



COMPETITION REGULATIONS

2026 COLES MINIROOS, POINTSCORE & FINALS SERIES

REVIEWED FEBRUARY 2026

DISCLAIMER; FFNC has the authority to amend or delete any component of Competition Regulations or Procedures, as and when it sees appropriate. Such variations shall be immediately binding on all members and participants within its jurisdiction.

The Zone has the authority to introduce, amend or delete any Regulation or Procedure as and when it sees fit, and the same shall be binding on all members and participants within its jurisdiction.

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A

1. ABANDONED MATCHES

- 1.1. The definition/classification of an abandoned match will ultimately be determined by FFNC after an assessment is made of the circumstances made known to FFNC that a match did not proceed to extinguish its normal allocated time as a consequence of any reason.
- 1.2. The Referee must abandon a match under the following circumstances:
 - (i) A serious violent incident occurs on the field of play, or in the immediate vicinity of the field, involving four (4) or more participants engaging in serious violent conduct (e.g. All in brawl);
 - (ii) One or more persons invade the pitch and engage in, or promote violent, offensive or threatening conduct.
 - (iii) A match official is physically assaulted;
 - (iv) A serious physical threat is made against a match official;
 - (v) Where there is a serious threat to maintaining a safe environment due to conditions or circumstances at or within the vicinity of the fixture/venue.
- 1.3. FFNC will have ultimate authority to consider what decision(s) are appropriate in circumstances where a match is halted for a period that extinguishes a significant period of play (or ultimately means that the game is unable to proceed) due to reasons, (but not limited to), light failure, storm, player injury. This will include a decision about re-scheduling the match, or to record the score as it was at the time of play ceasing (or failing to commence) or to record as a NIL all draw or any other variation as determined by FFNC.
- 1.4. Factors considered by FFNC will include the duration of play that has expired, duration that would have been left to play, score line and any other matters considered relevant.
- 1.5. In the event of a match being abandoned by the match official(s) for reasons of violence, a Code of Conduct and Ethics process will proceed and the finding(s) made will be binding.
- 1.6. Where both teams are held responsible for an abandoned match (for any reason) by the Competition Administrator, the abandoned match shall be voided and not replayed. Such a situation will typically ignite a result of 0-0 being recorded however NIL points being awarded to either team.
- 1.7. Notwithstanding decisions made as a consequence of a Code of Conduct and Ethics process, FFNC is authorised to make a decision(s) in response to an abandoned match (for any reason) in the role of Competition Administrator.
- 1.8. If an abandoned match is classified as a forfeit as a consequence of ONE team being deemed responsible for the match being abandoned, THREE (3) match points (and THREE (3) goals) shall be awarded to the opposition team. Where both teams are held responsible for an abandoned match (for any reason) by the Competition Administrator, the match shall be voided and not replayed.
- 1.9. Goal scorers will be recorded in response to the assessment by FFNC of liability by either/both teams to the match being abandoned.
- 1.10. If the Competition Administrator decides that the match will be replayed, the match officials will be paid for the abandoned match and also if the same match is rescheduled. Clubs are liable for such costs.
- 1.11. If a match is abandoned, a suspension (I.e. one match component) is only considered to be served if the team to which the suspended participant belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment.
- 1.12. A Yellow Card issued during an abandoned match will be annulled if that match is replayed and upheld if that match is not replayed.
- 1.13. A Red Card issued during an abandoned match will be upheld, regardless of whether the match is replayed or not.

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2. ACROSS LEAGUES/GRADES/DIVISIONS

- 2.1. A player is prohibited from participating 'across divisions' within the same junior age group. (e.g.) This means that a player who is part of an Age 12 Division 2 squad, cannot also participate in an age 12 Division 1 (and vice versa).
- 2.2. A player is prohibited from participating 'between teams' within the same junior age group. (e.g.) This means that a player who is in an age 12 Division 2 squad, cannot also participate in a club's second age 12 Division 2 team.
- 2.3. A player is prohibited from participating 'between teams' within the same senior league, junior age group. (e.g.) This means that a player who is in a League 4 squad, cannot also participate in a club's second league 4 team.
- 2.4. An application can be lodged with FFNC (not later than 1pm 28th May 2026) to re-grade a player, for the purpose of changing the eligibility of a player to subsequently participate in a different team. (i.e. To re-grade a player from an age 12 Division 1 squad into Age 12 Division 2 squad). The conditions of eligibility otherwise applicable apply relevant to a decision of FFNC to approve an application to re-grade a player.
- 2.5. Coles MiniRoos Overview
 - (i) Coles MiniRoos pools are comprised primarily by basis of age of players relative to the age that the child turns in 2026;
 - (ii) Coles MiniRoos players can ordinarily participate in the age group that corresponds with the age the child turns in the current calendar year or in a Coles MiniRoos pool, not more than TWO (2) years above the age of football that the child is ordinarily eligible to participate (see "Eligibility");
 - (iii) Coles MiniRoos players (i.e. Ages 5 to 11) may play for any Coles MiniRoos team within their own club, consistent with their age and gender eligibility;
 - (iv) Coles MiniRoos players (i.e. Ages 5 to 11) may play for any Coles MiniRoos team (as a borrowed player). For any other FFNC club, consistent with their age and gender eligibility;
 - (v) Coles MiniRoos players (i.e. Ages 6 to 11) may play for any age-eligible Coles MiniRoos team for an opposition club, consistent with their age and gender eligibility.
 - (vi) A Coles MiniRoos player IS permitted to play "across" same age MiniRoos pools (e.g. can play in Age 11 Kewell pool and Age 11 Cahill pool), consistent with their age and gender eligibility.
- 2.6. Junior competitions (Boys and girls)
 - (i) A junior player can be nominated for ONE (1) squad, ONE (1) competition for which they are otherwise eligible.;
 - (ii) A junior player can be registered (and participate) for ONE (1) club at any given time in the same season, meaning they must de-register from ONE (1) club and re-register with a second club, (not later than 28th May 2026), IF they intend to seek eligibility to participate for a different club;
 - (iii) Football Australia Registration Regulations (refer clause 6.13) prohibit DUAL REGISTRATION;
 - (iv) A junior player may not play "across" the same age division within the one age grade (e.g. between Age 12/2nd Division to Age 12/1st Division, or vice versa);
 - (v) A junior female player may be nominated for ONE (1) squad, ONE (1) competition in ONE of either one junior boys (i.e. mixed gender) grade or one junior girls grade within one club for which their date of birth makes them eligible and subject to general regulations criteria, can participate in both competitions. This means that a girl turning 14 in the current calendar year may register be included in an Age 14 Boys/Mixed squad or Age 14 Girls team (for the one club that they are registered, but subject to general regulations criteria, can participate in both competitions;

2.7. Senior Leagues

- (i) FFNC has specific MALE senior leagues and specific FEMALE senior leagues;
- (ii) Grading of senior teams is not primarily based on the age of individual participants, except to require a player to be aged at least 14 years and eligibility conditions relevant to the lowest women's league and the two lowest men's leagues;
- (iii) A male player is ineligible to participate in a female team/competition;
- (iv) A female player is ineligible to participate in a male team/competition;
- (v) If a club has more than one team in any senior league, players are not permitted to play across from one team to the other within the one (i.e. same) league;
- (vi) A player is prohibited from participating for a second club in the same season, unless they de-register from ONE (1) club and re-register with a second club (not later than 28th May 2026);
- (vii) Football Australia Registration Regulations (refer clause 6.13) prohibit DUAL REGISTRATION;

3. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

- 3.1. Accounts rendered upon FFNC must be submitted ordinarily within a maximum of thirty (30) days of supply (unless otherwise agreed upon by FFNC) to be deemed valid. No liability will be accepted for lodgement of accounts to FFNC beyond sixty (60) days of FFNC inviting said invoice to be generated.

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

- 4.1. Accounts issued by FFNC upon clubs, must be paid within the timeline nominated on such invoices, or will be considered as be overdue and render a club as being unfinancial until the account is paid in full;
- 4.2. Overdue accounts may render the club ineligible to receive further competition points or club teams may be disqualified from participating during the period the account remains unpaid (i.e. liability to FFNC remains);
- 4.3. FFNC reserves the right to impose further penalty where financial obligations of members are not fulfilled in accordance with reasonable terms.

5. AGE ELIGIBILITY

5.1. Coles MiniRoos

- (i) A child must be at least FIVE (5) during the 2026 calendar year, to be eligible to be registered as a player;
- (ii) A MiniRoos player should participate in an age pool that matches the player's maximum age in the 2026 calendar year.
- (iii) A MiniRoos player can participate in an older age group, limited to being TWO (2) years above the player's eligible age in the 2026 calendar year. (e.g. a player who turns 10 in the 2026, will ordinarily participate in MiniRoos age 10, can participate in MiniRoos 10's or 11's (for any club) or Grade 12 for the club that they are registered with;
- (iv) Age-eligibility means that a junior player participates in a Coles MiniRoos Pool or pointscore competition, matching the player's maximum age during the current calendar year (e.g. a child who turns 14 in the 2025 calendar year, will ordinarily participate in a competition for 14-year-old players, which is known locally as Grade 14);
- (v) A junior player can participate in an older age-group, limited to being TWO (2) years above the player's eligible age. (e.g. A player is who turns nine in 2026, can participate in a Age 9, Age 10 or Age 11 team);
- (vi) Any approval for a player to participate in a competition below their eligible age or where a player is graded in a squad that is above their eligible age, creates conditions that will ordinarily prevent participation in their normal age eligible competition, or any higher age competition or Coles MiniRoos Pool;

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5.2. SENIOR leagues

- (i) Senior leagues (and player/team grading) are not age based except for reasons that are specific to players would ordinarily be considered to be a junior player.
- (ii) Age (beyond age 14) is not relevant when considering the grading of teams (or players) in senior leagues unless such leagues are specially based on eligibility being aligned to 'over' a certain age;
- (iii) A junior participating in a senior league must be aged at least 14 years (not just turning 14) at the time of participation (and subject to regulations on frequency and other relevant issues);
- (iv) Players graded in a junior competition team are ineligible from participating in a team in the two lowest Men's leagues or a team in the lowest Women's league.
- (v) No senior team is permitted to have more than THREE (3) junior competition registered players, who are aged at least 14 years and who are otherwise eligible to participate in any given match.

6. ALCOHOL

- 6.1. The possession, supply or consumption of alcohol (in any form or amount) is prohibited on the field of play (including the Technical Area), by any person, on match day;
- 6.2. The possession of glass containers (regardless of what contents exist) is prohibited anywhere on a sporting precinct, unless otherwise approved within specific conditions that may apply within the club's liquor licence.
- 6.3. Any participant (e.g. player, team official, ground official) who is suspected (by reasonable assessment of the appointed match officials or authorised FFNC delegate), can be prohibited from having any active role on match day;
- 6.4. A participant who is accused of being affected by alcohol on match day, may expose themselves to sanctions under the National Code of Conduct and Ethics Regulations and may render their club as being liable to sanctions;
- 6.5. Any club (or by connection, any team or individuals), who are deemed to allow a participant to be affected by alcohol on match day, may expose themselves to sanctions under the National Code of Conduct and Ethics Regulations and may render their club as being liable to sanctions;
- 6.6. Reasonable concern or suspicion is considered enough to ignite action.

7. ALTERNATE STRIP

- 7.1. An alternate playing strip relates to a playing strip that is different to the approved primary playing strip for each respective club;
- 7.2. Playing strips worn must be the same colour and design by each field player in each same team;
- 7.3. The playing strip worn by each goalie must be distinctly different from colour and design of the playing strip worn by the goalie's team-mates and opposition field players;
- 7.4. The HOME team will be required to supply and wear an Alternate Strip in the first instance when a clash of playing strips exists, except where the HOME team is authorised by FFNC to wear its HOME playing strip (e.g. Finals and Grand Finals);
- 7.5. If the HOME team is unable to wear an alternate strip in instances where a clash of playing strips exists, the AWAY team can wear an alternate strip if it is available.
- 7.6. If neither team is able to wear an alternate strip in instances where a clash of playing strips exists and the referee abandons the match, the recorded result of the match shall be subject to the determination of the Zone;
- 7.7. FFNC Competition Regulations have always included terms relevant to when an alternate playing strip must be worn and EVERY club must have an alternate strip available for all clubs teams and which has been approved by FFNC.
- 7.8. FFNC will impose a fine in the amount of \$75 per match on a HOME club that refuses to wear an alternate strip (or does not have one available to wear) when required.

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B

8. BORROWED PLAYER

- 8.1. A Borrowed Player is a player who is otherwise eligible and who participates in any higher graded competition team other than the one that they are registered/listed to participate.
- 8.2. The purpose of providing scope for teams to use borrowed players, is for reasons including (1) Supporting team numbers in response to injury, illness or unavailability (2) Providing more opportunities for players to participate in a higher competition and (3) Creating a mechanism to review player grading in the early stages of a season.
- (i) The notation 'BP' must be written against the name of any player who participates in a higher competition.
 - (ii) The 7-Up Rule means that a player who is listed on the SAME grade/division/league a "seventh time" during the pointscore season, will be re-graded UP to the higher competition team.
 - (iii) Any junior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same higher junior grade/division more than six times during the pointscore competition will be re-registered to that higher junior grade/division team;
 - (iv) Any junior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same senior league more than six times during the pointscore competition will be re-registered to that senior team;
 - (v) Any senior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same higher league more than six times during a pointscore competition will be re-registered to the higher league team;
 - (vi) A re-grading as a consequence of the 7-up Rule will mean that a player is immediately ineligible to also participate in any lower league/grade in which they had previously been eligible;
 - (vii) The number of matches included in the 7-Up Rule, is determined within the pointscore season and does not include Finals Series fixtures.
 - (viii) The impact of the '7-up rule' is otherwise applicable at the sole discretion of FFNC, noting that the 'same' players are not used to participate as a borrowed player in multiple leagues on multiple occasions, if it is considered to take unreasonable advantage of the 'spirit of using borrowed players';.
 - (ix) The 7-Up Rule does not apply to MiniRoos players, however the participation of a MiniRoos player (e.g. 10 year old participating in a 12's team) should be considered carefully and should not be a common option. MiniRoos players should ordinarily participate in a MiniRoos team that they are age-eligible
- 8.3. Junior Competitions (Mixed gender and girls)
- (i) A junior player can participate in a junior competition that is "up to a maximum of TWO (2) years" above their normal eligible age ** (**). If an exemption is granted for a junior player to participate in a junior competition as an OVER-AGE player, the player is prohibited from subsequently also participating in any older age junior competition (or senior league) in the same season.
 - (ii) The match sheet must be notated with "Borrowed" or "BP", or by notating the players registered/listed competition against their name for the relevant matches.
- 8.4. Senior Leagues
- (i) (*) A junior player can participate in a senior league as long as they are aged at least fourteen (14) years at the time of the participation.
 - (ii) No senior team is permitted to have more than THREE (3) junior competition registered players participate in any given match (including being written on the match sheet).
 - (iii) Players graded in a junior competition team are ineligible from participating in a team in the two lowest Men's leagues or a team in the lowest Women's league.
 - (iv) If an exemption is granted for a senior player to participate in a "league that is more than two leagues below the player's last grading", the player is prohibited from subsequently also participating in any higher league in the same season.
 - (v) The match sheet must be notated with "Borrowed" or "BP", or by notating the players registered/listed competition against their name for the relevant matches.

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9. COMPETITION SCOPE/FORMAT

- 9.1. FFNC grading policy (first endorsed in 2007), makes reference to an objective that considers factors such as nominations received, historical format of competitions and written submissions from clubs;
- 9.2. Clubs shall be invited to nominate teams for each proposed competition not later than the date nominated by FFNC each season.
- 9.3. The grading of teams by FFNC will be determined following an assessment of:
- (i) Team nominations
 - (ii) Historical (i.e. previous season) team/club performance
 - (iii) Written submissions/evidence from member clubs and
 - (iv) Any matters determined as being relevant by FFNC.
- 9.4. Each year, FFNC will consider:
- (i) the number of Clubs capable of competing at any level; or having the potential to do so within a reasonable time frame;
 - (ii) the need for strong, viable and attractive competitions;
 - (iii) the need to adequately cover the major population centres of the Zone and surrounding areas; and
 - (iv) any factors which the Zone deems relevant in the circumstances of delivering reasonable outcomes for the game within this region.
- 9.5. Senior Leagues
- (i) A maximum of TEN (10) teams * will ordinarily be accepted in each individual SENIOR league, with a maximum of 18 rounds (18 games per team) to ordinarily apply in the point score competition.
 - (ii) (*) FFNC has absolute discretion to determine the numbers of teams that form each league.
 - (iii) A minimum of FOUR (4) teams will be considered in any one senior league.
 - (iv) FFNC will consider reasonable formats to deliver logical competitions within constraints that include a finite period of weeks each season;
 - (v) If a suitable number of teams cannot be achieved in any league, FFNC may create a combined league for any part of or for the entirety of the season (e.g. a combined Men's League 1/2);
 - (vi) The ranking of leagues will apply as follows (*subject to team nominations received);

Men's leagues (by descending ranking)

- 1. Premier
- 2. Championship
- 3. One
- 4. Two
- 5. Three
- 6. Four
- 7. Five
- 8. Six (*)
- 9. Seven (*)

Women's leagues (by descending ranking)

- 1. Premier
- 2. Championship (formally known as League 2)
- 3. Three
- 4. Four
- 5. Five (*)

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9.6. Junior Competitions (Mixed gender and girls)

- (i) A maximum of EIGHT (8) teams is the preferred number in each individual JUNIOR competition, with a maximum of 14 rounds (14 games per team) to ordinarily apply in the pointscore competition;
- (ii) A minimum of FOUR (4) teams will be considered in any one junior competition;
- (iii) A maximum of 14 pointscore games for each team in each junior competition will ordinarily apply regardless of how many teams exist in any given competition;
- (iv) FFNC will consider reasonable formats to deliver logical competitions within constraints that include a finite period of weeks each season, recognising the impact of school holidays, Easter, June long-weekend and various matters aligned to school activities each year.
- (v) The ranking of junior competitions will apply as follows (*ALL competitions are subject to team nominations received);
 - 1. Age 16 Division 1
 - 2. Age 16 Division 2
 - 3. Age 15 Division 1
 - 4. Age 15 Division 2
 - 5. Age 14 Division 1
 - 6. Age 14 Division 2 and Division 2 (North)
 - 7. Age 13 Division 1
 - 8. Age 13 Division 2 and Division 2 (North)
 - 9. Age 12 Division 1
 - 10. Age 12 Division 2 and Division 2 (North)
 - 11. Age 12 Division 3
- (vi) Girls (*ALL competitions are subject to team nominations received);
 - 1. Age 16
 - 2. Age 15
 - 3. Age 14
 - 4. Age 13
 - 5. Age 12

9.7. Promotion and Relegation

- (i) Promotion and relegation shall apply between senior leagues at the discretion of FFNC.
- (ii) The general principle is that clubs that have a team that finish in the "top 2" of a league will ordinarily be promoted to the next relative highest league in the following season. Promotion (i.e. grading upwards) is based on a broad assessment of teams from each respective club. Grading of players is fundamentally a club responsibility, noting that the grading of teams can create a "shuffle effect". For example, a club team promoted may have the impact of keeping a second club team in a higher league than which it would appear suited. A club is not permitted to have more than one team in any one senior league.
- (iii) Conversely, the general principle is that clubs that have a team that finish in the "bottom 2" of a league will ordinarily be relegated to the next relative lowest league in the following season.

D

10. DURATION OF MATCHES AND NUMBER OF PLAYERS

10.1. A match must be of two equal periods as indicated below:

Ages	Max no. of Players on the field	Match Duration
Ages 5, 6 & 7	Four (4) a side (with no goalkeepers)	2 x 20 min. halves
Ages 8 & 9	Seven (7) a side	2 x 20 min. halves
Ages 10 & 11	Nine (9) a side	2 x 25 min. halves
Age 12	Eleven (11) a side	2 x 25 min. halves
Ages 13 & 14	Eleven (11) a side	2 x 30 min. halves
Ages 15 & 16	Eleven (11) a side	2 x 35 min. halves
All Age	Eleven (11) a side	2 x 45 min. halves

10.2. In the event of a match commencing after the scheduled time, the referee shall reduce the total duration of the match by the time lost and divide both halves equally. The referee shall advise each team to this effect before the commencement of play;

10.3. Injury or other stoppage time does not apply in Football Far North Coast competitions, except for extraordinary circumstances as determined and authorised by Football Far North Coast;

10.4. Halftime Interval

- (i) All Junior Competitions – five (5) minutes maximum
- (ii) All Senior Leagues – ten (10) minutes maximum

11. GROUND OFFICIALS (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS DUTY OFFICERS)

- 11.1. BOTH the Home and Opposition teams must always supply a Ground Official for each competition match that its club is playing;
- 11.2. A Ground Official must be aged at least 18 years and be registered in PlayFootball as a Volunteer;
- 11.3. Each club must otherwise have a visible Ground Official present whenever Coles MiniRoos are being played at its venue;
- 11.4. Each club must otherwise have a visible Ground Official present whenever the club has sanctioned activities in progress at its venue;
- 11.5. The role of a Ground Official [may include is outlined](#) as follows;
- (i) A person who acts in the role of a Ground Official **must** be;
 - Aged at least 18 years;
 - Registered in PlayFootball as a volunteer
 - Recorded on the match sheet as the Ground Official
 - Only acting in the role of a Ground Official (e.g. not also coaching or working in a canteen while acting in the role of Ground Official)
 - Visible, vigilant, mobile, impartial and passive during the game
 - Wearing an appropriate vest (e.g. labelled Ground Official, Duty Officer or Volunteer)
 - Otherwise eligible (e.g. not subject to the terms of any suspension) and have appropriate traits and skills to act in the role
 - (ii) A person who acts in the role of a Ground Official is **encouraged** to;
 - Provide support to Match Officials, including supporting their safety within the vicinity of the club fields and venue
 - Work constructively with patrons and supporters (including from opposition clubs) to promote appropriate behaviour
 - Be of assistance where it is reasonable to do so (e.g. sourcing a club referee or helping to facilitate ambulance access to a field)
 - Report significant incidents to the CLUB
 - (iii) A person who is acting in the role of a Ground Official must **not** be;
 - Consuming alcohol or be affected by alcohol or any illicit substance
 - Smoking (or vaping)
 - Acting in multiple roles while acting in the role of Ground Official (e.g. not also be coaching or working in a canteen)
 - Acting in the role of a player or team official when being a nominated ground official
 - Displaying vocal behaviour, including being perceived as being biased
 - (iv) A **club** must;
 - Appoint an appropriate adult as a Ground Official for each competition team for both HOME and AWAY fixtures
 - Ensure that there is an appropriate number of Ground Officials to manage behaviour at home MiniRoos fixtures.
 - Encourage spectators to comply with the National Spectator Code of Behaviour
 - Consider the support required for each Ground Official to ensure their well-being
 - Consider the support required for each Match Official to ensure their well-being
 - Report significant matters in writing to Football Far North Coast

E

12. ELIGIBILITY

12.1. Coles MiniRoos

- (i) Each player is required to be registered in Play Football based on the age that they turn in the current calendar year;
- (ii) MiniRoos players can ordinarily participate in the grade that corresponds with the age the child turns in the current calendar year or in a grade not more than TWO (2) years above the age of football that the child is eligible to participate;
- (iii) MiniRoos players (i.e. Grades 6 to 11) may play for any MiniRoos team within their own club, consistent with their age and gender eligibility. For example, a player who is seven (7) years old can participate in ANY of the club's Grade 7, 8 or 9 teams;
- (iv) MiniRoos players (i.e. Grades 6 to 11) may play for any age-eligible MiniRoos team for an opposition club, consistent with their age and gender eligibility;
- (v) A MiniRoos player is permitted to play "across" same age MiniRoos pools (e.g. can play in Grade 11 Kewell pool and Grade 11 Cahill pool), consistent with their age and gender eligibility.
- (vi) MiniRoos teams (unless specifically nominated as female only) are boys/mixed gender;

12.2. Junior Competitions (Boys/Mixed gender and girls)

- (i) Each player is required to be registered in Play Football based on the age that they turn in the current calendar year;
- (ii) A junior player can participate in a junior competition that is "up to a maximum of TWO (2) years" above their normal eligible age ** (***) If an exemption is granted for a junior player to participate in a junior competition as an OVER-AGE player, the player is prohibited from subsequently also participating in any older age junior competition (or senior league) in the same season.
- (iii) The match sheet must be notated with "Borrowed" or "BP", or by notating the players registered/listed competition against their name for the relevant matches.

12.3. Senior Leagues

- (i) A junior player can be included on the match sheet and participate in a senior league (except in the two lowest men's leagues or the lowest women's league) as long as they are aged at least fourteen (14) years at the time of such participation;
- (ii) A senior team (except teams in the two lowest men's leagues or the lowest women's league) is permitted to have a maximum of THREE (3) junior competition registered players, who are aged at least 14 years and who are otherwise eligible to participate in any given match.
- (iii) Players graded in a junior competition team are ineligible from participating in a team in the two lowest Men's leagues or a team in the lowest Women's league;
- (iv) A junior player who is approved to register in a team as an over-age player cannot subsequently participate in either;
 - (a) A younger age grade (even if the player is otherwise age eligible to participate in that grade) or;
 - (b) A senior league team.
- (v) A junior male player aged 14, 15 or 16 (at the time of the match) can ordinarily participate in a senior male league (subject to any conditions or exemptions that otherwise apply, highlighting that players graded in a junior competition are ineligible from participating in the two lowest men's leagues or the lowest women's league);
- (vi) If an exemption is granted for a senior player to participate in a "league that is more than two leagues below the player's last grading", the player is prohibited from subsequently also participating in any higher league in the same season;
- (vii) If a club has more than one team in any league, players are not permitted to play across from one team to the other within the one league.

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- (viii) Clubs may register/list a junior player in a team that is a maximum of TWO years of age (i.e. grade) above the normal eligible age (grade) for the player.
- (ix) Clubs must apply for an exemption in all circumstances where a player is not age eligible, or otherwise eligible, to participate.
- (x) Each application for an exemption will be judged on its own merits. Determination of approval will be based on the following scope (at the discretion of The Zone):
 - (a) Maximum of two over age players per team (subject to FFNC assessment and provisions of a written approval to a respective club);
 - (b) No more than six months over age (unless medical support is provided);
 - (c) The team in which an over-age player is registered will be graded in division ONE (if a division two or three exists in the same age group);
 - (d) If the Club has more than one team in the division or age grade, the over age player(s) is to be registered in the highest graded team, unless specific evidence and approval exists to the contrary.
- (xi) If a child is registered in an age group older than that for which they are eligible they are not eligible to play in their normal eligible age group without being officially transferred to that age group (i.e. a child that turns 10 this year who is registered in an 11's team CANNOT participate in a 10's team);
- (xii) A junior player up to the age of fourteen (14) may act as a borrowed player in a team that is up a maximum of two years above their eligible age without the need for an exemption;
- (xiii) Any junior borrowed player who plays in any part of a match in the same higher junior age grade more than six times during the pointscore competition (finals series is a separate competition) will be re-registered to that higher junior age grade team and therefore becomes ineligible to participate in their originally registered/listed grade;
- (xiv) Any junior who plays in any part of a match in the same senior league more than six times during the pointscore competition (finals series is a separate competition) will be re-registered to that senior league team and therefore becomes ineligible to participate in their originally registered/listed grade;
- (xv) Any player who has been re-registered to a higher grade or senior league cannot be transferred back to their original junior grade;
- (xvi) A junior player who is approved to register in a team as an over-age player cannot subsequently participate in either:
 - (a) A younger age grade (even if the player is otherwise age eligible to participate in that grade)
 - (b) A senior league (i.e. players aged 14 or older);
- (xvii) A junior male player aged 14, 15 or 16 (at the time of the match) can ordinarily participate in a senior male league (subject to any conditions or exemptions that otherwise apply, highlighting that players graded in a junior competition are ineligible from participating in Men's League 6 or 7 or Women's League 5
- (xviii) A male player aged either 17 or 18 (based on DOB in calendar year) at the time of the match) can ordinarily participate in a senior male league, being league 2, 1, championship or premier (subject to any conditions or exemptions that otherwise apply);
- (xix) A junior female player aged 14, 15 or 16 (at the time of the match) can ordinarily participate in a senior female league (subject to any conditions or exemptions that otherwise apply, highlighting that players graded in a junior competition are ineligible from participating in Men's League 6 or 7 or Women's League 5
- (xx) A female player aged either 17 or 18 (based on DOB in calendar year) at the time of the match) can ordinarily participate in a senior female league, being league 2 or premier (subject to any conditions or exemptions that otherwise apply);
- (xxi) A maximum number of 16 players (12's – 16's) are eligible to participate in any one fixture (including being written on a match sheet), regardless of the number of registered
- (xxii) Failure to comply with any of these Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties such as loss of points;

12.4. Senior Leagues

- (i) Any player playing in a higher league than their registered/listed team (or a junior acting as a borrowed player), must have their normal registered/listed league/grade noted on the match sheet (against their name);
- (ii) Any senior borrowed player who is listed on the match sheet in the same higher league more than six times during a pointscore competition (finals series is a separate competition) will be re-registered to the higher league team (refer to "7-up Rule" in "Grading");
 - (a) Players graded in a junior competition are ineligible from participating in the TWO (2) lowest Men's Leagues (anticipated to be Men's League 6 and Men's League 7 or the lowest Women's Leagues (anticipated to be Women's League 4 or 5)
- (iii) Any junior borrowed player who is listed on the match sheet in the same senior league more than six times during the pointscore competition (finals series is a separate competition) will be re-registered to that senior league team (refer to "7-up Rule" in "Grading");
- (iv) Any player who has been re-registered to a higher league (or a junior player re-registered to a senior league) cannot be transferred back to a lower league or junior grade;
- (v) A junior player must have already turned 14 BEFORE they participate in senior football, highlighting that players graded in a junior competition are ineligible from participating in a team in the two lowest Men's leagues or a team in the lowest Women's league.
- (vi) No senior team is permitted to have more than THREE (3) junior registered players listed on any given match;
- (vii) A maximum number of 16 player names (Grade 15 – Senior Leagues) can be written on a match sheet), regardless of the number of registered/listed players in a given team.
- (viii) Failure to comply with any of these Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties.

13. JUNIOR PLAYERS

- 13.1. Any male player who is aged 14, 15, or 16 who is registered at a given club, can participate in a junior team for which they are eligible and also in Men's League 2, League 1, Championship and Premier league (with same club) and be exempt from the 'seven up rule'.
- 13.2. Any female player who is aged 14, 15, or 16 who is registered at a given club, can participate in a junior team for which that they are eligible and also in Women's Championship League, and Premier League (with same club) and be exempt from the 'seven up rule'.
- 13.3. Any male or female player who is aged 14, 15, 16, and who is specifically registered in a senior squad (i.e. league 3 or lower), will be considered to be a senior, for the purpose of the regulations;
- 13.4. Any male player who is aged 17 or 18 (ordinarily participating in senior football) and is specifically registered in men's league 2, league 1, championship or premier league can participate in a higher league where applicable and will be exempt from the seven up rule. Note that players of age 17 or 18 are technically still juniors (i.e. youth) players, who will each have different physical and technical development despite participating in senior football.
- 13.5. Any female player who is aged 17 or 18 (ordinarily participating in senior football) and is specifically registered in women's league 2 or premier league can participate in a higher league where applicable and will be exempt from the seven up rule. Note that players of age 17 or 18 are technically still juniors (i.e. youth) players, who will each have different physical and technical development despite participating in senior football;
- 13.6. An age eligible junior female player can be included in one squad however can participate in a team for either/both mixed gender competitions and/or female competitions for which they are age eligible* (*participation is limited to the same club and a maximum of one team in instances where a club has more than one team in the same competition).

- 13.7. The logic is to achieve (1) More opportunity for talented players to participate in the HIGHEST tiers of male/female football locally (2) more flexibility for clubs/teams to support depth of players (3) provide an incentive for clubs/teams/coaches/players, to strive to nominate teams/players to higher leagues and (4) provide more opportunities for junior females to participate in recognition of female numbers being about 33% of total player numbers locally.
- 13.8. Eligibility for Junior Finals Series (also subject to specific regulations for JUNIOR Competitions)
- (i) All participating players must be registered in accordance with Competition Regulations and must not be subject to a current suspension;
 - (ii) Players shall be eligible to participate in the final series in:
 - (a) The team in which they are registered; or
 - (b) Any higher grade (age) team.
 - (iii) There is NO minimum number of games (i.e. participation) to establish eligibility for a Finals Series, however participation should be considered within the spirit of fair and reasonable participation. This means that more skilled players from any lower league should not participate (nor any junior player) at the expense of players registered within the team
 - (iv) Failure to comply with any of the above Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties.
- 13.9. Eligibility for Senior Finals Series (also subject to specific regulations for SENIOR Leagues)
- (i) All participating players must be registered in accordance with Competition Regulations and must not be subject to a current suspension;
 - (ii) Players shall be eligible to participate in the final series in any higher league team as well as their own eligible league;
 - (iii) A junior player (aged 14 years or older on the date of the match) is eligible to participate in any senior league (unless specifically excluded due to regulation or FFNC notification);
 - (iv) There is NO minimum number of games (i.e. participation) to establish eligibility for a Finals Series, however participation should be considered within the spirit of fair and reasonable participation. This means that more skilled players from a lower league or junior grade should not participate at the expense of players registered within the team;
 - (v) Failure to comply with any of the above Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties.

14. EXEMPTIONS

- 14.1. Applications for an exemption MUST be lodged with the Zone via the specified [JotForm](#) with the Team Nominations or otherwise not later than the grading and subsequent participation of the player. Refer to JotForm here:
- 14.2. The type of potential exemption types considered by FFNC are as follows;
- (i) **EXEMPTION TYPE 1:** MINIROOS/JUNIOR player to participate in YOUNGER age competition.
 - (ii) **EXEMPTION TYPE 2:** Register MORE THAN the maximum number of players in a senior league squad as specified in FFNC Competition Regulations (not applicable for Grades 12 - 16).
 - (iii) **EXEMPTION TYPE 3:** SENIOR player to be graded MORE THAN TWO leagues below the player's last grading in FFNC (any previous season in last five years).
 - (iv) **EXEMPTION TYPE 4:** SENIOR player to be re-graded (above or below) the initial league nominated on the 2025 Squad List submitted to FFNC.
 - (v) **EXEMPTION TYPE 5:** OTHER (where not specified above and only where not otherwise being prohibited as a consequence of the request being contrary to regulations as defined by FFNC, NNSWF or FA).
- 14.3. The deadline for an exemption (or any type) to be lodged and subsequently considered by FFNC, is 1pm Thursday 28th May 2026.
- 14.4. Players subject to an application for an exemption may NOT participate until/unless written approval is received from FFNC;
- 14.5. Male players aged 14, 15 or 16 and further those aged 17 or 18 (ordinarily participating in senior football) can be included as part of (one squad only) and participate in any senior league where applicable (from league 2 to premier league) without being subject to the 'seven up' rule.
- 14.6. Female players aged 14, 15 or 16, can be included as part of (one squad only) and participate in any senior league where applicable (from Women's Championship (formerly league 2) to Women's Premier League) without being subject to the 'seven up' rule.
- 14.7. Any breach of eligibility relevant to any participant, team or club, will create an exposure and subsequent imposition to penalties. Such penalties may include (but are not limited to any/all of the following); (i) Loss of points/goals (ii) Fines and (iii) Code of Conduct and Ethics process.

F

15. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

15.1. Playing Fields and Venue

- (i) All goalposts or portable equipment must be adequately and securely fastened to the ground;
- (ii) Clubs shall, on seeking affiliation/membership to the Zone, submit details of their playing fields and the Zone shall have the discretion to require any alterations to the playing venue (e.g. Technical areas, quality of field surface, field lighting, spectator seating/locations);
- (iii) Each Club must provide an appropriate area in which the Match Officials can change and also leave their belongings in safe custody while on the pitch. This area should contain some seating as well as being lockable;
- (iv) All grounds must be roped, or have a suitable barrier provided along the full length of each side of the field. The barrier or rope should be located a minimum of 2 metres from each touchline.
- (v) The location and specifications of each Technical Area (TA) must be appropriate to ensure that spectators or unauthorised persons do not enter the TA or the immediate vicinity of the TA.. Barriers or rope and signage are recommended.

15.2. Playing Strips

- (i) All strips, including alternate strips, are to be registered with and approved by the Zone each season;
- (ii) All competitive team shirts shall be individually numbered, and the number of the shirt worn by each player must correspond with the name and number listed on the Match Sheet for that person;
- (iii) The numbers on the back of shirts must be one solid colour in complete contrast to the basic colours of the shirt, and where the shirt pattern may impair clear identification of the number from a distance of 100 metres, then the number must be placed on a plain coloured panel.

15.3. All player shirts (including the goalkeeper) MUST have a number on the back of the shirt.

- (i) All players taking the field shall be in full Club/team strip, including shirt (with clearly visible number), shorts and socks, when participating on the field as a player or in the Technical Area as an interchange player;
- (ii) The HOME team will be required to supply and wear an Alternate Strip in the first instance when a clash of playing strips exists (refer to “Alternate Strips”);
- (iii) If a team finds it necessary to wear a strip that is not registered with and approved by the Zone for their club (e.g. borrows an alternate strip) approval is required from the Zone or the Match Official prior to the match;
- (iv) The strip worn by goalkeepers must be different from the outfield players on both teams and also the match officials.
- (v) The referee is obliged to recognise where there is a clash of playing strips and to enforce the terms of Law 4 (FIFA Laws of the Game);
- (vi) FFNC will impose penalties (Refer Appendix A) for breaches to any aspect of these regulations.
- (vii) See also “Alternate Strips”
- (viii) Failure to comply with any of the above Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties as per Appendix A

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15.4. Match Balls

- (i) All Match Balls shall be of materials approved by FIFA. The following sizes will apply;
 - 1. Grade 6 to 9 inclusive Size 3
 - 2. Grade 10 to 13 inclusive Size 4
 - 3. Grade 14 to 16 inclusive Size 5
 - 4. All senior leagues Size 5

15.5. Field of Play

- (i) Field markings and set up shall be as per FIFA Laws of the Game.
- (ii) Non-compliance with directives issued for tunnel and technical areas at Grand Finals may incur a penalty and/or fine as per Appendix A.
- (iii) Grade 12 Corner Kicks
 - (a) Corner kicks are to be taken on the goal line at a point 9.15 metres in from the corner on the side of the field which the ball went out.

15.6. Player Interchange

- (i) Interchange of players exists for ALL matches (competitive and non-competitive);
- (ii) All player interchanges shall take place upon the approval the referee;
- (iii) A player interchange is made when the ball is out of play or at a stoppage in play and for which the following conditions shall be observed;
 - (a) The player leaving the field shall do so from the closest point to where they are at the time of the interchange request;
 - (b) The player entering the field shall only do so when the player leaving the field has left the field of play and must enter the field of play from the vicinity of the halfway point between the Technical Areas
 - (c) Interchange players remain subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee.
- (iv) There is no maximum number of player interchanges that can be made during a match (with approval from the referee). A player who has been replaced may return to the field in the place of a player currently on the field.
- (v) There is no time added on or allowance made to a match duration due to interchanges, regardless of how many interchanges are made or when they occur.
- (vi) The referee has the authority to refuse an interchange.

15.7. Technical Areas

- (i) A technical area must be marked for all competitive junior and senior teams, both of which are to be on the same side of the field;
- (ii) The technical area is the area that is defined along the length of the benches plus one metre each side of the benches, extending in front of the benches to no closer than one metre from and parallel to the touchline. It can extend behind the bench area as far as necessary.
- (iii) The Technical Area (TA) is to be occupied by a maximum of:
 - (a) Five (5) interchange players and three (3) registered team officials.
- (iv) The participants in the Technical Area are subject to the jurisdiction of the Referee, Assistant Referees, and 4th Official before during and after the match, as per the FIFA Laws of the Game. Regulations and authority of FFNC also specifically apply to all persons within the vicinity of the Technical Area;
- (v) All participants must conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times;

- (vi) All participants must be dressed appropriate to their role. This includes the wearing of covered footwear and appropriate clothing. Players leaving the Technical Area for the purpose of changing into non-playing gear, are NOT entitled to subsequently return to the Technical Area, unless they were listed as a team official on the match sheet prior to kick-off;
- (vii) Team Officials are required to wear any identification lanyards where supplied and instructed by FFNC relevant to any sanctioned competition fixture;
- (viii) The person who is identified on the match sheet as "Team Official 1" will ordinarily be identified as the senior team coach;
- (ix) Interchange players must remain in the Technical Area (except where warming up) and must wear interchange bibs at all times unless they take the field of play to participate;
- (x) A Team Official may convey tactical instructions to players during the match, however the coach and other team officials must remain within the confines of the technical area;
- (xi) Suspended participants and participants sent from the field during the match are immediately not permitted in the technical area of any sanctioned match until the full suspension is served;
- (xii) A maximum of ONE (1) Team Official is permitted to stand in the Technical Area at any time. Other team Officials and interchange players are to remain seated unless required to take the field or leaving the TA to warm-up.

16. FINES (AND PENALTIES)

16.1.	Fines imposed are exempt from GST.	
16.2.	Fines and Penalties are imposed in response to any offence from those specified below	
16.2.1	Withdrawal of team from Coles MiniRoos	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to (or on) 26th March 2026 • After 26th March 2026 • After 1st May 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ NIL \$200.00 (per team) \$500.00 (per team)
16.2.2	Withdrawal of team from a Junior Competition	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to (or on) 19th March 2026 • After 19th March 2026 • After 1st May 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ NIL \$200.00 (per team) \$500.00 (per team)
16.2.3	Withdrawal of a team from a Senior League	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to (or on) 5th March 2026 • After 5th March 2026 • After 27th March 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ NIL \$200.00 (per team) \$500.00 (per team)
16.2.4	Late lodgement of Squad Lists	\$60.00 (per team)
16.2.5	Participation of an ineligible (otherwise registered) player in a Junior Competition	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Win or draw • Loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$50.00 + loss of points & goals \$60.00 + loss of goals
16.2.6	Participation of an ineligible (otherwise registered) player in a Senior League	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Win or draw • Loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$75.00 + loss of points & goals \$90.00 + loss of goals
16.2.7	Participation of an ineligible (otherwise unregistered) player	Code of Conduct & Ethics Determination
16.2.8	Team Official not registered (or otherwise ineligible)	First offence per club (warning) Second or subsequent offence/s \$50.00 (per incident)
16.2.9	Failure to provide a registered Ground Official (who is otherwise ineligible to act in such role)	First offence per club (warning) Second or subsequent offence/s \$50.00 (per incident)
16.2.10	Forfeit of a Junior Competition Fixture	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not later than 4pm each Monday • After 4pm each Monday (or no notification) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ NIL + 3pts & 3 goals awarded to opposition team \$110.00 + 3pts & 3 goals awarded to opposition team
16.2.11	Forfeit of a Senior League Fixture	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not later than 4pm each Monday • After 4pm each Monday (or no notification) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ NIL + 3pts & 3 goals awarded to opposition team \$220.00 + 3pts & 3 goals awarded to opposition team
16.2.12	Forfeit of a Finals Series Fixture	\$550.00
16.2.13	Insufficient information/incorrect details noted on match sheet	\$50.00 (per fixture)
16.2.14	Failure to lodge match sheets as specified	\$75.00 (per fixture)
16.2.15	Results not entered online by nominated deadline	\$30.00 (per fixture)
16.2.16	Failure to comply with match day instructions	\$100.00 (per incident)
16.2.17	Home Club fails to wear alternate strip	\$75.00 (per instance)

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16.2.18 Ineligible occupation in a Technical Area (e.g. spectator)	\$100.00 (per instance)
16.2.19 Wearing a playing strip not approved by FFNC	\$220.00 (per instance)
16.2.20 Non-attendance (without a proxy) Annual General Meeting	\$100.00
16.2.21 Trophy not returned	
• Not returned prior to due date	\$200.00
• Not returned (i.e. trophy lost) or damage to trophy	Cost of replacement + \$200.00
16.2.22 Disciplinary Appeals	
• First Appeal	\$600.00
• Second Appeal	\$800.00
16.2.23 Lodgment of Grievance	\$1000.00 (non-refundable)

17. FITNESS OF GROUNDS

- 17.1. The Referee shall have the right to decide upon the fitness of the ground for the purpose of cancelling a match, but in the case of severe conditions, the Zone may decide on the condition of the playing fields where required.
- 17.2. A decision to determine that a match shall not proceed as per schedule due to the fitness of the field can be determined by any of the following (not necessarily in order or priority):
- 17.3. Match Referee; or Home Club; or Council; or The Zone
- 17.4. The authority does not exist to force or insist that a match proceeds where a genuine concern exists about the field or weather conditions, however the match referee has the primary authority to determine if a match does proceed.
- 17.5. ONLY the Zone shall have the discretion to transfer or reschedule any match, including transferring the match to an alternate field at the same venue.
- 17.6. The Zone will advise all affected Clubs of any transfers or cancellations that may be necessary due to closures notified by 12pm Friday (for weekend scheduled matches), and up to 12pm on the day of mid-week matches. Changes will also be posted on the Zone website at www.footballfarnorthcoast.com.au where possible.
- 17.7. If a club/council ground controller finds it necessary to close grounds the club must notify the Zone immediately (and before notifying other parties) via mobile 0438 215 593. Further instructions will be provided to confirm the status of the match/es at the venue (i.e. postponed/transferred/cancelled) and what further action is required by the club;
- 17.8. Matches that are deferred due to wet weather, or for any reason, shall be rescheduled for play by the Zone wherever possible*. If the matches are not able to be played, they shall be classed as a 0-0 draw.
- (*)Scheduling of any type is at the absolute discretion of Football Far North Coast.
- 17.9. Particular caution should be taken with storm activity, noting that fixtures can be delayed for a short period and recommence when the danger has passed. The referee shall determine if a match is abandoned.

18. FIRST AID

- 18.1. Each individual club (team) shall be responsible for the primary care and treatment of minor injuries (including the provision of ice). A player suspected of having a serious injury should not be moved. An ambulance should be called (000) in such instances.

19. FINAL SERIES

19.1. Overview

- (i) Final Series matches will ordinarily be allocated to the home ground of the competing team that finished highest on the pointscore (where reasonable and at the discretion of the Zone);
- (ii) In the event that a Finals Series is unable to be completed due to factors such as adverse weather or field conditions, the team(s) that finish highest (in order of points/pointscore ranking) will advance (or be declared winner);
- (iii) A player who is listed on the LAST match sheet in the pointscore season in a higher grade, making this their sixth match as a borrowed player, can subsequently participate in the Finals Series in the higher competition and NOT be deemed to be re-graded despite that match being their seventh in the higher competition.

19.2. Junior competitions 12's, 13's and 14's

- (i) If the match is still drawn after extra time, BOTH teams will be declared joint champions. (NOTE that kicks from the penalty mark are not used beyond normal time or extra time)

19.3. Junior competitions 15's and 16's

- (i) If the match is still drawn after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will proceed to determine the winner.

19.4. Senior leagues

- (i) If the match is still drawn after extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will proceed to determine the winner.

19.5. Awards

- Medallion to each player in the winning GF team.
- Medallion to each player in the point score winning team.
- Medallion to each player in the JUNIOR runners-up GF team.
- Medallion to each Player of the GF;
- Medallion to each Match Official in each GF.

19.6. Junior Finals and Grand Finals Series

- (i) Determined at the assessment of FFNC, however is ordinarily as follows;
- (ii) The FOUR (4) teams that finish highest at the conclusion of the point score competition (in order of points/point score ranking) will play-off to decide the semi-final winners, final winner and then Grand Final Winner and Runners-up for that Grade/Division in accordance with the following formula;

1. Week 1

- Match A – Elimination Semi-Final – Team 3 v Team 4
 - Winner to Final (Match C)
 - Loser out
- Match B – Qualifying Semi-Final – Team 1 v Team 2
 - Winner to Grand Final (Match D)
 - Loser to Final (Match C)

2. Week 2

- Match C – Final – Loser Match B v Winner Match A
 - Winner to Grand Final (Match D)
 - Loser Out

3. Week 3

- Match D – Grand Final - Winner Match B v Winner Match C

- 4. Matches A, B & C: If the match is drawn at full time there will be 10 minutes extra time each way for Grades 12 to 16 (inclusive).

- (iii) If the match is still drawn after extra time:

- For ages 12 – 14: the team which finished highest on the point score shall advance (there will NOT be kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner in Grade 12, 13 or 14 matches).
- Kicks from the penalty mark will apply to determine the winner in Grade 15 and Grade 16.

- 5 Match D: Grand Final: If the match is drawn at full time there will be 10 minutes extra time each way for ages 12 to 16 (inclusive).

- If the match is still drawn after extra time:
- For grades 12 – 14: Joint Winners will be declared (there will NOT be kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner in Grade 12, 13 or 14 matches).
- Kicks from the penalty mark will apply to determine the winner in Grade 15 and Grade 16.

19.7. Senior Finals and Grand Final Series

- (i) Unless otherwise specified by the Zone, the FIVE (5) teams that finish highest at the conclusion of the pointscore competition (in order of points/pointscore ranking) will play-off to decide the semi-final winners, finals winner and then Grand Final Winner and Runners-up for that league in accordance with the following formula;
1. Week 1
 - Match A – Team 4 v Team 5 - First Elimination Semi-Final
 - Winner to Second Elimination Semi-Final (Match C)
 - Loser out
 - Match B – Team 2 v Team 3 - Preliminary Semi-Final
 - Winner to Qualifying Semi-Final (Match D)
 - Loser to Second Elimination Semi Final (Match C)
 - Team 1 has no game in week 1
 2. Week 2
 - Match C - Second Elimination Semi-Final – Loser Match B v Winner Match A
 - Winner to Final (Match E)
 - Loser Out
 - Match D - Qualifying Semi-Final – Team 1 v Winner Match B
 - Winner to GF (Match F)
 - Loser to Final (Match E)
 3. Week 3
 - Match E – Final – Loser Match D v Winner Match C
 - Winner to GF (Match F)
 - Loser Out
 4. Week 4
 - Match F - Grand Final – Winner Match D v Winner Match E
 5. Matches A, B, C, D E & F: If the matches are drawn at full time, there will be 10 minutes extra time each way. If matches are still drawn at the conclusion of extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will determine the winner.

20. FORFEIT

- 20.1. A forfeit is typically a match in which one team is unable to field SEVEN (7) players for the match (however, is not limited to this example);
- (i) Win by forfeit: THREE (3) pts plus minimum of THREE (3) goals awarded to the team “receiving” the forfeit;
- 20.2. In the event of at least seven players per team being present prior to kick-off, the match must commence at the scheduled kick-off time;
- 20.3. In the event of a team failing to take the field within fifteen minutes of the scheduled starting time, the opposing team, if on the field of play, will be awarded the match by a forfeit;
- 20.4. There is no specific allowance for travel and time is reduced from the normal match duration after the scheduled kick-off time elapses;
- 20.5. In the event that extraordinary circumstances prevent one or both teams (or the match officials) being able to take the field within 15 minutes of the scheduled time, the match may be deemed to be a forfeit (but requires the authority of the Zone);

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- 20.6 If the forfeit has not been notified to the Zone by 1pm Monday prior to the relevant upcoming weekend fixtures*, the respective Club will be fined as disclosed by FFNC in Appendix A
- (i) (*) For midweek fixtures, the applicable Monday will be considered to be the Monday of the previous week (i.e. prior to the scheduled fixture).
- 20.7 If an ineligible participant is found to have participated in a match, the team which included the ineligible participant/s shall forfeit their points and goals. All goals scored by their opponents shall be recorded, with a minimum of 3 goals and 3 match points being awarded to the opposing team;
- 20.8 A forfeit is classified as a match and as such, a ONE (1) match component of an applicable suspension may be served by a participant in such circumstances, but only for a participant from the team receiving the forfeit.
- 20.9 Any team which forfeits a match in the finals series shall take no further part in the series, and will be fined as per Appendix A;
- 20.10 The enforcement of a forfeit for any reason including the absence of match officials or dispute between teams shall be referred to the Zone for determination;
- 20.11 The Zone shall have the sole discretion to determine if a match shall be played, rescheduled or considered a forfeit in the event of a dispute occurring;

21 FRIENDLIES

- 21.1 All football activity involving participants from more than one club, requires specific sanctioning by FFNC. Refer to the FFNC website and various information distributed to member clubs annually.

G

22 GENDER

- 22.1 Coles MiniRoos
- 22.1.1 Teams (i.e. Ages 6 - 11) are mixed gender unless specifically nominated as being Girls only;
- 22.1.2 Coles MiniRoos teams (i.e. mixed gender) will play in an appropriate age eligible pool;
- 22.1.3 Female players are eligible to participate in Mixed gender OR Girls only Coles MiniRoos pools or teams that they are otherwise eligible, whether by age, registration, grading or special exemption;
- 22.1.4 Male players are eligible to participate in Mixed gender Coles MiniRoos pools or teams that they are otherwise eligible, whether by age, registration, grading or special exemption;
- 22.1.5 Male players are NOT eligible to participate in Girls only Coles MiniRoos pools or teams;
- 22.2 Junior Competitions (Grade 12 – 16)
- 22.2.1 Teams (i.e. Grade 12 - 16) are mixed gender unless specifically nominated as being Girls only teams;
- 22.2.2 Male junior players are permitted to participate in mixed gender teams that they are otherwise eligible, whether by age, registration, grading or special exemption;
- 22.2.3 Male players are NOT eligible to participate in Girls competitions;

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22.2.4 Female junior players are permitted to participate in mixed gender OR Girls teams that they are otherwise eligible, whether by age, registration, grading or special exemption;

22.3 Senior Leagues

22.3.1 Teams are specific to Male or Female gender;

22.3.2 Male players are eligible to participate in Male senior leagues that they are otherwise eligible, whether by age, registration, grading or special exemption;

22.3.3 Male players are NOT eligible to participate in Female senior leagues;

22.3.4 Female players are eligible to participate in Female senior leagues that they are otherwise eligible, whether by age, registration, grading or special exemption;

22.3.5 Female players are NOT eligible to participate in Male senior leagues;

23 GRADING OF PLAYERS

23.1 A senior player cannot drop more than two senior leagues below the league they participated in their most recent last FFNC season without lodgement of an application for an exemption and specific approval from FFNC.

23.2 Clubs are expected to grade their players in an appropriate league/division based on their skill level.

23.3 Players found to be playing below their standard can be regraded at the discretion of the Zone;

23.4 The Zone has the discretion to refuse the specific terms of participation of a player for any reason that is assessed by FFNC as contrary to the terms within competition or relevant regulations, including applications to play below their skill level.

23.5 Applications for re-grading will not be accepted after 15th May 2025;

23.6 A player can be re-graded a maximum of TWICE in any given season (except when as a consequence of the 7-up Rule – see “7-up Rule”).

23.7 A player who has been re-registered to a higher league cannot be transferred back to a lower league/grade.

23.8 Penalties (including fines and loss of points) will be imposed if a registered player is found to participate in a league/grade contrary to their approved grading.

24 RE-GRADING

24.1 A club can re-grade a player to a HIGHER league at any time (subject to the conditions of the 7-Up Rule)

24.2 An individual player cannot be re-graded to a lower league more than twice in the same season;

24.3 The impact of the ‘7-up rule’ is otherwise applicable, noting that it is to be used in a way that the ‘same’ players are not used to participate as a borrowed player in multiple leagues on multiple occasions.

24.4 Each application will be assessed by FFNC on its merits and is only in effect when/if approved in writing by FFNC.

24.5 Participation of a player who is found to be unregistered will initiate action consistent with the FA National Code of Conduct Regulations. Such action may result in penalties being imposed on a club and individuals.

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- 24.6 FFNC reserves the right to review any grading approval in instances where a player displays superior skill inconsistent with participation in a lower league.

25 SEVEN (7)-UP RULE

- 25.1 The 7-up Rule means that a player who is listed on the SAME grade/division/league a "seventh time" will be re-graded UP to the higher competition team.
- 25.2 Any junior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same higher junior grade/division more than six times during the pointscore competition will be re-registered to that higher junior grade/division team;
- 25.3 Any junior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same senior league more than six times during the pointscore competition will be re-registered to that senior team;
- 25.4 Any senior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same higher league more than six times during a pointscore competition will be re-registered to the higher league team;
- 25.5 A re-grading as a consequence of the 7-up Rule will mean that a player is immediately ineligible to also participate in any lower league/grade in which they had previously been eligible;

26 GROUND CLOSURE PROCEDURE

- 26.1 Information regarding the wet weather procedure and contacts can be found on the Football Far North Coast website: footballfarnorthcoast.com.au/wet-weather/
- 26.2 Matches should be considered to be proceeding unless there is a formal notification from FFNC that any game has been postponed or from the respective HOME club (that has first contacted FFNC).
- 26.3 Please ignore social media postings or references on any council website, as such information is regularly incorrect.
- 26.4 The inevitable questions about field closures (especially relevant for travelling teams) can be directed to the nominated wet weather contact at individual clubs, if such enquiries are considered appropriate.
- 26.5 Rain is one of the many factors that add to the complexities of delivering a suitable schedule of fixtures, however with the assistance of clubs, FFNC aims to deliver appropriate outcomes.
- 26.6 Should grounds be assessed as being closed, we ask for this advice to be made known to FFNC as early as possible via phone call or text to **Steve on 0438 215 593**;

27 GROUND OFFICIALS (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS DUTY OFFICERS PRIOR TO 2025)

- 27.1 Every Club shall appoint a minimum of one Ground Official per field for each home and away match regardless of league/grade. This includes matches that are played at a neutral venue;
- 27.2 The Ground Official MUST wear a Ground Official vest (or other suitable brightly coloured vest) at all times and be very visible;
- 27.3 The Ground Official MUST be at least 18 years of age, must be registered in PlayFootball as a Volunteer and cannot be involved in any other activity (i.e., coach, manager, canteen, etc.) whilst acting as a Ground Official;
- 27.4 The Ground Official shall not be affected by alcohol and must not consume alcohol whilst performing official duties;

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- 27.5 A Ground Official is prohibited from occupying the Technical Area unless they are instructed by a referee to respond to a player of team official who represents their club
- 27.6 The Ground Official duties may include;
- 27.6.1 If an official referee is not present, ensure that a referee is arranged either by the HOME team or by consent of the two teams playing;
- 27.6.2 Escort the designated match officials to and from the playing field and ensure their safety at all times;
- 27.6.3 Source an alternate strip for the HOME team, if required;
- 27.6.4 Encourage spectators to comply with the Spectator's Code of Behaviour;
- 27.6.5 Direct and assist an ambulance if called to attend to a player or any other person;
- 27.6.6 Be of assistance wherever possible to encourage appropriate behaviour at the venue;
- 27.7 The Ground Official shall remain passive at all times when acting in the role, including during the match (i.e. not yelling at players or match officials).
- 27.8 All clubs involved in the sale of alcohol shall comply with all liquor licensing laws and any further requirements of the Zone. FFNC recommends a designated area to be nominated for the consumption of alcohol and specifically prohibits the consumption of alcohol within ten (10) metres of the proximity of the Technical Area;
- 27.9 FFNC specifically prohibits the sale of alcohol during MiniRoos and junior competition matches.
- 27.10 Smoking is banned in spectator areas at sports grounds and other recreational areas when they are being used for an organised sporting event (*Section 6A of the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000*).
- 27.11 Failure to comply with any of the above regulations may incur fines/penalties as per Appendix A or prosecution by regulatory authorities;

H

28 HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- 28.1 The team whose name appears first in the draw shall considered to be the HOME team, regardless of the venue.
- 28.2 BOTH the Home and Opposition teams must always supply a Ground Official, who must present themselves to the referee of all senior matches 15 minutes prior to kick off and for all junior matches 10 minutes prior to kick off (*for more information on the role of a Ground Official, refer to Clause 26*)
- 28.3 The Home Team/Club shall supply THREE (3) compliant match balls of reasonable quality and present to the referee at least TEN (10) minutes prior to kick-off.
- 28.4 If an official referee is not appointed or is otherwise unavailable to officiate on a match, the HOME team has the responsibility of arranging a CENTRE referee, who must be aged at least 18 years:
- 28.4.1 If a referee is not sourced by the HOME team and the game does not proceed, the result will be entered as a FORFEIT by the HOME team (3 points and 3 goals awarded to the AWAY team).

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29 INSURANCE

29.1 Refer to the Insurance reference found on the FFNC website

30 INTERCHANGE

30.1 Overview Coles MiniRoos

30.1.1 Interchange of players exists for ALL FFNC matches (competitive and non-competitive) and ALL competitions.

30.1.2 MiniRoos – no interchange limit and coaches can interchange players at any time during a match. Play does not have to stop to enable an inter-change to occur.

30.2 Overview Grade 12 to seniors – maximum of five (5) interchange players with unlimited interchanges;

30.2.1 Players from a team's technical area can be inter-changed with a team-mate at any time during a match, subject to (1) The referee confirming that there is a stop in play, which is ordinarily only permitted when the ball goes out of play (2) The referee has authorised that an inter-change can be made (3) The inter-change player waits for a team-mate to exit the field of play (4) The inter-change player enters to field of play in the vicinity of the half-way point.

30.2.2 A referee is not obliged to allow an inter-change to occur.

30.2.3 A referee should ordinarily prohibit an inter-change being made within the last two minutes of either half, unless it is requested in response to wanting to replace a player who is genuinely injured.

30.2.4 The use of inter-change is not to be used as a deliberate tactic to slow the game down (noting that there is no allowance for time added on). A referee should ordinary prohibit ongoing or excessive inter-changes by any one team.

30.3 Premier League inter-changes (men's league and women's league)

30.3.1 A team can nominate (i.e. circle the shirt numbers on the match sheet) of its Starting Eleven, BEFORE kick-off (i.e. when the match sheet book is given to the match officials);

30.3.2 If a starting eleven has not been nominated before kick-off FFNC records will reflect the participation of ALL players listed on the match sheet.

30.3.3 Interchanges that are made (in Premier League) AFTER the first half (i.e. during the HT break) will be 'free' for the purposes of the 7-Up Rule. This means that participation relevant to premier league, will be based on players who take the field during the FIRST HALF.

30.3.4 A player interchange is made when the ball is out of play or at a stoppage in play and for which the following conditions shall be observed:

30.3.4.1 The player leaving the field shall do so from the closest point to where they are at the time of the interchange request;

30.3.4.2 The player entering the field shall only do so when the player leaving the field has left the field of play.

30.3.4.3 The player entering the field of play should enter from the halfway in the vicinity between the Technical Areas

30.3.4.4 Interchange players remain subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee.

30.3.5 There is no maximum number of player interchanges that can be made during a match (with approval from the referee). A player who has been replaced may return to the field in the place of a player currently on the field.

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30.3.6 There is no time added on or allowance made to a match duration due to interchanges, regardless of how many interchanges are made or when they occur.

30.3.7 The referee has the authority to refuse an interchange.

J

31 JUNIOR PLAYERS

- 31.1 A player who will be aged a maximum of 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 in the current calendar is primarily categorised as being a junior player.
- 31.2 A player who is aged 14, 15 or 16 and who is specifically graded in a senior league squad, will otherwise be considered to be a 'senior player' and will be ineligible to participate in a junior team;
- 31.3 A player who is aged 12 and is given an exemption to participate in a MiniRoos team, will otherwise be considered to be a 'MiniRoos player' and will be ineligible to participate in a junior team;
- 31.4 A player who is aged 17 and is given an exemption to participate in a JUNIOR team, will otherwise be considered to be a 'JUNIOR player' and will be ineligible to participate in a SENIOR team;
- 31.5 Any *male* player who is aged 14, 15, or 16 who is registered at a given club, can participate in the junior team for which they are eligible and also in Men's League 2, League 1, Championship and Premier league (with the same club) and be exempt from the 'seven up' rule.
- 31.6 Any female player who is aged 14, 15, or 16 who is registered at a given club, can participate in a junior team for which that they are eligible and also in Women's Championship (previously League 2) and Premier league (with the same club) and be exempt from the 'seven up' rule.
- 31.7 Players aged 17 or 18 (ordinarily participating in senior football) can be included as part of (one squad only) either league 2, league 1, championship or premier league and participate in a higher league where applicable (from league 2 to premier league). Note that players of age 17 or 18 are technically still juniors (i.e. youth) players, who will each have different physical and technical development despite participating in senior football.
- 31.8 An age eligible junior female player can be included in one squad however can participate in a team for either/both mixed gender competitions and/or female competitions for which they are age eligible* (*participation is limited to the same club and a maximum of one team in instances where a club has more than one team in the same competition).

K - L

M

32 MATCH BALLS

All Match Balls shall be of materials approved by FIFA. The following sizes will apply;

32.1	Grade 6 to 9 inclusive	Size 3
32.2	Grade 10 to 13 inclusive	Size 4
32.3	Grade 14 to 16 inclusive	Size 5
32.4	All senior leagues	Size 5

33 MATCH OFFICIALS (ALSO KNOWN AS REFEREES)

- 33.1 Shall have an authority as per FIFA Laws of the Game (Law 5);
- 33.2 Junior match officials (aged under 18 years) shall not act as a centre official on senior matches, unless specifically appointed or approved by FFNC;
- 33.3 Match Officials are NOT to take match sheets from the ground for any purpose and teams/clubs are not to send match sheets with match officials on the expectation that a referee will lodge the match sheets with FFNC. The referee is to submit completed match sheets (for both competing teams) to the HOME club.
- 33.4 The Home Club has the responsibility to submit match sheets to the FFNC office.
- 33.5 Match Officials (including CLUB match officials), must wear suitable footwear and attire.
- 33.6 This also applies where club sourced Assistant Referees (where ordinarily required for 16's and each for senior fixture). Note that AR's are not appointed (or required) for competition fixtures between Grade 12 and Grade 15).
- 33.7 FFNC does everything reasonable to appoint match officials to provide a centre for every competition match between Grade 12 and seniors and also assistants from Grade 16 to seniors. There are however rarely any surplus match officials and there is typically a shortage of match officials to cover every appointment required. Notwithstanding appointments made by FFNC, each HOME club must anticipate having an ADULT to officiate (i.e. Centre) for any competition fixture that is absent of an official appointment.
- 33.8 Please notate the section on match sheets seeking the name of each match official, with the word CLUB where appropriate. If any accredited match officials officiate beyond those nominated by FFNC, the names of these individuals should be written on the match sheets to ensure that they are identified as part of the weekly FFNC reconciliation of records.
- 33.9 Any reference to "Match Official(s)" or "Referee(s)" in these regulations also refers to a CLUB appointed referee.

34 MATCH RESULTS

- 34.1 Results will be recorded online and accessible via the FFNC website: www.footballfarnorthcoast.com.au. These online records will form the official record of each competition, noting that match sheet records are reconciled by FFNC each week and amendments made (where necessary) are at the absolute discretion of FFNC.
- 34.2 It shall be the responsibility of the HOME club to submit results online before 11 pm each Sunday night (for weekend matches) or by 11pm the same night for mid-week games.

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35 MATCH SHEETS

35.1 Pre-Match

- 35.1.1 Each Team representative shall fill in a Match Sheet with the correct participant details of their team, also completing all details correctly on the match sheet header in full.
- 35.1.2 A maximum of SIXTEEN (16) names may be listed on any one match sheet.
- 35.1.3 Players' shirt numbers must correspond with the number next to their name on the match sheet for all competitive leagues/grades.
- 35.1.4 All names shall be printed in BLOCK LETTERS and show FIRST name and LAST name.
- 35.1.5 All junior and senior players playing up from a junior grade/lower senior league must have a notation of BP next to their name on the match sheet.
- 35.1.6 A senior team may play a maximum of three (3) junior players in any given match.
- 35.1.6.1 Players graded in a junior competition are ineligible from participating in the two lowest Men's Leagues or the lowest Women's League.
- 35.1.7 Players whose names are listed on the Match Sheet before the match commences are able to take the field.
- 35.1.8 Players names cannot be added to the match sheet after play has commenced (meaning beyond when the match sheet books are given to the referee before the start of play).
- 35.1.9 The name of each suspended participant MUST be written in the appropriate section of the Match Sheet to indicate that they are standing down from that particular match or they will be deemed to have not stood down for that match and will not have decreased their term of suspension.
- 35.1.10 The person who is identified on the match sheet as "Team Official 1" will ordinarily be identified as the senior team coach.
- 35.1.11 The team representative shall hand the match sheet to the referee at least FIFTEEN (15) minutes prior to kick-off.
- 35.1.12 Failure to comply with any of the above Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties as disclosed by FFNC and as imposed at the discretion of FFNC.

35.2 Post-Match

- 35.2.1 All players listed on the match sheet, unless crossed out, will be deemed to have played. Cross off all players who did not participate in the match with the permission of the centre official.
- 35.2.2 At the completion of the match the team representative shall confer with the referee on the match sheet details and both shall sign the match sheet.
- 35.2.3 The original copy of the match sheets (both competing teams) shall be handed in to the Canteen at the HOME venue or to the HOME team (for matches played at a neutral venue) by the referee.
- 35.2.4 The Team Manager shall retain the carbon copy (in the match sheet booklet) for the Club's records.

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- 35.2.5 All Match Sheets are to be delivered to the Zone office at Suite 5/32 Gum Tree Drive, Goonellabah, no later than 1pm (Wed) (after weekend fixtures) or within 48 hours after other fixtures. A digital version (i.e. scanned copy) can be submitted in the first instance, however the physical copy of all match sheets must still be submitted to the Zone.
- 35.2.6 Failure to comply with any of the above Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties as as disclosed by FFNC and as imposed at the discretion of FFNC.

36 MERCY RULE

- 36.1 FFNC introduced a 'pilot' component within its competition regulations in 2024, called a '**Mercy Rule**'. This is retained in 2026.

This means that the maximum score recorded in any competition fixture in 2025 (i.e. ages 12 to seniors), will be a differential of TEN (10) goals.

The basis of this regulation, is to demonstrate that grassroots football, can be about winning matches, but should not be about humiliating opposition players and teams. The concept of a mercy rule might be a new concept for our code, but it exists in various sports, including AFL, Baseball, Basketball, Rugby League and Netball.

If a score differential of TEN (10) is reached, the match can continue (as a friendly), if both teams wish to do so. Regardless of what occurs after the score differential threshold of ten has been reached, FFNC will only recognise the score as it was at that point of the match. We make it known that any yellow or red cards issued (at any time during the normal allocated duration of the match), will remain valid and a team cannot 'forfeit' a match to circumvent the mercy rule being imposed.

37 COLES MINIROOS

- 37.1 [Coles MiniRoos Playing Format and Rules](#)

- 37.2 A MiniRoos player can participate in ANY other MiniRoos team for the club that they are registered with, as long as the player is age-eligible to participate in such team (*)

37.2.1 (*) Age-eligible means the age of the player by DOB for the calendar year in which the season exists.

37.2.2 (*) Age-eligible includes participation in a MiniRoos team/pool that is up to a maximum of TWO (2) years above the child's eligible age.

37.2.3 This means that a player who turns 8 in the current calendar year can participate in Ages 8, 9 or 10 (unless the child has been given an exemption by FFNC to participate in Grade 7 as an over-age player. In that case, the child is limited to participating in Age 7)

37.2.4 If an exemption is granted for a junior player to participate in a Coles MiniRoos as an OVER-AGE player, the player is prohibited from subsequently also participating in any older age junior competition in the same season.

38 MISCELLANEOUS

- 38.1 [Grade 12 Playing Format and Rules](#)

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N-O

39 OTHER

- 39.1 Football Far North Coast has the sole authority to introduce, amend or delete any Regulation or Procedure as and when it sees fit, and the same shall be binding on all Members.

P

40 PARTICIPATION

- 40.1 Participation in a specific competition is subject to the terms of eligibility for such competition, whether by age, grading or other conditions.
- 40.2 Participation is deemed to be "name listed on the match sheet".
- 40.3 Any participant whose name has not been crossed off the match sheet (with the consent of the Referee following the match) will be deemed to have participated in that match, even if they did not take the field or act in an official role (i.e. team official).
- 40.4 An individual can be registered but cannot participate while subject to the terms of a sanction.
- 40.5 Pointscore Competition matches will be played for points as follows.
- 40.5.1 WIN: THREE (3) points.
 - 40.5.2 DRAW: ONE (1) point.
 - 40.5.3 LOSS: NIL (0) points.
 - 40.5.4 WIN BY FORFEIT: THREE (3) pts plus minimum of THREE (3) goals awarded to the team "receiving" the forfeit (see "Forfeit").
 - 40.5.5 BYE: NIL (0) points
- 40.6 Determination of Pointscore Champions
- 40.6.1 The team that finishes highest (in order of points/pointscore ranking) will be the particular grade/league Pointscore Champion.
 - 40.6.2 In the event of two or more teams finishing equal on points in the pointscore competition, the better goal difference will decide the higher placing.
 - 40.6.3 In the event of two or more teams also finishing equal on goal difference, the most goals scored (goals "for") will decide the higher placing.
 - 40.6.4 In the event of two or more teams also finishing equal on most goals scored (goals "for"), the team with the lesser number of yellow/red cards received will decide the higher placing.
 - 40.6.5 Joint premiers will be declared if no distinction in results (on any measure) can be determined.

41 PENALTIES (and FINES)

41.1 Refer to Clause 17 Fines (and Penalties).

42 PREGNANCY

- 42.1 The formal FFNC recommendation to a female player who is aware that she is pregnant, is to cease playing against playing until she has been given a medical clearance to return to playing after the birth of her child.
- 42.2 FFNC rejects any liability, blame or responsibility for any harm that may occur to an individual (or unborn child), if a decision is made by any individual to participate while they are pregnant.
- 42.3 If a player is pregnant there shall be no manipulation verbally by the opposing team or her own team concerning the condition of that player. If such evidence is found of such manipulation, the offending player will be prohibited from further participation in the relevant season.

43 PROMOTION and RELEGATION

- 43.1 Promotion and Relegation
- 43.1.1 Promotion and relegation shall apply between senior leagues at the discretion of FFNC.
- 43.1.2 The general principle is that clubs that have a team that finish in the “top 2” of a league will ordinarily be promoted to the next relative highest league in the following season. Promotion (i.e. grading upwards) is based on a broad assessment of teams from each respective club. Grading of players is fundamentally a club responsibility, noting that the grading of teams can create a “shuffle effect”. For example, a club team promoted may have the impact of keeping a second club team in a higher league than which it would appear suited. A club is not permitted to have more than one team in any one senior league.
- 43.1.3 Conversely, the general principle is that clubs that have a team that finish in the “bottom 2” of a league will ordinarily be relegated to the next relative lowest league in the following season.
- 43.2 The formal FFNC recommendation to a female player who is aware that she is pregnant, is to cease playing against playing until she has been given a medical clearance to return to playing after the birth of her child.
- 43.3 FFNC rejects any liability, blame or responsibility for any harm that may occur to an individual (or unborn child), if a decision is made by any individual to participate while they are pregnant.
- 43.4 If a player is pregnant there shall be no manipulation verbally by the opposing team or her own team concerning the condition of that player.

44 PLAYERS EQUIPMENT

- 44.1 Players Equipment is fully defined within *Law 4 of the FIFA “Laws of the Game”* (LOTG);
- 44.2 The match referee has an obligation to uphold the terms outlined within Law 4 of the Laws of the Game.
- 44.3 A player who is identified by a match official as wearing incorrect equipment/clothing, will be required to remove or replace such items before being permitted to participate.
- 44.4 Such items may include a different playing shirt, playing shorts, playing socks (noting that a goalie must wear the same strip as outfield players if the goalie assumes a position out of goal through the game), jewellery (regardless of reason for wearing or claims of being unable to remove such an item).

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- 44.5 A referee is authorised to prevent a player from participating if instructions given about a player's equipment are not adequately responded to by any such participant.
- 44.6 The referee must instruct one team to wear an alternate strip where a clash of shirt colours exists, and a referee is not authorised to "overlook" this for any reason. EVERY club must have an alternate strip available for all teams and which has been approved by FFNC. Please also note that the strip worn by goalies must be different from the outfield players on both teams and the match officials.
- 44.7 FFNC will impose a fine in the amount of \$100 per incident on a club linked with a breach where evidence (e.g. advised by the referee) leads to a conclusion that a player/team/club failed to comply to reasonable directions relevant to "the Player's Equipment".
- 44.8 Every playing shirt must have a distinct number from each other team-mate that reconciles with the number listed next to that player on the match sheet.
- 44.9 The number must be displayed on the back of the shirt at a size and quality that the referee considers is adequately visible.
- 44.10 Bibs are not able to be worn over playing shirts, as an alternative to players wearing numbered playing shirts, even when such bibs are numbered.
- 44.11 All participating female players must wear supporting bras or crop tops under their playing shirts.
- 44.12 Players are permitted to wear prescription glasses subject to the lenses being "sports/safety" design and frames being assessed by the referee as not creating an undue risk to the player wearing the glasses or other participants.
- 44.13 The referee has the authority to exclude any player wearing spectacles considered to be a risk to themselves or another player.
- 44.14 Plaster casts – a player with a plaster cast is NOT permitted to participate regardless of any additional wrapping used to soften the hardness of the cast.
- 44.15 A forfeit may be imposed by FFNC against a team that is deemed to have breached any aspect of Law 4.
- 44.16 The Laws of the Game apply even at Community Football level and Law 4 is perhaps the easiest component to comply with. We invite clubs to share this information with players, coaches and parents, so that the inevitable disputes through lack of understanding of the requirements that apply are no longer part of a game day experience for anyone.
- 44.17 **Jewellery**
- 44.17.1 **Players are NOT allowed to play in ANY competition fixture if they are wearing jewellery (or other like items). The Laws of the Game - Law 4 prohibits the wearing of items including necklaces, rings, visible piercings with studs, earrings, bracelets, watch, leather bands and rubber bands or any item deemed by the referee to be a potential hazard. Visible means 'suspected as being concealed under visible tape'.**
- 44.17.2 **Players CANNOT tape jewellery under ANY circumstances. If a player is unable to remove an item of jewellery, that player is NOT permitted to participate.**
- 44.17.3 Jewellery (regardless of reason for wearing or claims of being unable to remove such an item) CANNOT be worn during play.
- 44.17.4 A player CANNOT tape jewellery under any circumstances as an attempt to gain a concession to removing such jewellery.

- 44.17.5 Match officials are required to make such checks/enquiries as part of the equipment check prior to the game and they are obliged to be vigilant and uphold the requirements of Law 4. Match officials are required to make reasonable checks/enquiries and to instruct players to remove jewellery
- 44.17.6 Any player found to be wearing jewellery during the match will be issued a yellow card and will be instructed to leave the field of play and remove the item(s). They are not permitted to return to the field of play until a future stoppage in the match and only if/when, the referee has confirmed that the player has removed the offending item.
- 44.17.7 FFNC will not provide any exceptions for ANY player to participate by taping jewellery
- 44.17.8 This information is consistent with the requirements of law 4 (players' equipment) in the laws of the game and no person (including any individual match official or administrator), is authorised to deviate from what is mandated.
- 44.17.9 Match officials are also prohibited from wearing (or taping) jewellery except the wearing of one (or two) watches.

44.18 Spectacles

Sports spectacles are recommended, however if they are not sports spectacles, the referee should inspect the equipment to determine they do not pose any danger to the player wearing the spectacles or any other participant. Note however that evidence of the type of lenses is not required, but the referee is authorised to ask the wearer of the spectacles about the type of lenses. Note that the intensity/contact in junior fixtures is generally much less in younger ages (compared to senior football). The type of frame is generally the component that is more likely to be a risk to harm.

If a senior player is wearing spectacles on the field of play during matches, the spectacles should be sport spectacles. This is for the safety of the wearer and other participants.

- 44.18.1 The same conditions apply relevant to a match official who is wearing spectacles.

44.19 Hard Casts

- 44.19.1 Players are NOT allowed to play with a plaster cast or any type of hard cast in any FFNC sanctioned fixtures (whether wrapped in padding or not). They also cannot occupy the Technical Area (unless they are a registered Team Official and have been listed as a Team Official on the match sheet).
- 44.19.2 The appointed centre referee is obliged to enforce these regulations and to further report any concerns to FFNC to enable enquiries to be made with respective clubs.

45 PLAYING STRIPS

- 45.1 See *"Facilities and Equipment" – "Playing Strips"*
- 45.2 See also *"Alternate Strips"*

46 REGRADING

- 46.1 A club can submit an application to re-grade a player to a lower league not later than 15th May 2025.
- 46.2 NOTE that a squad must always have at least eleven (11) eligible players, so a re-grading could prompt a 'second' re-grading (i.e. to a higher league) to comply with this regulation.
- 46.3 An individual player cannot be re-graded to a lower league more than twice in the same season.
- 46.4 Each application will be assessed by FFNC on its merits and is only in effect when/if approved in writing by FFNC.

47 REGISTRATION

- 47.1 ALL references to participants will conclude that individuals in such roles are registered (and made active) for the club in each specific role that they act. Such roles may include
 - 47.1.1 Player
 - 47.1.2 Team Official
 - 47.1.3 Volunteer
 - 47.1.4 Match Official.
- 47.2 The term PARTICIPANT is the broad descriptive for persons in ALL registered roles.
- 47.3 Registration of Players
 - 47.3.1 Mandatory for ALL players, all eligible ages, every year.
 - 47.3.2 Must be completed online in Play Football.
 - 47.3.3 A player must turn at least FIVE (5) years of age in the calendar year to be eligible to register.
 - 47.3.4 All players must be registered prior to participation in accordance with the National Registration. Regulations and consistent with the FFNC Competition Regulations and relevant policies.
 - 47.3.5 Must be made active by the player's club in Play Football prior to participation.
 - 47.3.6 A player can be registered/listed in a maximum of ONE Team, with ONE Club (within Australia) at any one time.
 - 47.3.7 An individual can be registered but cannot participate while subject to the terms of a sanction.
 - 47.3.8 The deadline for new registrations and subsequent participation is 1pm Thursday each week, until the date that registrations close.
 - 47.3.9 Applies per season relevant to the current calendar year, per nominated competition(s), as defined by the Zone.
- 47.4 Registration of Team Officials
 - 47.4.1 Mandatory for ALL Team Officials every year.
 - 47.4.2 Must be completed online in Play Football.

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- 47.4.3 A team official must turn at least EIGHTEEN (18) years of age in the calendar year to be eligible to register (i.e. they must have turned 18 before they can act in this role on match day).
- 47.4.4 Includes coaches, team managers and any person who has a role (other than as a player) on match day within the Technical Area.
- 47.4.5 All team officials must be registered prior to participation in accordance with the National Registration Regulations and consistent with the FFNC Competition Regulations and relevant policies.
- 47.4.6 Must be made active by the individual's club in PlayFootball prior to participation. This forms the primary evidence that an individual is eligible to act in this role.
- 47.4.7 The deadline for new registrations and subsequent participation is 1pm Thursday each week, until the date that registrations close.
- 47.4.8 An individual is eligible to register (and to act) as a Team Official for more than ONE (1) club.
- 47.4.9 Applies per season relevant to the current calendar year, per nominated competition(s), as defined by the Zone.
- 47.4.10 All Club Officials and Team Officials (including volunteers) must register with FA via the National Online Registration System in the manner prescribed by FA from time to time.
- 47.4.11 By the act of registration, Club Officials and Team Officials agree to abide by the FA Statutes.
- 47.4.12 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their Club Officials and Team Officials are registered with FA.
- 47.4.13 For any Club participating in a Competition where FA is the Competition Administrator, Coaches and Team officials must complete any registration process prescribed by FA in the relevant Competition Rules.

47.5 Registration of Match Officials

- 47.5.1 Mandatory for all Match Officials every year.
- 47.5.2 Must be completed online in PlayFootball.
- 47.5.3 A match official must turn at least THIRTEEN (13) years of age in the calendar year to be eligible to register.
- 47.5.4 Includes a qualified Referee, including such individuals who may act as a Centre Referee or as an Assistant Referee.
- 47.5.5 Must be made ACTIVE by FFNC in PlayFootball as the primary evidence that an individual is eligible to act in this role.
- 47.5.6 An individual is eligible to register (and to act) as a Match Official in more than ONE (1) Member Federation and/or Zone.
- 47.5.7 Applies per season relevant to the current year as defined by the Zone.

47.6 Registration of Volunteers

- 47.6.1 Mandatory for all Ground Officials every year.
- 47.6.2 Recommended for all other club volunteers.
- 47.6.3 Must be completed online in PlayFootball.

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47.6.4 Includes ALL roles not otherwise defined above.

47.6.5 Must be made active by the club in PlayFootball as the primary evidence that an individual is eligible to act in any volunteer role.

47.6.6 The deadline for new registrations is when volunteer registrations close in Play Football.

47.6.7 An individual is eligible to register (and to act) as a Volunteer (including as a Ground Official) for more than ONE (1) club.

47.6.8 Applies per season relevant to the current calendar year, as defined by the Zone.

47.7 Other

47.7.1 A Player being registered for the first time, must provide the Club (and FFNC where requested to do so) with evidence of name and age, by providing an original (or certified copy) of the person's birth certificate.

47.7.2 A person can be registered but cannot participate (in any role) while subject to the terms of a sanction.

47.7.3 Participation in a specific competition is subject to the terms of eligibility for such competition, whether by age, grading or other conditions.

47.7.4 The deadline for new registrations and subsequent participation is 1pm Thursday each week, until the date that registrations close.

47.7.5 All player registration requirements must be completed before a player will be eligible to participate in any fixture.

47.7.6 The deadline for new player registrations is the 30th of June of each season.

47.7.7 Cancellation of registration, transfer to another club or relevant matters of players can occur where participation has not occurred (i.e. meaning that a player has not been listed on a match sheet in that role) and where the application for de-registration is submitted not later than 1pm Thursday 15th May 2025.

47.7.8 Cancellation of a registration for non-competitive (MiniRoos) players will only be considered where an application to cancel registration from PlayFootball is made within 10 days of the registration being initially approved by a club. Otherwise not later than 1pm Thursday 15th May 2025.

47.7.9 Failure to comply with any of these Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties.

47.8 Article 15.2 of the Football Australia National Registration Regulations mandates the following

47.8.1 Club and Team Officials

47.8.1.1 All Club Officials and Team Officials (including volunteers) must register with FA via the National Online Registration System in the manner prescribed by FA from time to time.

47.8.1.2 By the act of registration, Club Officials and Team Officials agree to abide by the FA Statutes.

47.8.1.3 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their Club Officials and Team Officials are registered with FA.

47.8.1.4 For any Club participating in a Competition where FA is the Competition Administrator, Coaches and Team officials must complete any registration process prescribed by FA in the relevant Competition Rules.

S

48 SCHEDULING

- 48.1 Fixtures are scheduled at the discretion of Football Far North Coast.
- 48.2 The Team/Club that is named first will be considered to be the HOME team, even if the fixture is played at a neutral venue.

49 SMOKING OR VAPING

- 49.1 Smoking or Vaping within 200 metres of any football facility is prohibited
- 49.2 **Section 6A of the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000** makes a number of outdoor public places smoke-free. Smoking is banned in spectator areas at public sports grounds and other recreational areas in NSW.

50 SQUAD LISTS

- 50.1 Each Club must supply the Zone with a Squad List of players for each junior competition and senior team (i.e. 12's – seniors).
- 50.2 A club must list a minimum of 11 players in each competition team/squad;
- 50.3 A junior squad list is limited by a maximum of sixteen (16) eligible players
- 50.4 A senior squad list is limited by a maximum of eighteen (18) eligible players* (*) A maximum of sixteen (16) eligible players can participate (i.e. names written on a match sheet) in any one match;
- 50.5 All senior squad lists must contain the DOB and last grading within FFNC of all players listed.
- 50.6 All junior squad lists must contain the DOB of all players listed;
- 50.7 An initial Squad List for ALL junior competition and senior teams must be submitted to the Zone office by 1pm on the Thursday ONE week prior to round one or otherwise by 1pm on the prior Thursday before the player proposes to participate.
- 50.8 For a player who moves from one club to another club within the Zone during the season (following application and subsequent approval by FFNC), the liability for that player (including fees) moves to the second club and dissolves the liability upon the first club.
- 50.9 Notating a player as DNP means that the player DID NOT PLAY in any FFNC competition at anytime during the past FIVE (5) seasons (i.e. FFNC Winter competitions);
- 50.10 A service fee may be charged for late lodgement of a squad list.
- 50.11 An application can be submitted to FFNC (not later than 28th May 2026) to include more than 18 eligible players in a specific senior league squad.

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50.12 A maximum of 16 players are eligible to participate in any fixture regardless of the number of registered players in a given Team/Squad. Standard squad sizes are;

- Ages 5 – 7: squad of 7 players
- Ages 8: squad of 11 players
- Ages 9 – 11: squad of 14 players

50.13 If any Club withdraws a nominated team from any competition, they will be fined as per Appendix A.

T

51 TEAM CAPTAIN(S)

51.1 The philosophy and spirit of the Laws of the Game are that all those in authority, especially coaches and team captains, have a clear responsibility to the game to respect the match officials and their decisions. Participants have an influential role in shaping the image of the game and the team captain should ensure that the Laws of the Game and referees' decisions are respected.

51.2 The team captain for each junior competition and senior leagues team should be identified by the wearing of a coloured armband in accordance with Law 4 – The Players' Equipment.

51.3 The team captain has no special status or privileges, but has a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of the team.

51.4 The team captain (or any player or team official) has no right, according to the Laws of the Game (Refer Law 3), to approach a match official or to question/dispute a decision.

51.5 Although, match officials should treat players with respect, this does NOT mean answering all questions related to decisions made in a game or entering into disputes with players (be it the captain or any other participant). Team captains, players and team officials should respect the role of the match officials, regardless of whether or not there is agreement on a decision made during a game.

52 TEAM OFFICIALS

52.1 Every competition team (age 12 to seniors) must have at least ONE (1) (maximum of three) eligible Team Official(s) listed on the respective match sheet.

52.2 Nominated eligible Team Officials (in addition to eligible players) are the only individuals who are permitted to occupy the team's Technical Area during a match.

52.3 All Club Officials and Team Officials (including volunteers) must register with FA via the National Online Registration System in the manner prescribed by FA from time to time.

52.4 By the act of registration, Club Officials and Team Officials agree to abide by the FA Statutes.

52.5 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their Club Officials and Team Officials are registered with FA.

52.6 A team official must turn at least EIGHTEEN (18) years of age in the calendar year to be eligible to register (i.e. they must have turned 18 before they can act in this role on match day);

52.7 Includes coaches, team managers and any person who has a role (other than as a player) on match day within the Technical Area.

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- 52.8 All team officials must be registered prior to participation in accordance with the National Registration Regulations and consistent with the FFNC Competition Regulations and relevant policies.
- 52.9 Must be made active by the individual's club in PlayFootball prior to participation. This forms the primary evidence that an individual is eligible to act in this role.
- 52.10 The deadline for new registrations and subsequent participation is 1pm Thursday each week, until the date that registrations close.
- 52.11 An individual is eligible to register (and to act) as a Team Official for more than ONE (1) club.
- 52.12 Applies per season relevant to the current calendar year, per nominated competition(s), as defined by the Zone.
- 52.13 All Club Officials and Team Officials (including volunteers) must register with FA via the National Online Registration System in the manner prescribed by FA from time to time.
- 52.14 By the act of registration, Club Officials and Team Officials agree to abide by the FA Statutes.
- 52.15 For any Club participating in a Competition where FA is the Competition Administrator, Coaches and Team officials must complete any registration process prescribed by FA in the relevant Competition Rules.
- 52.16 Or any Club participating in a Competition where FA is the Competition Administrator, Coaches and Team officials must complete any registration process prescribed by FA in the relevant Competition Rules.

53 TIME ADDED ON

- 53.1 Time added on does NOT APPLY for fixtures played in FFNC, unless deemed appropriate in response to the assessment of the competition administrator. This means that the 'clock' continues to tick when the referee starts a game and relevant to playing two equal halves.

54 TRANSFERS

54.1 International Transfers

- 54.1.1 If the player's last registration was with a Club outside of Australia, an International Transfer Certificate (ITC also known as "International Clearance") will be required before registration can take effect. ITC applications are initiated as part of the PlayFootball process and are approved in accordance with FA regulations and procedures.
- 54.1.2 A written interim clearance may be relevant (at the sole discretion of FA) if an ITC is not received within seven (7) working days of all information being lodged with FA.
- 54.1.3 The club will be notified when the ITC is received. The player is NOT permitted to participate in any fixture, except trial fixtures, until a clearance is received.
- 54.1.4 Applications for players between the age of 12 and 18 may be subject to specific criteria for a minor, mandated by FA.
- 54.1.5 Players under the age of 12 do not require an international clearance.

54.2 Mid-Season Club Transfers

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54.2.1 Any player who wishes to change Clubs during the season needs to be approved by The Zone before 28th May 2026.

54.2.2 Approval of de-registration is subject to criteria, such as having NOT participated or confirmation that the player is transferring to another club (within the FFNC Zone or any other Zone in Australia).

54.2.3 The de-registration is effective immediately when approved by the Zone.

54.2.4 If the participant, then wishes to register with another Club they must re-register in and be approved through the normal process.

54.2.5 The Zone shall not be responsible for payments made by a player to any club. The liability for all player payments due to the Zone shall exist with the Club to which the player is deemed registered as of 30th June.

54.3 Failure to comply with the above regulations may result in penalties being imposed as disclosed and as assessed by FFNC.

U-W

WINTER SEASON OVERVIEW

54.4 Football will ordinarily consist of activity as follows;

54.4.1 Coles MiniRoos

54.4.1.1 Non-competitive format as stipulated for the FA Coles MiniRoos National Playing Formats and Rules (Grade 6-11).

54.4.1.2 Coles MiniRoos Playing Formats and Rules can be found here:
[Playing-Formats-and-Rules.pdf](#)

54.4.2 Pointscore Competitions

54.4.2.1 Age 12 – Age 16 – Aimed to be constructed as a home and away basis (subject to various factors determined by the Zone);

54.4.2.2 Competitions constructed for respective teams/players aged 17 and over, in senior gender-based competitions (male or female);

54.4.2.3 Competitions are played for points and the FIFA Laws of the Game apply unless otherwise stipulated by modifications approved under FFNC competition regulations or modified formats directed by FA or NNSWF.

X-Z

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