



**FOOTBALL  
SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA**

# **COMPETITION OPERATING REGULATIONS**

## **Specific to Junior Premier and State League Competitions**

**(also applicable to MiniRoos and any Junior Competition Conducted by Football SA)**

Amended, Updated and Implemented

**As of February 2021**

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## **Application**

These Competition Operating Regulations specify the requirements and regulations specific to the Junior Premier League and State League, Junior Cup Competitions, MiniRoos and any junior competition conducted by Football SA. These regulations are to be implemented in conjunction with the Football Australia Statutes and Regulations and Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations.

In the event of inconsistency between these regulations and any other Football Australia or Football SA regulations, the interpretation will prevail in the following order;

- i) Football Australia Statutes
- ii) National Registration Regulations
- iii) National Disciplinary Regulations
- iv) Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations
- v) These Regulations

## **Scope**

These regulations apply to:

- i) participating teams, players and officials participating in the Junior Premier League, State League, Junior Cup Competitions; and
- ii) all Junior Premier League, State League, Cup Competitions and MiniRoo Games and any junior competition conducted by Football SA.

## **Definitions**

### **Abandoned**

Is a fixture which has failed to commence for any reason or did commence but was stopped by the Match Official prior to the game concluding.

### **Amateur Player**

Is any Player that is not a Professional, as defined in article 3.1. of the National Registration Regulations.

### **Away Team**

Is a team or club not playing the fixture or match at its home ground and / or appears second on the fixture list where a match is conducted at a neutral venue.

### **Club**

Means an entity affiliated to Football SA for the purpose of playing football in the Competitions.

### **Club Associate/Official**

Is any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of a Club (whether paid or unpaid), including employees, contractors, directors, representatives and volunteers.

### **Coach**

Is any person with the required coaching qualifications, registered with Football SA and is appointed to a football team.

### **Competition Administrator**

Is a person appointed by Football SA to administer a competition.

### **Competition Fixtures**

Are the matches scheduled and sanctioned by Football SA that form a competition.

**Cup**

Are knockout competitions conducted by Football SA.

**Cup Fixtures**

Are the matches scheduled and sanctioned by Football SA that form a cup competition.

**Football Australia**

Is the governing body for football in Australia.

**Fixture**

Is the scheduling and sanctioning of a game of football involving two teams as part of a competition.

**Football SA**

Is the governing body for football in the state of South Australia.

**Forfeit**

A match or fixture that is awarded to one team due to another team not fulfilling their competition obligations.

**Goal Difference**

Is the difference between the number of goals scored by a team (Goals For) and the number of goals scored against the team (Goals Against).

**Home Team**

Is a Team or Club playing the Fixture or Match at its home ground and/or appearing first on the fixture list in a match that is conducted at a neutral venue.

**Host Club**

Means a Club which hosts competition fixtures at their home venue regardless of whether the club is participating in the fixture.

**Interchange**

Is the ability to replace one player for another player during a game. Interchange permits a player that has been replaced to come back into the game when required.

**Junior Player**

Is a player that is Under 18 and participates in the Football SA Junior Competition.

**Junior Premier League**

Is a league providing competitions across multiple age groups with nomination being restricted to Senior Men's Clubs that are affiliated to Football SA.

**Junior State League**

Is a league providing competitions across multiple age groups and nomination to the league is unrestricted.

**Laws of the Game**

Means the official laws of the game of football and futsal as proclaimed by FIFA.

**Match**

Is a fixture sanctioned by Football SA.

**Match Official**

Is a referee, assistant referee or fourth official who has been appointed by Football SA to take responsibility of a match.

**Match Report**

Is a written report submitted by a Match Official or Club Official providing details relating to a game.

**Participant**

Is a Player, Team Official or Match Official.

**Player**

Is any person who participates in a Match (irrespective of whether he or she is registered with Football Australia, junior or senior or an Amateur or Professional).

**Postponed**

Is a game that has not been played for any reason and is intended to be rescheduled.

**Registered**

Is a person that is registered in accordance with Football SA rules and regulations.

**Spectator**

Is a person that attends a Match.

**Substitution**

Is the ability to replace one player for another player during a game. Once a player has been replaced, the player that has come off, is not permitted to return to the game.

**Suspension**

Is a ban from attending and/or participating in matches and/or competitions sanctioned by Football SA.

**Team**

An individual group of Players and Officials nominated by a Club to represent the Club in a Competition.

**Team Official**

Any person involved with the management, preparation or participation of a Team (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff, other support staff or any other person acting for or on behalf of a Club or association.

**Technical Area**

Is a designated area where team officials and substitutes are located during a game. Minimum requirements of a Technical Area are outlined in relevant Competition Operating Regulations.

**Trial Match**

Is a fixture that is sanctioned by Football SA that is played by two Clubs which does not form part of a Football SA Competition.

## **1. Enforcement of Rules**

The Football SA Junior Premier League (JPL) and the Junior State League (JSL) shall be subject to all of the Football SA Competition Rules, unless specified. These rules are specific to all JPL and JSL competitions conducted by Football SA.

## **2. Team Nomination Requirements**

- (1) Clubs that participate in the Senior Men's Competition are strongly encouraged to field junior teams in line with the National Premier League (NPL) and State League Competition Requirements.
- (2) Clubs that participate in the Senior Men's National Premier League are strongly encouraged to field a team in each of the following JPL age groups and at least one team in each of the MiniRoos age groups
  - (a) JPL Under 12 – Under 16
  - (b) MiniRoos – Under 6 to Under 11
- (3) Clubs that participate in the Senior Men's State League One are strongly encouraged to field the number of teams outlined below in the JPL and MiniRoos competitions:
  - (a) A minimum of three (3) teams across the JPL age groups.
  - (b) A minimum of two (2) teams across the MiniRoos age groups.
- (4) Clubs that participate in the Senior Men's State League Two are strongly encouraged to field junior teams and miniroos teams.
- (5) Clubs that participate in the Senior Men's Competition and any other club may nominate teams into the JSL. There is no restriction on the number of teams that a club can nominate per age group in the JSL.

## **3. Coaching Requirements**

- (1) All coaches appointed to coach within the Junior and Miniroo Competitions must hold a coaching accreditation.
- (2) By Season 2022 the minimum accreditation to coach in the Football SA Junior Competitions is:

(a) Junior Premier League A and B Divisions	AFC C Licence
(b) Junior Premier League C Division and JSL	Game Training Certificate
(c) Miniroos Under 6 – 11	Skill Training Certificate

## **4. Age Eligibility**

- (1) A junior player is defined as a player that is 17 and Under during the year of competition.
- (2) The following age eligibility shall apply to the JPL and JSL: eg 1st January - 31st December each year:
  - (a) Players who turn 17 in the year of competition are eligible to play in the Under 17
  - (b) Players who turn 16 in the year of competition are eligible to play in the Under 16
  - (c) Players who turn 15 in the year of competition are eligible to play in the Under 15

- (d) Players who turn 14 in the year of competition are eligible to play in the Under 14
  - (e) Players who turn 13 in the year of competition are eligible to play in the Under 13
  - (f) Players who turn 12 in the year of competition are eligible to play in the Under 12
- (3) A maximum age for all junior divisions has been set. A player who exceeds the maximum age may only be considered for an exemption to the maximum age based on medical grounds. This may also include players with a learning difficulty. To be eligible for consideration, the club must complete 'Application for a Player to Play Down an Age Group'. This application must also include a letter from a qualified medical practitioner or a teacher. The decision to grant an age exemption will be at the discretion of Football SA based on the application.
- (4) A minimum age to participate in each age group has not been set. The club and parent or carer are responsible for ensuring that the player is played according to their capabilities.
- (5) A participant is eligible to register to play in the Under 6 age group if the participant turns five (5) years of age during the season.

#### **5. Duration of Game:**

- (1) Under 15 to 17                    2 x 40 minutes
- (2) Under 13 to 14                   2 x 35 minutes
- (3) Under 12                            2 x 30 minutes

#### **6. Player Registration**

- (1) All players must be registered to participate in the Football SA Competitions. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that a player is registered prior to them being played.
- (2) The registration of a player is to be completed using the online Football Australia Registration System. A process of self-registration will be used, requiring the player and parent or carer to go online and register. Full details relating to the registration process will be provided to clubs on annual basis.
- (3) All players must be registered each season in accordance with the process notified by Football SA on an annual basis.
- (4) A player can only be registered with one Football SA club.
- (5) A player may register to play with an affiliated junior association team and a Football SA JPL/JSL club.
- (6) A player must be registered in accordance with Sub Clause 5.2, prior to participating in any game in a sanctioned Football SA Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, a player may register at any time leading up to the first competitive game of the season that the player participates in.
- (7) A player may not register with a club after the 30th of June of that season except for new players who have not previously been registered with any Football SA club in that season or as approved by Football SA.

#### **7. League Formation**

- (1) All JPL and JSL divisions in each age group shall be formulated by Football SA on an annual basis following receipt of team nominations. In addition to clubs nominating teams, Football SA

Development Squads may also be included into the competition structure at the discretion of Football SA.

- (2) The number of teams placed into any one league will be at the discretion of Football SA. Where possible, no less than 7 teams and no more than 12 teams will be placed into any one league.
- (3) The promotion and relegation of teams from season to season will be at the discretion of Football SA. Where possible, 2 teams will be promoted, and 2 teams will be relegated.
- (4) Teams that nominate for the JSL will be accommodated where possible in a JSL division. If there are an insufficient number of teams to conduct a viable JSL division, the nominated JSL teams will be placed in the lowest JPL division in that age group.
- (5) The formulation of all JPL and JSL divisions is at the discretion of the Football SA.
- (6) Football SA may utilise grading to allocate teams to leagues.

## **8. Movement of Players**

- (1) A club is not permitted to recruit more than five (5) players from another team that is affiliated with the Football SA competitions. If a club has recruited more than five (5) players from another team, they must demonstrate that there are exceptional circumstances for the Football SA to consider. Any decision will be at the discretion of the Football SA.
- (2) A club may move a maximum of four (4) players from the Junior Premier League to the Junior State League in any given week.
- (3) Where a club has more than one team in any JPL age group, the club may move a maximum of four (4) players between each team at any given time. Please note that this will only apply where Football SA has been unable to accommodate JSL teams and consequently they have been allocated to a JPL league.
- (4) Where a club has more than one team in any JSL age division, the club may move a maximum of four (4) players between each team at any given time.
- (5) Goalkeepers are exempt from this rule and may move in accordance with age eligibility.
- (6) The Football SA in its sole and absolute discretion will determine if a club has breached the player movement rule based on the division that the player may normally participate in.

Breach of the rule – Forfeit of game and Level 2 Fine.

## **9. Match Fixtures and Results**

- (1) If a club wishes to change the date, time and/or venue of a match fixture, the club must submit in writing the requested change and the reasons for the change. This request must be provided to Football SA no later than 14 days prior to the scheduled game. If the request is granted, Football SA will notify the participating clubs via e-mail. Any changes will be at the discretion of Football SA.
- (2) If a club does not submit a request for a change of fixture within the timeframe outlined in 8.1, a change may only be granted if both teams involved in the fixture agree to the requested change



and the requested change is provided to Football SA 7 days prior to the fixture. No requests will be sanctioned by Football SA outside of the 7-day timeframe unless there are exemptional circumstances that exist.

- (3) Final approval for any changes to fixtures will be at the sole and absolute discretion of Football SA.
- (4) The result of all matches must be submitted online in Football SA Competition Management System by the home club by 9:00am the day after the match.
- (5) The scores that are submitted by the clubs are unofficial results. Once Football SA has received the team sheets, these scores will be checked and updated as required.
- (6) A rule relating to goal difference will apply to all Junior Competitions. This rule applies to any results with a goal difference greater than eight (8). These results will be amended so that the goal difference is equal to eight (8).

Example: If the score line is 15 nil, it will be recorded as an 8-0 result. If the score line is 16-2, it will be recorded as a 10-2 result.

## **10. Interchange of Players**

- (1) The JPL and JSL shall permit the interchange of players in all age groups including the Under 17 Age Group.
- (2) In matches where interchange is permitted, the following procedure shall apply:
  - (a) An interchange may only be made in the "interchange zone" which shall be on 1 side of the field of play, extending for 1 metre on either side of the halfway line;
  - (b) A team shall only use an interchange player who is named on the team sheet;
  - (c) An interchange shall only be made when the ball is out of play, or at a stoppage of play and is permitted by the Match Official;
  - (d) When making an interchange, the following conditions shall be observed:
    - (i) the player leaving the field shall do so by crossing over the interchange zone;
    - (ii) the interchange player shall not enter the field until the player leaving the field has passed completely over the interchange zone;
    - (iii) the interchange player shall enter the field by crossing over the interchange zone; and
    - (iv) when the interchange is complete, the interchange player becomes a player and the player who was replaced ceases to be a player.
  - (e) The number of interchanges that may be made during a match is unlimited, a player who has been replaced may return to the field by being interchanged for another player; and
  - (f) The referee may caution any interchange player who enters the field of play before the player being replaced has completely left the field. An Interchange player may also be cautioned if they enter the field from a place other than the interchange zone.

## **11. Non-Attendance of a Referee**

- (1) Where possible, Football SA will appoint a Referee to all junior fixtures excluding miniroos.

- (2) If a Referee is not appointed to a game, Football SA will, where possible, notify all clubs prior to the fixture being played.
- (3) Where possible a Referee will be appointed to all U15JPL, U16JPL and U17JPL games. In the absence of an appointed referee, if both teams are in agreement, the game can be played with the appointment of a club referee. Where both teams are not in agreement the game is not to proceed. The preference is always for the game to be played. If both teams agree to play the game and the game is completed, the result will stand unless Football SA determine that a breach of a rule has occurred.
- (4) If an appointed Referee does not attend the match, both clubs must inform Football SA within 48 hours of the scheduled fixture.
- (5) In the absence of an appointed Referee, except in the case of Under 15, 16 and 17 JPL, the two teams shall undertake the following process:
  - (a) Prior to all games, Football SA will, where possible, notify all clubs via e-mail of the games that will not receive an appointed Referee;
  - (b) Where a Referee is not appointed, the **home team** will appoint a Club Referee. A team has no right to request the match be postponed due to the appointment of a Club Referee. Any team who refuses to take the field of play shall be deemed to have committed a breach of Rule 30, Walk-Offs, page 17 of the Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations;
  - (c) If a club referee is appointed, they must ensure that both teams have completed a team sheet;
  - (d) The club referee must ensure that they receive the team sheets from both teams prior to the commencement of the game. No game should proceed until the team sheets have been provided;
  - (e) The club referee has the same decision-making capacity as an officially appointed referee. This means that they can enforce cautions, send-offs and submit any reports regarding team and/or spectator behaviour and
  - (f) On completion of the game, the club referee must ensure that the team sheet is completed by including, where required:
    - (i) Goal scorers
    - (ii) Cautions and red cards
    - (iii) Player injuries
- (6) The home team is responsible for obtaining the team sheets from the referee and forwarding them to Football SA within 48 hours.
- (7) A club that has a grievance or complaint following a game where there has been no appointed Match Official must submit a report to the Football SA within 48 hours.

## **12. Minimum Ground Requirements**

- (1) Clubs shall have sufficient pitches for the teams nominated (eg. 1 pitch for every 4 teams in Under 13 to Under 17 divisions).

- (2) For player and public safety, adjacent pitches shall have at least 3 metres space between each pitch, unless approved by the Competition Administrator;
- (3) Must have a minimum size field in accordance with the Laws of the Games and MiniRoos requirements;
- (4) Changing room facilities accommodating for the home team, away team and Match Officials;
- (5) Club grounds shall have female and male toilet facilities, and designated non-smoking areas and alcohol-free areas;
- (6) Club grounds must enable emergency vehicles to gain access to all fields;
- (7) The club must have a fully supplied first aid kit for each team that they field and a designated person, with first aid qualifications, to administer the first aid;
- (8) If there is no spectator fence fully enclosing the playing field for Junior matches, Under 6 – 17, the home club shall mark a boundary line not less than 2 metres outside the touch lines and the goal lines. It is recommended that spectators are located behind a physical barrier i.e. roping of the sideline; and
- (9) Where there is no spectator fence, spectators where possible are to be located on the opposite side to the technical areas. Where this is not practical, spectators are to be located at least a minimum of 5 metres from the technical areas.

### **13. Match Balls**

- (1) All clubs must use the match ball type and brand as stipulated by the Football SA on an annual basis.
- (2) Each team must use the match ball size suitable to the age group:

(a)	Under 6-7	Size 3
(b)	Under 8-9	Size 3
(c)	Under 10 - 12	Size 4
(d)	Under 13 and above	Size 5

## **JUNIOR CUP COMPETITION RULES**

### **14. Player Eligibility**

- (1) Players can only play for one club in all Cup Competitions.
- (2) Players shall not be permitted to be listed in a semi-final or final of the Junior Cup Competition unless they have been named on the team sheet in at least one match in an earlier cup round of that same age cup competition. Where a team progresses directly into the semi-final without playing a game, this rule is not applicable.
- (3) Where a club may not have sufficient players to field a team in a semi-final or final due to injury or illness, a club may request an exemption to Sub Clause 13.2 by submitting a request to Football SA requesting to name additional players. If an exemption is granted, the club may only be permitted to move players up from a lower or equal age group. Any decision is at the sole and absolute discretion of Football SA.

## 15. Movement of Players

- (1) For all Junior Cup Competitions, players shall be permitted to move up an age group, but once the player has moved up to a higher age group they shall not be permitted to move back down to the lower age group.
- (2) If a Club has two teams in the same age group, once a player has played for one team, they shall be permitted to move from the JSL to the JPL. Once the player has moved up and played in the JPL, they are not permitted to move back down to the JSL in the same age group.
- (3) Players are not permitted to participate in the Junior Cup Competition if they have participated in a Senior Cup Competition, being the Under 18s, Reserves or Football Australia Cup. Goalkeepers are exempt from this rule and may participate in the Junior Cup Competition if age eligible.
- (4) A goalkeeper is not cup tied and may play for another team if age eligible. This rule only applies provided they play as a goalkeeper.

Breach of Rule – Forfeit of Game and Level 2 Fine

## 16. Match Duration and Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match

- (1) Match Durations for all Cup Competitions shall be the same as League matches as specified in Clause 4 of these regulations.
- (2) In the event of a draw at the end of normal time in all Junior Cup Competitions, 10 minutes of extra time each way will be played. If the game is still drawn at the end of extra time, the result shall be decided by penalty kicks in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

## 17. Disciplinary Provisions

- (1) A player who receives three (3) yellow cards during the cup competition shall be suspended for one (1) match. The suspension is to be served in the next round of the cup competition in that season. If the team is no longer participating in the cup competition, the player is to serve the suspension in the next competitive cup competition.

Penalty - \$25.00 Fine

- (2) All yellow cards will be reset prior to the commencement of the semi-finals unless the player has received a suspension due to the accumulation of yellow cards. If a player receives a suspension due to the accumulation of yellow cards, the suspension will be served in the semi-final or if the team has been knocked out of the cup, in the next competitive cup competition match.
- (3) All yellow cards will be cancelled at the conclusion of the cup competition. If a player receives a suspension due to the accumulation of yellow cards, the suspension will be served in the next competitive cup competition match.
- (4) A player who receives a Red Card during the cup competition shall be suspended in accordance with the National Disciplinary Regulations and the suspension shall be served in the next competitive game/s.

Penalty - \$50.00 per red card

**18. Match Official Payments**

The home team is responsible for the payment of Match Officials for all games except the semi-finals and final, which will be the responsibility of Football SA.

**19. MiniRoos Guidelines**

Please refer to the MiniRoos Guidelines for Under 6 to Under 11 [here](#).

**Penalties and Fines**

**19. Scale of Penalties**

Unless otherwise specified in the rules and regulations, the following penalties will be applied.

**Level 1 fine** A fine of \$50.00 for the first offence and \$100.00 for a second offence within 12 months.

**Level 2 fine** A fine of \$100.00 for a first offence and a fine of \$200.00 for a second offence within 12 months.

**Level 3 fine** A fine of \$200.00 for the first offence and a fine of \$300.00 for the second offence within 12 months.

**Level 4 fine** A fine of \$500.

**Level 5 fine** A fine of \$1,000

**20. Summary of Fines**

Penalties relating to breaches of rules and regulations and operating guidelines are stipulated at the end of each rule or regulation where a penalty is applicable. The above scale of penalty is to be implemented unless otherwise stated.

(1) **Withdrawal of Teams**

- (a) Prior to the generation of fixtures;  
JPL – 31 December  
JSL - 1 February  
MiniRoos – 1 March

Penalty: Level 3 Fine – For JPL / JSL / MiniRoos

- (b) Post nomination submission as outlined above  
Penalty: Level 4 Fine – For JPL  
Level 3 Fine - JSL / MiniRoos

- (c) Following the commencement of the season  
Penalty: Level 5 Fine –JPL  
Level 4 Fine – JSL/MiniRoos

(2) **Junior Competitions Forfeit of Games**

A club that forfeits a game will incur a fine. The amount of the fine will vary depending on if the club has provided notification or no notification to Football SA and the number of games that the team has forfeited during the season. The following fine schedule will apply to all games that are forfeited. Football SA may at its absolute discretion not implement a forfeit penalty if there are exceptional circumstances

- (a) No Notification to Football SA – Junior Premier League  
Level 3 Fine plus half the referee fees
  - (b) No Notification to Football SA– Junior State League  
Level 2 Fine plus half the referee fees
  - (c) Forfeit of an away game to a regional team will incur a forfeit of the game, a deduction of 3 competition points and a level 3 fine.
  - (d) Notification to Football SA – Junior Premier League  
Level 2 Fine
  - (e) Notification to Football SA – Junior State League  
Level 2 Fine
- (3) **MiniRoos - Cancellation of Game**  
A club that cancels any MiniRoos game will incur a Level 1 Fine
- (4) **Participation of an Unregistered, Ineligible and/or Suspended Player or Team Official.**
- |          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| JPL      | Level 3 Fine |
| JSL      | Level 2 Fine |
| MiniRoos | Level 1 Fine |

The fine outlined above is in addition to the penalty outlined in the Competition Rules and Regulations for playing an unregistered, ineligible and/or suspended player.

- (5) **Team Sheets**
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (a) Incomplete Team Sheets                          | \$25.00 per offence JPL/JSL  |
| (b) Altering a team sheet once a game has commenced | Level 2 Fine   |
| (c) Playing a player not listed on the team sheet   | Forfeit of the game and a Level 3 for JPL and Level 2 Fine for JSL |
| (d) Not providing a Team Sheet                      | Forfeit of the game and a Level 2 Fine                             |
- (6) **Match Balls**
- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Use of Incorrect Match Balls | Level 3 Fine - JPL<br>Level 2 Fine – JSL<br>Level 1 Fine - MiniRoos |
|------------------------------|---|
- (7) **Ground Stewards**
- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Not providing required number of Ground Stewards             | Level 2 Fine - JPL          |
| As outlined in Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations | Level 1 Fine - JSL/MiniRoos |
- (8) **Yellow and Red Card Fines**
- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| League Accumulation of 5, 8, 11, 14 and 17 Yellow Cards<br><i>No fine is to be paid if 5 cards are not received</i> | \$25.00 for each offence |
| Cup Competition Accumulation of Yellow Cards  | \$25 for each offence    |

Red Card issued to player	\$50 for each offence
Dismissal of a Team Official from the Technical Area	\$50 for each offence

(9) **Appeals**

A club may appeal a decision of the Football SA or Disciplinary and Appeals Committee. If the appeal is successful, that is the Disciplinary and Appeal Committee finds that there has been no breach of Competition Rules and Regulations and imposes no sanctions, Football SA will reimburse 100% of the appeal fee.

Example 1                      A club appeals the findings of the Competition Department, a player is issued with a three-match suspension for a R1 offence. The Appeal Committee on hearing the evidence reduces the sanction to two matches. This would not constitute a reimbursement of the Appeal Fee as a sanction is recorded.

Example 2                      A club appeals the findings of a Disciplinary Committee who implemented a \$1000.00 fine for breach of spectator code of conduct. The Appeal Committee on hearing the evidence finds that the club undertook every possible action to prevent the breach and is found not guilty. The club would be entitled to a refund of the Appeal Fee.

Appeal Fee                      \$250.00