



Northern Zone Rules of Competition

Season 2008

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of these Rules is to promote, develop and protect the game of Football within the Zone.

1.2 INTERPRETATIONS

The Zone Council shall be at all times empowered to interpret these Rules to make such rulings as are deemed appropriate in the circumstances. Such rulings are to be minuted at meetings and are subject to the appeals process provided for within these Rules.

1.3 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Zone Councillors and Federation officers are empowered to report any unreasonable behaviour to the Zone Council who shall convene a Disciplinary Committee hearing to determine any further action.

1.4 LEAGUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1.4.1 The Zone Council may appoint a League Management Committee from time to time with the responsibility of the management of all competitions.

1.4.2 The League Management Committee will be a working-group of the Zone Council and will at all times ensure its objectives are consistent with the objectives of the Zone Council and the Federation.

1.4.3 The League Management Committee shall deal as it may consider fit with Clubs, officials or Players in respect of offences or complaints and with any matter not otherwise specifically provided for in these rules and regulations including Clubs being summoned before it to account for the actions of its officials, Players or supporters. After an inquiry if the League Management Committee deems a Club has failed to comply with or committed a breach of the provisions of these Rules and Regulations or conducted itself in a matter prejudicial to the interests of football it shall be empowered to take such action and impose such sanctions as it shall deem fit in the circumstances. This may occur by way of reprimand, fine, suspension, disqualification or any other form of sanction.

1.4.4 Review all matters of policy surrounding the Leagues and to make any recommendations to the Council.

1.5 IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS

The Zone Council and the Competition Administrator shall be empowered to impose sanctions in accordance with these Rules and Clubs shall be entitled to appeal against the imposition of such sanctions as outlined within these Rules and in accordance with the Grievance Procedure.

1.6 BROADCAST MATCHES – COPYRIGHT

The copyright for all matches under the jurisdiction of the Zone Council shall remain with the Federation. No such match shall be telecast or broadcast without the prior consent of the Zone Council.

2 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND CLUBS

2.1 PLAYERS

2.1.1 All players must be registered in accordance with the National Registration Regulations.

2.1.2 FFA have stated that players who turn five (5) years of age during the current season are eligible to be registered.

2.1.3 Only original registration forms and associated documentation will be accepted. No faxed, scanned or other copies will be accepted.

2.2 MATCH OFFICIALS

2.2.1 All match officials must be registered in accordance with the National Registration Regulations.

2.3 COACHES AND CLUB OFFICIALS

2.3.1 All coaches and Club Officials must be registered in accordance with these Rules.

2.4 CLUBS

2.4.1 All Clubs must be registered in accordance with the National Registration Regulations and the guidelines and regulations contained in the Zone Administration Manual.

By the act of registration a Club agrees to comply with FIFA Statutes, Laws of the Game, FFA Statutes, Competition Rules, Administration Regulations, Codes of Conduct and the Grievance Resolution processes.

2.4.2 If a Club wishes to participate in a Competition under the jurisdiction of the Federation that Club must apply to the Competition Administrator for approval.

2.5 REGISTRATION PERIODS

2.5.1 Senior amateur players can only be registered between 1 February and 31 July in each calendar year.

2.5.2 Junior amateur players can only be registered between 1 February and the last day of the season in each calendar year.

2.5.3 Professional players can only be registered between 1 February and 15 April or between 15 June and 15 July in each calendar year.

2.5.4 Clubs who wish to register an amateur player outside of the specified registration periods shall lodge a written request to the Competition Administrator. The Zone Council's decision shall be final and non appealable.

2.6 REGISTRATION DEADLINES

2.6.1 Registrations must be lodged by 5.00pm Thursday for Players to be eligible to play in the next round of scheduled matches.

Any Player whose original registration form and any required documentation is not lodged by this deadline shall be deemed an ineligible Player.

2.7 PRIORITY OF REGISTRATION

2.7.1 If a Player signs a Registration Form with more than one Club priority of registration shall be accorded to the Club who, earliest in time and all things being equal, obtained the Player's signature on the Registration Form.

A Club that knowingly induces a Player to sign a Registration Form in the knowledge that the Player has already signed a Registration Form for another Club shall be fined \$250 per offence.

2.7.2 A Player who has signed a Registration Form for more than one Club may be sanctioned by the Zone Council.

3 COMPETITIONS

3.1 ALTERATIONS TO DRAWS

- 3.1.1 Any Clubs requesting a change of date, time or venue for any Senior competition match may do so only if the request is in writing no later than six (6) weeks prior to the match. Please note the Zone Council may not be able to accommodate such requests.
- 3.1.1 (a) The Club requesting the change must obtain the written approval of the opposition team by contacting the opposing Club's Delegate before lodging the request.
- 3.1.1 (b) Failure to comply with 3.1.1(a) may result in the match being deemed to have been played as scheduled with the match being forfeited against the Club requesting the change.
- 3.1.2 Any Clubs requesting a change of date, time or venue for any Junior competition match may do so only if the request is in writing no later than two (2) weeks prior to the match. Please note the Zone Council may not be able to accommodate such requests.
- 3.1.2 (a) The Club requesting the change must obtain the written approval of the opposition team by contacting the opposing Club's Delegate before lodging the request.
- 3.1.2 (b) Failure to comply with 3.1.2(a) may result in the match being deemed to have been played as scheduled with the match being forfeited against the Club requesting the change.
- 3.1.3 The Zone Council shall determine the date, time and venue for the re-scheduled match to be played. Any additional costs incurred shall be met by the Team who requested the re-scheduling of the match.
- 3.1.4 In the event of a Team having three (3) or more Players selected in a Representative Team it shall have the right to apply to the Zone Council for a deferment of matches affected, or likely to be affected, by the selection of those Players. Such requests are not subject to the minimum timeframes specified in Rules 3.1.1 or 3.1.2.
- 3.1.5 All deferred matches must be played prior to the last competition round of the season.
- 3.1.6 Decisions of the Zone Council under Rule 3.1 are final and are not appealable.

3.2 POSTPONED MATCHES

- 3.2.1 In the event of a match not being played due to weather or other causes over which neither Team has any control, or in the event of a match ordered to be replayed, the match shall be played as determined by the Zone Council.
- 3.2.2 The Competition Administrator shall notify the Teams within five (5) days of the postponement and shall provide a minimum three (3) days notice of the time and venue of the postponed match.

3.3 TEAMS WITHDRAWING OR EXPELLED FROM COMPETITIONS

Where a Team has withdrawn or been expelled from a competition, Teams having already played that Team shall have all points and goals earned in the relevant match(es) deducted from their totals.

3.4 LEAGUE COMPETITION

3.4.1 Competition points will be allocated as follows for all League matches:

Win	Three (3) points
Draw	One (1) point
Loss	Nil (0) points
Bye	Nil (0) points

3.4.2 The Team with the greatest number of points at the end of the League competition shall be declared 'League Champion'.

3.4.3 If two (2) or more Teams are level on points at the end of the League competition the following criteria shall be applied, in order, until one (1) of the Teams can be determined as the higher ranked:

- i) highest goal difference;
- ii) highest number of goals scored;
- iii) highest number of points accumulated in matches between the Teams concerned;
- iv) highest goal difference in matches between the Teams concerned;
- v) highest number of goals scored in matches between the Teams concerned;
- vi) lowest number of red cards accumulated;
- vii) lowest number of yellow cards accumulated;
- viii) toss of a coin.

3.5 FINALS SERIES

3.5.1 To be eligible to play for a Team in the finals series a Player must have played a minimum of five (5) matches for that Club during the current League competition. Cup matches are not included when determining the number of matches played.

3.5.2 A Player may qualify for more than one final series however will be tied to the Team for which they first play during the final series.

The exception shall be Players who turn 18 years of age or younger during the year of competition who shall be eligible to play in any final series provided they have played the required number of qualifying matches.

3.5.3 Any Player who receives two (2) cautions in the final series shall be automatically suspended for one match. If the Player's Team has completed its final series commitments the suspension does not carry over to the following season.

3.5.4 Teams placed third and fourth shall play in the Minor Semi-Final;

Teams placed first and second shall play in the Qualifying Final with the winning team proceeding direct to the Grand Final;

The losing team in the Qualifying Final and the winner of the Minor Semi-Final shall play in the Preliminary Final;

The winner of the Preliminary Final plays the winner of the Qualifying Final in the Grand Final;

The winner of the Grand Final shall be the "Finals Series Champion".

3.5.5 Should a Team eligible for the final series be unable to participate then the Zone Council may replace that Team with other Team from the same competition.

- 3.5.6 If scores remain level at the conclusion of normal playing time extra time as specified in these Rules shall be played to determine a winner.
- 3.5.7 If at the conclusion of extra time the match is still drawn the winner shall be determined by penalty kicks in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 3.5.8 Where both teams in a semi-final field an ineligible player or the result of a match is a 'no result' then the winner of the other semi-final will be "Finals Series Champion".
- 3.6 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION
- The Zone Council may implement a promotion and relegation system prior to the commencement of a season.
- 3.7 CUP COMPETITIONS
- The Zone Council may decide to hold one or more Cup competitions each season.
- 3.7.1 Any Player who receives two (2) cautions in a Cup competition shall be automatically suspended for their Team's next match in that Cup competition.
- If the Player's Team has completed its Cup commitments the suspension does not carry over to any other Competition.
- 3.7.2 A Player is deemed to be 'Cup tied' to the Team or Club the Player first played for in that Cup competition.
- Teams that play a Player contrary to this Rule shall be deemed to have played an ineligible Player.
- 3.8 EXTRA TIME
- During all matches where extra time is required to be played determine a winner the following shall apply:
- 3.8.1 Extra time periods shall be as specified in Appendix A.
- 3.8.2 At the completion of normal time a five (5) minute break shall be granted. All Players are to remain on the field and only the designated Team officials in the technical area can move onto the field of play. Substitutes or substituted players are not to enter the field of play.
- 3.8.3 The coin shall be tossed to determine direction of play for the first period of extra time.
- 3.8.4 At half time in extra time the Teams shall change ends immediately and the match continues. There shall be no half time break.
- 3.8.5 Stoppage time shall be played.
- 3.8.6 If at the completion of extra time the Teams are still equal then a penalty shoot out shall take place in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 3.9 FAILURE TO PLAY A MATCH AND ABANDONED MATCHES
- 3.9.1 Any Team who without just cause fails to play a match at the appointed date and time shall be cited to appear before the Disciplinary Committee.
- 3.9.2 Any Team who fails to fulfil three (3) consecutive matches shall be asked to show cause as to why they should not be suspended or expelled from the competition.
- 3.9.3 Any Team, or members thereof, who by their conduct cause a match to be terminated or abandoned shall be cited to appear before the Disciplinary Committee.

3.10 VENUES AND ADMISSION CHARGES

- 3.10.1 The Zone Council in consultation with the Federation shall have the power to determine venues for all Competitions.
- 3.10.2 The Zone Council shall determine the charge for admission to all matches prior to the commencement of any season.
- 3.10.3 Players or officials who refuse to pay the prescribed admission charge shall be fined \$50 per offence. Additional sanctions may also be determined by the Zone Council.
- 3.10.4 Clubs with which the Player or Official is involved shall be fined \$100 per offence. Additional sanctions may also be determined by the Zone Council.

4 MATCH DAY

4.1 AGE ELIGIBILITY

The Federation's Player Age Groups policy determines the eligibility of players to participate in all competitions.

Generally this means a player must play in their correct age group and may not play in a competition more than two years above their chronological age nor under their chronological age unless an assessment has been performed.

- 4.1.1 Players who are required to be assessed under the Player Age Groups policy shall not be eligible to play in a higher competition until such time as the assessment process has been completed.

Teams that play a Player contrary to Rule 4.1 shall be deemed to have played an ineligible Player.

4.2 DETERMINATION OF MATCHES PLAYED

Only Players who take the field of play during a match shall be deemed to have actually played when calculating the number of qualifying matches played. The official Team Sheet shall be the sole record and determinant of matches played.

4.3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.3.1 Where a Club has more than one (1) Team in the same competition once a player has played five (5) matches for a Team they are 'tied' to that Team for the remainder of the competition including finals series.

4.4 INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- 4.4.1 An ineligible player is defined as an unregistered player, a player playing in an incorrect competition (without Competition Administrator approval to do so), a Player playing under a fictitious name, a Player not appearing on the Team Sheet, a Player without a Registration Card available for the match, a Player under suspension or a Player deemed ineligible by the Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee, Zone Council or Federation.

Any Team found to have played an ineligible Player shall be fined \$100 and the match shall be awarded to the opposing Team with a score of 3-0 or the actual score of the match whichever is the greater.

- 4.4.2 Any Team found to have knowingly, or wilfully, engaged in the "ring-in" of a Player or Players in any match shall be fined \$250 and the match shall be awarded to the opposing Team with a 3-0 score or the actual score of the match whichever is the greater.

The Club may also be cited to appear before the Disciplinary Committee.

- 4.4.3 It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure the eligibility of its players.
- 4.4.4 Repeat offenders may incur additional sanctions as determined by the Competition Administrator.

4.5 NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- 4.5.1 The minimum and maximum number of Players to play for a Team in any match are specified in Appendix A. One player must be a goalkeeper.

- 4.5.2 A match may not start or continue if either Team has fewer than the minimum number of Players on the field of play as specified in Appendix A.

4.6 DURATION OF MATCHES

4.6.1 The duration of all matches shall be as specified in Appendix A unless otherwise specified in the playing conditions of the competition.

4.6.2 Any match which, from any cause whatsoever, is less than planned duration may be ordered to count as a completed match or to be replayed in full at the discretion of the Zone Council.

4.7 TEAM SHEETS

4.7.1 Each Team shall complete a Team Sheet or Team Card prior to the commencement of the match. For the purpose of these Rules 'Team Sheet' shall mean either Team Sheet or Team Card.

Teams in Senior competitions shall use the self-carbonated 'Team Sheet';

Teams in Junior competitions shall use the 'Team Card'.

4.7.2 Players cannot be added to the Team Sheet after the commencement of the match.

4.7.3 The Team Sheet shall contain:

4.7.3 (a) The first name and surname of all Players taking part in the match including substitutes;

4.7.3 (b) The Player's shirt number;

4.7.3 (c) Player's Registration Number (Senior teams only).

4.7.4 The maximum number of Players that can be listed per Team on a Team Sheet is specified in Appendix A.

4.7.5 The numbers on the back of shirts shall correspond with the numbers on the Team Sheet and any change to that number can only be done with approval of the Referee.

4.7.6 The only Players entitled to play in any match are those registered Players whose names are listed on the Team Sheet at the commencement of the match.

Teams that play a Player contrary to this Rule shall be deemed to have played an ineligible Player.

4.7.7 For all matches involving teams in the Under 13 competition and above, Managers shall offer their completed Team Sheet and Players' ID cards for inspection to the opposing Manager prior to the commencement of a match.

4.7.8 The completed Team Sheet shall be handed to the Referee before the scheduled kick-off in accordance with the schedule outlined in Appendix A.

Clubs found to be in breach of shall be fined \$10 per offence.

4.7.9 At the conclusion of the match the Referee shall note the scores at half time and full time, the goal scorers, any disciplinary action and then sign the Team Sheet.

4.7.10 When a Player has been cautioned or sent off the Referee must note on the Team Sheet the appropriate offence code for which the Player was cautioned or sent off.

4.7.11 After the conclusion of Senior matches the Team Manager shall collect the Club's copy of the completed Team Sheet from the Referee.

Clubs found to be in breach shall be fined \$10 per offence.

4.8 MATCH BALLS

The Home Team shall provide the match officials with match ball(s) in accordance with the schedule outlined in Appendix A.

Match balls shall be pumped up and be suitable & safe to use.

Clubs found to be in breach shall be fined \$25.

4.9 MATCH OFFICIALS

4.9.1 Teams are obliged to play matches regardless of whether appointed match officials are present to officiate. Such matches are to commence within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled kick-off time.

Should any Team fail to provide match officials or refuse to participate in any match in accordance with this Rule then the Team shall be fined \$100 and the match shall be awarded to the opposing Team as a 3-0 win.

4.9.1 (a) In the event both Teams refuse to play the Zone Council may award a no result and Teams shall be subject to sanctions as determined by the Zone Council.

4.9.2 Where no accredited match officials have been appointed to officiate in junior matches it shall be the responsibility of the Duty Club to provide match officials to those matches.

4.9.3 In the event no accredited match official is present to officiate a match then the Home Team shall consult the Away Team and appoint a Referee to take charge of the match. This shall take place within five (5) minutes of the scheduled kick-off time.

4.9.4 In circumstances where an Assistant Referee has not been appointed each Team is obliged to provide a club linesperson to assist the match referee as follows:

4.9.4 (a) If one Assistant Referee has not been appointed the Home Team shall provide the linesman.

4.9.4 (b) If two Assistant Referees have not been appointed both the Home and Away Teams shall provide one linesman each.

Teams found to be in breach shall have the match awarded to the opposing Team as a 3-0 win.

4.10 FORFEITS

4.10.1 Any Team deciding to forfeit a match must inform the Competition Administrator in writing by 5pm of the Wednesday prior to a weekend fixture and no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time of a weekday fixture.

The match shall be awarded to the opposing Team with a score of 3-0.

4.10.1 (a) Any Team failing to notify the Competition Administrator within the required time shall be fined \$200.

4.10.2 Where a Team is not ready to commence a match within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled start of play the Team shall be fined \$50 and the match shall be awarded to the opposing Team with a score of 3-0.

4.10.2 (a) Where a Team has fewer than the required minimum number of Players available for a match the match shall be awarded to the opposing Team with a score of 3-0 or the actual score of the match whichever is the greater.

- 4.10.3 Where a match is forfeited under this Rule any officially appointed match officials shall be entitled to the match fees normally payable and these fees shall be paid by the Team that forfeits the match.
- 4.11 TECHNICAL AREA
- The following rules will be enforced where technical areas are provided at venues.
- 4.11.1 A maximum of eight (8) persons comprising five (5) Players and three (3) Team Officials are entitled to sit on the Team bench or be in the technical area during any match.
- All Players and Officials are to remain seated at all times within the technical area.
- 4.11.2 Officials without identification cards are not permitted in the technical area at any time.
- Clubs found to be in breach shall be fined \$100 and may also be referred to a Disciplinary Committee.
- 4.11.3 Players or Officials within the technical shall behave in a responsible manner and not direct foul or abusive language towards any persons at any time.
- 4.11.4 Players are subject to FIFA Laws whilst in the technical area.
- 4.11.5 Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions and he must return to his seat immediately after giving these instructions.
- Clubs found to be in breach shall be fined \$100 and may also be referred to a Disciplinary Committee.
- 4.11.6 All team officials must remain within technical area except in special circumstances, for example, a physiotherapist or doctor enters the field of play with the Referee's permission to assess an injured Player.
- 4.11.7 All substitutes/interchanges are to be made known to the assistant referee or fourth official who will then notify the Referee of the proposed substitution/interchange.
- 4.12 INTERCHANGE AND SUBSTITUTIONS
- 4.12.1 All interchange or substitute Players must be named on the Team Sheet and must sit on the Team bench or be located within the designated technical area during the match.
- 4.12.2 All interchanges or substitutions in competitive competitions are at the discretion of the Referee and shall take place at the halfway line when play has stopped.
- 4.12.3 The number of and process for interchange and substitutions are outlined in Appendix A.

5 DISCIPLINE

The National Disciplinary Regulations shall apply to any infringement of the Laws of the Game by any Player or Team Official during a match.

Where fines are included in sanctions these shall be levied against and payable by the Club to which the Player is registered.

5.1 CAUTIONS (YELLOW CARDS)

5.1.1 Caution Codes.

- Y1 is guilty of unsporting behaviour
- Y2 shows dissent by word or action
- Y3 persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- Y4 delays the restart of play
- Y5 fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- Y6 enters or re-enters the field of play without the Referee's permission
- Y7 deliberately leaves the field of play without the Referee's permission

5.1.2 Sanctions

The following sanctions shall be imposed as a result of Players accumulating cautions during a season:

Fourth (4th) caution One (1) match suspension and a \$50 fine.

Sixth (6th) caution Two (2) match suspension and a \$100 fine.

Seventh (7th) caution The player shall be cited to appear before the Disciplinary Committee and shall be suspended until such time as they appear before the Disciplinary Committee.

For the purpose of this Rule cautions shall accumulate in all matches including League and Cup matches and the automatic suspensions specified are not appealable.

5.1.3 The Competition Administrator shall advise a Player's Club Delegate within seventy-two (72) hours of having received the Team Sheet where a Player has incurred a sanction under Rule 5.1.1.

5.1.4 A Player shall remain suspended until any fine is paid in full to the Zone Council.

5.1.5 Loss of Competition Points

Teams shall have competition points deducted as a result of accumulating cautions during the League competition.

The number of cautions that leads to the initial loss of one (1) competition point shall be determined by taking the number of rounds in the League season and multiplying that number by two (2).

As an example if there are fifteen (15) rounds of matches then the number of cautions resulting in an initial loss of one competition point shall be thirty (30).

When a Team receives the specified number of cautions that Team shall lose one (1) competition point. Thereafter for every ten (10) cautions accumulated by that Team that Team will lose one (1) additional competition point.

5.1.6 Cautions shall not carry over from the League competition into final series or promotion/relegation matches.

5.2 EXPULSION (RED CARDS)

5.2.1 Where a player is sent off (issued a red card) in a match, they are ineligible to participate in any other competition on that weekend in any official capacity including but not limited to Player, Coach, Club Referee, Club Assistant Referee or Ground Official.

5.2.2 Expulsion Codes

R1 is guilty of serious foul play

R2 is guilty of violent conduct

R3 spits at an opponent or any other person

R4 denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area)

R5 denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick

R6 uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures

R7 receives a second caution in the same Match

5.2.3 Sanctions

The following mandatory sanctions shall be imposed as a result of a Player accumulating red cards during the League competition, Cup competitions or Finals Series:

First expulsion \$50 fine and one match suspension.

Second expulsion \$100 fine and two match suspension.

Third expulsion \$200 fine and three match suspension.

Fourth expulsion \$400 fine and four match suspension.

Such mandatory sanctions may be augmented by the addition of suspensions in accordance with the Recommended Sanctions under the National Disciplinary Regulations.

5.2.4 Where a Player has incurred a sanction in excess of the mandatory sanction the Competition Administrator shall advise the Player's Club Delegate by the close of business on the third business day following the match.

5.2.5 If a Player is sent from the field of play and found guilty of the offence R2, R3 or repeat R6, they will complete an anger management course in conjunction with any suspension. The cost of the course shall be met by the Player and the suspension shall be prolonged until such time as the Player provides written proof of the completion of the course.

5.2.6 Teams shall have competition points deducted as a result of accumulating red cards during the League competition.

For every five (5) red cards received by a Team for any offence excluding R7 that Team shall lose one (1) competition point.

5.2.7 Recommended Sanctions

If the Competition Administrator determines that the offence warrants sanctions other than those provided under the National Disciplinary Regulations then the Player will be cited to appear before the Disciplinary Committee.

Minimum suspensions imposed under the Recommended Sanctions are not appealable except in the case of mistaken identity.

- 5.2.8 Where sanctions are determined by the Competition Administrator and more than one offence has been reported then sanctions shall be cumulative.
- 5.3 SUSPENSIONS
- 5.3.1 Suspensions shall carry over from the League Championship into Final Series or Promotion/Relegation matches.
- 5.3.2 Suspensions incurred by players in terms of matches in any competition shall be served in consecutive fixtures in the competition in which the suspension occurred (this includes, but is not limited to, league, cup and finals series fixtures in the same competition). Suspensions will carry over to the subsequent season(s).
- 5.3.3 Where the Club does not field a Team in the same competition as the suspension was incurred the Competition Administrator shall determine the competition in which the Player is to serve the suspension.
- 5.3.4 A Player under suspension shall not be permitted to play in trial matches without the written permission of the Competition Administrator who may include any conditions as it sees fit.
- 5.3.5 Suspensions cannot be served in trial matches.
- 5.3.6 The Competition Administrator may, upon receipt of a written request from the Player, temporarily lift their suspension for private, representative or other matches however under no circumstances may a suspension be lifted for any competition or cup matches conducted under the jurisdiction of the Zone Council.
- 5.3.7 Players who are under suspension are not permitted to enter the field of play, player's race, change rooms, technical area or substitute bench.
Players who are in breach of this Rule will be fined \$100 per offence.
The suspended Player's Club who is in breach of this Rule will be fined \$200 per offence.
- 5.3.8 Club or Team Officials who are under suspension are not permitted to attend any playing venues.
Officials who are in breach of this Rule will be fined \$200 per offence. Continuous breaches will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
The Club of the suspended official who is in breach of this Rule will be fined \$500 per offence. Continuous breaches will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

6 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The National Disciplinary Regulations determines the general procedures governing the Disciplinary Committee.

6.1 COMPILATION OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

6.1.1 The Zone Council shall appoint an independent Disciplinary Committee of three (3) members, one (1) of whom shall be Chairman.

6.1.2 Wherever possible the Disciplinary Committee Panel should include:

A former Referee;

A former senior Player (not associated with Clubs involved);

An independent chairperson;

But shall not consist of persons who are current Players, members or officials of Member Clubs.

6.1.3 Should the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee not be present the most senior member in continuous service shall act as Chairman.

6.1.4 In the event of only two (2) members being available for a Disciplinary Committee Hearing, subject to the consent of all parties, this shall constitute a quorum.

6.2 PROCESS FOR LODGING A PROTEST

6.2.1 Protests against an appealable decision of the Zone Council shall be made in writing and must be lodged with the Competition Administrator by the close of business on the second business day following the receipt of the decision and must be accompanied by a Protest Fee of two hundred dollars (\$200).

6.2.2 Protests will only be accepted if lodged on Club letterhead and signed by either the Club President or Club Secretary.

6.2.3 Hearing of Protests shall commence within fourteen (14) days of the Protest being correctly lodged.

6.3 PROCEDURES OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

6.3.1 The Disciplinary Committee shall deal with, and settle, all differences, charges, complaints, that may arise involving;

Teams;

Clubs;

Players;

Officials; and

Any other persons as referred to it by the Zone Council, Members or Federation.

6.3.2 The Disciplinary Committee may lay down its own rules of procedure, subject to the rules of natural justice which it may vary as it sees fit from time to time and it shall not be subject to requirements of legal formality.

6.3.3 At a hearing by the Disciplinary Committee, the appellant's or the aggrieved party's case shall be presented first but nothing herein removes from any person the onus of proving any ground on which he relies.

6.4 POWER OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

6.4.1 The Disciplinary Committee shall deal with all matters referred to it by the Zone Council.

6.4.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to hear and determine any charge made against any Affiliated Member, Player, Coach, Manager, Officer, Official, or any other person for any breach of the Laws of the Game or of the provisions of these Rules of the Zone Council. If the charge is found proved, the Disciplinary Committee may:

Expel;

Disqualify;

Suspend;

Fine;

Reprimand;

Declare defunct;

Deduct Championship points;

Refuse or cancel registration; or

Impose such other penalty as they may think fit in the circumstances.

6.4.3 The Disciplinary Committee may from time to time adjourn any hearing until such times, dates and places and for such reasons, as it thinks fit.

6.5 ASSAULTS ON MATCH OFFICIALS

6.5.1 In the event of a Disciplinary Committee hearing convened for the purpose of hearing a charge of assault (technical or otherwise) committed upon a match official the match official concerned and any witnesses to the offence should submit in writing to the Zone a report in full outlining the incident in chronological order, including any conversation.

6.6 EVIDENCE

6.6.1 In any disciplinary proceedings the official reports of the match officials in respect of the incident or event that is the subject of the complaint/charge, are prima facie proof of the facts contained in the reports.

6.6.2 A match official will not be required to attend to give evidence unless:

The person charged disputes the accuracy of the report and requests the attendance of the match officials, and the Disciplinary Committee is of the opinion that the request is reasonable and made in good faith; or

The Disciplinary Committee is of the opinion that it is reasonable, and necessary, to require the attendance of the match officials.

6.6.3 It shall be an offence for any person giving evidence before any Disciplinary Committee to deliberately mislead the Disciplinary Committee and the penalty for such offence shall be a fine of between \$500 and \$10,000 and any other sanctions as determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

6.7 DECISIONS

6.7.1 The Disciplinary Committee shall base its decision on;

The evidence provided; and

The requirements of these Rules.

6.7.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall advise the Competition Administrator of its decision within fourteen (14) days of the decision being made who shall then advise the Club Delegate in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision being received.

6.7.3 Where no decision is advised to the Competition Administrator or where a hearing has not been held within the timeframe specified then the protest shall be deemed to have been upheld in full.

6.7.4 The person to whom the decision refers shall not contact the Zone Council or Competition Administrator. The responsibility of advising the person of the outcome of the hearing is their Club Delegate.

6.7.5 The Protest Fee shall be forfeited in the event of the protest not being upheld in full.

6.7.6 In the event that the protest is proven then fifty (50%) of the Protest Fee shall be refunded to the appellant.

6.8 APPEALS

6.8.1 All parties to a Disciplinary Committee hearing and the Zone Council shall have the right of appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. In such cases the decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

7 APPEALS COMMITTEE

7.1 COMPILATION OF APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 7.1.1 The Zone Council shall appoint an Appeals Committee consisting of a Chairman and two other members.
- 7.1.2 The Appeals Committee shall, at all times, be chaired by the Appeals Committee Chairman or in his absence one of the appointed members.
- 7.1.3 The Appeals Committee shall consist of persons who shall not be Members, Officials or Officers of any Club.
- 7.1.4 In the event of only two (2) members, being available for an Appeals Committee Hearing and, subject to the consent of all parties, they shall constitute a quorum.

7.2 EXPENSES OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 7.2.1 Travel accommodation and incidental expenses incurred in convening the Appeals Committee shall be a charge to the Appellant in addition to the Appeal Fee but such expenses shall not be refundable, except at the discretion of the Appeals Committee.

7.3 PROCESS FOR LODGING AN APPEAL

- 7.3.1 Appeals shall be made in writing and must be lodged with the Competition Administrator within forty eight (48) hours of the decision being received and must be accompanied by an Appeals Fee of two hundred dollars (\$200).
- 7.3.2 Appeals will only be accepted if lodged on Club letterhead and signed by either the Club President or Club Secretary.
- 7.3.3 Hearing of Appeals shall commence within fourteen (14) days of the Appeal being properly lodged.
- 7.3.4 The lodgement of an Appeal does not stay any penalty imposed by a Disciplinary Committee or the Zone.
- 7.3.5 Appeals can be lodged on the grounds of:
 - 7.3.5 (a) The finding of guilt by the Disciplinary Committee to the charge(s).
 - 7.3.5 (b) The severity of the sentence imposed by the Disciplinary Committee.

7.4 WITHDRAWAL OF AN APPEAL

- 7.4.1 The appellant or aggrieved party may at any time withdraw his appeal whether or not the Appeal Committee has commenced to consider the appeal.
- 7.4.2 Where consideration by the Appeal Committee has not commenced the appellant or aggrieved party may withdraw his appeal by notifying the Competition Administrator in writing twenty-four (24) hours prior to the Appeal Hearing. The appellant may apply to the Competition Administrator for a full refund of the appeals fee at the time of the notification of the withdrawal of the appeal.
- 7.4.3 Where consideration by the Appeal Committee has commenced the appellant or aggrieved party may withdraw his appeal by informing the Appeal Committee that the appeal is withdrawn. In this situation the appeals fee shall be forfeited.

7.5 PROCEDURES OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 7.5.1 The Appeals Committee shall hear and determine appeals against all Disciplinary Committee decisions referred to it by the Zone Council.
- 7.5.2 Subject to the rules of natural justice the Appeals Committee may lay down its own rules or procedures that it may vary as it sees fit from time to time. It shall not, except as aforesaid, be subject to requirements of legal formalities.
- 7.5.3 All appeals shall be conducted solely on the grounds submitted by the appellant and shall not be a hearing "de novo".
- 7.5.4 The Appeals Committee shall make its decisions by a simple majority of votes of the members present;
No member shall abstain from voting; and
If an equal number of votes are recorded, the Appeals Committee Chairman shall have the casting vote.

7.6 POWER OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE

- 7.6.1 The Appeals Committee shall have the power to hear and determine any Appeal from the Zone Council, Federation or any affiliated Member, Official, Player, Coach or Match Official dissatisfied with any decision of a Disciplinary Committee established by the Zone Council.
- 7.6.2 The Appeals Committee may dismiss or allow in whole, or in part, any Appeal and may quash or vary, by reduction or increase or otherwise, any decision imposed. The Appeals Committee may, in substitution for any decision or sentence, impose any sentence or make any finding which the original Disciplinary Committee could have imposed or made.

7.7 EVIDENCE

- 7.7.1 In any Appeal Hearing, the official reports of the match officials in respect of the incident or event which is the subject of the complaint/charge are prima facie proof of the facts contained in the reports.
- 7.7.2 Evidence shall be confined to the points of the Appeal. Appeal hearings shall not afford the appellant the opportunity to have their case completely re-heard.
- 7.7.3 It shall be an offence for any person giving evidence before any Appeals Committee to deliberately mislead the Appeals Committee and the penalty for such offence shall be not less than a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$10,000 and may also incur suspension as determined by the Appeals Committee.

7.8 DECISIONS

- 7.8.1 The Appeals Committee shall base its decision on:
The evidence provided, and
The requirements of these Rules.
- 7.8.2 The Appeals Committee shall advise the Competition Administrator of its decision within fourteen (14) days of the decision being made who shall then advise the Club Delegate in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision being received.

- 7.8.3 Where no decision is advised to the Competition Administrator or where a hearing has not been held within the timeframe specified then the protest shall be deemed to have been upheld in full.
- 7.8.4 The person to whom the decision refers shall not contact the Zone Council or Competition Administrator. The responsibility of advising the person of the outcome of the hearing is their Club Delegate.
- 7.8.5 The Appeal Fee shall be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld in full.
- 7.8.6 In the event that the appeal is proven then fifty (50%) of the Appeal Fee shall be refunded to the appellant.
- 7.9 APPEALS
- The decision of the Appeals Committee may be appealed through the Federation Grievance Tribunal.

8 CHARGES AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

For the purposes of these Rules Football Federation Australia have implemented a Code of Conduct that seeks to promote and strengthen the reputation of Football in Australia by establishing a standard of performance, behaviour and professionalism for its participants and stakeholders. In addition, it seeks to deter conduct that could impair public confidence in the honest and professional conduct of Matches or in the integrity and good character of its participants.

8.1 LODGING A COMPLAINT OR CHARGE

8.1.1 Where any Team, Club, Player, Coach, Official or Match Official is charged with an offence the charge shall be in writing to the Competition Administrator and contain the particulars of the alleged offence.

8.1.2 The written report must be delivered during normal business hours by fax, e-mail or hand delivered and confirmed by mail to the Competition Administrator. The report shall be lodged within seven (7) days of the date of the incident occurring to which such complaint or charge refers.

8.1.3 Charges or complaints laid by the Zone Council or Competition Administrator shall not be restricted to the time limit referred to under 5.15.2.

8.2 PROTEST AGAINST MATCH RESULTS

8.2.1 Protests regarding the incorrect recording of a match result or the eligibility of a Player must be made in writing and lodged with the Competition Administrator by 5.00pm of the second (2nd) working day following the conclusion of the match.

8.2.2 All decisions of the match referee are final and binding as far as the result of a match is concerned and no protest can be lodged.

8.2.3 The Competition Administrator shall provide a copy of the protest to the Delegate of the opposing Club participating in the match within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving the protest.

8.2.4 All protests regarding the incorrect recording of a match result or the eligibility of a Player shall be reviewed by the Competition Administrator.

8.3 MISTAKEN IDENTITY

8.3.1 If a suspended Player claims genuine mistaken identity an appeal may be lodged by their Club with the Competition Administrator by the close of business on the second business day following the Disciplinary Infringement Notice.

8.3.2 The Competition Administrator will investigate the claim and make a decision to allow or dismiss the claim or refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee for their determination.

8.3.3 In the event that the appeal is upheld the Competition Administrator or Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to determine the identity of the true offender and shall impose such penalty upon that person as would have been imposed upon the appellant.

8.4 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

8.4.1 No Recourse to Courts of Law

Each participant submits exclusively to the jurisdiction of the FFA and FFNT Grievance Procedures and agrees that unless and until that those processes have been exhausted, it will not attempt to resolve any Grievance in a court of law.

9 DEFINITIONS

Amateur means any Player who is not a Professional as defined in the National Registration Regulations.

Appeal Notice means the notice in the form of Prescribed Form 03 sent by an aggrieved party to the Competition Administrator notifying an intention to appeal the determination of the Disciplinary Committee.

Appeals Committee means an Appeals Committee established in accordance with these Rules.

Away Team means the Team that is the second named on the draw.

Board means the body made up of elected Directors of the Federation.

By-Laws means the By-Laws as originally adopted or as from time to time duly added to, or amended by, the Football Federation Northern Territory in accordance with the Constitution.

Chairman means the person who is elected to chair meetings of the Zone Council.

Club means any club registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations from time to time. A reference to Club includes a club admitted by a Competition Administrator to field a team in a Competition.

Competition means any competition, tournament or league conducted by the Competition Administrator and registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations, including any pre-season competition and finals series and age specific championships.

Competition Administrator means the entity responsible for the conduct and staging of a Competition.

Competition Rules means the rules and regulations governing the administration and conduct of a Competition.

Constitution means the Constitution as originally adopted, or as from time to time duly added to or amended, by the Board of the Federation.

Delegate means the representative nominated by a Club to represent that Club at meetings and to be authorised to deal with the Zone Council or Competition Administrator regarding Club issues.

Disciplinary Committee means the Disciplinary Committee constituted in accordance with the Grievance Resolution Regulations that has jurisdiction over the Competition.

Disciplinary Infringement Notice means the notice in the form of prescribed form 02 issued by a Competition Administrator to a Player or Team Official notifying of mandatory match suspension or citing to appear before a Disciplinary Committee.

Federation or *FFNT* means the Football Federation Northern Territory Incorporated.

Federation Internationale de Football Association or *FIFA* means the world governing body of Football.

Football Federation Australia or *FFA* means the governing body of Football in Australia.

Home Team means the Team that is the first named on the draw.

Junior means matches or competitions including Rooball and up but not including Youth.

Laws of the Game means the laws governing or regulating the playing of Football as determined by FIFA, FFA, FFNT and local rules as adopted from time to time.

League refers to competitions conducted on behalf of the Federation by the Zone

Council.

League Management Committee refers to a sub-committee of the Zone Council.

Match Officials means Referee, Assistant Referee, Fourth Official or Referees Coach.

Member means an incorporated or unincorporated Club.

Membership means the registered membership of the Federation.

Professional means a Player who is paid to play football, as defined in the National Registration Regulations.

Office of the Federation means the postal address of the Federation being GPO Box 3105 Darwin NT 0801.

Officer of the Federation means any Board Member or employee of the Federation.

Official includes any President, Executive Member, Director, Councillor, Standing Committee Member, Secretary, Committee Member, Coach, Servant, Volunteer, Agent or Representative of any Team, Club or a Referee.

Player means any person who is, from time to time, registered to a Club whether that person is male or female, junior or senior or an Amateur or Professional.

Premiership competition means any competition where points are awarded for results in matches.

Registrar means a person appointed by a Club as their representative for all matters relating to Player registrations.

Referee means a Referee duly appointed to officiate at a match.

Registration Period means the period of time in which a Player must be registered with a Club as specified in these Rules.

Representative Team means a team representing a State or Territory, a region, or an Institute that participates in a Competition.

Ring In means a Player who plays under the name of another registered Player's name or a false name.

Rules means these Rules as originally adopted or as from time to time duly added to or amended by the Zone Council in accordance with the Constitution.

Season means the period of time starting with the first Match of a Competition and ending on the last Match of that Competition.

Senior means matches or competitions for open-aged males or females and Youth competitions.

Team means a squad of Players from a single Club competing in an authorised Federation competition.

Team Sheet refers to Team Sheets or Match Cards.

Tribunal means a Tribunal established in accordance with these Rules.

Weekend Fixture means a fixture scheduled to be played on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday and on a Monday where that day is classified as a public holiday.

Zone Council shall mean the body made up of the elected representatives of the Zone.

Zone Council Meeting means a meeting of Zone Council Members.

9.1 INTERPRETATION

In these Rules unless a different intention shall appear:

words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number and vice versa;

words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender;

words denoting persons include incorporated and unincorporated Teams and Clubs; and

words or expressions shall be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of the Interpretation Act and that Act as in force on the date on which these Rules are adopted by the Zone Council.

9.1.1 References to persons include their respective executors, administrators, personal representatives, and successors in title (as the case may be).

9.1.2 Expressions referring to writing are construed as including references to printing, lithography, photography, and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form.

APPENDIX A – Competition Specific Information

This Appendix provides competition-specific information for use by Clubs, Teams and Team Officials. This Appendix is a formal part of the Competition Rules and as such breaches may incur sanctions in accordance with the Competition Rules.

A1 SUMMARY TABLE – SMALL SIDED GAMES

Year of Birth	2003/2002*	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996
Age Group	U5/6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
Type	4 v 4	5 v 5	5 v 5	7 v 7	7 v 7	9 v 9	9 v 9
Number of Players	Max of 6	Max of 7		Max of 10		Max of 12	
Recommended Field Size	30m x 20m	30m x 20m		40m x 30m		60m x 40m	
Goal Size	Min 1.8m x .9m Max 2m x 1m			Min 4.8m x 1.6m Max 5m x 2m			
Penalty Area	None			8m length x 16m width			
Goalkeeper	No			Yes			
Substitutions	Interchange of players may occur at any time without stopping play, from the half way						
Playing Time	2 x 15 mins	2 x 20 mins		2 x 25 mins		2 x 30 mins	
Half Time	5 mins <i>maximum</i>					7.5 mins <i>maximum</i>	
Ball Size	3					4	

Interchange Interchange of players may occur at any time but the player coming onto the field must wait until the substituted player has left the field.

U5 Players Players must turn five years of age prior to Sunday 24 August 2008 to play in the 2008 competitions.

A2 SUMMARY TABLE – COMPETITIVE

Year of Birth	1995	1994-1993	1992-1990				
Age Group	U13	U14/15	U16/17/18	Open Age	Open Age	Open Age	Open Age
Competitions	Under 13	Under 15	Youth League	Premier League	All Age 1	All Age 2	Women
Type	11 v 11	11 v 11	11 v 11	11 v 11	11 v 11	11 v 11	11 v 11
Recommended Field Size	100 x 64m						
Players Max	11						
Players Min	7						
Reserves	5						
Substitutions / Interchange	unlimited interchange			5 substitutes	unlimited interchange		
Playing Time	2 x 35 mins	2 x 40 mins	2 x 45 mins	2 x 45mins	2 x 45mins	2 x 45mins	2 x 45mins
Half Time	7.5 mins <i>maximum</i>		10 mins <i>maximum</i>				
Ball Size	4	5					

Interchange and Substitutions Substitution or Interchange may only be made when play has stopped for any reason and the referee, at his discretion, has given permission for an Substitution or Interchange to occur.

Interchange or substitution may only take place from the halfway line.

A maximum of five (5) Players may be substituted at any time during any Premier League match.

In all other Senior matches a maximum of five (5) Players may be used for unlimited interchange at any time during any match except during the final five (5) minutes of normal playing time of either half including any stoppage time.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

Version	Date	Comments
1.0	Sep 06	Initial version
1.1	Nov 06	<p>Following change was requested by Junior clubs:</p> <p>4.3.2 Ties a player to a team after five (5) games for that team.</p> <p>Appeals Tribunal renamed Appeals Committee to maintain commonality with FFA Statutes and Regulations.</p> <p>2.5.3 Registration Period for professional players included.</p> <p>3.5.1 Number of qualifying games changed from 4 to 5.</p> <p>3.5.4 Finals series modified.</p> <p>3.6 Promotion and Relegation can be implemented prior to the commencement of a season.</p> <p>4.7.7 Team sheets now to be offered to opposing Manager for inspection prior to matches (Under 13 matches and above) at the same time as ID cards are swapped for inspection.</p> <p>4.8 Rules modified to make it mandatory that Players must have a valid Registration Card to participate in a match.</p>
1.2	Dec 06	<p>Minor modifications after feedback from FFA including fines being levied against Clubs and not players, disciplinary codes included (taken from National Disciplinary Recommendations) and ensuring Clubs are aware of their rights to appeal).</p> <p>Added definition of "<i>Weekend Fixture</i>" to mean a fixture scheduled to be played on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday and on a Monday where that day is classified as a public holiday.</p>
	13 Feb 07	<p>3.5.1 Players must play five (5) matches for their Club (previously a specific Team) to qualify for a finals series.</p> <p>4.3.1 Removed '5-game' rule for senior competitions. Definitions 'premiership competitions' defined.</p>
1.3	24 Jan 08	<p>3.7.2 Definition of 'Cup tied' modified to read "Team or Club".</p> <p>4.3.1 Player Eligibility modified. Restriction on juniors playing more than five games 'up' removed and players now tied after five games for a team where Club fields more than one Team in a Competition.</p> <p>4.8 Registration cards no longer required.</p> <p>5.2.1 Restrictions on player sent from field clearly defined.</p> <p>5.3.2 Determination of suspensions clearly defined.</p> <p>6.2.2 Protests must be lodged on Club letterhead signed by Club President or Secretary.</p>

6.7.2 and 6.7.3	Timeframes for determination of Protests and advice to Zone Council and Clubs more clearly defined.
6.7.5 and 6.7.6	Refund of Protest fees more clearly defined.
7.3.2	Appeals must be lodged on Club letterhead signed by Club President or Secretary.
7.8.2 and 7.8.3	Timeframes for determination of Appeals and advice to Zone Council and Clubs more clearly defined.
7.8.5 and 7.8.6	Refund of Appeal fees more clearly defined.
A1 Summary	Modified to meet new guidelines for Small Sided Games.