

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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A

Abandoned Matches

The Referee must abandon a match under the following circumstances:

1. A violent incident occurs on the field of play involving four or more participants engaging in violent conduct.
2. One or more persons invade the pitch and engage in or promote violent, offensive or threatening conduct.
3. A match official is physically assaulted.
4. Any circumstances where grave danger or threat to any person may be suspected in the vicinity of the fixture/venue;
5. In the event of a match being abandoned by the match official(s) for reasons of violence, the team or teams reported by the match official(s) shall be suspended from their next competition round;
6. Where both teams are held responsible by the Competition Administrator, the abandoned match shall be voided and not replayed;
7. Where one team is held responsible by the Competition Administrator, the abandoned match shall be classified as a forfeit and the match points shall be awarded to the opposition team;
8. If the Competition Administrator decides that the match will be replayed, the match officials will be paid again for the match;
9. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, a suspension 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, cancellation or forfeiture;
10. A yellow card issued during an abandoned match will be annulled if that match is replayed and upheld if that match is not replayed.
11. A direct red card issued during an abandoned match will be upheld, regardless of whether the match is replayed or not.
12. If a match is abandoned due to light failure, storm, player injury, etc, the Zone shall determine if the score will be recorded as it was at the time of the abandonment, recorded as a NIL all draw or if the match will be replayed, taking into consideration the duration of play, score line and the Referee's Report and any other matters considered relevant;
13. The definition of a fixture as an abandoned match will ultimately be determined by FFNC.

Accounts Payable

Accounts rendered upon FFNC must be submitted within a maximum of 30 days of supply (unless otherwise specified) to be deemed valid. No liability will be accepted for late lodgement of accounts

Accounts receivable

14. All accounts not paid by the due date are subject to a recovery fee of \$50 (GST exempt).

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15. Overdue accounts may render the club ineligible to receive further competition points during the period the account remains unpaid in full;
16. FFNC reserves the right to impose further penalty where financial obligations of members are not fulfilled in accordance with reasonable terms.

AGE

Age-eligible

Age-Eligible is primarily relevant to miniroos, junior or youth players;

A miniroos, junior or youth registered player can participate in the grade (i.e age of the child turns in the 2021 calendar year) can player and participation.

Overview for Miniroos, Junior or youth competitions

Each player is required to be registered based on the age that they turn in 2021;

A child must be (or turning) “at least” FIVE (5) years of age in the 2021 calendar to register (and participate);

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.

- This means that a 13 year old who is approved by FFNC to be part of a Grade 12 squad, is not ordinarily permitted to also participate in a Grade 13 competition (or Grade 14).
- This means that a 13 year old who graded by their club to be part of a Grade 14 squad, is not ordinarily permitted to also participate in a Grade 13 competition. The player is however permitted to also participate in a Grade 15 competition.
- A player is not permitted to play “across” same age competitions (e.g Cannot play in Grade 12 Division 2 and also Grade 12 Division 1);

Overview for SENIOR competitions

A player must be at least 14 years (not just turning 14) before being eligible to participate in a SENIOR team.

Age-eligible

Age-Eligible means that a registered player can participate in the grade (i.e age of the child turns in the 2021 calendar year) can player and participation.

MINIROOS (Grade 6 teams to Grade 11)

A miniroos player is eligible to participate in any of a club team to which they are eligible. (*)

A player is for example seven (7) years old can participate in ANY of the club’s Grade 7, 8 or 9 teams (*)

(*) Miniroos teams (unless specifically nominated as female only) are mixed gender.

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JUNIOR (Grade 12 – Grade 16 teams)

ALTERNATE STRIP

- The VISITING team will be required to supply and wear an Alternate Strip in the first instance when a clash of playing strips exists;
- The HOME team will be required to wear an alternate strip in circumstances where the visiting team fails to bring its alternate strip;

FFNC Competition Regulations have always included consistent terms relevant to when an alternate playing strip must be worn and EVERY club must have an alternate strip available and which has been approved by FFNC.

Also note that the strip worn by goalies must be different from the outfield players on both teams and also the match officials.

The Player's Equipment

OVERVIEW

The match referee has an obligation to uphold the terms outlined with LAW 4 of the Laws of the Game.

FFNC Competition Regulations have always included consistent terms relevant to when an alternate playing strip must be worn and EVERY club must have an alternate strip available 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 also the match officials.

- a) Defined within **Law 4 of "The Laws of the Game"** (TLOTG);
- b) 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.
- c) 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);
- d) Jewellery (regardless of reason for wearing or claims of being unable to remove such an item) cannot be worn during play;
- e) A player cannot tape jewellery under any circumstances to gain a concession to removing such jewellery;
- f) The match 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;
- g) 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.
- h) The number must be displayed on the back of the shirt at a size and quality that the referee considers is adequately visible;
- i) BIBS are not able to be worn over playing shirts, even when bibs are numbered;
- j) 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";

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- k) FFNC will impose a fine in the amount of \$75 per match on a VISITING club that fails to supply an alternate strip;
- l) FFNC will impose a fine in the amount of \$50 per match on a HOME club that refuses to wear an alternate strip (or does not have one available to wear), where such a request is considered to be reasonable to ensure that a game proceeds (i.e. when the visiting fails to wear one);
- m) A forfeit may be imposed by FFNC against a team that is deemed to have breached any aspect of Law 4;

B

Borrowed Player (definition)

A Borrowed Player is a player who is eligible to participate in any team other than the one that they are registered/listed to participate.

MiniRoos

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 (*)

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

(*) 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.

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

(**) If an exemption is granted for a junior player to participate in a miniroos 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.

Borrowed JUNIOR Player

Borrowed Player means an eligible player who participates in a HIGHER/OLDER junior competition other than the one in which they are ordinarily registered.

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.

The match sheet must be notated with "Borrowed" or "BP" or by notating the players normal competition, against their name for the relevant matches.

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Borrowed SENIOR Player

Borrowed Player means an eligible player who participates in a HIGHER LEAGUE other than the one in which they are ordinarily registered.

(*) 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.

No senior team is permitted to have more than THREE (3) junior registered players participate in any given match (including being written on the match sheet).

(**) 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. The match sheet must be notated with "Borrowed" or "BP" or by notating the players normal competition, against their name for the relevant matches.

C

Competition Scope/Format

FFNC shall determine the number of teams, format, composition and grading of all competitions.

Clubs shall be invited to nominate teams for each proposed competition not later than the date nominated by FFNC each season.

The grading of teams will make an assessment of (1) Team nominations (2) Historical (i.e previous season) team/club performance (3) Written submissions/evidence from member clubs and (4) Any matters determined as being relevant by FFNC.

Each year, FFNC will consider (1) the number of Clubs capable of competing at any level; or (2) having the potential to do so within a reasonable time frame; (3) the need for strong viable and attractive competitions; (4) the need to adequately cover the major population centres of the Zone and surrounding areas; and (5) any other factors which the Zone deems relevant in the circumstances of promoting the game within the zone.

Senior Leagues

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 apply in the pointscore competition.

A minimum of FOUR (4) teams will be considered in any one senior league.

The objective is for each league to consist of TEN (10) teams (or NINE (9) teams plus a BYE)

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The ranking of leagues will apply as follows (*subject to team nominations received);

MEN'S leagues (by descending ranking)

Premier
Championship
One
Two
Three
Four
Five
Six (*)
Seven (*)

WOMEN'S leagues (by descending ranking)

Premier
Two (*)
Three
Four
Five (*)

Junior (mixed) and Girls competitions

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) will ordinarily to apply in the pointscore competition.

A minimum of FOUR (4) teams will be considered in any one junior competition.

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.

The ranking of junior competitions will apply as follows (*subject to team nominations received);

Junior (Mixed Gender) (*ALL competitions are subject to team nominations received);

Grade 16	Division 1	Division 2		
Grade 15	Division 1	Division 2		
Grade 14	Division 1	Division 2		
Grade 13	Division 1	Division 2	Division 2 (North)	
Grade 12	Division 1	Division 2	Division 2 (North)	Division 3

Girls (*ALL competitions are subject to team nominations received);

Grade 16
Grade 15
Grade 14
Grade 13

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Grade 12

PROMOTION and RELEGATION

Promotion and relegation shall apply between senior leagues at the discretion of FFNC.

The general principle is that clubs that have a team that finish in the “top 2” of a league will 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.

Conversely, the general principle is that clubs that have a team that finish in the “bottom 2” of a league will be relegated to the next relative lowest league in the following season.

D

Duration of Matches and Number of Players

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

Grade	No. of Players	Match Duration
Grade 6 & 7	4	2 x 15 min. halves
Grade 8 & 9	7	2 x 20 min. halves
Grade 10 & 11	9	2 x 25 min. halves
Grade 12	11 a side	2 x 25 min. halves
Grade 13 & 14	11 a side	2 x 30 min. halves
Grade 15 & 16	11 a side	2 x 35 min. halves
Grade 17 & 18	11 a side	2 x 40 min. halves
All Age	11 a side	2 x 45 min. halves

- a) 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 then advise each team to this effect before the commencement of play. This shall not apply to Premier League matches or final series matches unless extraordinary circumstances are deemed to exist.
- b) Injury or other stoppage time will only apply in Men's Premier League.
- c) Substitutes/Interchange
 - a) Grade 6 to 11 – no interchange limit
 - b) Grade 12 to 14 – maximum of three (3) substitutes with unlimited interchange
 - c) Grade 15 to 18 – maximum of five (5) substitutes with unlimited interchange
 - d) Over 35 and Over 40 – maximum of five (5) substitutes with unlimited interchange
 - e) Women's League – maximum of five (5) substitutes with unlimited interchange
 - f) Men's Leagues – maximum of five (5) substitutes with unlimited interchange.
- d) Half-time
 - a) All Junior Competitions – half time five (5) minutes
 - b) All Senior Competitions – half time ten (10) minutes

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Duty Officers

- a) Every Club shall appoint a minimum of one Duty Officer per field for HOME fixtures regardless of grade or division of fixture;
- b) All Men's Premier League Clubs shall appoint at least one Duty Officer for ALL fixtures in which they are playing;
- c) The Duty Officer MUST wear a vest at all times and be very visible;
- d) The Duty Officer MUST be at least 18 years of age and cannot be involved in any other activity (i.e., coach, manager, canteen, etc.) whilst acting in this capacity;
- e) The Duty Officer shall not consume alcohol whilst performing these duties nor prior to doing so;
- f) The Duty Officer should duties may include;
- g) If an official referee is not present, ensure that a referee is arranged either by the Club or by consent of the two teams playing;
- h) Escort the designated match officials to and from the playing field and ensure their safety at all times;
- i) Check with the equipment officer that an alternate strip is available if required;
- j) Encourage spectators to comply with the Spectator's Code of Behaviour;
- k) Direct and assist an ambulance if called to attend to a player or any other person;
- l) Be of assistance wherever possible to encourage appropriate behaviour at the venue;
- m) 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;
- n) Failure to comply with any of the above regulations may incur fines/penalties as per Appendix A or prosecution by regulatory authorities

E

Eligibility

General eligibility

AGE eligibility Junior (i.e. Grade 12-16)

- a) A Junior players' grade eligibility will be determined by the age they turn during the calendar year.
 - a. i.e. If a player turns 12 between 1st January and 31st December of the current year, they are AGE eligible for Grade 12;
- b) Clubs may apply for a junior player to be registered to participate in a team that is a maximum of ONE age (i.e. grade) on the normal eligible age grade for the player.
- c) Each application will be judged on its own merits. Determination of approval will be based on the following scope: (at the discretion of The Zone)
 - i. Maximum of two over age players per team.
 - ii. No more than six months over age (unless medical support provided).
 - iii. 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).
 - iv. If the Club has more than one team in the division or age grade, the over age players are to be registered in the highest graded team, unless specific evidence and approval exists to the contrary.
- d) If a child is registered in an age group older than that for which they are eligible (i.e., a child that turns 10 this year is registered in a Grade 11 team) they are not eligible to play in their

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- normal eligible age group without being officially transferred to that age group (i.e. cannot play Grade 10).
- e) A junior player up to the age of fourteen (14) may play up a maximum of two years above their eligible age.
 - i. Any junior 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.
 - ii. Any junior who plays in any part of a match in the same senior division (first half for Premier League) more than six times during the pointscore competition (finals series is a separate competition) will be re-registered to that senior division team.
 - f) Any player who has been re-registered to the higher division as a result of the above cannot be transferred back to a lower division/grade
 - g) A junior player who is approved to register in a team as an over-age player cannot subsequently participate in either;
 - h) A younger age division (even if the player is otherwise age eligible to participate in that grade) or;
 - i) A senior division (i.e. players aged 14 or older);
 - j) The eligible age will be the primary criteria for where a player can register and participate;
 - k) E.g. A player who turns 13 in the current calendar year can register in Grade 13 and subsequently participate in Grade 14 and 15 subject to any other components of competition regulations (e.g. known as the SEVEN (7) Up Rule);
 - l) A junior male player aged 14, 15 or 16 can participate in a senior male competition (subject to any conditions or exemptions that otherwise apply);
 - m) A junior female player aged 14, 15 or 16 can participate in a senior female competition (subject to any conditions or exemptions that otherwise apply);
 - n) Failure to comply with any of these Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties such as loss of points.

Senior Leagues

- a) Any senior player who is listed on the match sheet in the same higher grade more than six times (known as the SEVEN (7) up rule) during a pointscore competition (finals series is a separate competition) will be re-registered to the higher division team.
- b) Any player who has been re-registered to the higher league as a result of the above cannot be transferred back to a lower league;
- c) Any player playing in a higher leagues than his/her registered team, must have his/her normal registered league noted on the team sheet (against their name);
- d) Any junior 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.
- e) 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;
- f) Any player who has been re-registered to the higher league as a result of the above cannot be transferred back to a lower league;
- g) No senior team is permitted to have more than THREE (3) junior registered players participate in any given match (including being written on the match sheet);
- h) Participation is deemed to be "name on the match sheet", except Men's Premier League, which is deemed to be "player takes the field in the FIRST half".
 - i. If a club has more than one team in any division/grade, players are not permitted to play across from one team to the other within the one division/grade.
 - ii. A maximum number of 14 players (Grades 12-14) are eligible to participate in any one fixture (including being written on a match sheet) regardless of the number of registered
 - iii. A maximum number of 16 players (Grade 15–Senior) are eligible to participate in any fixture regardless of the number of registered players in a given team.
 - iv. Failure to comply with any of these Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties.

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ANZAC Day Cup

- a) Players must be registered for the current year and otherwise eligible to participate.
- b) Players who were graded in Men's Premier League from the previous season are ONLY eligible to participate in Premier League ANZAC Day Cup* in the current season (with any club);
- c) Players who were graded in Men's Championship or Leagues 1 and 2 (or lower senior divisions in the previous season and junior males aged at least 14 years) are eligible to participate in Open A (with any club);
- d) Players who were graded in Men's Divisions 3, 4 or 5 (or lower senior divisions in the previous season and junior males aged at least 14 years) are eligible to participate in Open B;
- e) Players who were graded in Men's Divisions 6 or 7 in the previous season (or who did not play and are deemed to be eligible) and junior males aged at least 14 years) are eligible to participate in Open C;
- f) Players (male or female) aged at least 14 years are eligible to participate in Grade 16;
- g) Eligibility of a player/team for the current season of an ANZAC Day Cup competition has no bearing on the grading or eligibility of a player for the current pointscore competition;
- h) Eligibility of players and teams are in accordance with the ANZAC Day Cup and Callan McMillan Memorial Shield Regulations disclosed with the call for team nominations each year;
- i) Exemptions will not apply (and will not be considered) for the purposes of the ANZAC Day Cup competitions.

Callan McMillan Memorial Shield

- a) Players must be registered for the current year and otherwise eligible to participate;
- b) Players graded in Women's Premier League and League TWO (2) from the previous season are ONLY eligible to participate in Callan McMillan A (i.e. not "B" Division) in the current year;
- c) Players graded in Women's League 3, 4 or 5 from the previous season are eligible to participate in Callan McMillan "B" Division or Callan McMillan "A" Division in the current year;
- d) Junior female players aged at least 14 years are eligible to participate in either (but not both) competitions if registered in a respective team for this competition in the current year;
- e) Eligibility of a player/team for the current season of a Callan McMillan Memorial Shield competition has no bearing on the grading or eligibility of a player for the current pointscore competition;
- f) Eligibility of players and teams are in accordance with the ANZAC Day Cup and Callan McMillan Memorial Shield Regulations disclosed with the call for team nominations each year;
- g) Exemptions will not apply for the purposes of the Callan McMillan Memorial Shield competitions.

Winter Season

- a) All players must be registered in accordance with Competition Regulations;
- b) A player can be registered in ONE Team, ONE Club at any one time;
- c) Registration is in accordance with the National Registration Regulations and consistent with the FFNC Competition Regulations and relevant policies;
- d) An individual can be registered but cannot participate while subject to the terms of a sanction;
- e) Participation in a specific competition is subject to the terms of eligibility for such competition, whether by age, grading or other conditions;
- f) No senior team may play more than THREE (3) junior registered players in any given match;
- g) Any player playing in a higher grade and/or division than his/her registered team, must have their registered grade and division noted on the match sheet (against their name).

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Eligibility for Junior Finals Series (Subject to specific regulations for JUNIOR competitions)

Players shall be eligible to participate in the final series in:

- a) The team in which they are registered;
- b) Any higher grade (age) team.

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) in a at the expense of players registered within the team.

Eligibility for Senior Finals Series

- a) 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 should not participate in a more senior competition, rather than players registered within the team. or junior players over senior players eligible from a lower league;
- b) Players eligible to play in the finals series in a senior division must be correctly registered in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations;
- c) A junior player (aged 14 years or older) is eligible to participate in any senior division (unless specifically excluded due to regulation or FFNC notification);
- d) Any player whose name has not been crossed off the match sheet (with the consent of the Referee following the match) will be deemed to have played in that match;
- e) Players shall be eligible to participate in the final series in any higher division team as well as their own eligible division (once eligibility is determined);
- f) All participating players must be registered in accordance with Competition Regulations and must not be subject to a current suspension;
- g) Failure to comply with any of the above Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties.

AGE eligibility Junior (i.e. Grade 12-16)

- a) A Junior players' grade eligibility will be determined by the age they turn during the calendar year.
 - i. i.e. If a player turns 12 between 1st January and 31st December of the current year, they are AGE eligible for Grade 12.
- b) Clubs may apply for a junior player to be registered to participate in a team that is a maximum of ONE age (i.e. grade) on the normal eligible age grade for the player.
 - i. Each application will be judged on its own merits. Determination of approval will be based on the following: (at the discretion of The Zone)
 1. Maximum of two over age players per team.
 2. No more than six months over age (unless medical support provided).
 3. 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).
 4. If the Club has more than one team in the division or age grade, the over age players are to be registered in the highest graded team, unless specific evidence and approval exists to the contrary.
- c) If a child is registered in an age group older than that for which they are eligible (i.e., a child that turns 10 this year is registered in a Grade 11 team) they are not eligible to play in their normal eligible age group without being officially transferred to that age group (i.e. cannot play Grade 10).
- d) A junior player up to the age of fourteen (14) may play up a maximum of two years above their eligible age.

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- e) A junior player who is approved to register in a team as an over-age player cannot subsequently participate in either;
 - i. A younger age division (even if the player is otherwise age eligible to participate in that grade) or;
 - ii. A senior division (i.e. players aged 14 or older).
- f) The eligible age will be the primary criteria for where a player can register and participate.
 - i. E.g. A player who turns 13 in the current calendar year can register in Grade 13 and subsequently participate in Grade 14 and 15 subject to any other components of competition regulations (e.g. 6 Up Rule))
- g) A junior male player aged 14, 15 or 16 can participate in a senior male competition (subject to any conditions or exemptions that otherwise apply).
- h) A junior female player aged 14, 15 or 16 can participate in a senior female competition (subject to any conditions or exemptions that otherwise apply).
- i) Failure to comply with any of these Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties such as loss of points.

General age matters

- a) Over 35's - Players must have turned 35 prior to registration to participate.
- b) Over 40's - Players must have turned 40 prior to registration to participate. Each squad is permitted to register up to two underage players who must be at least 38 years of age on 1st January in the year of competition.
- c) A junior player aged at least 14 years of age can participate in Summer Youth League, noting that participation based on gender is subject to the existence or otherwise of both male and female SYL competitions.
- d) Applications for an exemption MUST be lodged with the Zone with the Team Nominations or prior to the registration and grading of the player.
- e) Players may NOT participate until written approval is received from the Zone.
- f) A junior female (aged at least 14 years) is eligible to participate in the Women's Competition subject to relevant regulations criteria.
- g) A junior male (aged at least 14 years) is eligible to participate in the Men's Competition subject to relevant regulations criteria.
- h) A junior player must have already turned 14 BEFORE they participate in senior football.

Gender

- a) Male players
 - i. MiniRoos teams (i.e. players aged 5-11) are mixed gender unless specifically nominated as being Girls only;
 - ii. MiniRoos teams (i.e. mixed gender) will play in an appropriate age eligible pool;
 - iii. Male players are not eligible to participate in Girls only MiniRoos pools or teams;
 - iv. Competition teams (i.e. Grade 12-16) are mixed gender unless specifically nominated as being Girls only teams;
 - v. Male players (i.e. junior players) are not eligible to participate in girls only teams or Girls competitions;
 - vi. Male players (i.e. junior or senior players) are not eligible to participate in female only teams or senior female competitions
 - vii. Male players are permitted to participate in mixed gender or male teams that they are otherwise eligible, whether by age, registration, grading or special exemption.
 - viii. A male player must be at least 14 years (i.e. has turned 14 years old or older) before being eligible to participate in senior competition.
- b) Female players
 - i. MiniRoos teams (i.e. players aged 5-11) are mixed gender unless specifically nominated as being Girls only;
 - ii. MiniRoos teams (i.e. mixed gender) will play in an appropriate age eligible pool;
 - iii. Female players are eligible to participate in Girls only MiniRoos pools or teams;

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

The Zone has the authority at any time to introduce, amend or delete any Regulation or Procedure as and when it sees fit, and the same shall be binding on all Members.

- iv. Competition teams (i.e. Grade 12-16) are mixed gender unless specifically nominated as being Girls only teams;
- v. Female players (i.e. junior players) are eligible to participate in Girls only teams or junior mixed gender competitions consistent with their age eligibility and registration conditions that apply;
- vi. Female players (i.e. junior or senior players) are not eligible to participate in Male only teams or senior Male competitions
- vii. Female players are permitted to participate in junior mixed gender or female only teams that they are otherwise eligible, whether by age, registration, grading or special exemption.
- viii. A female player must be at least 14 years (i.e. has turned 14 years old or older) before being eligible to participate in senior competition.

Across Divisions/Grades

- a) MiniRoos
 - i. MiniRoos players (i.e. Grades 6 to 11) may play for any MiniRoos team (either gender) within their own club for which the player is age eligible.
- b) Junior competition age
 - i. A junior player can be registered in ONE team, ONE competition for which they are eligible.
 - ii. A junior player may not play across the divisions within the one age grade (e.g. between Grade 12/2nd Division to Grade 12/1st Division, or vice versa)
 - iii. A junior female player may register in ONE of either the junior mixed grade or junior girls grade within their club for which their date of birth makes them eligible. E.g. a girl turning 14 may register in either the Grade 14 mixed or Grade 14 girls but subject to regulations criteria, can participate in both competitions.
- c) SENIOR competitions
 - a. If a club has more than one team in any senior division players are not permitted to play across from one team to the other within the one (i.e. same) division.
 - b. Age
 - i. Senior competitions (and player/team grading) is not age based except for competitions that include;
 1. Over 35's - Players must have turned 35 prior to registration to participate.
 2. Over 40's - Players must have turned 40 prior to registration to participate. Each squad is permitted to register up to two underage players who must be at least 38 years of age on 1st January in the year of competition.
 3. Summer Youth League where a junior player must be aged at least 14 years of age to participate in SYL;
 4. A junior participating in Senior football must be aged at least 14 years and (subject to regulations on frequency and other relevant issues).

Grading

- a) A senior player cannot drop more than two senior divisions from their registration and eligibility from the previous season without lodgement of an application for an exemption and specific approval from FFNC.
- b) FFNC reserves the right to review any grading approval in instances where a player displays superior skill inconsistent with participation in a lower division.
- c) Men's Premier League and Premier Reserves
 - i. Players registered in a Premier League squad are eligible to participate in either Premier League or Premier Reserves during the pointscore season;
 - ii. Eligibility (i.e. grading) of individual players for the Finals Series for players who may have participated in both Men's Premier League and Premier Reserves during the pointscore competition is determined by the participation of players from their last 5 pointscore games. A player will be graded as a Premier Reserves player if they have played more games during their last five games in Premier Reserves. A player who has

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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- played the same number of games or more in Premier League will be graded as a Premier League player for the purposes of their eligibility for the Finals Series.
- iii. A player who is graded as a Premier Reserves player is eligible to subsequently participate in both Premier League and Premier Reserves during the Finals Series.

7-up Regulation

- a) Any junior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same higher junior age grade/division more than six times during the pointscore competition will be re-registered to that higher junior age grade/division team;
- b) Any junior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same senior higher division more than six times during the pointscore competition will be re-registered to that senior team;
- c) Any senior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same higher division more than six times during a pointscore competition will be re-registered to the higher division team;
- d) A re-grading as a consequence of the 7-up regulation will mean that a player is ineligible to also participate (i.e. cannot continue to participate) in the lower competition in which they had previously been eligible;
- e) A re-grading as a consequence of the 7-up regulation will mean that a player is ineligible to also participate in any lower competition in which they had previously been eligible;

General grading issues

- a) Applications for re-grading will not be accepted after 20th May 2021;
- b) A player can be re-graded a maximum of ONE time in any given season.
- c) A player who has been re-registered to the higher division as a result of the above cannot be transferred back to a lower division/grade.
- d) Players found to be playing below their standard can be regraded at the discretion of the Zone;
- e) 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.
- f) Penalties (including fines and loss of points) will be imposed if a registered player is found to participate in a grade/division contrary to their approved grading.
- g) Participation of a player who is found to be unregistered will initiate action consistent with the FFA National Code of Conduct Regulations. Such action may result in penalties being imposed on a club and individuals.

F

Facilities and Equipment

Playing Grounds

- a) All goalposts or portable equipment must be adequately and securely fastened to the ground;
- b) 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. location of technical areas, quality of field surface);
- c) There should be available at each Club an area in which the Referees can rest and leave their belongings while on the pitch. This area should contain some seating as well as being lockable;
- d) All grounds must be roped, or a suitable barrier provided along the full length of the field containing the technical area. The barrier or rope should be located a minimum of 2 metres from the touchline.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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Club Colours

- a) All strips, including alternate strips, are to be registered with and approved by the Zone each season. (Refer to Fees, Fines and Penalties);
- b) 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 on the Match Sheet;
- c) All players taking the field shall be in full Club/team strip, including shirt (with clearly visible number), shorts and socks;
- d) The VISITING team will be required to supply and wear an Alternate Strip in the first instance when a clash of playing strips exists;
- e) The HOME team will be required to wear an alternate strip in circumstances where the visiting team fails to bring its alternate strip;
- f) 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 and the Match Official;
- g) If a dispute cannot be resolved between either team and the referee on this matter, resulting in the match not being played, the recorded result of the match shall be subject to the determination of the Zone;
- h) Where a "Home" club refuses to lend an alternative strip to a visiting team, a forfeit against the visiting team may be enforced if no suitable alternative strip is forthcoming, however it is still the responsibility of the visiting side to have an alternative strip available.

Players Equipment

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

Grade 6 to 9 inclusive	= size 3
Grade 10 to 13 inclusive	= size 4
Grade 14 to All Age inclusive	= size 5

- a) All participating female players must wear supporting bras or crop tops under their playing shirts.
- b) 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.
- c) All player shirts (including the goalkeeper) MUST have a number on the back of the shirt.
- d) In regard to glasses, 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 or other participants.
- e) The referee has the authority to exclude any player wearing spectacles considered to be a risk to themselves or another player;
- f) 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.

Field of Play

Field markings and set up shall be as per FIFA Laws of the Game.

- a) The Technical Area (TA) is to be occupied by a maximum of:
 - i. Grade 12 – 14: three (3) interchange players and two (2) registered team officials.
 - ii. Grade 15 – Senior: five (5) interchange players and two (2) registered team officials.
 - iii. Men's/Women's Premier League: five (5) interchange players and three (3) registered team officials.
- b) Non-compliance with directives issued for tunnel and bench areas at Grand Finals may incur a penalty and/or fine as per Appendix A.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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Player Interchange

- a) Interchange of players is permitted in matches where;
 - i. The competition is for players competing in grade eighteen or under
 - ii. All Men's Leagues
 - iii. All Women's Leagues
 - iv. All MiniRoos fixtures.

Interchange Procedure

- a) All player interchanges shall take place upon the approval the referee.
- b) A player interchange is made when the ball is out of play and for which the following conditions shall be observed:
- c) The player leaving the field shall do so from the touch line at the halfway line.
- d) The player entering the field shall only do so when the player leaving the field has passed completely over the touch line.
- e) A player nominated for interchange shall be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the Referee
- f) Whether called upon to play or not. the player interchange is completed when the player who was off the field enters the field.
- g) The number of player interchanges made during a match is unlimited. A player who has been replaced may return to the field for another player.
- h) There is no time added on or allowance made to a match duration regardless of how many interchanges are made or when they occur.

Technical Areas

- a) A technical area must be designated for all competitive age teams, both of which are to be on the same side of the field.
- b) The technical area is defined as the length of the bench plus one metre each side of the bench and the area in front of the bench up to a "minimum" of one metre away from and parallel to the touchline. It can extend behind the bench area as far as necessary.
- c) Only substitutes listed on the Match Sheet and a maximum of TWO (2) team officials who are Registered in PlayFootball are permitted in the Technical Area
 - a. A total of THREE (3) for Men's Premier League and Women's Premier League only
- d) The participants in the Technical Area are subject to the jurisdiction of the Referee, Assistant Referees and 4th Official for the duration of the match. Regulations and authority of FFNC also specifically apply to all persons within the vicinity of the Technical Area.
- e) All participants must conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times.
- f) All participants must be addressed 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.
- g) Team Officials are required to wear any identification lanyards where supplied and instructed by FFNC relevant to any sanctioned competition fixture.
- h) The person who is identified on the match sheet as "team official 1" will ordinarily be identified as the senior team coach.
- i) All competitive age (and senior teams) interchange players/substitutes 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.
- j) 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.
- k) Suspended participants and participants sent from the field during the match are not permitted in the technical area of any sanctioned match until the full suspension is served.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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- l) A maximum of ONE (1) Team Official is permitted to stand in the Technical Area at any time. Other team Officials and inter-change/substitute players are to remain seated unless required to take the field or leaving the TA to warm-up.

Fitness of Grounds

- a) 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.
- b) 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):
 - a. Match Referee; or Referee Executive; or Home Club; or Council; or The Zone
- c) 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.
- d) It should be noted that ONLY the Zone shall have the discretion to transfer or reschedule any match, including transferring the match to an alternate field.
- e) 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, and will also post such alterations on the Zone website at www.footballfarnorthcoast.com.au where possible.
- f) If a Club/Council ground controller finds it necessary to close grounds the day preceding weekend matches or up to 12pm on the day of a mid-week match the Club must notify the Zone immediately.
- g) If a Club/Council ground controller finds it necessary to close grounds after 12pm the day preceding weekend matches it shall be the home Club's responsibility to immediately advise by telephone all opposing Clubs and the Referees contact of the ground closure.
- h) Where a club makes a decision to close their field(s) after 12pm Monday to Friday or on weekends, they are to phone -
 - a. all opposition club's primary club contact person
 - b. Referee mobile on 0434 856 992
- i) 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.
- j) Particular caution should be taken with storm activity, noting that fixtures can be delayed for a short period and recommence when a danger has passed. The referee shall determine if a match is abandoned (i.e. does not proceed as scheduled).

Grade 12 Goal and Corner Kicks

- a) Goal kicks are to be taken from a point level with the penalty spot and parallel to the goal line in that side of the field where the ball went out.
- b) Corner kicks are to be taken on the goal line at a point 3 metres from the junction of the goal line and the penalty box (16.5 metres line) and towards the corner on that side of the field in which the ball went out.

First Aid

- a) 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.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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Final Series

Overview

Final Series matches will 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)

The team(s) that finish HIGHEST (in order of points/pointscore ranking) will advance (or be declared winner) in the event that a Finals Series is unable to be completed due to factors such as adverse weather or field conditions.

JUNIOR Finals and Grand Finals Series

The FOUR (4) teams with the highest point score will play-off to decide the semi-final winners, finals winner and then Grand Final Winner and Runners-up for that Grade/Division in accordance with the following formula;

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

Matches A, B & C: If the matches are drawn at full time there will be 10 minutes extra time each way for the Grade 12 to 16 age groups inclusive.

If the match is still drawn the team which finished highest on the point score shall advance (for grades 12-14). There will NOT be a penalty shoot-out in Grade 12, 13 or 14 matches.

A penalty shoot-out will apply to determine the winner in Grade 15 and Grade 16.

Match D: Grand Final: If the match is drawn at full time there will be 10 minutes extra time each way for the Junior age groups.

If the match is still drawn at the end of extra time, Joint Premiers will be declared for Grades 12 to 14. There will be a penalty shoot-out to determine the Grand Final Winner for Grade 15 and 16.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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SENIOR Finals and Grand Finals Series

The FIVE (5) teams (or FOUR (4) where specified) with the highest point score will play-off to decide the semi-final winners, finals winner and then Grand Final Winner and Runners-up for that Grade/Division in accordance with the following formula;

Week 1 -	Match A - 4 v 5	First Elimination Semi-Final	
		Loser out and Winner to Second Elimination Semi-Final	
	Match B - 2 v 3	Preliminary Semi-Final	
		Winner to Qualifying Semi-Final and Loser to Second Elimination Semi Final (Match D)	
	Team 1	has no game this week	
Week 2 -	Match C -	Second Elimination Semi-Final	Loser Match B v Winner Match
A	Winner to Final	Loser Out	
	Match D -	Qualifying Semi-Final	Team 1 v Winner Match
	B	Winner to GF	Loser to Final
Week 3 -	Match E -	Final	Loser Match D v Winner Match
C	Winner to GF	Loser Out	
Week 4 -	Match F-	Grand Final	Winner D v Winner E

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 there will be a penalty shoot-out to determine the winner.

FORFEIT

OVERVIEW

A forfeit is typically a match in which one team is unable to field seven players for the match (however, is not limited to this example).

WIN BY FORFEIT: THREE (3) pts plus THREE (3) goals

- In the event of seven players per team being present the match must commence at the scheduled kick-off time;
- 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 on a forfeit;
- There is no specific allowance for travel and time is deleted from the match duration after the scheduled kick-off time elapses;
- 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);
- If the offending team has not notified the Zone by 4.30pm the day prior to the match that they will not be able to field a team, their Club will be fined as per Appendix A;
- If the Club receiving the un-notified forfeit is the home team, they may be reimbursed reasonable expenses including Match Official fees to a maximum of \$150.00 on receipt of an invoice to the Zone office;
- Teams that advise the Zone by 1pm the day prior that they are unable to fulfil a scheduled match will be charged an administration fee as per Appendix A.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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- h) If an ineligible participant participates 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.
- i) A forfeit is classified as a match, and as such a suspension may be served by a participant (but only in the team receiving the forfeit), provided that a match sheet showing same is provided to the Zone office as per Regulation 7 (Match Sheets) (b) (6).
- j) 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.
- k) Any team that forfeits an ANZAC Day Cup match will be fined as per Appendix A.
- l) Any club which forfeits either a Premier or Premier Reserve match due to a lack of numbers must forfeit both divisions on that day.
- m) 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
- n) The Zone shall have the sole discretion to determine if a match shall be played or considered a forfeit in the event of a dispute occurring

G

Gender

- a) Male players
 - i. MiniRoos teams (i.e. players aged 5-11) are mixed gender unless specifically nominated as being Girls only;
 - ii. MiniRoos teams (i.e. mixed gender) will play in an appropriate age eligible pool;
 - iii. Male players are not eligible to participate in Girls only MiniRoos pools or teams;
 - iv. Competition teams (i.e. Grade 12-16) are mixed gender unless specifically nominated as being Girls only teams;
 - v. Male players (i.e. junior players) are not eligible to participate in girls only teams or Girls competitions;
 - vi. Male players (i.e. junior or senior players) are not eligible to participate in female only teams or senior female competitions
 - vii. Male players are permitted to participate in mixed gender or male teams that they are otherwise eligible, whether by age, registration, grading or special exemption.
 - viii. A male player must be at least 14 years (i.e. has turned 14 years old or older) before being eligible to participate in senior competition.
- a) Female players
 - i. MiniRoos teams (i.e. players aged 5-11) are mixed gender unless specifically nominated as being Girls only;
 - ii. MiniRoos teams (i.e. mixed gender) will play in an appropriate age eligible pool;
 - iii. Female players are eligible to participate in Girls only MiniRoos pools or teams;
 - iv. Competition teams (i.e. Grade 12-16) are mixed gender unless specifically nominated as being Girls only teams;
 - v. Female players (i.e. junior players) are eligible to participate in Girls only teams or junior mixed gender competitions consistent with their age eligibility and registration conditions that apply;
 - vi. Female players (i.e. junior or senior players) are not eligible to participate in Male only teams or senior Male competitions
 - vii. Female players are permitted to participate in junior mixed gender or female only teams that they are otherwise eligible, whether by age, registration, grading or special exemption.
 - 1. A female player must be at least 14 years (i.e. has turned 14 years old or older) before being eligible to participate in senior competition.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

The Zone has the authority at any time to introduce, amend or delete any Regulation or Procedure as and when it sees fit, and the same shall be binding on all Members.

b) Across Divisions/Grades

- a. MiniRoos
 - i. MiniRoos players (i.e. Grades 6 to 11) may play for any MiniRoos team (either gender) within their own club for which the player is age eligible.
- b. Junior competition age
 - i. A junior player can be registered in ONE team, ONE competition for which they are eligible.
 - ii. A junior player may not play across the divisions within the one age grade (e.g. between Grade 12/2nd Division to Grade 12/1st Division, or vice versa)
 - iii. A junior female player may register in ONE of either the junior mixed grade or junior girls grade within their club for which their date of birth makes them eligible. E.g. a girl turning 14 may register in either the Grade 14 mixed or Grade 14 girls but subject to regulations criteria, can participate in both competitions.
- c. SENIOR competitions
 - i. If a club has more than one team in any senior division players are not permitted to play across from one team to the other within the one (i.e. same) division.
 - ii. Age
 - iii. Senior competitions (and player/team grading) is not age based except for competitions that include;
 1. Over 35's - Players must have turned 35 prior to registration to participate.
 2. Over 40's - Players must have turned 40 prior to registration to participate. Each squad is permitted to register up to two underage players who must be at least 38 years of age on 1st January in the year of competition.
 3. Summer Youth League where a junior player must be aged at least 14 years of age to participate in SYL;
 4. A junior participating in Senior football must be aged at least 14 years and (subject to regulations on frequency and other relevant issues).

Grading

General grading issues

- a) Applications for re-grading will not be accepted after 1pm 20 May 2021;
- b) A player can be re-graded a maximum of ONE time in any given season;
- c) A player who has been re-registered to the higher competition as a result of the above cannot be transferred back to a lower competition;
- d) Players found to be playing below their standard can be regraded at the discretion of the Zone;
- e) 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;
- f) Penalties (including fines and loss of points) will be imposed if a registered player is found to participate in a grade/division contrary to their approved grading;
- g) Participation of a player who is found to be unregistered will initiate action consistent with the FFA National Code of Conduct Regulations. Such action may result in penalties being imposed on a club and individuals.
- h) A senior player cannot drop more than two senior divisions from their registration and eligibility from the previous season without lodgement of an application for an exemption and specific approval from FFNC;
- i) FFNC reserves the right to review any grading approval in instances where a player displays superior skill inconsistent with participation in a lower division.

7-up Regulation (now called SEVEN (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.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

The Zone has the authority at any time to introduce, amend or delete any Regulation or Procedure as and when it sees fit, and the same shall be binding on all Members.

- a) Any junior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same higher junior age grade/division more than six times during the pointscore competition will be re- registered to that higher junior age grade/division/league team;
- b) Any junior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same senior higher league more than six times during the pointscore competition will be re- registered to that senior team;
- c) Any senior player who is listed on a match sheet in the same higher division more than six times during a pointscore competition will be re-registered to the higher league team;
- d) A re-grading as a consequence of the 7-up regulation will mean that a player is ineligible to also participate (i.e. cannot continue to participate) in the lower competition in which they had previously been eligible;
- e) A re-grading as a consequence of the 7-up regulation will mean that a player is ineligible to also participate in any lower competition in which they had previously been eligible;

GROUND CLOSURE PROCEDURE

Fields should be considered as OPEN 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).

PLEASE ignore social media postings or references on any council website, as such information is regularly incorrect?

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?

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.

[Wet Weather | Football Far North Coast](#)

- Should grounds be assessed as being CLOSED, we ask for this advice to be made known to FFNC as early as possible. This may be best via phone call or text to **Steve on 0438 215593**;

H

Home Team Responsibilities

- a) The team whose name appears first in the draw shall considered to be the Home Team;
- b) The Duty Officer must present themselves to the Match Official of all senior matches 15 minutes prior to kick off, and for all junior matches 5 minutes prior to kick off;
- c) The Home Team shall supply the Match Ball/Balls;
- d) The Home Team Manager shall supply THREE (3) Match Balls to the Match Official 10 minutes prior to kick-off.

Duty Officers

- a) Every Club shall appoint a minimum of one Duty Officer per field for HOME fixtures regardless of grade or division of fixture;
- b) All Men's Premier League Clubs shall appoint at least one Duty Officer for ALL fixtures in which they are playing;
- c)
- d) The Duty Officer MUST wear a vest at all times and be very visible.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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- e) The Duty Officer MUST be at least 18 years of age and cannot be involved in any other activity (i.e., coach, manager, canteen, etc.) whilst acting in this capacity.
 - f) The Duty Officer shall not consume alcohol whilst performing these duties nor prior to doing so.
- The Duty Officer should duties may include;
- a) If an official referee is not present, ensure that a referee is arranged either by the Club or by consent of the two teams playing.
 - b) Escort the designated match officials to and from the playing field and ensure their safety at all times.
 - c) Check with the equipment officer that an alternate strip is available if required.
 - d) Encourage spectators to comply with the Spectator's Code of Behaviour.
 - e) Direct and assist an ambulance if called to attend to a player or any other person.
 - f) Be of assistance wherever possible to encourage appropriate behaviour at the venue.

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.

Failure to comply with any of the above regulations may incur fines/penalties as per Appendix A or prosecution by regulatory authorities.

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Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

The Zone has the authority at any time to introduce, amend or delete any Regulation or Procedure as and when it sees fit, and the same shall be binding on all Members.

M

Match Officials

- a) Shall have an authority as per FIFA Laws of the Game (Law 5);
- b) Junior match officials shall not act as a centre official unless specifically approved by FFNC;
- c) Failure to comply with the above regulations may result in a fine as per Appendix A.
- d) Match Officials are NOT to take match sheets from the ground for any purpose. The Home Club has the responsibility to submit match sheets to the Zone office. The referee is to submit completed match sheets to the home team.

Match Sheets

a) Pre-Match

- i. Each Team Manager shall fill in a Match Sheet with the correct participant details of their team, completing all details on the match sheet header in full. FFA numbers where specifically required are to be written.
- ii. A maximum of fourteen names for junior teams up to and including Grade 14 and sixteen names for Grade 15 to senior teams may be listed.
- iii. Players' shirt numbers must correspond with the number next to their name and signature on the Match Sheet for all competitive divisions.
- iv. All names shall be printed in block letters and show FIRST name and LAST name.
- v. Each individual player must SIGN the relevant place on the match sheet for Grade 15 to senior fixtures.
- vi. All junior and senior players playing up from a lower division or age group must have their registered division noted next to their name on the match sheet.
- vii. A senior team may play a maximum of three (3) junior players in any given match.
- viii. Players whose names are listed on the Match Sheet before the match commences are able to take the field. Names cannot be added to the match sheet after play has commenced, however players may sign the match sheet if their name has been written on the match sheet.
- ix. Any player taking the field who was unable to sign the Match Sheet prior to the commencement of the match may do so at half-time. Players who have not signed the Match Sheet by the end of half time are permitted to take part in the match if specifically approved by the referee. A player who has still not arrived before the second half but is listed on the match sheet, can participate and sign the match sheet AFTER the match. All reasonable requests should be approved, however a player who is NOT listed on the match sheet is NOT permitted to participate.
- x. Premier League only – The Team Manager shall tick the starting line-up.
- xi. Premier League only – The Team manager shall hand the Match Sheet to the appointed Match Official ten minutes prior to the commencement of the match.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. The person who is identified on the match sheet as “team official 1” will ordinarily be identified as the senior team coach.
- xiv. Failure to comply with any of the above Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties as per Appendix A.

b) Post-Match

- i. 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.
- ii. All Match Sheets are to be handed in to the Canteen at the ground or given to the home team.

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- iii. At the completion of Senior matches the Team Manager shall confer with the Match Official on the match sheet details and both shall sign the match sheet.
- iv. The original white copy of the Grade 15 to Senior Match Sheet shall be handed in to the Canteen at the HOME venue.
- v. The Team Manager shall retain the carbon copy (in the match sheet booklet) of the Grade 15 to Senior Match Sheet for the Club's records.
- vi. All Match Sheets are then 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.
- vii. Failure to comply with any of the above Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties as per Appendix A.

c) Match Results

- i. Results will be recorded on the Zone website, www.footballfarnorthcoast.com.au, and will form the official record of each competition.
- ii. It shall be the responsibility of the home club to submit results online before 11 pm each Sunday night (for weekend matches) or by 8am the next day for mid-week games.
- iii. The HOME club shall ensure that match sheets are submitted to the Zone office no later than 1pm (Wed) (after weekend fixtures) or within 48 hours after other fixtures.

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Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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P

PARTICIPATION

Participation is deemed to be “name on the match sheet”, except Men’s Premier League, which is deemed to be “player takes the field in the FIRST half”.

POINTS

Competition matches will be played for points as follows;

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | WIN: | THREE (3) points; |
| 2 | DRAW: | ONE (1) point; |
| 3 | DEFEAT: | NIL (0) points; |
| 4 | WIN BY FORFEIT: | THREE (3) pts plus THREE (3) goals; |
| 5 | BYE: | NIL (0) points |

Determination of Pointscore Champions

- The team with the highest pointscore will be the particular Division Pointscore Champion;
- 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;
- In the event of two or more teams finishing equal on goal difference, the most goals for will decide the higher placing;
- In the event of two or more teams finishing equal on most goals scored, the team with the lesser number of yellow/red cards issued to a team will decide the higher placing;
- Joint premiers will be declared if no distinction in results (on any measure) can be determined.

Pregnancy

- A player who is pregnant must take full responsibility for themselves. No blame or responsibility shall be accepted for that player or their unborn child/children by the Zone, affiliated Clubs or registered players in the event of an injury which causes complications or the termination of that pregnancy;
- 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;
- The Zone advises any female player against playing after pregnancy has been confirmed.

The Player’s Equipment

OVERVIEW

The match referee has an obligation to uphold the terms outlined within LAW 4 of the Laws of the Game.

The referee must instruct one team to wear an alternate strip where a clash of colours exists and a referee is not authorised to “overlook” this for any reason. Further, FFNC Competition Regulations have always included consistent terms relevant to when an alternate playing strip must be worn and EVERY club must have an alternate strip available 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 also the match officials.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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BIBS are not able to be worn over playing shirts, even when bibs are numbered.

- i. Defined within **Law 4 of “The Laws of the Game”** (TLOTG);
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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).
- iv. 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.
- v. The number must be displayed on the back of the shirt at a size and quality that the referee considers is adequately visible;
- vi. BIBS are not able to be worn over playing shirts, even when bibs are numbered;
- vii. A player cannot tape jewellery under any circumstances to gain a concession to removing such jewellery;
- viii. 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;
- ix. 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”;
- x. FFNC will impose a fine in the amount of \$75 per match on a VISITING club that fails to supply an alternate strip;
- xi. FFNC will impose a fine in the amount of \$50 per match on a HOME club that refuses to wear an alternate strip (or does not have one available to wear), where such a request is considered to be reasonable to ensure that a game proceeds (i.e. when the visiting fails to wear one);
- xii. A forfeit may be imposed by FFNC against a team that is deemed to have breached any aspect of Law 4;

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.

Playing Strips

Also see Club Colours (section C)

- (a) All strips, including alternate strips, are to be registered with and approved by the Zone in advance of each season;
- (b) 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 on the Match Sheet;
- (c) All players taking the field shall be in full approved club/team strip, including shirt (with clearly visible number), shorts and socks;
- (d) The VISITING team will be required to supply and wear an approved Alternate Strip when a clash of playing strips exists (*);
- (e) The referee is authorised to instruct the visiting team to wear an alternate strip;
- (f) The referee is obliged to recognise where there is a clash of playing strips and to enforce the terms of Law 4 (Laws of the Game);
- (g) (*) The HOME team will be required to wear an alternate strip in circumstances where the visiting team fails to bring its alternate strip;
- (h) (*) 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 and the Match Official;

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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- (i) (*) If a dispute cannot be resolved between either team and the referee on this matter, resulting in the match not being played, the recorded result of the match shall be subject to the determination of the Zone;
- (j) (*) Where a "Home" club refuses to lend an alternative strip to a visiting team, a forfeit against the visiting team may be enforced if no suitable alternative strip is forthcoming, however it is still the responsibility of the visiting side to have an alternative strip available.

FFNC will impose penalties (Refer Appendix A) for breaches to any aspect of these regulations.

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REGISTRATION

Overview

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 (1) Player (2) Team Official (3) Volunteer (4) Match Official.

The term PARTICIPANT is the broad descriptive for persons on any ALL registered role.

Registration of PLAYERS;

- a) Mandatory for All players, All ages (*) EVERY YEAR;
- b) (*) A player must turn at least FIVE (5) years of age in 2021 to be eligible to register;
- c) Must be made online in playfootball;
- d) Must be made ACTIVE by the player's club in playfootball to be effective;
- e) Is permitted for ONE (1) club within Australia at any one time;
- f) The deadline for new registrations and subsequent participation is 1pm Thursday deadline exists each week;
- g) Applies per season relevant to the current calendar year per nominated competition(s) as defined by FFNC;

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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Registration of TEAM OFFICIALS;

Includes coaches, team managers and any person who has a role on Game Day within the Technical Area or on the field of play;

- a) Mandatory for ALL Team Officials EVERY YEAR;
- b) Must be made online in playfootball;
- c) Must be made ACTIVE by the club in playfootball as the primary evidence that an individual is eligible to act in this role;
- d) The deadline for new registrations and subsequent participation is 1pm Thursday deadline exists each week;
- e) An individual IS eligible to register (and to act) as a Team Official for more than ONE (1) club;
- f) Applies per season relevant to the current calendar year per nominated competition(s) as defined by FFNC;

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

Club and Team Officials

- 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.
- By the act of registration, Club Officials and Team Officials agree to abide by the FA Statutes.
- Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their Club Officials and Team Officials are registered with FA;
- 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.

Registration of MATCH OFFICIALS;

Includes a qualified REFEREE, including such individuals who may act as a Centre Referee or as an Assistant Referee.

- a) Mandatory for ALL Match Officials EVERY YEAR;
- b) Must be made online in playfootball;
- c) Must be made ACTIVE by FFNC in playfootball as the primary evidence that an individual is eligible to act in this role;
- d) An individual IS eligible to register (and to act) as a Match Official in more than ONE (1) NNSWF Zone;
- e) Applies per season relevant to the current year per nominated competition(s) as defined by FFNC;

Registration of VOLUNTEERS;

Includes ALL roles not otherwise defined above;

- a) Mandatory for **ALL DUTY OFFICERS** every year;
- b) Recommended for all other club volunteers;
- c) Must be made online in playfootball;
- d) Must be made ACTIVE by the club in playfootball as the primary evidence that an individual is eligible to act in any volunteer role;
- e) The deadline for new registrations and subsequent participation is 1pm Thursday deadline exists each week;
- f) An individual IS eligible to register (and to act) as a Volunteer (including as a Duty Officer) for more than ONE (1) club;
- g) Applies per season relevant to the current calendar year per nominated competition(s) as defined by FFNC;

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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OTHER;

- a) 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;
- b) A person can be registered but cannot participate (in any role) while subject to the terms of a sanction;
- c) Participation in a specific competition is subject to the terms of eligibility for such competition, whether by age, grading or other conditions;
- d) The deadline for new registrations and subsequent participation is 1pm Thursday deadline exists each week;
- e) Eligibility for ALL fixtures scheduled within the next 7 days. All player registration requirements must be completed before a player will be eligible to participate in any fixture.
- f) The deadline for new player registrations is 30th June of each season;
- g) The deadline for cancellation of registration transfer to another club or re-grading (i.e. competition teams) for players can occur where participation has NOT occurred (i.e. meaning that a player has not been named on a match sheet) and where the application for de-registration is submitted not later than 1pm Thursday 20th May 2021
- h) 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 20th May 2021;
- i) Clubs are required to provide the Zone with an ORIGINAL Squad List of all players in each competitive team.
- j) All Team Lists for Grade 15 to Senior must contain the signature and DOB of all players listed.
- k) An initial Squad List for ALL competitive teams must be submitted to the Zone office by 1pm Thursday at least seven (7) working days prior to the commencement of each respective competition.
- l) Applications and subsequent approval by FFNC and the second club for a player to transfer to another club within the zone moves the liability for that player (including fees) to the second club and dissolves the liability upon the first club.
- m) Failure to comply with any of these Regulations may incur fines and/or penalties.

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

Club and Team Officials

- 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.
- By the act of registration, Club Officials and Team Officials agree to abide by the FA Statutes.
- Clubs are responsible for ensuring that their Club Officials and Team Officials are registered with FA.
- 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.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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S

Scheduling

- a) Fixtures are scheduled at the discretion of Football Far North Coast.
- b) 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.

Squad Lists

- a) Each Club must supply the Zone with a Squad List of players for each competition team (i.e. Grade 12-seniors) players who will participate in each respective team nominated by the club for each new season.
- b) All Squad Lists must be lodged with FFNC not less than 7 working days prior to the commencement of each respective competition.
- c) A service fee may be charged for late lodgement of a squad list.
- d) A club must register a minimum of 11 players in each competition team but may register up to the following number of players in any one team, unless an application (and subsequent approval by FFNC for an exemption) is received prior to the participation of additional players in any respective team.
- e) The maximum number of players in respective squads (without any exemption is):
 - i. Grade 12 to 14 – 14 players;
 - ii. Grade 15 to Senior – 16 players;
- f) A maximum of 14 players (Grades 12-14) and 16 players (Grade 15–Senior) are eligible to participate in any fixture regardless of the number of registered players in a given team.
- g) MiniRoos lists
 - i. Grade 6 – 7: squad of 7 players;
 - ii. Grade 8 –squad of 11 players;
 - iii. Grade 9 – 11: squad of 13 players;
 - i. Any Club registering more than one team in a non-competitive age division (Grade 6 to Grade 11) shall only be required to submit a list of all players in each age division rather than per team.
- h) If any Club withdraws a nominated team from any competition, they will be fined as per Appendix A.

T

Transfers

- a) International Transfers
 - i. 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 FFA regulations and procedures.
 - ii. A written interim clearance may be relevant (at the sole discretion of FFA) if an ITC is not received within 30 days of all information being lodged with FFA.
 - iii. 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.

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- iv. Applications for players between the age of 12 and 18 may be subject to specific criteria for a minor mandated by FFA.
- v. Players under the age of 12 do not require an international clearance.
- b) Mid-Season Movement
 - i. Any player who wishes to change Clubs during the season needs to be approved by The Zone before 20th May 2021.
 - ii. Approval of de-registration is subject to criteria such as participation and confirmation of whether the player is transferring to another Zone club.
 - iii. The de-registration is effective immediately when approved by the Zone.
 - iv. If the player, then wishes to register with another Club he/she must register in PlayFootball and be approved through the normal process.
 - v. 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 at 30th June.
- c) Failure to comply with the above regulations may result in penalties being imposed

U

V

W

Winter Season

Overview;

Football will ordinarily consist of activity as follows;

MiniRoos

- a) Non-competitive format as stipulated for the FFA MiniRoos National Playing Formats and Rules (Grade 6-11).
- b) [Playing-Formats-and-Rules.pdf \(footballfarnorthcoast.com.au\)](http://footballfarnorthcoast.com.au)

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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Pointscore Competitions

- a) Grade 12- Grade 16 – Aimed to be constructed as a home and away basis (subject to various factors determined by the Zone);
- b) Competitions constructed for respective teams/players aged 17 and over, in senior gender based competitions (male or female);
- c) 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.

Finals Series

- a) Senior Competitions: The five teams with the highest point scores will play off to decide the Grand Final Winner for that Division.
 - i. Or FOUR teams where such competitions exist of four teams only.
- b) Junior Competitions: The four teams with the highest point scores will play off to decide the Grand Final Winner for that Grade/Division.

X

Y

Z

Zone representative and Development Players

- a) If FOUR or more players registered in a Club team are unavailable for competition due to Football Far North Coast SAP/GTP commitments, under the jurisdiction of affiliated bodies, including representative school football, the Club may apply to have the match deferred. The application must be received by the Zone office at least 10 days prior to the match. If approved, the Zone will designate a time and place for the match to be scheduled.

Football Far North Coast Pointscore Competition and Finals Series Regulations 2021

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Fines shown below will apply in addition to any penalties that are imposed consistent with determinations made based on Disciplinary or Code of Conduct Regulations.

Team Withdrawal (per team)

After Grading Finalised Junior OR Senior	\$55.00	Failure to register a new strip	\$220.00
After Draw completed MiniRoos Junior Senior	\$75.00 \$165.00 \$165.00	<u>Player equipment contrary to Law 4</u> Failure to comply; Contrary to referee directions	\$100.00
After Competition has commenced MiniRoos Junior Senior	\$165.00 \$380.00 \$380.00	Visiting club Failure to supply alternate strip	\$75.00
ANZAC Day Cup/Callan McMillian	\$165.00	Home club Declines to wear alternate strip	\$50.00
SYL	\$165.00	Plus any penalties as determined by FFNC	
Late lodgement of Squad Lists or Online team data entry	\$60.00	<u>Forfeits</u> (3 pts, 3 goals awarded to opposition) More than 72 hours notification Junior OR Senior	\$ NIL
		Less than 72 hours notification before scheduled fixture (including Day of fixture or no notification)	
		Junior	\$110.00 per forfeited match
		Senior	\$220.00 per forfeited match
		Forfeit of a Finals Series match Junior OR Senior	\$550.00
		ANZAC Day Cup/Callan McMillian	\$165.00
		SYL	\$165.00
		<u>Match Sheet Infringements</u>	
		Forged signature	\$90.00
		Incorrect details (e.g. conflicting shirt numbers)	\$100.00
		Insufficient information noted	\$50.00
		Late lodgement of match sheets (per incident)	\$50.00
		Failure to lodge original match sheets	\$75.00
		<u>Results Not Entered</u> (per result)	\$30.00
		<u>Annual General Meeting</u>	
		Non-attendance (without a proxy)	\$100.00
		<u>Trophies</u>	
		Not returned prior to due date (even when trophy is subsequently returned)	\$200.00
		Not returned (trophy lost), Damage to trophies	Cost of replacement + \$200.00
		<u>Disciplinary Appeals</u>	
		First Appeal	\$600.00
		Second Appeal	\$800.00
		<u>Lodgement of Grievance</u>	
		To NNSWF (Non-refundable)	\$1000.00

Disciplinary & Code of Conduct Regulations and Procedures 2021

These Regulations and Procedures are supplementary to the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations.

1. Objects of The Zone Disciplinary and Code of Conduct Regulations

- a) In the first instance, the Competition Administrator shall receive and determine the process for all written reports received by The Zone, which relate to matters of offence or misconduct, under the authority of The Zone.
- b) The Competition Administrator (or Nominee) and/or The Zone Disciplinary Panel have the authority to impose a penalty on any Zone Member or any other person or Organisation.
- c) The determining authority needs only to be satisfied from the available evidence that the Laws of the Game, the Procedures of the Zone, the National Disciplinary Regulations and Code of Conduct or the FFNC Spectators Code of Behaviour in force at that time have been breached. Where breaching of the Laws and/or Procedures, the National Disciplinary Regulations or Code of Conduct or the FFNC Spectators Code of Behaviour has been to gain an unfair advantage, is considered dangerous, brings the game of Football or the Objects of The Zone into disrepute, by any action or deed, physical or verbal, or other method which offends the Zone, or the Objects of the Zone, notwithstanding that the Member may not be participating in a game of Football when the breach occurred.
- d) Penalties imposed by these Procedures also apply to Members or Registered Participants seeking to participate in a competition sanctioned by the Zone or any other Football organisations which are responsible to the authority of FIFA.
- e) A HEARING is deemed to exist when a person is given an opportunity to make a submission to any disciplinary or Code of Conduct matter. This can be done verbally, in writing or in person and is considered as part of the outcome, notwithstanding providing no obligation upon the administrator to make a determination contingent upon any submission.

2. Authority of Competition Administrator

- a) The Competition Administrator;
 - i) Will be defined as FFNC, its nominee or higher authority in Disciplinary or Code of Conduct;
 - ii) Will uphold a zero tolerance (or as otherwise deemed appropriate) in an assessment and response of inappropriate behaviour;
 - iii) Will adhere to a consistent process within the terms underpinned within the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations, FFA National Code of Conduct and otherwise as disclosed by The Zone to its members;
 - iv) Is authorised to review all official reports received by The Zone;
 - v) Will make a determination and impose sanctions (where appropriate) in accordance with the terms of applicable FFA National Regulations or FFNC Competition regulations;
 - vi) May initiate an investigation regarding the behaviour of any participant(s);
 - vii) May impose sanctions against a participant;
 - viii) May impose sanctions against a Member;
 - ix) May impose specific sanctions against an individual team;
 - x) Refer serious or complex matters of behaviour (whether on the field or otherwise) to an Independent Arbitrator.

3. Determining Authority

- a) An assessment and subsequent determination are made under an authority of one or more of following:
 - i) Competition Administrator or FFNC nominees;
 - ii) Arbitrator
 - iii) Appeals Body or nominee;
 - iv) Grievance Body or nominee;
- b) A determining Authority (above the Competition Administrator) shall (subject to adherence to the terms of an Appeals Process) have the authority to vary, set aside or to impose additional sanctions of any sanction(s) imposed by the previous Determining Authority.

4. Disciplinary Process Overview

- a) Match Official decision on game day/match;
- b) Send-off Report submitted by Match Official;
- c) Conduct Report submitted by Match Official;
- d) Conduct Report submitted by Competition Administrator;
- e) Assessment of relevant report(s) by Administrator, Zone nominee or Independent Arbitrator;
- f) Assessment of any verbal or written submissions from accused person or Body (i.e. definition of the right to be heard);
- g) Sanction imposed (summarily by the Administrator unless referred to an Independent Arbitrator);
- h) Sanction advised in writing to the accused party (i.e. line of communication is to the participant's applicable member club);
 - i) Optional appeal (where sanction is opposed above minimum sanction);
 - j) Optional appeal in accordance with the terms of the National Grievance Regulations;
 - k) A participant who is issued a Red Card is immediately required to stand-down from all roles until an assessment has been made by the Competition Administrator of what sanction is to be imposed
 - i) A participant who is issued a Red Card will be required to serve a minimum of one (1) match notwithstanding any additional sanction(s) imposed;
 - (1) Excepted if an appeal is upheld on the basis of mistaken identity. Evidence for such an appeal must be submitted in writing to the Competition Administrator before 1pm on the first business day after the relevant send-off;
 - (2) There will be no exemptions given to enable a participant (who has been issued a Red Card) to continue a participation (in any role) on a basis that they intend to appeal or have lodged an appeal.

5. Laws of the Game

- a) Laws of the Game as specified by Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

6. Zone Regulations and Procedures

- a) FFNC Constitution;
- b) FFNC Competition Regulations;
- c) FFNC Competition Procedures

7. Member

- a) As defined within the FFNC Constitution (ie Member Club);
- b) Otherwise interpreted as a participant for the purposes of;
 - i) Disciplinary Regulations;
 - ii) Code of Conduct;
 - iii) Grievance Regulations;

8. Participant

- a) Includes all registered persons;
- b) Includes all spectators;
- c) Includes all person in any role within FFNC sanctioned activity;
- d) Includes a specific team (or teams) including in the case of incidents assessed as being serious misconduct.

9. Sanctioned Activity

- a) Sanctioned match/fixture;
- b) Sanctioned trial/friendly;
- c) Sanctioned training activities;
- d) Sanctioned activity within a reasonable definition of a football activity;

10. Yellow Cards

- a) Cautionable offences
 - i) Y1: Unsporting behaviour.
 - ii) Y2: Dissent by word or action.
 - iii) Y3: Persistent offences (no specific number or pattern of offences constitutes "persistent").
 - iv) Y4: Delaying the restart of play.
 - v) Y5: Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw in.
 - vi) Y6: Entering or re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.
 - vii) Y7: Offence by a Team Official that is not listed above.
- b) A Caution (Yellow Card) issued by the Referee, shall be recorded on the match sheet against a participant's name and number for a player or against the name of a Team Official.
- c) The failure of a referee to record a caution on a match sheet (as a consequence of an error in such notation on a match sheet) does not nullify the reporting of such cautions by the referee if subsequently advised to FFNC before 1pm on the first business day after the conclusion of a match or as otherwise determined by FFNC.
- d) The validity of a caution recorded in a match that is determined by FFNC to be an abandoned match, will be considered at the discretion of FFNC.
- e) The only appeal allowed against a caution is for mistaken identity, where FFNC is satisfied that sound evidence exists to defer the caution to another participant.

11. Cumulative Cautions and Sanctions

General

- a) A participant who receives a caution (Yellow Card) in the one match and who also receives a direct Red Card will have recorded against his/her name ONE (1) Caution which will be counted in the participant's accumulation of Yellow Cards, plus the penalty imposed for the Red Card offence;
- b) Match suspensions incurred as a result of the accumulation of cautions (i.e Yellow Cards) will not be cancelled and shall be served in the next match that is scheduled for the participant where such suspensions have not been fully extinguished consistent with the terms of FFNC regulations;
- c) Match suspensions incurred as a result of a Disciplinary matter (i.e Red Cards) will not be cancelled and shall be served in the next match that is scheduled for the participant where such suspensions have not been fully extinguished consistent with the terms of FFNC regulations;
- d) Suspensions or Sanctions incurred as a result of a Determination made by the Independent Arbitrator, the accumulation of cautions (i.e Yellow Cards) will not be cancelled or annulled (unless otherwise as a consequence of a successful grievance application) shall be served (i.e. time or match suspensions) and applicable to fines/bonds and any other conditions that are imposed, until the terms have been fully extinguished;
- e) Consistent with Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations (NDR's) (11.5) A match suspension means a ban from taking part in the Match(es) to which the ban relates or to attend such match(es) in the area immediately surrounding the field or play and otherwise specified by the Competition Administrator in its Competition Rules;

- f) Consistent with Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations (NDR's) (11.6) Unless otherwise specified by a Competition Administrator or a Judicial Body (e.g. Independent Arbitrator, a Participant who receives a suspension for an Offence in a Match forming part of a Competition must serve that suspension in the next following Match(es) forming part of any Competition (i.e. the Competition in which the offence was committed, or another Competition) in which his or her Team participates. For the avoidance of doubt, suspensions carry over from one round to the next in the same Competition, including from the pre-season to the regular season to the Finals Series and to the following season;
- g) A Participant who receives a Red Card in a Friendly, may be required to serve a suspension in the next Friendly for such participant or as otherwise required by the Competition Administrator.
- h) The requirement to serve the suspension cannot be appealed unless a case of mistaken identity is proven by FFNC. In such cases, a Participant must otherwise be confirmed as having committed the offence and must be sanctioned accordingly;
- i) FFNC has the authority to determine any matter that is not otherwise specifically referred to in these Regulations.

Pointscore season

- a) A participant who accumulates FOUR (4) cautions (i.e. yellow cards) within the same pointscore season, shall be required to serve a ONE (1) match suspension (consistent with the terms outlined in the FFNC Disciplinary Regulations);
- b) A participant who accumulates a further two (2) cautions, (i.e. a total of six (6) yellow cards) within the same pointscore season, shall be required to serve a further ONE (1) match suspension;
- c) A participant who accumulates any further cautions (i.e. yellow cards) within the same pointscore season, shall be required to serve a further ONE (1) match suspension for each subsequent caution (i.e. yellow card received (*)) and further; (*) The Zone may apply an additional penalty if the participant's record or nature of the cautions received is considered of a level to justify such action.
- d) The accumulation of cautions (i.e. Yellow Cards) will be reset at the end of the last match of each respective junior competition/senior league pointscore season each year;

Finals Series

- a) A participant who accumulates THREE (3) cautions during the Final Series, the participant shall be required to serve a ONE (1) match suspension that must be served in the participant's next match in the junior competition/senior league in which the participant incurred the third caution. The requirement to serve the suspension cannot be appealed.
- b) A participant who accumulates THREE (3) cautions (i.e. yellow cards) within the same pointscore season, shall be required to serve a ONE (1) match suspension (consistent with the terms outlined in the FFNC Disciplinary Regulations);
- c) The accumulation of cautions (i.e. yellow cards) will be reset at the end of the last match the finals series each year;

ANZAC Day Cup & Callan McMillan Cup Memorial Shield

- a) A participant who accumulates THREE (3) cautions (i.e. yellow cards) within the same ADC or CM competition (including Finals Series), shall be required to serve a ONE (1) match suspension (consistent with the terms outlined in the FFNC Disciplinary Regulations);
- b) A participant who accumulates any further cautions (i.e. yellow cards) within the same ADC or CM competitions (including Finals Series), shall be required to serve a further ONE match suspension for each subsequent caution (i.e. yellow card received (*)) and further; (*) The Zone may apply an additional penalty if the participant's record or nature of the cautions received is considered of a level to justify such action.
- c) The accumulation of Yellow Cards will be reset at the end of the last match of each respective ADC and CM competition each year;

SUMMER YOUTH LEAGUE (SYL)

- a) A participant who accumulates THREE (3) cautions (i.e. yellow cards) within the same SYL competition, shall be required to serve a ONE (1) match suspension (consistent with the terms outlined in the FFNC Disciplinary Regulations);
- b) A participant who accumulates any further cautions (i.e. yellow cards) within the same SYL season, shall be required to serve a further ONE (1) match suspension for each subsequent caution (i.e. yellow card received (*)) and further; (*) The Zone may apply an additional penalty if the participant's record or nature of the cautions received is considered of a level to justify such action.
- c) The accumulation of cautions (i.e. yellow cards) will be reset at the end of the last match of the SYL each year;

12.Red Cards

- a) A participant who is issued a Red Card is immediately required to stand-down from all roles until an assessment has been made by the Competition Administrator of what sanction is to be imposed
 - i) A participant who receives a Red Card will be required to serve a minimum of one (1) match notwithstanding any additional sanction(s) imposed;
 - ii) A participant who receives a Red Card is immediately prohibited from participating in any role upon being sent from the field of play until the terms of a sanction have been issued by the competition administrator and the suspension has been fully extinguished.
- 1. OTHER;
 - (i) If an appeal is upheld on the basis of mistaken identity. Evidence for such an appeal must be submitted in writing to the Competition Administrator before 1pm on the first business day after the relevant send-off;
 - (ii) There will be no exemptions given to enable a participant (who has been issued a Red Card) to continue a participation (in any role) on a basis that they intend to appeal or have lodged an appeal.

(iii)

Participant sent from the Field

- a. A Member who accumulates the following number of Red Cards during the pre-season competition, main season competition, or Finals Series, must serve the following immediate mandatory match suspension plus any further penalty determined by the Competition Administrator or nominee;
 - i. First Red Card – One (1) Match suspension;
 - ii. Second Red Card – Two (2) Match suspension;
 - iii. Third Red Card – Three (3) Match suspension;
 - iv. Fourth Red Card – Four (4) Match suspension;
- b. Any penalty imposed by the Competition Administrator or any higher authority will be inclusive of the mandatory match suspension;
- c. A member sent from the field shall not participate in any other game or match until the Send-off Report has been assessed and any sanction imposed has been extinguished;
- d. A Team Official who has been expelled from the field of play by a Referee must serve a mandatory one (1) match suspension plus any further penalty determined by the Competition Administrator or nominee;
- e. Suspended participants and participants sent from the field during the match are not permitted in the Technical Area until the full suspension is served and cannot have any active role in the coaching of team activities during a fixture.
- f. The Competition Administrator shall advise the relevant Club of the sanction imposed and the Member's Club must contact the participant.
- g. In cases of urgency (eg match pending within 7 days from ONE (1) match suspension having being served) the Member Club may contact the Competition Administrator, to seek a priority determination.
- h. The only appeal allowed against the mandatory match suspension is for mistaken identity.
- i. All sanctions will be applied in accordance with the FFA schedule, noting minimum sanctions exist for each offence and may be applied at or above this schedule.

(iv)

Scope of Sanctions

- a. The Determining Authority is empowered to impose penalties on participants or Members within The Zone, in any combination of the listed penalty limits, as is determined necessary to ensure compliance with the National Disciplinary Regulations, the National Code of Conduct Regulations and the Regulations of The Zone.
- b. The Determining Authority will enforce an imposed Bond if the Member, or its participants have re-offended by way of a similar or more serious offence within the time frame of the bond.
- c. A Bond being enforced on a Member, if monetary, becomes payable by the Member or the Member's Club on receipt of written advice from the Competition Administrator.
- d. Monetary Bonds must be paid to The Zone prior to the Zone match, before the Member is allowed further participation. Match Bonds enforced, will be served from the next Zone match The Zone has notified the Member or Member's Club.
 - i. Verbal notification will be confirmed in writing.
- e. The Bond expires, and cannot be enforced, from the end of the applied time.
 - i. A time limit expires at midnight on the nominated date.
- f. The sanction of placement on a bond can be imposed only on first time offenders.
- g. Match Suspensions
 - i. The Determining Authority may suspend a participant for any number of matches (from playing only) or any time period (may be from involvement in all activities) up to a life ban
- h. Reprimand
 - i. The sanction of reprimand can only be considered under the terms of the FFA Disciplinary Regulations
- i. The Determining Authority may impose additional sanctions on a club or team, including:
 - i. Loss of competition points;
 - ii. Suspension or expulsion from the competition;
 - iii. Playing matches without spectators;
 - iv. Loss of home ground matches;
 - v. A ban from attending matches;
 - vi. A ban on taking part in any football related activity
 - vii. Any other sanctions deemed appropriate.

(v)

Mistaken Identity

- a. Appeals for mistaken identity for Procedures 8 and 10, must be submitted in writing to The Zone within two (2) working days from the end of the match in which the mistake allegedly occurred.
- b. Details of the person alleged to be the person who should have been identified in the specific incident is to be provided

(vi)

Notification and Timeframes

- a. A participant who is issued a Red Card is immediately required to Stand-down from all roles until an assessment has been made by the Competition Administrator of what sanction is to be imposed.
 - i. A participant who is issued a Red Card will be required to serve a minimum on one (1) match notwithstanding any additional sanction(s) imposed.

1. Excepted if an appeal is upheld on the basis of mistaken identity. Evidence for such an appeal must be submitted in writing to the Competition Administrator before 1pm on the first business day after the relevant Send-off.
 2. There will be no exemptions given to enable a participant (who has been issued a Red Card) to continue a participation (in any role) on a basis that they intend to appeal or have lodged an appeal;
- b. The Competition Administrator will issue a sanction notification (by notifying the participant in writing to the participant's member club) ordinarily within 10 working days from the date of the send-off;
 - c. A Member Club can write to the Competition Administrator seeking a sanction notification (or advice about the sanction process) if a sanction notification has not been received after a participant has stood down for the mandatory one (1) match that applies notwithstanding any further sanction imposed.
 - d. A participant who receives a Red Card is ineligible to participate (in any role) until a sanction that has been imposed is fully extinguished;
 - e. A participant who receives a Red Card is not considered eligible to participate (in any role) on the basis that a sanction is unknown, has not been issued, has not been received or for any other similar reason;
 - f. A matter that is assessed by an Independent Arbitrator or within the terms of a Code of Conduct will be determined in a timeline that is contingent upon factors including the complexity of the matter and resources allocated by the Arbitrator;
 - g. A matter that is assessed by an Independent Arbitrator or within the terms of a Code of Conduct are subject to a maximum timeline of two (2) years (Refer FFA National Code of Conduct Regulations);
 - h. The Competition Administrator is obliged to adhere to the directions imposed by the Arbitrator and any higher authority.

(vii) **Evidence**

- a. The evidence shall comprise written evidence, and oral presentation by way of;
 - i. Reports, Referees or other accepted by the Competition Administrator;
 - ii. Participants' written deposition, signed and dated;
 - iii. Witnesses' written depositions, signed and dated, from witnesses who may be called upon by the Competition Administrator if required.
- b. The Member must provide to the Competition Administrator a copy of any written submissions, materials or documents it intends to rely on in the hearing, as well as the names of any persons who will be attending to represent them, at least 2 business days before the start of that hearing.
 - i. If it fails to do so, the Competition Administrator may refuse to submit them into evidence at the hearing.
- c. If after a hearing has concluded, The Zone or the Competition Administrator becomes aware that a Member or witness may have misled the Competition Administrator, then the Competition Administrator may be set aside decisions and make new determinations upon them or their member club or team(s).
- d. Witnesses or participants considered to have misled the Competition Administrator may have penalties imposed upon them or their member club or team(s).

(viii) **Appeals**

- a. The Competition Administrator will convene at an appointed time and place at its discretion;
- b. The Competition Administrator shall have placed before it, reports, any written depositions that are signed and dated, and clarification from the Referee if required.
- c. A party may be called to attend in person or by phone
- d. If a party fails to attend, the case can be heard and determined in that party's absence, including as to determination of the charge and/or sanction
- e. Once the Competition Administrator or its nominee has reached a decision the Member and/or the Member's representative will be given a copy of the findings of the Panel.
- f. In the event that the Competition Administrator or its nominee requires time to consider its decision, they shall reserve their decision the Competition Administrator can advise the Member's Club of the decision.
 - i. Suspensions imposed by the Competition Administrator are inclusive of any applicable mandatory match suspension as set out in 13. a).
- g. All decisions of a Competition Administrator remain in force unless reversed by an Appeals process.
- h. Any aggrieved Person or Organisations dissatisfied with the Competition Administrator finding may lodge an Appeal, which will be heard by the next highest authority within seven (7) working days of a determination being advised to a member.
- i. Appeals must be submitted in writing, signed and dated, stating full grounds for the appeal, and enclosing the appropriate fee as per Appendix 'A' and lodged to FFNC (or nominated body) within seven (7) working days of a determination being advised to a member.

(ix) **Investigative Powers**

- a. Where, in the opinion of the Competition Administrator, a reported incident appears likely to be particularly complex or be expected to give rise to a large number of persons wishing to give evidence or where the identity of any person cited in the referee's report is unknown or disputed for any reason, the Competition Administrator may convene an Investigative Process to hear witnesses and/or make the necessary findings in respect of any matters requiring determination prior to hearing.

