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## Additional Rules – COVID-19

### 1. Scope and application

- a) This Appendix 3 is to be read in conjunction with Football South Australia Rules and Regulations and Operating Regulations and does not constitute the complete regulations applicable to Competitions.
- b) This Appendix 3 is specific to situations where COVID-19 affects the ability of Teams or Clubs to participate in the Competition(s) of which they compete.
- c) Health and safety are Football South Australia's highest priority and our aim is to provide stakeholders with a safe environment in which they can participate.
- d) Football South Australia reserves its right to amend this Appendix 3 throughout the Season. Any amendment will be communicated to Clubs via email.

### 2. Disruptions to Teams and Competitions

- a) Subject to the terms of any SA Health Order or protocols issued by the South Australian Government:
  - i) Clubs/Teams must participate in all Competition Fixtures. Any Club/Team which fails to do so will face a forfeit (3-0 loss) and may face further sanctions in-line with the Football SA Rules and Regulations and specific Competition Operating Regulations
- b) If a Club wishes to seek to Postpone any Competition Fixture on the basis of COVID-19 then it must contact Football SA in writing to the appropriate competition manager or coordinator at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled fixture to allow Football SA time to consider the request and to inform other impacted parties. Except in the case of extenuating circumstances, failure to notify Football SA in writing at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled fixture and non-participation may result in a forfeit (3-0 loss).

### 2. Postponements – RAA NPL, WNPL, SL1, SL2 and WSL

- a) A Club will be able to request a postponement of an upcoming match if the following criteria are satisfied:
  - i) That five (5) or more starting players from the teams most recent team sheet are unavailable due to having contracted the virus or are isolating as a close contact
    - A) For competitions which use interchange, that six (6) or more players from the most recent team sheet are unavailable due to having contracted the virus or are isolating as a close contact; and
  - ii) That those players in Clause 2 i) and A) from the most recent team sheet must undertake a PCR test (Rapid tests will not be accepted). The Club must submit a signed Statutory Declaration with the names of the players unavailable to play due to Covid reasons and attach the PCR test receipt which is provided to all persons who undertake a PCR test; and

- iii) That any postponement request must be made no later than close of business two (2) days prior to the scheduled match.
- b) If the above listed criteria are met, Clubs are able to request a postponement of a match.
- c) Clubs are only able to request up to two (2) consecutive matches to be postponed.
- d) Special exemption requests may be made for Goalkeepers noting that Clause 2. a) ii) and 2. a) iii) are satisfied.
- e) If a Club or Player is found to have provided false information to Football South Australia, the following penalties will be applied:
  - i) The match in which the Club requested a postponement will be forfeited and a fine applied in line with the Rules and Regulations Penalties and Fines.
  - ii) The Player will be charged with the offence 'Deliberately misleading any Body' which has a minimum sanction of ten (10) matches and a maximum of two (2) years.
- f) Any determination for a postponement is at the sole and absolute discretion of Football South Australia.

### **3. Postponements – Community Women, Junior Boys and Junior Girls**

- a) If Players are unavailable as a result of COVID-19 for Competition Fixtures, Clubs must elevate Players from lower grades to fill Competition Fixture squad gaps unless the Club feels, acting reasonably, that the Player is not physically suitable to do so, understanding the physical demands on children when playing in older age groups. As well as escalation, Clubs may also drop-down age eligible Players if available (for example a 14 year old rostered to play for the Under 16's may drop down and play for the U14's provided it does not impact on the continuation of the U16's Competition Fixture).
- c) Clubs will be able to request a postponement of an upcoming match if the following criteria are satisfied:
  - i) That six (6) or more players from the Teams most recent team sheet are unavailable due to having contracted the virus or are isolating as a close contact; or
    - A) For U12 Boys and U13 Girls, that five (5) or more players from the Teams most recent team sheet are unavailable due to having contracted the virus or are isolating as a close contact; and
  - ii) That Clubs are able to provide evidence, including PCR test receipts, of the impacts of COVID-19 in support of any postponement request; and
  - iii) That Football SA has been communicated to within the lead up to any postponement request in writing; and
  - iv) That any postponement request is submitted no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled fixture.
- d) Unavailability of non-Players (i.e. Coaches) will not be considered a valid reason to Postpone a Competition Fixture for the purposes of these Rules.

- e) If a Competition Fixture is Postponed under these Rules, Football SA will at its absolute discretion, and working with Clubs where reasonably possible, determine the timing of any rescheduled fixture. If the fixture cannot be rescheduled, a No Result will be recorded. Such decision is not open to appeal or review. Clubs must play rescheduled Competition Fixtures as determined by Football SA.

Non-participation in the rescheduled fixture will result in a forfeit (3-0 loss) to the offending team.

#### **4. Postponements – MiniRoos**

- a) If a fixture cannot proceed due to the impact of COVID-19, a No Result will be recorded.