with this, or agree to a repayment plan with Football Queensland for the amount owed, Football Queensland may, at its sole discretion:

- Rule that Club [or the applicable Team(s) within that Club] ineligible to earn competition points in any Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match in which the Club (or Team) plays,
- Suspend or expel that Club [or Team(s)] from any Competition Fixture (including Cup Fixtures) and/or Football Queensland competitions.
- Prohibit that Club [or Team(s)] from promotion whilst the debt remains unpaid.
- Relegate that Club [or Team(s)] while the debt remains unpaid.
- Deduct points from a Club [or Team(s)] for the following season where the debt remains unpaid or accrues after 30 September of the relevant year.

If Football Queensland and a Club agree to a repayment plan relating to a debt owed to Football Queensland and the Club defaults any of the terms by the stipulated date and time, Football

Queensland may immediately and without the need to issue a further notice, impose one or more of the sanctions referred to above.

3 FIXTURES

3.0 General

Football Queensland will schedule the dates, times and venues of all matches in collaboration with our Clubs and their requested preferences. Draft draws will be released to Clubs in draft format to allow for feedback prior to the commencement of the season. Football Queensland reserves the right to schedule matches on any day, time and venue and in any format in alignment with the best interests of the competition/s. This includes scheduling matches to accommodate media requirements and referee appointments. Football Queensland reserves the right to reschedule matches in its absolute discretion.

Football Queensland will schedule fixturing meetings with Clubs to discuss and schedule fixtures for the season during the draft process.

All Football Queensland matches take precedence in scheduling over non-FA affiliated matches at all Football Queensland Clubs.

If a club wishes to schedule a fixture to commence at 6:30pm from Monday-Friday. Travel time from club to club may not exceed 30 minutes, which will be determined by Football Queensland at the time of fixturing, unless both clubs agree to kicking off at 6:30pm.

3.1 Scheduling of Matches

3.1.1 Senior Competitions

Senior matches will normally be scheduled between Friday and Sunday each weekend. (Exception – Legends League which may be scheduled on Monday-Friday.)

FQPL2 Women, FQPL3 – 6 Men, FQPL3 Women

Games must be scheduled sequentially as specified below:

- Under 23's, 1st team - on the same day at the same venue in that order

If FQPL2 Women, FQPL3 – 6 Men, FQPL3 Women's matches are postponed or abandoned due to any circumstances, Football Queensland reserves the right to reschedule matches on any day, time and venue and in any format as it sees fit. Under 23's must always be scheduled to be played before the 1st Team, even if matches must be played across different nights

Other Leagues

Where two or more senior teams from the same Club are playing at home on the same day, these matches must be scheduled consecutively.

Day & Time Scheduling/Rescheduling

Midweek/Friday

- No senior matches will be scheduled to commence before 6.30pm
- No senior matches will be scheduled to commence after 8.30pm

Saturday

- No senior matches will be scheduled to commence before 11.00am
- No senior matches will be scheduled to commence after 7.30pm

Sunday

- No Senior matches will be scheduled to commence before 9.00am
- No senior matches will be scheduled to commence after 6.00pm

Exceptions may be granted in the case of public holidays or where both teams agree, for any fixture/s. Any request for exception must be submitted in writing to Football Queensland for approval and the decision made will be final. The submission must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the fixture, **with confirmation of agreement from both teams.**

FQPL2 Women, FQPL3 – 6 Men, FQPL3 Women

Where there are clashes between the First Team and the U23's (i.e., teams from the same Club at different venues), the First Team match will take priority for scheduling and the U23's will have to be scheduled to avoid any clash (either with sufficient time between the matches on the same day or on a different day).

3.1.2 Junior Competitions

Listed below is the day on which each age group will be predominantly scheduled during the 2022 Football Queensland season. Matches must be scheduled sequentially as specified by Football Queensland.

	Under 13	Under 14	Under 15	Under 16	Under 18
Divisional competitions	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday or Sunday	Friday or Sunday	Friday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday
Metro Youth League and Metro Division 1	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday or Sunday	Friday or Sunday	Friday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday
FQPL Development NPL Academy & Development	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday

* All Under 13-16 Girls, Under Metro Youth League and below, Under 14 Division 3 and below fixtures may be requested for Saturday to assist with field availability for clubs.

NOTE: Any age group may be scheduled on a Friday night in consultation between the Home Club and Football Queensland, during the fixturing feedback process.

Day & Time Scheduling/Rescheduling

Monday-Friday

- No junior matches will be scheduled to commence before 6.30pm
- the U13 age group will not kick off later than 8pm
- the U14 age group will not kick off later than 8pm
- the U15 age group will not kick off later than 8:15pm
- the U16 & U18 age groups will not kick off later than 8:30pm.

Saturday

- No junior matches will be scheduled to commence before 8.30am
- No junior matches will be scheduled to commence later than 7pm

Sunday

- No junior matches will be scheduled to commence before 8.30am
- No junior matches will be scheduled to commence after 6.00pm

Exceptions may be granted in the case of public holidays or where both teams agree, for any fixture/s. Any request for exception must be submitted in writing to Football Queensland for approval and the decision made will be final. The submission must be submitted at least 21 days prior to the fixture, **with confirmation of agreement from both teams**.

3.1.3 Exceptions

Clubs may apply for an exception from the above scheduling rules depending on their situation, any determination Football Queensland makes in this matter is final.

3.2 Postponement/Rescheduling of Matches

The decision to postpone or reschedule competition fixtures can only be made by Football Queensland Competitions staff, except in the event of severe weather.

In cases of severe weather, matches may only be postponed by the home Club or by the appointed match official at the venue, or by Football Queensland upon advice from the HOME Club prior to the match (as per Section 9 – Wet Weather Procedures). Football Queensland may postpone an earlier match or matches on any day to allow a later match or matches to go ahead at its absolute discretion and in consultation with the host Club.

Football Queensland reserves the right to record any outstanding fixtures that have not been completed by one (1) week after the conclusion of the regular season as a NIL-ALL (0-0) DRAW. Football Queensland may decide not to reschedule a fixture that has no bearing on the final ladder positions. Football Queensland reserves the right to reschedule matches on any day, time and venue and in any format as it sees fit. Matches will be rescheduled with a minimum gap of 48 hours from other scheduled/rescheduled fixtures unless both teams agree, or Football Queensland determines a match needs to be played and other options are not available.

If a match is postponed while both teams are at the ground, the teams should liaise with each other to propose or agree to a reschedule date and time, while at the ground. Should a suitable date be agreed upon, both teams are to advise Football Queensland of the agreed rescheduling (via email) prior to 12pm the next business day.

3.2.1 Rescheduling Process

Postponed matches will be rescheduled by Football Queensland for the next available “catch-up” weekend, which is the primary option. If the next available “Catch-up” weekend is unavailable due to other scheduling, Football Queensland may determine that the matches would need to be rescheduled as midweek fixtures. If this is the case, the Clubs will be advised of this information. Notwithstanding this Rule, Football Queensland may reschedule to alternate dates as is required.

For matches that need to be rescheduled to midweek dates per above, the HOME Club has three (3) days to respond with advice of their preferred option/s for rescheduling.

If the proposed date is less than fourteen (14) days from the fixture, the HOME Club must obtain the AWAY Club’s agreement. The AWAY Club cannot refuse a rescheduled match option that is at least fourteen (14) days from the date that has been proposed.

Once both teams have responded, Football Queensland will determine a date for the match, which will be final.

Pursuant to the provisions of this Rule, Football Queensland will set a date as it determines whose decision shall be final. The decision of Football Queensland in this respect is not subject to appeal.

- If the HOME Club fails to provide a response within three (3) days of Football Queensland sending the request, the match may be awarded to the AWAY Club with a 3-0 score line and the HOME Club may be fined (See Appendix I).
- If the AWAY Club fails to provide a response within three (3) days of Football Queensland sending the rescheduling proposal(s), the match may be awarded to the HOME Club with a 3-0 score line and the AWAY Club may be fined (See Appendix I).
- Should a team refuse to participate in a match that has been rescheduled by Football Queensland, the match will be awarded to the opposition Club with a 3-0 score line and the Club may be fined (See Appendix I).

NOTE: In the event of the rescheduling of a fixture in the final four weeks of the season, the Club response timeframes, outlined above, will be reduced to 48 hours (Club to respond in this time) and 7 days (Clubs to play no less than 7 days from date of advice).

3.3 Duration of Matches

The duration of matches for each age group are outlined in the table below. After normal time in each half, the match official may add on Injury/Stoppage Time as required, however, this is only applicable for Senior Competitions. **No extra time is added for Junior Competitions.**

Competition	Half Duration	Interval Duration
Seniors	2 x 45 mins	10 - 15 mins
Legends	2 x 40 mins	5 – 10 mins
Under 18	2 x 45 mins	10 - 15 mins
Under 16	2 x 40 mins	10 mins
Under 15	2 x 40 mins	10 mins
Under 14	2 x 35 mins	5 mins
Under 13	2 x 30 mins	5 mins

3.4 Substitution and Return Substitution (Interchange)

Substitutions and Return Substitutions (Interchange) can only occur in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

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

3.4.1 Senior Competitions FQPL2 Women, FQPL3 – 6 Men

In the above competitions, each team may make up to five (5) substitutions in any given match, with a maximum of 3 stoppages in play. Half time substitutions will not be counted as a stoppage in play. There can be five (5) substitutes listed on the Match Sheet.

Should any Finals Fixtures relating to the above competitions proceed to extra time, teams are permitted to make one additional substitution (whether or not the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes or substitution opportunities).

FQPL3 Women, All FQPL U23's, Men's & Women's Metro Leagues, Men's U20, Women's Legends

In the above competitions, unlimited Return Substitutions (Interchange) are permitted, with no more than five (5) substitutes permitted to be named on the Match Sheet. A player who has been substituted may return to the field for another player. **In these Competitions, a player whose name appears on the Match Sheet is deemed to have participated in the match, even if they do not take the field of play.** The exception to this rule is a Reserve Goalkeeper (if marked as such on the match sheet). Referees will record whether a Reserve Goalkeeper has participated by the normal manner of recording a substitution. If no record of participation is shown, then the Reserve Goalkeeper will not be deemed to have participated in the match.

3.4.2 Junior Competitions

In all competitions from Under 13 to Under 18, unlimited Return Substitutions (Interchange) are permitted, with no more than five (5) substitutes to be named on the Match Sheet. A player who has been substituted may return to the field for another player.

In these competitions, a player whose name appears on the Match Sheet is deemed to have participated in the match, even if they do not take the field of play.

3.5 Alterations To Fixtures

3.5.1 Application For Alterations

Any application for an alteration to scheduled fixtures must be submitted to Football Queensland at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled fixture. **The correspondence must include the written agreement of the opposition Club, prior to submitting the request.**

Each request will be determined on its merits. Applications for alterations due to "social functions" (e.g. weddings, christenings, school holiday weekends or other social and religious events) or "work commitments" do not justify an alteration request and will not be considered.

Scheduled Football Queensland catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will **only** be used in the case of postponed or abandoned competition fixtures brought on by wet weather.

Any application made within the fourteen (14) day timeframe, even with the agreement of the opposition Club, **will not** be considered.

An application within this timeframe with extraordinary circumstances (entire squad flight delay/illness throughout the team with medical certificate), can be made to Football Queensland with required evidence. If no evidence is attached, the request will be declined.

For any other fixture alteration request (field/venue unavailability, field quality concern, lighting issue), an application may be made to Football Queensland without the agreement of the opposition Club, in the best interests of the fixture going ahead. This request must also be made 14 days prior to the scheduled fixture date.

Football Queensland reserves the right to decline any fixture alteration request, at Football Queensland's discretion. The decision of Football Queensland is final and is not subject to appeal.

3.5.2 Representative Duties

Any competition team with three or more players/team members unavailable due to representative outdoor football duties, at Football Queensland/Football Federation Australia approved tournaments including state-wide school representative tournaments, will be entitled to have their fixture rescheduled upon application. Supporting evidence must be provided in an application. Applications must be made at least 21 days prior to the scheduled fixture.

Should Football Queensland approve the application to reschedule the match, the process as outlined in Section 3.2.1 will be followed.

Football Queensland will take into consideration what is reasonable and the decision will be final.

3.5.3 School Football (Junior Competitions Only)

Applications due to involvement in local inter-school sport or non-representative sanctioned competitions including but not limited to the Kanga Cup, will not be considered.

3.5.4 School Commitments (Junior Competitions Only)

Applications due to school commitments / functions will be assessed on their merits. All applications must be accompanied by a letter from the School Principal/Curriculum Coordinator/Year Coordinator on school letterhead outlining how the event relates to the education curriculum. The application must be received at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled fixture. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and the decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

If Football Queensland approves the application to reschedule the match, the process defined in Section 3.2.1 will be followed.

3.5.5 Exceptional Circumstances Related Postponement Requests

If teams are affected by circumstances outside of their control and are asking for consideration to postpone fixtures, application must be made in writing to the Manager – SEQ Competitions via email. Supporting documentation must be provided and each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

3.6 Non-Participation In A Fixture/Forfeiting A Fixture

Any team that fails to fulfil any of its fixture or finals obligations arranged by Football Queensland will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

Any team that wishes to forfeit a match prior to the scheduled day and time must notify Football Queensland either by email (if prior to the day of the scheduled match) or by phoning the Manager – SEQ Competitions (if on the day of the match). Football Queensland will then notify the opposition team and match officials.

Any team that is not ready to commence a fixture or finals match within **15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time commencing**, (this includes the ground of the **HOME** team not being ready for kick-off in the opinion of the match officials, i.e., the field must be correctly marked, with nets and corner posts up and goals anchored if required), will be deemed to have forfeited the match.

If any team claims such a forfeit, they must contact the Metro Competitions team (competitions@footballqueensland.com.au) and outline the events which led up to the match not being played.

A team deemed to have forfeited may submit a request, within three (3) days to Football Queensland, if they believe the forfeit was caused by extraordinary circumstances. Football Queensland will review the request and deliver a determination. Football Queensland's decision in regard to the forfeit shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal.

If any team forfeits a fixture for any reason on three or more occasions in the same competition season without satisfactory explanation provided in writing to Football Queensland, they will be asked to show cause as to why they should not be withdrawn from the competition. The decision of Football Queensland to withdraw a team from the competition shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal.

3.6.1 Senior Competitions

In FQPL Competitions, if a Club does not have sufficient players to field an U23's and 1st team, the 1st team shall take priority. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action against the offending Club and both the U23's and 1st team fixtures will be deemed a forfeit.

Any match deemed to have been forfeited in Metro Competitions will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

3.7 Withdrawal/Removal/Suspension From Fixtures

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

- If the team is withdrawn, removed or suspended before the competition has started and cannot be replaced, a bye in the competition will be substituted where possible and the club will be levied an administration fee.
- If the team is withdrawn, removed or suspended during the first round of fixtures, the recorded results for that team will be deleted and, if the team cannot be replaced, a bye in the competition will be substituted for the remainder of that round; if they cannot be replaced in the competition for the remaining round(s), a bye in the competition will be substituted for the remaining round(s) where possible and the club will be levied an administration fee.
- If the team is withdrawn, removed or suspended during the second or subsequent round of fixtures, all points and goals acquired for the completed rounds will be retained by opposing teams. The recorded results for that team in the uncompleted round will be deleted and, if the team cannot be replaced, a bye in the competition will be substituted for the remainder of that round; if they cannot be replaced in the competition for the remaining round(s), a bye in the competition will be substituted for the remaining round(s) (for the purposes of this clause, a round is a full rotation of each team playing other teams) and the club will be levied an administration fee.
- If Football Queensland has doubts about the validity of any earlier round matches for a team withdrawn during the second or subsequent rounds, it may delete all results for that team and the club will be levied an administration fee.
- Football Queensland reserves the right to negotiate with the Club of a replacement team regarding the method that the new team enters the competition. This discussion can occur at any point in that competition and include how points are attributed to that team for the remainder of the season.

The Club of the team withdrawn will be levied an administration fee (See Appendix I) and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

Football Queensland's decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

3.8 Team Additions To Fixtures

Should a club request to be added to a competition or fixtures post the team nomination deadline, the club may be liable for a late entry administration fee (See Appendix I).

If any team is added to a competition, then the following will apply:

Note – Points accrued in another competition prior to being added to a new competition will not carry over to the new competition.

- Where a competition is comprised of eighteen (18) fixtures:
 - If a team enters on or before Fixture 4, that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for the entire season.
 - If a team enters from Fixture 5, until the commencement of the second Round (Fixture 10) that team will not accrue results from those fixtures. However, the team will accrue points in the second Round,
 - If a team enters on either Fixture 10 or Fixture 11 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for Round 2 only.
 - If a team enters after the commencement of Fixture 12 that team will not accrue any points
- Where a competition is comprised of twenty (21) fixtures:
 - If a team enters on or before Fixture 3 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required, and will accrue points for the entire season
 - If a team enters from Fixture 4 until the commencement of the second Round (Fixture 8) that team will not accrue results from those fixtures. However, the team will accrue points in the second and third Rounds.
 - If a team enters on either Fixture 8 or Fixture 9 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for Rounds 2 and 3.
 - If a team enters from Fixture 10 until the commencement of the third Round (Fixture 15) that team will not accrue results from those fixtures. However, the team will accrue points in the third Round.
 - If a team enters on either Fixture 15 or Fixture 16 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for Round 3.
 - If a team enters after the commencement of Fixture 16 that team will not accrue any points
- Where a competition is comprised of twenty-two (22) fixtures:
 - If a team enters on or before Fixture 6 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for the entire season.
 - If a team enters from Fixture 7 until the commencement of the second Round (Fixture 12) that team will not accrue results from those fixtures. However, the team will accrue points in the second Round,
 - If a team enters on either Fixture 12 or on or before Fixture 14 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for Round 2 only.
 - If a team enters after the commencement of Fixture 15 that team will not accrue any points

In the event that these provisions create any anomaly or are impossible to strictly comply then Football Queensland may in its discretion, determine how this rule shall be applied. The Club of the team requesting to be added will be levied an administration fee (See Appendix I). Football Queensland's decision shall be final. The decision of Football Queensland in this respect is not subject to appeal.

3.9 Abandoned Matches

The match official has the right to abandon any fixture match if, in their opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety. If the match official abandons a Football Queensland match at half time or later for both Junior and Senior Competitions, **then the match result will stand**, unless:

- One or both of the competing Clubs request the match to be replayed, or
- The matter is referred to Football Queensland for determination

All replay requests must be made in writing within three (3) days of the match being abandoned. Any request after this time will be declined and the match result will stand.

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

- Reasons why the match was abandoned
- Result of the match at the time of abandonment
- The impact on the final league standing of a fixture
- The impact on the finals series if a finals match may be affected.

The decision of Football Queensland on whether to grant a replay will be final and this shall not be subject to appeal. Any replayed match will be played in full. Any match abandoned before half-time will be replayed unless both teams agree to forego the replaying of the match or Football Queensland determines that the match does not need to be replayed.

Football Queensland reserves the right to determine the match result if it is satisfied that one (or both) of the competing teams, its players, officials, members or supporters were directly responsible for the abandonment of the fixture. This includes the abandonment of a match due to a team having less than seven players on the field. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and is final and not subject to appeal.

If it is determined that one team is responsible for the abandonment, the Club responsible will be fined (See Appendix I) and subject to any/all of the following action:

Football Queensland may decide to impose any of the following outcomes:

- The match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the score at the time of abandonment was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team
- Impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending Club(s), player(s) and official(s)

If it is determined that both teams are responsible for the abandonment, both Clubs responsible may be fined (See Appendix I).

Football Queensland may also decide to impose any of the following outcomes:

- The match be replayed
- The match be recorded as “NO RESULT”
- The match be recorded as 0-0 draw
- Impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending Club(s), player(s) and official(s)

Football Queensland determination on the outcome of any abandoned match shall be in its absolute discretion and final and not subject to appeal.

Should Football Queensland determine that a match is to be replayed, the provisions for rescheduling as outlined in Section 3.2.1 (inclusive of 3.1.1 and 3.1.2) will apply.

3.10 Points

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

Match Result	Value	Points Earned
Win	Three	3 Points
Draw	One	1 Point
Loss	Nil	0 Points
Bye	Nil	0 Points
No Result	Nil for either team	0 Points for either team

3.11 Goal Difference

In the case of teams having an equal number of points, goal difference will be used to determine:

- The Premiers
- The teams eligible to play in the Finals Series in the respective divisions
- The teams to be promoted to a higher division
- The teams to be relegated to a lower division
- All other positions on the points table

In the case of goal difference being equal, the team having scored the most goals FOR shall be the higher or highest placed team.

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

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

If teams are still equal after considering all the above considerations, the following will apply:

- To determine Premiers or promotion/relegation positions, the Clubs concerned shall play off one or more matches on neutral ground(s), the format, timing and venue(s) of which shall be determined by Football Queensland
- To determine Finals Series positions - an official of each team will be required to meet with an official of Football Queensland and lots will be drawn
To determine all other positions on the table, lots will be drawn.

3.12 Penalties & Outcomes

Any match in all Football Queensland Competitions deemed to have been forfeited will be subject to the following:

- The match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team and the points will be awarded to the opposing team.
- Impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending Club(s), player(s) and official(s).

4 FINALS SERIES

4.0 Format

Football Queensland will arrange the dates, times and venues of all Finals Series matches. Football Queensland reserves the right to schedule or re-schedule matches on any day, time and place as it sees fit. All Football Queensland matches take precedence in scheduling over non-FA affiliated matches at Football Queensland Clubs.

The formats below will apply to all Football Queensland Metro competitions.

The first listed team in each match below, is the designated Home Team.

Competition	Final Type	Teams
FQPL2-3 Women FQPL3-6 Men Including U23's	Semi Final 1	2 nd vs 3 rd
	Semi Final 2	1 st vs 4 th
	Grand Final	Highest Place Semi Winner vs Lowest Place Semi Winner

Competition	Final Type	Teams
Men's & Women's Metro Leagues Men's Under 20 Women's Legends	Semi Final 1	2 nd vs 3 rd
	Semi Final 2	1 st vs 4 th
	Grand Final	Highest Place Semi Winner vs Lowest Place Semi Winner

Competition	Final Type	Teams
All Juniors Under 13 – Under 18	Semi Final 1	2 nd vs 3 rd
	Semi Final 2	1 st vs 4 th
	Grand Final	Highest Place Semi Winner vs Lowest Place Semi Winner

4.1 Senior Competitions

4.1.1 Venues

Semi Final Matches will be held at the Home Team venue, subject to the venue being deemed suitable for play by Football Queensland. (If the Home Team is unable to host the match, then it will be held at the Away Team venue or a venue determined by Football Queensland).

Grand Final Matches will be held at venues determined by Football Queensland where these shall be at independent grounds (where possible).

4.1.2 Duration of Matches

All finals matches will be played in accordance with the fixture duration (See Section 3.3).

FQPL2-3 Women, FQPL3-6 Men inc. U23's

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

Men's and Women's Metro Leagues, Men's Under 20, Women's Legends Competitions

If the scores are equal after normal time, then a penalty shoot-out in accordance with FIFA regulations will be taken to determine the winner (No extra time will be played).

4.2 Junior Competitions

4.2.1 Venues

All Grand Finals Matches will be held at venues determined by Football Queensland. Football Queensland will invite clubs to submit an EOI to Clubs one month prior Finals Series commencing.

4.2.2 Duration of Matches

All finals matches will be played in accordance with the fixture duration for each age group (See Section 3.3).

If the scores are equal after normal time, then 2 x 10-minute periods of extra time will be played in full. If the scores are still equal after extra time, the following methods will be used to determine the outcome:

Age	Division	Final Type	Method After Extra Time
Under 13-18	NPL & FQPL Development	Semi Final & Grand Final	Penalties
Under 13	Metro Junior League & below	Semi Final & Grand Final	Highest Placed Team
Under 14 – Under 18	All Divisions (including FQPL/NPL)	Semi Final & Grand Final	Penalties

5 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

5.0 Registration of Players

Football Queensland reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player participating in any competition.

It is each club's responsibility to ensure that any player taking the field for a competitive fixture is eligible per eligibility requirements i.e., registered, not suspended, graded correctly, eligible for finals (minimum number of games).

Amateur players who have not previously registered under FA in Australia for the current season are permitted to seek registration at any time during the season.

Amateur players registered or re-registered after June 30 are **NOT** eligible to participate at FQPL2-3 Women, FQPL3-6 Men (inc U23's), NPL Academy/Development, FQPL Development or Metro Youth League level. For the avoidance of doubt, players registered after 30 June are only eligible to play in Metro Leagues, Under 20, Women's Legends and Junior Divisional Competitions. This includes new registrations and players who are moving between Clubs. Players who register after June 30 to play Metro Leagues or U20 leagues, are not eligible to be borrowed up into FQPL2-3 Women, FQPL3-6 Men (inc U23's). Players who register for Junior Divisional Competitions after June 30 are not eligible to be borrowed into NPL Academy/Development, FQPL Development or Metro Youth League level.

Amateur players who have previously registered under FA for Clubs based in the Metro Conference (including NPL and FQPL Clubs based in the Metro Conference) for the current season are not permitted to re-register with another Club within the Metro Conference after 30 June each year. (NOTE: Metro Leagues, Under 20, Women's Legends and Junior Divisional Competitions are excluded from this rule).

Amateur players who have registered under FA in Australia for Clubs based outside the Metro Conference for the current season may register with Football Queensland Metro after 30 June each year. The decision of Football Queensland will be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal.

5.1 Exceptions

Clubs may apply to Football Queensland for exceptions to these registration rules in extraordinary circumstances (E.g., A team has no Goalkeeper in lower ranked divisions to fulfill a vacated position after June 30). Football Queensland is unable to grant an exception to any clause in the National Registration Regulations. The decision of Football Queensland will be final and not subject to appeal.

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

Any player not registered as per FA National Registration Regulations and Football Queensland Registration Rules and Procedures (herewith) for the current season is ineligible and is not permitted to participate in any Football Queensland competition. If a player, not registered as per FA National Registration Regulations and Football Queensland Registration Procedures for the current season,

is found to have participated in a match, the player will be deemed to be an ineligible player. Any team/club who is adjudged to have fielded an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.9.

5.1.1 FQPL2-3 Women, FQPL3-6 Men, Metro, Under 20& Junior Leagues

A player can only be registered with one Club at a time. During the season, a player can register for a maximum of three (3) Clubs and can play for a maximum of two (2) Clubs in competition matches. (See Section 4.9 of the National Registration Regulations.)

5.1.2 Legends League

Players registered to play in the Legends League ONLY are not eligible to participate in other Football Queensland Competitions. If players wish to play in both competitions, (Legends and FQPL or Metro Leagues), they will need to register separately for each competition. If a player is registered to play in the Senior Metro Leagues, they may register to play Legends League at a different Club to their Senior Metro Leagues registration (please see eligibility for further information).

5.2 Suspended Players

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

Any player under suspension by Football Queensland or any other Federation who is found to have participated in a match will be deemed to be an ineligible player. Any team/club who is considered to have fielded an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.9.

5.3 Player Age Requirements

The requirements below apply to all competitions and must be read in conjunction with all eligibility rules.

Any application to borrow players outside of allowable borrowing rules are to be sent to Football Queensland, no later than 5pm of the Thursday prior to the commencement of a team's match. Any applications submitted after the 5pm deadline will not be considered until the following Monday. Any Players found to have been borrowed without permission, will be deemed an ineligible player and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes in the 2022 Rules of Competition.

The competitions below are age restricted competitions:

Women's Legends	Players born in the year 1992 or earlier
Under 20	Players born in the year 2002 or later (between 2002-2006)
Under 18	Players born in the year 2004, 2005 or 2006
Under 16	Players born in the year 2006 or 2007
Under 15	Players born in the year 2007 or 2008
Under 14	Players born in the year 2008 or 2009
Under 13	Players born in the year 2009 or 2010

5.3.1 FQPL2-3 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Men

Players may play without restriction between First and U23's teams in regular season fixtures, subject to Overage requirements for their relevant competition.

Players who participate in a First or U23 team fixture during round 1 of the FQPL 3-6 Season will be graded as such. Players graded to this competition will be unable to play in a lower ranked competition for that club. (i.e., FQPL and U23's is ranked higher than Metro League 1 and so on).

Players who are borrowed from a lower ranked competition into an FQPL competition may be borrowed for a maximum of six (6) matches. Once a player has played more than six (6) matches, they will be re-graded into the division in which their Club competes.

In the event that a player is being borrowed in any match prior to their first fixture from a lower competition, the club will need to submit a Dispensation Request form to Football Queensland Competitions as per the process listed below.

5.3.2 Metro League Competitions (Formerly City Leagues)

All players participating in Metro League competitions (formerly City Leagues) are eligible to play without restrictions throughout the grading process. The exception to this is Metro Leagues 1 and 2, where Grading does not occur. A player will be graded into the division in which they play their first match in Round 1 of the regular season (e.g., A player is listed on the match sheet for Metro Division 3 in Round 1, the player will be graded into Metro Division 3).

A Club may enquire as to the grading status of their player according to their understanding, to Football Queensland, if required. The onus falls on the club to be aware of which grade their player played their first fixture in Round 1 and was subsequently graded.

Players can only be graded to 1 competition at any one time.

Registered competition players may be borrowed to play into higher ranked competitions but may only do so for a maximum of six (6) matches. The maximum number refers to the total number of matches played up and not to each team they may play in. Once a player has been borrowed more than six (6) matches, they will be re-graded into the division in which they have played the majority of their higher ranked matches.

In the event a club is participating in more than one (1) Metro league competition within the same division (e.g., Metro 4 South and Metro 4 Central), those teams will NOT be permitted to borrow between them.

In the event that a player is being borrowed into the FQPL/NPL Pyramid or Metro Leagues 1 and 2, prior to Round 1 of the regular season from a lower competition, the Club will need to submit a Dispensation Request form stating the team being borrowed to and the players' correct team.

5.3.3 All Competitive Juniors

All players participating in Under 13 Grading are eligible to play without restrictions throughout the grading process. A player will be graded into the division in which they play their first match in Round 1 of the regular season (e.g., A player is listed on the match sheet for Under 13 Metro Junior League in Round 1, the player will be graded into Metro Junior League).

For all other junior age groups, a player will be graded into the division in which they play their first match in Round 1 of the regular season (e.g., A player is listed on the match sheet for Under 14 NPL Academy in Round 1, the player will be graded into NPL Academy).

5.3.4 Juniors Playing Out of Designated Age Group into Senior Competitions

COMPETITION TO BE BORROWED INTO

		COMPETITION TO BE BORROWED INTO									
		NPL	FQPL 1-2	FQPL 3-6	Metro 1	Metro 2	Metro 3	Metro 4	Metro 5	Metro 6+	U20
COMPETITION	U18 NPL	ü	ü	ü	û	û	û	û	û	û	û
	U18 FQPL	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	û	û	û	û	û
	U18 MJL	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	û	û	û	û	û
	U18 Div 1	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	U18 Div 2	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	U18 Div 3	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	U16 NPL	ü	ü	ü	û	û	û	û	û	û	û
	U16 FQPL	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	û	û	û	ü
	U16 MJL	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	û	û	û	ü
	U16 Div 1	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	U16 Div 2	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	U16 Div 3	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Any players being borrowed from a junior competition into any of FQPL6 to NPL competitions may be borrowed for a maximum of six (6) matches. The maximum number refers to the total number of matches played up and not to each team they may play in. Once a player is listed for their seventh (7th) match outside of their original division/age group, they will be re-graded into the division in which they have played a majority of their higher ranked matches.

Male

- Players born in 2004, 2005 may play in any senior Men’s Competition without restriction. Players born in 2006 are eligible to play in Senior Competitions provided a Dispensation Request for has been submitted to and approved by Football Queensland with Club, coach, and parent support prior to taking the field.
- Players born in 2007 are NOT eligible to play in any Football Queensland Senior Men’s Competition.

Female

- Players born in 2004, 2005 and 2006 may play in any senior Women’s Competition without restriction. Players born in 2007 are eligible to play in Senior Competitions provided a Dispensation Request form has been submitted to and approved by Football Queensland with Club, coach, and parent support prior to taking the field.

- Players born in 2008 are NOT eligible to play in any senior Women's Competition.

Football Queensland reserves the right to withdraw an application regarding Dispensation Requests at any point in time.

5.3.5 Playing Out of Designated Age Group Dispensation into Junior Competitions

Players are permitted to play up one age group subject to their eligible birth year i.e., A player born in 2007 (15 years old in 2022) is eligible to play in either the U15 or U16 competitions.

Registered competition players may be borrowed to play into higher divisions of the same age group, and a maximum of 1 division lower if playing an age group higher but may only do so for a maximum of six (6) matches. The maximum number refers to the total number of matches played up and not to each team they may play in.

Wherever possible, borrowing should occur from a team of a lower division within the same age group. Borrowing from a team in a higher division in the same age group is NOT permitted unless dispensation has been granted by Football Queensland.

If a club is ever in doubt, please contact Football Queensland Competitions, PRIOR to adding players onto team sheets.

Please see the table below as an example of what is accepted when borrowing players up an age group.

COMPETITION TO BE BORROWED INTO

		COMPETITION TO BE BORROWED INTO						
		U14 NPL	U14 FQPL	U14 MJL	U14 Div 1	U14 Div 2	U14 Div 3	U14 Div 4
COMPETITION	U13 NPL	ü	ü	û	û	û	û	û
	U13 FQPL	ü	ü	ü	û	û	û	û
	U13 MJL	ü	ü	ü	ü	û	û	û
	U13 Div 1	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	û	û
	U13 Div 2	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	û
	U13 Div 3	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
	U13 Div 4	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

*Please note, the above table is a guide only. If you require specific confirmation, please contact Competitions.

Any player requesting to play two years above their age group (e.g., U14 into U16) must apply to Football Queensland with a Dispensation Request form and provide evidence of extraordinary circumstances (footballing development/physical size).

Players registered for any QAS teams may move freely between their graded age group and higher age groups outside of the above rulings. Eligibility of QAS players for finals will be subjective to checking with the competitions team prior to the commencement of the finals series.

The determination as to eligibility shall be made by Football Queensland in its absolute discretion and whose decision shall be final and not subject to appeal. Football Queensland reserves the right to withdraw an application regarding a Dispensation Request at any point in time.

Playing Below Designated Age Group Dispensation

Note: This is only available for a player born in the calendar year directly above. E.g., A player born in 2007 (turning 15 in 2022), may request to play down in the U14s for 2022, however a player born in 2006 cannot.

All players in Football Queensland competitions are expected to play in their eligible age group unless granted dispensation by the Competitions Team. No team may have more than 2 players playing below their designated age group (e.g., an U14 Division 2 team may not have more than 2 players born in 2007 (15 years old) in their team). The exception to this rule is for Girls Only teams, where a maximum of 3 players can be granted dispensation into a team, upon application.

Clubs may apply to Football Queensland Competitions with a Dispensation Request form for a player in U13-U18 who has NEVER previously been registered under FA or played football prior to season 2022. This provides an option to play below their designated age group, if it is in the best interests of that player's development, considering their inexperience.

In any instance of a player wishing to play down an age group, the player's Club must submit a Dispensation Request form to Football Queensland. The determination as to whether a player can play below their designated age group shall be a decision for Football Queensland in its absolute discretion and whose decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Clubs may seek dispensation for the following reasons:

- Playing below their designated age group due to physical size
- Playing below their designated age group due to team viability
- Playing below their designated age group due to being born in the last 3 months of the year
- Playing below their designated age group for social/cultural grounds
- Playing below their designated age group due to NEVER being previously registered under FA or NEVER previously playing football

If approved, Football Queensland Competitions will then confirm the decision in writing to the Football Queensland Technical Department and the relevant Club. Please note that until approval is provided, the player CANNOT participate in matches in the lower age group as an eligible player.

If dispensation is granted for a player to play down an age group, said player may be unable to be borrowed into another team at any point throughout the season. If a player is found to have been borrowed into any other team, they will be deemed to be an ineligible player.

Football Queensland reserves the right to revoke any dispensation approval regarding a player playing below their designated age group at any point in time.

The decision of Football Queensland will be final on whether to allow a dispensation for a player to play below their designated age group.

Football Queensland reserves the right to withdraw any team from competition if they are found to be in breach of these rules in relation to age eligibility.

If a player is found to have participated in a match while in breach of the above age eligibility requirements or dispensation procedure, the player will be deemed to be an ineligible player. Any team/club who is adjudged to have fielded an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in the 2022 Rules of Competition.

5.3.6 Borrowing from MiniRoos

Players in Under 12 teams participating in the Kangaroos grouping are NOT permitted to be borrowed by teams in U13 Division 1 or lower. Teams in U13 Division 1 and lower can borrow from teams from the Under 12 Joeys and Quokka groupings.

If a Club is participating in more than one (1) junior competition within the same division and/or competition (e.g., A Club has 2 teams in U13 Division 2), players will NOT be permitted to be borrowed between them.

Players can be borrowed between gender specific teams and mixed teams for all junior competitions ranging from Under 13 to Under 18. However, from U13-U18, players are not permitted to be borrowed from mixed teams to gender specific teams or vice versa without the consent in writing of Football Queensland. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal. The division a player may be borrowed into for dispensation that is granted is subject to case-by-case review by Football Queensland.

Borrowing a player or players must not advantage the borrowing team's performance when compared with its usual squad.

5.3.7 Dispensation when returning from long term injury

Clubs may apply to Football Queensland Competitions seeking temporary dispensation for a player who is returning from a long-term injury. If granted, this dispensation will allow a player to return from injury to a lower competition for a capped number of fixtures. A Dispensation Request form must be submitted, including medical documentation outlining the players' injury and an injury management plan for the player that dispensation is being requested for.

5.3.7 Exceptions to Dispensation rule

If a Club does not have a team eligible to be borrowed from but does have a younger age team, the Club must apply to Football Queensland for exception to allow a certain number of players to be borrowed to field no more than 12 players (no more than 2 players can be borrowed). That exception must be confirmed in writing by Football Queensland before the player can take the field of play.

5.3.8 Process

When applying for dispensation, the following process will be implemented by Football Queensland Competitions:

Club completes Dispensation Request form, including all supporting documentation and information.

A Competitions Officer will assess the request, refer the request to the Technical Department where necessary for further consideration and make a determination based on submitted information.

The Competitions Officer will liaise with the Technical Department to reach a final decision.

The Competitions Officer will update the Dispensation database with relevant information and determination.

The Competitions Officer will then communicate the decision to the Club, within 3 business days of receipt, outlining grounds of determination.

5.4 Team Sheets

All Competitions

For all FQPL2-3 Women and FQPL3-6 Men's fixtures, both the home and away teams are expected to have submitted their Firsts and Reserves player selections, along with Team Officials into FQ Team Sheets 15 minutes prior to the scheduled fixture. Failure to comply may result in a \$25 fine per offence. Repeated offences may also result in the team being deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.9.

Any changes to the player selections must be noted on FQ Team Sheets **prior** to kick off. Team sheets must be submitted electronically at least 15 minutes prior to kick off. If a team is unable to submit a team sheet up to 15 minutes prior the match, that team may be deemed to have forfeited the fixture. **The fixture is to proceed and any disputes regarding this are to be sent to the Football Queensland Competitions team by 9am the following Tuesday.** Any dispute shall be referred to and determined by Football Queensland in its absolute discretion and whose decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Changes to the team sheet are permitted any time up until 15 minutes prior to kick off. Should a player be listed on FQ Team Sheets and not have an ID photo loaded, the particular player(s) involved may be deemed ineligible to participate in the fixture. The referee or referees are not able to determine a player's eligibility if an ID card is unavailable or challenged by a team manager.

The team managers from both Clubs are to confirm post-match team sheets on FQ Team Sheets by 9am the following Tuesday to ensure the information is correct. This should include the players listed, referees listed, half time and full-time scores are correct, scorers and any yellow/red cards.

There will be no appeal against the score line shown on a team sheet once it has been signed and agreed upon by both team managers and the referee unless new evidence is available to dispute the team sheet. Such dispute shall be referred to and determined by Football Queensland in its absolute discretion and whose decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

There must be no change of numbers from fifteen (15) minutes prior to the fixture's kick-off or during a Match (this includes goalkeepers). The only exception being if a jersey is ripped or blood stained, it is to be replaced and noted on the team sheet.

If teams wish to dispute information loaded into FQ Team Sheets, an email must be sent to FQ Competitions by 9am the following Tuesday after a match has concluded. The email must be sent by a designated Club Official. The "Dispute" button has been disabled on FQ Team Sheets to ensure that each Club is aware of any disputes that teams wish to lodge.

5.4.1 Team Sheet Errors

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

FQPL2-3 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Men, U13-U18 NPL Academy, NPL Development, FQPL Development

- a. The player will be deemed to be an ineligible player. Any team/club who is adjudged to have fielded an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10.
- b. In the event that both teams are found to have fielded a player without being listed on the virtual match sheet, those players will be deemed to be ineligible. Both teams who are adjudged to have fielded an ineligible player will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10.

Players jersey numbers must match those listed on the virtual match sheet, if a player's jersey number does not match the match sheet, the Club will be fined for their first offence (see Appendix I). If the same team repeats the offence the team will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10.

If a team is found to have listed more than sixteen (16) players on the virtual match sheet, any player(s) over and above the first sixteen (16) listed will be deemed to be ineligible player(s). Any team/club who is adjudged to have fielded an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10.

All Other Competitions

If it is established that the player was legitimately registered and was eligible to play, then the Club will be fined for their first offence (see Appendix I). If the same team repeats the offence the team may be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10.

If it is established that the player was not legitimately registered or was ineligible to play, the player will be deemed to be an ineligible player. Any team/club who is adjudged to have fielded an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10.

If a team is found to have listed more than sixteen (16) players on the virtual match sheet, any player(s) over and above the first sixteen (16) listed will be deemed to be an ineligible player(s). Any team/club who is adjudged to have fielded an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10.

5.6 Clubs With Teams In The Same Competition Division

If a Club has two or more teams in the same competition division, players are only permitted to play for one team in that competition division. This does not exclude them from playing for other teams within the Club in other competition divisions (subject to all Player Eligibility rules and the Player Age Restrictions.)

If a player is found to have participated in a match while in breach of the above requirements, the player will be deemed to be an ineligible player. Any team/club who is adjudged to have fielded an

ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10.

5.7 Player Identity

On match day, any team has the ability to check the identity of any opposing player(s) via FQ Team Sheets.

Any player without a player ID (digital or paper) will be deemed ineligible. Any team/club who is adjudged to have fielded an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10.

Should a Club have any concerns over a player's identity they should submit a protest to Football Queensland in writing, providing relevant evidence (photo/video) as to why they believe the player to be ineligible.

No Club Official shall have the power to refuse to allow an opposition player to take the field for any reason. Nor can they request that a Match Official refuse to allow a player to take the field.

5.8 Finals Eligibility – All Competitions

5.8.1 Senior Competitions

FQPL2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Men (Substitution)

A player who has started in more matches in the First team than has been listed in U23's is ineligible to play in the Reserve Team Finals Series.

In the event a player is listed on the U23's match sheet and also STARTS in the First team on the same day, the Firsts team appearance will be counted towards that player's eligibility tally and not the U23's appearance.

A player who has started in more matches in Under 23's than First Team, may be eligible to be selected for both teams in the event that both teams make the Finals Series.

FQPL3 Women

A player who has been listed for more matches for the First team than has been listed in U23's is ineligible to play in the U23's Team Finals Series.

In the event a player has been listed on the U23's match sheet and has also been listed in the First team on the same day, the Firsts team appearance will be counted towards that player's eligibility tally and not the U23's appearance.

A player who has been listed for more matches in Under 23's than First Team, may be eligible to be selected for both teams in the event that both teams make the Finals Series.

Metro League (Male and Female), U20, Women's Legends

A player who is eligible to play in a fixture for a team at the completion of the regular season as per the Player Eligibility Rules (Seniors) – (Section 6), is then eligible to play in the finals for that team (subject to “Minimum Requirement” rules below).

Minimum Requirement

To be eligible to play for a team in the finals series, a player must have started/been listed at that team's divisional level or lower in a minimum of six (6) matches.

Playing Up in Finals

A player who is eligible to play in finals at a particular divisional level is eligible to play in finals in any team higher than that level without affecting their eligibility for their qualified level throughout the finals series. E.g., U13 NPL Academy is eligible to play U14 NPL Academy but not U14 Metro Junior League (without an application/Exception).

5.8.2 Junior Competitions

Junior graded players are not eligible to play in Senior Finals. This does not include any Junior aged players who have played more than the allowed number of matches in the Senior Competition (and have therefore are “graded” as Seniors – see Section 6.9) prior to the commencement of the Finals Series.

Any finals match a player is borrowed into does not count towards their ‘borrowed’ number of matches for the season.

Any player who is deemed ineligible with reference to their finals eligibility will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10.

Exceptions

Clubs may apply to Football Queensland for exceptions to the eligibility rules. All requests for exceptions must be made prior to the commencement of the Finals Series for each particular competition. Football Queensland reserves the right to declare eligible any player it deems to have satisfied the intent and spirit of this rule. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and there shall be no appeal to this.

5.9 Protest – Playing Ineligible Player

Any Club is permitted to lodge a protest regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player(s). A protest must be lodged in writing (e.g., email) **within seven (7) days** of the match by a designated Club Official or Contact outlining the details of the protest and the player involved. Should the protest involve the allegation of a player playing under another player's name, the protest is required to include a photograph of the player(s). An investigation into the protest will be undertaken as soon as possible.

In the event that the protest is upheld, the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 5.10 will apply. In the event that the protest is dismissed, the match result will stand. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal.

5.10 Penalties & Outcomes

If a player is found to have participated in a match while in breach of any eligibility requirements (e.g., unregistered, suspended, out of age, identity fraud, not on team sheet, ineligible for finals), the player will be deemed to be an ineligible player. The following will apply:

- The match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team and the points will be awarded to the opposing team (unless the score at the conclusion of the match was of a greater margin in favour of the opposition team).
- Football Queensland may impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending Club(s), player(s) and official(s), in conjunction with Appendix 1.

5.10.1 Both Teams

If it is established that both Clubs competing in any Football Queensland competition match fielded players who were ineligible to play, the Clubs of the ineligible player(s) will be fined (see Appendix I) and the following will also apply:

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

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

6 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY- SENIOR COMPETITIONS

6.0 Senior Competitions

It is each club's responsibility to ensure that any player taking the field for a competitive fixture is eligible per eligibility requirements i.e., Section 5.1-5.8. Following this, each player's eligibility per competition will be considered accordingly with the provisions throughout Section 6.

In determining player eligibility in Senior Football (see relevant rules below relating to each competition), the following table identifies the appropriate order of rank for each league. Specifically, the highest rank league is at the top of the table.

Men	Women
NPL Men inc U23's	NPL Women inc U23's
FQPL 1-2 Men inc U23's	FQPL 1 Women inc U23's
FQPL3-5 Men inc U23's	FQPL 2-3 Women inc U23's
Men's Metro League Competitions	Women's Metro League Competitions
Under 20 Competitions	

The Legends League is a separate competition and is not part of the Senior Leagues Rank Order above.

6.1 Player Transfers During The Season

If a player changes Clubs during the season, then the "count" of matches played at a level does not carryover from their previous Club to their new Club. Therefore, there is no restriction on what division a player is able to take part in subject to the rules below applying at their new Club.

This does not include Cup Competitions, where restrictions may apply if a player changes Clubs – see relevant Cup Competition Rules.

6.1.1 Substitution/Return Substitution (Interchange) Clarification Regarding Eligibility

In relation to all rules, "has started" refers to matches played under the Substitution rule and means commenced the match from the kick-off; "been listed" refers to matches played under the Return Substitution (Interchange) rule. For the avoidance of doubt, appearances as a Substitute in a game under the Substitution rule, **DO NOT** count towards playing in a higher ranked competition if the player does not take the field of play; (appearances as a Return Substitute/Interchange **DO** count towards playing in a higher ranked competition).

6.2 FQPL Men & Women

Players may play without restriction between First and U23 teams in regular season fixtures.

Players who are graded, as of their first game, into FQPL2-3 Women and FQPL3-6 Men, inc U23's, are ineligible to play in a lower ranked competition for that Club (i.e., FQPL2-3 Women/FQPL3-6 Men, inc U23's, is ranked higher than Metro League 1 and so on).

Clubs who wish to move players from Firsts to U23's, from one fixture match to the next fixture match may do so for a maximum of five (5) players. Should any Club wish to move more than five (5) players from Firsts to Reserves from one fixture match to the next, they must advise the Manager – SEQ Competitions prior to the match by email (competitions@footballqueensland.com.au), supplying their reasons for this.

In the event that a player is being borrowed by a team in their first fixture, the Club will need to advise the Football Queensland Competitions Team in writing that the player is being borrowed and of the player's correct team.

6.3 Metro League (Men's & Women's)

All players participating in Metro League competitions are eligible to play without restriction during the 4 grading rounds of the season to assist Clubs in the grading process of their players. From Round 1 of the regular season, players who play their first fixture of that round in a higher Metro League division, will be graded into that division. E.g., a Metro 4 player who plays Metro 3 in Round 1 of the regular season will be graded as a Metro 3 player.

A Club can enquire as to the 'grading' status of their player according to their understanding, to Football Queensland, if required. The onus is on the Club however, to be aware of where their player, played their first Round 1 fixture and was subsequently graded.

Players can only be graded into **one** team at any one time.

Players may be borrowed to play in higher ranked competitions but may only do so for a maximum of six (6) matches. The maximum number refers to the total number of games played up and not to each team they may play in. Once a player has played seven (7) matches in higher ranked competitions, that player is no longer eligible to play in their lower ranked or 'graded' competition/team (e.g., if a Metro 3 player plays 4 games in Metro 2 and 3 games in Metro 1) and is subsequently 'regraded' to a higher division. The team in which that player has played the majority of their 'higher ranked' games is where that player is regraded. Once the player then plays 7 games again in a higher competition, they are to be regraded again into a higher team.

In the event that a Club is participating in more than one (1) Metro League competition within the same division (for example Metro League 3 North and Metro League 3 Central), those teams will NOT be permitted to borrow between them.

In the event that a player is being borrowed by a team in their Round 1 fixture, the Club will need to advise the Football Queensland Competitions team (competitions@footballqueensland.com.au) in writing that the player is being borrowed by a higher team and inform of the player's correct team. In the event that the player's first round fixture is washed out, this will still be considered the division that the player is graded into once Round 1 lapses.

6.4 Men's Under 20

All players participating in Men's Under 20 competition will be classed as graded into the team where they play their Round 1 fixture match. Players can only be graded into one team at any one time.

Players may be borrowed to play in higher ranked competitions but may only do so for a maximum of six (6) matches. The maximum number refers to the total number of games played up and not to each team they may play in. Once a player has played seven (7) matches in higher ranked competitions that player is no longer eligible to play in their lower ranked or 'graded' competition/team and is subsequently 'regraded' to a higher division. The team in which that player has played the majority of their 'higher ranked' games is where that player is regraded. Once the player however then plays 7 games again in a higher competition, they are to be regraded again into a higher team.

Players who have been listed in any higher ranked division for Under 20 competitions more than six (6) times in total at their current Club are ineligible to play in a lower ranked Division for that Club.

In the event that a player is being borrowed by a team in their Round 4 fixture, the Club will need to advise the Football Queensland Competitions team (competitions@footballqueensland.com.au) in writing that the player is being borrowed by a higher team and inform of the player's correct team.

6.5 Women's Legends

All players participating in Legends will be classed as graded into the team where they play their Round 1 fixture match. Players can only be graded into one team at any one time.

Players may be borrowed to play in higher ranked competitions but may only do so for a maximum of six (6) matches. The maximum number refers to the total number of games played up and not to each team they may play in.

Players who have been listed more than six (6) times in total in any higher ranked Legends Division at their current Club are ineligible to play in a lower ranked Legends Division for that Club (i.e., Division 1 is ranked higher than Division 2 and so on).

Players who are registered for both the Football Queensland Senior Competition and the Legends League are not restricted from playing in either competition subject to the rules above relating to each competition, except in the following instance:

6.5.1 FQPL2-3 Women, Women's Metro League Divisions 1-2

Players who are graded into FQPL2-3 Women inc U23's, Women's Metro League 1 and 2 are ineligible to play in Legends competitions.

6.5.2 NPL Women or FQPL1-FQPL3 Women

Players registered to NPL Women or FQPL1-3 Women inc U23's, are not permitted to participate in a Legends competition. Any player found breaching this rule will be deemed ineligible. Any team/club who is adjudged to have fielded an ineligible player will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 6.9.

Slide tackles are not allowed in Women's Legends. Any player found to be slide tackling during a match will be punished with an indirect free kick to the opposing team. The exception to this will be a slide tackle inside the penalty area, that creates a DOGSO. This will result in a penalty kick.

6.6 Cup Competitions

Participation in Cup Competitions does not contribute towards the number of times a player may be borrowed into a higher competition.

6.7 Junior Players in Senior Competitions

Any player eligible to play in the Junior Competition (including those who have received an exception for Extraordinary Circumstances) who has started/been listed/played in any Senior Competition more than six (6) times in total, is then no longer eligible to play in any Junior Competition and will be 'regraded' as a Senior player.

6.8 Exceptions

Clubs may apply to Football Queensland to allow an exception to these rules in extraordinary circumstances.

The decision of Football Queensland will be final on whether to allow an exception.

6.9 Penalties and Outcomes

If a player is found to have participated in a match while in breach of any eligibility requirements (e.g., a higher graded player), the player will be deemed to be an ineligible player. The following will apply:

- The match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team and the points will be awarded to the opposing team (unless the score at the conclusion of the match was of a greater margin in favour of the opposition team).
- Impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the

offending Club(s), player(s) and official(s), in conjunction with Appendix 1.

7 GRADING, BORROWING & REGRADING OF PLAYERS

7.0 Grading of Players

All players participating in Junior competitions will be classed as graded into the team where they play their first fixture match. Players can only be graded into one team at any one time.

In the event that a player is being borrowed by a team in their first fixture, the Club will need to advise the Football Queensland Competitions Team in writing that the player is being borrowed by a higher team and inform of the player's correct team.

7.1 Borrowing of Players

Registered competition players may be borrowed to play in equal or higher divisions and age groups but may only do so for a maximum of six (6) matches within any Junior competitions. The maximum number refers to the total number of games played up and not to each team they may play in. Wherever possible, borrowing should occur from a team within the same age group.

A team playing in a fixture shall be permitted to borrow players from a lower division in that particular age group, or an equal or lower division in a lower age group (e.g., an U14 Div. 3 team can borrow from an U13 Div. 3 or lower team) without request to Football Queensland.

In the event that a Club does not have a younger age team in an equal or lower division but does have a younger age team in a higher division, the Club must apply to Football Queensland for Exception to allow a certain number of players to be borrowed to field no more than 12 players (no more than 2 players can be borrowed). That Exception must be confirmed in writing before the player can take the field of play.

Players in Under 12 teams participating in the Kangaroo grouping are NOT permitted to be borrowed by teams in U13 Division 2 or lower. Teams in U13 Division 2 and lower are able to borrow from teams from the Under 12 Wallaby and Quokka groupings.

In the event that a Club is participating in more than one (1) junior competition within the same division (for example U12 Division 3 North and U12 Division 3 South), those teams will **NOT** be permitted to borrow between them. Additionally, where a Club has two (2) teams in the same competition, those teams will **NOT** be permitted to borrow between them.

Players may be borrowed between gender specific teams and mixed teams for all junior competitions ranging from Under 13 to Under 18. However, from U13-U18, players are not permitted to be borrowed from mixed teams to gender specific teams or vice versa without the consent in writing of Football Queensland. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal. The division a player may be borrowed into for dispensation that is granted, is subject to case-by-case review by Football Queensland.

Borrowing a player or players must not advantage the borrowing team's performance when compared with its usual squad.

7.2 Under 18 Boys and Under 16 or U18 Girls Players

Players graded into U18 Boys competitions may be borrowed without restriction to play in U23's and First Team for the purposes of development for the player. To be classed as a player in an U18 Boys competition, the player must be listed in an U18 Boys competition for Round 1 of the season, unless prior exemption has been requested to the Football Queensland Competitions Team.

In the event a club does not have an U18 Boys team, clubs may contact Football Queensland for exemption if the player was born between 2004-2006.

Players graded into U16 or U18 Girls competitions may be borrowed without restriction to play in U23's and First Team for the purposes of development for the player. To be classed as a player in an U16 Girls competition, the player must be listed in an U16 Girls competition for Round 1 of the season, unless prior exemption has been requested to the Football Queensland Competitions Team.

In the event a club does not have an U16 Girls team, clubs may contact Football Queensland for exemption if the player was born between 2004 - 2007.

Players in U16 or U18 Girls and U18 Boys competitions may be borrowed into Metro competitions, however, borrowing limits will apply. Players who have been listed more than six (6) times in total in any higher ranked Metro Competition at their current Club will become ineligible to play in the U18 competition for the remainder of the season. Please also refer to 5.2 of the Rules of Competition for Division eligibility.

If a player in U16 or U18 Girls and U18 Boys competitions exceeds the allowable borrows into Metro Leagues and subsequently becomes regraded, they are no longer eligible to play freely between U23's and First Team.

If Clubs are unsure, clarification must be sought from FQ Competitions prior to any players taking the field of play.

7.3 Regrading of Players

7.3.1 Regrading Upwards – FQPL Development, NPL Development, NPL Academy

If a player plays more than six (6) matches for any higher age group within the FQPL Development, NPL Development, NPL Academy; that player is no longer eligible to play in their original age group (they are automatically regraded to the higher age group).

7.3.2 Regrading Upwards – Divisional Competition Players

If a player plays more than six (6) matches for any higher age group or division, that player is no longer eligible to play in their original age group or division (they are automatically regraded to the higher age group or division). Should a player have played up in a mixture of competitions (FQPL/NPL and Divisional) in more than six (6) matches, the player's Club is to advise Football Queensland who will rule on the player's eligibility.

7.3.3 Regrading Downwards

Clubs may request that a player be regraded downwards at any time. They must submit a request with the requested player's name, age and age group they wish to play into and the reason for the request.

If approved, Football Queensland will then confirm the decision in writing to the Club. Please note that until approval is provided, the player cannot participate in any lower grade matches as an eligible player. If approval is granted for a player to be regraded downwards, the player will **NOT** be able to be borrowed into higher ranked teams throughout the season.

7.4 Exceptions

Clubs may apply to Football Queensland to allow an exception to these rules in extraordinary circumstances.

The decision of Football Queensland will be final on whether to allow an exception. There shall be no appeal from the decision of Football Queensland in respect of the granting of an exception.

7.5 Player Transfers During the Season

There is no restriction on what division a player is able to take part in should they change Clubs during the fixture season subject to the Rules of Competition.

7.6 Penalties and Outcomes

If a player is found to have participated in a match while in breach of any eligibility requirements (e.g., grading, borrowing without permission, transfer of player), the player will be deemed to be an ineligible player. The following will apply:

- The match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team and the points will be awarded to the opposing team (unless the score at the conclusion of the match was of a greater margin in favour of the opposition team).
- Impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending Club(s), player(s) and official(s), in conjunction with Appendix 1.

8 CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

8.0 Facilities/Ground Arrangements

Each Club must ensure their compliance with the Football Queensland “Playing Facilities Standards” available on the Football Queensland website.

The home Club must ensure:

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

The dimensions of the playing field shall conform to the Laws of the Game and preferably shall be consistent with the dimensions specified in the Laws for International matches. Any Club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be fined, suspended or have its home fixtures played away. The minimum acceptable dimensions for the Premier Leagues (Men’s & Women’s) are 90 metres (100 yards) long and 60 metres (66 yards) wide.

In the event that the HOME team’s ground is not ready, in the opinion of the match officials, to commence a fixture or finals match **by 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time;** will be deemed to have forfeited the match and will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

8.1 Field Lighting

Clubs wishing to host twilight and night fixtures during the season must ensure their venue complies with the Football Queensland Facilities Lighting Standards. The club is to submit a certified field lighting audit to Football Queensland for each field (as desired) prior to the season’s commencement and have received approval for competition play by Football Queensland. Certification is based on an audit of the lighting system by a qualified lighting consultant/electrician and the Club is to pay the cost of the audit. This applies to any fixtures wishing to be scheduled after 3:15pm during the season.

Clubs involved in Football Queensland competitions that wish to hold matches at night (requiring lighting) must have a field that meets the Australian Standards of lighting for football matches [AS 2560.2.3-2007 Sports lighting - Specific applications - Lighting for football (all codes)] and comply with the “Football Queensland Facilities Lighting Standards”.

This standard requires a Minimum Service Illuminance (Average) of 100 LUX with a Minimum Uniformity 1 (Min: Ave) of 0.5, a Minimum Uniformity 2 (Min: Ave) of 0.3 and Maximum Glare Rating of 50 for competition matches.

8.2 Technical Area

Each Club must have Technical Areas clearly marked as stipulated by FIFA guidelines and provide sufficient seating to allow all personnel to be seated during the match. The Technical Area must be positioned inside or on the fence line (where grounds are fenced) or at a maximum of two (2) metres from the touch line at unfenced grounds. Any structure must be at least two (2) metres from the touch line.

- A maximum of ten (10) persons are permitted to be within the confines of the Technical Area. This can include the coach, assistant coach, the substitutes and team trainer or medical staff.
- Team Officials must be selected on the virtual match sheet, to be allowed in the Technical Area.
- Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions during the match.
- The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the Technical Area, except in special circumstances, for example, a team physio or doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player.
- All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. They must wear bibs or an alternative-coloured uniform to both team strips and are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area. When warming up, substitutes are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.
- All occupants must behave in a responsible manner. The match official has the right to expel any person from the technical area at any time as he or she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left the playing field and surrounds to the match official's satisfaction.
- Smoking or the consumption of alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence is strictly prohibited. This includes the team bench within the Technical Area and all of its occupants, including players, coaching staff, Club marshals and officials.
- The penalty for breach of this clause shall be as per Appendix I.

8.3 Team Officials

Football Queensland requires that all Team Officials be registered via the Play Football registration system in accordance with the registration regulations and in alignment with the expectations of players.

Team Officials must be listed on the team sheet, to be allowed in the Technical Area. ID Cards must be worn by Team Officials at all times when in the Technical Area. ID Cards will be created and distributed to Clubs based on the registrations created in Play Football. If a Team Official is not registered, an ID card will not be generated. The match official has the right to expel any person from the technical area if they cannot produce their ID Card.

Clubs are accountable for their appointed Team Officials (Coaches, Managers, and Medical staff) and they should be made aware that they are governed by a Code of Conduct. Penalties of suspension of Team Officials, fines, and other penalties and outcomes can be levied upon Clubs, where it is found that Team Officials have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is the Team Officials' responsibility to ensure:

- The team has minimum number of seven (7) players to commence the match
- That the team **does not list** more than the allowable players on the Match Sheet
- All players taking the field are eligible to play
- All players taking the field of play are listed on the Match Sheet

- All players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time

Team Officials are also responsible for players' behaviour before, during and after any game.

If a Team Official is not registered, that team is liable to be fined per Football Queensland's discretion. Football Queensland's determination on this is in its absolute discretion and final and not subject to appeal.

The penalty for breach of this clause shall be as per Appendix I.

8.4 Ground Officials & Team Marshals

It is the responsibility of the home Club to provide sufficient Ground Officials who must be in clearly identifiable uniform and must identify themselves to the appointed Match Official prior to the match. The expectation is a minimum of one (1) Ground Officials per scheduled fixture.

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

A Ground Official cannot be the Coach or Manager whose game is in progress on the park, nor can the Ground Official be the Canteen Supervisor. Any club found in breach of this is liable to be fined per Appendix 1. A Match Official may refuse to commence a fixture if there is no Ground Official present.

It is the responsibility of each participating teams to supply a team marshal who is responsible for ensuring the behaviour of their respective supporters is acceptable, and in accordance with the FA Spectator Code of Conduct. The penalty for breach of this clause shall be as per Appendix I.

The Ground Official must:

Before the Match

- Upon arrival of the Referees, make known to them that you are the Ground Official in case they need assistance.
- If an official Referee is not present, ensure that a Referee is arranged either by the Club or by consent of the two teams playing.
- Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees to the field of play.

During the Match

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

After the Match

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

8.5 Admittance To Grounds

Clubs must honour all honorary admission passes issued by Football Australia & Football Queensland.

8.6 Match Officials' Fees

All match officials' fees will be invoiced to the Club on a weekly basis, where applicable.

8.6.1 All Competitions

- Fixtures - fees are paid by the Home Club
- Elimination/Qualifying, Semi and Preliminary Finals - fees will be shared equally by competing teams.
- Grand Finals – fees will be paid by Football Queensland
-

8.7 Playing Strips

All Clubs must nominate a “Home” and “Alternate” strip on the official Club affiliation form. The alternate strip must be of a different colour (this applies to shirts, shorts and socks) to the nominated home strip. **Teams must either wear the full “Home” or “Alternate” strip that has been nominated to Football Queensland.** A Kit Guide is available on the Football Queensland website, but is subjective to submission from Clubs.

All playing strips must have clearly visible numbers on the back of the jerseys. Goalkeepers may play without a number.

In the event the player's uniform or attire has blood on it, the referee will instruct that player to change their attire before being permitted to re-join the game. Should the injured player be required to change their shirt, then the referee will show discretion in allowing the player to wear an alternative numbered or unnumbered shirt if necessary. The team manager and referee will be required to manually amend the team sheet post-match.

Sponsorship advertising on playing strips shall conform to the Football Queensland guidelines.

Goalkeepers can wear any colour provided it does not clash with either team or Referee/Assistants.
NB - Goalkeepers MUST NOT wear replica strips.

8.7.1 FQPL2-3 Women, FQPL3-6 Men inc U23's

All first named Clubs will be deemed the "HOME" team and will play in their nominated Home colours. In the event there is a clash of colours, it is the responsibility of the **“AWAY” team** to change to an alternate strip.

In the event that any parts of either team's kits clash after changing, a combination of Home and Alternate strips must be worn to avoid any clash.

AWAY teams must take their alternate strip (shirts, shorts and socks) to every match and will be required to change if the appointed Match Official requests it as per requirements listed below in 8.8.3.

Team Managers should check the strip worn by their opponents to avoid the likelihood of a clash. The penalty for breach of this clause shall be as per Appendix I.

8.7.2 Senior Metro Leagues, Under 20, Women’s Legends & U13-U18 Junior Competitions

All first named Clubs will be deemed the "HOME" team and will normally play in their nominated colours. In the event there is a clash of colours, it is the responsibility of the **“HOME” team** to change to an alternate strip.

Junior teams are not permitted to advertise any alcohol or tobacco related products on their playing strips.

8.7.3 Table of Permitted Clashes of Playing Strip

Clubs and Match Officials should refer to the following table which lists which items of the strip are permitted to clash for different Leagues.

	NPL MEN, NPL WOMEN	FQPL1-2 MEN FQPL1 WOMEN	FQPL3-6 MEN FQPL2-3 WOMEN	COMMUNITY SENIORS, MASTERS, LEGENDS	COMMUNITY JUNIORS
Jersey	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	No clash permitted
Shorts	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted
Socks	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	Clash permitted	Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted

If a Competition Fixture does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that a Club did not comply with the requirements above, the offending Club may be deemed to have forfeited the match and will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

Should a Match Official proceed with a match in which a Club has not complied with the requirements above, the Match Official is to report this to Football Queensland and the offending Club will be fined and provided with a warning. If any team within the offending Club repeats the same offence they will be penalised with a forfeit (See Appendix I).

8.8 Match Balls

The host Club shall provide three (3) footballs of correct size and in good order and condition for each match. The size of the match balls shall be as follows:

Competition	Match Ball Size
Under 13	Size 4
Under 14 – Senior	Size 5

Clubs should refer to the Memo issued by Football Queensland regarding the minimum standard ball for each competition.

The penalty for breach of this clause shall be as per Appendix I.

8.9 Results of Fixtures

The results of each match must be confirmed in SEQ Team Sheets by both participating teams. **Both** teams must enter the results **by 9.00am on the Tuesday following the** weekend matches (Fri-Sun) and **by 9.00am the following day** for mid-week matches (Mon-Thu).

8.9.1 3-2-1 Voting Process

In 2022, Coaches are required to vote for the opposition team's best players in a 3-2-1 format. Team Coaches and Managers are responsible for submitting their team's 3-2-1 votes after each match (home and away). The Coaches votes for FQPL2-3 Women and FQPL3-6 Men must be entered in the electronic teamsheets by 9am on the Monday following the weekend's fixtures (or the day following a midweek fixture).

Football Queensland may impose a fee of \$50 to Clubs that fail to confirm their information within the required timeframe

(See Appendix I).

9 WET WEATHER

9.0 General

All correspondence by Football Queensland sent to Clubs in relation to wet weather shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs.

It is therefore essential for Clubs to do the following:

- Ensure your Contacts for the Club are up to date with Football Queensland's Club Contacts and in Play Football (under the Organisation menu)
- Ensure the contact(s) has a supplied a mobile phone number with their contact details to Football Queensland.

Each Club is only responsible for notifying their own Club members of field closures.

9.1 Mid-week & Friday Night Cancellations

When the decision is made by a Club to close fields as a result of wet weather, Clubs must contact Football Queensland no later than **4:00pm** on the afternoon of the match. The **HOME** Club is responsible for deciding if matches are to proceed.

If any matches are called off, the **HOME** Club is required to **EMAIL** Football Queensland (**competitions@footballqueensland.com.au**) with this advice (**NO voicemail messages**).

If the situation arises where conditions deteriorate after **4:00pm**, Clubs are to text the Wet Weather number to discuss the options – do **NOT** send an email.

If matches have not been postponed **by 5:00pm**, it is then the Referee's decision, on arrival, as to whether matches are to go ahead.

9.1.1 Notification Process for weeknight matches (including Friday night)

Matches postponed will be listed in either the "JUNIOR GROUND CLOSURES" section and/or the "SENIOR GROUND CLOSURES" section (under "Wet Weather") on the Football Queensland website (Opposing Clubs will NOT be advised unless kick off is within an hour of Football Queensland being notified).

If any **HOME** Club does not abide by the Wet Weather Procedures, they may be deemed to have forfeited the match and will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

9.2 Saturday & Sunday Cancellations

The **HOME** Club is responsible for deciding if matches are to proceed in the event of wet weather. If the decision is made to cancel the match because of the condition of the field, the **HOME** Club is required to **text** Football Queensland on the Wet Weather Number no less than two (2) hours prior to the kick-off time, of the first scheduled match of the day. In the event of an 8:30am kick off, the home club is required to advise Football Queensland by 6:30am.

If the situation arises where conditions deteriorate after these times and a decision is made to cancel the match due to wet weather then, Clubs are to text the Wet Weather Number to discuss the options – do **NOT** send an email.

If matches have not been postponed after following the above procedure, it is then the Referee's (this includes Club referees) decision, on arrival, as to whether matches are to go ahead. Should the Referee postpone matches, the **HOME** Club must notify (**by text**) the Wet Weather Number.

9.2.1 Notification Process For Weekend Matches

Matches postponed will be listed in either the “**JUNIOR GROUND CLOSURES**” section and/or the “**SENIOR GROUND CLOSURES**” section (under “**Wet Weather**”) on the Football Queensland website. (Clubs will NOT be advised by SMS unless kick off is within an hour of Football Queensland being notified).

If any **HOME** Club does not abide by the Wet Weather Procedures, they may be deemed to have forfeited the match and will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

9.3 Complete Weekend Cancellation (Junior Competitions Only)

If Football Queensland declares the cancellation of a complete fixture weekend due to extreme weather events, all fixtures may be declared as 0-0 draws.

Any matches which were completed during a “declared” weekend will be declared as 0-0 draws.

Football Queensland may decide to play or replay any matches from a “declared” weekend, where necessary.

9.4 Extreme Weather Conditions

In Extreme Weather conditions, Football Queensland or the appointed Match Official reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture. If the appointed Match Official postpones, delays or abandons any fixture, they must submit a report to Football Queensland. Should a fixture be postponed or abandoned, please see Section 3 for information on how to reschedule.

All Clubs, players, Team Officials and Match Officials are requested to review Football Queensland's Extreme Weather policy.

10 MATCH OFFICIALS

10.0 Non-Attendance of Match Official

Should the appointed Referee fail to honour their appointment, then the next most senior Match Official will be appointed to take charge of the fixture, provided they are qualified to officiate the match in question. In the event of an appointed Referee failing to honour their appointment, please text the Wet Weather number to advise.

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

In circumstances where only one Assistant Referee has been appointed, **the home team is requested to provide a Club Assistant to assist the Referee**. If necessary, the away Club may be asked to provide an Assistant. However, the game cannot start without two Assistants if the Referee requests them.

In circumstances where no Assistant Referees have been appointed, **the home team is requested to provide two Club Assistants to assist the Referee**. If necessary, the away Club may be asked to provide an Assistant. Please note, the game should not start without 2 Assistants, however this decision will be at the Referee's discretion.

If the parties can't agree on the above, but there is a Referee who has the appropriate accreditation, he shall referee the game, which must be played.

If non-attendance of a match official means that a match official under the age of 18 is the only match official, then that match official is not permitted to officiate in that match without Football Queensland permission.

10.1 Unavailability of Match Official

In the event no registered Match Official is present to take charge of the fixture, then the designated "Home" Club shall appoint a Match Official to take charge of the fixture. This Match Official has the same powers as a registered Match Official. Once a game has commenced, neither team can change their agreement to the appointed Match Official. In the event of an appointed Referee failing to honour their appointment, please text the Wet Weather number to advise.

10.1.1 Senior Competitions

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

10.1.2 Junior Competitions

All Clubs are expected to fulfil all fixtures regardless of whether a Match Official is present to take charge.

Should any Club fail or refuse to participate in any fixture on the above grounds, then the offending Club may be deemed to have forfeited the match and will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

11 INTERPRETATIONS, DISPUTES & APPLICATIONS FOR VARIANCES

11.0 Interpretations, Disputes and Applications For Variances

11.1 Ruling

Football Queensland reserves the right to rule on any interpretation of these rules if any dispute arises. Clubs are advised to seek clarification from Football Queensland if in any doubt as to the meaning of these rules. Applications for variances to these rules must be lodged by the Club Secretary to the Manager – SEQ Competitions with all supporting documentation. Football Queensland reserves the right to change or amend these rules at its absolute discretion.

A request for a review against a decision in relation to a breach of the Competition Rules will not be considered unless the Club seeking the review provides significant new or additional evidence. Football Queensland in those circumstances will review the decision and allow the Clubs to provide a submission (written or oral). The decision on the review by Football Queensland will be final and not subject to appeal.

Appendix I

Yellow Card Accumulation	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6	Additional Comments
Yellow Card Accumulation (5)	N/A	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$50	\$50	
Yellow Card Accumulation (8)	N/A	\$50	\$50	\$75	\$75	\$75	
Yellow Card Accumulation (10)	N/A	\$75	\$75	\$150	\$150	\$150	
Yellow Card Accumulation (12)	N/A	\$100	\$100	\$250	\$250	\$250	
Red Card	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6	Additional Comments
Red Card	N/A	\$0	\$25	\$50	\$50	\$50	
Red Card Accumulation (2)	N/A	\$50	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	
Red Card Accumulation (3)	N/A	\$75	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125	
Red Card Accumulation (4)	N/A	\$125	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
Offences against Match Officials	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6	Additional Comments
Y2 - Yellow Card Accumulations (3)	N/A	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	
Y2 - Yellow Card Accumulations (5)	N/A	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	
Y2 - Yellow Card Accumulations (7)	N/A	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	
Red Card R6	N/A	\$50	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$100	
Club/Team official Harassing Referee (accumulated by individual)	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6	Additional Comments
1st Offence	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	
2nd Offence	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	3-point deduction for associated team
3rd Offence	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	3-point deduction for every club team
Technical Area Dismissal (accumulated by individual)	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6	Additional Comments
1st Offence	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	
2nd Offence	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	
3rd Offence	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Team Match Day Misconduct	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6	Additional Comments

Failure to submit teamsheet before competition timeframe	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	
Failure to lodge result before competition timeframe	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	
Forfeits	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6	Additional Comments
Day of Fixture	\$50	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$1,200	\$2,000	Plus referee fees
With Notice	N/A	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$600	\$2,000	
Day of Fixture - 23s	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$600	\$1,000	Plus referee fees
With Notice - 23s	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$300	\$1,000	
Other	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6	Additional Comments
Ineligible players - all competitive players	N/A	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$500	\$500	
Participation in Unsanctioned Match (per team)	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	
Kit Guidelines	N/A	*\$100	\$100	\$100	\$500	\$1,000	* Warning then fined
Media Guidelines (Filming)	N/A	N/A	\$100	\$200	\$500	\$500	* Warning then fined
Social Media Breach (all clubs)	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	
All other Breaches	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	As determined by Football Queensland
Appeals	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6	
Appeal Fees	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$750	\$750	\$750	