

2017 Competitive Ages (12-45) Finals

Competition Rules

Please read "13. Final Series and Trophies", in the Competition Rules by clicking [here](#).

Accessing Finals Fixtures

Matches in our Finals Series can be viewed on the "[Draw and Results](#)" page, on the ESFA website. When viewing an individual division simply select the "Finals" option, which is located above the rounds selector in "Fixtures".

We are committed to have each 2017 finals round posted online by Wednesday preceding the weekend of results. If a finals game is rescheduled for a mid-week fixture, the weekends finals fixture will be uploaded the following day.

Pennant Finals (Junior Finals for teams outside top 4)

Pennant Finals will involve teams that did not qualify for the top 4 semi-finals, and will be a knock-out finals format. Junior Competitions (12-18) with at least 2 teams outside the top 4 will have 1 or 2 Pennant finals games scheduled (excludes 5 team competitions - U15 Boys, G18 Girls, and U18 Boys).

6 teams: Week 1: SF1: 7th v 10th, SF2: 8th v 9th - Week 2: PF1: 5th v Winner SF2, PF2: 6th v Winner SF1 - Week 3: Winner PF 1 & 2

4 teams: Week 1: SF1: 5th v 8th, SF2: 6th v 7th - Week 2: PGF: Winners of SF 1 & 2

3 teams: Week 1: SF: 6th v 7th - Week 2: PGF: 5th v Winner of SF

2 teams: Week 1: PGF: 5th V 6th

The Pennant Grand-final will conclude with medals for both teams.

***Clubs must pick up Pennant medals from the [ESFA office](#) prior to their Pennant Grand Final.** Please contact Adrian Larson-competitions@esfa.com.au or (02) 8347 8805, prior to arrival.

General Rules

- **There is a no alcohol policy at all venues**
- **The 'no ID, no play' rule will be enforced for all finals**
- Grounds are to be dressed with crowd control ropes and/or markings/cones, all spectators are to remain behind the ropes/markings at all times
- Teams must bring their own team sheet and match balls
- Only the coach or RTO of the respective teams playing will be allowed within the ropes/marked area
- An interchange player may only enter the marked off area if he or she is involved in a substitution. All other times, interchange players must remain behind the ropes/markings unless a special technical area has been set up within the ropes/marked area:
 - All Junior Age Groups (12-18) – 5 interchange players only
 - All senior age groups AAM, AAW, O35, O45 – 7 interchange players only
 - Men's Championship – 5 substitutes only

RTO's (Registered Team Official)

- Inspect all player IDs against the match sheet prior to all finals matches.
- It is the RTO's responsibility to control spectators and players at games, this includes a zero tolerance on referee abuse
- All RTO's must wear a high vis RTO vest, which may be picked up from the [ESFA office](#). This will help RTO's fulfil their duties and be easily recognizable by players, spectators, match officials and other RTO's.

ID Cards required for RTOs

All Registered Team Officials (RTO) of teams in the 2017 finals series must ensure they have their ID card visible during all matches to all officials present. This includes any team manager. **If you do not have an ID card, you will need to remain behind the ropes during the match.**

To ensure you have an RTO ID card ready please ensure:

- You have registered as either a Coach, Team manager or Volunteer with your Club on [MyFootballClub](#)
- Inform your Club that you are registered and require an ID Card to be printed
- Your Club Secretary will inform ESFA that you need a card by 5:00pm Wednesday and one will be printed by 2:00pm Thursday before your match (**to be submitted on a final list** to Aaron Dibdin – gm@esfa.com.au)
- Either you or someone from your Club has collected your card(s) before your match

We will ensure that we have printed ID cards for every team official who requests one.

Player Eligibility

Senior Competitions

Player eligibility for the Senior Competitions will be in accordance with "4.5 Senior League Player Eligibility" in the [Competition Rules](#), consistent with the regular season, with the exception of the Men's Championship.

Competition rules state:

14. MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

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 Men's 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.

There are no additional special rules for the Senior Finals.

Junior Competitions

A team may draw upon players for the Finals Series from an eligible lower age group or eligible lower division in the age group, provided:

- The player(s) has played at least one competition game during this season for that team;
- The team has insufficient registered players available because of injury
- **Clubs must ensure players registered to a team in the finals are considered first**

Procedure if scores are level at full time

If at the conclusion of a final the scores are level, the teams shall play extra time of:

Age Group	Extra Time Period	Extra Time Format
U12/G12	5 mins each way	Classic Extra Time
U13-U18/G14-G18	10 mins each way	Classic Extra Time
AA Men, AA Women, O35, O45 and MC	15 mins each way	Classic Extra Time

- There will be a break of 5 minutes before extra time commences
- At the conclusion of the first half of extra time there will be no break.

Both teams are asked to remain on the field and switch ends.

All Competitive Finals will use the classic extra time rule; the full extra time period must be played. If a team has scored more goals at the conclusion of extra time, they are the winner. **There is NO golden goal.**

Withstanding the above rules, the procedure of extra time will be in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the game. If no team has scored at the end of extra time, a penalty shoot-out will take place in accordance with the [FIFA Laws of the Game](#).

Procedure during penalty shoot-outs

If the scores are level after extra time, a penalty shoot-out shall occur for ALL finals games.

- For 12 age groups, only one RTO can come into the centre circle and direct the players in the correct procedure for penalty kicks.
- For 13 age groups and up, prior to penalty kicks, one RTO is permitted to come onto the field of play to organise penalty takers and then leave before the commencement of the penalty kicks.

The key points to remember are:

- The referee tosses a coin to decide the goal at which the kicks will be taken (unless there are other considerations – see Law 10 LOTG)
- The referee tosses a coin and the team who wins the toss shall decide whether to take the first or second kick
- Each team is responsible for selecting from the eligible players the order in which they will take the kicks. The referee is not informed of the order.
- All players on one team must take a kick before any player has a second kick
- Both teams must begin the kicks from the penalty mark with the same number of players. If at the end of the match and before or during kicks a team has less than 11 players, the opposition must reduce their numbers to match their opposition and the referee must be informed

- A goalkeeper who is injured before or during kicks are being taken from the penalty mark and is unable to continue as goalkeeper may be replaced by a named substitute, provided their team has not used the maximum number of substitutes. The goalkeeper must take no further part and may not take a kick
- With the exception of the foregoing case, only players who are on the field of play at the end of the match or temporarily off the field of play (injury, adjusting equipment etc), which includes extra time where appropriate, are eligible to take kicks from the penalty mark

Basic procedure:

- Both teams are designated 5 kicks each
- If, before both teams have taken five kicks, a team has scored more goals than the other could score, even before the team were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken
- If after 5 kicks each, both teams have scored the same number of goals, kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more
- All eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick

For a full outline of the Kicks from the Penalty Mark procedure, please see Page 70 in [FIFA Laws of the game](#).

Code of Conduct

We would like to remind everyone to adhere to the relevant ESFA Codes of Conduct for coaches, managers, officials, parents and players.

You can download a copy of each Code of Conduct by clicking on each relevant party:

[Coach](#)

[Manager/Official](#)

[Parent](#)

[Player](#)

Grand Finals

In addition to the above protocols, the following will additionally apply to 2017 Grand Final matches.

Pre-match Preparation

- Please ensure that player IDs and your team are ready to be inspected 15 minutes before kick off

All player IDs will be inspected by ESFA staff, against the match sheet prior to ALL Grand Finals Series matches.

Club Duties

Each club participating in a grand final will be required to provide two officials to assist on the day with managing spectators around the field.

After the conclusion of the match we ask that both teams ensure their technical area is left clean and tidy and that both teams proceed to the presentation area as quickly as possible.

This cooperation from clubs will help the day run smoothly and efficiently.

ESFA Finals FAQs

A) What happens if it rains?

Check the Wet Weather updates on the day as normal to find out if your match is still on.

1. If an individual game is washed out, we will endeavour to reschedule a mid-week (Tues-Thurs) catch-up game in the afternoon/evening following the game. Should either team be unable to play they will be deemed to have forfeited. If bad weather or abnormal circumstances intervene and makes play impossible, then the team who had finished higher at the end of regular season will be deemed the winner and will progress to the

next round. NB: This applies at all stages of the finals series (i.e. elimination final, qualifying final, semi-final, preliminary final and grand final).

2. In the event of a whole finals round being washed out and there are no extra weekends available, the following principals will be applied:
 - If time permits, reschedule mid-week
 - If not possible to reschedule, the teams who finished higher at the end of the regular season will progress to the next round.

B) When will finals games be notified on the website?

Our commitment is to have all final series games posted on the [ESFA website](#) by 12-noon Wednesday preceding the game. As you understand, we don't know until Monday after the weekend who is playing. Then we need to organise times and fields for each finals game in all competitions.

As the finals series progresses we endeavour to bring this time frame forward.

C) Do we need to show IDs for Finals?

YES - If you have lost ID cards, contact the [ESFA office](#) ASAP for a replacement, via your Club Secretary.

D) Do we need to bring a team sheet for the Grand Finals?

YES - Please bring your team sheet to your Grand Final and ensure it has been filled out correctly.

E) Do we need to bring match balls for the Finals?

YES – both teams will need to provide match balls for all finals matches.