



FOOTBALL
SOUTH
AUSTRALIA

Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations

Amended, Updated and Implemented

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A. 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.

Affiliated Association

An Association that is aligned to Football SA and adheres to the rules, regulations, and policies of Football SA.

Amateur Player

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

Amateur Competition

A competition that does not have any professional registered players.

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.

Board

Is the Directors of Football SA appointed or elected from time to time.

Club

Means an entity affiliated to or Licenced 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.

Competitions

Is any or all the football fixtures, matches or competitions conducted by Football SA.

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 the competition.

Constitution

Is the constitution of Football SA.

Cup

Is a competition conducted by Football SA which includes, but is not limited to, the Football Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds, Federation Cup, Girls and Women's Cups and Junior Cups.

Cup Fixtures

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

Field of Play

Is the area that meets the competition requirements to play a fixture or match.

FIFA

Is the Federation Internationale de Football Association, the governing body for football internationally.

Final

Is a fixture or match that will determine the winner of a competition.

First Team

Is the highest-grade team that represents a club in any competition.

Fixture

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

Football Australia

Is the governing body for football in Australia.

Football SA

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

Forfeit

Is 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).

Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations

Means the regulations utilised by Football SA to address grievances and disciplinary matters.

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.

Laws of the Game

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

League

Is a competition conducted and sanctioned by Football SA comprised of specific gender and age grades.

Manager

Is a Person registered with Football SA and is appointed to administer aspect of a Team's training and game requirements.

Match

Is a fixture sanctioned by Football SA and played.

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.

Misconduct

Inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour that does not comply with the Football Australia and/or Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations, Policies, Code of Conducts or any other document governing the sport.

National Premier League

Is a National Competition conducted by Member Federations for Senior Men. It is the second-tier of competition to that of the A-League.

Participant

Is a Player, Team Official or Match Official.

Played

Is a game that has been completed or is a player that has participated in a game.

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.

Professional Competition

A competition where there is at least one (1) professional player registered.

Professional Player

Is a player registered with a Club under a written contract to play football for payment.

Promotion

Occurs when a team has fulfilled the requirements of the Competition Rules and Regulations to be transferred to the next highest division.

Registered

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

Relegation

Occurs when a team has fulfilled the requirements of the Competition Rules and Regulations to be transferred to the next lowest division.

Representative Team

Is a team that is selected to represent the State or Nation.

Season

Is the duration of a Competition, from the commencement of the first game to the conclusion of the last game.

Senior Men's Competition

Means the National Premier League, State League 1 and 2 Competitions conducted by Football SA and comprises of Under 18s, Reserves and Senior Grade Teams.

Spectator

Is a person that attends a Match.

State League 1

Is a Senior Men's Competition conducted by Football SA that sits underneath the National Premier League.

State League 2

Is a Senior Men's Competition conducted by Football SA that sits underneath State League 1.

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

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

Team Official

Is 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. Team Names

- (1) Each Club shall register its Team Name and logo with Football SA.
- (2) No Club shall register or use any Team Name or logo which has not been approved by Football SA.
- (3) All teams of a Club shall use and be known by the Club's registered Team Name.
- (4) The Team Name and logo must be in accordance with the Football Australia National Club Identity Policy.
- (5) Any Club which in the opinion of Football SA has a Team Name or logo which does not comply with the preceding Sub-Clause shall change its Team Name or logo within two (2) calendar months of being requested to do so by Football SA.
- (6) Any club that does not adhere to sub-clause 1-5 will be prohibited from participating until they are compliant.

2. Nomination Form

- (1) Each Club shall nominate to participate in competitions conducted by Football SA on the prescribed form as required and provided by Football SA.
- (2) Once the nomination form is submitted, if a club makes any changes to the information contained on the form, any changes must be immediately notified to the competition administrator.
- (3) All new clubs are required to complete the Football Australia Application for Registration of Football Club – **Prescribed Form NRR02**. This form must be completed and submitted with any required nomination form.

3. Financial Obligations

- (1) Each club and affiliated association shall abide by Football SA financial obligations as determined by Football SA. Notification of the fees to be paid by clubs will be provided on an annual basis.
- (2) All membership fees and any outstanding accounts due to Football SA shall be paid within 30 days of invoicing or as stipulated by Football SA
- (3) No teams or players will be permitted to be registered unless the club and affiliated association are financial.
- (4) Failure to adhere to sub-clause 2 will result in a club being sent a reminder notice to settle the account.
- (5) A club that fails to settle the account within 60 days from the invoice date (“the default date”) will incur a debtor management fee (“the fee”):
 - (a) The fee will be calculated as a one-off fee, being 10% of the invoices total value unpaid after 60 days.
 - (b) If a club anticipates that it will have difficulty paying the account with in the 60 day period then a payment arrangement may be negotiated with the Football SA subject to:

- I. The request for payment arrangement being agreed to by Football SA prior to the default date; and
- II. The club agreeing to the payment arrangement being a direct debit from their nominated bank account

NOTE: If the club falls into arrears with its payment arrangement then the debtor management fee will be immediately applied and will be calculated from the default date.

- (6) At the time the debtor management fee is applied, Football SA will issue a 21-day notice to settle the outstanding account (including Debtor Management Fee). If the club fails to pay the amount within 21 days, 3 competition points will be deducted from the clubs most senior side. In addition, any games played whilst the account remains unpaid will be for no competition points.
- (7) If at the end of a season a team has been promoted but the club has not paid all amounts owing to Football SA by 31 October of each year, the team shall not be promoted.
- (8) If the deduction of any points under clause (6) results in a team or teams being relegated, the relegation will stand even if the outstanding monies are subsequently paid.

4. Club Colours and Playing Strip

- (1) All Clubs shall register their playing strip with Football SA
- (2)
 - (a) Each Club shall register its colours, logo and the design of its first choice playing strip and its alternative playing strip with Football SA including a photograph of each of the full playing strips.
 - (b) The alternative playing strip shall be of a different colour to the home team playing strip, to avoid a clash between the home and visiting teams. A club's alternative playing strip must include a change of colour for shirts, shorts and socks. Where possible the club should have one light coloured strip and one dark coloured strip. If a club intends to have a third playing strip, this must be registered with Football SA.
 - (c) The registration of Club playing strips shall be subject to the prior approval of the Football SA.
 - (d) Priority of registration shall determine the exclusive right to wear the playing strip.
 - (e) Any Club intending to make changes to its playing strips including the colours or design shall apply to Football SA giving full details of the proposed new strips or alterations.
 - (f) Football SA shall refuse its approval if in the opinion of the Competition Administrator the proposed new, or changed, playing strip is not sufficiently different from that of any other Club.
- (3) Playing strips must be numbered on the back of the shirt with each shirt displaying a different number. As a guide each number should be 25cm to 35cm in height and 3cm to 5cm in thickness.
- (4)
 - (a) If required by Football SA, Clubs playing in any competition shall wear on their playing strips the name, logo, emblem or other mark of any sponsor of Football SA or the competition.

- (b) The logo of Football SA is to be placed on the playing shirt of all teams that compete in Football SA Competitions. The logo is to be placed on the shirt in accordance with the relevant Competition Operating Regulations. Where the Competition Operating Regulations do not specify, the Football SA logo is to be placed on the breast of the shirt or the left sleeve and is to be 60mm x 60mm in size.
 - (c) The only logos to appear on the playing shirts of the players, including the goalkeeper shirt, are to be the Football SA logo, club logo and competition and/or sponsor logos as outlined by Football SA.
 - (d) Any sponsorship logos placed on junior playing strips must be age appropriate. For example, logos advertising gambling or alcohol are not permitted.
- (5)
- (a) The goalkeeper's shirts or uniforms must be clearly distinguishable from, and not contain any of the basic colours of, the playing shirt of the other players of their team or the opposing team.
 - (b) The goalkeeper may wear shorts and socks of the same colour and design as his own team.
- (6) Clubs which are not playing at home shall take their first choice and their alternative playing strips to the ground where the match will be played.
- (7) If, in the opinion of the Match Official of any match, the uniforms of the teams or goalkeepers taking part are not sufficiently different, the Match Official shall direct the **away team**, or the goalkeeper of the **away team**, to change to the nominated alternative playing strip or to make such other change as the Match Official deem appropriate for the match.
- (8)
- (a) A Club in breach of Clause 4 (1) – (5) shall be issued with a Level 2 Fine (refer to the relevant Competition Operating Regulations for fines).
 - (b) A forfeit penalty and a level 2 fine will be imposed for breach of the following rules:
 - (i) a Competition Fixture does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that such Club or Team did not comply with Rule 4 (7).
 - (ii) a Club changed their playing strip without notifying Football SA five (5) days prior to the competition fixture and Football SA endorsed the use of the playing strip and the change results in a Competition Fixture being postponed due to a strip clash.

5. Insurance

- (1) All clubs shall ensure they have the necessary insurance cover for their club. All clubs must ensure they have current public liability, personal accident insurance, directors and officer's insurance policies and other insurance coverage as Football SA may prescribe from time to time. If the insurance cover is not provided through Football SA, the onus is on the club to ensure they have the required insurance cover and provide details to Football SA on an annual basis. Failure to comply may result in the club's deregistration by Football SA.

- (2) Football SA will provide personal accident insurance and other types of insurances as determined, on a yearly basis to clubs as part of their membership application and registration. This personal accident insurance will cover all players and club officials including club volunteers.
- (3) Football SA will provide details of each of the insurance policies to clubs on an annual basis. This information will also provide details on how a club or individual person may make an insurance claim.

6. Clubs to Field Teams

- (1) All clubs that field a team/s in a Football SA Competition, agree to abide by Football Australia Statutes, including the National Registration Regulations, National Disciplinary Regulations, National Code of Conduct, Grievance Resolution Regulations and all related Football SA Rules, Regulations and Competition Operating Regulations.
- (2) The National Training Centre (NTC) squads and Football SA Development Squads may enter team/s into the competitions on approval of Football SA.

7. School Football

Where a junior player is selected to play for a school team the player shall have a first obligation to play in his or her school team except where the player is a registered professional player and is selected to play for his or her Club.

8. Player/Club Relations

- (1) Each club shall inform and make available to all players copies of:
 - (a) FIFA laws of the game:
 - (b) Football Australia and Football SA Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures and Codes of Conduct:
 - (c) the club rules and regulations, policies and procedures and codes of conducts:
 - (d) any agreement entered with the player.

9. Termination of Professional Player Contracts

Refer to Football Australia National Registration Regulations [here](#).

10. Suspension of Players by Clubs

Refer to Football Australia National Registration Regulations [here](#).

11. Appeals

Refer to Football Australia Grievance Resolution Regulations and Football Disciplinary and Grievance Regulations.

GROUNDS

12. Ground Registrations

- (1) All Clubs shall register their playing grounds with Football SA.
- (2) Clubs must be committed to the development of their grounds and facilities and must fulfil the minimum standards, as outlined in the relevant Competition Operating Regulations to compete in the relevant competition. Football SA at its discretion, may provide a specific timeframe for clubs to fulfil the ground requirements.
- (3) All grounds may be inspected annually, and Football SA will notify Clubs of any deficiencies at the club's ground that must be remedied as specified by Football SA.
- (4) Football SA shall require any Club that does not remedy any deficiency within the specified timeframe as outlined by Football SA, to play its home matches at the ground of another club as approved by Football SA until the deficiencies have been remedied and the ground has been inspected and passed by Football SA.
- (5) If a club does not meet the ground criteria requirements of the relevant competition, Football SA may direct the club to play at an alternative venue approved by Football SA or not permit entry into the competition.

13. Ground Facilities and Club Signage

Clubs and affiliated associations should provide appropriate and suitable playing facilities to a minimum standard. Football SA has set minimum facility requirements for all Senior Men's Competitions and Elite Women's Competitions. Please refer to the minimum standards relating to these competitions available on the Football SA website.

- (1) A maximum of ten (10) people shall be permitted in their team's technical area unless otherwise specified in the relevant Competition Operating Regulations. This includes five (5) registered team officials and no more than five (5) substitute players. No team official is permitted to be in the technical area unless they have registered in the National Registration System.

Penalty – A fine will be implemented in accordance with the relevant Competition Operating Regulations.

- (2) Clubs shall prominently display appropriate signage:
 - (a) stating that it is an offence for unauthorised persons to be inside the fence of the field of play and to go on to the field of play:
 - (b) stating that it is an offence for unauthorised persons to enter the dressing rooms:
 - (c) indicating the location of the First Aid areas for players, officials and the public during training and competitions; and
 - (d) to promote Football SA and such Sponsors as Football SA may determine from time to time.

Any club who breaches the signage rules shall be subject to a Level 2 fine.

Any club who breaches the sponsor's signage rules may incur a loss of league points and be subject to a Level 4 fine minimum.

14. Facilities and Ground Arrangements

- (1) Each Club must ensure that it complies fully with the criteria set out below:
 - (a) Any club which does not meet the minimum criteria for each relevant competition will not be eligible for entry or promotion into that competition in accordance with the relevant Competition Operating Regulations.
 - (b) Clubs that do not comply with these criteria within the specified timeframe as outlined by Football SA of each season will not be eligible for promotion into a higher-grade competition.
 - (c) Football SA may grant special dispensation to clubs who are in the process of upgrading their facilities in accordance with Football SA's requirements however this will be at the discretion of the Football SA and in a timely manner so that all requirements are fulfilled prior to the commencement of any season.

15. Installation of Goals

It is the responsibility of all clubs to ensure they provide a safe environment for their participants. To minimise risk and to prevent Injury, football goals are to be constructed and installed to the correct safety standards. The main areas of concern are:

- (1) Construction of goal frames for either fixed or portable use:
 - (a) Securing and stabilising of the goal frame:
 - (b) Securing of the net to both the goal frame and the ground:
 - (c) The net.
- (2) **Fixed Football Goals**

All football goals installed as a permanent structure on a football field must be properly secured, installed at the regulation width and height, as per the Laws of the Game, and should have no sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.
- (3) **Portable Football Goals**

If a Club uses portable goals for training or competition, it must ensure that these goals conform to the current Standards Australia Handbook HB227-2003 for "Portable Football Goalposts — Manufacture, use and storage". The manufacturer of portable goals should provide the Club with a certificate of conformity. All portable goals must carry a goal post warning sticker. These stickers and further information can be obtained from Football SA.

16. Use of Line Marking Substance

- (1) Pesticides, herbicides and other products such as 'Round Up' can be harmful to a person's health and may also cause damage to the playing surface. As a rule, such products should not be used under any circumstances.

- (2) Products such as agricultural limestone, or water-based spray paint or other similar material which will not endanger ground users or damage turf grasses are the substances that should only be used for line marking. All clubs should ensure they consult with their local council relating to permitted substances to be used in the marking of fields.
- (3) To ensure the safety of all players, match officials and spectators, any club found to be in breach of these requirements, will not be able to play any home matches until the breach has been rectified or Football SA grants dispensation from these requirements.

Penalty

- (4) Any home club whose match is postponed/abandoned due to the use of prohibited substances for marking their grounds (as above), will forfeit the match to the opposing team with a three (3) goals to nil (0) score line being recorded. The Home Club will also incur a forfeit fine as outlined in the relevant Competition Operating Regulations.

For more information on required ground facilities refer to the relevant Football SA Competition Operating Regulations.

17. Change of Grounds

- (1) No Club shall change its playing ground without the permission of Football SA.
- (2) Any Club which desires to change its ground shall apply to Football SA giving full particulars of the proposed new ground.
- (3) All requests for changes of grounds are subject to approval by Football SA in accordance with the minimum ground requirements of the competition.

18. Match Venue

The venue of any match shall not be changed by the competing Clubs without the prior permission of the Competition Administrator.

19. Marking Field of Play

- (1) Each Club shall keep and maintain its grounds in the best possible condition.
- (2) (a) The Club on whose ground a match is to be played shall mark and equip the field of play in accordance with the Laws of the Game and shall re-mark the field of play during the interval if so directed by the Referee.

Penalty

If a game is not played due to the match official determining the field is not marked according to the Laws of the Game, the host team will forfeit the game three (3) goals to nil (0) and incur a forfeit fine in accordance with the relevant Competition Operating Regulations. The penalty may not be applied if Football SA determines that the marking of the field was outside of the control of the host club.

- (b) Where a ground is not surrounded by a spectator fence, a boundary line shall be marked not less than one (1) metre from the sideline of the field on the opposite side to the Technical Areas. Spectators are only permitted to be on the side where the boundary line is marked.

- (c) Any official, spectator or other person who enters within the boundary line shall be deemed to have entered the field of play and may be deemed to have breached the Code of Conduct and relevant Rules and Regulations.

20. Use of Club Grounds

- (1) Football SA may from time to time use the ground or grounds of any Club for any special match or matches except where such use is not permitted under the terms of a Club's lease of the ground.
- (2) In default of agreement, Football SA shall negotiate the amount to be paid to the Club for the use of its ground or grounds provided the amount shall not be less than the prescribed amount for an enclosed ground in good condition.
- (3) Where a match is played at a neutral venue, the teams involved in the match may be required to pay a ground hire fee. This fee will be set by the venue. Gate and canteen revenue will remain with the venue unless otherwise negotiated.

21. Laws of the Game

All Football matches organised or authorised by Football SA or any affiliated associations and all matches played by any Club, Affiliated Association or any Affiliated Association shall be played under and in accordance with:

- (a) the Laws of the Game of Association Football as laid down by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and all additions, alterations and amendments thereto from time to time of which notice is given by the Football Australia and/or Football SA to Clubs, members and Affiliated Associations; and
- (b) the Competition Rules and Regulations and related policies and Competition Operating Regulations of Football Australia and Football SA.

22. Control of Competitions and Matches

- (1) No person other than the participating players, team officials, Match Officials, and ground stewards shall be permitted inside the spectator fence or boundary line as per Clause 19 (2) while a match is in progress.
- (2) Each team shall provide at each match the required number of ground steward/s per team, in accordance with competition requirements. Please refer to relevant competition operating regulations.
- (3) No person other than the participating players, and the Match Officials shall enter the field of play while a match is in progress unless medical personnel are directed to enter the field of play by the match official in accordance with Clause 24.
- (4) Only the substitutes and registered team officials shall occupy their team's technical area.

- (5) No person shall coach a team from within the spectator fence or boundary line, other than the appointed coaches of the competing teams, who may coach their players from their club's technical area.
- (6) In this Clause, a club's technical area means the area in front of the club's substitutes' bench plus one (1) meter on either side of the bench and extending to a distance one (1) metre from the touch line.
- (7)
 - (a) No person other than team members/officials shall enter the teams dressing rooms.
 - (b) No person other than the Match Officials shall enter the Match Official's dressing room except with the permission of the Match Official.

23. Ground Stewards

- (1) All teams must provide a minimum of one (1) person to act in the role of Ground Steward for all Football SA sanctioned games except in the case of Football SA Senior Men's First Grade and Reserve Grade Games, where three (3) people from each team must be appointed to the role of Ground Steward. Prior to the commencement of each game, the Ground Steward/s are required to introduce themselves to the Match Official.
- (2) If the required number of ground stewards are not provided, the Match Official will not commence the game. If the game is unable to be commenced within the allotted time, 15 minutes after the nominated kick-off time, the Match Official will abandon the game. Process relating to abandonment of games will be implemented. Refer to Clause 29.
- (3) Ground Stewards must be 18 years of age and over and are responsible for undertaking the following role:
 - (a) Ensuring that only players and officials are within the technical areas:
 - (b) Accompanying Match Officials on and off the field of play:
 - (c) Ensuring the Football Australia Spectator Code of Conduct is being implemented with **THEIR OWN SUPPORTERS**. If a spectator is not behaving in accordance to the Football Australia Spectator Code of Conduct, a Ground Steward may approach the person and remind him/her of the requirements. Neutral spectators, spectators that are not aligned to either team participating, the Ground Stewards from the home team will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the Football Australia Spectator Code of Conduct with these spectators:
 - (d) Assisting Match Officials as requested; and
 - (e) Submitting a written report to Football SA, where applicable, reporting any inappropriate behaviour.
- (4) Grounds Stewards should not at any time engage in any verbal or physical altercations. A Ground Steward may approach a person that is associated with **THEIR CLUB** and make a request to that person, however if this is not followed, the Ground Steward should submit a report to Football SA outlining the incident. All Ground Stewards are responsible for their **OWN SPECTATORS**, Ground

Stewards **should not** become involved with the opposition spectators. If spectators from the opposing club are not behaving in accordance with the Football Australia Spectator Code of Conduct and no action is being taken by that clubs ground stewards, a report should be submitted to Football SA during normal business hours within 48 hours of the match to which the report relates.

- (5) While acting in the role of a Ground Steward, the person must not consume alcohol or smoke.
- (6) All reports must be completed and submitted on the Ground Steward Report Template and shall be submitted to the Football SA during normal business hours within 48 hours of the match to which the report relates

On receipt of the report, the relevant competition coordinator will determine what action is required. Please note that further information may be sought from the Ground Steward.

- (7) Once the report has been actioned and an outcome is known, this information will be provided to the Club that the ground steward represented.
- (8) **Penalty** – A sanction will be applied to a club that does not provide the required number of Ground Stewards and/or the Ground Stewards do not fulfil the role as outlined above when appointed. Refer to the relevant Competition Operating Regulations
- (9) Football SA and/or Disciplinary Committee has the discretionary power to require a club to allocate more Ground Stewards where the club has been reported for inappropriate behaviour.

24. Medical Requirements

- (1) Each Club shall ensure medical personnel are appointed and in attendance at games in accordance with the relevant Competition Operating Regulations. Where no requirements are stipulated, the club must have a person that holds a minimum of a senior first aid qualification in attendance.
- (2) No medical personnel shall enter the field of play except with the permission of the Match Official and for the purpose of attending an injured player.
- (3) Each club must ensure that an appropriate stretcher is available at the venue. A stretcher should only be used under the direction of qualified medical personnel.
- (4) All clubs that participate in Football SA competitions must have a defibrillator installed at their venue/s and ensure that it is maintained fit for purpose.

25. Unauthorised Matches and Tours

- (1) Prior to participating in any match outside of the scheduled Football SA fixtures, the club must obtain written permission from Football SA.
- (2) No club, team or player from any Club, shall take part in any pre-season trial or practice match against another club unless:
 - (a) all players taking part in the match are registered with the Club for which they play or are on trial with that club.

- (b) the match is played under and in accordance with the Laws of the Game and Football SA Rules, and Regulations as well as related policy guidelines. Where possible, the match is also to be played under the control of a registered Match Official; and
 - (c) each club taking part in the match prepares a detailed team sheet and submits it to the Match Official, where applicable at least 30 minutes prior to kick off. The team sheets are to be submitted to Football SA by the club or Match Official within 48 hours of the end of the match.
- (3) If a club, team, player or official participates in an unauthorised match or in any match which contravenes sub-Clause (1) or (2), the Club or individual shall be liable to such penalty as determined by Football SA or appointed committee.
- (4) Contravention of sub-Clause (1) or (2) means that the club, team, player or official shall not be covered by insurance benefits provided through Football SA.

26. Match Results - Inducements

No Club or official, player or member of any Club shall give or receive, or attempt to give or receive, any inducement to or from any person to wrongfully affect or influence the result of any match. Any Club who breaches this match rule shall be liable to such penalties as determined by Football SA or any appointed committee.

27. Match Result - Protests

- (1) Any protest on the result of a match shall be in writing and shall be submitted to Football SA within 48 hours of the end of the match to which the protest relates.
- (2) No protest may be made with regards to a decision of a match official. The decision of the match official is a decision of fact. No admitted or proved error can lead to the questioning of the result of the match.
- (3) Protests shall be heard and determined by Football SA or any such Committee or person as Football SA may appoint.

28. Disturbances

- (1) If any match is abandoned or terminated before the completion of the time specified in the Laws of the Game or the relevant competition regulations because of a disturbance involving players, officials or spectators, the case shall be referred to Football SA or any such committee or person as it may appoint for determination.
- (2) Both clubs shall be responsible for taking all possible measures to ensure the orderly behaviour of the crowd and the safety of the match officials, players and the team officials of the participating teams.
- (3) All Clubs and affiliated associations shall be responsible for the behaviour of their players, club officials and supporters whether at their home ground, at their opponent's ground or at a neutral ground.

- (4) (a) If at any game, a club official or a spectator:
- (i) uses abusive, threatening or insulting language;
 - (ii) interferes with a Match Official in any way; or
 - (iii) enters the field of play,
- The Match Official may:
- (i) stop the game; and
 - (ii) confer with the officials of the teams participating in the game; and
 - (iii) require the exclusion of the official or spectator from the ground before re-starting the game.
- (b) If after speaking with the club officials the game cannot be restarted due to the behaviour of the spectators or officials, the match official may abandon the game.
- (5) Where a match is abandoned or terminated under this rule or the Match Official stops a game under this rule, the Match Official shall include details of the matter in the match report.

29. Abandoned Matches

- (1) If any fixture is abandoned or terminated before the completion of the time specified in the Laws of the Game or relevant competition guidelines for any reason whatsoever, the Clubs whose teams took part in the fixture shall within 48 hours of the game, submit a full report in writing to the Competition Administrator.
- (2) Football SA or any appointed Disciplinary Committee shall have discretionary power to determine the outcome of any abandoned game. Where the abandonment of a game has occurred due to events outside of the control of the teams involved, the result of an abandoned match may stand if at least 75% of the game has been completed.
- (3) If a match is abandoned prior to or at half time, all Match Officials will be entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee. If the match is abandoned once the second half has commenced, all match officials will be entitled to receive 100% of their normal match fee. If it is determined by Football SA that the result of the abandoned match will stand, then the match official will be entitled to receive 100% of their normal match fee.
- (4) A yellow card issued during an abandoned match will be annulled if the match is replayed and upheld if the match is not replayed.
- (5) A red card issued during an abandoned match will be upheld regardless of whether the match is replayed or not.
- (6) In accordance with the National Disciplinary Regulations clause 13.1, if a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, a suspension issued, is only considered to be served if the Team to which the suspended Participant belongs is not responsible for the conduct that led to the abandonment, cancellation, or forfeiture.

30. Walk Offs

No Club shall walk off or refuse to allow play to continue for the full duration of the time specified in the Laws of the Game or relevant Competition Operating Regulations.

31. Abandoned Matches and Walk offs - Penalties

If any match is abandoned or terminated before the completion of the match because of a disturbance involving players, club officials or spectators for which a Club is responsible for or if a team of a Club walks-off or refuses to allow play to continue, the following will apply:

- (1) Any points allocated for the match shall be forfeited to the Club's opponent who shall be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0). If at the time of the abandonment or walk off, the opposing team is winning the game by a greater margin than three (3) goals, the score line at the time of the abandonment or walk off, will stand.
- (2) The Club and the players and officials of the Club shall be deemed guilty of serious misconduct and shall be liable to such further penalty as Football SA or the Committee it appoints to hear the matter may determine.

32. Postponed Matches

- (1) If a match is postponed because of the weather or any other cause over which the Clubs have no control over or the teams are ordered to re-play a match, the match shall, if practicable, be played within seven (7) days of the original fixture for Senior Men's Competition and Women's National Premier League or 14 days of the date of the original fixture for all other competitions or as approved by the relevant Competition Administrator.
- (2) The match shall be played at a time and place agreed between the Clubs with the approval of the Competition Administrator.
- (3) Where a game has been postponed, the home team is required to notify the Competition Administrator within 48 hours of the postponed game, the date, time and venue of when the game will be played. Where the two clubs cannot agree to reschedule the game within the required timeframe, the Competition Administrator will:
 - (a) direct that the match be played at a time and place fixed by the Competition Administrator; or
 - (b) implement a forfeit result; or
 - (c) Class the game as a no played game.
- (4) If a match is postponed prior to it being commenced, all Match Officials will receive an inconvenience fee consisting of 25% of their normal match fee. This fee is only to be paid if the Match Officials is present at the ground when the match was postponed.

33. Inability to Field Teams

- (1) If a Club is unable to field a team because of illness or other exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the club:
 - (a) the Club may apply to the Competition Administrator for approval for the postponement of the match, and
 - (b) if the Competition Administrator approves the postponement of the match, the match shall be played at a time and place as sanctioned by Football SA in accordance with clause 32.

34. Match Officials

- (1) Football SA may establish a Match Officials Appointments Committee. This committee shall comprise of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) people, which will include at least one person from the Competition Department as appointed by the Football SA. The appointments committee may allocate suitably qualified Match Officials to Football SA Sanctioned games as available.
- (2) All requests for match officials by clubs shall be made to the Competition Administrator at least five (5) business days prior to a game.
- (3) Payment conditions and any inconvenience fees for Match Officials related to trial and competition matches, postponed or abandoned matches shall be approved by Football SA prior to the commencement of each season. A detailed copy of the seasons match fees, method of payment shall be distributed to all relevant clubs and Match Officials prior to the commencement of the season or related competition.
- (4) Football SA may support interstate exchange programs for Match Officials.
- (5) Nominations of Match Officials for interstate competitions and fixtures shall be made by Football SA, except for appointments made by Football Australia.
- (6) Where Match Officials are not appointed or do not attend a game, refer to the relevant Competition Operating Regulations which will outline policy for Non-Attendance of Match Officials.
- (7) Football SA may appoint Match Commissioners and/or request clubs to appoint a Referee Liaison Officer to games.

35. Competitions

- (1) All clubs and affiliated Associations registered with Football SA shall take part in all league competitions and such other special competitions as Football SA may determine from time to time.
- (2) No player shall play for more than one club in any competition, except where a player registration is transferred in accordance with Football Australia National Registration Regulations.

36. Competitions - Leagues

- (1) In each season, Football SA shall conduct competitions including Men's, Womens and Junior Competitions. Final composition of league structures will be based on nominations received and subject to clubs meeting competition criteria. Competition Operating Regulations can be accessed [here](#). Football SA will have the final determination on all competitions.

37. Withdrawal of Teams

- (1) If a Team is withdrawn before all teams have played each other once, all matches will be recorded as a no played game. All goal scorer statistics and referee votes gained in Competition Fixtures played involving the withdrawn Team will be removed.
- (2) If a Team is withdrawn after the point of the season at which all teams have played each other an equal number of times the following will apply:

- (a) all results will be retained:
- (b) goals scored for and against will be retained:
- (c) referee votes will be retained and
- (d) a forfeit result of three (3) goals to nil (0) will apply to all remaining games.

38. Fixtures and Match Forfeits

- (1) Football SA shall prepare and publish lists of fixtures for the various games and tournaments organised by Football SA.
- (2) All matches in any competition shall be played on the dates and at the times fixed in Football SA's official list of fixtures, unless abandoned or postponed by the Match Official in accordance with the Laws of the Game or changed in accordance with the relevant Competition Operating Regulations. Football SA has the authority to change dates and times of scheduled matches by giving notice.
- (3) Any Club whose team or teams fail to play or complete any league or cup match on the date and at the time fixed by Football SA shall:
 - (a) be deemed to be guilty of serious misconduct and any points allocated for the match shall be forfeited to the club's opponent, who will be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0) or if the opposing team has won the game by three goals or greater, the score line will stand: and
 - (b) be fined the prescribed amount as stipulated in the relevant competition regulations, and
 - (c) be liable to such further penalties as the Football SA or the committee it appoints to hear the matter may determine.
- (4) Where a forfeit has been applied, the statistics of the club that did not forfeit the game, that being goal scorers and best and fairest votes, will be retained. Red and yellow cards will be applied in accordance with the National Disciplinary Regulations.
- (5) If a fixture has been changed by the Football SA and notification is not provided to the Match Officials who attend the fixture, the match official shall be entitled to 50% of their normal fee.
- (6) If a club fails to notify Football SA of any changes to a fixture including changes to kick-off times, the club will forfeit the game, be fined the forfeit fee and will be required to compensate the match officials if they attend the game, 50% of their normal fee.

39. Team Sheets and Match Reports

- (1) Each Club shall hand to the Match Official a completed team sheet in the format approved by Football SA.
- (2) The team sheet is to contain the correct names and initials in block letters, the registration numbers and shirt numbers of the club's players taking part in the match, the club's nominated substitutes for the match and the names of the club coach, manager and ground stewards.

- (3) The team sheet is to be provided to the Match Official at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the game. No game is to commence prior to the Match Official receiving the team sheets from both teams.
- (4) A team will be deemed to have submitted an incomplete team sheet if they have not correctly provided the following details:
 - (a) Football Australia Registration Number for all players:
 - (b) Shirt numbers for all players:
 - (c) Players correct name:
 - (d) Team Officials:
 - (e) Ground Stewards and
 - (f) Any other details specified by Football SA

Penalty – The penalty for an incomplete Team Sheet is outlined in the relevant Competition Operating Regulations.

- (5) If a situation occurs where a club may need to make an amendment to a team sheet that has already been submitted to the Match Official, a club official may approach the match official prior to the commencement of the game to make the amendment. Once the game has commenced no amendments will be permitted to the team sheet.

Penalty – The penalty for changing a team sheet outside of sub clause 5 is outlined in the relevant Competition Operating Regulations

- (6)
 - (a) Where a team participates in a competition that permits substitutions or interchange, the team must select 11 starting players and up to a maximum of 5 substitutions. These players must be clearly identified in the relevant area of the team sheet as either starting or as a sub. No additional player can be selected as a starting player or a sub.
 - (b) A Club shall not play a player in a match who is not named on the team sheet for that match.

Penalty – The team will forfeit the game and will be issued with a fine – Refer to the relevant Competition Operating Regulations

- (7) At the completion of each match, an official from each competing Club shall attend the Match Official's room and shall:
 - (a) record on the team sheet any injuries to players of his or her Club;
 - (b) ensure goal scorers and any cautions or send off of players are correct;
 - (c) be notified of any reports to be submitted to Football SA; and
 - (d) sign the team sheet.

Note: Players may not be entitled to accident insurance benefits if their injuries are not noted on the team sheet.

- (8) Once the club official has signed the team sheet, the Match Official shall enter the relevant information on the team sheets and submit them to the Competition Administrator as directed by Football SA.
- (9) The post mark on the envelope containing the team sheet shall be taken as proof of the time of dispatch.
- (10) Team Sheets and any related match reports from Match Officials, or clubs shall be submitted to the Football SA within 48 hours of the completion of the match. Fines and or disciplinary action may be imposed as determined by the Football SA Competition Administrator for late submission.

40. Match Balls

- (1) Before the start of each match in all competitions, or any other competition organised and sanctioned by Football SA, the home team shall present to the Match Official at least two (2) balls of a type and brand approved by the Football SA, 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the game,
- (2) The Match Official shall select one (1) of the balls for use in the match.
- (3) The home team shall keep the other match ball/s presented to the Match Official prior to the match at the substitute bench and shall supply it to the Match Official immediately upon request.

Penalty - Any club that breaches the Match Ball Rule shall be subject to a Fine as outlined in the relevant Competition Operating Regulations.

41. Players Bleeding and Concussion Guidelines

- (1) If a player on the field of play is bleeding or has blood on their body or clothing, the Match Official shall order the player to leave the field of play until the bleeding has stopped and any blood on the player's body or clothing has been removed. The player must be provided with a clean playing shirt free of blood prior to returning to the field of play.
- (2) [Football Australia Concussion Guidelines](#) have been developed to provide guiding principles in relation to the management of concussion and return to play. The guidelines are of a general nature, individual treatment will depend on the facts and circumstances of the individual.

42. Substitution of Players

Unless the Competition Rules, Competition Operating Regulations and or Football SA policies relating to a particular competition otherwise stipulate:

- (1) A team may only use the substitutes that are named on the team sheet for that match.
- (2) Clubs shall not nominate more than five (5) substitutes on their team sheets. Refer to the relevant Competition Operating Regulations for the number of players to be used.
- (3) Where a game goes into extra time, the team may use an additional substitute from their allocation of five.

43. Interchange of Players

The rules, regulations and/or related policies and guidelines relating to a competition may permit the interchange of players where:

- (1) The players playing in the competition are junior players, or players participating in a masters/social competition or out of season trial games or events. In all cases refer to Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations and Competition Operating Regulations.

44. Interchange Procedure

In matches where interchange is used, the following provisions shall apply:

- (1) An 'interchange zone' shall be marked on the touchline on one side of the field of play.
- (2) The interchange zone shall extend for one metre on either side of the halfway line and shall be marked by lines at right angles to the touch line off the field of play.
- (3) A team may only use an interchange player who is named on the team's team sheet.
- (4) A player nominated as an interchange player shall be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the Match Official whether called upon to play or not.
- (5) An interchange may only be made at a stoppage of play and with the permission of the Match Official.
- (6) When making an interchange, the following conditions shall be observed:
 - (a) the player leaving the field shall do so by crossing over the interchange zone:
 - (b) the player entering the field ("the interchange player") shall not enter the field until the player leaving the field has passed completely over the interchange zone:
 - (c) the interchange player shall enter the field by crossing over the interchange zone; and
 - (d) when the interchange is complete, the interchange player becomes a player and the player who was replaced ceases to be a player on the field of play.
- (7) 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.
- (8) The Match Official shall caution any player who:
 - (a) enters the field of play as an interchange player before the player being replaced has completely left the field; and
 - (b) leaves or enters the field from a place other than the interchange zone.

45. Gate Takings

- (1) Where appropriate Football SA shall fix the maximum admission charges for all competition matches conducted by Football SA. Refer to the Senior Men's and Women's Competition Operating Regulations for further information.

46. Prize Money

- (1) Football SA may allocate prize money for League, Cup and other competitions as determined on an annual basis.
- (2) Football SA shall announce the amount of the prize money for League, Cup and other competitions before the commencement of the competition.
- (3) Prize money shall be presented where possible within two (2) months of the conclusion of the competition for which it is awarded, subject to the club being financial with Football SA.

47. League Points

- (1) Subject to sub-Clause (2), in competitions conducted on a league points basis, the number of points awarded to the teams shall be:
 - (a) for a win - three (3) points:
 - (b) for a draw - one (1) point; and
 - (c) for a loss - nil (0) points.
- (2) Football SA may provide in the rules, regulations or related policies and guidelines for any competition, the manner in which points will be awarded in the competition.
- (3) Where two (2) or more teams have the same number of points, the standings of the teams will be determined by goal difference, the team with the better goal difference shall hold the higher position.

48. Goal difference

- (1) Goal difference shall be determined by subtracting the number of goals scored by the team from the number of goals scored against the team.
- (2) Where two (2) or more teams have the same number of points, the team with the better goal difference shall be deemed to hold the higher position, as follows:
 - (a) the team with the higher positive goal difference shall be deemed to have the better goal difference:
 - (b) the team with a positive goal difference shall be deemed to have a better goal difference than a team with a negative goal difference:
 - (c) the team with the lower negative goal difference shall be deemed to have the better goal difference:
 - (d) where goal differences are the same, the team which scored the greater number of goals shall be deemed to have the better goal difference:
 - (e) head to head results. The team that has gained more points from the other team during the season, will be deemed to hold a higher position.

- (f) where teams cannot be separated through the implementation of (a) through to (e), Football SA may direct the teams to play off on a neutral ground to decide which of the teams will be placed in the higher position. Where a playoff game is required, Football SA will schedule the game within 7 days, where practical.

49. Casual Vacancies in Competitions

Football SA may fill any casual vacancy in any competition at its discretion. Where a team is coming from an Affiliated Association, Football SA will undertake a consultation process with the association.

50. Promotion and Relegation - League Competitions

- (1) Football SA shall determine the number of teams to play in each competition in any season.

51. Number of teams to be Promoted and Relegated

- (1) Football SA shall determine the manner and the number of teams to be promoted and relegated for any season.
- (2) Where no determination is made by Football SA, two (2) teams shall be promoted, and two (2) teams shall be relegated. Football SA will have the sole and absolute determination on all decisions relating to the promotion and relegation of teams.

52. Qualification for Promotion and Relegation

- (1) When a team or teams are to be relegated, the team or teams which were lowest in the league table of that division in the previous season shall be relegated.
- (2) When a team or teams are to be promoted, the team or teams which were highest in the next lowest League in the previous season shall be eligible for promotion to the next highest League subject to the provisions of Clause 53.
- (3) Any promotion is subject to the club fulfilling the minimum requirements of the competition. Competition Operating Regulations can be accessed [here](#).

53. Admission to Competitions organised or sanctioned by Football SA

- (1) Admission into a competition is subject to the club fulfilling the minimum competition requirements and the number of positions available.
- (2) Football SA will have the sole and absolute determination on admission into a competition.
- (3) Football SA may decide to admit an applicant upon or subject to any terms or conditions it may think fit.

54. Register of Clubs

The Football SA shall keep and maintain a register of clubs and affiliated associations.

55. Annual returns

- (1) Football SA shall require clubs and affiliated associations to submit reports in accordance with the competition entry requirements. For further information please refer to the relevant Competition Operating Regulations.

56. Registration of Team Officials

- (1) All Team Officials employed or engaged by Clubs that participate in Football SA Competitions and affiliated associations must be registered through the National Registration System for their club.
- (2) No Team Official shall be named on a team sheet and occupy the technical area, at any match:
 - (a) unless they are registered with Football SA and their club prior to the commencement of the competition that they are participating in; and
 - (b) have completed the required Child Safe requirements including a Working with Children Check (WWCC) in accordance with the Child Safe Policy.
- (3) Unless Football SA shall otherwise determine, the registration of all Team Official shall expire at the completion of each season.
- (4) All coaches that coach within Football SA must hold a recognised Football Australia Coaching Accreditation. The minimum level of coaching accreditation required is stipulated in the minimum competition requirements of the relevant competition. For further information refer to the relevant Competition Operating Regulations.
- (5) Prior to a club publicly announcing the appointment of a coach, the club must notify Football SA of the appointment, ensuring that the coach meets the coaching accreditation required of the competition. Coaches who do not meet the required accreditation are not to be appointed.
- (6) Medical personnel are required to provide a copy of relevant qualifications to their club. This would be either Sports Trainer Accreditation or Certificate of Registration as a Doctor or Physiotherapist

Penalty - The following penalties will be applied if a team official does not complete the registration requirements:

- (a) First offence A level 2 fine and is permitted to be a team official until all registration requirements are fulfilled.
- (b) Second offence Forfeit of the game and level 3 fine
- (c) Subsequent Offence Disciplinary Hearing

57. Coaches Registration Fee

Football SA may provide an opportunity for all coaches to join an Annual Coaching Registration Program. The fee for this program will be determined by the Football SA on an annual basis.

58. Change in Registered information

If there are any changes to the registration of a team official this must be updated in the registration system by the team official/club within 72 hours of the change occurring.

59. Register of Players

All players including amateur, professional, junior and Futsal players and players who play in competitions conducted by Football SA, or any club or Affiliated Association must be registered through the National Registration System.

60. Registration Procedure

- (1) Football SA participating clubs and affiliated associations shall abide by the Football Australia National Registration Regulations and related Football Australia statutes.
- (2) All players must be registered through the National Registration System to be eligible to play within the competitions. Football SA will provide to all clubs, on an annual basis, the registration process that is to be undertaken to register a player. This process will be undertaken in accordance with the National Registration Regulations
- (3) The FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) provide that Football Australia must set two (2) registration periods for the registration of all players participating in professional competitions within its jurisdiction.
- (4) All players registering in a professional competition, that is, a competition where there is at least one (1) professional player registered, must be registered during one (1) of the two (2) registration periods set by Football Australia. This ruling applies regardless of whether the player is an amateur or professional player.
- (5) Football Australia is permitted to have separate Registration Periods for males and females i.e., two (2) for male competitions and two (2) for female competitions
- (6) Football SA will notify all clubs of the registration periods set by Football Australia for each competition on an annual basis.
- (7) Players that participate in an amateur competition, that is a competition where there are no Professional Players will be permitted to be registered during the dates as communicated by Football SA on an annual basis.
- (8) Players shall not register with a new club unless their financial obligations with their previous clubs have been met. Clubs which determine that a player has outstanding fees must provide written notification to Football SA. The procedure of providing this information will be provided to clubs on an annual basis.

For further information on registration of players refer to Football Australia National Registration Regulations and relevant Competition Operating Regulations.

61. Unregistered, Ineligible and Suspended Players

- (1) No participant shall play in any competition conducted by Football SA or any Affiliated Association unless they have registered with Football SA or affiliated association in accordance with the registration process provided to clubs on an annual basis. All participants that have registered will be issued with a registration number. The exemption to this rule is the participation in trial games.
- (2) If, in any match, a club plays or where interchange is applicable, names a player on the team sheet, a player that is unregistered, ineligible or suspended, the following will be implemented:
 - (a) the club shall forfeit the match to its opponent, who will be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0). If the opposing team has won the game by a greater margin than three goals, the score line will stand.
 - (b) a forfeit fine will be applied for each unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player who played or was named in the match in accordance with the relevant competition regulations.
 - (c) if the player is a registered player, Football SA may suspend or cancel the player's registration.
- (3) Where a forfeit has been applied, the statistics of the club that did not forfeit the game, that being goal scorers and best and fairest votes will be retained. Red and yellow cards will be applied in accordance with the National Disciplinary Regulations.

62. Ring-Ins (Playing players under assumed or false names)

- (1) If a club knowingly or willingly plays a player in any match under a false or assumed name:
 - (a) the Club shall be deemed guilty of serious misconduct:
 - (b) the Club shall forfeit the match to its opponent, who will be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0). If the team that is being provided the forfeit has won the game by a greater margin than three (3) goals, the score line will stand: and
 - (c) a Level 5 fine will be applied in accordance with the relevant Competition Operating Regulations.

Refer to the relevant Competition Operating Regulations for fine details.

- (2) The player and any club official or member who knowingly or willingly authorised a player to play in a match under a false or assumed name shall be liable to such penalty as Football SA or the committee it appoints to hear the matter, may determine.

63. Visa Players

- (1) A maximum of two (2) Visa Players are permitted to be on a First Team's team sheet in the National Premier Leagues, State League 1 and State League 2.
- (2) Unlimited number of visa players are permitted in all other competitions who meet the Visa requirements to be in Australia and the requirements of the competition.

Refer to Football Australia National Registration Regulations for details [here](#)

64. Registers Prima Facie Evidence

Entry on a register maintained by Football SA shall be prima facie evidence of the facts and matters contained therein.

65. Status of Players

As per the Football Australia National Registration Regulations:

- (1) A Player participating in football is either an Amateur or a Professional.
- (2) A Professional is a Player that has a written contract with a Club, on prescribed forms NRR04 and NRR05.
- (3) An Amateur Player is any Player that is not a Professional, as defined in article 3.1. of the National Registration Regulations.
- (4) A Player may only be registered with one club at any one time in line with the Football Australia National Registration Regulations (NRR) and FIFA. Football SA has discretion to permit players to play in multiple clubs that do not compete in the same competition.

66. Juniors

Refer to [Football Australia National Registration Regulations](#).

- (1) A junior player is a player that does not turn 18 years of age during the year of competition.
- (2)
 - (a) Junior players who are amateurs shall be registered each year in line with the Football SA registration process.
 - (b) The registration of junior players who are amateurs expires at midnight on the day of their last competitive match.
- (3) A junior player may play in any junior or senior team of their club if the player is age eligible.
- (4) No player under the statutory school leaving age may sign a professional player's contract. (Refer to Football Australia National Registration Regulations).

67. National Training Centre (NTC) Squad

The National Training Centre (NTC) squads shall be deemed as representative teams for registration purposes and may enter team/s into the competitions following approval by the Competition Administrator. Players shall be registered in accordance with Football Australia National Registration Regulations and Competition Operating Regulations.

68. Restrictions on Negotiations

Refer to Football Australia National Registration Regulations [here](#). Clause 8

69. Offers to Players

Refer to Football Australia National Registration Regulations [here](#). Clause 8.

70. New contracts with Professionals

Refer to Football Australia National Registration Regulations [here](#). Clause 8.

71. Compensation, Training Fees and Solidarity Contribution

Refer to Football Australia National Registration Regulations [here](#). Clause 12.

72. Registration of Match Officials

- (1) All Match Officials must register on the National Registration System.
- (2) No match official shall officiate in any Football SA sanctioned game unless:
 - (a) they have registered through the National Registration System:
 - (b) they have completed the required Child Safe requirements including a Working with Children Check (WWCC) in accordance with the Child Safe Policy
 - (c) hold the appropriate accreditation; and
 - (d) are financial with Football SA.
- (3) Match Officials will be registered with Football SA from 1 January to 31 December of each year.
- (4) The Match Official must be financial with Football SA to be eligible for registration.

73. Disciplinary and Grievance Provisions

Football SA will follow the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations, Football SA Grievance and Disciplinary and the Football SA Rules and Regulations.

74. Mandatory Match Suspensions for Minor Infringements

- (1) A player must serve a mandatory match suspension when he or she accumulates the following number of yellow card minor infringements during the home and away league season or as determined by Football SA

<u>Number of Minor Infringements</u>	<u>Period of Suspension</u>
5 cautions	one match
8 cautions	one match
11 cautions	one match
14 cautions	one match
17 cautions	one match

Fines shall apply to clubs for players that accumulate a number of Yellow Cards Minor Infringements during the season.

Penalty: Fine \$25.00 for 5, 8, 11, 14 and 17 Cautions.

A player that receives 17 cautions in the competition will be referred to the Football SA Disciplinary Committee.

- (2) Minor infringement yellow cards received during the Football SA Cup Competition, Football SA Finals Series, or any other Football SA sanctioned event shall be recorded separately. Refer to the appropriate rules of each event.
- (3) Any mandatory match suspension gained due to the accumulation of yellow cards is to be served in the competition in which the accumulation occurred.

A player is eligible to play the day after the suspension has been served.

For the avoidance of doubt if the suspension is being served in the League Competition, the player must serve the suspension in the League Competition in which they gained the highest number of accumulated yellow cards. If the yellow cards are accumulated evenly across grades, the suspension will be served in the grade that the player gained their last accumulated yellow card.

- (4) If a player receives two (2) yellow cards during the same game, a red card will be issued.

Penalty: One match suspension - \$50.00 fine

- (5) If a player receives two (2) yellow cards during the same match and therefore receives a red card, the two (2) yellow cards are expunged from his or her record.
- (6) If a player receives one (1) yellow card and then one (1) red card in the same match, the yellow card will not be expunged and will be counted in the player's accumulation of yellow cards.
- (7) A player who receives a mandatory suspension in a Friendly, must serve that suspension in the next Friendly. A player who receives a match suspension in addition to a mandatory match suspension for an offence that occurs in a Friendly may be directed by the Competition Administrator to serve the suspension in the next official match(es) in which his or her club participates in rather than the next Friendly.
- (8) A match suspension means a ban from taking part in a match or from attending the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- (9) The accumulation of yellow cards will be reset at the end of the last match of the pre-season, the League Competition, and any final series, respectively. This means that yellow cards accumulated in the pre-season competition do not carry over to the League Competition and yellow cards accumulated in a League Competition do not carry over to the final series. Match suspensions incurred because of the accumulation of yellow cards will not however be cancelled. Any variation on the resetting of yellow cards may be outlined in the relevant Competition Operations Regulations accessed [here](#).
- (10) Each club shall keep a record of their players' yellow and red cards. All clubs are responsible for ensuring a suspended player is not played.

- (11) The Competition Administrator shall send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice to the club stipulating the name of the player that has received the mandatory match suspension for the minor infringement within two (2) business days, where possible, following the alleged incident.
- (12) If a Competition Administrator has determined in accordance with the National Disciplinary Regulations that an Offence by a Participant was such as to warrant a sanction in addition to the mandatory match suspension, the Competition Administrator will send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the club of the details of the Offence and of the disciplinary sanction imposed.
- (13) Where a suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards the suspension being served. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to be served if the team to which the suspended player belongs to is not responsible for the fact that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture of the game.
- (14) Competition Operating Regulations may stipulate slight variations to the calculation of accumulated yellow cards consistent with the number of yellow card accumulations outlined above.

75. Expulsion of Team Official

- (1) A Team Official must serve a mandatory match suspension when he or she accumulates the following number of yellow cards during the home and away league season or as determined by Football SA

<u>Number of Minor Infringements</u>	<u>Period of Suspension</u>
5 cautions	one match
8 cautions	one match
11 cautions	one match
14 cautions	one match
17 cautions	one match

Fines shall apply to clubs for Team Officials that accumulate a number of Yellow Cards Minor Infringements during the season.

Penalty: Fine \$25.00 for 5, 8, 11, 14 and 17 Cautions.

A Team Official that receives 17 cautions in the competition will be referred to the FOOTBALL SA Disciplinary Committee.

- (2) A Match Official may take action against Team Officials as per the Football Australia regulations who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may expel the Team Official from the field of play and its immediate surroundings, including the technical areas.
- (3) If a team official is expelled, the team official must move directly away from the playing field and its surrounds including the technical area. If available, the official should go directly to the teams changing room or grandstand.
- (4) A Team official who has been expelled from the field of play by the Match Official must serve a minimum mandatory one (1) match suspension.

Penalty Fine \$50.00 per offence.

- (5) A Team Official is eligible the day after the suspension has been served.

76. Mandatory Match Suspensions for Serious Infringements

- (1) A player that receives a direct red card must serve a suspension in accordance with the National Disciplinary Regulations (NDR). For avoidance of doubt any suspension incurred through a direct red card must be served in the next competitive game that the player participates in.
- (2) A player must serve an additional mandatory match suspension when they accumulate a number of red cards (serious infringements) being R1, R2, R3 and R6 during the course of the competition.

Fines shall apply to clubs for players that receive Red Cards Serious Infringements during the season.

Penalty Fine \$50.00 per offence.

1st occasion	equates to a one (1) match suspension
2nd occasion	equates to a two (2) match suspension
3rd occasion	equates to a three (3) match suspension
4th occasion	equates to a four (4) match suspension

- (3) A club may only appeal a red card that has been issued to a player where clearly there must have been a wrong decision (such as a right decision against the wrong player, mistaken identity) and it must not have been a discretionary decision by a referee as to whether an action was a foul or red card.
- (4) The Competition Administrator shall send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the relevant club of the player or team officials mandatory match suspension for major infringement following the alleged incident.
- (5) Where a suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches played count towards the suspension being served. If a match is abandoned, cancelled, or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to be served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the fact that led to the abandonment, cancellation, or forfeiture of the game.
- (6) A player is eligible to play the day after the suspension has been served.

77. Suspensions

Refer to Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations [here](#).

78. Identity of Offender

If the Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Appeals Committee is satisfied that a report or complaint does not correctly identify the offender, the Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Appeals Committee may:

- (1) Direct that no penalty be imposed, or no cautions be recorded against the person named in the report or complaint; and

- (3) If the identity of the offender is established, impose on the offender the penalty that would have been imposed if he had been correctly identified and reported.

79. Disciplinary Committee

[Refer to the Football SA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations](#)

- (1) The Disciplinary Committee shall inquire into, hear, and determine any report that is referred to it by Football SA,
- (2) Any report, charge or matter referred to the Disciplinary Committee under or pursuant to the rules, clauses or by-laws.
- (3) Any other report, charge or matter referred to the Disciplinary Committee by the Football SA.

80. Procedure at Hearings

Refer to Football Australia Grievance Resolution Regulations and Football SA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

81. Appeals from Disciplinary Committee

[Refer to Football SA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations](#)

82. Reports of Contravention of Rules and Regulations

- (1) Match Officials, registered Club officials and prescribed officials of the Football SA shall report in writing to the Competition Administrator any contravention of any rule or regulation which they observe or at which they are present within 48 hours of the end of the match to which the contravention relates.
- (2) Any Club or person affected by any contravention of any rule or regulation may report the contravention to the Competition Administrator within 24 hours of the end of the match to which the contravention relates.
- (3) If the Competition Administrator observes any contravention of any rule or regulation or is present when any such contravention occurs, they may prepare a report on the contravention and act on that report as if it is a report lodged under clause (1).
- (4) The Football SA may at any time in their discretion extend the time limits specified in clause (1) and (2).

83. Action on reports

On receipt of a report, the Football SA Competition Department may request further information relating to the incident and on completion of the investigation take the following action:

- (1) Implement no further action:
- (2) Implement a sanction in accordance with the Football SA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations:

- (3) Refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee.

84. Scale of Penalties

Refer to Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations and Competition Operating Regulations for scale of penalties.

85. Aiding, Abetting and Attempts

- (1) A person who aids, abets, counsels, or procures, or by any act or omission is in any way directly or indirectly concerned in or a party to, any contravention of any rule or regulation shall be taken to have committed the contravention and shall be liable for the penalty for the contravention.
- (2) Any person who attempts to contravene any rule or regulation shall be punishable as if the attempted contravention had occurred.

86. Contravention by Clubs and their officers

- (1) If a Club or Association contravenes a rule or regulation each officer of the Club or Association shall be taken to have contravened the rule or regulation and shall be liable for the penalty for the contravention, if they knowingly authorised or permitted the contravention.
- (2) If an officer or member of a Club or Association contravenes a rule or regulation the Club or Association shall be taken to have contravened the rule or regulation and shall be liable for the penalty for the contravention if it authorised or permitted the contravention.

87. Offences

- (1) No club, Affiliated Association, life member, club associate, player, Referee or spectator shall:
 - (a) fail, refuse or neglect to observe and comply with the rules, regulations and by-laws or any directions of Football SA;
 - (b) use abusive, threatening, or insulting language to, or interfere with, or assault any match official, officer, life member, player, official or employee of Football SA or of any club or Affiliated Association;
 - (c) obtain or attempt to obtain admission to any football stadium or ground without producing a proper entrance pass or paying the proper admission charge;
 - (d) engage in any conduct which is, or in the opinion of the Football SA is:
 - (i) in contravention of the Football SA Code of Conduct;
 - (ii) prejudicial to the welfare, spirit, image, or the interests of the game of football or the Football SA; or
 - (iii) likely to bring the game or the Football SA into disrepute.
 - (e) make any public comment that is prejudicial to the welfare, spirit, image or the interests of the game of football or Football SA; and

- (2) Any report or complaint under this Clause:
 - (a) may be made by any member or person who or which is or may be affected by the contravention, dispute, or question or:
 - (b) may be made by Football SA; and
 - (c) shall be heard and determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

88. Expulsion, Disqualification, and Suspension of Clubs and Affiliated Associations

- (1) Football SA will determine if a club or Affiliated Association should be expelled or disqualified or suspended from a competition or from Football SA. The CEO shall report the matter to the Football SA Board and recommend that the Club or Affiliated Association be expelled, disqualified, or suspended from the competition or Football SA (as the case may be).
- (2) Where any committee empowered to impose any penalty under the rules or the regulations is of the opinion that a Club or Affiliated Association should be expelled, disqualified any competition, or suspended from a competition or Football SA:
 - (a) the committee shall report the matter to Football SA and recommend that the Club or Affiliated Association be expelled, disqualified or suspended from the competition or from Football SA (as the case may be); and
 - (b) that the report and recommendation shall be submitted to the Football SA Board and that the Football SA Board have final discretionary power over the expulsion, disqualification or suspension of the club or Affiliated Association.
- (3) If the Football SA Board resolves that the Club or Affiliated Association should not be expelled, disqualified, or suspended the Football SA Board may:
 - (a) impose such other penalty on the Club or Affiliated Association as he/she deem fit; or
 - (b) refer the matter back to the Committee for it to impose such other penalty on the Club as it deems fit.
- (4) Where any matter is reported to the Football SA Board under this rule, the Football SA Board may:
 - (a) expel, disqualify, or suspend the Club or Affiliated Association in accordance with the recommendation:
 - (b) impose any other penalty on the Club or Affiliated Association; or
 - (c) resolve that the Club or Affiliated Association should not be expelled, disqualified, or suspended and refer the matter back to the Competition Administrator or committee for it to impose such other penalty on the Club or Affiliated Association as they deem fit.

89. Penalties

- (1) Any Club or Affiliated Association whose club associates or players contravenes any of the rules, regulations, or related policy guidelines unless the rule, regulation or policy guidelines specifies a penalty, shall be liable to any one or more of the following:
 - (a) expulsion:
 - (b) disqualification from any competition:
 - (c) suspension:
 - (d) a fine of an amount not exceeding the prescribed amount:
 - (e) a reprimand:
 - (f) the deduction of premiership points; and
 - (g) the refusal of registration or cancellation of its registration.

- (2) Any person who contravenes any of the rules, regulations, or related policy unless the rule, regulation or related policy specifies a penalty, shall be liable to any one or more of the following:
 - (a) expulsion, if he is a member:
 - (b) disqualification from any competition:
 - (c) suspension:
 - (d) a fine of an amount not exceeding the prescribed amount:
 - (e) a reprimand; and
 - (f) the refusal of registration or cancellation of his registration.

- (3) Any person, other than a player, who is suspended shall be refused admission to the grounds of the Football SA and of all Clubs and Affiliated Associations for the term of the suspension.

90. Bonds

- (1) A bond may be applied in addition to any sanction imposed or a bond may be applied, only where extenuating circumstances exist, in lieu of the sanction that was to be imposed in accordance with the rules and regulations or the Competition Operation Regulations of the competition.

- (2) The bond shall be for such period, in such form and contain such terms and conditions as may be decided by the committee that requires the bond.

91. Hearing and Grievance Resolution

Refer to Grievance Procedure By-Law, the Judicial Bodies By-Law, the National Arbitration Tribunal and Football SA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

92. Powers of Committee

Refer to the Grievance Procedure By-Law, the Judicial Bodies By-Law, the National Arbitration Tribunal and Football SA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

93. Constitution of Committees

Refer to Grievance Procedure By-Law, the Judicial Bodies By-Law, the National Arbitration Tribunal and Football SA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

94. National and State Representative Teams

- (1) Clubs shall release players selected to play in representative teams of Football Australia, Football SA or the State Federation for the State for which the player is eligible to play.
- (2) The player shall be released for a period that includes travelling time and time for training as set down by the body which selects the player.
- (3) This Clause applies to all representative teams of Football Australia and Football SA.
- (4) If three (3) or more players from any Club team are selected to play in a representative team, any match arranged for the Club team during the period that the players are released under this Clause may be postponed until such time as Football SA may determine.
- (5) To request a postponement of a game under Clause 4, a club must submit the request in writing to the competition administrator at least 14 days prior to the game.
- (6) A Club which releases a player under this Clause shall not be entitled to any financial or other compensation for the release of that player.
- (7) The body which selects a player shall:
 - (a) notify Football SA, if it is a body outside of Football SA;
 - (b) notify the player and his or her Club in writing of the selection of the player not less than 14 days before the date of the match for which the player is selected; and
 - (c) ensure that the player is covered by accident insurance during the entire period of his or her release including insurance against injury sustained in training or in the matches.
- (8) Players selected to play in representative teams shall not fail or refuse to play in the matches for which they are selected.
- (9) A player who is unable to play due to injury or illness shall, if so required by the body which selected him or her, undergo a medical examination by a medical practitioner nominated by that body.
- (10)
 - (a) A player who is selected to play in a representative team shall not be eligible to play for his or her club during the period for which he or she is, or should be, released under this Clause. If the player fails, refuses or is unable to play in the match for any reason whatsoever, the player is not eligible to play with their club during the five (5) days immediately after the end of that period.
 - (b) A Club which plays a player who is not eligible to play for it under this Clause shall be deemed to have played an unregistered player.
- (11) Any Club which does not comply with this Clause shall be sanctioned as determined by Football SA or an appointed committee.

95. Enforcement of Rules

- (1) All Clubs and Affiliated Associations shall be bound by, and shall, observe these rules and regulations.
- (2) Football SA is responsible for the governance of Football SA competitions and the enforcement and determination of the rules is at the discretion of Football SA.
- (3) Each Club and Affiliated Association shall be responsible for the actions of its officials, players, and members, and shall enforce these rules on its officials, players, and members.

96. Rules of FIFA and the Football Australia

- (1) Subject to these rules, all Clubs and Affiliated Associations shall comply with the statutes, regulations, memorandum, articles, and rules of the Federation Internationale De Football Association (FIFA) and Football Australia.
- (2) All clubs, affiliated associations, players, and officials must comply with the Football Australia Codes of Conduct.

97. Extreme Weather Policy -Training/Competitions

Refer to the [Football SA Extreme Weather Policy](#).

RECOMMENDED SANCTIONS FOR SERIOUS INFRINGEMENTS

(In accordance with the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations & Table of Offences for Players)

Offence	Offence	Minimum Sanction
OFFENCES BY PLAYERS/TEAM OFFICIALS		
R1	Serious Foul Play (e.g. when challenging for the ball)	The Mandatory Match Suspension
R2	Unsporting Conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official.	The Mandatory Match Suspension
R2	Assault on a Player (e.g. violent conduct when not challenging for the ball)	1 additional match plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
R3	Spitting at a player	5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
R4 or R5	Denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity	The Mandatory Match Suspension
R6	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	The Mandatory Match Suspension
R6	Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist	4 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
R2 or R6	Inciting a brawl	5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
Specific Offences Against a Match Official		
R2	Unsporting conduct toward a match official	3 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
R2	Assault of a match official	6 months including the Mandatory Match Suspension
R3	Spitting at a match official	12 months Including the Mandatory Match Suspension
R6	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a match official	The Mandatory Match Suspension

FOOTBALL SA CLUB REFEREE FEES 2021

Competition	Grade	CLUB FEE	
		Referee	Assistant
NPL Men	Senior	\$215.00	\$107.50
	Reserve	\$120.00	\$60.00
	Under 18	\$110.00	\$55.00
NPL Grand Final	Senior	\$300.00	\$150.00
	Reserve	\$150.00	\$75.00
	Under 18s	\$130.00	\$60.00
WNPL	Senior	\$120.00	\$60.00
	Reserves	\$80.00	\$40.00
WNPL Grand Final	Senior	\$200.00	\$100.00
	Reserve	\$100.00	\$50.00
State League 1 Men	Senior	\$165.00	\$82.50
	Reserve	\$110.00	\$55.00
	Under 18	\$95.00	\$47.50
State League 1 Grand Final	Senior	\$250.00	\$125.00
	Reserve	\$130.00	\$65.00
	Under 18s	\$110.00	\$55.00
Women's State League	Seniors	\$90.00	\$45.00
State League 2 Men	Senior	\$155.00	\$77.50
	Reserve	\$100.00	\$50.00
	Under 18	\$85.00	\$42.50
State League 2 Grand Final	Senior	\$200.00	\$100.00
	Reserve	\$110.00	\$55.00
	Under 18s	\$100.00	\$50.00
Football Australia Cup/Federation Cup Round 1	Senior	\$120.00	\$60.00
	Reserve	\$90.00	\$45.00
	Under 18	\$75.00	\$37.50

Competition	Grade	Referee	Assistant
Football Australia Cup/Federation Cup Round 2-4	Senior	\$150.00	\$75.00
	Reserve	\$100.00	\$50.00
	Under 18	\$85.00	\$42.50
Competition	Grade	Referee	Assistant
Football Australia Cup/Federation Cup Final	Senior	\$250.00	\$125.00
	Reserve	\$150.00	\$75.00
	Under 18	\$120.00	\$60.00
Collegiate Soccer League (Men)	All Divisions	\$75.00	\$37.50
	Trial Matches	\$60.00	\$30.00
Masters League	All Divisions	\$75.00	\$37.50
Senior Women	All Divisions	\$75.00	\$37.50
Junior Boys (all Leagues)	Under 12	\$55.00	\$27.50
	Under 13	\$60.00	\$30.00
	Under 14	\$60.00	\$30.00
	Under 15	\$65.00	\$32.50
	Under 16	\$65.00	\$32.50
	Under 17	\$65.00	\$32.50
Junior Girls	Under 13	\$60.00	\$30.00
	Under 15	\$65.00	\$32.50
	Under 17	\$65.00	\$32.50
School Matches	SAPSASA Soccer	\$35.00	\$17.50
	Year 8/9	\$40.00	\$20.00
	Year 10	\$45.00	\$22.50
	Open Age	\$50.00	\$25.00
Special Matches	Senior Men Trials	\$100.00	\$50.00
	Reserve Men Trials	\$70.00	\$35.00
	Under 18 Men Trials	\$55.00	\$27.50
	Tournaments/Carnivals	TBA by Football SA	
	Special Events & Representative Matches	TBA by Football SA	

Regional Travel Allowances		
Location	Travel Allowance	Car Allowance
Broken Hill	\$100.00	
Mt Gambier	\$100.00	
Port Lincoln	\$100.00	
Roxby Downs	\$100.00	
Whyalla	\$100.00	\$253.00
Port Pirie	\$50.00	\$150.00
Riverland	\$50.00	\$170.00
Port Augusta	\$50.00	\$202.00

* Car Allowances where applicable will be paid to the driver using their private vehicle

NOTES

1. Fourth Official fees same as Assistant Referee
2. Games postponed on match day, Referees will receive payment in accordance with Football SA Rules and Regulations
3. Football SA will be responsible for the payment of all Referees appointed to Football SA Competitions
4. Car allowances will only be paid to the driver of the car.
5. Travel allowances will be paid by Football SA via EFT.
6. Allowances will be paid in addition to the corresponding Match Fee.