



**EASTERN SUBURBS  
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**Developing football for everyone.**

## **SCHEDULE C – WINTER COMPETITION RULES**

(Regulation pursuant to clause 36 of the Constitution)

# Contents

1. Definitions
2. Competition management
3. Nominations, grading and competition structure
4. Registration and player eligibility
5. Fixtures, amendments and rescheduling
6. Referees
7. Ground preparation
8. Match Sheet, RTOs and Playing Teams
9. Playing rules
10. Discipline and misconduct
11. Results, Competition points and Forfeits
12. Re-grading Process
13. Final Series and Trophies
14. Men's Championship
15. ESFA Cup and Trophy
16. Failure to Comply

# 1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 In this regulation the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

**'Association'** means the Eastern Suburbs Football Association Incorporated.

**'Board'** means the board of directors comprising the persons elected in accordance with the ESFA Constitution.

**'Boys League'** means the competitions for boys who are between the ages of 12 and 21 years as organised and structured by the JFMC.

**'Championship Competition'** means the highest division of any competition organised by ESFA for a League.

**'Club'** means a club as described in the ESFA constitution.

**'Club Referee'** means a Referee appointed by a home Club, in accordance with Rule 6.1

**'Competitions Coordinator'** means an employee of ESFA or other person appointed by the Board to manage league competitions.

**'Eastern Suburbs'** means the area controlled by ESFA as directed and approved by FNSW.

**'ESFA'** means the Eastern Suburbs Football Association Incorporated.

**'Disciplinary Committee'** means the Disciplinary Committee as defined in the Disciplinary Procedure.

**'Disciplinary Procedure'** means the disciplinary procedure set out in Schedule D.

**'Expression of Interest form'** means the ESFA form entitled 'Expression of Interest in ESFA Competition Season' as approved by the Board from time to time.

**'FFA number'** means the unique 8-digit identification number issued to registered participants by FFA.

**'FIFA'** means Federation Internationale De Football Association (FIFA).

**'FMC'** means any one or all of the MMC, JFMC and SFMC.

**'FNSW'** means Football New South Wales, which is the governing body for football in New South Wales.

**'Girls League'** means the competitions for girls who are between the ages of 12 and 21 years as organised and structured by the JFMC.

**'JFMC'** means the Junior Football Management Committee, as defined in Schedule B – Councils and Committees.

**'Junior League'** means the Boys League and the Girls League.

**'Laws of the Game'** the Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA.

**'League'** means any of MiniRoos League, Boys League, Girls League, Mens League and Womens League.

**'League Council'** means the League Council referred to in Schedule B – Councils and Committees.

**'Match Sheet'** means the sheet carrying the details of the fixture, competing teams and participating players and officials as specified by ESFA from time to time as described in Rule 8.

**'Mens League'** means the competitions for men who are 19 years or over as organised and structured by the SFMC.

**'MiniRoos Coordinator'** means an employee of ESFA or other person appointed by the Board to manage MiniRoos competitions.

**'MiniRoos League'** means the competitions for players who are 11 years or younger as organised and structured by the MMC.

**'MMC'** means the MiniRoos Management Committee, as defined in Schedule B – Councils and Committees.

**'Official Fixture List'** means the ESFA notification of a competition draw as described in Rule 5.

**'Player Card'** means the plastic identification card produced by ESFA showing the player's name, registered team, and photo as referred to in Rule 8.3.

**'Player ID Sheet'** means the A4 paper sheet produced by ESFA showing the player's name, registered team, and photo as referred to in Rule 8.3.

**'Referee'** means a referee or assistant referee appointed in accordance with Rule 6.

**'Referees Fees'** means the fees payable to Referees as determined in accordance with Rule 6.

**'RTO'** means Registered Team Official being a manager or coach of a team who has been nominated by a Club and has been registered by ESFA.

**'Schedule of Penalties'** means the schedule of penalties set out in Schedule I.

**'Senior League'** means the Mens League and the Womens League.

**'SFMC'** means the Senior Football Management Committee, as defined in Schedule B – Councils and Committees.

**'Womens League'** means the competitions for women who are 19 years or over, as organised and structured by the SFMC.

## **1.2** In this regulation:

'competition' refers to all the matches between all the teams in a division.

'division' refers to a group of teams playing a competition within an age group (including the all age group).

'phase' refers to a MiniRoos draw for a part of a season.

'player' refers to a person who is nominated to play for a team by a Club.

'regular season' refers to all matches in a competition excluding the final series described in Rule 13 and cup competitions described in Rule 15.

'round' refers to a full cycle of fixtures where each team plays each other once. There may be one, two, three or four rounds as determined by the FMC.

'Schedule' refers to a regulation made in accordance with the constitution of ESFA.

'season' refers to the period in a calendar year in which competitions are played.

'team' or 'teams' refer to a group of players which has been formed by and is under the control of a Club.

## **2. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT**

### **2.1 COORDINATORS**

- (A) The day-to-day administration of the League competitions (except MiniRoos) shall be vested in the Competitions Coordinator who will be responsible to the General Manager of ESFA.
- (B) The day-to-day administration of the MiniRoos competitions shall be vested in the MiniRoos Coordinator who will be responsible to the General Manager of ESFA

### **2.2 FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES**

- (A) The operation of all MiniRoos, Junior and Senior Leagues shall be overseen by the MMC, JFMC and SFMC, respectively.
- (B) The FMC shall meet on a minimum of three occasions during the ESFA season.
- (C) The FMC shall have the authority to refer disciplinary matters and disputes to the Disciplinary Committee.
- (D) The FMC shall establish a season calendar which sets the following:
  - i) closing date for final nominations
  - ii) publishing date for proposed gradings of teams
  - iii) League Council meetings at which gradings and league structures will be discussed.
  - iv) release of final gradings.
  - v) final date for appeal of gradings

### **2.3 LEAGUE COUNCILS**

- (A) League Councils shall be created for each League and shall provide advice to the FMCs.
- (B) Each League Council shall meet on at least three occasions each season.

## **3. NOMINATIONS AND GRADING**

### **3.1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

- (A) Prior to the commencement of each League season ESFA will call for expressions of interest in the season and interested Clubs must complete the Expression of Interest form prescribed by ESFA and submit it by the time stipulated by ESFA.

### **3.2 CLUB OFFICIALS MUST SUBMIT TO JURISDICTION**

- (A) Clubs that wish to participate in a season must ensure that all of their directors, committee members, employees and volunteers (Officials) agree to be bound by the rules of ESFA including its Competition Rules and Disciplinary Procedure.
- (B) Officials of Clubs are also required to register via MyFootballClub.

### **3.3 NOMINATIONS**

- (A) Prior to the commencement of each League season the FMC shall call for nominations from Clubs from which satisfactory Expressions of Interest have been received for teams to compete in such age groups and divisions as it sees fit and shall also set the closing date for these nominations.
- (B) All nominations shall be made upon the official nomination form, which shall include:
  - i) age group and division for which the nomination is being submitted;
  - ii) the division in which the majority of the nominated team played in the previous season;
  - iii) where more than 2 teams are nominated in a division, the Club's internal ranking of the teams.
- (C) The FMC shall have the power to seek additional information regarding a team's

composition and previous history and this should be provided by Clubs at least 24 hours prior to the publishing date for proposed gradings.

- (D) Nominations received after the closing date will only be accepted at the discretion of the FMC and placed into Leagues as determined by the FMC.
- (E) The FMC shall have the power to amend final gradings at any point prior to the commencement of the season where a previously nominated team withdraws.

### **3.4 FIELD AVAILABILITY**

- (A) ESFA may limit the number of team nominations that it will accept from a Club if the Club indicates insufficient field availability to host half of the games expected to be played by the teams nominated.

### **3.5 COMPETITION STRUCTURES AND GRADING**

- (A) ESFA reserves the right to determine the appropriate League and division of each nomination, by taking into account the previous season's results, playing strength of the Club, opinions of the respective Councils and the formation of the division.
- (B) ESFA, on advice of FMCs, shall conduct competitions of various age groups and divisions of an appropriate number of teams.
- (C) The MMC will attempt to structure MiniRoos competitions as follows:
  - i) There shall be at least three (3) phases of fixtures published, running the length of the winter season totalling at least 15 games
  - ii) During each phase, results will be assessed and the team allocations determined for the following phase with the primary objective being to achieve ability matching for players and teams to play against other players and teams of similar standard.
- (D) The JFMC will attempt to structure Junior competitions as follows:
  - i) Six team competitions will play three (3) rounds totalling 15 games
  - ii) Eight team competitions will play two (2) rounds totalling 14 games
  - iii) Ten team competitions will play two (2) rounds totalling 18 games, or one full round and a split round totalling 15 games
- (E) The SFMC will attempt to structure Senior competitions as follows
  - i) Six team competitions will play three (3) rounds totalling 15 games, plus three (3) additional rounds to make 18 games total
  - ii) Eight team competitions will play two (2) rounds totalling 14 games, plus four (4) additional rounds to make 18 games total
  - iii) Ten team competitions will play two (2) rounds totalling 18 games, or one full round and a split round totalling 15 games
- (F) ESFA may at its discretion schedule additional games within a competition provided that all teams shall be scheduled to play the same number of games.
- (G) If a five, seven or nine team competition is created each round will have a bye.
- (H) ESFA may combine two divisions or age groups or choose to split a single division into multiple divisions at a later point in the season.

### **3.6 PLAYING SEASON**

- (A) ESFA will use its best endeavours to ensure that each team will play a minimum of 14 matches.
- (B) The Easter weekend and the middle weekend of both the April and July School holidays will not have any junior fixtures.

## **4. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **4.1 REGISTRATION AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- (A) A qualified or bona-fide player is one who is registered in accordance with these Competition Rules, using the procedures advised by ESFA.
- (B) Players in ESFA Leagues must be Amateur as defined in the FFA National Registration Regulations.
- (C) Registration can be effected through either:
  - i) the player self-registering via the MyFootballClub system and the Club accepting the player's registration, or;
  - ii) the player filling in a Registration of Amateur Player form (NRR03) and the club registering that player in MyFootballClub.
- (D) The registration of a player with a Club is effective from the date the individual is made active by the Club and allocated to a team within the MyFootballClub system.
- (E)
  - i) To be eligible to play in the first fixture of the season a player must have registered at least 14 clear days before the season commencement date.
  - ii) To be eligible to play in fixtures after the first fixture of the season a player must have registered at least 3 clear days before the day on which the player commences playing.
  - iii) All registrations must be lodged by no later than 5.00pm of the 30<sup>th</sup> June to be eligible for that season.
- (F) All new players in age denominated competitions must provide proof of age to their Club, that being a photocopy of birth certificate, passport or drivers licence and the Club shall make this available to the Association on request.
- (G) The eligibility of players shall be defined by ESFA from time to time
- (H) Every team must register a minimum of players equivalent to the maximum number of players permitted on the field at one time. Teams with less than this number of players will be asked to show cause as to why they should remain in the competition.
- (I) Players registered after the completion of round 1 will be invoiced following the closure of registrations on 30 June.
- (J) Players deregistered by close of business on the Monday after the start of the season shall have their ESFA registration fee refunded in full.
- (K) Players deregistered after the date in Rule 4.1(J) and less than 28 days after the start of the season shall be eligible for a 50% refund, to be applied in the invoice received after close of registrations at 30 June.
- (L) A player may never play in a team graded lower than that to which they are registered except when granted special exemption from this rule by the FMC.
- (M) No dual registration is allowed under any circumstances. Players are not allowed to register with more than 1 Club or more than 1 team within a Club, or with any club outside ESFA's boundaries. A player's first registration will be deemed valid.
- (N) Clubs are responsible for payment to ESFA of all of their player registration fees when invoiced by ESFA and ESFA shall pay any player registration fee refunds to their Clubs.
- (O) For under-age competitions, a Player's age group is the group corresponding to the age the Player turns in the year in which the Competition starts. For example, a player turning 12 at any time during 2017 is eligible for the U12 age grade in a Competition starting in March 2017.
- (P) For over-age competitions, all players must be at least the age specified for their competition by 1 January in the calendar year of the competition, so who is at least 35 before the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 is eligible for the O35 age grade in a Competition starting in March 2017.
- (Q) A Player should register and play in their age group but may play in other age groups in certain circumstances described in this Rule.

## **4.2 DEREGISTRATION**

- (A) A Player may deregister by applying to deregister via the MyFootballClub System, which

- will notify the Club and ESFA of the Player's intention to deregister
- (B) If a Club no longer wants a Player to play for the Club, that Club must apply to deregister that Player via the MyFootballClub system, which will notify the Player and ESFA of the Club's intention to deregister the Player
  - (C) Deregistration is effective from the earlier:
    - i) When the other party (i.e. Club or Player as the case may be) has confirmed the notification or cancellation; or
    - ii) Seven (7) days from the date the Player requested the deregistration via the MyFootballClub system, unless a grievance has been initiated with FNSW in accordance with FNSW Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations and the Player will not be deregistered until the processes promulgated by the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations have been exhausted or terminated
  - (D) Any disputes relating to Player deregistration will be settled in accordance with the FFA Grievance Resolution Guidelines and FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

#### **4.3 MINIROOS LEAGUE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- (A) MiniRoos Leagues players are not allowed to play up more than two (2) years above their age group (e.g.: a 9-year-old in the 11-year-old age group cannot play up in the 12-year-old age group) except by permission of the MMC.
- (B) Any request for registration for a player to compete in a MiniRoos League two or more years above their age must be accompanied by a Playing Above Age Consent Form and the player must be assessed by ESFA in keeping with FNSW Playing Above Age policy.
- (C) Players in MiniRoos Leagues are permitted to help other teams in the same or higher age groups without limit to the number of occasions.
- (D) Players in the U6, U7, U8, U9, U10 or U11 grades may be boys or girls but only female players are eligible to participate in the G8, G9, G10 or G11 grades.

#### **4.4 JUNIOR LEAGUE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- (A) Once Junior players have registered in an age group they are not allowed to play up more than two (2) years above their own age group (e.g.: a 13-year-old in the 14-year-old age group cannot play up in the 16-year-old age group) except by permission of the JFMC.
- (B) Any request for a player to register in a Junior League more than two years above their age must be accompanied by a Playing Above Age Consent Form and the player must be assessed by ESFA in accordance with the FNSW Playing Above Age policy.
- (C) Subject to Rule (A) above and to Rule 13.8 (Finals), players in the Boys Leagues are permitted to participate in higher age groups or grades, on three (3) occasions. If they play on a 4<sup>th</sup> occasion the Club must return the player's Player Card to the ESFA office for re-registration to the lowest of the higher age group or division played. Example;
  - i) Club F has teams in Division 1, 2 & 4.
  - ii) Player Y from Division 4 plays four games for his Club's Division 1 and 2 teams.
  - iii) The said player would be re-graded to Division 2.
- (D) Subject to Rule (A) above and to Rule 13.8 (Finals), players in the Girls League are permitted to participate in higher age groups or division, on four (4) occasions. If they play on a 5<sup>th</sup> occasion the Club must return the player's ESFA-issued player identification to the administration office for re-registration to the lowest age group or division played.
- (E) Players in the U12 grade may be boys or girls.
- (F) Only female players are eligible to participate in the Girls League.
- (G) Girls wishing to play in any Boys League over the age of 12 must apply in writing for individual approval of the JFMC, in accordance with the FNSW Girls in Mixed Competitions Guidelines.



- (H) A player may only play for one team in a division in one season. No exceptions may be granted for this rule which covers League and other competitions.
- (I) No more than 4 players from a lower age group or division may play in a team (including on the bench) during a game.

#### **4.5 SENIOR LEAGUE PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- (A) If a player plays in higher age group or division than the player is registered in the player may be liable to be regraded to a team in a higher division in the absolute discretion of the SFMC.
- (B) Any player that has played fewer than four games for their registered team may apply in writing to the SFMC to be regraded downwards.
- (C) A player regraded downwards will be ineligible to play up a grade on any further occasions during that season.
- (D) A player may only play for one team in a division in one season. No exceptions may be granted for this rule which covers League and other competitions. (e.g. where a Club has two teams in a division, a player from a lower division may not play up for both teams in the same season). The player shall be deemed ineligible for the second team that they play for.
- (E) A Mens Championship Player may never play down in an All Age Men, Over 35 or Over 45 Competition.
- (F) An Over 35 Competition is considered lower than the All Age Competition and the Over 45 lower than the Over 35 Competition.
- (G) All players must be seventeen (17) years of age or older to participate in a Senior League. Any registration for a player 16 years of age or younger to compete in a Senior League must be accompanied by a Playing Above Age Consent Form and the player must be assessed by ESFA in keeping with FNSW Playing Above Age policy.
- (H) Subject to Rule 13.8:
  - i) players registered for a Boys League team shall be eligible to play for any Mens League team on a maximum of three (3) occasions.
  - ii) players in the Mens League are permitted to participate in higher age groups or division on three (3) occasions.If they play on a fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) occasion the Club must return the player's Player Card to the ESFA office for re-registration to the lowest age group or division played on those four (4) occasions.
- (I) Subject to Rule 13.8:
  - i) players registered for a Girls League team shall be eligible to play for any Womens League team on a maximum of four (4) occasions.
  - ii) players in the Womens League are permitted to participate in higher age groups or division on four (4) occasions.If they play on a fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) occasion the Club must return the player's Player Card to the ESFA office for re-registration to the lowest age group or division played on those five (5) occasions.
- (J) A player registered in a Mens All Age Saturday or O35 Friday competition cannot play in the same or equivalent division in the Mens Sunday All Age or O35 Sunday competition respectively. A player registered in the Mens All Age Sunday or O35 Sunday competition cannot play in the same or equivalent division in the Mens Saturday All Age or O35 Friday competition. However, players may play in a higher division on different days, subject to Rule 4.5(H) above.
- (K) Subject to Rule 13.8, Over 45 players are permitted to play an unlimited number of matches in a higher division and remain registered in an Over 45 team, however, any player who plays more games for a higher division team than an Over 45 team may not play for the Over 45 team in finals fixtures.
- (L) In the Over 45 Mens competition each team may register up to 4 players aged 40-45.

Until they turn 45, these players will be subject to re-grading under Rule 4.5(H) above. A player re-graded under this rule may not be replaced by another player aged 40-45.

- (M) Only female players are eligible to participate in the Womens League.
- (N) A Women's All Age team can play a maximum of four (4) players registered in the Girls League in any one game.

## **5. FIXTURES AMENDMENTS AND RESCHEDULING**

### **5.1 FIXTURES**

- (A) ESFA will schedule all League fixtures to be played between Clubs and will notify Clubs of the schedule of fixtures in each season as soon as practicable. The schedule of fixtures shall hereafter be called the Official Fixture List.
- (B) All special requests for fixture dates must be submitted by the date specified in the season calendar. ESFA has the right to agree to any special request in whole or part or reject any request at its discretion and no further correspondence will be entered into.
- (C) At no time may Clubs organise and agree between themselves to change fixtures, unless ESFA is notified and approves.
- (D) A fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights, provided that:
  - i) Any alteration to starting times shall have been given due approval.
  - ii) The standard of lighting shall meet the requirements of the FMC.
- (E) ESFA reserves the right to alter or amend any fixture after it has been specified in the Official Fixture List. The alterations could be to the date, or venue or kick-off times, or a combination of all providing the Clubs involved are given seven (7) days prior notice. Clubs may agree to waive the seven (7) days' notice.
- (F) All games shall be played within the boundaries of ESFA unless otherwise agreed to by both participating Clubs.

### **5.2 MATCH COMMENCEMENT**

- (A) Matches shall commence at the appointed time, or in the event of a match whose commencement is dependent upon the completion of the previous match, within ten (10) minutes of the conclusion of the previous match.
- (B) Kick off times of all official matches shall be as determined by the Competitions Coordinator and shall be detailed in the Official Fixture List.
- (C) ESFA, in setting down kick off times, may start matches after 8:30am for any daytime fixture which may include Saturday, Sunday or any Public Holiday.

### **5.3 DEFERRED MATCHES AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATION**

- (A) Any Special Time Request, relating to specific fields and kick off times must be submitted with the team nominations referred to in Rule 3.1.
- (B) Junior Clubs have until a date specified in the ESFA season calendar to request rescheduling of matches scheduled for the first weekend of the July public school holidays. These rescheduled matches must be reorganised before the originally scheduled date and ESFA will be responsible for the new details.
- (C) For Junior Leagues; once a draw has been released, Clubs will have 14 days to advise ESFA if a team or entire Club cannot play assigned matches. A Game Amendment Request for Special Consideration form needs to be completed and submitted to the Competitions Coordinator. If the form is not completed and/or not submitted on time, the Club must either participate in the scheduled matches or forfeit the matches.
- (D) The FMC reserves the right to agree to a special request in whole or part or reject any requests at its discretion.
- (E) A request to defer a match during the season must be submitted to the ESFA Competitions Coordinator by midday (12pm) on the Monday prior to the scheduled match. The request will need to be submitted on the appropriate form

(<http://www.esfa.com.au/Library.aspx>). The Competitions Coordinator will have the authority to decide if the request is reasonable.

- (F) Teams involved in Football NSW or other events sanctioned by the FMC will be entitled to have their match deferred with prior approval of the Competitions Coordinator.

#### **5.4 DEFERRED MATCHES**

- (A) Where a match is deferred, the home Club secretary must within 7 days of the date of approval of the deferral propose an alternative date, time and venue agreed to by the opposition. If ESFA deems this to be appropriate, the match shall be scheduled.
- (B) If the home team fails to notify the Competition Coordinator or opposing Club secretary of a proposed date within the allowed 7 days, the away team has a further 7 days to propose a reschedule of the match.
- (C) If agreement cannot be reached within 14 days of the date of deferral, the ESFA Competitions Coordinator will take responsibility for rescheduling.
- (D) For Junior Leagues, a match may be played as a 'double game'. Each half of the match will be considered as an entire match and the points allocated accordingly.
- (E) At least 10 days' notice of a reschedule by the Competitions Coordinator will be provided to Clubs (except at the end of the season) and if a Club does not accept the reschedule they will be deemed to have forfeited the match.
- (F) Fixtures shall be played on the date and times as nominated in the Official Fixture List or as instructed by the Competitions Coordinator and these dates and times may include any weekday evening and any daytime or evening on Saturday, Sunday or Public Holidays.

## **6. REFEREES**

### **6.1 APPOINTMENT OF REFEREES**

- (A) ESFA Referees' Branch shall endeavour to appoint referees and assistant referees to all competitive fixtures within ESFA.
- (B) Payment for Referees shall be in accordance with a schedule advised by Football NSW and as amended by the Board from time to time.
- (C) Each Club shall be invoiced 50% of the fees paid to Referees by the Association for a match.
- (D) Where no Referee is appointed to a fixture, the home Club shall arrange an appropriate person to referee.
- (E) A player may not referee and subsequently play in the same fixture.

### **6.2 ARRIVAL TIMES AND PRESENTATION OF MATCH OFFICIALS**

- (A) The officiating Referee and assistant Referees shall present themselves at the centre of the field not later than five (5) minutes prior to the commencement of the match. Where this does not occur, Club officials shall report this occurrence to the ESFA office within 72 hours of the completion of the match.
- (B) Prior to the start of each match the Referee must ensure that RTOs from each team check the Player Cards of each opposing player.

### **6.3 ASSISTANT REFEREES**

- (A) Where possible there shall be two assistant Referees. If no officially appointed assistant Referees are available, and if asked by the Referee, each Club must appoint one person to act as an assistant Referee. If one assistant Referee only is present the home Club, if directed by the Referee, shall appoint a second person to act as an assistant Referee. Club assistants shall act strictly in accordance with the directions of the Referee.

### **6.4 NON-ARRIVAL OF REFEREES**

- (A) In the event of the non-arrival of an appointed Referee the most senior assistant Referee present shall referee the match unless the Referee is not qualified to referee that level of match.
- (B) The match must be played or the result will be recorded as a forfeit against the home Club
- (C) If the officially appointed Referee arrives after the match has commenced, the Club appointed Referee may elect to continue, or otherwise deem themselves unfit to continue and be replaced by the officially appointed Referee.
- (D) If no official Referee is present at the match, the home Club is responsible for returning the Match Sheet to the ESFA office by Tuesday 5pm.

## **6.5 CLUB APPOINTED REFEREE**

- (A) A Club Referee will have the full powers of the Referee in accordance with the Laws of the Game, including the ability to issue cautions and send-off players.
- (B) Should a Club Referee not have any cards available, the Referee should inform any player where they have been issued a yellow or red card as well as that player's team captain and RTO.
- (C) In the event of a send-off the Club appointed Referee is required to complete a send-off report (available on the ESFA web site) and submit it to the ESFA office by 5pm on the Tuesday following the match.
- (D) In the event of a Club Referee presiding over a game, barring extenuating circumstances, the same Referee must officiate the entire match.
- (E) A Club Referee may be paid for their services if they referee the match in uniform, and if they are a member of the ESFA Referees Branch.

## **7. GROUND PREPARATION**

### **7.1 DRESSING THE GROUND**

- (A) The home team (being the team listed first on the draw) must dress the field with:
  - i) two (2) nets,
  - ii) four (4) corner posts (minimum height 1.5m – 5ft above the ground) and
  - iii) sideline boundaries comprising either:
    - a) one (1) crowd control rope from penalty area to penalty area minimum on the side of the field where substitutes and spectators are expected to congregate, or;
    - b) markings on the field at least 2m from the sideline in front of
  - iv) a technical area which may only be entered by each team's Coach, RTO and substitutes listed on the team sheet, indicated by either:
    - a) permanent markings, where available, or;
    - b) an area marked with cones that extends no more than 5m either side of half-way
- (B) Referees should report any field which is not properly dressed on the Match Sheet.
- (C) Where any Club fails to properly dress the field or causes any delay to the commencement, or abandonment of any match due to the late dressing of the field, the Club shall be subject to a penalty under the Schedule of Penalties.

### **7.2 ASSESSMENT OF PLAYING SURFACE**

- (A) If a ground is closed by the ground owner for any reason including the state of the playing surface, matches scheduled to be played on the ground shall be deferred.
- (B) If a home Club or the Referee reasonably consider the playing surface of a ground to be unfit for play matches scheduled to be played on the ground shall be deferred.
- (C) Once a ground is closed on a particular date, it shall not be re-opened again on that day.

### **7.3 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY**

- (A) Any Club found guilty of causing damage to property at any ground shall be required to pay the total cost of repairing such damage or the total cost of replacement of such property and may receive further sanction in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure.

### **7.4 CLEANING UP/ COLLECTION OF RUBBISH**

- (A) Each Club must collect litter and leave grounds, spectator areas, dressing rooms, toilets and pavilions in a satisfactory condition or shall pay the cleaning costs as demanded by any competent authority. Offending Clubs shall also be liable for penalty under the Disciplinary Procedure.

## **8. RTOS, COACHES, MATCH SHEETS AND PLAYING TEAMS**

### **8.1 REGISTERED TEAM OFFICIALS (RTO)**

- (A) All Clubs must submit registrations for all RTOs
- (B) The registration of RTOs is effective if:
  - i) The RTO self-registers via the MyFootballClub System and the Club accepts the RTO's registration, and;
  - ii) The RTO has met the Working with Kids and Child Protection requirements as communicated by Football NSW
- (C) At any fixture both Clubs must have an RTO, who is readily identifiable by wearing an RTO card and vest who must report to the match Referees five (5) minutes prior to the kick off time of the match.
- (D) RTOs must be registered and have their name correctly entered on the Match Sheet.
- (E) In the absence of an official RTO:
  - i) For Senior League games, the team captain shall be designated as the RTO. In the event of any penalties against a non-registered RTO from the Disciplinary Committee, the offending Club shall incur an additional fine as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
  - ii) For Junior League games, in the absence of an official RTO, a parent or spectator aged over 18 must be selected and identified as the RTO
- (F) RTOs shall be responsible for:
  - i) Checking the opposition's Player Cards
  - ii) The safety of the Referee against the conduct of their team's players and supporters. The RTO should also assist the Referee and opposition RTO in managing the conduct of neutral and opposition supporters and players from both teams.
- (G) Referees shall report any Club which fails to identify an RTO as required by this Rule.
- (H) An RTO must not enter the field of play except:
  - i) as a player;
  - ii) in accordance with clause 8.1(F)i);
  - iii) if requested by the Referee; or
  - iv) if there is an immediate threat to the physical safety of the Referee.The Referee shall be responsible for controlling the conduct of players towards each other on the field of play in normal circumstances.

### **8.2 MATCH SHEETS AND PLAYING TEAM**

- (A) With the exception of MiniRoos matches, the RTO shall prepare a Match Sheet for each fixture listing each player participating in the match, their FFA number and shirt number. The Match Sheet shall be in a format issued by ESFA and must be delivered to

- the Referee prior to the start of the match.
- (B) Where there are equal to or less than 16 names listed on a Match Sheet for Junior League matches or equal to or less than 18 names listed on a Match Sheet for Senior League matches, each player named shall be deemed to be a participant in the match unless crossed out.
  - (C) Where there are more than the maximum permitted number of players listed on the Match Sheet, the RTO must cross out the names of players not participating in the match prior to match commencement.
  - (D) If there are more than the maximum permitted players listed on the Match Sheet after match commencement, the team shall be deemed to have used ineligible players.
  - (E) The RTO must add the name, shirt number, FFA number and registered team of any players registered in another team and playing up in the designated area on the Match Sheet.
  - (F) A player who will be participating in the game but who has not arrived or does not yet have a shirt number must be clearly marked on the Match Sheet prior to the commencement of play.
  - (G) Once play has commenced no further names may be added to the player list on the Match Sheet. A player not recorded on the Match Sheet at the start of play may not participate in the match.
  - (H) A player's shirt number and/or FFA number may be added to the Match Sheet at half-time, or when the player first enters the field of play, if this information was not available at the start of the game.

### **8.3 PLAYER CARDS**

- (A) With the exception of MiniRoos players, ESFA shall provide to each Club a Player Card for each player nominated listing the player's registered team, name and photo.
- (B) Where an individual player registered in a participating team is unable to provide a Player Card, that player shall be deemed ineligible and not permitted to take the field until the Player Card arrives.
- (C) Where an individual player registered to a lower team but eligible to participate in the match is unable to provide a Player Card or a Player ID Sheet, that player shall be deemed ineligible and not permitted to take the field until the Player Card or Player ID Sheet arrives.
- (D) If there is any doubt as to a player's identity or eligibility the RTO must mark this clearly on the Match Sheet and submit a written report to the ESFA Office within 48 hours.

## **9. PLAYING RULES**

### **9.1 NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND INTERCHANGE**

- (A) The following team sizes apply per age group:
  - i) MiniRoos Leagues:
    - a) Up to 7 age group – MiniRoos 4v4: 4 players on the field. 3 players may be included as interchange players, with no limit on the number of interchanges.
    - b) 8 to 9 age group – MiniRoos 7v7: 7 players on the field. 4 players may be included as interchange players, with no limit on the number of interchanges.
    - c) 10 to 11 age group – MiniRoos 9v9: 9 players on the field. 5 players may be included as interchange players, with no limit on the number of interchanges.
  - ii) Junior Leagues age 12: 9 players on the field. 5 players may be included as interchange players, with no limit on the number of interchanges.
  - iii) Junior Leagues age 13 and above: 11 Players on the field. 5 players may be



- included as interchange players, with no limit on the number of interchanges.
- iv) Senior Leagues: 11 players on the field, 7 players may be included as interchange players, with no limit on the number of interchanges. This rule does not apply to Mens Championship.
  - v) Mens Championship: 11 players on the field, 6 substitutes including a goalkeeper may be named, but only 5 substitutions are permitted.
- (B) An interchange or substitution is only permitted from the half way line, when the ball is out of play and when the Referee has indicated that a change can be made.

## **9.2 MATCH BALLS**

- (A) MiniRoos Leagues
  - i) Up to 9 age groups play with a size 3 ball, and;
  - ii) 10 to 11 age groups play with a size 4 ball.
- (B) Junior Leagues
  - i) 12 and 13 age groups play with a size 4 ball, and;
  - ii) 14 age group and above play with a size 5 ball.
- (C) Senior Leagues play with a size 5 ball.
- (D) All match ball dimensions and pressure are in accordance with FIFA Laws of the game.

## **9.3 DURATION OF FIXTURES**

- (A) The duration of matches shall be as follows
  - i) Up to 7 age group, two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes and half time break of 5 minutes
  - ii) 8 and 9 age group, two (2) equal periods of twenty (20) minutes and half time break of 5 minutes
  - iii) 10 , 11 and 12 age group, two (2) equal periods of twenty-five (25) minutes and half time break of 5 minutes
  - iv) 13 and 14 age group, two (2) equal periods of thirty (30) minutes and half time break of 5 minutes
  - v) 15 and 16 age group, two (2) equal periods of thirty-five (35) minutes and half time break of 5 minutes
  - vi) 17 age group and above, two (2) equal periods of forty-five (45) minutes and half time break of 10 minutes
- (B) Any match that is abandoned after reaching at least 75% of the normal time set out in Rule 9.3(A) shall be deemed to have been completed unless ordered to be replayed by the FMC.
- (C) Where a match starts late, the Referee must shorten the total match time to avoid delaying the start of subsequent matches. The match must be played as two equal halves and at least 75% of the normal playing time must be played. The Referee shall advise both team captains of the time to be played in each reduced half prior to commencing play.
- (D) No injury or stoppage time shall be allowed in any division except Mens Championship First Grade.

## **9.4 LAWS OF THE GAME**

- (A) MiniRoos shall play according to the FFA National Playing Formats and Rules as published from time to time except that:
  - i) When a goal kick is taken opposition players must retire to behind the half way line until the ball is in play.
- (B) Junior and Senior Leagues shall play according to the FIFA Laws of the Game as published from time to time except that:
- (C) For U12 and G12:

- i) Matches shall be played according to the FFA National Playing Formats and Rules for MiniRoos except that results will be published and competition tables will be produced.
- (D) for U13 and G13:
- i) Once a goal kick has been awarded the players from the attacking team must retreat 25 metres from the defending team's goal line.
  - ii) Goalkeepers must take their own goal kicks.
  - iii) From a goal kick the ball must be played by another player of the defending team outside the penalty area and not more than 25 metres from the defending team's goal line and only when the ball has been touched by that player may players of the attacking team come within 25 metres of the defending team's goal line ("the 25 metre area").
  - iv) If at the time of the goal kick attacking team players are within the 25 metre area but:
    - a) are retreating; and
    - b) are more than 10 metres from the defending team player receiving the ball from the goalkeeper,play should continue.
  - v) Subject to sub-clause 9.4(D)iv) above, if a goal kick is not taken in accordance with this rule then the goal kick is retaken.

#### **9.5 PROVISION OF PLAYING STRIPS**

- (A) Each team must play in colours as approved by ESFA.
- (B) In the event of a Club fielding a team in colours similar to those of the opposing team or the Referee, and the Referee is of the opinion that confusion may arise, the Referee may order that the visiting Club change its colours and may refuse to allow the match to commence until a satisfactory change is made.

#### **9.6 GOALPOSTS**

- (A) Combination goals posts are permitted in ESFA competition matches.
- (B) Where the ball strikes part of the goal post that does not form the soccer goal, the ball shall be deemed to be out and play shall restart with a goal kick or corner depending on the last player to touch the ball.

### **10. DISCIPLINE AND MISCONDUCT**

#### **10.1 CAUTIONS**

- (A) The Referee shall record all yellow and red cards on the Match Sheet in the appropriate section.
- (B) A player who receives 5 yellow cards during a season in all competitions shall be suspended for 1 match.
- (C) A player who receives 8 yellow cards during a season in all competitions shall be suspended for a further 1 match.
- (D) For each subsequent 2 yellow cards a player shall be suspended for 1 match.
- (E) A yellow card for dissent shall count as two yellow cards for the purposes of this rule.

#### **10.2 SENT-OFF PLAYERS**

- (A) A player sent-off during a match will have their penalty determined in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure.
- (B) The Referee shall submit a send-off report within two working days of the date of the match.



### **10.3 MISCONDUCT**

- (A) The Referee shall report all misconduct not resulting in a send-off in a match report which must be submitted within two working days of the date of the match.
- (B) Misconduct shall be defined to include the following:
  - i) Breaches of the FFA Code of Conduct by spectators or match participants
  - ii) Violent behaviour by multiple players where the Referee is unable to identify and sanction all acts of violent conduct. (i.e. a brawl or melee).
  - iii) Behaviour of RTOs, officials, or spectators, which if it were to occur on the field, would be the subject of a send-off report.
  - iv) Any request to remove a person or persons from the vicinity of the playing area by the Referee.
  - v) Entry to the playing area by substitutes, officials, or spectators, during play including during any stoppages which is not authorised and which results in a verbal or physical confrontation with players or match officials.
  - vi) Deliberate use of ineligible players
  - vii) Any other behaviour that may bring the game or the Association into disrepute.
- (C) Misconduct may be reported by other attendees or participants at the game through a detailed report of the alleged incident which shall be handled in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure.
- (D) All reports of misconduct shall be reviewed in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedure.
- (E) The RTO shall be responsible for identifying persons the Referee wishes to cite for misconduct where there is a reasonable belief the person is associated with the team.
- (F) In addition to persons identified, Clubs shall also be liable to penalty for misconduct by its players or associated persons.
- (G) Where misconduct occurs, and there is not an official RTO with a separate ESFA registration present, additional penalties may be imposed on the Club.

### **10.4 ABANDONMENT OF MATCHES**

- (A) Where a match is abandoned due to the misconduct of players, officials or spectators of one team, that team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.
- (B) Where a match is abandoned due to the misconduct of both teams the outcome of the match shall be determined by the FMC, with guidance from the Disciplinary Committee, using the following options:
  - i) The result at the time of the incident stands provided at least 75% of the match time had elapsed.
  - ii) The match is replayed.
  - iii) The match is annulled and no points are awarded.
- (C) Where a match is abandoned but the Disciplinary Committee finds no misconduct by either team the outcome of the match shall be determined by the FMC, with guidance from the Disciplinary Committee, using the following options:
  - i) The result at the time of the incident stands provided at least 75% of the match time had elapsed.
  - ii) The match is replayed.

### **10.5 MANIPULATION OF RESULTS**

- (A) Clubs shall endeavour to complete all fixtures including rescheduled fixtures. Clubs shall use all reasonable endeavours to field the best possible team in the last three weeks of the season where the outcome of the match will affect the final placing of teams qualifying for the finals series. A team forfeiting a match at this stage of the season shall be liable to additional penalties under the Disciplinary Procedure including a points penalty where the forfeit directly results in a team losing the Premiers position or

qualification for the Finals.

## **10.6 CONTROL OF SPECTATORS**

- (A) It shall be the duty of Clubs to maintain control of, and prevent any disturbance amongst spectators. Failure to do so may result in the imposition of penalties as per the Disciplinary Procedure
- (B) All spectator related reports shall be lodged with ESFA in writing no later than 5.00pm on Tuesday following the day of the match and shall only be considered if made by the Referee or a Club Secretary from teams participating in such match.
- (C) No spectators are to be allowed behind either goal while a match is in progress.

## **11. RESULTS, COMPETITION POINTS AND FOREFITS**

### **11.1 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

- (A) Clubs shall ensure their teams' match results are recorded in the online competition management system no later than 10:00am on the following working day after the fixture.
- (B) For all Junior League competitions, the Competitions Coordinator will adjust results with a goal difference of greater than 6 goals so as to cap the margin at 6 goals. For example,
  - i) If a team wins 10-0, the result shall be recorded as 6-0.
  - ii) If a team wins 9-2, the result shall be recorded as 8-2
- (C) Should there be a result in dispute, this should be notified to the Competitions Coordinator by no later than Wednesday 12pm following the weekend fixtures and within 48 hours of mid-week fixtures. The dispute should be submitted on the 'Results Discrepancy Form', found at the ESFA library: <http://www.esfa.com.au/Library.aspx>.

### **11.2 COMPETITION POINTS**

- (A) Points shall be allocated as follows for all League competition matches:
  - i) Win - Three (3) points
  - ii) Draw - One (1) point each team
  - iii) Bye - No points
  - iv) Loss - No points

### **11.3 DETERMINATION OF POSITIONS FOR FINAL SERIES AND PREMIERS**

- (A) The team with the most competition points at the completion of all scheduled rounds shall be deemed to be the Premiers.
- (B) Should two (2) or more teams in the same competition, having completed their competition, possess the same number of points that team with the better goal difference shall be considered to be the higher placed team.
- (C) In all cases where goal differences are taken into account the following will be used:
  - i) Number of goals against subtracted from the number of goals for.
  - ii) The highest resultant figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to be the best goal difference.
- (D) Where goal differences are equal, the team having scored the greater number of goals shall be considered the higher placed team.
- (E) If two (2) or more teams in the same competition, have the same goal difference, and have scored the same number of goals, then the team which has the better head to head aggregate results during the regular season will be considered the higher.
- (F) If the above is still equal, then for a tie for 1st place, and a tie for the last position in a finals series, a 'play off' game will be played with the winner determined to be higher ranked.
- (G) For all other ties, the higher ranked team shall be determined by the drawing of lots.

#### **11.4 CLUBS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITIONS**

- (A) In the event of any team withdrawing or being removed from ESFA's competitions, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered competitions to proceed to a conclusion.
  - i) Removed or withdrawing during first round of fixtures:
    - a) For all opposing teams that have played the removed or withdrawn teams, points and goals will be deleted from their records and they shall be credited with a bye result.
    - b) Teams that have not played the removed or withdrawn team will obtain a bye result.
  - ii) Removed or withdrawing during the second or subsequent rounds:
    - a) For all complete rounds of fixtures, all points and goals acquired against removed or withdrawn teams will be retained by opposing teams.
    - b) For all incomplete rounds, points and goals acquired against such teams shall be lost and bye results shall be credited for these parts of the competition.
    - c) Where a postponed or deferred match from an earlier round of fixtures remains unplayed at the time of withdrawal, the result shall be deemed to be a forfeit.
- (B) The FMC may refer a Club that withdraws a team after the commencement of the season for further sanction under the Disciplinary Procedure.

#### **11.5 MATCHES AFFECTING FINAL SERIES**

- (A) Any rescheduled match affecting the final series positions must be played prior to the final scheduled competition round unless there is provision for a wet weather weekend subsequent to that date.
- (B) If a rescheduled match is not played prior to the commencement of the finals series, it will be deemed a no result and no points will be allocated.
- (C) In the event of the postponement of a match in the final round, the FMC shall determine if the match is to be replayed.

#### **11.6 FORFEITS & WALK OFFS**

- (A) Teams must field at least seven (7) eligible players at the start of any match.
- (B) If a team fails to enter the field of play or has insufficient players for the match to commence ten (10) minutes after the scheduled starting time, the Referee shall inform both RTOs (if present) that the game has been abandoned and that the match will be dealt with as specified below.
- (C) Any Club that fails to fulfil an engagement to play a fixture at the appointed date, time or venue without acceptable explanation shall be deemed to have forfeited that fixture. If no prior explanation has been provided, the offending Club must provide to ESFA, within 48 hours, an explanation as to why they were unable to fulfil the fixture.
- (D) Where a Club has been found to play an ineligible player under these rules, the result of the match shall be deemed a forfeit in all circumstances.
- (E) Whether a forfeit has occurred shall be determined by the procedures set out in the Disciplinary Procedure.
- (F) In addition to fines that may be issued under the Disciplinary Procedure, the forfeiting Club may also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents relative to that fixture or fixtures including Referees Fees and ground hire.
- (G) In the event of a walk-off by one Club prior to the completion of a match the team will be deemed to have forfeited the match. The offending Club must provide to ESFA, within 48 hours, an explanation of their actions. Such explanation must be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for review and possible action.

## **11.7 PENALTIES FOR FORFEITS**

- (A) In the event of a team being found to have forfeited a match without an acceptable explanation, the following result shall be recorded:
  - i) For Junior Leagues, the result shall be deemed a 6-0 win to the opposition Club and full points shall be allocated for the fixture.
  - ii) For Senior Leagues, the result shall be deemed a 3-0 win to the opposition Club and full points shall be allocated for the fixture.
  - iii) Where a match commenced and a team was subsequently deemed to forfeit due to insufficient players or the use of ineligible players, the result at the completion of the match may stand if the opposition Club won by more than 3-0.
- (B) When a team forfeits for the first time in a season, their Club must notify the ESFA office in writing, in an ESFA approved form by Thursday 9am for all weekend matches or 48 hours prior to the scheduled kick off for all weekday matches, to avoid being penalised under the Disciplinary Procedure.
- (C) Teams forfeiting on a second occasion, or when no written notice has been provided, shall be deemed not to have an acceptable explanation.
- (D) Teams forfeiting on a third occasion, without an explanation satisfactory to the FMC shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for the consideration of removal from the competition, and are subject to an appropriate penalty, with Rules 11.7(A) and 11.7(B) taken into consideration. A third forfeit in Junior competitions will result in automatic exclusion from finals.

## **12. RE-GRADING PROCESS**

### **12.1 JUNIOR RE-GRADING**

- (A) Re-grading will only occur at the end of the first round of the Championship Division competition (this includes 10 team comps). At that time all re-grading will be considered from all Divisions within that age group.
- (B) Teams have the right to lodge a formal application for re-grading using the ESFA prescribed form. An application needs to be submitted by 12noon on Monday following the end of last fixture of the first round.
- (C) The JFMC will have final right to re-grade, as they believe to be in the best interest of teams and the competition as a whole.
- (D) As a guide, teams that have lost or won all games (with at most 1 draw) and a net average goal difference of greater than or equal to  $\pm 4$  goals will be first considered. Other factors and circumstances including the impact on team numbers in each division will also be considered. It is not necessary if 1 team goes up that 1 team must come down or vice versa.

### **12.2 POINTS FOR RE-GRADED TEAMS**

- (A) Any team that is regraded, whether up or down, will be placed in equal 4th place both on points and goal difference

### **12.3 EQUALISING NUMBER OF GAMES PLAYED**

- (A) Where a re-grading occurs into/out of a competition which has not completed a full round the principle will be to try to ensure that all teams will have played the same number of games and against the same teams by the end of the season. This will be achieved by any of the following:
  - i) Games will be "made up" if possible. This may involve double headers under the deferred and postponed games procedure.
  - ii) Whole round(s) may be annulled

- iii) For Junior Leagues, if deemed appropriate, then next time the teams play that game will be played as a “double game” whereby each half will be deemed a full game and points allocated accordingly.  
i.e. Team A “wins” the 1st half 2-1 then points are awarded. The 2nd half will then be played as another game commencing at 0-0 with full points allocated based upon the result at full time, or;
- iv) A combination of the above.

#### **12.4 APPEALS AGAINST RE-GRADING**

- (A) There will be a right to appeal for all Clubs affected by re-grading. Re-grading is to occur on the Monday night following the end of Round 1. Clubs will have until 5pm the following day of notice to appeal on an ESFA approved form.
- (B) The FMC will determine adjustments to fixtures and points, based on the timing of the regrade.

#### **12.5 SENIOR RE-GRADING**

- (A) The SFMC may re-grade any teams, as required.

### **13. FINAL SERIES AND TROPHIES**

#### **13.1 FINALS SERIES**

- (A) ESFA will endeavour to implement a 3 week finals format; however, this is at the discretion of the FMC each year and in each competition.
- (B) The 3 week finals format shall be:
  - i) Week 1 – 1st vs. 2nd, 3rd vs. 4th.
  - ii) Week 2 – Loser of 1st vs. 2nd vs. winner of 3rd vs.4th.
  - iii) Week 3 – Grand final between winner of 1st vs. 2nd and winner of week 2.
- (C) ESFA will endeavour to ensure that all Junior League teams participate in a finals series.
- (D) A final series may be shortened to a standard 2-week final series if wet weather or other unforeseen events severely interferes with the League competition or first week of finals fixtures.
- (E) The 2 week finals format shall be:
  - i) Week 1 – 1st vs. 4th, 2nd vs. 3rd.
  - ii) Week 2 – Grand final between winner of 1st vs. 4th and winner of 2nd vs. 3rd.
- (F) The winner of the grand final shall be deemed the Champions.

#### **13.2 POSTPONED OR ABANDONED FINALS SERIES MATCHES.**

- (A) In the event an alternative weekend date is not available ESFA will seek to reschedule final series matches which are washed out or abandoned to the Wednesday afternoon or evening immediately after the washed out or abandoned fixture.
- (B) Should either team not be available, the match will be deemed to have been forfeited by that team.
- (C) Should the match not be rescheduled due to weather intervening, the highest place team will be deemed to have won the match and proceed to the next stage.
- (D) Should a grand final match be washed out, the FMC will determine the outcome of the match or any rescheduling.

#### **13.3 FINALS SERIES VENUES**

- (A) The Competitions Coordinator shall determine the venue for all final series matches
- (B) All venues shall be considered neutral and instructions shall be issued as to who is responsible for preparing the field.

#### **13.4 DRAWN FINAL SERIES MATCHES**

- (A) If at the conclusion of a finals series match the scores are level, the teams shall play two equal periods of extra time as follows:
  - i) 13-18 years – 10 minute halves
  - ii) 19 years and above – 15 minute halves.No half time shall apply.
- (B) If the scores are still level at the conclusion of extra time, the match shall be determined by the penalty kick method as prescribed by FIFA.

#### **13.5 PREMIERSHIP TROPHIES**

- (A) The Premiers of each division, having finished first at the conclusion of the regular season, shall be presented with a trophy or plaque.
- (B) ESFA shall present all Premiers with 18 medallions per Junior League team and 20 per Senior League team to be distributed to the players and RTOs as chosen by the team.

#### **13.6 GRAND FINAL TROPHIES**

- (A) The Champions of each respective division, having won the grand final shall be presented with a trophy or plaque.
- (B) ESFA shall present all Champions with 18 medallions per Junior League team and 20 per Senior League team to be distributed to the players, and RTOs as chosen by the team.
- (C) ESFA shall present to each grand final runner-up team 18 medallions per Junior League team and 20 medallions per Senior League team to be distributed to the players, Coach and RTO as chosen by the team.

#### **13.7 PERPETUAL TROPHIES**

- (A) Perpetual trophies awarded to Clubs are to be returned to the ESFA Office by the ESFA Annual General Meeting. This Rule also includes pre-season competitions.
- (B) Clubs that fail to return a perpetual trophy by the cut-off date will be required to pay for a replacement.

#### **13.8 FINAL SERIES PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- (A) In Junior League finals series matches a player who plays in a team pursuant to Rule 4.4(C) must have played for that team at least once during the regular season.
- (B) In Senior League finals series matches, excluding Mens Championship matches, a maximum of 5 players may play in a team pursuant to Rules 4.5(H) or 4.5(I).

### **14. MENS CHAMPIONSHIP**

- (A) Notwithstanding the above, the Mens Championship competition shall consist of a First Grade and Reserve Grade competition.
- (B) A minimum squad of 28 players shall be registered for each Club in Mens Championship.
- (C) Where there are less than 10 Clubs in Mens Championship, Clubs may be invited to enter teams in either First Grade or Reserve Grade.
- (D) Players registered in a Mens Championship squad may play in either grade throughout the season.
- (E) Prize money shall be paid as follows:
  - i) First Grade Premiers - \$5,000
  - ii) First Grade second place - \$3,000
  - iii) First Grade Champions - \$1,500
  - iv) Reserve Grade Premiers - \$500
- (F) To be eligible for playing finals in Reserve Grade a player must have played in more than or the same number of Reserve Grade fixtures than First Grade fixtures on the last 5

weekends for which they were available. A player registered in Mens All Age must have played at least 3 Reserve Grade matches to be eligible to play in Reserve Grade finals. No such restriction shall apply to First Grade.

- (G) Fixtures shall not be played on consecutive days for League, ESFA Cup, or FNSW Waratah Cup matches. Teams entering the FNSW State Cup will not be entitled to defer fixtures scheduled for the previous day.
- (H) Players registered in Mens All Age may play in the Championship First Grade or Reserve Grade.

## **15. ESFA CUP AND TROPHY**

- (A) ESFA will endeavour to run the following annual knock-out competitions:
  - i) ESFA Womens Cup: open to Womens teams, as advised by ESFA at the start of the season
  - ii) ESFA Mens Cup: open to all Mens teams
  - iii) ESFA Trophy: Mens Division 6 and below. O35 Championship teams shall be ineligible for the ESFA Trophy.
- (B) Clubs must enter a specific team nominated for the ESFA League Competitions. Any registered player who is registered in a division that is eligible to participate in the specific cup competition, and is not otherwise ineligible (e.g. suspended, cup tied) shall be entitled to play for the nominated team. Any team which plays an ineligible player shall forfeit the match.
- (C) The Cup/Trophy competitions will be scheduled as early as possible in the season, determined by the SFMC. All Clubs must note that matches may be required to be played on public holidays, weeknight evenings, and in school holidays as determined by ESFA.
- (D) All games require a result. A match drawn at the end of normal time shall be extended by a further fifteen (15) minutes each way. A two-minute break is allowed between normal time and extra time. Should scores be level at the completion of extra time, a penalty shoot-out will determine the result.
- (E) Any suspensions from the regular season will carry over to the Cup/Trophy.
- (F) ESFA shall set an entry fee for each team nominating to play in a Cup/Trophy competition at its discretion prior to calling for nominations. Nominations must be received from a Club official authorised to correspond with ESFA.
- (G) Referees Fees will be invoiced in addition to the entry fee.

## **16. FAILURE TO COMPLY**

- (A) Failure by a Club, team or individual to comply with any of these rules may result in any of:
  - i) non-acceptance of into a competition;
  - ii) disqualification from a competition;
  - iii) forfeit of points;
  - iv) action under the Disciplinary Procedure;
  - v) imposition by ESFA of a fine as specified in the Schedule of Penalties.