



**MANLY WARRINGAH**  
**FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**2021**

**PLAYING RULES**

Updated March 2021

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## **SECTION A                    REGISTRATIONS**

### **A1     Player & Officials Registrations**

- a)     Players and officials registering with the MWFA should first register with FFA and obtain an "FFA Number" which shall from that time apply to the so named player/ official for the duration of their football career in Australia.
- b)     Registration of players in their teams is to be made on an MWFA approved team form and are to be lodged with the MWFA Registrar
- c)     Registration for individual players, coaches, managers or volunteers in a team must be accompanied by a digital photograph uploaded to the Registration Program as well as any other documents necessary to complete the registration process.

Players who are registering for an U/10 age group or above who did not play for an affiliated club in the previous season must complete an Application to Register with the MWFA. The form must accompany the registration being submitted to the Association Registrar.

If registration forms, photographs, proof of age and all other relevant documents are not properly submitted registrations will not be accepted by the MWFA .

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

In the event of birth certificates or passports not being available, a Statutory Declaration may be lodged as proof of age. Any exception to this rule will be decided by the Registration & Grading Committee

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

- e)     Any new player over 10 years of age who is not an Australian Citizen, or who last played for an Overseas Club must apply for an International Transfer Certificate if requested by FNSW. Depending on the player's circumstances there may be additional documentation required before this registration can be completed. MWFA Clubs should apply to their Club Registrar for details of this documentation.
- f)     Registrations for the first round of competitions must be completed and lodged with the MWFA Registrar at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the season. Late registrations of individual players must be completed and submitted to the MWFA Registrar. Final lodgement of registrations of players shall be with the registrar by 8pm on the last Tuesday in June.
- g)     An endorsed copy of the Team List forms and any subsequently issued Coach, Manager or Volunteer ID cards will be available for collection at the MWFA Registrar, unless otherwise notified.

- h) Where a Digital Match Sheets (DMS) system is in use, the Player ID for all registered players will be supplied to the club in electronic form (eg. PDF format), for use as a backup if access to the DMS is unavailable at a game.
- i) Players in the Amateur League Divisions or Women's Divisions who wish to act as substitutes for divisions in any Over 35 competition must be 35 years of age or over on the 31st of December on the previous year and have their proof of age document checked by the MWFA registrar.

Players in the Amateur League Divisions or Men's O35 Divisions or Women's Divisions or Women's O30 Divisions who wish to act as substitutes for divisions in any Over 45 competition must be 45 years of age or over on the 31st of December on the previous year and have their proof of age document checked by the MWFA registrar.

- j) Only female players may be registered in Womens Competitions. Dual registration of female players in both the Saturday Competitions and the Womens Competitions is permitted.

## **A2 Submitting Team Registrations**

Clubs which fail to submit team registrations by the due date, shall be liable to a fine as specified in Appendix C of the MWFA Playing Rules

## **A3 Player Registration Restriction**

In all age groups from U/9-U/21, no more than three (3) players registered in any one Competitive team with a Club in any one season may register with a different Club the following season as a player in the same team unless the players' previous Club has ceased to exist. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the MWFA on a case by case basis.

In all age groups from U/9-U/21, no more than four (4) players registered in any one age group with a Club in any one season may register with a different Club the following season as a player in the same team unless the players' previous Club has ceased to exist. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the MWFA on a case by case basis.

## **A4 Rejection of Registration**

The MWFA Board has the right to reject the registration of any team, player or official. Appeals against decisions in this respect may be made to FNSW.,

## **A5 Dual Club Registrations**

- a) Dual Club registration is not permitted to a Club affiliated with the FNSW State League Clubs.
- b) Players de-registering from Clubs affiliated with FNSW State League, and re-registering with an MWFA Club must obtain approval from the MWFA
- c) Where MWFA registered players participate in training or skills programs containing players from multiple MWFA Clubs, the MWFA may impose restrictions on the participant's MWFA Club registration where a participant changes Club as a result of participation in the program.
- d) Players are only permitted to register with any one (1) MWFA affiliated club at any one time.

## **A6    Regrading a player**

A player may downgrade to a lower division in their registered age group or to a lower age group in which they are eligible to play once per season by following the procedure below:

- a)     Before 30<sup>th</sup> April, by the Club submitting the amended team sheets to the MWFA registrar in the same way as a new registration.
  
- b)     After 30<sup>th</sup> April, a written application must be provided to the MWFA. for approval stating the details of and reasons for the movement. Once the MWFA has given approval, the amended team sheets are submitted to the MWFA registrar.

## **SECTION B            PLAYER GRADING AND QUOTAS**

### **B1        Registration & Grading Committee (RGC)**

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

### **B2        Playing History**

- a)        Any player who was not registered with a MWFA Club in the immediate previous football year must provide a history of their football participation to the MWFA. This is provided on the MWFA application form.
- b)        As a minimum this history must be for the previous five years and include the Club, Association/ League and Country for any football team in which they have played.
- c)        If a player provides a false Playing History, the player will immediately be deregistered and the MWFA will determine when the player may be re-registered. A player will not be registered until their Playing History is provided.

### **B3        Player Grades**

- a)        For all players required to provide a Playing History, the RGC will determine if a Grade is to be assigned to the player and if so what Grade is assigned. The RGC will take into consideration the MWFA Player Grading Table and the MWFA Grading Guidelines documents (both available on the MWFA website) when making all Player Grading decisions

The following Grades will be used:

**Grade 1:** Equivalent to A League Standard

**Grade 2:** Equivalent to NPL1 standard

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

- b)        The assigned Grade is not solely determined by the Player's team registration in the immediate previous football year and, as a minimum, the previous five years Playing History will be taken into account.
- c)        The RGC may take into account the MWFA Club of Origin of the player in determining if a Grade will be assigned. If a player wishes the PGC to take into account evidence of previous Playing History they must provide such evidence.
- d)        The RGC may take into account the competition, age group and division into which the player is registering and the last competition, age group and division played.
- e)        The RGC will determine the Grade for overseas and interstate players registering in the MWFA and will establish the equivalence of the respective overseas leagues to FNSW competitions.
- f)        The registering Club may make a submission to the RGC for exemption from a Grade being applied and/ or which Grade should apply, if any.



#### **B4 Retention of Grade**

- a) The Grade of a player is retained independent of the MWFA Club in which they registered.
- b) A player who is initially given a Grade 1 retains that grading for two football years before dropping to Grade 2 for a further two years.
- c) A player who is initially given a Grade 2 retains that grading for two football years before dropping to Grade 3 for the third year.
- d) A player who is initially given a Grade 3 retains that grading for two football years.

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

#### **B5 Player & Club Quota**

- a) **Grade 1 Club Quota**  
Clubs can only register a Grade 1 player with an exemption from the RGC.
- b) **Graded Player Quota**  
In any Football Year, any MWFA Club can only register a *maximum of three* Graded Players in any MWFA Competition. For the purposes of this clause a single MWFA Competition is constituted by the group of teams in:
  - A single age group in Youth or Women's Youth from U12-U18
  - Men's Premier League, All Age Men's, O35 Men's and O45 Men's Divisions constitute a single MWFA Competition.
  - Women's Premier League, All Age Women's, O30 and O40, Women's Divisions constitute a single MWFA Competition.

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

#### **B6 Graded Player Deregistration or Movement**

- a) Once a Graded Player is registered in an MWFA Club the player may not be deregistered or transfer to another MWFA Club without permission of the MWFA. A graded player maybe de-registered if he/she ceases playing in an MWFA competition, but will remain on the MWFA Clubs graded player list for the remainder of the current season.
- b) Graded players may not be moved to a different MWFA competition within the club to be replaced by another graded player during the current season.
- c) A player may be removed from the clubs graded player list if he/she leaves a club in abnormal circumstances provided he/she has played less than 5 games for the club in a MWFA recognised competition. The circumstances must be approved by the RGC.

## **B7 Appeals of RGC Grading**

Any appeals against a RGC decision is to be directed to the MWFA Appeals Committee, refer to Appendix B of MWFA Playing Rules for details. Further appeals will be to Football NSW.

## **SECTION C AMATEUR STATUS**

- a) A Professional player is a player who has a written contract with a Club, under which they are paid to play football for that Club. An Amateur player is any player that is not a Professional.
- b) An Amateur player may not receive financial gains from playing football for their Club or other considerations to play football for their Club (other than reasonable participation expenses). These gains include any kind of financial incentive to play football at the Club, including direct or indirect payment by the Club and direct sponsorship by any person or organisation.

Notwithstanding the above, a Club may pay for or reimburse to an Amateur player reasonable expenses incurred without affecting that player's Amateur status, including travel, kit, equipment or insurance premiums. The onus is on that Club to satisfy the MWFA that the amount paid accurately reflects the expenses incurred by that player.

The total amount a player may receive over the season for these expenses is \$1000. This includes averaged sponsorship allocated directly to any team or squad.

- c) If any amount greater than this is received the Player will be deemed to be a Professional player.
- d) All players registered in the MWFA must be Amateur in status.
- e) Any player registered in the MWFA who is deemed to be a Professional player will be de-registered immediately and will not be permitted to re-register in the same football year.
- f) Nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any Amateur player in return for any services actually rendered to the Club. In these circumstances the Club must declare to the MWFA such services and the amount paid to the player.
- g) **Player and Club Official Amateur Status Undertaking Declaration for Premier League and League 1**

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

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

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

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

A subsequent breach shall incur automatic suspension of the team for the remainder of the season, with the Club being fined as specified in Appendix C of the MWFA Playing Rules and a final warning that affiliation will be withdrawn if there is another breach of the player payment rules.

Any subsequent breach shall incur automatic suspension of the whole Club for that season and the Club shall be required to present a case at a special general meeting as to why the club should not have its affiliation immediately revoked

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

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

## **SECTION D                    COMPETITIONS**

### **D1        Competitions**

- a) Competitions conducted by the Association shall be only open to MWFA member clubs, unless otherwise provided.
  
- b) The MWFA may schedule Fixtures on evenings, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays, subject to availability of grounds:
  - i. To ensure that competition rounds are played
  - ii. To play Matches moved due to State Cup

### **D2        Age Groups and Divisions**

- a) Competitions shall be conducted in age groups as decided by the Registration & Grading Committee. In each competition the number of divisions and the number of teams in each division shall be decided by the Registration & Grading Committee . Notwithstanding any other rule elsewhere stated, the Registration & Grading Committee may grade any team into a higher age group than that for which it is eligible by age.

For the 2019 season and beyond the W35 shall be changed to W30 and additional competition for W40 to be introduced. If the MWFA receive a minimum of 6 teams it will be standalone W40 competition. If fewer than 6 teams, the teams will be placed in an appropriate lower W30 division.

- b) Team nominations including desired competition, registered players and previous player history will be submitted in a manner and before a date as specified by the MWFA.. Team nominations with less than seven (7) players for a single team and less than fourteen players for a first and reserve grade competition will only be included in any competition at the absolute discretion of the Registration & Grading Committee.

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

### **D3 Ground Allocations and Fitness**

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

The following applies to all competition teams (U12 to PL, All Age, O30, O35, O40 and O45 teams).

- At least 45 minutes before the start of the first Match on a field, the Club who is allocated the field by the MWFA must deliver nets, flags and other necessary items for the setup of the field. These should be placed at the centre of the field.
- The teams who are playing the first Match on the field on that day must each setup half the field, including the net in one goal and the flags for half a field. Any containers and other equipment must be stored near one of the goals. This must be completed at least ten minutes before the start of the Match.
- The teams who are playing on the last Match on the field must each dismantle half a field and place the equipment in the containers provided in the middle of the field. Unless otherwise indicated this will be the 3pm Match on any field. This includes corner flags and one net.

In order that there is no possibility for ambiguity, each team will be responsible for the setup or takedown of half a field. It is up to the individual teams to decide which half of the field they will setup/take down.

- c) Any Club found not complying with this rule shall be fined in accordance with Appendix C of the MWFA Playing Rules for each item. The fine shall also apply if a Club fails to provide the necessary equipment for setting up a ground in the required timeframe. This includes adequate materials to adhere nets to goalposts.
- d) If a team fails to perform this function the following penalties will be imposed:

- On the **first offence** a formal warning will be issued by the MWFA. The Club of the offending team must provide proof the team has received the notice.
- On the **second occasion**, the team will lose one Competition Point
- On the **third occasion**, the team will lose three Competition Points
- On the **fourth occasion**, the team will be asked to provide reasons as to why they should not be removed from the competition.

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

- e) Before commencement of play the fitness of a ground for play is determined after inspection by the Club Groundsman or MWFA or senior members of the MWFA, who will notify the MWFA as soon as possible, preferable before 7am. Based on the report the MWFA will determine:
- If the ground is closed for the rest of the day
  - If the ground is to be re-inspected in the mid-morning to allow afternoon Fixtures to be played.
- The MWFA may attempt to reallocate Fixtures to alternative fields on the same day to allow the Fixtures to be played.
- f) Once play has commenced for the day, grounds may be closed by the Club groundsman, MWFA official or referee. Once a ground has been closed by the groundsman no Fixture may be played on the field unless specifically approved by the MWFA.
- g) Referees should not allow a Match to continue if a ground becomes unfit for use during the course of play. In such cases the Match should be postponed and a report sent to the MWFA. The MWFA will determine whether the Match will be rescheduled.
- h) A Club Groundsman or MWFA official may declare a ground unfit for play during the course of a Match refereed by a Junior Referee or Player Referee. The Club Groundsman or MWFA official must stop the Match at this point and write a report for the MWFA regarding the closure.
- i) Where a Match is under the control of a Junior Referee and no Club Groundsman, MWFA or MWFA official is available, the decision to declare a ground unfit for play is left to the team officials to agree. If a mutual decision cannot be made, but one team refuses to continue, the Match will be stopped and a protest made to the MWFA by the dissenting team explaining the circumstances as to why the Match should have continued.
- j) Prior to the commencement of the Mens & Womens PL and AL1 the club responsible for the ground, shall rope off an area not less than one metre from the touchline on the main spectator side .

#### **D4 Abandonment of Competition**

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

#### **D5 League Championship**

- a) The League Championship shall be decided by each division of each age group playing the allotted number of Fixtures. For each Match played three (3) Competition Points shall be awarded to the winning team. In the event of a draw, one (1) Competition Point will be awarded to each team. No Competition Points or goals are awarded when a team has a bye Fixture. The team which, at the end of the competition, has received the most Competition Points shall

be declared the Major Premiers. The team with the next number of Competition Points shall be declared the Runners Up.

- b) In the event of more than one team finishing the competition on equal highest Competition Points, the League Champion and Runner Up will be determined as follows:

<b>Criterion of Equality</b>	<b>Ranking Criterion</b>
Equal Competition Points	Highest goal difference
Equal Competition Points and Goal Difference	Highest Goals Scored in League Games
Equal Competition Points, Goal Difference and Goals Scored	Most competition points from games played between the two teams during the league
Equal Competition Points, Goal Difference, Goals Scored and Competition Points from games between two games in the league	Highest goal difference from games played between the two teams during the league.

## **D6 Semifinal Competition**

- a) After the League Championship Competition, the top four teams in each division of each age group shall play off in a second competition to determine the Minor Premier. The first Fixtures of the competition (semifinals) shall decide two teams who will play off in a final. The winner of the final shall be declared Minor Premiers.
- b) The format of the semifinal competition to decide these two teams shall be as follows:

<b>Criterion of Equality</b>	<b>Ranking Criterion</b>
Equal Competition Points	Highest goal difference
Equal Competition Points and Goal Difference	Highest Goals Scored
Equal Competition Points, Goal Difference and Goals Scored	Total of League and Semifinal Competition Points
Equal Competition Points, Goal Difference, Goals Scored and Total Competition Points	Total goal difference over League and Semifinal Competition

- c) Where a Fixture in this competition is a knockout and must have a winner declared at the end of the Match the procedure will be outlined as follows:

	<b>Senior Competitions (U/18 and up)</b>	<b>Junior Competitions (U12 to U16)</b>
Goals equal at end of normal time	First goal wins – game ceases	First goal wins – game ceases
No goal at end of extra time	Penalty Shootout	Penalty Shootout

- (d) For the Semi-Final Competition, a player registered in a team who has not played in at least four (4) Competition Fixtures for that team within the current season and who has played in four (4) or more Competition Fixtures as a borrowed player for other teams will be ineligible to compete in the Semi-Final Competition for their registered team. Any exemption to this rule can only be

provided by the MWFA prior to the commencement of the Semi Final Competition.

#### **D7 Pennant Competition**

- a) A Pennant competition may be held for teams finishing fifth or lower on the competition table for the age groups and divisions as follows:
- b) The team winning the Pennant Series will receive a presentation on Finals Day.
- c) The Fixtures during the Pennant Competition are subject to the same forfeit rules as outlined in section D11 of the MWFA Playing Rules.
- d) For the Pennant or Round-Robin Finals Competition, a player registered in a team who has not played in at least four (4) Competition Fixtures for that team within the current season and who has played in four (4) or more Competition Fixtures as a borrowed player for other teams will be ineligible to compete in the Round Robin and Finals Competition for their registered team. Any exemption to this rule can only be provided by the MWFA prior to the commencement of the Round Robin Competition.

#### **D8 Kick off Time and Match Time**

All Fixtures must commence at the correct time as stated in the MWFA Competition Draw .

- a) If for any reason, other than either team not being ready to take the field as per the Draw, the Match is late starting or there is a significant stoppage in play due to injury, the playing time shall be reduced so the Match finishes five minutes before the scheduled start of the next Fixture also allowing for a five minute half time, subject to the two halves being of equal time. If there is no fixture following on the field judgement must be used to ensure enough light remains for safe playing conditions.
- b) If the playing time is less than the duration of one full half of the scheduled Fixture then the Match should not commence and it will be re-scheduled.
- c) If a team does not have at least seven (7) of its registered players present and ready to play within five (5) minutes of the specified time, it shall forfeit the Match as per rule D11 of the MWFA Playing Rules.
- d) For U18, U21, Open, O30 O35, O40 and O45 Fixtures, the referee has the discretion to add on time for stoppages, as per the Referees Chart in the Laws of the Game.

#### **D9 Draw**

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

- c) A Club must apply for the date of any special day to the MWFA before the compilation of the draw.
- d) At all times the Fixtures scheduled in the draw shall take precedence over any other activity scheduled by the affiliated Clubs.

**D10 Match Sheets (DMS)**

- a) Where a Digital Match Sheets (DMS) system is in use, the player identity verification, score entry and completion of match sheet will be performed online.
- b) Players not shown in DMS as being in the team or eligible for borrowing are ineligible to participate in that match.
- c) If the player's shirts are numbered, the numbers on the match sheet shall correspond to the player's number worn during the match.
- d) Players may be added to the match sheet after the commencement of the match.
- e) Players who failed to arrive for the match must be removed from the match sheet at the completion of the match.
- f) Any player who is listed on the match sheet, is present and identified by the opposition team official and is available as a substitute during the match shall be deemed to have played in that match even if they do not take the field. Such a player must not be removed from the match sheet as per (e) above.
- g) Once the Team Sheet is confirmed by both Team Managers, all information contained on the match sheet will be deemed as correct, unless an Official marks the matchsheet as disputed and an official Protest and Dispute form from the Club is received within 48 hours of the completion of the match.
- h) Where the DMS system is not available at the game location, the Home Team is required to have a blank match sheet (provided to clubs by MWFA) which is to be completed by both Teams and Match Official. The completed match sheet is to be delivered by the Home Team to the MWFA office by the following Monday Morning.
- i) For the identification of players when the DMS system is not available, Teams are required to use the hard copy or electronic Team List provided by MWFA Registrars.
- j) All competition Teams are required to have available at all games a hard copy or electronic Team Sheet and blank match sheet.

**D11 Forfeit, Abandonment and Rescheduling of Matches**

- a) Competition teams must be present at the time and ground indicated in the draw, unless the MWFA has advised that the match has been transferred, in which case they will be at the new ground and at the new time. If a team does not have at least seven (7) registered players present and ready to play within five (5) minutes of the specified time, it shall forfeit the match.



- b) If a team intends to forfeit a match the Secretary of the forfeiting team's Club must notify the MWFA before the scheduled date and time of the match. Upon notification the MWFA will notify the Club of the opposing team and the MWFA of the forfeit. Notification should be made to the MWFA as follows:
- During normal business hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) via email to admin@mwfa.com.au.
  - Outside of business hours, the Club must notify the MWFA Competition Manager via text. Number provided to clubs annually.
  - If the forfeiting Club does not notify the MWFA of the forfeit in sufficient time before the start of the scheduled match the offending Club will also pay all appropriate referees fees plus any other compensation as may be determined by the MWFA.
- c) If a competition team forfeits two (2) times, in addition to any fine imposed and Competition Points lost as specified in (g), the team will lose two (2) additional Competition Points.
- d) If a competition team forfeits three (3) times, the Club involved will be required to show cause, to the MWFA Board, as to why the team should not be removed from the Competition. If permitted to remain in the competition, in addition to any fine imposed and Competition Points lost as specified in (g), the team will lose four (4) additional Competition Points.  
The MWFA Board will determine additional sanctions for further forfeits.
- e) It is competent for the MWFA. to declare any match abandoned or forfeited, where it is apparent that the Laws of the Game and/or the MWFA Playing Rules have not been properly observed.
- f) If the whole round in any competition is abandoned and cannot be rescheduled in its entirety, no competition points will be allocated.
- g) Any team forfeiting, their opponents will automatically receive::
- In league matches three (3) Competition Points and a five (5) goals to nil (0) win.
  - In knockout matches to progress to the next round
  - In finals to be declared the winner.
- h) If a team claims a forfeit when the team is present at the field at the scheduled time of the match, the manager of the team claiming the forfeit must request the referee to endorse the match sheet to that effect as evidence of a forfeit by the opposing team.
- i) If the MWFA determines a team forfeit was to deliberately affect the competition or that the forfeit significantly affected the outcome of a competition, the MWFA may impose additional penalties including a replay of the forfeited match. If a team refuses to replay a forfeited match as required by the MWFA, the MWFA will take other actions against the team as it sees fit.

- j) In the event of any Team withdrawing or being removed from an MWFA competition, the following procedure will take effect depending on the date the Team was removed or withdrawn:
- if before Competition has started a bye will be added to the competition in place of the Team unless another team can be added by regrading.
  - if before a specific round is completed all opposing teams that have played the Team will have the results for the round removed and replaced with a bye and teams that have not played the Team will have the match replaced with a bye.
  - If after a specific round has been completed all results of matches acquired during the completed round by opposing teams will be retained. All subsequent rounds will have their fixtures replaced with a bye.
- k) Where a team forfeits before a competition round and the round is declared washed out, if the round is successfully replayed the forfeit will stand for that match and the match will not be replayed. If the round is abandoned, the forfeited match is cancelled and all teams are awarded no Competition Points for the round.
- l) **Postponed Matches** Matches may only be postponed by the referee or the MWFA. If postponed by a referee a report detailing the reason for postponement and the time of postponement is required within 24 hours of the match.

In the event of any match not being played owing to weather or other causes over which neither Club has any control, on being ordered to be rescheduled or completed, it shall be played as soon as possible. After the postponement Clubs will be required to determine if they wish to reschedule the match. If both teams agree not to reschedule the match then the result will stand. The MWFA will set a time limit by which Clubs must respond, after which the MWFA will determine if the match will be rescheduled.

After the commencement of the match, should play be postponed due to injury, poor weather, failed lighting, state of the pitch or any other reason as determined by the referee, and the match cannot be completed in full, and the MWFA has approved the rescheduled match, it will recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full. The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the match:

- i. The match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the match was initially postponed unless a player has received a suspension in matches conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match.
- ii. Should a player have received a suspension in a match conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match that player:
  - Will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled match
  - Will not be able to count the match as a stand down in relation to any match suspension
  - The club will not be permitted to replace the player on the team sheet
  - If the player was on the field of play at the time of the postponement the player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the team sheet as long as the team has available substitutions as per the Regulations
  - If the player was a substitute the number of available players to substitute will decrease as they player cannot be replaced
- iii. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of players on the team sheet

- iv. The Teams can make only the number of substitutions to which they were still entitled when the match was postponed
- v. Players sent off during the abandoned match cannot be replaced
- vi. The referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged against the actual elapsed time as recorded by the referee
- vii. Should a match be abandoned due to the fault of one (1) Team, or should it be determined by the MWFA that one (1) Team / Club is responsible for the delay to the match, the remaining minutes will not be rescheduled for completion, and the match will be determined as a forfeit against the Team / Club that is deemed guilty of the abandonment or responsible for the delay
- viii. Where a match is incorrectly reported as abandoned by the Referee where circumstances show clearly that the match was actually postponed, the MWFA will treat the match as postponed.

m) **Abandoned Matches**

- i. In cases where a match has been abandoned by the referee, the MWFA may investigate the circumstances of the abandonment and impose such penalties as it deems fit on Clubs, Club Officials, Players and/or Spectators adjudged to be associated with the abandonment
- ii. When a match is not played or is abandoned for any reason over which neither Club was responsible, the match will be replayed on a date to be arranged at the earliest reasonable opportunity by the MWFA in accordance with these Regulations
- iii. When a match is abandoned for any reason other than stated in (b) above the match may only be replayed by the authority of the MWFA
- iv. Should a Club, Club Official, its Players or Spectators be found to have caused the abandonment of the match, the match will be forfeited by that Club to the opposition

## **SECTION E IDENTITY SYSTEM**

- a) All matches played under the auspices of the Association shall be subject to the identity system. Every registered player shall have an electronic ID issued by the Association as per Rule A1.  
This rule shall not apply to players registered in Junior competitions unless a player is to act as a borrowed player in competition matches.
- b) Before the commencement of every match the ID of each player from both teams must be checked using the following procedure:  
No later than 10 minutes prior to the designated match start time each team manager or designated official will check each name of the opposition team's players on the match sheet, and the player's appearance against the photo on the match sheet.

After completion of this process the manager either:

- If completely satisfied with the eligibility of the players listed on the match Sheet, the Team Manager or Team Official completes match sheet by confirming opposition team list.
- or**
- If not completely satisfied shall follow the dispute procedure in section (i).
- or**
- If not all players listed on the match sheet have arrived postpone final signing of the match sheet until after the players have arrived and each player's ID has been checked before they take the field. Confirmation of the match sheet for Identity can then be done at half time or at the end of the match.

- c) Players that arrive late cannot take the field until their ID and match sheet have been checked by the opposition.
- d) An eligible player who arrives late and whose name is on the match sheet may play in the match. All such eligible player's names shall be entered on the match sheet and ID confirmed at arrival, half time or at the end of the match.
- e) The referee shall witness the checking process (without being responsible for it) and may not start the Fixture until these formalities have been completed. Should teams be tardy in carrying out the player id checking process, the referee must shorten the match duration to the extent that the teams may have delayed its commencement.
- f) If a team refuses to complete the identity check as specified in (b) the opposition manager shall follow the dispute procedure in section (i).
- g) If a player who arrives late does not pass the identity check the dispute procedure in section (i) must be followed
- h) Should an individual player not be shown in DMS the player shall not be eligible to take the field in the match.
- i) Dispute Procedure: A team manager who has a dispute with the opposition under any of these clauses shall mark the match sheet "DISPUTED" in DMS, and enter the reason for the dispute. The match shall be played, the result recorded in the usual way. An MWFA Protest and Dispute form from the protesting Club is to be completed and forward to MWFA within 48 hours of the completion of the match.
- j) Any player who plays without an ID shall incur a suspension. The penalty for playing without an ID but having the name entered correctly on the match sheet shall be one (1) Fixture and the penalty for a registered player playing under an assumed name shall be four (4) Fixtures. For other ID and player registration offences the Disciplinary Committee (P&D) shall determine the punishment.
- k) If a team cannot produce its ID cards before the commencement of the Fixture the procedure followed in section (b) should be followed. If the ID cards fail to arrive, the dispute procedure in section (i) must be followed.
- l) Any team guilty of fielding an ineligible player shall be penalised according to the following, if the protesting team follows the procedure in (i):
  - i. If the team wins or draws the match it shall be regarded as a forfeit to the opposition
  - ii. If the team loses the match, the match shall be regarded as a forfeit unless the goal difference of the score was greater than five in which case the original score shall hold.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- m) Teams failing to carry out the checking of player ID in the manner required within this rule will incur a penalty of one Competition Point for each instance in which the procedure was not followed.
- n) Any Team Manager who confirms a match sheet indicating that he has identified all players thereon as eligible, which is subsequently found to be incorrect, may render the team liable to a loss of one Competition Point at the discretion of the MWFA.
- o) Notification of a breach of this Section E shall be made in writing to the offending Club or Clubs within 7 days of the alleged breach coming to the attention of the MWFA. Notification will include the time, place and any relevant details of the breach. Clubs wishing to appeal against any such penalty imposed in line with a correctly notified breach of this clause, shall do so through the Appeals Committee using the procedures outlined in the MWFA Playing Rules.

## **SECTION F SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO FIRST AND RESERVE GRADE**

- a) The MWFA Board will determine which divisions will play with first and reserve grade teams.
- b) The MWFA Board will specify which divisions playing first and reserve grade that are to be played on a promotion/relegation based system
- c) In any division playing first and reserve grade in the event of a Club being unable to provide sufficient players to take the field in both the reserve and first grade matches they must forfeit both the first grade and reserve grades.

## **SECTION G SPECIAL RULES**

### **PREMIER LEAGUE & AMATEUR LEAGUE DIVISION 1 only**

- a) The Mens Premier League and Mens Amateur League 1 competitions will play with the first and reserve grade teams.
- b) The Mens Premier League Competition will consist of twelve team, made up of first and reserve grade teams forming a squad.
- c) Participation in the Mens Premier League will be on an annual basis. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club has no right to any renewal or extension to participate in future Mens Premier League Competitions and the MWFA Board has the right to determine, in its absolute discretion, whether any right to participate in the Mens Premier League is renewed or extended.
- d) Before the start of each Season, the MWFA Board will invite twelve Clubs to submit applications for participation in the Mens Premier League Competition. These invitations shall be at the discretion of the MWFA Board. and no appeals against the decision will be allowed.

- e) Each year, applications for the Premier League are to be made on the following forms:
- MWFA Premier League Participation Agreement
  - MWFA Premier League Application and Terms and Conditions and submitted by the date in those documents.
- The MWFA will distribute the prescribed MWFA documents in the year preceding each Season.
- f) By completing these Agreements the Club agrees to participate in the Premier League Competition on the terms and conditions as set out in the documents. Completion of these Agreements is mandatory for participation in the Premier League.
- g) Any Club which does not complete these documents will not participate in the Premier League for that season and the MWFA Board. may invite another Club to substitute for this Club.
- h) There will be unlimited borrowing of players from Men's U21 and/or U18s Age Group to the Men's Premier League (first or reserve grade side). If a Club has no Men's PL side the rule will apply to the Club's Men's AL1 team (first or reserve grade side).
- i) There will be unlimited borrowing of players from the Women's U18s Age Group to the Women's Premier League and/or Women's AL1 teams.

## SECTION H JUNIOR MATCHES

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

	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
<b>Grading</b>	Y – Nominate Weak teams	Y – Nominate Weak Teams	Y – Teams Teams Allocated: Strong – 20% Middle – 70% Weak – 10%	Y – Teams Teams Allocated: Strong – 25% Middle – 50% Weak – 25%	Y – Players Teams allocated Strong – 25% Middle – 25% Weak – 50%	Y - Players Full Grading into individual divisions.
<b>End of Season Groups</b>	N	N	Groups of 6 play final round of five Fixtures	Groups of 6 play final round of five Fixtures	Y Groups of 6 play final round of five Fixtures	Y Groups of 6 play final round of five Fixtures
<b>Regrading during season</b>	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>MWFA Results</b>	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>MWFA ID</b>	N	N	N	N	N Y for U12 Res	N Y for U12 Res
<b>Washed Out Rounds Games Rescheduled</b>	N	N	N	N	N	N
<b>Fixture Time</b>	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
<b>Match Format</b>	Zoned into groups. All teams in a zone play at the same venue each week. Venues rotate .	Play on dedicated U7 fields.	Play on dedicated U8/U9 fields	Play on dedicated U8/U9 fields.	Play on dedicated $\frac{3}{4}$ fields.	Play on part of full sized field from penalty area to penalty area or play on dedicated $\frac{3}{4}$ fields

- d) There shall be no night Fixtures organised for players in the U6 – U11 age groups starting after 7pm.
- e) There shall be no deferments of any Fixtures scheduled in the draw except by a decision of the MWFA or where a team is participating in a Competition conducted by Football NSW. MWFA. Fixtures scheduled on the same day as any competition Fixtures may be deferred, but MWFA. Fixtures scheduled on the previous day to a Competition Fixture may be deferred on request of the competing Club only if the Fixture venue is outside a radius of 250 km from Sydney or the Fixture is a final of the Competition. The decision of the MWFA on deferred Fixtures is final and not subject to any appeal.

## **SECTION I            SPECIAL COMPETITIONS**

### **I1        MWFA Challenge Cup**

- a) This competition shall be open to all member clubs, maximum sixteen (16) teams may be entered, with a minimum of eight (8) to be entered. Clubs shall enter teams worthy of a first class amateur team.
- b) The dates of the rounds will be determined by MWFA.

### **I2        Champion of Champions Challenge**

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

## **SECTION J            LOCAL LAWS**

**J1** Variations shown in this section, from the laws as contained in the Referees Chart shall prevail in the MWFA competitions.

**J2** In matches played on full sized fields in the MWFA two variations to the FIFA Laws of the Game may be allowed:

**a) Corner Kick**

Corner Kicks (U12 competitions) shall be taken from an imaginary 1 metre arc drawn from a point 7 metres out from where the boundary of the penalty area meets the goal line.

**b) 25 Metre rule**

The purpose of the 25m Rule is to facilitate younger age groups playing out from the back with reduced pressure when they are awarded a goal kick or free kick in their penalty area.

The Clearance Zone is a rectangular area bounded by the touchlines, the goal line and an imaginary line parallel to and 25m from the goal line. This line must be indicated by cones, poles or other marking to assist the referee.



The 25m Rule applies to the U12 through U14 age groups and is in operation for goal kicks and also for free kicks awarded to the defending team in the penalty area.

- For a goal kick, the goalkeeper of the defending team must take the kick
- For a free kick to the defending team in the penalty area, any player from the defending team may take the kick
- The ball is in play when it is kicked, clearly moves, and before becoming stationary, is next touched by a second player from the defending team within the Clearance Zone
- Opponents must be outside the Clearance Zone until the ball is in play.

**For clarity:**

- The ball cannot be kicked directly beyond the Clearance Zone
- Infringement of any aspect of the 25m Rule results in the kick being retaken
- If in the opinion of the Referee, infringement of the 25m Rule is being utilised to waste time by either team, the players guilty of the perceived time wasting will be cautioned
- Once the ball is in play, opponents are permitted to enter the Clearance Zone and challenge for possession of the ball.
- The Clearance Zone does not apply to free kicks to the defending team outside of the penalty area.

**J3 Duration of Matches**

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

Age groups

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

- b) A break of a minimum of 5 minutes shall be taken between halves of all Matches.
- c) On any day when unusual or exceptional conditions prevail, the MWFA. may decide the duration of any match scheduled for that day.

**J4 Technical Area**

- a) On each MWFA field used for competition matches two Technical Areas must be clearly marked on the same side of the field by the responsible Club as stipulated by FIFA guidelines. It is desirable that Clubs provide sufficient seating to allow all personnel to be seated during the match. Where no Technical Area is marked, teams must still respect an equivalent area for each team either side of the halfway line.
- b) Only currently registered players, coaches and team officials are allowed in the Technical Area during Matches. The only players permitted in the Technical Area are those named on the match sheet. Coaches and team officials are limited to a maximum of four (4).

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

## **J5 Equipment**

- a) All players in all matches shall appear in proper football uniform consisting of their clubs approved strip (shirt, shorts socks) shin pads and footwear, unless given special dispensation by the MWFA. All players U12 to Premier League shall wear numbered shirts, those numbers shall correspond with the player's name on the match sheet.
- b) Players, except the goalkeeper, shall not wear any protective headgear of any description, unless authorised by the MWFA. in conjunction with the MWFA.
- c) Where, according to the MWFA Club Shirt Matrix, a change of strip is necessary, the away team shall change (second team mentioned in the draw is the away team). Away teams unable to meet such a request shall forfeit the match. The MWFA is to closely monitor the strips of all clubs to minimise colour clashes.
- d) In all Matches each team shall have a ball of the correct size for the particular age group, fit and ready for use. The referee shall be the sole judge as to the fitness of the ball.
- e) The correct size for balls in the relative age groups shall be:-

Age groups	U6 to U9	Size 3	56/58 cm circ.
	U10 to U13	Size 4	62/65 cm circ.
	U14 to O45	Size 5	67/70 cm circ.

- f) If a Club wishes to change design of the approved strip or alternate strip the Club must present a sample of the new strip or a realistic likeness to the MWFA Board for approval. Once approval has been granted the Club has three years, from the date of approval, to completely equip all teams in the new strip.
- g) Clubs will only be permitted to have one alternate strip design for all of its teams.

## **SECTION K SUBSTITUTES**

### **K1 Definition**

A substitute is a registered player of a team, or a borrowed player as defined in M1 of the MWFA Playing Rules and meeting the eligibility requirements who is in excess of the prescribed eleven players. A substitute shall be permitted to replace a player on the field at any time, subject to compliance with all other conditions relating to substitutes.

### **K2 Number of Substitutes**

- a. The maximum number of substitutes permitted in any match shall be five (5). The maximum number of substitutes permitted for O30, O35, O40 and O45 competitions permitted in any match shall be seven (7). The maximum number of borrowed players shall be four (4), except for the round robin or knockout semi finals or finals series where the maximum number of borrowed players shall be two (2).
- b. For the Women's AL2 and AL3 competitions (WAL2 and WAL3) in the 2021 Season, the maximum number of substitutes permitted will be seven (7). This is because the WO30 teams have been placed in this competition for 2021 due to insufficient number of teams to form a stand alone O30 competition. This allows all teams to be on an even playing field in the WAL2 and WAL3 competitions.

### **K3 Rules Relating to Substitutes**

- a) A substitute may take the field if not present at the start of the match, provided the player's name has been included and confirmed on the match sheet.
- b) The exception to this is when a team starts a match with less than eleven players then late arriving players, both registered team members or borrowed players, may be added to the match sheet until the team has eleven players on the field.
- c) These late arriving players are subject to the rules relating to player identification and the referee's permission to take the field.
- d) If at least eleven eligible players are present at the start of a match, the team must play eleven players and late players can be added to the match sheet.
- e) Substitutes must be entered onto the match sheet prior to the start of the match. Only five substitutes or seven substitutes for O30, O35, O40 and O45 may be

nominated, and they must be identified by the opposing team manager prior to the commencement of the match.

## **SECTION L INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS IN MATCHES**

In all age groups unlimited player interchange is permissible at any time during the Match. The only exception is Men's Premier League First Grade & Mens MWFA Challenge Cup .

The interchange procedure is as follows:

- a) "Interchange Zone" will be an area one meter either side of the halfway line.
- b) An interchange is one, which is made when the ball is out of play or play has been stopped and for which the following conditions shall be observed:
  - i The permission of the referee to make the interchange has been obtained by a team official wearing the MWFA ID card.
  - ii The player leaving the field may leave the field at any point, and is not obliged to leave at the Interchange Zone.
  - iii The player entering the field shall do so from the interchange zone but not until the player has passed completely over the touchline.
  - iv A player nominated for interchange shall be the subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee whether called on to play or not.
  - v The interchange is completed when the player who was off the field enters the field. From this moment they become a player and the player who they replaced ceases to be a player.
- c) The number of interchanges during the match is unlimited. A player who has been replaced may return to the field for another player. The number of players able to be interchanged during a match is as per rule K2 of the MWFA Playing Rules .
- d) If, during an interchange, an interchange player enters the field before the replaced player has completely left the field, the referee shall ensure the replaced player leaves the field, caution the interchange player and then restart the match.
- e) If, during an interchange, an interchange player enters the field from a place other than the interchange zone, the referee shall caution the offending player.
- f) The interchanging of players will cease at the completion of normal and any extra time. If at this time penalty kicks are required to determine a result, the eleven players on the field at the end of extra time are the only players permitted to participate in the penalty kicks. No interchanging at this time is permissible. If during the penalty kicks the goalkeeper is injured he may be replaced providing the replacement is on the match sheet.

## SECTION M      PLAYER BORROWING

### M1      Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

### M2      General Principles

a)      **Need to Borrow**

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

If the Disciplinary Committee (P&D) determines the borrowing of certain players in a match was not in the spirit of fair play and in particular to strengthen a team beyond its normal standard, the Disciplinary Committee (P&D) may order the match to be replayed without borrowed players.

b)      **Number of Borrowed Players**

The maximum number of borrowed players in any team in any match is four (4), except for matches played within a round robin, knockout semifinal or final series match where the maximum number of borrowed players is two (2). Teams in Over 30, Over 35, Over 40 and Over 45 competitions may borrow up to six (6) players.

c)      **Borrowing Limit**

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

d)      **Exceed Maximum Borrowing Limit**

A player who has played the maximum limit of matches as a Borrowed Player for a Borrowing Team in accordance with the Borrowing Eligibility Rules below, may not play for that team again in the current season as a Borrowed Player.

In order to play again with the Borrowing Team the player must be re-registered in that team by submitting the change in registered team to the MWFA in the usual manner.—Re-registration of a player in Competition teams will not be permitted after the Final Registration Date in Section A3 except by a decision of the MWFA

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

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

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

e) **Duty of Care**

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

f) **Applicable to Women's Competitions**

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

g) **Women Playing in Other Competitions**

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

h) **First & Reserve Grade**

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

i) **Further Eligibility Restrictions**

The MWFA may impose restrictions on the number of players who may be in a single team based on certain criteria. These number restrictions cannot be circumvented by borrowing players from other teams who meet the criteria. In any match the number of players used by the team including borrowed players cannot exceed this number. An example is the quota of Graded Players in B5.

### M3 Borrowing Eligibility Rules

Borrowing Team	Borrowing Option A		Borrowing Option B		Borrowing Option C	
	Age Group	Limit	Age Group	Limit	Age Group	Limit
U6	U6	NO				
U7	U7	NO	U6	NO		
U8	U8	NO	U7	NO	U6	NO
U9	U9	NO	U8	NO	U7	NO
U10	U10	NO	U9	NO	U8	NO
U11	U11	NO	U10	NO	U9	NO
U12	U12	4	U11	4	U10	4
U13	U13	4	U12	4	U11	4
U14	U14	4	U13	4	U12	4
U15	U15	4	U14	4	U13	4
U16	U16	4	U15	4	U14	4
U18	U18	4	U16	4	U15	4
U21	U21	4	U18	4	AL	4

PL	AL	4	O35, O45, O30, O40	4	U21, U18*,U16*	Unlimited
AL1	AL	4	O35, O45, O30, O40	4	U21, U18*,U16*	Unlimited
AL	AL	4	U21, O35, O45, O30, O40	4	U18*,U16*	4
O35	O35	4	AL	4	O45	4
O45	O45	4	O35	4	AL	4
W30	O40	4	WAL	4	WAL	4
W40	WAL	4	WAL	4	WAL	4

\* See rule Section M1 re age eligibility requirement

For the avoidance of doubt, no MWFA Competition team may borrow the same player more than four times except for age eligible U18 / U21 players being borrowed into Premier League and Amateur League Division 1, as per Section G (h).

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

**a) U6 to U21 Age Groups**

- i. In all Youth borrowing Options A, B and C should be followed in that order wherever possible.
- ii. Where a Club has no eligible team in either Option A, B or C, a Borrowed Player may come from a team registered in the next MWFA Age Group in which the Club has a team. In this case particular attention must be paid to M2 (e) Duty of Care.
- iii. In U12 to U21 Age Groups, the permitted division of the borrowed player's team is further restricted relative to the division of the Borrowing team as per below.

Borrowing Option	Allowed Divisions As Borrowed Player
Option A	Same or Lower Division
Option B	One Higher Division and Below
Option C and borrowing under (ii)	Any Division

- iv. U11 teams will be graded into divisions by the Grading Committee. Players wishing to act as substitutes will have player ID cards issued based on this initial grading. This initial grading will determine the borrowing eligibility of the players into the U12 age group, irrespective of any regrading of teams during the season.
- v. U10 players graded in a Red team are only eligible to be borrowed to play in the U11/1, U11/2. Players in all other U10 Team Groups are eligible to substitute in any Division of the U11 Age group.
- vi.
- vii. Teams in the U21/1 competition can borrow players from the following competitions, provided they are age eligible to play in the U21 competition:
  - The bottom four AL Competitions
  - All U18 competitions

## **b) Open Competition**

- i. Teams in Open Competitions may borrow players registered in teams in the same Open Competition provided they are registered in the same or a lower Division than the Borrowing Team.
- ii. Teams in Men's Open Competitions may borrow players registered in Over 35 Competitions provided that such players are registered in the same or a lower Division than the Borrowing team's division in the Open Competition.

Additionally to cater for years when there are less O35 divisions than Open competitions.

- Any AL Division may borrow players from O35-5 and below.

Teams in Open Competitions may borrow players from O45 competition as follows:

- AL-2 division and above may borrow from O45-1
- AL-4 division and above may borrow from O45-2
- Any AL division may borrow players from O45-2 and below

Teams in Women's Open Competitions may borrow players from WO30 and WO40 Competitions as follows:

- WAL3 and above may borrow from any WO30 / WO40
- WAL4 and below may borrow from any WO40

- iii. Teams in Open Competitions may borrow players from the U18 / U21 Competitions as follows:
  - AL3 and above may borrow from U18-1
  - Any AL Division may borrow from U18-2 and below
  - Any AL Division may borrow from U21/1 (single division age group in 2021)
  - Teams in Womens Open Competitions may borrow players from the W18 Competition as follows:
    - WAL2 and above may borrow from W18-1
    - Any WAL division may borrow players from W18-2 and below
- iv. A true age player registered in an U16 Age Group can play as a Borrowed Player in any Open Division
- v. Where a borrowed player is from a team in an U16 or U18 competition, that player must meet the minimum age eligibility requirement for players in the Open Division specified in Section M1.

## **d) Over 35 and Over 45 Age Groups**

- i. Borrowed Players in Over 35 and Over 45 competitions must be age qualified to play in these competitions
- ii. The level of the divisions in the Over 45 competition will be declared by the MWFA at the start of the season (eg Division1, Division 2, etc).
- iii. Teams in Over 35 or Over 45 competitions may not borrow players registered in the Premier League Competition.



- iv. Teams in Over 35 competitions may borrow players in other Over 35 competitions provided players are registered in the same or a lower division than the borrowing team. All teams in Over 35 Competitions may borrow players from the O45 Competition as follows:
  - O35-2 division and above may borrow from O45-1
  - O35-4 division and above may borrow from O45-2
  - Any O35 division may borrow players from O45-2 and below
- v. Teams in Over 35 competitions may borrow players registered in Open Competitions provided that such players are registered in a **lower** Open Division than the borrowing team.
- vi. Teams in Over 45 competitions may borrow players registered in Over 35 competitions provided that such players are age-qualified to play in the Over 45 competitions and registered in an Over 35 division of the same or a lower division.
  - O45/1 may borrow from any division in O35 competitions (E.g. O35/1, O35/2, O35/3, O35/4 or O35/5)
  - O45/2 may borrow from O35/2 and lower divisions (O35/2, O35/3, O35/4 or O35/5)
  - O45/3 may borrow from O35/3 and lower division (E.g. O/35/3, O35/4 or O35/5)
- vii. Teams in Over 45 competitions may borrow players registered in Open Competitions provided the players are registered in an Open division at least three (3) divisions lower than the borrowing team.

**e) Over 30 and Over 40 Age Groups**

- i. The level of the divisions in the Over 30 and Over 40 competitions will be declared by the MWFA at the start of the season (eg Division 1, Division 2, etc).
- ii. Borrowed Players in Over 30 and Over 40 competitions must be age qualified to play in these competitions (even as borrowed players)
- iii. All teams in Over 30 and Over 40 competitions may borrow players from the Women's AL3 and down
- iv. Teams in Over 30 or Over 40 competitions may not borrow players registered in the Women's Premier League, Women's AL1 and Women's AL2 Competitions.
- v. Teams in Over 30 competition may borrow players registered in Over 40 competition.
- vi. Teams in Over 40 competition may borrow players registered in Over 30 Competition, only if they are age qualified to play in the Over 40 competition

#### **M4 Penalty for Breach of Borrowing Rules**

This section covers breaches of the Borrowing Rules

a) **Offence Correctly Notified by Opposition**

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

b) **Other Notification**

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

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

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

If the match is a knockout semifinal or final the MWFA Board will determine the course of action, which may include:

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

#### **SECTION N REFEREES**

- a) The appointment of Match Officials to officiate at matches shall, wherever possible, be made by the Appointments Officer of the MWFRA.
- b) In the event of the MWFRA. not appointing officials to a match or the appointed referee not attending, then the captains or officials of the competing teams must appoint a person to control the Match. If no joint decision can be reached, the team first on the draw must provide a referee. As a guideline, in Youth Matches such a person should be at least 14 years of age and should referee age groups at least two years below their own age. For adult competitions such a person should be over 18 years of age. Any person appointed to officiate in a Match has the rights and responsibilities as if the appointment were made under (a). The same person, where possible, must referee the whole Match.
- c) In all cases, Fixtures will be controlled in accordance with Clause 1.4 of the By-Laws..
- d) Any affiliated official referee shall be entitled to referee their own Club matches if no official referee is appointed.

## **N1 MWFA Team Referees**

### **a) Provision and Duties of Team Referees**

Each team in the MWFA Senior Men's Competitions: AL2 and below, all O35 and O45 divisions (Any exception to this requirement will be notified by the MWFA) must:

- i. Nominate at least two team referees who are qualified members of the MWFRA to be available to officiate in matches .
  - The nominated person does not have to be a player but must be a current member of the MWFRA and cannot be a team referee for more than one team.
  - Where the nominated person is a registered player of a different team, the fulfilment of their team referee duties takes precedence over playing in their registered team.
- ii. On each competition day where the team is playing as an *away* team one of the team referees must officiate:
- iii. Where the team is playing as the away team at 3pm one of the team referees must officiate in the 1pm match at the same field unless otherwise directed
- iv. Where the team is playing as the away team at 1pm one of the Team Referees must officiate in the 3pm match at the same field unless otherwise directed.
- v. Where a match is not scheduled as part of a 1pm/3pm pair the affected teams will be notified of the requirements for the provision of Team Referees by the MWFA.
- vi. For a match where there is no other options for the provision of a Team Referee from a different team than those playing, one of the Team Referees of the away team must officiate.
- vii. The penalties applied to a team which fails to provide a properly attired Team Referee for a Match are listed in Section T of the Playing Rules. In addition to the punishment of the Team any person who fails to wear a proper referee uniform will forfeit the referee's fee for that Match.

The MWFRA reserves the right to appoint a referee to any division provided at least 24 hours notice is given to the MWFA who will then advise the Clubs involved.

### **b) Registration of Team Referees**

- i All persons who wish to nominate as Team Referees must be qualified and registered members of the MWFRA for the current football year in which they are to be a team Referee.
- ii Any team which does not have two qualified Team Referees by the first round must provide a qualified referee to officiate in any match it is obliged to officiate.
- iii A team which does not have two qualified referees by 30<sup>th</sup> April will not accumulate Competition Points for each match they play where they do not meet this requirement up to a maximum of three rounds.  
After these three rounds the team will be removed from the competition, and the players in the team will not be permitted to re-register in any other team for the rest of the season.

c) **Notification of Red and Yellow Cards by Team Referees**

The Team Referee must mark the match card with “Y” and “R” for those players who were given red and yellow cards during the Match. A team referee who gives a player a red card is required to provide a report to the MWFA website within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

d) **Unauthorised Team Referee**

Where it is subsequently found a person referees a match but falsely uses the name of a qualified Team Referee on the match sheet as well as penalties to the offending team the MWFA will apply the following penalties to the individual offender:

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

**SECTION O RESULTS**

- a) The results of all matches must be completed and confirmed in the DMS system no later than 9am the next day. On some occasions the submission time may be varied. In these cases the MWFA will give the Clubs at least 24 hours notice.
- b) Failure to comply with this requirement will result in fines as per section 5.2 of the By-Laws being applied at the discretion of the MWFA. If the result of an individual team is not notified the Club may notify the MWFA that the team was responsible for not providing the result on time. In such a case the team shall be subject to the sanction specified in Section T Group 4 of the Playing Rules.

**SECTION P TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

- a) All transfers of Amateur players between Clubs within Australia, whether initiated by the player or the player's first Club shall be carried out in accordance with the FFA National Registration Regulations..
- b) No transfer shall be granted after 30th June each year.
- c) Any player may change his Club registration once only during the season.
- d) For transfer of Clubs within the MWFA the payment of the MWFA fee is the responsibility of the second Club. Where the player has paid the registration fee to the first Club, the player's first Club must refund in full all but the Club component of the Player's registration fee. The amount of the Club fee refunded to the player is at the discretion of the first Club.
- e) Non-payment of the registration fee is not grounds for refusing a transfer within the MWFA.
- f) If a player de-registers from a Club during the season and then subsequently re-registers at another Club in the same season they shall be regarded as having transferred between Clubs, as per d) above.

**SECTION Q TROPHIES AND MEDALLIONS**

- a) The Association shall award trophies as it sees fit and based on the recommendation of the MWFA Board.
- b) All annual trophies awarded may not leave the Presentation Area on Finals Day. If a Club wishes to borrow the trophies for a Club event a deposit must be paid which is refunded on return of the trophies. The size of the bond is detailed in the MWFA Schedule of Fees.
- c) The Association may award special trophies in the following categories:-

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

- d) Awards shall be made on the following basis:-

**President's Cup**

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

**Syd Russell Shield**

For performance in all aspects of administration.

**Executive Award**

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

**Ron Saveall Memorial Cup**

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

**Fair Play Award**

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

**MWFA. Cup**

For winners of the Association Senior K.O competition

**Champion Team (Union Jack Cup)**

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

**Social Media Award**

For the Club with the best website

**Craig McGrath Memorial Encouragement Award**

To the team who are in most need of encouragement

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

**SECTION R SPECIAL POWERS**

**R1 Repeat Offences**

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

- i For the second offence two (2) Competition Points will be deducted
- ii For the third offence four (4) Competition points will be deducted and the Club will be required to demonstrate that the team will commit no further offences or the MWFA Board may remove the team from the competition.

**R2 Multiple Offences**

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

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

**R3 Spectator Code of Conduct and Discipline**

- a) Spectators in any activity held by or under the auspices of the MWFA must adhere to the MWFA Spectator Code of Conduct comprising the FFA Spectator Code of Conduct plus any other requirements as may be displayed at Grounds or advertised through mass media (website, email distribution and distribution to Clubs for forwarding to their members).
- b) Clubs shall promote and encourage adherence to the MWFA Spectator Code of Conduct amongst their members to maximise their awareness. Clubs must ensure that any materials provided by the MWFA are prominently displayed and circulated promptly.

- c) Clubs are responsible in the first instance for the control of their spectators. Where possible the onus for corrective action should be taken by Clubs on their spectators and/or supporters.
- d) Clubs must attempt to maintain control of spectators, to prevent any disturbance and to generally assist Match Officials and Officials of the MWFRA, MWFA Board in adherence to the MWFA Spectator Code of Conduct at any Match.
- e) The MWFA may investigate any incident which in its opinion is relevant to whether or not a charge of breach of the Spectator Code of Conduct ought to be laid. Such investigation may be initiated on the basis of a written report or complaint of a Member or on the basis of any other evidence which in the opinion of the MWFA is credible.
- f) Clubs are required to cooperate fully with the MWFA in the conduct of that investigation within the timeframe specified in any correspondence issued by the MWFA. This includes identification of any spectators involved. A Club consents that any information provided may be used as evidence in bringing a charge under this section.
- g) At any time, the MWFA Board or Disciplinary Committee may determine whether any charge of a breach of the MWFA Code of Conduct is to be laid. If a charge will be laid by the MWFA, it will issue a Notice of Charge against the parties and the Disciplinary Committee will hold a formal hearing of the charges.
- h) If the Disciplinary Committee determines a breach of the MWFA Code of Conduct has occurred sanctions will be applied including:
  - i. reprimand;
  - ii. direction to make verbal or written apology;
  - iii. period of suspension from attending matches;
  - iv. place the individual on a bond;
  - v. loss of Competition Points and/or imposition of team disciplinary points for the team;
  - vi. deregistration of any related players from the MWFA
  - vii. if a Participant a period of suspension from taking part in any Football related activity;
  - viii. suspension from participation in a match or matches;
  - iv. such other sanction as is appropriate in all the circumstances.

## **SECTION S            ADVERTISING**

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

- a) All printing in the playing strip shall not exceed 5cm in height
- b) Shirt numbers must be clearly visible

## **SECTION T TEAM PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES**

For the following offences the MWFA will penalise the offending team by way of Team Discipline Points (TDP).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



- d) The MWFA will issue a sample of a blank match sheet specifying the requirements of the Home and Away Team for completing parts of the match sheet.
- e) The punishment will only apply for one or more errors on the same match sheet.
- f) Offences within each group are treated separately as far as these punishments are concerned.
- g) Clubs are required to provide evidence that the formal warning has been provided to the team. Non-receipt of a warning by a team will not be accepted as a valid reason for further offences.
- h) If more than one instance of an offence within a Group occurs in the same match on the first or second time these count as a single instance and are not cumulative (eg coach not in technical area and not wearing ID tags in the same match only counts as one instance).

## SECTION U – CITATIONS

If the MWFA Ltd receives a Citation for a player, team officials or spectator the MWFA CEO or their representative, will determine if the matter is to be dealt with as follows:-

- i) Referred to the Disciplinary Committee, or
  - ii) Correspondence to the relevant club/s, or
  - iii) Referred to MWFA Ltd Board
- a) If the MWFA receives a Citation, which is referred to the Disciplinary Committee, a **player or official** shall incur a minimum (1) match suspension, following notification of the Citation from the MWFA. This one (1) match suspension is mandatory and is not subject to challenge.
  - b) On receipt of a Citation Report the MWFA will forward the report to the player, official or spectators club by 5pm on the Wednesday following the incident.
  - c) The player, official or spectator's club will be required to provide written statement by 5pm on the following Monday, following notification of the Citation by the MWFA.
  - d) The player, official or spectator will be scheduled to appear before the Disciplinary Committee on the Wednesday following receipt (closing time Monday 5pm following notification of Citation), of the statement from the player, official, spectator or players club
  - e) If the player, official or spectator does not appear at the Disciplinary Committee on the scheduled Wednesday the case will be determined in their absence.
  - f) The player, official or spectators club will be advised of the Disciplinary Committee's determination.
  - g) If the MWFA determines that the Citation should be dealt with in correspondence to the relevant club/s. The MWFA shall retain details of the action taken in regard to the Citation and advise the person/club who submitted the Citation the action that has been taken by the MWFA.
  - h) If the MWFA determines that the Citation should be referred to the MWFA Ltd Board, the person/club who submitted the Citation shall be advised that the report has been forwarded to the MWFA Ltd Board.

# APPENDIX A      DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

No Club representative shall take part in any discussion or voting, where a determination or investigation of a report relating to their Club, is being dealt with by the Committee,

## SECTION 1 JUDICIARY

### 1A Committee Procedures & Powers

- a) The Judiciary Committee shall have the power to refer any matter to the MWFA Board for determination
- b) The Committee shall meet at least once a week, if required, during the playing season, at a time and place to be determined by the MWFA Clubs shall be notified prior to the commencement of the season of the meeting day and place for the Judiciary hearing. Players shall be deemed to have received notice from the club as to the meeting day of the Judiciary.

### 1B Definitions of Suspensions

- a) For the purpose of defining suspensions, competition Fixtures shall be deemed to be any Fixture played by the player's registered team, in the teams:
  - MWFA competition including major and minor premierships fixtures and finals
  - MWFA sanctioned Cup fixtures
  - FNSW and FFA competitions in which the MWFA enters teams such as NSW State Cup, Champion of Champions and FFA Cup.
- b) Where a competition has a separate team registration process, the suspended player must be registered in the team for that competition in order for the fixtures to count towards the suspension.
- c) Cancelled fixtures and byes are not included in the suspension.
- d) The following will occur should a fixture be forfeited during a suspension: -
  - If the opposition team forfeits – the match is counted towards the suspension.
  - If the players team forfeits – the match does not count towards the suspension.
- e) Abandoned fixtures do not count towards the suspension unless the abandoned fixture is not replayed.

### 1C Players Sent Off

- a) A player shall be sent from the field for the following offences as prescribed for in the Laws of the Game;
  - R1** The player is guilty of serious foul play
  - R2** The player is guilty of violent conduct
  - R3** The player spits at an opponent or any other person
  - R4** The player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goal keeper within his or her own penalty area)

- R5** The player denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.
- R6** The player uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- R7** The player receives a second caution in the same match  
For the purpose of these Regulations, reference to a player during a match includes a substitute and a substituted player.

- b) Players sent from the field shall incur a minimum one (1) match suspension. This one (1) match suspension is mandatory and is not subject to challenge, appeal or waiver by the Judiciary Committee. The only exception is in the case of mistaken identity in which the player must provide follow the process as described in (j) (i) below.
- c) The Referee of a match in which a player has been shown a red card and sent from the field will provide a Sendoff or Citation Report to the Judiciary.
- d) The Judiciary will meet and determine the penalty after reviewing the offence. The Judiciary will provide a copy of the Sendoff or Citation Report and the Judiciary decision to the player's Club.
- e) A player may not play in any Fixtures from the start of the suspension as per C5 to the end of suspension determined by the Judiciary.
- f) Where a penalty is issued greater than the Minimum Suspension of the Offence there are two options:-
  - Accept the penalty as stipulated, OR
  - Challenge the penalty but only on the grounds below.

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

- g) The Club shall notify the Judiciary no later than 5pm on the Tuesday of the week after receiving notification of suspension whether the Judiciary decision is to be challenged, the ground for the challenge as described below, the required statements and any additional evidence.
- h) In the event that a player challenges a determination by the Judiciary the player is required to stand down until the challenge is heard. This also applies to a challenge on the basis of mistaken identity where the required documentation is not provided in sufficient time to be reviewed by the Judiciary before the one mandatory match suspension occurs.
- i) In all circumstances the Judiciary will issue such notices no less than 48 hours before any hearing.
- j) A Judiciary decision can only be challenged on the grounds of mistaken identity or exceptional circumstances or severity of sentence. The Judiciary may prescribe from time to time the form that written statements are required to be submitted for a challenge.
  - i. Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off or Citation Report

If a Player claims that they were mistakenly identified in a Match Official Send-off or Citation Report, they (or the Player's Club) must notify the

Disciplinary Committee by submitting the following:

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

AND

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

OR

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

AND

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

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

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

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

ii. Challenging a Notice of Suspension - Exceptional Circumstances

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

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

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

The following may constitute exceptional circumstances:

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

The following do not constitute exceptional circumstances:

- The significance or importance to the Player or his or her Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed;

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

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

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

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

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

OPTION 1: video or photo evidence; AND/OR

OPTION 2: signed written statements by other Members.

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

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

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

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

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

### iii) Challenging a Notice of Suspension – Obvious Error

If a player/official receives a suspension of four (4) weeks or greater he/she may submit a Challenge to the Notice of Suspension to the Disciplinary Committee if he/she feels there has been an obvious error.

If a player/official wishes to lodge a challenge to a suspension under this section, the player/official must notify the MWFA by submitting the following:-

- COMPULSORY. A signed written statement by the player/official (or their club) setting out the grounds upon which they rely. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in challenge not being considered by the Disciplinary Committee.
- Optional – signed written statements/s from relevant witnesses.

The challenge must be received on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) working day after the issuing of the Notice of suspension by the MWFA.

Players/officials should note that the time limit set out above is strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the MWFA in its absolute discretion).

If a player/official fails to comply with the requirements prescribed under this section, by the time specified therein, the player/official is deemed to have accepted the Suspension and waived their right to challenge the Suspension under this section.

The Disciplinary Committee will have absolute discretion as to whether it considers the challenge based on the information contained in the statements submitted by the player/official.

In dealing with a challenge under this section, the Disciplinary Committee will have no power to remove a Red Card, a Mandatory Match Suspension or reduce a Minimum Suspension but may:-

- Make a finding that the offence has not been proven, in which case it may remove any additional suspension that may have been imposed; or
- Make a finding that the Offence has been proven, in which case the Disciplinary Committee may, in its discretion, increase the additional suspension or decrease the additional suspension (but not below the applicable minimum suspension); or
- Make a finding that the player/official is guilty of a different offence, or the same offence but at a different grading, in which case the applicable minimum suspension (at least) must be applied and, if the Disciplinary Committee, in its absolute discretion, see fit, it may impose any additional suspension.

If the Disciplinary Committee considers that:

- A challenge pursuant to this section had no prospects of success and amounted to an abuse of the process; and/or
- A player/official/club submitted to the Disciplinary Committee, evidence of any kind, written statement or submission that the player/official or club knew or ought reasonable to have suspected to be untrue (wholly or in part) or that was intended to deliberately mislead the Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee may refer the matter to the MWFA Ltd Board which may investigate the matter and take any relevant action.

- k) Players may inform the MWFA in writing, no later than twenty four (24) hours prior to the hearing, that they consent to the matter being heard ex-parte and submit written evidence in support of their defence or in mitigation of penalty.
- l) Persons summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee shall be suspended until such time that they appear. It is at the discretion of the Committee if those fixtures occurring before the person appears, count towards any suspension resulting from the appearance.

- m) The following persons are eligible to attend the Disciplinary Committee for the hearing of a case: -
- The Player
  - The Player's Coach and/or Manager
  - One Club Official
  - Player's parent if the player is under the age of 18 years
  - Witnesses necessary to the case at the discretion of the Chairman.

Character witnesses are permitted, but the number of such witnesses and the weight given to this evidence is at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee. Character witnesses may only appear in a challenge to support Exceptional Circumstances. General evidence of good character not specifically related to the Exceptional Circumstances is not admissible in a challenge. The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson has the right to call a halt to repetition or duplication of evidence.

The Disciplinary Committee has the right to rule on the relevance of evidence to the case at hand.

- n) Additionally, the Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to call such persons as it deems necessary to appear to properly hear the case. Section C12 B "Offences by players and team officials against match officials" the Disciplinary Committee shall also have the discretion to call the referee concerned together with a member of the MWFRA EC to attend the hearing. The referee and MWFRA EC member may be present during the proceedings and may question the player.
- o) In cases of emergency the Disciplinary Committee shall meet at short notice to hear cases of players sent off in mid-week fixtures. In such cases players and Referees shall receive 48 hours notice to be in attendance.

#### **1D Players failing to Appear at Disciplinary Committee**

- a) Players failing to appear before the Disciplinary Committee when requested to do so will be considered suspended from playing until such time as their matter is dealt with by the Committee.
- b) Players sent from the field and who do not attend the Disciplinary Committee as required, will receive notice from the MWFA to attend a further Committee Meeting. Such players are suspended from taking part in any Fixtures in the meantime or until such time that the sentence has been served as specified. If such a player fails to attend this rescheduled meeting, the matter will be dealt with in their absence.

#### **1E Players dismissed from the Field of Play**

- a) A player who has been sent from the field will not participate in another match on the same day. The MWFA may determine the player's suspension starts immediately and notify the Club as soon as practicable.
- b) Unless determined by the MWFA, any suspension does not commence until the Club has been notified by the MWFA. Once such notification has been received by the Club the player is suspended until they have served the suspension imposed by the Disciplinary Committee or appeared before the Disciplinary Committee to challenge the suspension.

## 1F Suspended Players, Trial Matches & Playing While Suspended

### a) Trial Matches:

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

### b) Playing While Suspended:

- (i) A player under suspension within the MWFA or any other body affiliated with the FFA who registers for an MWFA competition and/or plays in any MWFA sanctioned Matches will be cited to appear before the Disciplinary Committee an additional suspension, fine and/or sanction may be imposed as determined by the Committee
- (ii) Any Club or team that allows a suspended player to play will be cited to appear before the Disciplinary Committee

## 1G Match Cautions

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

- Y1** The player is guilty of unsporting behaviour
- Y2** The player shows dissent by word or action
- Y3** The player persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- Y4** The player delays the restart of play
- Y5** The player fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- Y6** The player enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
- Y7** The player deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

### b) An official booking (or caution) is administered by the Referee recording a player's name and number and the offence committed on MWFRA Referees Report form at the conclusion of the match.

There shall be no appeal against the receiving of a caution from the Referee except on grounds of mistaken identity. The appeal must be lodged with the Judiciary within 2 weeks of the caution being issued. Such determination will be resolved solely by the Judiciary on the production of evidence supporting the mistaken identity which shall also identify the correct player. In these cases where successfully proven, the original perpetrator will be have the caution recorded against their name.

### c) After an individual player has received four (4) official cautions, the player shall serve a one (1) fixture suspension and the player's team shall be penalised one (1) disciplinary point. There shall be no appeal against a one (1) fixture suspension after receiving four (4) official cautions.

### d) "Any player who accumulates a further two (2) official cautions, making a total of six (6) shall be suspended for a further two (2) fixtures and the player's team shall be penalised be penalised two (2) disciplinary points."

### e) "Any player who accumulates a further two (2) official cautions making a total of eight (8) shall be suspended for a further three (3) fixtures and the player's team shall be penalised three (3) disciplinary points. The player shall also be



called to appear before the Disciplinary Committee who may apply a further penalty, bond, fine or suspension.”

- f) “Any player who accumulates more than eight (8) cautions in any one season shall be called to appear before the Disciplinary Committee , who may apply further penalty, bond, fine, suspension or team disciplinary points for each official caution given to the player thereafter.
- g) Cautions shall not carry over from season to season. The termination of a season shall be at the conclusion of the Matches used to determine the major premiership. Accumulated yellow cards will not be carried into any finals or round robin series.
- h) The suspensions in (c), (d) and (e) do not commence until the Club receives notification from the Disciplinary Committee Secretary. There are no restrictions on playing in fixtures until this notification is received.
- i) Any player who is dismissed from the field upon being cautioned for a second yellow card offence, the initial yellow card during that Match shall not be taken into account for the purpose of the accumulation of cautions for the application of suspension. If during a match a player receives a caution and then commits a sendoff offence apart from R7 then the caution will be recorded and accumulation of cautions for the application of suspension .

#### **1.H Findings of the Disciplinary Committee (Judiciary)**

- a) Disciplinary Committee Hearings shall not be bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to proceedings in a court of law. The findings shall be made on the balance of probabilities.
- b) The Disciplinary Committee has the power to:
  - i. Consider the reports of Referees, assistant referees and others.
  - ii. Decide if the offence is proved.
  - iii. Determine and set whatever punishments or sanctions that it considers appropriate in accordance with the guidelines.
  - iv. Make such recommendations to the MWFA Board as may be appropriate in the determination of any matter
  - v. Refer a case to another duly constituted tribunal for consideration.
- c) The Disciplinary may not see or take into account any material which is not available to the accused unless there are exceptional circumstances. These circumstances must be explained to the accused.

#### **1.I Punishment**

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

- c) The Disciplinary Committee may recommend to the MWFA that a variation in Team Disciplinary Points be applied to Team(s) depending on the circumstances leading to a player or team official charged. In particular:
  - i. Where a player is charged to appear before the Disciplinary Committee as the result of an incident in which multiple players from either team were involved but only one charged.
  - ii. In cases of unidentified aggressors the Disciplinary Committee may impose additional Team Disciplinary points.
- d) In all cases where additional Team Disciplinary Points are applied beyond these guidelines notice will be given to the Club including the reasons for the variation.

#### **1.J Determining the Punishment**

- a) In determining the punishment the Disciplinary Committee has the right to consider:
  - i. The minimum recommended penalties as specified in C12
  - ii. The nature and severity of the infringement;
  - iii. The offender's past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;
  - iv. The culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless);
  - v. The age of the offender
  - vi. Any reasons prompting the offender to commit an infringement;
  - vii. Any exceptional circumstances;
- b) The Disciplinary Committee, in the determination process must impose a sentence between the minimum and maximum set in Section 1.K. Based on its consideration of the above the Judiciary may vary the proportion of the sentence which takes immediate effect, the balance being imposed as a suspended sentence as per Section 1.K. Such considerations will be minuted by the Disciplinary Committee.

## 1.K Penalties

The Disciplinary Committee shall impose penalties within the following guidelines:

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

Offence Code and Designation	Detailed Breakdown	Minimum Games	Maximum Games	Team Disciplinary Points
(a) <b>R1</b> Serious Foul Play	General Range	2	12	2
	Violent Tackle from behind that endangers the safety of an opponent	3	10	2
	Rugby Tackle	2	8	2
	Violent Charging	2	8	2
	Over the Ball Tackle	2	12	2
(b) <b>R2</b> Violent Conduct	General Range	2	12	2-5*
	Head Butting	5	24	5
	Punching / Fighting	2	8	2-5*
	Kicking	2	12	2
	Elbowing to the head	4	16	2
	Elbowing to the body	2	10	2

Offence Code and Designation	Detailed Breakdown	Minimum Games	Maximum Games	Team Disciplinary Points
(c) R3 Spitting	Spitting at an opponent or any other person	8	1 Year	5
(d) R4 Deny Goal Scoring Opportunity	Handball	1	4	1
(e) R5 Deny Goal Scoring Opportunity	Holding, tripping or impeding	1	6	1
(f) R6 Using Offensive or Insulting or Abusive Language and/or Gestures	Using offensive, intimidating, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	2	8	2
	Making offensive, intimidating, insulting or abusive gestures	4	20	2
	Indecent Actions	4	20	2
(g) R7 Second Caution	Second Caution in the same match.	1		1

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

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

#### SECTION 'B' - Offences by Participants against Match Officials

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

<b>Offence Code and Designation</b>	<b>Detailed Breakdown</b>	<b>Minimum Suspension</b>	<b>Maximum Suspension</b>	<b>Team Disciplinary Points</b>
(i) <b>R3</b> Spitting	Spitting	8	Life	10
(j) <b>R6</b>	Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against or about Match Officials	4	20	5

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

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

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

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

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

## **1.L Team Officials – Reporting & Mandatory Match Suspension**

- a) A Referee may take action against Team Officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner during a Match and may expel the Team Official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the technical area.
- b) In such instances the Referee must follow the same procedure as described in Section 1C. The Disciplinary Committee will also follow the same procedure for a Player who has been sent off in considering the Referee's Sendoff or Citation Report.
- c) Team Officials will be issued timed suspensions.
- d) A Team Official who has been expelled from the field of play or technical area by a referee must serve a mandatory one week suspension.
- e) Based on the severity of the offence the Disciplinary Committee will determine the nature of the suspension from football activity. The options may include:
  - i. Cannot carry out training, team selection or assisting the team/squad away from Matches in any capacity as a coach.
  - ii. Cannot coach at Matches from outside the technical area
  - iii. Cannot perform duties associated with coaching at the field such as taking warmup, communicating tactics to assistant coaches
  - iv. Cannot be present in the technical area during the Match
  - v. Cannot communicate with the team 30 minutes before the Match or 30 minutes after the Match
  - vi. Cannot be present at the ground during the course of a Match.
- f) Where the Disciplinary Committee determines suspension is from all football activity this will include all the options above.
- g) During the period of timed suspension the Team Official may not perform duties as specified by the Disciplinary Committee for any team, including teams in any FFA or FNSW competition or any competition in other FNSW Associations.
- h) Any Club, with whose team(s) the Team Official has duties, is responsible for the enforcement of any suspension. Any breach of the suspension will result in the team/squad losing 3 competition points and the Team Official will receive an additional 2 weeks suspension. Any further breach will be referred to the MWFA Board.

## **1.M Abandoned Matches, Cautions & Send Offs**

- a) A yellow card issued during an abandoned match will be annulled if that match is replayed, and upheld if that match is not replayed
- b) A red card issued during an abandoned match will be upheld, regardless of whether the match is replayed or not.

## **1.N Fines & Bonds**

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

## **1.O Persistent Offenders**

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

## **1.P Violence**

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

## **1.Q Unable to Determine Offence**

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

## **1.R Use of Evidence**

- a) Facts contained in match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.
- b) Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided.
- c) If there is any discrepancy in the reports from the various match officials and there are no means of resolving the different versions of the facts, the referee's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play.
- d) The admissibility and weight to be given to evidence including electronic, audio, visual material ie: video, DVD recordings in the proceedings shall be at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.
- e) Visual aids (video, films, etc) to support or question a referee's report regarding an offence punishable by expulsion can be used only to verify the player's identity.
  - i. Audio visual evidence is to be used solely as additional proof in disciplinary cases.
  - ii. Decisions of fact made by referees are final and not subject to appeal and shall not be modified on the basis of video recordings (e.g. offside, penalty, goals, etc.).
  - iii. Decisions should be based principally on the reports of the referee and assistant referees, as well as those of the MWFA referee inspector and other MWFA officials. The Disciplinary Committee may require the referee to clarify the report either in writing or by appearance at an adjourned meeting.
  - iv. Video recordings shall not be used as a means of restricting the authority and decisionary power of the referee, but only as the most accurate way of investigating the truth when disciplinary action is required. Such film evidence may also be referred to, if further sanctions are to be imposed on the guilty player.

### **1.S Appeals Against the Final Disciplinary Committee (Judiciary) Determination**

- a) All appeals against the final determination of the Disciplinary Committee are to be made to the Appeals Committee.
- b) A party affected by any determination of the Disciplinary Committee has the right to appeal against part or all of the final determination.
- c) Such Appeals must be lodged within seven (7) days of receiving a written determination of the decision or finding being notified to the appellant.
- d) An Appeal may only be made on one or more of the following grounds:
  - i. Failure to afford procedural fairness
  - ii. Lack of jurisdiction
  - iii. Insufficient evidence (on which the Disciplinary Committee made a final determination)
  - iv. Incorrect interpretation of the By-Laws or appropriate Association rules.
  - v. Severity of sentence
- e) The lodged submission must state all of the grounds to be used in the Appeal. Additional grounds cannot be raised at the appeal hearing if they have not been nominated in the lodged submission.
- f) Where a player can challenge the final Disciplinary Committee determination based on the grounds in Section IC. An Appeal cannot be lodged until the Disciplinary Committee has heard the challenge.  
An appeal fee of \$150 is to accompany any appeal.
- g) No appeal shall fail solely on the ground that it was not lodged on time if the Appeals Committee is satisfied that there is a reasonable explanation for the delay or that the delay is not the fault of the complainant or appellant.
- h) All appeals against a final determination of the Disciplinary Committee must be lodged within the current football season.  
Where this is not practical due to time constraints then a one month limit will apply. Appeals will not be accepted for decisions handed down in a previous football season

### **1.T Application of Fixture Versus Time Suspensions**

- a) Any suspensions which cannot be served in the current football year due to the number of fixtures remaining being less than those in the suspension shall be carried over to the next football year.
- b) In this case the Disciplinary Committee shall nominate a date after which the player's suspension is completed. In this case the number of fixtures relating to the offence shall be determined and then extend the length of the suspension by the period from the start of the next season to coincide with the number of remaining fixtures after the end of the current season.
- c) A player does not have to be registered before the finish date of the suspension to be deemed to have completed the suspension.
- d) If the suspended player's team participates in a competition as defined in Section 1F before the start of the normal season and the player is registered in the team for that competition, the date of completion of suspension will be adjusted to take this into account.



### **1.U No Legal Representation**

No legal representation is permitted at Disciplinary Committee Hearing. This does not prevent a person with legal qualifications from appearing before the tribunal in a role specified Section IC.

### **1.V Suspended Sentence**

The Disciplinary Committee may order that part of a suspension:

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

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

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

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

### **1.W FNSW Competitions**

- a) All cautions and sendoffs in competitions run by the Football NSW Ltd will be noted against the player's MWFA record and will be served in the next Fixture(s) their team is drawn to play and for which they would otherwise have been eligible to play in State or local competition matches.
- b) Any suspension on a player by an affiliate of FNSW or FFA is also a suspension from football activities of any and all other FNSW or FFA affiliates. This is unless a specific ruling to the contrary is included in the determination of the authority who has applied the suspension at the time the suspension is announced.

### **1.X Suspension Playing Restrictions**

- a) Whilst under suspension, a player shall not take part in any Match, whether or not the Match counts towards the accumulation of the sentence. A Dual Registered player may not play in Fixtures in either competition whilst suspended. The term Fixture applies to the entire day on which the required Fixture is played. Where a player is a registered as a member of a squad (such as Premier League) a Fixture is counted as the First and Reserve Fixtures of that round.
- b) The Disciplinary Committee also has the jurisdiction to extend the suspension to MWFA Masters Soccer. The notice of suspension will indicate if there are additional restrictions on the player during the suspension.
- c) If only one grade of a squad reaches the semi-finals or finals these Matches do not count towards the suspension of a player from that squad. If both grades

reach the semi-finals or finals the suspension is reduced by the number of Matches completed by both the first and reserve grades.

### **1.Y Unidentified Aggressors**

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

### **1.Z Behaviour in Judiciary Hearings**

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

### **1.AA Player or Official Cited by MWFA or Referee**

- a) The MWFA may cite a player or official to appear before the Disciplinary Committee in relation to a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention. In this case the MWFA will provide a report to the Committee outlining the offence. The MWFA will send notice to the Club based on this report. The Disciplinary Committee Notice must provide:
  - i. Reasonable detail of the alleged Offence;
  - ii. Notice of possible sanctions; and
  - iii. Date, time and place of the disciplinary hearing.
- b) The report and any other evidence to be used by the Disciplinary Committee must also be provided to the accused.
- c) In addition to a match official being able to sendoff or cite a player or official under the same categories as Section 1C during the course of the Match or at other breaks including half time, a match official may sendoff or cite a Participant under these categories:
  - i. Before the start of the Match
  - ii. After the completion of a Match while the player or official are in the vicinity of the ground.
- d) Such a citation shall be lodged on a Match Official Sendoff or Citation Report form and submitted in the usual way to the MWFA.

### **1.AB Services of Notices to Club**

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

### **1.AC Time Limits on Incident Reports**

An incident report (including any Sendoff or Citation Report) must be submitted within 48 hours of the incident. If submitted after this time, the report can only be considered by the Judiciary if it has first been endorsed by the MWFA

### **1.AD Principles of Natural Justice**

- a) All hearings must be conducted in accordance with the principle of natural justice including that the offender has had:

- i. Reasonable and sufficient detail of the alleged infringement.
  - ii. The opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of the infringement and sanction; An opportunity to view the evidence to be used to decide the case.
- b) **In the case of a challenge**  
The offender must hear all evidence on which the Disciplinary Committee makes its determination. During the time evidence is given the only persons present in the hearing are the offender alone or if the offender is under 18 years of age the offender and also one other adult.
- c) Any witness that a party intends to call to give evidence in a hearing must remain outside the hearing room until called to give evidence.

#### **1.AE Notice of Decision**

- a) Within the guidelines of these rules, the notice of decision must be specific as to what the accused is suspended from, including coaching, refereeing, FUTSAL etc. Where there no specific statement of the restrictions, any suspension shall be seen as suspension from all football activities.
- b) The notice must state either the number of fixtures or a period of time of any suspension.
- c) Where applicable the notice must state the procedure for appeal of the decision and the time limits for submission of any appeal.

#### **1.AF Power to Adjourn Proceedings**

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

- i. To call for new evidence
- ii. To call for clarification of a report
- iii. To call for clarification of the charges being brought
- iv. To refer the consideration of the case to the MWFA Board for consideration.

#### **1.AG MWFA Team Disciplinary Points**

- a) For each team in the MWFA disciplinary points will be applied for offences by players, team officials and spectators and accumulated over the season.
- b) Nominated Offences carry a number of demerit points which are accumulated to the team. The MWFA will provide a list of all offences and penalties each season.
- c) As the team accumulates points over the season sanctions are applied against the team according to the number of disciplinary points accumulated.
  - **Stage 1 – First Warning**  
When a team accumulates a given number of disciplinary points the team is given a warning including what may constitute further action.
  - **Stage 2 – Loss of Match Points**  
When a team accumulates a further number of disciplinary points the team loses three competition points and, at the discretion of the MWFA, may also be required to forfeit their next Fixture.

- **Stage 3 – Team Withdrawal**

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

- d) The table below shows accumulated disciplinary point limits for reaching these three stages.

<b>Accumulated Team Points</b>	<b>First Warning</b>	<b>Loss of Three Match Points</b>	<b>Team Withdrawal</b>
All Open Competitions run as squads	18	26	36
WO30/35/W40/45 teams	9	13	18
U/16-AL single teams	9	13	18
U10-U15	9	13	18
U6-U9	5	8	11

- e) If the MWFA Board is convinced that corrective actions taken by a team, which has accumulated the maximum number of disciplinary points, will result in a significant improvement in team discipline the MWFA Board may allow the team to continue to play but assign a new number of disciplinary points. (An example is that a team may remove a player with a persistent discipline problem etc).
- f) Notwithstanding any previously listed penalties the Disciplinary Committee or MWFA Board may determine that disciplinary points will be applied to team(s) that are involved in on-field melees or post match fights between players, officials or spectators.
- g) If a Club has a significant number of teams that accumulate significant numbers of disciplinary points the MWFA Board may cite the Club, if, in its opinion, the Club is not performing its role of applying discipline to teams.
- h) This clause does not supersede other rules in which the penalty may be the withdrawal of a team.
- i) The team disciplinary points to be applied for offences under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee are listed in Section 1K Penalties.

- j) The table below lists other offences which attract disciplinary points not covered above:

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

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

- k) The MWFA Board can impose additional Team Disciplinary Ppoints at its discretion, including recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee , based on its own findings. In these circumstances the Club will be notified of the additional penalty and the reasons for imposing such a penalty on the team.
- l) Notification of the imposition of Team Disciplinary Points shall be made in writing to the offending Club within fourteen (14) days of either the alleged offence occurring or of the MWFA becoming aware of an offence. Notification will include the time, place and all relevant details of the offence. Clubs wishing to appeal against any such penalty imposed in line with the imposition of Team Disciplinary Points, shall do so through the Appeals Committee using the procedures outlined in the MWFA By Laws
- m) The MWFA may, at its discretion:
- Carry over part or all of a team’s disciplinary points from the previous season.
  - Impose disciplinary points on teams whose members are from a different team who has accumulated disciplinary points.

## **SECTION 2 – GENERAL PURPOSES**

### **2A Procedures & Powers**

- a) On receipt of a Citation or Incident Report which relates to a matter that does not involve a participant or official the MWFA CEO will assess the documentation and make a decision if it should be referred to the MWFA Board or the Disciplinary Committee (General Purposes ) or dealt with by way of a letter from the MWFA..
- b) The Disciplinary Committee (GP) shall have the power to call such persons, and request statements in regard to a citation or incident before the Committee
- c) The Disciplinary Secretary shall advise all members and parties involved in the hearing, the venue, date and time at which the hearing shall be held.
- d) The MWFA shall send a copy of documentation relating to the citation or incident before the Disciplinary Committee (GP), to all members and parties who are required to attend the Hearing. This documentation must be provided a minimum of 4 business days prior to the hearing.
- e) The Disciplinary Secretary shall provide a full written report of each hearing to the MWFA, who shall notify all parties of the outcome of the hearing.

### **2B Legal Representation Procedures**

- a) The Association must be advised in writing 48 hours prior to the Hearing that the parties appearing before the Disciplinary Committee requests to have legal representation in attendance when their case is heard. The Committee shall, at the request of the Association, adjourn the Hearing.
- b) In any case where legal representation will be in attendance, the Association requires that a non-refundable fee of \$500 be lodged and be paid in advance to the Association. This fee must be paid prior to the case commencing where the person seeks to have legal representation.
- c) The fee covers the additional cost to the Association in relation to increased administration costs and/or the Association's own legal costs. This fee will be reviewed annually by the MWFA Board .
- d) In the case where legal representation has been requested and the required fee has been paid, the Association reserves the right to obtain its own legal representation for the Hearing.

### **2C Appeals Against A Decision**

- a) All appeals against a determination of the Disciplinary Committee (GP) are to be made to the MWFA Appeals Committee.
- b) A party affected by any determination of the Disciplinary Committee (GP) has the right to appeal against part or all of the determinations
- c) Such appeals must be lodged within seven (7) days of receiving a written determination of the decision or finding being notified to the appellants.

- d) The lodged submission must state all of the grounds to be used in the Appeal. Additional grounds cannot be raised at the appeal hearing if they have not been nominated in the lodged submission.
- e) An appeal fee of \$150.00 is to accompany any appeal.
- f) No Appeal shall fail solely on the grounds that it was not lodged on time if the Appeal Committee is satisfied that there is a reasonable explanation for the delay or that the delay is not the fault of the appellant.
- g) Refer to the MWFA Rules – Appendix B Appeals Committee for the Procedures & Powers of the Appeals Committee.

## **SECTION 3 PROTESTS & DISPUTES**

### **3A Procedures & Powers**

- a) The MWFA shall receive and record all protests or disputes submitted to the MWFA and send a copy of the protest or dispute, including all particulars thereof, to the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson and any member protested against.
- b) The member protested against shall have seven (7) days to respond to the protest, after this time the matter will be dealt with on the available evidence.
- c) The Disciplinary Committee shall investigate and resolve protests or disputes through consultation with the parties involved and/or through its interpretation of any MWFA rules in force from time to time.
- d) Where the correct procedures for the protest of player eligibility or match result are not completed, but the MWFA determines there may have been a breach of the MWFA Rules, the MWFA may request that the Disciplinary Committee investigate the breach and make recommendations on the course of action to be taken, including penalties.

Appeals against an MWFA decision on a breach of the MWFA Rules made on the basis of a Disciplinary Committee recommendation may be heard by the MWFA Appeals Committee.

- e) Should circumstances dictate and at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee, a hearing may be convened to adjudicate a protest or dispute. The MWFA shall advise all members involved in the protest or dispute of the venue, date and time at which a protest or dispute hearing shall be held.
- f) The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to call such persons or statements as it deems required and shall have the power to impose such penalties it considers appropriate to each case it investigates.
- g) If required, a member shall provide any such reasonable information as requested by the Disciplinary Committee, either at a hearing or within 7 days if the request is made in writing.
- h) Where appropriate, a representative of the M.W.F.R.A. may either give advice on the Laws of the Game to the Disciplinary Committee or attend a hearing in order to give such advice.

- i) A full report of each investigation and/or hearing, together with the Disciplinary Committee findings, shall be submitted in writing to the MWFA, the decision recorded and then forward copies to each of the parties and if requested to the M.W.F.R.A.
- j) At the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee, a bond of fifty dollars (\$50.00) may be required before the hearing of any protest or dispute. This bond may be refunded at the discretion of the Committee.
- k) No Legal Representation is permitted in the Disciplinary Committee (P&D) proceedings.
- l) A true record and permanent register of any hearing attendances, as well as any decisions shall be documented by the Disciplinary Committee (P&D) Secretary and supplied to the MWFA CEO.
- m) All protests or disputes should be actioned within 14 days of receipt with a view to finalisation within 14 days thereafter. However, where the result of any protest or dispute is required to facilitate the continuation of a competition (eg. before finals Matches), the Disciplinary Committee (P&D) may be required to adjudicate in an emergency hearing.

### **3B Protest on a Match Results**

- a) To protest the result of a match, the manager is required to tick the Disputed section in DMS. A reason for this dispute will need to be entered. No protest on a match result will be investigated if the Match Sheet / DMS system has not been fully entered.
- b) Where a protest on the result of a match is made on the basis of an error at Law (i.e. where an error pertaining to the Laws of the Game, as applied by a referee, is alleged to have been made, including local variations to the rules), full particulars must be provided stating how the error at Law substantially and irrevocably altered the result of the match.
- c) For all protests on the result of a match due to an error at Law, the Committee shall request the M.W.F.R.A. to investigate and, where appropriate, provide advice on the alleged error.
- d) The Committee shall not require any bond if the sole basis of the protest is an error at Law.

### **3C Protest on the Eligibility of a Player**

- a) To protest the eligibility of a player, the manager is required to tick the Disputed section in DMS. A reason for this dispute will need to be entered. No protest on the eligibility of a player will be investigated if the Match Sheet / DMS system has not been fully entered.
- b) The Disciplinary Committee shall adjudicate on the eligibility of any player who is the subject of a protest as per the MWFA Playing Rules.

### **3D Appeals Against A Decision**

- a) All appeals against a determination of the Disciplinary Committee (P&D) are to be made to the MWFA Appeals Committee.



- b) A party affected by any determination of the Disciplinary Committee (P&D) has the right to appeal against part or all of the determinations
- c) Such appeals must be lodged within seven (7) days of receiving a written determination of the decision or finding being notified to the appellant.
- d) The lodged submission must state all of the grounds to be used in the Appeal. Additional grounds cannot be raised at the appeal hearing if they have not been nominated in the lodged submission.
- e) An appeal fee of \$150.00 is to accompany any appeal.
- f) No Appeal shall fail solely on the grounds that it was not lodged on time if the Appeal Committee is satisfied that there is a reasonable explanation for the delay or that the delay is not the fault of the appellant.
- g) Refer to the MWFA Rules – Appendix B Appeals Committee for the Procedures & Powers of the Appeals Committee.

# APPENDIX B

## APPEALS COMMITTEE

No Club representative shall take part in any discussion or voting, where a determination or investigation of a report relating to their Club is being dealt with by the Committee,

### B1 Committee Procedures & Powers

- a) Notwithstanding anything contained herein any person who is the subject of a decision made by the MWFA, Disciplinary Committee, Registration & Grading Committee must adopt the following procedure for appeal of this decision:
  - i. The person must inform in the MWFA writing of the intention to appeal.
  - ii. The person must appeal to Football NSW following the procedures outlined FNSW Disciplinary Regulations.
  - iii. A copy of the appeal must be supplied to the MWFA and the Club.
- b) The MWFA shall advise all members involved in an Appeal the venue, date and time at which the Appeal shall be held.
- c) The MWFA shall send a copy of any Appeal and particulars thereof to any member likely to be affected by the Appeal.
- d) The committee shall have the power to call such persons, statements and the committee shall have the power to uphold, overturn or to impose such additional penalties it considers appropriate to each case it hears.
- e) The committee will require a record of previous charges against any Judiciary appellant.
- f) Where appropriate, a representative of the M.W.F.R.A. may either attend or give advice on the Laws of the Game to the committee hearing.
- g) A representative of the MWFA or the Committee whose decision is being appealed against may be called to attend the committee's hearing.
- h) A full report of each hearing shall be submitted in writing to the MWFA, who shall forward copies to the appellant and, where necessary to the M.W.F.R.A. Inc
- i) Every Appeal must be accompanied by a bond of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00), refundable at the discretion of the Appeals Committee.
- j) Should an appeal hearing not be commenced before a player has served the third week of his suspension, then the player will be allowed to play until such times that the appeal hearing has commenced. The committee may, at its discretion, and after an Appeal against a Disciplinary Committee decision has commenced, schedule further hearings as it is deemed necessary to ensure it collects all available evidence before arriving at a decision. Should this circumstance occur, the committee may, at its discretion, allow the appellant to continue playing until such time as the Appeal is concluded.

## **B2 Legal Representation Procedures**

- a) The Association must be advised in writing 48 hours prior to the Hearing that the person appearing before the A.C. requests to have legal representation in attendance when their case is heard. The A.C. shall, at the request of the Association, adjourn the Hearing for 1 week (or agreed shorter time) in the event of failure to give the required 48 hours notice in writing. The player shall remain suspended until the adjourned Hearing.
- b) In any case where legal representation will be in attendance, the Association requires that a non-refundable fee of \$500 be lodged and be paid in advance to the Association. This Bond must be paid prior to the case commencing where the person seeks to have legal representation.
- c) The Bond covers the additional cost to the Association in relation to increased administration costs and/or the Association's own legal costs. This Bond will be reviewed annually by the MWFA Board.
- d) In the case where legal representation has been requested and the required Bond has been paid, the Association reserves the right to obtain its own legal representation for the Hearing.
- e) In addition to clause (d) above, if the Association is unable to obtain such equivalent legal representation for the Hearing, at the request of the Association, the hearing shall be adjourned for a maximum of 7 days. In these circumstances, for Disciplinary Committee matters the player shall remain suspended until the Hearing takes place.
- f) If the Association is unable to obtain legal representation within 7 days, the Association has no basis to further adjourn the matter in respect of legal representation. The Association has the right to only seek 1 adjournment of the Hearing in respect of it obtaining legal representation.

## **B3 Appeals Against A Decision.**

- a) An Appeal against a determination of the Appeals Committee are to be made to FNSW.
- b) Refer to FNSW Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations for the procedure to lodge an Appeal with FNSW.

## APPENDIX C - FINE SCHEDULE

Breach	MWFA Constitution Reference	Fine	Notes
<b>Special Rules for PL, AL/1 and Womens PL, WAL1</b>			
Prescribed area not roped off	D3 (j)	\$100	
<b>Match Sheet</b>			
Late submission of finalised match sheets to MWFA	D10 (g)	\$30/sheet up to a maximum of \$400 for a complete Club	
<b>Results</b>			
Late submission of results - no results for a Club	O (a)	\$100	Club can nominate to have individual team sanctioned as per F2
Late submission of results - no result for a team	O (a)	\$5/individual team	
<b>Start of Season Registrations</b>			
Team Nomination Forms submitted Late Initial Team Registrations Submitted Late Withdrawal of nominated team from MWFA competition after commencement of the Draw.  Withdrawal of a team in dispute of a grading decision	D2 (b)	\$50/team	A
	A2	\$20/team	
	D2 (c) D9(b)	Team Playing Fee for Season as a Mimimum Additional Fines as determined by MWFA	
	D2 (d)	Team Playing Fee for Season as a Mimimum Additional Fines as determined by MWFA Deregistering players MWFA component not refunded	
<b>Ground Dressing/Training</b>			
Teams training on Closed Grounds	Local Council requirement	\$100/team/incident	
Ground lines not clearly marked at start of play on a Competition day	D3(a)	\$50/ground/ playing day	
Technical Areas not marked on full sized fields	J4 (a)	\$50/ground/ playing day	
Nets and posts not delivered for teams to set up ground	D3 (b)	\$50/ground/playing day	
Inadequate equipment provided to set up ground	D3 (c) to (d)	\$50/ground/playing day	
<b>Club Annual Fees</b>			
Failure to pay fees by the required time		1%/month or part of month of outstanding amount	

Breach	MWFA Constitution Reference	Fine	Notes
<b>Match Forfeits</b>			
Failure to notify match forfeits before deadline	D11(b)	PL \$200/game Other Senior \$100/game Youth \$50/game Plus cost of referees fees if appointed	
<b>Breach Amateur Regulations</b>			
Club breaches Amateur Player Regulations	Section C	First Offence not less than \$5000 Second Offence \$10000	