

RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF COMPETITION GAMES AND SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL

These Rules provide for the administration and conduct of all Competition and Small Sided Football games arranged by and played under the control of the Sutherland Shire Football Association Incorporated, including Semi finals, Finals and Grand Finals.

For the purpose of these Rules “Competitions”, “Competition Matches” and “Games” shall mean all matches drawn by the Association from Round 1, or the first competition match played, to the Grand Final and any replays of these matches.

Rules are also included for matches conducted by Football NSW and also for pre-season games, “knock out” tournaments, gala days and all other events not controlled by the Association but involving Association teams.

A special section covers the conduct of non-competition Small Sided Football games.

This book also contains a copy of the current Association By-Laws which include the Association’s Disciplinary Procedures.

REVISION OF RULES

The Rules may only be revised or varied in accordance with Rule 36 of these Rules.

ADMINISTRATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

Section C. 2 (iii) of the Constitution of the Association empowers the E.C. to administer and interpret matters governing the Rules and to determine any matter not adequately covered by the Rules.

Section C. 2. (b) of the Constitution empowers the E.C. to make By-Laws as deemed necessary for the control and management of competitions.

ASSOCIATION WEBSITE – www.shirefootball.com

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CLUB MEMBERSHIP – UNIFORMS – SPONSORSHIP

1. CLUB MEMBERSHIP

- A. A Club must affiliate with this Association prior to the 1st February each year to be eligible to enter teams in the competition.
- B. All Clubs shall submit names of Office Bearers, their address and telephone numbers and pay the affiliation fee as determined by the AG.M.

2. CLUB UNIFORMS

- A. Each Club shall have its colours registered and approved by the E.C. and shall submit a 25cm x 20cm colour photograph or colour design drawing of the Club uniform.
- B. Every member of each team of a Club shall wear the same Club colours and design (shorts, socks and shirt) as those registered.
- C. When two (2) teams from the same Club are playing each other, the team drawn as the "home" team shall change colours.
- D. When two teams from different Clubs play and a colour clash occurs the team required to change strip is the one who last adopted the strip.
- E. Where the only colour clash with the opposing team is the goalkeeper's strip then the goalkeeper will be required to change.
- F. All players must wear protective shin pads.
- G. Dangling and dangerous jewellery is not to be worn whilst playing.

3. SPONSORSHIP

- A. Clubs may obtain sponsorship for teams and the sponsor's name and other details may be printed on the front and/or back of shirts or by attached printed patches.
- B. Advertising must not obscure or otherwise affect the shirt number.
- C. Sponsors details must not be of a size greater than 250mm x 100mm approximately.
- D. The advertising of hotels and alcohol is not permitted on the uniforms of players under the age of 18 years.
- E. The details of proposed advertising must be submitted in full size to the E.C. and approved before being placed on a club shirt.
- F. Small patches to be attached to shirt sleeves or on the leg of shorts also require E.C. approval before they are attached to the uniform.
- G. The E.C. may reject or require the removal of any advertising which does not meet the requirements of this Rule or is considered to be offensive or contrary to the best interests of the Sutherland Association. This includes patches or similar on shirt sleeves and shorts.

REGISTRATIONS

4. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

A. Registration Procedures

- (a) A player must be registered with an Association Club and with the Sutherland Association prior to taking part in a competition game or Small Sided Football game conducted by the Association.
- (b) Registered players shall be governed by the Constitution, By Laws and Rules of the Sutherland Shire Football Association.
- (c) A player may register with any Association Club he/she desires for any season or part thereof and, having completed all requirements, shall be considered as being registered with that Club unless transferred in accordance with Clause H or the registration is cancelled by the E.C.
- (d) In order to become a registered player with the Association, a player must complete and sign in person, or by a carer, parent or guardian, all necessary forms required by the Association, Football NSW and the Football Federation of Australia (FFA) and pay to the Club a fee which includes the Association registration fees and also Association, State and National levies and insurance fees as advised by the Association.
- (e) The Club registering the player shall pay the fees and levies to the Association upon request and by the due date.
- (f) When a player's registration has been lodged with the Association in the manner prescribed by the Association and subject to all other requirements of registration having been met, a player shall be regarded as being provisionally registered for a period of twenty eight (28) days and, in the event that the E.C. shall not have exercised its powers under Clause C. 2. (ii) of the Constitution within this period, the provisional registration shall automatically become final.
- (g) During the period of provisional registration, the player shall be deemed to be a registered player. If the E.C exercises its powers under Clause C. 2. (ii) of the Constitution the player shall be deemed to be unregistered from the date of the E.C.'s decision and all fees paid by the Club on behalf of the player will be refunded to the Club.
- (h) Association fees will not be refunded to players who withdraw from teams if notification is received by the Association less than fifteen (15) days before the first match of the season.

B. “Application to Register” Form

- (a) Every person applying to register as a player for the current season with a Club affiliated with the Association must complete the Association’s “Application to Register” form.
- (b) Signing of Applications:
 - (i) Players registering to play in the Under 6 to Under 12 age divisions are not required to sign the Application to Register (see also (b) (iii)).
 - (ii) Players registering to play in age divisions from Under 13 to Over 45 must sign the Application to Register (see also (b) (iii))
 - (iii) For all players up to the age of 17 at the date of registration, the Application must be signed by the player’s parent, guardian or carer.
- (c) Witness to Signatures:
The signatures required as stated in (b), (ii) and (iii) must be witnessed by the Club Registrar, President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.
- (d) Photographic Proof of Identity. Any player whose photograph for I.D. purposes is not available on the registering Club’s records may be required to produce recent photographic identification, or other information acceptable to the Registrar, to verify the player’s identity before the registration will be accepted and finalised.
- (e) Any player found to have provided false information on the Application shall be dealt with by an Association Disciplinary Committee.
- (f) The penalties for providing false information may be a suspension from playing or cancellation of registration.

C. Proof of Date of Birth

- (a) All persons registering with this Association for the first time must provide proof of age by the presentation of an original Birth Certificate, Passport or Australian Drivers Licence, copies of these documents are not acceptable.
- (b) The Birth Certificate, Passport or Drivers Licence must be sighted by a member of the Association’s E.C. or by the player’s Club President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Registrar.
- (c) When proof of date of birth is sighted for new players and verified by a Club official as stated in (b) an appropriate entry is to be made on the Association’s official verification form. This form is to be forwarded to the Association with the player’s Application to Register.

- (d) A player will not be accepted for registration or an I.D. card produced until the requirements of 4. C. (a), (b) and (c) are completed.

D. Residential Qualifications

- (a)
 - (i) Players in every age division from Under 6 to Over 45, Men and Women, who have not previously registered to play with the SSFA must provide proof that they are currently residents of Sutherland Shire before their registration is accepted.
 - (ii) Players eligible to play in Junior Divisions who attend at a Primary or Secondary School in the Shire will be accepted for registration. Written proof of attendance at the school will be required.
 - (iii) In special circumstances the E.C may permit non-Shire residents, Junior or Senior, to register with an Association Club.
- (b) Proof of Shire residency may be by way of one of the following:
 - (i) A current Drivers Licence with the address unaltered since issue of renewal.
 - (ii) A current Council Rate Notice or Lease Agreement for a Shire property which is the place of residency of the player.
 - (iii) A recent document from a Government Department or Financial Institution.
- (c) The proof must be in the form of original documents, photocopies or other reproductions are not acceptable. The documents must be sighted and verified as acceptable by a member of the Association's E.C. or by the player's Club President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Registrar.
- (d) When proof of residence is sighted, as required in sub-section (a), by a Club official an appropriate entry is to be made on the Association's official verification form which must be forwarded to the Association with the player's Application to Register.
- (e) Clarification of residential eligibility or disputes shall be referred to the E.C. for determination. The Committee's decision, based on the information provided, shall be final but subject to review on the presentation of new information.
- (f) Players in every age group who have previously played in the Shire (with an Association Club) but reside outside the boundaries of the Sutherland Shire shall be permitted to re-register and play with SSFA, but no new players living outside the Shire shall be accepted. If Association records are not available the onus of proof of previous playing history in the Shire will be on the player.

- (g) A player will not be accepted for registration or an I.D. card produced until the requirements of 4. C. (a), (b) and (c) are completed.

E. Age Divisions and Age Restrictions

- (a) To be accepted for registration with the Association a player must attain the age of five (5) years or older between 1st January and 31st December of the current year.
- (b)
 - (i) A player's age group shall be determined by the age the player attains between 1st January and 31st December inclusive of the current season.
 - (ii) To be eligible to play in an Over 35 competition a player must have attained the age of 35 or older by 31st December of the year PRIOR to the current season.
 - (iii) To be eligible to play in an Over 45 competition a player must have attained the age of 45 or older by 31st December of the year PRIOR to the current season.
 - (iv) To be eligible to play in an Over 30 competition a player must have attained the age of 30 or older by 31st December of the year PRIOR to the current season.
- (c) Players who qualify by year of birth to register to play in age divisions up to and including Under 16 cannot register to play in an age group more than two (2) years older than the age they turn by the 31st December of the competition year unless special dispensation is granted under sub-clause 4. E. (d).
- (d) Special dispensation under E. 4 (c) will only be approved by the E.C. if:
 - (i) A letter of consent is received from the player's parent, guardian or carer
and
 - (ii) A letter is received from the Club stating that the player has been assessed by a competent Club Official who has confirmed that the player has the necessary fitness, skill and strength levels to play in the nominated age division and grade.

F. Identification Photographs

- (a) Every player registered to play in an Under 11 age division or older is required to have an official Association Identification Card (I.D. card) showing the player's photograph, name, date of birth, identification number (I.D. number), the Club, team and grade registered to play with and the current year.

- (b) I.D. cards will be produced by the Association and renewed annually. The I.D. number for the player will be the same for every year he/she is registered to play with the Sutherland Association.
- (c) Digital player photographs for I.D. cards will be taken by the Club and stored for a maximum period of three (3) years on the Association's computerised registration and player history file.
- (d) Players must be present themselves for a new I.D. photograph every three (3) years or earlier if they change their appearance or the Association requires a new photograph on the I.D. card.

Special Note: Age groups for each year will be selected and Clubs advised.

- (e) A Club regrading a player to a different team within the Club during the season or accepting a player on transfer from another Club, must IMMEDIATELY apply for an updated I.D. card from the Association. An amended I.D. card will not be issued until the old card is returned to the Association office. A player is not permitted to play in a competition game with an incorrect I.D. card. See Rule 7 – Grading and Regrading Players.

G. Wearing of Sport Glasses for Playing

- (a) A player requiring to wear sports (safety) glasses to play competition games must have the glasses approved by the E.C. before they can be worn in a competition game.
- (b) The player's ID photograph must be taken with the player wearing the approved glasses.

H. (a) Transfers Between Sutherland Association Clubs

- (i) A player registered with a Club in the Sutherland Association may in the season of registration, register with and transfer to another Club in the Association.

In order to arrange for a transfer a player must complete Section 1 of a Player Transfer Agreement Form, obtainable from his/her current Club Registrar, who is then required to complete Section 2 of this Form.

The player should then deliver the Form together with their I.D. Card to the Club accepting the transfer.

To finalise the transfer the fully completed Form, together with old ID card, must be forwarded to the Association Registrar for recording of the transfer and the issue of a new I.D. card.

- (ii) A player whilst registered with a Club affiliated with the Sutherland Association must not play with any other affiliated Club within this Association until officially transferred as covered by H. (a) (i)
- (iii) Any Sutherland Association Club refusing to grant a transfer to a player shall forward their reasons for refusing the transfer in writing to the Association within seven (7) days of the receipt of a request to transfer.
- (iv) No transfers will be allowed after 31st May of each year unless there are special or extenuating circumstances acceptable to the E.C.

(b) **Transfers from Clubs Outside Association**

- (i) A player whose previous Club was not a Club affiliated with the Association must produce a written unconditional clearance if the previous Club was a member of the Council of Clubs (formerly a Federation Club).
- (ii) If the player has already registered with any Club or Association affiliated with Football NSW for the current season he/she must produce a clearance from that Club or Association.

I. **Restrictions for Acceptance of Registrations.**

- (a) To be eligible to play in the first competition match of the season a player must have complied with all the Association's initial registration requirements at least fifteen (15) days prior to the weekend of the first match.
- (b) Registrations received after that date will be processed in strict order of receipt and at the convenience of the Association Registrar.

J. **Dual Registrations**

- (a) No player is permitted to register in more than one Association or Club affiliated with Football NSW.
- (b) A player is not permitted to register with more than one Club affiliated with the Sutherland Association.
- (c) These rules do not prevent a player registering and playing in school or college competitions.

K. **Closing Date for Registrations**

- (a) Registrations close on the 31st May of the current season and no registrations will be accepted by an Association Registrar after that date except as provided for in
 - (b) below.
- (b) The E.C. may approve of the acceptance of a registration after 31st May if it determines that extenuating circumstances exist to permit a late registration to be accepted.

ENTRY AND GRADING OF TEAMS

5. TEAM ENTRIES

Every club shall by a date to be fixed and on the form provided by the E.C., supply a list as specified in 5 A, B, C and D names for each of its teams for grading purposes, such players shall thereafter be members of that team and shall be “listed” players. Such form shall show player’s given name and surname, date of birth, team and Club last year played and position of such team in the competition. Incorrectly submitted forms may attract a fine, the amount to be determined by the E.C. from time to time.

A. Small Sided Football – U6

No more than six (6) registered players will be allowed for each team. A minimum of five (5) players are to be listed on the Team Grading Sheet.

B. Small Sided Football – U7 and U8

No more than seven (7) registered players will be allowed for each team. A minimum of five (5) players are to be listed on the Team Grading Sheet.

C. Small Sided Football – U9 and U10

No more than ten (10) registered players will be allowed for each team. A minimum of eight (8) players are to be listed on the Team Grading Sheet.

D. Clubs are advised that Team Entries listing player numbers greater than shown in A., B. and C. above will be accepted for grading but in order to permit the maximum participation time for the players the numbers should be kept within the limits shown if at all possible.

E. All competition teams. A minimum of nine (9) players are to be listed on the team grading sheet.

F. The E.C. shall fix and notify Clubs of a closing date for the entry of teams, subsequent to which date the only team entries will be those that take up available byes. No team entry will be accepted after the fifth (5th) round played.

G. WITHDRAWAL of a team after entry will cause the withdrawing Club to be liable to a penalty, the amount to be determined by the E.C. from time to time.

6. TEAM GRADING AND REGRADING

A. Team Grading Prior to Competition

(a) Prior to the closing date for the entry of teams, the E.C. shall elect a Grading Committee to grade all team entries into their respective age groups and divisions and to place players registering after the completion of team gradings into appropriately graded teams.

(b) The grading of teams shall be based on the past performance of the listed players, particularly the previous season, age of the players if appropriate and other information which may be available to the Grading Committee.

- (c) The official end of season point score for all teams in the oldest non-competition age division will be distributed to Clubs by December each year for grading purposes the following year.
- (d) As far as practicable there will be ten (10) teams per grade for Under 9 and Under Small Sided Football divisions and for all competition divisions from Under 11 to Over 45.
- (e) For Small Sided Football Under 6 and Under 7 age divisions, the Grading Committee may place as many teams as it considers reasonable in the grades in order to provide an even spread of abilities within a grade as well as emphasising the non-competitive aspect of these age divisions.
- (f) Any Club shall have the right to protest in regard to a team grading. Any such protest shall be lodged by a date as nominated by the E.C. The decision of the E.C. on any protest shall be final.
- (g) No Club shall have more than two (2) teams graded into the same competition division except in extraordinary circumstances as deemed necessary by the E.C.
- (h) When a team withdraws, the E.C. will investigate all possible options to maintain the integrity of the competition affected.

B. Team Re-Grading after Competition Starts

- (a) Prior to the fourth game only of the competition, the E.C may re-grade any team. Non-competition teams may be regraded at any time. Teams will be regraded on basis of merit.
- (b) For an age division playing competition for the first time, (first year after Small Sided Football) the Grading Committee may regrade a team up to and including the ninth game of the competition when concern exists regarding the future viability of the team in their allocated division.
- (c) Grading Committee to have power to elevate teams one (1) year above its age group if in the opinion of the grading committee the team is too strong for its age group.
- (d) Small Sided Football teams to be able to be considered for regrading from the end of round three, right through to the completion of the season, particularly under 6, 7, 8 and 9.
- (e) No Club shall have more than two (2) teams regraded into the same competition division except in extraordinary circumstances as deemed necessary by the E.C.
- (f) When a team withdraws, the E.C. will investigate all possible options to maintain the integrity of the competition affected.

GRADING OF PLAYERS

7. GRADING AND REGRADING PLAYERS.

A. Grading Players Registering after Team Gradings

The following procedures will be followed for the placement of players into teams when an application to register is received after the team gradings have been completed:

- (a) The Association Registrar will place the player in the team and grade requested ONLY if the player's playing history is compatible with the grade requested.
- (b) If the Association Registrar considers the grade requested to be inappropriate, the request will be referred back to the Club for a formal written request for consideration by the E.C.
- (c) The formal request should be based on the criteria listed in Clause 7. D.

B. Regrading Players within a Club

Players may be transferred between teams (regraded) within a Club at any time during the season in accordance with the following conditions:

- (a) In cases where the transfer requested is in accordance with Rule 16 – Borrowing of Players, the transfer will be approved by the Association Registrar and the decision reported to the next E.C, Meeting.
- (b) In cases where the request is not in accordance with sub-clause 7. B. (a), the Club will be advised to provide a formal request as outlined in Clauses 7. A. (b) and (c) for consideration by the E.C.

C. Players Transferring between Association Clubs

The following procedures will apply to the placement of players transferring between Clubs during a season:

- (a) The placement into age divisions and grades will be in accordance with Rule 7. A. (a) to (c).
- (b) Transfer between Clubs is only permitted up to 31st May and the necessary procedures to be followed by Clubs is covered by Rule 4. H.

Note: Only under exceptional circumstances is a Club permitted to refuse a request from a player to transfer to another Club.

D. **Criteria for Requests for Grading and Regrading**

- (a) Requests to be based on:
 - (i) Playing history
 - (ii) Age of player
 - (iii) Skill level
 - (iv) Health or disability
 - (v) Player, team or Club hardship.
- (b) Requests must include all relevant information to support the request, including a medical certificate to support D. (a) (iv)

E. **Appeals against E.C. Decision**

- (a) Appeals will be referred to the next scheduled General Meeting of the Association for hearing.
- (b) A fee determined by the E.C. from time to time, which may be forfeited, will be invoiced to the Club on lodgement of such Appeal.
- (c) Refund or retention of the appeal fee will be determined by a vote of the General Meeting.
- (d) The decision of the General Meeting will be final and will not be subject to further appeals to any other Authority.
- (e) The player involved in the grading or regrading hearing may appear at the initial Committee hearings and at the Appeal hearing.

CONDUCT OF COMPETITIONS

8. COMPETITIONS

A. Proposed age groups for competitions are as follows:

Junior Mixed divisions -	Under 11 Under 12
Junior Men's divisions -	Under 13 Under 14 Under 15 Under 16 Under 18 Under 21
Senior Men's Amateur League division -	All age
Senior Men's division	Over 35 division Over 45 division
Junior Women's divisions -	Under 12 years Under 13 years Under 14 years Under 15 years Under 16 years Under 18 years Under 21 years
Senior Women's division -	All Age Over 30 division

Note: An additional age division for Over 35 Women may be included by the E.C. where sufficient team entries are received to form feasible competitions

For the 2010 season the Senior Women's Over 30 division will become Over 35 Women

B. Amateur League teams will be known as AL1, AL2, AL3 etc., and shall be conducted under rules set forth for all Association football except as modified hereafter.

9. COMPETITION FORMAT AND COMPETITION DRAW

A. Competition Format

- (a) The season competition, preliminary rounds and the finals series, will be conducted entirely within the winter season allocated to the Association by Sutherland Shire Council.
- (b) The program of matches will include the provision of a complete finals series as covered by Rule 23.

- (c) Irrespective of the number of teams in any grade or division the season draw will include the provision of eighteen (18) competition rounds before the finals. If it is necessary to abandon any rounds, the total number of rounds drawn will be reduced to allow four (4) weeks for a finals series.
- (d) If it is necessary to abandon any part of the finals series, the E.C. is authorised to arrange an alternate final series within the time available before the official end of the season. The alternative may include night games or “double headers” with the aim of achieving the maximum benefit to the teams involved.
- (e) Competition games will be played each Saturday and Sunday other than Easter weekend and at other times as nominated by the Competition Secretary and approved by the E.C.
- (f) The first round of the competition will be played on a date to be determined by the E.C.
- (g) For eight (8) team competitions the half round will be played following the completion of two (2) full rounds, i.e. last four (4) rounds of eighteen (18) team competitions.
- (h) Teams of same Club will be bracketed in pairs where possible for playing on 'home and away' basis.

B. The Published (Official) Draw

- (a) The **published** draw is the official draw for competition and finals matches as published and distributed to Clubs before and during the season, including amendments as published and distributed in writing, by email, internet or telephone, as covered by Section B. (e) of this Rule.
- (b) All matches on the published draw will be played as listed and will not be played on different grounds or at different times without the approval of the E.C.
- (c) Wherever possible, the Competition Secretary will draw lower graded teams in an age group to play before the higher grades in the same group to enable the higher teams to draw players from the lower teams, should the necessity arise.
- (d) The Competition Secretary will, wherever practicable, allow up to ten (10) minutes between the official finishing time and the advertised starting time of each game drawn to be played on a ground.
- (e) Amendments to the published draw occurring not later than 3.00 pm on the Wednesday prior to the weekend to which the Amendment applies, will be notified to Clubs in writing or by email.
Amendments issued after the Wednesday as above will be notified to Club Secretaries or Presidents or their nominees by the Association office or a member of the E.C.

Note: Clubs are advised to clear their Association mailbox and their emails every Wednesday, after 3.00 pm

- (f) Misreading of the published draw or subsequent amendment/s shall not constitute a replay of the match.
- (g) The first team mentioned for each match on the published draw is the "home team".

10. **STARTING TIME FOR MATCHES**

- A. A team having at least seven (7) of their listed registered players present at the **nominated starting time** must take the field and be ready to start play without delay after the appointed referee indicates to the teams, by word or by whistle, that the match is to be commenced.
- B. A competition team must have seven (7) of their listed registered players on the field of play and ready to commence play within fifteen (15) minutes after the nominated starting time otherwise the team shall forfeit the match.
- C. No team shall be required to commence their scheduled match prior to the **NOMINATED STARTING TIME** unless by agreement between officials of the two teams and the referee.
- D. All teams requiring I.D. cards may claim up to fifteen (15) minutes on the **nominated starting time** for the match should I.D. cards not be available for at least seven (7) listed registered team members. The referee is the sole judge of time. A team must take the field for the start of the game immediately once I.D. cards are available for at least seven (7) players.
- E. **For the purpose of this Rule, the “nominated starting time” shall be the time shown in the published draw or amended draw for the match.**

11. **DURATION OF MATCHES**

- A. Duration of matches shall be as follows:-

Under 6	- 15 minutes each half
Under 7 and 8	- 20 minutes each half
Under 9 and 10 years	- 25 minutes each half
Under 11 to Under 12 years (incl.)	- 25 minutes each half
Under 13 to Under 14 years (incl.)	- 30 minutes each half
Under 15 to Under 16 years (incl.)	- 35 minutes each half
Under 17 years	- 40 minutes each half
Under 18 years and over	- 45 minutes each half
Under 12 Women	- 25 minutes each half
Under 13 to Under 14 Women	- 30 minutes each half
Under 15 to Under 16 Women	- 35 minutes each half

Under 17 Women	- 40 minutes each half
Under 18 to Under 21 Women	- 45 minutes each half
Senior Women's Competition	- 45 minutes each half
Over 30	- 45 minutes each half
Over 35	- 45 minutes each half
Over 45	- 45 minutes each half

- B. At half-time the interval shall not exceed five (5) minutes except by consent of the Referee and playing time shall be of the same duration before and after this interval.
- C. No match shall be shortened without the agreement of the officials of both teams and the referee before the start of play. Such agreement must be recorded on the back of the match sheet by the referee and signed by officials from both teams before start of play.
- D. Injury Time

During competition matches prior to the semi finals no additional time will be added for injuries or other delays, injury time will be played in semi finals, finals and grand finals.

12. MATCH SHEETS

- A. A match sheet is required to be completed for each game.
- B. Match sheets shall be made available at each ground by the Club responsible for such ground for all matches to be played and must be completed prior to the start of each match by both of the teams concerned.
- C. The given or Christian name or initial, surname (or family name) and identification number (I.D. No.) for every player Under 11 and older who participates in any match must be shown in the appropriate space on the match sheet.
- D. All players in Under 13 to Under 21 and all Senior divisions, or any other division that may be determined by the E.C., shall have his/her shirt number listed alongside the player's name in the space provided on the match sheet.
- E. A player registered to play in an Under 13 or older age division shall be required to sign his/her name on the back of the match sheet if the Manager or Coach of the opposing team requests a player's signature. In this case the player must sign in the presence of the Manager or Coach of the opposing team.
- F. Any player playing outside the division for which he is a listed player shall have shown alongside his name, his age group and listed division.
- G. On completion of the game the match sheet shall be signed by the Coach or Manager of both teams to confirm the score. If agreement cannot be reached on the score or the identity or eligibility of any player(s), then the sheet is to be signed and a notation recorded and signed on the back of the match sheet.

- H. The names (given name or initial and surname) of the persons acting as Coach and Manager for the game being played must be printed on the match sheet before the start of the game.
- I. A player whose name is shown on a match sheet who is not a registered member of the team, is a suspended player or is ineligible to play with the team for any reason, is deemed to have played for that team in the match shown on the match sheet.
- J.
 - (a) A breach of Clauses 12. C. to 12. H. will incur an automatic fine as set by the E.C. prior to the season. The list of proposed fines to be presented to the Clubs for approval prior to the scheduled date for Round 1 of the competition.
 - (b) There will be no fines for infringements by Under 6 to Under 10 Small Sided Football teams.
 - (c)
 - (i) The E.C. may refer a breach of Rule 12 to a Disciplinary Committee for consideration and action as deemed necessary.
 - (ii) A penalty resulting in the loss of the game by forfeit and/or other penalty may be applied by the Disciplinary Committee.

13. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER GAME**

- A. For any competition match a team may enter on the match sheet any number of players.
- B. A team participating in a competition match must contain a minimum of seven (7) listed players of that team at the start of the match. There must be at least seven (7) players whose names appear on the match sheet on the field at all times, otherwise that team is to forfeit the match. A team having seven (7) listed players present at the scheduled starting time of the game must take the field of play except in circumstances outlined in Rule 10. D.
- C. A maximum of sixteen (16) players per team can participate in all competition matches played under the control of the Sutherland Association.
- D. In the event of a team not entering on the match sheet the names of sixteen players and subject to Rule 13 (C) having been complied with, such team shall have the right during the progress of that match to add to the match sheet further names to bring the total number of names to sixteen (16).

14. **IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR COMPETITION MATCHES**

- A. All players registered in Under 11 Divisions and older must have I.D. cards showing the correct team and grade for the current year.

- B. Any player changing his/her appearance contrary to the photograph appearing on the current Identification Card must present themselves to their Club Registrar to have a new photograph taken and a revised I.D. card produced.
- C. With the exception of the provisions of Rule 14. H.:-
- (a) A player is not permitted to play in a competition match if:
 - (i) They are not in possession of their current I.D. card.
 - (ii) Their I.D. card has not been inspected by the Manager, Coach or nominated team representative of the opposing team.
 - (b) For instances where identification of a player from their I.D. card is uncertain, see Rule 14. G.
- D. (a) Before the start of a match the players nominated to play shall present their I.D. cards for inspection by the Manager of the opposing team in the centre of the field.
- (b) The referee will indicate by a notation in a space provided if a team has produced I.D. cards for inspection by the opposition team.
- Referees will NOT be required to carry out or report on the identification procedure.
- E. Players preparing to take the field after the start of a match, whose I.D. card has not previously been inspected, shall present their I.D. card to the Manager of the opposing team on the halfway line in the interchange area for inspection before playing in the match.
- F. A Manager has the right to hold all the I.D. cards of the members of the opposing team playing in the match until the conclusion of the game. At the conclusion of the game ALL cards must immediately be returned to the opposing Manager.
- G. If, after inspecting I.D. cards or for any reason during the match, the Manager is uncertain of the identity of an opposition player, the matter should be brought to the attention of the opposition Manager who shall after the match:
- (a) Take action as necessary to clarify the player's identity to the satisfaction of the opposing Manager, or
 - (b) If requested, arrange for the player to sign his/her name on the back of the match sheet in the presence of the opposition Manager for a signature verification by the Association Registrar.
- In this case, the Manager requesting the signature should make an appropriate notation on the back of the match sheet and take action as covered by sub-clause G. (c).

(c) To report an alleged breach of the identification procedure by an opposing team, the Manager or Coach of the team protesting must make an appropriate notation on the back of the match sheet and the Club must advise the Association by official letter to the office by 7.00 pm on the Monday following the match.

H. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a team is unable to produce the I.D. cards for the **ENTIRE** team, the team may participate in the match under the following conditions:

(a) All players to sign the Match Sheet in the presence of the opposing Manager – if necessary, the fifteen (15) minutes allowed for the production of I.D. cards may be used for this purpose.

(b) For Under 11 and 12 teams the Managers of both teams must co-operate to ensure that the names of all players taking part in the match are on the match sheet.

(c) An appropriate notation to be made on the Match Sheet.

(d) The Club to submit an official letter to the Association, fully outlining the reason for the failure to produce I.D. cards by 7.00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the match for consideration by the E.C., in conjunction with the check of players' signatures.

I. **Breaches of Rule 14. A. to H.**

(a) Reports received alleging breaches of the Rules covering the use of I.D. cards and reports received alleging the refusal of teams or Managers to participate in the presentation of I.D. cards for verification of identity, in accordance with Clause G, or to act in accordance with Clause H., shall be referred to a Disciplinary Committee for investigation and action as appropriate.

(b) If the offence is proved the match shall be declared lost by forfeit by the offending team. A fine as appropriate may also be levied.

(c) The usual appeal provision against the Disciplinary Committee's decision will be available to the offending team.

15. **SHIRT NUMBERING**

A. All players in Under 13 to Under 21 and all Senior divisions shall wear numbers on their shirts.

B. Numbers must be a minimum of 20 cm. high and must be securely attached to the back of player's shirts.

C. The colour of such numbers shall be a colour that is clearly distinguishable and in direct contrast to that of the colour of the player's shirt.

- D. Numbers may be of any series, not necessarily consecutive, but no number shall be duplicated in the same team.
- E. A player's number shall be listed alongside the player's name in the space provided on the match sheet.
- F. Borrowed players from Under 11 and Under 12 age division participating in matches where numbers are to be worn on shirts, WILL NOT BE required to wear numbered shirts, however, they must indicate their registered grade on the match sheet.
- G. Replacement players are not permitted to exchange shirts with a field player so replaced. All teams should have a spare shirt and/or additional numbers available thus ensuring that two (2) players in the same team do not wear duplicated numbers...refer paragraph D.

16. **BORROWING OF PLAYERS**

SPECIAL NOTE – DUTY OF CARE WHEN BORROWING PLAYERS

All Coaches, Managers and Club Officials are reminded that they have a special “duty of care” responsibility to borrowed players by ensuring that they have the required levels of skill, strength and stamina to play in older age divisions and higher grades than their usual team.

In this regard reference is also made to Rule 4. E. (c) which allows players to be registered two (2) years above their age and to the provisions of Rule 16. G.

Managers should consider requesting parent’s permission when borrowing players to older age divisions.

PART 1 – RULES APPLYING ALL PLAYERS – MEN AND WOMEN

SEE ALSO

- PART 2 - SPECIAL RULES FOR JUNIOR DIVISIONS ONLY**
- PART 3 – SPECIAL RULES FOR SENIOR MEN’S DIVISIONS ONLY**
- PART 4 – SPECIAL RULES FOR WOMEN’S DIVISIONS ONLY**
- PART 5 – PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF RULE 16**

- A. (a) Players may only be borrowed from teams within the same Club.
- (b) The name and team age division and grade of ALL players borrowed from other teams for a match must be shown under the team listing on the Match Sheet.
- (c) Any team may borrow up to a maximum of four (4) players for any one match.
- (d) A player may be promoted by borrowing in age group or division at any time and return to their original age group or division without penalty provided the borrowing is in accordance with these Rules. (See Clause I. (a) and (b)).

- B. (a) Players registered to play in an 'A' grade team or an Amateur League 1 team must play 'A' grade or AL1 grade respectively.
- (b) The only exceptions to this Rule are the special provisions of Clauses 16. M., N., O. and P.
- C. (a) A player shall NOT play in a lower age division than that in which he or she is registered.
- (b) Exceptions to this Rule are provided for Over 35 and 45 Men's Divisions and Over 30 Women's Divisions – see Rules 16. N. and P.
- D. (a) A player shall NOT play in a lower grade than that in which he or she is registered.
- (b) Exceptions to Rule D. (a) above are:
 - (i) For Under 11 to Under 21 per Rule I.
 - (ii) For Under 18 and Under 21 men players to play in Senior Men's Divisions per Rule M.
 - (iii) Under 18 and Under 21 women players to play in Senior Women's Divisions per Rule O.
- E. (a) A player may be borrowed in accordance with the Rules for Borrowing a MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) TIMES by any one team.
- (b) After playing as a borrowed player three (3) times in any one team, the player becomes INELIGIBLE to play with the same team again during the season, semi finals, finals and grand finals included, unless the player has been officially transferred to that team in accordance with Rule 7. B – Regrading of Players.
- (c) If a player is borrowed into any one team more than three (3) times, without being transferred, the match shall be lost by forfeit.

F. **Borrowing from Teams in the Same Grade and Age Division**

Borrowing players between teams in the same grade of any age division **is not permitted.**

Typical borrowings **NOT** permitted are:

A/1 to A/2 and A/2 to A/1 – C/1 to C/2 and C/2 to C/1 – AL1/1 to AL1/2 and AL1/2 to AL1/1 – SWB/1 to SWB/2 and SWB/2 to SWB/1

This rule applies to all men's, women's and mixed competitions.

G. **Special Dispensation (Hardship) Rule**

- (a) Upon application, the E.C. may grant dispensation to the Rules of Borrowing to teams where player numbers are causing difficulties in maintaining a reasonable team strength.

- (b) The dispensation would cover the number of players to be borrowed, the grades to borrow players from and the borrowing from higher into lower grades of older age divisions.
- (c) Decisions will be reported in the E.C. Minutes and advised to Clubs by letter. The team manager should retain a copy of the letter for proof of authorisation to borrow.

PART 2 – SPECIAL RULES FOR JUNIOR DIVISIONS ONLY – UNDER 11 TO UNDER 21

NOTE – PART 1, CLAUSES A. TO G. ALSO APPLY.

H. Age Restrictions for Borrowing

- (a) No player from Under 11 to Under 16 age divisions may be borrowed to play in an age division more than two (2) years older than the age division of their registered team. (See Sub-Clause (d) for Under 15 and 16 players)

Note: Managers and Coaches should be aware of their obligations as outlined in the Special Note – “Duty of Care when Borrowing Players” under the heading for Rule 16 – Borrowing of Players.

- (b) For special age restrictions applying to Small Sided Football players see Rules 16. K.
- (c) The E.C. may grant dispensation of sub-clause (a) of this Rule under the conditions outlined in Rule 4. E. (d) covering Age Restrictions for Registrations.
- (d) Under 15 and Under 16 Players
Unless varied by the E.C. under Sub-Clause (c) of this Rule the following age restrictions will apply to Under 15 and Under 16 players:

Under 15 players may only be borrowed to play in Under 15 and 16 age divisions but NOT Under 18 or older.

Under 16 players may only be borrowed to play in Under 16 and Under 18 divisions but NOT Under 21 or older.

I. Borrowing Up an Age and Down a Grade

- (a) With the exception of ‘A’ grade players who must play in ‘A’ graded teams, a player may play in a higher age group but one lower division than that in which he is registered e.g. 14B to 15C to 16C; 10B to 11C to 12C.
A player may not play in two (or more) lower divisions regardless of age increase.
- (b) No more than **two (2)** such players in this category may participate in any one game.

J. **Borrowing Girls from Mixed Divisions**

Girls playing Junior Mixed Divisions, Under 11 and Under 12, may be borrowed to play in Women's Competitions in accordance with Rule 16 – Part 1. Normal borrowing rules to apply.

K. **Borrowing Small Sided Football Players**

- (a) Players in Under 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 age divisions may be borrowed up and down within their own age group without restriction.
- (b) Players in Under 6 division may be borrowed into any grade of Under 7 and Under 8 divisions.
- (c) Players in Under 7 division may be borrowed into any grade of Under 8 or Under 9 divisions.
- (d) Players in Under 8 division may be borrowed in any grade of Under 9 or Under 10 divisions.
- (e) Player in Under 9 may be borrowed into any grade of Under 10 division but not the Under 11 (competition) division.
- (f) Players in Under 10 division may be borrowed into Under 11 divisions ONLY.
- (g) The borrowing of Under 10 players into Under 11 teams will be in accordance with the general Rules of Borrowing as defined in Rule 16.

PART 3 – SPECIAL RULES FOR SENIOR MEN'S DIVISIONS ONLY

NOTE – PART 1 CLAUSES A. TO G. ALSO APPLY

- L. No registered senior player shall play in lower Amateur League grades or in any Junior grade teams.

M. **Borrowing from Junior Men's Teams to Senior Teams**

- (a) Registered players of 18A and 21A grade teams shall only be permitted to play in Amateur League 1, 2, 3 grades. They shall not be permitted to play in other Amateur League grades.
- (b) Registered players of 18B and 21B grade teams shall only be permitted to play in Amateur League grades AL1 to AL6.
- (c) Registered players of 18C or lower and 21C or lower grade teams shall be permitted to play in any Amateur League grade team.

N. **Borrowing Between AL, Over 35 and Over 45**

- (a) 35A players to be able to play AL1 to AL4; 35B players AL1 to AL6; 35C players AL1 to AL8; and 35D and below to play in any grade.
- (b) Over 45 players are eligible to substitute in any All Age or Over 35 grade.
- (c) Players in AL teams are not permitted to play in any Over 35 or over 45 teams. This includes players who have been transferred from Over 35 to AL during the season.

PART 4 – SPECIAL RULES FOR WOMEN’S DIVISIONS ONLY

NOTE – PART 1 CLAUSES A. TO G. ALSO APPLY

O. **Borrowing from Junior Women’s Teams to Senior Teams**

- (a) Members of Under 18 and Under 21 Women’s teams playing in Senior Women’s divisions shall be controlled by the normal Rules of “Borrowing of Players” as outlined in Rule 16, Part 1.
- (b) Registered player in Under 18 and Under 21 Women’s ‘A’ Competitions shall only be permitted to play in Senior Women’s ‘A’ and ‘B’ grades.
- (c) Registered players in Under 18B and Under 21B Women’s Competitions shall only be permitted to play in Senior Women’s ‘D’ and higher grades.
- (d) Registered players in Under 18C and Under 21C Women’s Competitions can play in all grades of Senior Women’s Competitions.
- (e) If there is only one division of 18 Women or 21 Women (no grades) these players can be borrowed by any grade of Senior Women but **ONLY TWO (2) PLAYERS PER GAME IN THIS CATEGORY MAY BE BORROWED IN TEAMS SWC GRADE AND LOWER.**

P. **Borrowing for Over 30 Women’s Teams**

- (a) Players in over 30 Women’s teams graded ‘A’ may only play in Senior Women’s ‘A’ and ‘B’ grade teams.
- (b) Players in Over 30 Women’s teams graded ‘B’ or lower may play in any grade of Senior Women’s teams.
- (c) Players registered in Senior Women’s teams are not permitted to play in any Over 30 Women’s teams. This includes players who have been transferred from Over 30 to SW during the season.

PART 5 – PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULES

- Q. The penalty for a breach of any part of Rule 16 shall be the loss of the game by forfeit by the offending team with Rule 19 applying to the forfeit.

17. **PLAYER INTERCHANGE**

- A. Unlimited interchanging of players is permissible at any time during the game in all Junior and Senior Competitions.
- B. Interchange procedure shall be as follows:
- (a) "Interchange Zone" will be an area one metre either side of the half-way line on one side of the field only.
 - (b) The home team shall decide on which side of the field interchanging for BOTH teams shall be conducted
 - (c) An interchange is one which is made when the ball is out of play and for which the following conditions shall be observed:
 - (i) The player leaving the field shall do so from sideline, crossing over at the sector called the interchange zone.
 - (ii) The player entering the field shall also do so from the interchange zone, but not until the player leaving the field has passed completely over the sideline.
 - (iii) A player nominated for interchange shall be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee whether called upon to play or not.
 - (iv) The interchange is completed when the player who was off the field, enters the field. From this moment they become a player and the player whom they replaced ceases to be a player.
- C. The number of interchanges made during a match is unlimited. A player who has been replaced may return to the field for another player.
- D. If during an interchange, an interchange player enters the field before the replaced player has completely left it, the referee shall ensure the replaced player leaves the field, then caution the interchange player and then restart the game.
- E. If during an interchange, an interchange player enters the field or a replaced player leaves it from a place other than the interchange zone, the referee shall caution the offending player.
- F. The interchanging of players will cease at the completion of normal and extra time. If at this time penalty kicks are required to obtain a result, then the eleven (11) players on the field at the end of extra time are the only players permitted to participate in the penalty kicks. No interchanging at this time is permissible.

18. **DEFERRED MATCHES**

- A. Deferred matches, washed out games or games not played due to unsatisfactory or unsafe ground conditions in Under 11 to Senior Divisions will be re-drawn and played as soon as possible within the competition program and the availability of suitable grounds and match times.
- B. Deferred matches as covered in Clause 18. A. above will be re-drawn using all available facilities, including night games, with the aim of providing eighteen (18) rounds of competition for all teams if possible.
- C. When only part rounds are deferred as covered by Clause 18. A. above or particular matches are deferred or replays required for any reason, then the E.C. will give priority to the re- drawing of these matches to ensure that all teams in a division or grade play an equal number of games before the Semi Finals commence.

19. **FORFEITS**

- A. (a) A team shall be ruled to have lost a match by a forfeit if it is not ready to commence play as defined in Rule 10 or is unable to commence or complete a match due to a breach of the Local Rules or the officials Laws of the Game.

(b) Acting upon reports, complaints or protests, the Disciplinary Committee or the E.C. may rule that a match has been forfeited for a breach as in (a) above or under other special circumstances.
- B. In the event of a forfeit the result of the match shall be recorded in accordance with Rule 20. A.
- C. (a) A team ruled to have forfeited a match shall be required to pay all match and officials fees levied against both teams for that match.
(b) Except as provided in Rule 19. D., should a team notifying of a forfeit do so at least five (5) days before the date of the scheduled game, then no fees as in C. (a) above will be levied but a fine, the amount to be set by the E.C. prior to Round 1, will be imposed on the forfeiting team.
(See Clause 19. D. for forfeits of any of last three (3) competition games)
- D. A team forfeiting any of the last three (3) competition games drawn to be played prior to the semi-finals shall, in addition to the penalty imposed by Part C above, pay a fine as set by the E.C. prior to the season.

20. **METHOD OF POINT SCORING AND POINT SCORE RULES**

- A. In the event of a forfeit, a result of 2-0 shall be recorded to the non-forfeiting team. In the event however that a match has been played until at least half time, and a non-forfeiting team has more than a two goal advantage at the time the match is called off, the score at the time of forfeit shall stand.

- B. Competition points will be awarded as follows:
Win: 3 points Draw: 1 point Loss: 0 points Bye: 3 points
- C. (i) Where a team withdraws from any division, points gained by it will be given to the team or teams it has beaten, but goals will be disregarded.
- (ii) Teams which have beaten the withdrawn team will retain points gained, but goals will be disregarded.
- D. Where a team is regraded such team shall retain all the points and half the goals both for and against it has earned at the time. Where an uneven number is involved in any of these calculations it shall be rounded to the next larger whole number.
- E. If a team does not replace the regraded team leaving a bye round in the competition, then all teams that had played the regraded team will be deemed to have scored points for a bye but goals will be disregarded.

21. **GOAL DIFFERENCE**

For the cases where goal differences are taken into account, the manner in which they shall be arrived at shall be:

- A. The number of goals AGAINST shall be subtracted from the number of goals FOR.
- B. The highest resultant figure from the subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference.
- C. Where teams finish with equal goal difference the team having scored the most goals FOR shall be declared the winner.
- D. Where teams have identical statistics the team with the best goal difference from competition matches between the teams in question will be the higher placed team.

SEMI FINALS, FINALS AND GRAND FINALS

22. **SEMI-FINALISTS**

In the event of teams finishing level in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th position on the completion of the competition rounds, their position on the competition points table shall be determined on “goal difference”.

Note: See Rule 21 for Goal Difference.

23. **SEMI-FINALS, FINALS AND GRAND FINALS**

- A. The team finishing highest in the competition is classified as the home team.
- B. Each club participating in a match must supply one person for additional Ground Control. This person is responsible for the behaviour of their own spectators and must co-operate with the Club Ground Controllers at all times and must wear a Ground Control Jacket. Jackets to be collected from Ground Control and returned to Ground Control after the match.

The name of each competing Club Ground Control nominee is to be printed on the bottom of the match sheet on the same side as the team represented.

- C. Injury time shall be played in each game.
- D. Players in the lower age groups competing in teams U11 or over must show alongside their name on the match sheet their age group, listed division and I.D. number, if applicable.
- E. **Semi-Finals**
At the end of the second round of the competition or on the date the E.C. rules that the competition shall end, the first four teams on a point score basis shall play semi-finals in which the leading team shall play the second placed team in the major semi-final and the third team shall play the fourth placed team in the minor semi-final. (See Rule 22)
- F. **Finals**
The loser of the major semi-final shall play the winner of the minor semi-final.
- G. **Grand Finals**
The winner of the major semi-final shall play the winner of the final, with the winner of this match becoming the winner of the competition.

24. **EXTRA TIME**

If after the duration of the time (see Rule 11) in a semi-final, final or grand final, the score results in a draw, an extra ten (10) minutes each way will be played. In the Under 11 to Under 12 competitions, extra time shall be five (5) minutes each way. If a draw still results, the team higher in the competition table shall be the winner.

AWARDING OF TROPHIES

25. **AWARDING OF TROPHIES**

A. **Competition Trophies and Awards**

- (a) Individual trophies will be awarded to each member of both teams participating in the Grand Final of all divisions – Winners and Runners Up.
- (b) In the event of a Minor Premier not participating in a grand final, a trophy shall be awarded to each member of the team.
- (c) 'Most Improved Team' trophies to be awarded to members of the most improved team in each division up to and including Under 17. The most improved teams shall be determined in accordance with By Law H (a) to (f).
- (d) The Association will at its cost, provide up to sixteen (16) trophies per team. Clubs shall be responsible for the cost of any additional trophies.
- (e) No trophies will be given in Under 6 to Under 10 divisions.

B. **Perpetual Trophies**

- (a) The Harrie Denning Cup will be awarded to the champion Club participating in the Amateur League 1, 2, 3 Competitions.
- (b) The Sutherland Association Cup will be awarded to the champion Club participating in Amateur League 4, 5, 6 etc. competitions.
- (c) The Stan Ellis Cup will be awarded to the champion Club participating in Women's Competitions.
- (d) The Rick Napier and Andy Page Memorial Shield will be awarded to the champion Club participating in Over 35 Competitions.
- (e) Method of determining the winning Club for The Harrie Denning Cup, The Sutherland Association Cup, The Stan Ellis Cup and The Rick Napier and Andy Page Memorial Shield:

Points for Trophy:

$$\frac{(\text{Total No. of games played}) \times (\text{total number of points won})}{(\text{Total No. of teams}) \times (\text{Total No. of Teams} + 1)}$$

The Club with the highest total after the above calculation will be declared the winner of The Harrie Denning Cup, The Sutherland Association Cup, The Stan Ellis Cup and The Rick Napier and Andy Page Memorial Shield.

- (f) The named perpetual trophies listed in Rule 25. B. (a) to (d) will be presented to the winning Clubs at the Association's Annual Dinner but will be retained by the Association and placed on display at the Harrie Denning Football Centre building. Clubs will be presented with an appropriate award to retain as their permanent record of the event.

SPECIAL RULES – BALL SIZES, GOAL KICKS, CORNER KICKS AND FIELD MARKINGS

26. **FOOTBALL SIZES**

- A. Each team shall provide one match ball properly inflated, the size of which is prescribed in Clause B below. Failure to comply with this rule shall be as defined by the E.C. as per By Laws.
- B. The football sizes used by the divisions shall be:
- (a) Up to Under 9 and inclusive, circumference with a minimum 560 mm and Maximum 610 mm known as size 3.
 - (b) Under 10 to Under 13 inclusive, circumference with a minimum 635 mm and maximum 660 mm known as size 4.
 - (c) All others, circumference with a minimum 685 mm and maximum 711 mm known as size 5.

27. **GOAL KICKS, CORNER KICKS AND FIELD MARKINGS – UNDER 11 TO UNDER 12**

A. **Junior Mixed Divisions (Under 11 to Under 12 inclusive, including W12)**

Corner Kicks (Short Corners)

For Under 11 and Under 12 (including W12) the kick will be taken 7.3 metres out from the outer edge of the penalty area with the normal corner kick conditions applying.

Goal Kicks (Long Goal Kicks)

For divisions Under 11 and 12 goal kicks to be taken anywhere within the penalty area.

Free Kicks by Defending Team

Free kicks awarded to the defending team within their own penalty area may be taken anywhere within the penalty area.

Note: For all Corner Kicks, Goal Kicks and Free Kicks opponents must remain at least 9.15m (10 yards) from the ball until the ball is in play.

B. **Junior Mixed Divisions (Under 11 to Under 12 inclusive, including W12)**

Field Markings

A distinct mark shall be made on the goal lines 7.3 metres from the outer edge of the penalty area to indicate the point from which corner kicks will be taken. (“Short Corners”) for Under 11 and Under 12 teams.

28. **TECHNICAL AREA – ALL COMPETITION GAMES**

- (a) Clubs responsible for marking fields for competition games, Under 11 and older, shall clearly mark a Technical Area ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FIELD to define the area where a Coach or Manager is permitted to coach or otherwise direct his/her team.
- (b) The Technical Area shall be positioned one (1) metre from the sideline and extend ten (10) metres on both sides of the halfway line.

MANAGERS, COACHES AND GROUND CONTROL

29. COACHES AND MANAGERS FOR COMPETITION MATCHES

- A.
- (a) All teams must have an official Manager and Coach, one person may carry out both duties.
 - (b) Clubs must advise the Association of the name of the official Manager and Coach of all teams prior to Round 1 of the competition.
 - (c) TEAMS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PLAY IN A COMPETITION MATCH UNTIL THE NAME OF THE OFFICIAL MANAGER HAS BEEN ADVISED TO THE ASSOCIATION.

Upon application and under special circumstances the E.C. may grant an extension of time for a Club to meet this requirement.

- (d) It is recommended that all Junior teams have an Official Manager over the age of 21 years, but if a young person is appointed the Club should arrange special briefing sessions to ensure the young Manager is fully aware of the duties and responsibilities of a Team Manager and has the maturity to fulfil the position effectively. Clubs should provide advice, guidance and supervision as necessary during the season.
 - (e) The Association holds Clubs responsible for the performance of the Manager. The Club and Manager may be subject to penalties imposed by a Disciplinary Committee for breaches of the rules or the Codes of Conduct of Managers.
- B.
- (a) The name of the team's Manager and Coach must be PRINTED in the space provided on the Match Sheet prior to the match.
 - (b) The names shown shall be those of the Official Manager or Coach, or, in their absence, an adult person present for the match and nominated by the team or Club to carry out the duties.
 - (c) One of the persons covered by (a) or (b) must sign the Match Sheet at the conclusion of the match.
 - (d) For the entire match the Official or nominated Manager shall wear a distinctively coloured vest showing the Club name and the words "TEAM OFFICIAL" (or Manager) on the back in prominent lettering.
 - (e) If the Manager shown on the Match Sheet is playing in the match he/she is to wear an "Association Manager" armband at all times. The Manager is required to inform the referee, the opposition Manager and the Ground Controller accordingly.
 - (f) Every team must be represented by an identified official or nominated Manager for the entire period of a match.

A Manager playing in a match is NOT relieved of the duties and responsibilities of the position, particularly those covered by sub-clauses 29. B. (g) and (h).

- (g) The Manager or his/her nominee is required to exercise reasonable control over the team's players and supporters to prevent abuse and aggressive behaviour towards referees, players and spectators.
- (h) The Manager or his/her nominee is expected to assist and co-operate with the Manager of the opposing team, the referee and the Ground Controller/s to control any problems affecting the playing of the match or instances of unacceptable behaviour.

NOTE: The E.C. strongly recommends the appointment of NON PLAYER MANAGERS to all teams and Clubs are requested to make every effort to meet this objective.

- C. Should a referee at any time experience difficulty controlling the game due to interference by persons on the sideline, including abusive language, the referee may approach the team Manager/s or the Ground Controller and request them to instruct the persons to desist. If these persons persist in causing interference to the game or using foul or abusive language, the referee may stop the game and request the Ground Controller to ask these persons to leave the playing area or move to an area remote from the playing field. The referee may delay restarting the game until the problem is resolved and time lost will not be added to the playing time.
- D. Coaching from the sidelines in all divisions from Under 11 will only be permitted from within the Technical Area. Coaches and Managers, team or Club officials are not permitted to move up and down the sidelines (coaching teams) whilst games are in play.
- E. Irrespective of whatever age group, coaching from any point behind the goal line is NOT PERMITTED.

30. **GROUND CONTROL**

- A. Clubs should provide a clearly designated Ground Control area where match sheets can be obtained and returned and where the Ground Controller can be located.

The Association's chart showing competition and match information must be prominently displayed at this location together with a current copy of the local Rule Book.

Clubs will be advised prior to Round 1 of the grounds allocated to them for match day control and responsibilities. The responsibilities will include all duties listed in Rule 30 for all grounds allocated.

- B. Clubs shall provide referees for Under 6, 7, 8 and 9 Small Sided Football Games, and for Under 10 Small Sided Football games if an official referee is not appointed to the game.

Ground Control is to ensure that all games start on time.

- C. Clubs shall appoint two (2) Ground Controllers to the Club's ground complexes, one (1) to be on duty in the vicinity of the Ground Control area and one (1) to provide control to all grounds within the complex or reserve.

This arrangement will apply to all complexes where the Club has one (1) or more grounds allocated to it by the Association.

These persons must wear official Ground Control jackets at all times. Non-compliance with this rule will cause the Club concerned to be dealt with by the E.C.

Where both the home team and away team are playing on a ground which is not their respective Club's home ground, each team will be responsible to supply a ground control person for the duration of their game.

- D. A Club having responsibility of a ground shall for that ground:-

- (a) Ensure that each team supplies suitable footballs, properly inflated, for each Competition match.
- (b) Ensure that match sheets are available for competition matches.
- (c) Take note of all injuries reported or observed and ensure that the 'Accident Report' form has been completed accordingly.
- (d) Ensure that the playing field is properly marked and fit for play (with due regard to wet weather.)
- (e) Ensure that nets and flags (and sideline ropes, if possible) are in position.
- (f) Ensure that no bicycles, vehicles or any hazards are so close to the sidelines that they endanger players on the field.
- (g) Ensure that spectators do not encroach onto the playing field during matches, especially keeping the area around and behind the goalposts clear of spectators.
- (h) Ensure that all matches start on time with particular regard to the rule dealing with same.
- (i) For non-recording of team names on match sheet a fine, as set by the E.C. prior to the season, will be imposed on Ground Control and the offending team.
- (j) The referee is always responsible for the conduct on the field of play, but in all other matters pertaining to the ground, the Club should ensure that no conduct is permitted which would prove prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- (k) Ensure that NOBODY enters the field of play, including managers and coaches (e.g. to assist an injured player) until signalled to do so by the referee.

- (l) Ensure that teams are not coached by persons situated behind the goal line.

E. Ground Appointed Referees:

- (a) The Club Ground Controller is responsible for the appointment of a Ground Control Appointed Referee if an official appointed referee is not available or is not present at the scheduled time for the match to commence.
- (b) Referees must be appointed with due regard given to age, experience and ability.
- (c) Where an official referee is not present the words “Club Appointment” and the name of the referee must be printed in the appropriate space on the match sheet.
- (d) If there is no person willing to referee the scheduled match then the match will be taken as a forfeit by both teams with the normal forfeit conditions to apply.

31. RESULTS

- A. It is the duty of the Club responsible for the ground to record the results of all games played on that ground on the Association’s Result Sheet. The Result Sheet is to be forwarded to the Association with the match sheets in accordance with Appendix “D”. A copy of this sheet shall be retained by the Club Secretary for verification or checking purposes, if required.
- B. Such Club shall as determined by the E.C. ensure delivery of all match sheets to a place and by a time nominated from time to time by the E.C.
- C. A fine, the amount to be determined by the E.C. from time to time, may be imposed on any Club failing to comply with this rule.

NON ASSOCIATION GAMES

32. SOCIAL GAMES AND GALA DAYS

- A. Affiliated Clubs shall not arrange social games or gala days without the prior approval of the E.C.
- B. Social games or gala days will not be permitted on Association competition grounds during the months of June and July.
- C. Prior approval of the Association is necessary before a Club takes part in Gala Days and Social Games.

33. PRE-SEASON GAMES

- A. The Sutherland Association must be advised prior to any team playing pre-season games within or outside the Shire.

Note: Failure to advise before the game may result in the players' insurance coverage not being available for the games played.

- B. For pre-season games played within the Shire, the organising Club must request the Association to obtain the approval of Sutherland Council for the use of the Council controlled grounds four (4) weeks prior to the game being played.

34. FOOTBALL NSW COMPETITIONS

A. Champion of Champions

- (a) In age divisions where a Champion of Champions competition is conducted, the Minor Premier of the 'A' grade competition in these age divisions will represent the SSFA in the appropriate division of the Champion of Champions competition.
- (b) For the purpose of this Rule the Minor Premier of AL1 is eligible to enter.
- (c) If a Minor Premier in the 'A' grade competition declines to enter the Champion of Champions, the position will be offered to the next highest team on the points table in that division.

B. Other Competitions – Bill Cullinan Cup, Robertson Cup and State Cup

Football NSW conducts various competitions in Mixed, Men's and Women's age divisions. The conditions of entry by Association Clubs into these competitions are:-

- (a) Each affiliated Club may nominate through the E.C. to enter these competitions.

- (b) Nominations shall be limited to one entry (one team per Club) in each competition and shall be restricted to 'A' grade teams, although they may include lower graded players within their permitted squad numbers, with the following exceptions:
- (i) Clubs having more than one team graded 'A' in an age division may enter all their 'A' graded teams in the respective State Competitions.
 - (ii) Clubs not having an 'A' grade, AL1 or SWA team may enter one (1) team graded 'B' or AL2 or AL3
 - (iii) All Football NSW competitions in which teams enter are conducted and governed by the rules of Football NSW.
 - (iv) Teams entering external competitions approved by the Association will not be granted deferrals of catch up games. Teams drawn to play in catch up games, who have not entered external competitions, will be granted one (1) deferment only, provided the request is made in writing at least five (5) days prior to the date of the scheduled game.

35. **INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS GAMES**

A. **Interstate Games**

At least one month prior to Clubs taking part in matches interstate, the club must advise the Association and forward the appropriate application forms to Football NSW for approval.

B. **Overseas Games**

At least two months prior to Clubs taking part in matches to be played overseas, the Club must advise the Association and forward the appropriate application forms to Football NSW for approval by Football NSW and Football Australia.

Note: Policy documents and application forms are available from the Association office.

MISCELLANEOUS

36. **REVISION OF RULES**

- A. A general revision of the rules shall take place every two (2) years, the G.M. to consider such revisions shall be held during October in the years ending in an uneven number.
- B. Any Club or member of the E.C. shall be entitled to submit proposals to revise the rules, provided such proposals are submitted in accordance with directions as determined by the E.C. Such proposals shall also include an explanation as to why the change is deemed necessary.
- C. The Association will distribute to the Clubs all proposals and explanations as listed in 'B' above, at least two (2) weeks prior to the September General Meeting.
- D. All minutes that become rules after adoption to be extracted from minutes and promulgated as amendments to current Rule Book, numerically sequenced to be inserted into the Rule Book.
- E. A Special General Meeting may be called by the E.C. or by five (5) clubs to alter or amend the rules. The rules shall be altered or varied at this Special General Meeting by a simple majority of those entitled to vote, any alterations must come into effect prior to commencement of season.

37. **RULE BOOK**

The Rules and By Laws of the Association shall be printed together in the same booklet year.

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING

SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL (Non Competition)

The following Small Sided Football Rules apply to the conduct of the Association Small Sided Football - Under 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 years games and events. Note that the Rules listed below contained in the Competition Rules also apply to Small Sided Football:

RULE 2	- CLUB UNIFORMS
RULE 4	- REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS
RULE 6	- TEAM GRADING
RULE 9	- PUBLISHED DRAW
RULE 12	- MATCH SHEETS
RULE 30	- GROUND CONTROL

Managers and Coaches of Small Sided Football teams should be aware of the seven Rules in addition to the Small Sided Football Rules which follow. See your Club Secretary if requiring clarification of these Rules.

Policy

It is the policy of the Sutherland Shire Football Association (SSFA) for players to play in their correct age group to ensure that, where possible, players are participating in games that are commensurate with both their football skill development, physical development and are able to continue to develop their football ability.

SSF1 Small Sided Football Events

- A. Small Sided Football, non-competition events will be conducted in the Under 6, Under 7, Under 8, Under 9 and Under 10 age divisions.
- B. Clubs are not permitted to play any players in age divisions younger than the player's eligible age division as prescribed in Rule 4.E.

SSF2 The Field of Play

A. Dimensions

The field of play should be rectangular in shape with the length of the touchline being greater than the length of the goal line. Sizes for each age group are as follows:

Under 6, 7 and 8 years of age.....	30m x 20m
Under 9 and 10 years of age.....	40m x 30m

B. Markings

Markers, Cones or Painted line markings (No Witches Hats).

C. Goal Size

The size of the goal should be:

Under 6, 7 and 8 years of age.....	Minimum 1.8m x 0.9m Maximum 2.0m x 1.0m
Under 9 and 10 years of age.....	Minimum 4.8m x 1.6m Maximum 5.0m x 2.0m

D. Goal Area

Under 6, 7 and 8 years of age..... No Goal area
 Under 9 and 10 years Rectangular 5m long x 10m wide

E. Items that can be used for Goals

You may use Goals. Markers or flags on poles for the goals (No Witches Hats).

SSF3 Ball Size

Size 3 ball to used for all age groups under 6 to under 10.

SSF4 Number of Players

Under 6 years of age4 x 4 – No goalkeeper

Maximum of four (4) players on the field from each team at a time plus two (2) substitute players who can be interchanged at any time. Interchange player must wait until the substituted player has left the field. Maximum of six (6) players per team per game.

Under 7 and 8 years of age5 x 5 – No goalkeeper

Maximum of five (5) players on the field from each team at a time plus two (2) substitute players who can be interchanged at any time. Interchange players must wait until the substituted player has left the field. Maximum of seven (7) players per game.

Under 9 and 10 years of age7 x 7 – Including goalkeeper

Maximum of seven (7) players on the field from each team at a time plus three (3) substitute players who can be interchanged at any time. Interchange players must wait until the substituted player has left the field. Maximum of ten (10) players per game.

SSF5 Duration of Matches

The duration of Small Sided Football games will be:

Under 6.....	2 x 15 minutes (half time break 5 minutes)
Under 7 and 8.....	2 x 20 minutes (half time break 5 minutes)
Under 9 and 10.....	2 x 25 minutes (half time break 5 minutes)

Teams will change ends for the second half of the game.

SSF6 Game Leaders and Instructing Referees

Under 6, 7 and 8 years of age..... Game leader

The main role of the game leader is to keep the game moving freely and with minimal breaks. To explain when the ball goes behind the back line or a goal is scored that the game restarted from the back line.

Opponents should be kept back 5m from all restarts.

A Game Leader must use common sense to ensure the game flows as much as possible. They must assist the players in getting the game moving quickly. They should try to encourage as many players as possible to get involved.

The idea is that the Game Leader is not punishing players but rather instructing them to enjoy the game. The aim is for the players to have fun as well as to play Football.

Under 9 and 10 years of age.....Instructing Referee

The referee acts as an “Instructing Referee” to control the game to ensure it is played fluently. Instruct the players on how to behave, what a foul is, what a free kick is and how to take a throw in etc. The referee can instruct the players without stopping the game.

SSF7 The Start of Play

Under 6 years of age

It is important that the parents/teachers/coaches that start with this age group have minimal involvement in the actual game – all they need to do is tell the players which goal they need to score in! Let them have fun and assist them where necessary to enjoy the game even more. Start the play from the half way line with the opposition 5m away.

All restarts after a goal is scored are taken from anywhere along the back line by the team who conceded the goal. The ball must be played in with the feet but can be touched more than once by the player that restarts the game. The team who scored the goal must retire to half way prior to the game restarting (the coach of the scoring team should assist the referee in ensuring this takes place as quickly as possible).

In principle there are no rules, just a ball and eight players running and trying to get the ball into the opposition’s goal!

Under 7 – 10 years of age

Kick off is determined by the captain of the visiting (away) team guessing which hand the Game Leader has the whistle or similar. The team winning the “toss” kicks off – the loser kicks off for the second half. The Referee or Game Leader decides the direction of play.

A game is started with a kick forward to a team mate from the centre of the field. The opposition must be 5m away from the ball at this time. **Note:** If a player kicks the ball into the goal without a team mate touching the ball, it is a no goal, if it deflects off a defender into the goal, it is a goal.

All restarts after a goal is scored are taken from anywhere along the back line by the team who conceded the goal. The ball must be played in with the feet but can be touched more than once by the player that restarts the game. The team who scored the goal must retire to half way prior to the game restarting (the coach of the scoring team should assist the referee in ensuring this takes place as quickly as possible).

SSF8 Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is out of play when it has crossed the back line, the side line, when a goal is scored or play has been stopped by the referee.

Ball crossing the side line

Under 6, 7 and 8 years of age

No throw in but a kick from behind the sideline. To encourage quick restart and decision making under pressure, the team in possession has three seconds to recommence play from the restart. This can be done by the match leader having a countdown of “ready-set-go”. When the match leader says “Go!” the ball is deemed to be in play and the defending team can attempt to win the ball. Defending team must be 5m back from the kicker.

Under 9 and 10 years of age

Game restarts with a throw in. Player faces the field of play; part of each foot on or behind the line, using both hands delivers the ball from behind and over their head. The thrower may not touch the ball again until it is touched by another player. Penalty for this offence is a free kick award against the thrower. All players shall be 2m back from the thrower.

Ball crossing the back line after touching the defending team.

Under 6 to 10 years of age

Attacking team takes a Corner Kick. Defending team must be 5m back from the kicker.

Ball crossing the back line after touching the attacking team.

Under 6, 7 and 8 years of age

Goal kick off the ground from the back line. Anywhere on the back line except in the goal mouth. Defending team must be 5m back from the kicker.

Under 9 and 10 years of age

Goal kick from anywhere inside the penalty area.

SSF9 Method of Scoring

A goal is scored when the whole ball crosses the line between the posts, markers or cones that are set up as the goals. If the cones or markers are knocked over then no goal is scored. No player can score from a kick off including goal kicks unless the ball has been touched by another attacking player.

SSF10 Offside

There is no offside for the Under 6 to 10 age groups.

SSF11 Fouls and Misconduct

- A. All free kicks in Under 6 to Under 10 are indirect free kicks – there are no penalties or direct free kicks.
- B. (a) For Under 6 to Under 8 games a free kick awarded to the attacking team is taken from the spot but not closer than ten (10) metres from the goal.
- (b) A free kick awarded to the defending team is taken from the spot but not closer than five (5) metres from the goal line.
- (c) For Under 9 and 10 games a free kick awarded in the penalty area to either team is taken opposite the spot and on the edge of the penalty area.
- (d) For all free kicks all players in the defending team must be at least five (5) metres from the ball.
- C. **Fouls and misconduct are:**
- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
 - Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
 - Jumps at an opponent
 - Charges an opponent
 - Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
 - Pushes an opponent
 - Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball from behind
 - Making contact with an opponent before touching the ball
 - Holds an opponent
 - Spits at an opponent
 - Handles the ball deliberately
 - Plays in a dangerous manner
 - Impedes the progress of a player
 - Obstruction
 - Goalkeeper does not play the ball out in the prescribed manner
- D. In under 6, 7 and 8 years of age groups, no player is allowed to deliberately handle the ball with their hand or arm any where on the field.

- E. In under 9 and 10 years of age no player is allowed to deliberately handle the ball with their hand or arm anywhere on the field except for goal keepers who may handle the ball inside their penalty area only.

SSF12 Individuals Playing Time

All players will have equal amount of playing time each game

SSF13 Three Goal Margin Rule – Under 6 to Under 10

When an individual player is completely dominating the game and has already scored three (3) goals and their team is winning by more than three (3) goals the player can only score again after one of their team mates has scored a goal.

This is to encourage team play and have players create opportunities for their team mates. If the player scores a fourth goal before any of their team mates has scored the goal it does not count and the game is restarted with a goal line kick.

SSF14 Borrowing of Players

In order to provide a full team for a game, players can be borrowed from other teams in accordance with the following guidelines. Only under special circumstances should a listed player in a team be replaced by a borrowed player.

- A. Players in Under 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 age divisions may be borrowed up and down within their own age division without restriction.
- B. Players in Under 6 division may be borrowed into any grade of Under 7 and Under 8 divisions.
- C. Players in Under 7 division may be borrowed into any grade of Under 8 or Under 9 divisions.
- D. Players in Under 8 division may be borrowed into any grade of Under 9 or Under 10 divisions.
- E. Players in Under 9 division may be borrowed into any grade of Under 10 division but not the Under 11 (competition) division.
- F. Players in Under 10 division may be borrowed only into Under 11 divisions. Normal borrowing rules apply.
- G. Once games have commenced, players cannot be switched from one field to another until their own game has been completed.

SSF15 Entry to Field of Play

Coaches, Managers or Parents are not permitted to enter the field of play during a game except with the permission of the Game Leader or Instructing Referee.

SSF16 Support for Players During Games

The aim of Small Sided Football is to allow players to achieve maximum participation and enjoyment without interference from team officials, parents or supporters.

Support should be in the form of encouragement only and be non-aggressive at all times.

Coaches should restrict advice and guidance to the player before or after the game or at half time with only minor comments during the game – give the players the freedom to develop and enjoy themselves.

Strong criticism and unsporting or abusive language to players on either side should not be used at any time. Reports of unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with by the Club or, if necessary, the Association.

SSF17 Goalkeepers – Under 9 and 10

- A. Goalkeepers are able to handle the ball anywhere within the Goal Area.
- B. Once the goalkeeper has control of the ball all players with the exception of the goalkeeper must leave the Goal Area.
- C. No player can challenge the Goalkeeper when they are in possession of the ball in the Goal Area.
- D. The Goalkeeper must release the ball using one of the following methods:
 - a) Roll or Throw
 - b) Play with the feet by placing the ball on the ground

SSF18 Game Participation – Under 6, 7 and 8

Players are to be discouraged from standing in front of their own goal when by doing this they have excluded themselves from actively participating in the game. Players should be encouraged to participate in all aspects of the game.

SSF 19 Recording of Scores

Game scores are to be recorded on match sheets by Game Leaders and Instructing Referees. The purpose of recording scores is for grading purposes only and these scores will not be published or used for keeping tables. Under 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 divisions are non-competition.

Small Sided Football Games Formats

A quick view of the format of small sided games is seen below.

Playing Format	Under 6	Under 7 & 8	Under 9 & 10
Numbers	4 v 4	5 v 5	7 v 7
Field Size	30m x 20m	30m x 20m	40m x 30m
Field Markings	Markers or painted line markings	Markers or painted line markings	Markers or painted line markings
Penalty Area	Nil	Nil	8m long by 16m wide
Goal Size	Min: 1.80m x 0.90M Max 2.00m x 1.00m	Min: 1.80m x 0.90M Max 2.00m x 1.00m	Min: 4.80m x 1.60M Max 5.00m x 2.00m
Goal Type	Markers, poles, Goals	Markers, poles, Goals	Markers, poles, Goals
Ball Size	Size 3	Size 3	Size 3
Goalkeeper	No	No	Yes
Recommended Playing Time	2 x 15 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 25 minutes
Half Time Break	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes
Referee	Game Leader	Game Leader	Instructing Referee
Competition	No	No	No

BY-LAWS

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APPEALS COMMITTEES AND PENALTIES

1. DISCIPLINARY PANELS AND COMMITTEES AND APPEAL COMMITTEES

- (a) The Association Disciplinary and Appeals Committees shall be formed in accordance with Sections D.3 and D.4. of the Constitution and shall exercise the powers and duties prescribed in this Section.
- (b) The Association Disciplinary Panel shall comprise two (2) persons, at least one (1) of whom shall be a member of the E.C.
- (c) The Committees and the Panel must at all times act in good faith in accordance with the principles of natural justice and always ensure that the rights of accused parties are protected.

2. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES – MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

2.1 Program of Meetings

- (a) Disciplinary Committees shall meet on Monday nights during the competition period commencing on the first Monday after Round 1 of the competition.
- (b) Additional meetings may be held as required or as directed by the E.C.
- (c) Generally, one (1) or two (2) Disciplinary Committees shall meet on Monday nights but additional meetings may be held.

2.2 Meeting Procedures

- (a) The person or his/her authorised representative appearing before the Committee must be present throughout the entire hearing and no evidence is to be presented if he/she is not present.
- (b) For a person to act as an authorised representative of an accused person not present at the meeting, they must be authorised to appear on their behalf by:
 - (i) a letter signed by the accused
 - (ii) a telephone call from the accused to the Secretary or the Chairperson prior to the meetingor
 - (iii) under special circumstances acceptable to the Committee.

- (c) The accused person or authorised representative may:
 - (i) ask questions, but only through the Chair, not directly to another person.
 - (ii) have an official of his/her Club or team present to offer advice and observe proceedings
 - (iii) present witnesses in his/her support
 - (iv) produce relevant documents, letters, written statements and photographs. Video material is not acceptable.
- (d) The Chairperson has the right to -
 - (i) refuse permission for persons to attend the hearing and to request persons to leave the meeting at any time.
 - (ii) permit witnesses to be present only when they are presenting evidence or being questioned by the Committee.
 - (iii) call a halt to duplication or repetition of evidence or to the presentation of evidence straying outside the bounds of the case before the Committee.
- (e) No member of the Disciplinary Committee may leave the room whilst evidence is being taken without the permission of the Chairperson.
- (f) A person under the age of eighteen (18) appearing before a Disciplinary Committee should be accompanied by a parent or carer or an adult member of his/her Club. For a serious offence, the Disciplinary Committee may rule that a hearing will be deferred until a suitable representative is present and, if appropriate, impose a suspension pending the deferred hearing.
- (g) A Disciplinary Committee hearing may be deferred to a later date if the Committee is of the opinion that additional evidence in the form of reports or the attendance of referees and/or witnesses are required before the matter can be satisfactorily finalised.

The Committee may rule on the player's eligibility to play or an official's eligibility to carry out their duties pending completion of the hearing.
- (h) Players, officials or other persons guilty of disrespect, abuse or violence to members of the Disciplinary Committee shall be dealt with as the Committee deems appropriate.
- (i) Upon announcing the decision of the Committee, the appellants shall be advised of the rights and procedures for appeals against the decision.

- (j) The Chairperson shall report all findings to the next meeting of the E.C.

3. APPEALS AGAINST DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE DECISIONS

Appeals against Disciplinary Committee decisions shall be conducted in accordance with Section D. 5. of the Constitution.

3.1 Appeals by Players

- (a) Except for circumstances covered by (b) and (c) of this clause, players may appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The appeal must be in writing, endorsed by his/her Club Secretary, President or Treasurer, and delivered to the Association office by 9.00 pm on the day following the Disciplinary Committee hearing (see Clause 3.3 for Appeal Fees)
- (b)
 - (i) There shall be no right of appeal should a player not appear before a Disciplinary Committee unless an application for deferment of the hearing has been received by the Committee prior to the meeting.
 - (ii) The E.C. may grant a late appeal by a player under special circumstances.
- (c) No appeals are permitted for mandatory suspensions resulting from the cautions received during matches or against the mandatory one (1) match suspension applying to all send offs.

3.2 Appeals by Clubs and Officials

Appeals by Clubs and officials against sanctions, fines and suspensions imposed by a Disciplinary Committee will be heard by the E.C. Appeals must be in writing, endorsed by the Secretary, President or Treasurer of the Club and delivered to the Association office within seven (7) days of the date of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

3.3 Appeal Fees

- (a) An appeal fee, as determined by the E.C. from time to time, will be invoiced to the club on lodgement of such appeal
- (b) Up to 50% of the appeal fee may be refunded at the discretion of the Appeals Committee or E.C. Only under special circumstances will an appeal fee be refunded in full.

3.4 Appeals to Football NSW

Further appeals against Appeals Committee and E.C. decisions must be directed to Football NSW who will only accept appeals after all Association appeals procedures have been followed and finalised. Clubs should contact the Association office for procedures to be followed to appeal to Football NSW.

3.5 Grounds for Appeals

- (a) The grounds for all appeals against suspensions or sanctions imposed by Disciplinary Committees against players, clubs or officials are:-
 - (i) Severity of Sentence
 - (ii) New evidence not presented at the Disciplinary Committee hearing
 - (iii) Evidence improperly dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee
 - (iv) Unfair treatment of the player, Club or official(s)
- (b) The letter of appeal must clearly state:
 - (i) The decision the player, Club or official is appealing against.
 - (ii) Which of the grounds shown in (a) (i) to (iv) are being used, either alone or in combination, for the appeal

3.6 Program for Meetings of Appeals Hearings

Appeals shall be heard by an Appeals Committee or the E.C. as follows:

- (a) Appeals Committee – before the player’s next scheduled game, if possible.
- (b) E.C. – at the next normal E.C. Meeting.
- (c) In special circumstances the President may call a Special E.C. Meeting to conduct an Appeal Hearing.

3.7 Procedures for Appeals Meeting

- (a) Appeals against Disciplinary Committee decisions shall be conducted by an Appeals Committee or the E.C. as prescribed in Section A. 3. 3.1 to 3.6.
- (b) The Disciplinary Committee must be represented at an Appeal Hearing but must leave the meeting after the completion of submissions to the Appeals Committee.

- (c) The appellants and their Club must be present throughout the hearing and no evidence may be presented to the Committee if they are not present.
- (d) The appellants and their Club may:
 - (i) ask questions, but only through the Chair, not directly to another person.
 - (ii) present witnesses in support
 - (iii) produce documents, letters, written statements and photographs but video material is not acceptable.
- (e) The Chairperson has the right to:
 - (i) refuse permission for any person to attend the meeting.
 - (ii) request any person to leave the meeting at any time during the hearing.
 - (iii) permit witnesses to be present only when they are presenting evidence or being questioned by the Committee.
 - (iv) rule on the acceptance or relevance of any documents presented, in part (d) (iii).
 - (v) call a halt to the giving of evidence if deemed to be repetitious or straying outside the bounds of the case before the Committee or the grounds for the appeal as stated in the appeal notification.
- (f) No member of the Committee may leave the room whilst evidence is being taken without the permission of the Chairperson.
- (g) A hearing may be deferred to a later date if the Committee decides that additional evidence or witnesses are required before the matter can be satisfactorily finalised.

If deferred, the Committee may rule on a player's eligibility to play or official's eligibility to carry out their duties pending completion of the hearing.
- (h) In addition to the attendance of an E.C. Member of the SSFRA, the referee, assistant referees and other persons who submitted reports to the Disciplinary Committee will be requested to appear before the Appeals Committee and at an appeal conducted by the E.C.

- (i) Players, officials and other persons guilty of disrespect, abuse or violence to members of the Committee during or after a hearing shall be dealt with by the Committee.
- (j) Upon announcing the decision of the Committee, the appellants shall be advised of the rights and procedures for appeals against the decision.
- (k) The Chairperson shall report all findings to the next meeting of the E.C.

4 SEND OFFS – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND APPLICATION OF PENALTIES

4.1 General Information

- (a) In the first instance, referees and assistant referees reports dealing with player send offs will be referred to the Disciplinary Panel for action as considered necessary. See Clause A. 4.3 for Disciplinary Panels powers and procedures.
- (b) A Disciplinary Panel or Committee shall not make a decision or conduct a hearing into the sending off of a player in the absence of a written report from the officiating referee or assistant referee.
- (c) A player sent from the field for receiving two (2) cautions during the same game shall be automatically suspended for one (1) competition match and is not entitled to a hearing before a Disciplinary Committee or to appeal against the suspension except under Clause A. 4.8 – Mistaken Identity.
- (d) A player sent from the field shall not take part in a competition match, Association or State, until his/her case has been considered by a Disciplinary Panel or Committee of the Association.
- (e) The I.D. card of a player sent from the field of play during a match must be handed to the referee by a team or Club official at the completion of the match. Failure to deliver the I.D. card to the referee will result in a fine against the Club.

Note: The referee is NOT required to approach a team to obtain the I.D. card of a player sent off during the match.
- (f) A player sent from the field of play whose team is drawn to play MORE THAN ONE (1) COMPETITION GAME before the next scheduled Disciplinary Committee meeting may request a hearing PRIOR TO THE SECOND GAME.

The hearing may only be requested by an Executive member of the player's Club and must be received by the E.C. or office in sufficient time to permit a Special Disciplinary Committee meeting to be arranged. The Disciplinary Committee hearing will be conducted after the one (1) match suspension has been served.

4.2 Reports and Evidence Available to Disciplinary Committees

- (a) Information to be considered by a Disciplinary Committee when determining the appropriate action following the sending off to a player may comprise:
 - (i) The reports of the officiating Referee and Assistant Referees.
 - (ii) Evidence presented to a hearing by persons invited, requested or cited to appear at the hearing, including persons appearing with the player.
 - (iii) Written witness reports received prior to the hearing from persons who were present at the match.

Verbal reports are not acceptable.

The Committee shall decide if such reports are acceptable evidence.

Persons providing reports must be prepared to appear at the Disciplinary Committee hearing to support their report if requested.

- (b) Reports under (a) (iii) accepted by the Committee shall be listed in the minutes and will be tabled at the next Disciplinary Committee meeting.

These reports will be available to the player prior to the next meeting as prescribed in Clause A. 4.6 – Availability of Referees Reports and Witness Reports.

4.3 Disciplinary Panel – Powers and Procedures

- a) The Disciplinary Panel (D.P.) shall consist of two (2) persons, one (1) as a minimum will be a current Executive Committee Member.
- b) The Panel will receive all referees and assistant referees Send Off Reports, including Incident Reports relating to an additional offence committed by a player after being sent off by the officiating referee.

The D.P. shall have the power to take action as follows:

- (i) Impose suspensions from one (1) to six (6) matches in accordance with the chart of Recommended Suspensions for Send Offs in Clause 6.2.

- (ii) When considering Incident Reports as referred to in sub-clause (b) above, the Panel may impose penalties for each offence i.e. for the send off offence and the reported offence following the send off.
- (iii) For offences the Panel considers may justify a suspension greater than six (6) matches, refer the matter to a Disciplinary Committee for determination.
- (iv) Cite players to appear before a Disciplinary Committee and request referees and Club officials to appear.
- (v) Receive reports for “double yellow” caution send offs and confirm the mandatory one (1) match suspension or, if necessary, refer them to a Disciplinary Committee.
- (vi) Players, player representatives or Club officials are NOT permitted to attend meetings of the Disciplinary Panel.
- (vii) The decisions of the Panel shall be reported in Minutes within two (2) days of the Panel’s meeting, including the Send Off Code (R1 to R7) and the “Level of Offence” adopted by the Panel based on the referees report – see Clause 4.4 for player’s rights re Panel’s decisions.

NOTE: CLUBS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING PLAYERS OF THE DECISION AND FOR ADVICE TO THE PLAYER OF HIS/HER RIGHTS RE THE DECISION

4.4 Disciplinary Panel Decisions – Players Rights

Following the handing down of a decision by the Panel a player may take action as follows:

- (a) (i) Challenge the decision by requesting a hearing before a Disciplinary Committee.
- (ii) A challenge must be in writing or by email to the Association office and be received by 3.00 pm on the THURSDAY of the week of the Panel’s decision. Unless advised otherwise by the Association, players submitting a challenge should automatically appear at the Disciplinary Committee Meeting at 7.30 pm on the Monday following submission of the challenge.
- (iii) A player challenging a Panel decision shall retain the right to appeal against the Disciplinary Committee decision.
- (iv) If the Panel imposes separate suspensions for a send off and for a second offence after the send off, see 4.3 (b), a player may challenge one or both Panel decisions.

- (v) If, having advised of a challenge, a player fails to appear before the Disciplinary Committee without requesting a deferment of the hearing, the Committee will confirm the Panel's decision without reduction and the player will lose the right of appeal.
- (b) (i) If a player does not challenge the Disciplinary Panel's decision the penalty imposed by the Panel will be automatically reduced by one (1) week and the matter will be considered to be finalised. This also applies to a non-challenge of one decision as per 4.4 (a) (iv) above.
- (ii) The player will not then have the right to challenge or appeal the Panels decision.
- (iii) A player is not required to formally advise the Association of their decision not to challenge the Panel's ruling. The failure to submit a challenge by the player in accordance (a) (ii) above will be regarded as acceptance of the Panel's decision and the one (1) match reduction in the penalty will be applied.

4.5 Multiple Send Offs

- (a) Where two or more players are sent off by a referee for involvement in a single incident e.g. violent conduct, the Referee's Reports for the send offs reports of all players involved will be dealt with jointly by the Disciplinary Panel in accordance with Clause 4.3 of By Law A.
- (b) If the Panel decides that the players may have been involved at differing levels of responsibility, possibly justifying varying penalties, the reports will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate action.
- (c) If the Disciplinary Committee cites players to attend a hearing into the incident and all players cited do not appear, the Committee may, depending on the circumstances, conduct a hearing for those players who do attend as cited.

4.6 Availability of Referees Reports and Witness Reports

Prior to a Club, Club official or player appearing before a Disciplinary or E.C. hearing, copies of relevant reports may be obtained by Club officials or players at the Association office during office hours or, if requested, by email or fax to the Club Secretary only. Copies will not be forwarded directly to the player or another person or Club representative.

Reports are also available, as above, to players considering a "challenge" as permitted by Clause 4.4 (a)

4.7 Application of Penalties

- (a) (i) All players sent from the field of play (red card) by a referee for breaches covered by R1 to R7 of the send off chart shall serve a MANDATORY ONE (1) MATCH SUSPENSION.
- (ii) The player shall NOT have the right to challenge or appeal against this suspension except on the grounds of Mistaken Identity – See Clause A. 4.8.
- (iii) The mandatory one (1) match suspension will be included in any longer period of suspension imposed by the Disciplinary Panel or Committee.
- (b) A Disciplinary Panel or Committee will review referees reports of send offs and take action as defined in A. 4.3.
- (c) All decisions of the Disciplinary Panel or Committee shall remain in force unless reversed or amended by an Appeals Committee.

4.8 Mistaken Identity

Protests against send offs (red cards) and cautions (yellow cards) on the basis of “mistaken identity” will be heard by a Disciplinary Committee on the following conditions:

- (a) The protest must be submitted in writing to the Association by the player’s Club by 12.00 noon on the day of the next scheduled Disciplinary Committee meeting.
- (b) Protests will be heard at the next scheduled meeting of the Disciplinary Committee.
- (c) Attendance at the hearing shall be:
 - (i) An official of the Club
 - (ii) The player protesting the referee’s decision
 - (iii) The player who actually committed the offence resulting in the send off or caution.
- (d) The decision of the Disciplinary Committee will be final unless under special circumstances the E.C. grants an appeal against the Disciplinary Committee’s decision.

- (e) An appeal shall be heard by the E.C. at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

4.9 State Run Competitions – Special Procedures

Players sent off in State Run Competitions will be subject to the Disciplinary procedures of the organising body and as outlined in the Rules of the particular competition.

4.10 Abandoned and Nullified Matches – Send Offs and Suspensions.

- (a) If a match is abandoned for any reason by a referee; an authorised Club official; or an Association representative:
 - (i) Players sent off during the match or during the time the match is under the jurisdiction of the referee shall be dealt with by a Disciplinary Panel or Committee in accordance with By Law A. 4.1 and 4.3.
 - (ii) For players under suspension, the abandoned match shall be included in the matches served under the suspension, provided the match has commenced.
- (b) If the result of a completed match is nullified by a decision of the E.C. or Disciplinary Committee the rulings covered by (i) and (ii) in sub-clause (a) shall apply.

5. CAUTIONS – ASSOCIATION AND STATE COMPETITIONS

5.1 Association Competitions

- (a) Caution Reports from referees must be delivered to the Association office by 7.30 pm on the Monday following the match - for midweek matches by 7.30 pm on the day after the match.
- (b) Clubs cannot appeal against cautions with the exception of mistaken identity.

Appeals or protests against cautions on this basis will be carried out in accordance with Clause 4.6.
- (c) Players will be automatically suspended for cautions received during a season as follows:

5 cautions	1 match suspension
Additional 3 cautions	2 match suspension
Additional 1 caution	Player cited to appear before Disciplinary Committee

All additional cautions
after nine (9) Further citings to Disciplinary Committee

- (d) No appeals against the suspensions imposed in 5.1 (c) are permitted.
- (e) (i) Cautions accumulated in the competition rounds prior to the semi finals, finals and grand finals shall be cancelled prior to the commencement of the finals series of matches.
(ii) Suspensions resulting from cautions received in the last competition round will stand and must be served before a player plays any further matches.
- (f) Accumulated cautions received in semi finals, finals or grand finals will incur penalties as shown in 5.1 (c) above.
- (g) Cautions accumulated during a season do not carry over to the following season.

5.2 State Competitions

Cautions received in State Competitions will be covered by the Rules of that competition and will not be added to the list of cautions recorded against the player for Association competitions.

6. SUSPENSIONS APPLYING TO SEND OFFS

6.1 General Information

- (a) Players sent off by a referee will receive penalties as follows:
 - (i) A preliminary suspension of one (1) match to six (6) matches imposed by the Disciplinary Panel – see A. 4.3
or
 - (ii) A suspension imposed by the Disciplinary Committee
- (b) In all cases the suspensions will be in accordance with the chart showing “Suspensions for Send Off Offences” in Clause A. 6.2.
- (c) When imposing a penalty the Panel and the Committee shall determine the appropriate Level for the offence committed under the FFA Red Card (Expulsion) Code R1 to R7 as quoted in the referees report.
- (d) (i) For very serious acts of misconduct or other exceptional circumstances the Disciplinary Committee may increase the maximum suspensions shown in the “Suspensions for Send Offs” chart.
(ii) In all such cases the player will be cited to appear before the Committee for the hearing.

SUSPENSIONS FOR SEND OFF OFFENCES

The **range of suspensions** indicates the minimum and maximum suspensions which may be imposed on players sent off for offences under the various categories, e.g. for a charge of "Violent Conduct" (R2) a suspension from two (2) matches up to two (2) years may be imposed depending on the level of violence involved in the offence. Note - For very serious offences the Disciplinary Committee may impose a suspension exceeding the maximum shown under the Range of Suspensions

R1 - FFA Send Off Code SERIOUS FOUL PLAY	CHALLENGING FOR THE BALL IN PLAY - Illegal contact with the legs or body using moderate to excessive force with a possibility of causing injury, including rugby style tackles, violent charging and over the ball tackles			RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS 2 matches to 12 matches
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4 or LEVEL 5	
<i>2 match suspension</i>	<i>3 match suspension</i>	<i>4 match suspension</i>	<i>5 or 6 match suspension</i>	
Mistimed, careless or late tackle using low level of violence	Careless or late tackle or body charge from any direction using moderate level of violence and with some risk of causing injury	Strong or reckless tackle or body charge with a high risk of causing injury to the opponent	Excessive force or brutality showing disregard for the safety of the opponent	
R2 - FFA Send Off Code VIOLENT CONDUCT	NOT CHALLENGING FOR BALL - Off the ball tackle or incident involving striking, kicking, elbowing or head butting, either on or off the field, against an opponent, team mate or any other person. Involvement in a brawl or melee or running in to join a melee causing the incident to escalate but <u>not</u> if attempting to prevent a fight or shield a player			RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS 2 matches to 2 years
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4 or LEVEL 5	
<i>2 match suspension</i>	<i>3 match suspension</i>	<i>4 match suspension</i>	<i>5 or 6 match suspension</i>	
Use of minimum force to strike or push, possibly in frustration or retaliation	Striking once or twice to the body or head with moderate force	One or more strikes to the head or body using strong force with a risk of causing injury, whether provoked or not	Level 4 - Striking in any way using strong force with a risk of causing injury. Running in to take part in a melee or brawl.	
			Level 5 - Striking with very strong force with a high risk of causing injury. Very aggressive or continuing involvement in a brawl.	
R3 - FFA Send Off Code SPITTING AT A PLAYER, ANOTHER PERSON	ANY ACT OF SPITTING AT OR ONTO A PLAYER OR OTHER PERSON			RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS 4 matches to 1 year

	NO LEVELS 1 OR 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4 OR LEVEL 5
		<i>4 match suspension</i>	<i>5 or 6 match suspension</i>
		Spitting towards but not onto a player or another person	Spitting on the lower body of a player or another person
ALL OTHER SPITTING OFFENCES INCLUDING SPITTING AT OR ON A MATCH OFFICIAL REFERRED TO A DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE			

R6-A - FFA Send Off Code OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE OR GESTURES	USE OF OFFENSIVE, INSULTING OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR GESTURES OR INDECENT ACTIONS			RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS 2 matches to 20 matches
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4 OR LEVEL 5	
<i>2 match suspension</i>	<i>3 match suspension</i>	<i>4 match suspension</i>	<i>5 or 6 match suspension</i>	
One or two words carrying minor offence and said in low volume	Words and/or gestures likely to cause offence, possibly in frustration. Minor offensive words to a match official.	Clearly offensive or insulting words and/or gestures to a player or other person or offensive words to a match official.	Strong words, clearly offensive or insulting, to a player or other person or offensive or indecent gestures. Highly offensive words to a match official.	
R6-B - FFA Send Off Code DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE OR GESTURES	USE OF DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE, AND/OR GESTURES, INCLUDING RACIST, RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC OR SEXIST REMARKS			RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS 2 matches to 6 matches
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4 OR LEVEL 5	
<i>2 match suspension</i>	<i>3 match suspension</i>	<i>4 match suspension</i>	<i>5 or 6 match suspension</i>	
One or two words, or a gesture minor in nature	Moderate language causing offence - maybe in frustration or retaliation	Remarks or gestures intended to cause offence	Highly offensive remarks or gestures	

R4 - DENY GOAL BY DELIBERATE HANDBALL) R4, R5 and R7 - R5 - DENY GOAL BY FREE KICK OFFENCE) FFA Send Off R7 - SECOND CAUTION DURING A MATCH) Codes	ALL INCUR A MANDATORY (1) MATCH SUSPENSION
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6.3 Playing Prior to a Disciplinary Decision

A player sent off during an Association competition match or cited to appear before the Disciplinary Committee shall NOT play in any competition match, Association or State, until the player's case has been dealt with by the Disciplinary Panel or Committee and a decision recorded.

6.4 Serving Suspensions

- (a) A suspended player shall NOT play in any competition match conducted by an organisation affiliated with Football NSW or the FFA during a period of suspension.
- (b) All decisions of the Disciplinary Panel or Committee shall remain in force unless reversed or amended by an Appeals Committee.
- (c) Suspensions not fully served at the completion of a season shall carry over to the following or subsequent seasons as follows:
 - (i) For a suspension of a specific number of matches, the outstanding matches will be served from the first competition match after the player's registration has been accepted by the Association.
 - (ii) For suspensions for a period of time or to a particular date, the suspension is deemed served at the conclusion of the period or at the date specified without the need for the player to register.
- (d) Suspensions received whilst playing in competitions controlled by an organisation or association affiliated with Football NSW or Football Federation of Australia (FFA) must be served in an approved competition before the player can play in Association competitions.
- (e) Suspensions do not include byes, forfeits by the players own team, deferred or cancelled matches or non-competition matches. Forfeits by opposing teams are included in a period of suspension.

7. REQUESTED OR CITED TO APPEAR

- 7.1 The E.C. or the Disciplinary Committees may request or cite Clubs, officials or players to appear before them as part of investigations into reports or other matters under investigation, including appeals against Disciplinary Committee decisions.

7.2 Requested to Appear

- (a) The Committees may request Clubs, Officials or players to appear at hearings for reasons as follows:
 - (i) The Club, officials or players have been mentioned in a written report received from a referee, a Club or a member of the E.C. regarding an event or incident justifying investigation by the Association.

Verbal reports will not be accepted.
 - (ii) The Committee has reason to believe that the Club, official or player may be able to assist the Committee to reach a fair and reasonable decision regarding a matter under investigation.
 - (iii) A player sent from the field by a referee for receiving a second caution during the same game and reported in writing by the referee for committing a further offence after being sent off.
- (b) The request shall be advised in writing stating the reason for the request.
- (c) Attendance when requested is essential to ensure a speedy completion of a hearing and requests for deferment of attendance must be in writing to the Association advising the reasons.
- (d) Clubs, officials or players failing to appear after a request without prior advice may be “cited” to appear before the Committee.

7.3 Cited to Appear

- (a) The Committees may cite Clubs, officials or players to appear at hearings for reasons as follows:
 - (i) Clubs, officials or players failing to appear after being “requested” to attend a hearing.
 - (ii) Players sent from the field during a match have failed to appear before a Disciplinary Committee and the Committee wishes to impose a penalty greater than the recommended minimum penalty in accordance with Section A. 6.1 (a) and (b).
- (b) The citing shall be confirmed in writing stating the reason for the citing.
- (c) For Clubs, officials and players “cited to appear” attendance is compulsory. Requests for deferment must be in writing to the Association clearly stating the reason for the inability to attend at the date and time specified.

- (d) Only under special circumstances will more than one deferment of seven (7) days be granted.
- (e) If non-attendance after citing goes beyond fourteen (14) days after the initial deferred hearing date, the Committee may conduct a hearing based on the information available and decide appropriate action or penalty without further advice to the Club or persons involved.

7.4 Availability of Reports by Clubs

If the E.C. or Disciplinary Committee requests a written report from a Club regarding an incident involving more than one Club, the reports received shall not be made available to any other Club before being tabled for consideration by the appropriate Association Committee.

B. PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

- (a) These shall be dealt with by the D.C. vide Item "E" of the Constitution.
- (b) Any appeal against D.C decision shall be accompanied by the fee set from time to time by the E.C.

C. FEES

Fees shall be as determined by the E.C. from time to time.

D. WET WEATHER

- (a) A ground can only be re-opened by the authority which closed it or a higher authority as listed in the order shown in Appendix "C" in the Rule Book.
- (b) Individual matches on 'Open Grounds' may be called off at the discretion of the referee, or, in the absence of an official referee, by the Ground Controller.
- (c) In the event of inclement weather developing Friday night or Saturday morning (Saturday night or Sunday morning for Sunday football) procedure as set down by SSFA will be followed. On no account will Ground Controllers close grounds without the sanction of the SSFA or their nominee. Games drawn for 12.01 p.m. and later shall be considered on and all teams must appear at the ground drawn prior to the appointed time of the match.

- (d) Should the Sutherland Council permit the Association to use its discretion re use of grounds for competition, the Association will nominate the grounds that are to be used. ALL other grounds are to remain closed and must not be opened or used in any way by Clubs. Failure to comply with this By-Law will render the Club concerned a penalty as decided by the E.C. At the completion of the days play, Clubs will be responsible to see that the "Ground Closed" sign is down or uncovered.
- (e) Ground Closed also forbids use by any Club and/or team for training sessions. Any Club contravening the above could be liable to a penalty as laid down in the By Laws of Sutherland Shire Council or by the E.C..

E. **GRADING COMMITTEE**

- (a) The Grading Committee shall be elected each year by the E.C.
- (b) The Grading Committee shall examine all teams' submissions for any age group and decide their suitability for grading in that age group.
- (c) The Grading Committee shall notify all affiliated Clubs their recommendations as to the grading of teams nominated and shall specify the period in which protests shall be considered. Any such protest shall be considered by the E.C. whose decision will be final.

F. **REGISTRARS**

Registrars of, or an official, appointed by each Club shall meet on a date and at a place to be advised by the E.C. prior to the commencement of the season.

G. **INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY**

The use of buckets and sponges at matches under the jurisdiction of SSFA is prohibited.

H. **MOST IMPROVED TEAMS TROPHY**

- (a) Trophies shall be awarded to members of the MOST IMPROVED TEAMS in each division, up to and including U/17. These shall be determined by subtracting the first round competition points from the second round competition points. The team showing the most positive difference shall receive the award.

- (b) If two or more teams have equal positive results the winner of the award shall be such of these teams with the best positive improvement in goal difference, e.g. a team with 10 goals for and 20 goals against in the first round games will have a goal difference of -10, should it in the second round games score 15 goals for and concede 20 goals against, it will have a goal difference of -5 for that round. The improvement for that team will be +5. Where the teams concerned each have a negative result comparing the difference, the winner will be the team with the least negative result. Where all results are still equal, the team with the best positive improvement in goals "for" difference shall be declared the winner.
- (c) Where more than two rounds are played, the competition points of the first and second rounds will be compared with the competition points of the second and third rounds.
- (d) Most Improved Trophies shall only be awarded to Under 11 to Under 17 competitions inclusive.
- (e) In a 6 or 8 team competition, the half round shall be disregarded and the rules as paragraph (a) above shall apply.
- (f) Teams promoted and downgraded shall have the points referred to in Rule 21 (E) used as the basis of Improvers Points.

I. **POINTS TABLES AND MINOR PREMIER**

- (a) Points tables for all competition grades will be published regularly during the season showing teams in order of the points scored for games played.
- (b) If teams are level on points scored, the position on the points table will be determined by "Goal Difference" as defined in Rule 21.
- (c) At the end of the second round of the competition, or on the date the E.C. rules that the competition shall end, the team with the highest aggregate points shall be declared the Minor Premier. In the event of teams finishing level on highest aggregate points, the team with the best goal difference, calculated as described in Rule 21 shall be declared the Minor Premier.
- (d) A points table of "wins, losses and draws" for each team in the Under 10 division will be distributed to Clubs once per season during November each year for grading purposes for the following year.

J. **REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS**

Youth and Metropolitan League, W12, W14 and W16 players may be registered with a Sutherland Association Club, but will not be permitted to play with their Club team in the local SSFA Competition.

APPENDIX 'A'

GROUND	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
ANZAC OVAL	ANZAC AVENUE, ENGADINE	9520 - 2386
BILLA ROAD	BILLA ROAD, BANGOR	9543 - 8432
BOX ROAD	BOX ROAD, SYLVANIA HEIGHTS	9522 - 4087
BOYS TOWN	35A WARATAH ROAD, ENGADINE	
BUCKLE	BARNES CRES. (off Hall Dr.) MENAI	9543 - 2587
BUNDEENA	BUNDEENA DRIVE, BUNDEENA (opposite Fire Station)	0404 681 848
CANBERRA ROAD	CANBERRA ROAD, SYLVANIA	9522 - 0800
CAROL AVENUE	CAROL AVENUE, JANNALI	
CASUARINA	CASUARINA DRIVE, ALFORDS POINT	0434 019 111
COACHWOOD DRIVE	COACHWOOD DRIVE, ALFORDS POINT	0424 263 711
DOBELL ROAD	DOBELL ROAD, ENGADINE	9520 - 6956
FOREST ROAD	FOREST ROAD, KIRRAWEE	9521 - 1233
GRAYS POINT	ANGLE ROAD, GRAYS POINT	9524 - 5729
GLENN McGRATH	OFF WILLARONG ROAD, CARINGBAH	9542 - 7216
GYMEA BAY	CNR.AVENAL & GYMEA BAY RDS. GYMEA	9525 - 1516
HARRIE DENING F.C.	BATES DRIVE, KAREELA	9542 - 3577
HEATHCOTE	WILSON PARADE, HEATHCOTE	9520 - 3918
JANNALI	SUTHERLAND ROAD, JANNALI	9528 - 3519
KAREELA	PRINCES HIGHWAY, KIRRAWEE	9521 - 8780
KINGSWOOD ROAD	KINGSWOOD ROAD, ENGADINE	9548 - 1159
LAKWOOD CITY	COOLIDGE CRESCENT, BONNET BAY	9528 - 2838
LILLI PILLI	PORT HACKING ROAD, LILLI PILLI	9526 - 1958
LOFTUS	PRINCES HIGHWAY, LOFTUS	9521 - 8528
NORTH CARINGBAH	DIANELLA STREET, CARINGBAH	9524 - 4914
OYSTER BAY	OYSTER BAY ROAD, OYSTER BAY	9528 - 4949
PORT HACKING HIGH	WANDELLA ROAD, MIRANDA	
PRINCE ALFRED PARK	WORONORA ROAD, WORONORA	
PRESTON PARK	ENGADINE AVENUE, ENGADINE	9520 - 5610
SEYMOUR SHAW	CENTRAL ROAD, MIRANDA	9524 - 3907
SOLANDER	CAPTAIN COOK DRIVE, WOOLLOOWARE	9523 - 9447
SUTHERLAND	GRAND PARADE, SUTHERLAND	9521 - 1681
THE RIDGE 1 & 2	OFF NEW ILLAWARRA RD. BARDEN RIDGE	0404 159 677
THE RIDGE 3, 4, 5	OFF NEW ILLAWARRA RD. BARDEN RIDGE	
WARATAH PARK	RAWSON AVENUE, SUTHERLAND	9521 - 6694
WOOLLOOWARE	CNR. KINGSWAY & W'WARE RD. W'WARE	9523 - 8172
WOOLLOOWARE HIGH	WOOLLOOWARE ROAD, WOOLLOOWARE	
WORONORA HEIGHTS	WILLAROO AVENUE, WORONORA HTS	9545 - 5576

APPENDIX 'B'

GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH DISTURBANCES ON GROUNDS

FIELD INVASIONS, UNRULY BEHAVIOUR, UNAUTHORISED USE AND DELIBERATE DAMAGE

For grounds allocated to the Association and Clubs the initial control of incidents listed above rests with the Home Clubs and the Sutherland Association. Grounds are allocated to the Association who in turn allocate them to Clubs as “home” grounds or shared grounds.

The Home Clubs have a major role to play in the control of and the reporting of all activities listed above.

FIELD INVASIONS AND UNRULY BEHAVIOUR

Field invasions and unruly behaviour by players, officials or spectators or other persons resulting in disruption of a match and violence or threatened violence **MUST BE ACTED UPON IMMEDIATELY.**

The Association requires the Home Club to initiate action by the Ground Control and Club and team officials. Officials of the visiting team should also provide assistance to the Home Club officials in order to bring the situation under control as quickly as possible.

DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL THE POLICE IF A SITUATION THREATENS TO GET OUT OF HAND OR IF THERE IS VIOLENCE OR THREATENED VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS

TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR POLICE ATTENDANCE ARE:

SUTHERLAND	9542-0899 (South and West)
MIRANDA	9541-3899 (East and North)

Do NOT ring 000

Following any incidents covered by this heading, **BOTH CLUBS** should **IMMEDIATELY** carry out a full investigation and take appropriate action under the Club’s Code of Conduct if considered necessary.

A complete report of the incident, including the results of any enquiry, should be forwarded to the Association by both Clubs within **FIVE (5) DAYS** of the incident.

An Association Disciplinary Committee will also conduct an enquiry if necessary, including the calling of witnesses and persons involved. The findings of the Committee may prescribe penalties in addition to action taken by the Clubs and/or the Police.

Note: Sutherland Shire Council or its officers will not become involved in these matters.

UNAUTHORISED USE AND DELIBERATE DAMAGE

Sutherland Shire Council's "Enforcement Officers" are available seven days a week, including after hours, to take action regarding these matters.

A PHONE CALL TO 9710-0333 requesting assistance or action will ensure attendance by an Enforcement Officer although a reasonable delay should be anticipated. Matters covered by these headings are:-

UNAUTHORISED USE OF GROUND

Includes interference with Council's allocated use for training or matches and activities by sporting groups or Clubs not allocated the use of the ground.

Enforcement Officers have access to ground allocations and can control unauthorised activities.

Note: The use of grounds for training or matches when CLOSED due to wet weather is an unauthorised use and can result in action against the Association, your Club and other Clubs.

DELIBERATE DAMAGE

Includes any unauthorised activity which causes damage to the ground or buildings such as horse riding, driving cars or motor cycles on grounds and playing golf.

Note: If a situation becomes difficult or problems are anticipated CALL THE POLICE as well as the Council.

Incidents of unauthorised use and deliberate damage should also be reported to the Association Office during office hours to allow follow up action to be taken.

SPECIAL NOTE: THE ASSOCIATION WILL SUPPORT ANY REASONABLE ACTION TAKEN BY CLUB OFFICIALS IN MATTERS COVERED BY APPENDIX 'B'

APPENDIX 'C'

WET WEATHER PROCEDURES

Following are the procedures adopted by Sutherland Council and the Association when grounds are affected by prolonged or heavy rain and the responsibilities of Clubs and referees for rain on match days.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

As the owner and/or manager of all Shire grounds allocated to the Association, including school grounds, the Sutherland Shire Council has the final decision regarding the suitability of grounds for matches and training.

Council usually makes decisions regarding the availability of grounds following wet weather for weekdays and nights **ONLY** and will allow the Association to make decisions for playing competitions on weekends. Only under severe weather conditions will Council enforce weekend closures.

If Council declares grounds unfit for play, their staff will uncover the '**GROUND CLOSED**' sign at the grounds. Council's decision usually covers **ALL** grounds on the basis of "one ground out – all grounds out."

For the most accurate and up to date information regarding ground closures - **TELEPHONE COUNCIL'S WET WEATHER LINE – 9710 0105**

Information on this line is updated regularly and usually includes the date of inspection, period of closure (if any) and the date of the next inspection

Staff shortages or other causes may sometimes result in **GROUND CLOSED** signs not being displayed after closures or covered after re-opening.

COUNCIL WILL USUALLY DISPLAY THE 'GROUND CLOSED' SIGN ON ALL GROUNDS IF COUNCIL CLOSES GROUNDS BUT COUNCIL'S WET WEATHER LINE IS THE BEST INDICATION OF GROUND CLOSURES AT ALL TIMES

Clubs should encourage all Coaches and Managers, and inform parents and players, to use the Wet Weather Line if in any doubt regarding ground availability for training.

Council may permit weeknight competitions such a Touch Football and Oz-Tag to proceed on specific grounds and also allow important school daytime matches even if the grounds are closed.

When grounds are *CLOSED* training is NOT PERMITTED for any code or activity.

NEVER ASSUME THAT WEEKEND COMPETITIONS ARE CANCELLED IF GROUNDS ARE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS. ALWAYS WAIT FOR OFFICIAL ADVICE FROM THE ASSOCIATION

Note: Clubs and teams training during the week when grounds are closed face possible sanctions imposed by Sutherland Council, including costs of repairs and penalties imposed by the Association.

SUTHERLAND FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The following situations require the Association to make decisions on the previous day or early morning on match days regarding the condition of grounds following rain and their suitability to conduct competition matches:

1. Grounds have been closed by Council up to Friday night but the Association is permitted to make a decision for weekend matches.
2. Heavy rain on Friday night or during the weekend.

For both situations Club Ground Inspection Officers will be requested by telephone (or email message) to inspect their home grounds and report on the condition of the grounds by telephone to the Association office on:

9542-3577 BETWEEN 6.30 AM AND 7.00 AM ON MATCH DAYS

Members of the E.C. will be on duty to receive the reports from 6.30 a.m.

If unattended, ring

Barry Jones	0413 274 727 or
Greg O'Rourke	0419 242 999

After all reports are received a decision will be made as follows:

1. All games to be played.
2. All games OFF with a decision regarding the re-drawing of these games to be made by the E.C. at a later date.
3. Some grounds declared playable with games drawn to unplayable grounds either relocated to other grounds on the same day or postponed to a later date.

Following the decision, Club Wet Weather Contact Officers will be advised by telephone immediately.

Note: It is not always possible to inform Clubs of the decision in time for early games. e. g. 8.00 am kick offs. Clubs and teams are reminded **WHEN IN DOUBT GO TO THE GROUND FOR KICK OFF TIME** or risk loss by forfeit.

Prior to the season all Clubs are required to advise the Association of the names and contact telephone numbers of their:

Ground Inspection Officer
Alternate Ground Inspection Officer
Wet Weather Contact Officer

This information is required to allow the Association to request Clubs to carry out inspections or to seek additional information re the ground condition after the inspection.

REFEREES

Referees have the right to declare a ground unplayable and decide that a match will not be played. They can only rule on matches they have been appointed to and their decision can only be made at kick-off time for the match.

REFEREES CANNOT RULE ALL GAMES OFF FOR THE DAY

CLUBS AND GROUND CONTROL

For rain developing during the day, a Club may rule that no further play is possible on the ground. This decision must be confirmed by a telephone call to the E.C. and then, if possible, contact the Clubs of visiting teams drawn to play on the ground later in the day.

CLUBS SHOULD NOT DISPLAY THE 'GROUND CLOSED' SIGN IF GAMES ARE CALLED OFF OR COVER THE SIGN IF COMPETITION GAMES ARE BEING PLAYED

ONGOING CLOSURE OF THE GROUND IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SUTHERLAND COUNCIL

APPENDIX 'D'

MATCH SHEETS AND RECORDING RESULTS

CLUB DUTIES

RECORDING OF RESULTS

It is the duty of the Club responsible for the ground to record the results of all games played on that ground on the Association's Result Sheet. The Result Sheet is to be forwarded to the Association with the match sheets. A copy of this sheet should be retained by the Club Secretary for verification or checking of results by the Association staff, if required.

DELIVERY OF MATCH SHEETS TO ASSOCIATION

Match sheets to be arranged in order from Under 6 to over 45 then Women's teams from 12W to WS, in grades from 'A' down, and deposited in the special locked box at the Harrie Dening Football Centre, Bates Drive, Kareela, or at another location if advised by the Association.

THE MATCH SHEETS, TOGETHER WITH THE RESULT SHEET, MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE ASSOCIATION BEFORE 8.30 AM ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY IF MONDAY IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

FOR MIDWEEK NIGHT MATCHES THE SHEETS MUST BE DELIVERED BETWEEN 8.30 AM AND 3.00 PM ON THE NEXT WORKING DAY.

NOTE: Failure to comply with the above will result in a fine of \$100.00 being imposed by the SSFA on the offending Club.

CLUBS ARE REQUESTED TO PLACE A COPY OF THIS SHEET IN THEIR GROUND CONTROL AREA