



# **FOOTBALL SA COMPETITION OPERATING REGULATIONS**

## **Specific to Senior Men's Cup Competitions**

**February 2024**

## Table of Content

A. Scope	3
B. Definitions	3
<b><u>CUP COMPETITION</u></b>	
1. Team Entry	6
2. Draw	6
3. Kick-off Times and Duration of Matches	7
4. Eligibility of Players	7
5. Match sheets	7
6. Substitution of Players	8
7. Ground Stewards	9
8. Player Suspensions	9
9. Host Venues	10
10. Match Balls	10
11. Match Officials and Match Official Fees	10
12. Admission Charges	11
13. Forfeits	11
14. Semi-Final and Finals	11
15. Adelaide United FC	12
Scale of Penalties	12

## A. Scope

These Competition Rules specify the requirements and regulations specific to the Cup Competition for Senior Men. These regulations are to be implemented in conjunction with the Football Australia Statutes and Regulations, Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations and the Senior Men's Competition Operating Regulations.

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

- i) Football Australia Statutes
- ii) National Registration Regulations
- iii) National Disciplinary Regulations
- iv) Australia Cup Competition Regulations
- v) Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations and Senior Men's Operating Regulations
- vi) These Regulations

These regulations:

- i) apply to participating teams, players and officials participating in the Cup Competitions conducted for Under 18s, Reserves and Senior Grades:
- ii) apply to all Cup Competition Games.

## B. 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.

### **Away Team**

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

### **Club**

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

### **Club Associate/Official**

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

### **Coach**

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

### **Competition Administrator**

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

**Cup**

Is a competition conducted by Football SA which includes, but is not limited to, the Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds and Federation Cup.

**Cup Fixtures**

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

**Australia Cup**

Australia Cup means the national club competition staged by, or under the control of, FA between A-League Clubs and Member Federation Clubs, currently known as the Australia Cup (or as otherwise notified by FA) comprising the Preliminary Rounds, the Final Rounds Playoffs and the Final Rounds.

**First Team**

Is the highest-grade team that represents a club in a 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**

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

**Forfeit**

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

**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.

**Junior Player**

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

**Laws of the Game**

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

**Match**

Is a fixture sanctioned by Football SA.

**Match Official**

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

**Match Report**

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

**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.

**Player**

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

**Postponed**

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

**Registered**

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

**Spectator**

Is a person that attends a Match.

**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.

**State League Clubs**

Are all clubs that participate in the State League 1 and 2.

**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.

## **Visa Player**

Is any player that has not been issued an indefinite stay within Australia on their visa.

## **CUP COMPETITION**

Football SA will conduct the Preliminary Rounds of the National Cup Competition known as the Australia Cup for Senior Grade Teams. In addition, a knock-out cup competition known as the Federation Cup will be conducted for Reserve and Under 18 Grades.

Teams that do not participate in the Senior Men's Competition but are affiliated to Football SA may nominate to participate in the Preliminary Rounds of the Australia Cup by completing the prescribed registration form. This form will be distributed on an annual basis.

### **1. Team Entry**

- a. All teams currently participating in the Senior Men's Competitions, that being Seniors, Reserves and Under 18s, will be required to participate in the Cup competitions conducted by Football SA each season. Each club will be required to pay an annual registration fee associated with participating in the Australia Cup Competition as prescribed by Football Australia and/or Football SA.
- b. Teams that participate in affiliated competitions or associations will be required to register annually to participate in the Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds.

### **2. Draw**

- a. A draw shall be undertaken by Football SA with participating clubs invited to attend the draw for each round of the cup. The name of each club involved in the cup competition shall be placed into the draw. Teams will be drawn out one at a time to determine the fixture. The first team drawn out will be the home team, the second team to be drawn out, will be the away team. Teams will be drawn out until no further teams are left.
- b. Where the draw is such that a bye or byes are required, the team or team/s that remain following the draw to fill all fixtures, will be allocated the bye/s.
- c. No draw will take place for Reserves or Under 18 Cup Competition. Where possible, the draw will be aligned to the Senior Team.
- d. If the senior team is drawn to play at home, where possible, the Reserve and Under 18 Cup teams will play at the same venue as the senior team.

#### **e. The Fixtures:**

Round 1 - 64 teams	All teams placed into Round 1. NPL clubs are seeded for this Round only to avoid being drawn against each other.
Round 2 - 32 teams	All 32 winning teams from Round 1.

Round 3 - 16 teams	All 16 winning teams from Round 2.
Quarter Finals - 8 teams	All eight (8) winning teams progress from Round 3.
Semi Finals - 4 teams	All four (4) winning teams progress from Quarter Final.
Final - 2 teams	The two (2) winning teams from the Semi-Finals progress to the Final.

### **3. Kick off Times and Duration of Matches**

- a. Football SA will set the dates for all cup competition rounds.
- b. The host club in conjunction with Football SA may nominate the date of the game, in accordance with the scheduled round and nominate the kick off times.
- c. All matches shall be of 90 minutes in duration, 45 minutes each way with a 15 minute interval at half time.
- d. In the event that a game is drawn at the end of normal time, two periods of extra time 2 x 15 minutes will be played. If the game is still drawn at the end of extra time the result shall be decided by penalty kicks in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

### **4. Eligibility of Players**

- a. All players must be registered with their club in the Football Australia Registration System.
- b. No player shall be permitted to play for more than one Club in the Cup Competition.
- c. Players, once having crossed the line of play in the Cup Competition shall be cup tied to that club.
- d. A player that has played for their club in the Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds, is ineligible to play in the Under18s or Reserves Federation Cup for their club.
- e. Once a player has played for a team within their club, the player may move up and play in a higher grade cup competition. Once a player has played in the higher grade cup competition they are not permitted to move back down and play in the lower grade cup competition for their club.
- f. A goalkeeper from a lower grade may move up and play in a higher-grade cup competition and then move back down to the grade that the goalkeeper came from.
- g. Football SA may grant an exemption to the above rules in its sole and absolute discretion.

### **5. Match sheets**

- a. Each Club shall submit a completed match sheet in the format approved by Football SA. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure the match sheet is completed in full and correctly.
- b. The match sheet is to contain the correct names, 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 officials in the technical area and ground stewards.

- c. The match sheet is to be submitted and confirmed at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the game. No game is to commence prior to the Match Official sighting that the match sheets from both teams have been submitted and confirmed.
- d. A team will be deemed to have submitted an incomplete match sheet if they have not correctly provided the following details:
  - i. Football Australia Registration Number for all players;
  - ii. Shirt numbers for all players;
  - iii. Players correct name;
  - iv. Team Officials;
  - v. Ground Stewards and
  - vi. Any other details specified by Football SA
- e. If a situation occurs where a club may need to make an amendment to a match 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 match sheet.
- f. Clubs may list up to a maximum of eleven (11) starting players and up to a maximum of six (6) substitutes. One (1) substitute must be listed as a goalkeeper. If no goalkeeper is listed as a substitute, only five (5) substitutes may be listed. Players must be clearly identified in the relevant area of the match sheet as either starting or as a substitute.

## **6. Substitution of Players**

- a. A team may only use in a match, players that are named on the match sheet.
- b. Substitutions will be used in the Senior and Reserve Grades.
- c. Teams can name up to six (6) substitutes on their match sheets and must include at least one (1) goalkeeper. If no goalkeeper is listed, only five (5) substitutes may be submitted on a match sheet. A team may use a maximum of five (5) substitutes in normal time.
- d. To reduce disruption to the match, each team will have a maximum of three (3) opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time.
- e. If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one (1) of the three (3) opportunities for each team.
- f. Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into extra time.
- g. If the game requires extra time, teams will each have one (1) additional substitution opportunity and is permitted to use an extra substitute. Substitutions may also be made before the start of extra time and at half-time in extra time. For clarification, a team can use a maximum of five substitutes up to the end of normal time. Once the game goes into extra- time, a sixth substitute may be used.
- h. Interchange will be used in the Under 18 Grade.
- i. In matches where interchange is permitted, the following procedure shall apply:
  - 1) An interchange may only be made in the “interchange zone” which shall be on 1 side of the field of play, extending for 1 metre on either side of the halfway line.
  - 2) A team shall only use an interchange player who is named on the match sheet.



- 3) An interchange shall only be made when the ball is out of play, or at a stoppage of play and is permitted by the Match Official.
- 4) When making an interchange, the following conditions shall be observed:
  - i. the player leaving the field shall do so by crossing over the interchange zone.
  - ii. the interchange player shall not enter the field until the player leaving the field has passed completely over the interchange zone.
  - iii. the interchange player shall enter the field by crossing over the interchange zone, and
  - iv. the interchange is complete when one player has come off and another player has come on.
- 5) The number of interchanges that may be made during a match is unlimited, a player who has been replaced may return to the field by being interchanged for another player; and
- 6) The referee may caution any interchange player who enters the field of play before the player being replaced has completely left the field. An Interchange player may also be cautioned if they enter the field from a place other than the interchange zone.

**Penalty:** Level 2 fine. Refer to page 50-52 for details relating to fines.

## **7. Ground Stewards**

- a. All Senior and Reserve teams shall provide at each match a minimum of three (3) ground stewards.
- b. All Under 18 teams shall provide at each match a minimum of one (1) ground steward.
- c. Where the field of play is not fenced, each team is responsible for providing a minimum of five (5) ground stewards for the Senior Grade match.
- d. The Disciplinary Committee and/or Football SA have the discretionary power to require a Club to allocate more ground stewards.

For further information on ground stewards refer to Clause 23 of the Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations.

## **8. Player Suspensions**

Yellow cards will be accumulated separately for the Australia Cup and Federation Cup. For clarity, a player will only receive a mandatory match suspension for the accumulation of yellow cards if:

1. The player receives three (3) yellow cards in the Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds; or
2. The player receives three (3) yellow cards across the Federation Cup (Under 18 and Reserves) competition.

### **a. Australia Cup**

- i. A player who receives three (3) yellow cards during the Australia cup preliminary rounds shall be suspended for one (1) match, the suspension will be served in the next Australia Cup competition match.

**Penalty - \$25 Fine**

- ii. All yellow cards will be reset at the completion of the qualifying-final (Preliminary Round 7) unless the player has received a suspension due to the accumulation of yellow cards. If a player receives a suspension due to the accumulation of yellow cards in the Australia Cup competition, the suspension will be served in the **next Australia cup competition** match.

For clarity: If a player receives their third (3<sup>rd</sup>) yellow card in the Australia Cup Preliminary Round 7 (qualifying final) match, they must serve the mandatory match suspension in the next Australia Cup match. The player is eligible to participate in the Federation Cup Final, should the team qualify to participate.

#### **b. Federation Cup (Reserves & Under 18)**

- i. A player who receives three (3) yellow cards during the federation cup competition shall be suspended for one (1) match, the suspension will be served in the next Federation Cup competition match.

**Penalty** - \$25 Fine

- ii. All yellow cards will be reset at the completion of the quarter-final match unless the player has received a suspension due to the accumulation of yellow cards. If a player receives a suspension due to the accumulation of yellow cards, the suspension will be served in the **next Federation cup competition** match.
- iii. All yellow cards will be reset at the conclusion of the cup competition unless the player has received a suspension due to the accumulation of yellow cards, the suspension will be served in the next competitive cup competition match.
- iv. A player who receives a Red Card during the cup competition shall be suspended in accordance with Clause 76 of Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations and National Disciplinary Regulations. Any suspension will be served in the **next competitive game/s** that the club participates in.

**Penalty** - \$50.00 per red card – Refer to Football SA Senior Men’s Competition Operating Regulations page 52 for fines and penalties.

#### **9. Host Venues**

- a. The first named team shall be the Home team.
- b. The Reserves and Under 18 Cup games will be played as directed by Football SA. Where possible, the games will be aligned with the Senior Team or as stipulated below:
  - i. Host Senior Team to host Reserve and Under 18 Cup matches.
  - ii. Home Reserve Team to host its match and Under 18 match.
  - iii. Home Under 18 team to host its match.
- c. Football SA will be responsible for allocating games to host venues. Where games are being hosted, the host club shall be responsible for all costs associated with hosting the games including payment of match officials for all games that are conducted at the venue. The host club will retain all gate receipts and canteen and bar revenue.
- d. Once the competition reaches the Quarter Final stage, grounds are required to adhere to the minimum venue criteria for the State League 1 competition. Where a club is drawn at home and their venue does not meet the minimum venue criteria, one of the following options will be applied;
  - i. Host club nominates a venue that does meet the criteria;
  - ii. The game is hosted at the opposing club’s venue;

iii. Venue as determined by Football SA.

e. Semi Final and Final games will be played at neutral venues where possible and these venues will be at the sole discretion of Football SA

#### 10. Match Balls

Before the start of each match in all competitions, or any other competition organised and sanctioned by Football SA, the home team shall provide the match official at least two (2) balls of a type and brand approved by Football SA, 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the game. Where directed by Football Australia or Football SA, Clubs must use the Official Australia Cup Match Ball.

**Penalty** - Any club that breaches the match ball rule shall be subject to a Fine – Refer to the relevant Competition Operating Regulations.

#### 11. Match Officials and Match Official Fees

a. Football SA shall appoint Match Officials for all Cup Matches. The home team or hosting club shall cover all related Match Officials fees, excluding the semi-finals and final. Football SA will be responsible for the payment of Match Officials for semi-finals and final matches.

b. Match Official fees for cup competitions will be set by Football SA and published on an annual basis.

#### 12. Admission Charges

a. The admission charges to be applied by clubs hosting a cup game shall be the same fee that the club charges for a home game fixture as outlined in Clause 1 of the Senior Men’s Competition Operating Regulations.

b. If the club is not a National Premier League or State League One or Two club, the club shall charge the fee that they normally charge at their home venue.

Note: There may be a provision for family tickets. All prices include GST.

c. Admission for Players and officials into grounds on match days will be by a current season pass or where it is an affiliated association club, via a team list, excluding semi-final and final games. Season passes will not be valid for semi-final and final games.

#### 13. Forfeits

Clubs who forfeit a Cup match, will forfeit the game by 3 goals to 0 and will incur the prescribed fine. Refer to below scale of penalties.

Prescribed Fine	Senior Games	Level 4 Fine
	Reserves	Level 3 Fine
	Under 18s	Level 2 Fine

#### 14. Semi-Finals and Finals

a. Semi-Final and Final games shall be played at a venue determined by Football SA and will be allocated at the sole and absolute discretion of Football SA.

b. The first team named in the draw for semi-final and final games will be the home team and will wear their allocated home playing strip.

- c. The admission fee for Semi-Final and Final games will be set by Football SA on an annual basis.
- d. Match Official Fees for the Semi Final and Final games shall be paid by Football SA.
- e. Football SA will be responsible for organising trophies and medals for all cup competitions and the presentation of them to teams.
- f. A Player of the Match medal may be presented at the final of the Senior Grade Cup Competition. Football SA will be responsible for determining the process to be used in awarding this medal.

**15. Adelaide United FC**

- a. Adelaide United Youth Team, the team that competes in the RAA National Premier League SA, is not eligible to participate in the Australia Cup South Australian Preliminary Rounds. This is due to Adelaide United FC competing in the competition as an A-League Team.
- b. Adelaide United FC will be permitted to participate in the Reserve Grade Federation Cup.
- c. Football SA NTC Team will be permitted to participate in the Under 18s Federation Cup.
- d. To be eligible to play in the Reserve Grade Cup Competition for Adelaide United FC, a player must not have been named as a starting player in the senior team five (5) or more times.
- e. Any player that participates in an A-League match in the current season, is not eligible to participate in the Under 18 or Reserve Grade Federation Cup.
- f. To be eligible to play in the Under 18 Grade Federation Cup Competition for FSA NTC Team, a player must not have been named as a starting player in the Reserve or Senior Team for Adelaide United FC in the RAA National Premier League SA five (5) or more times.
- g. A goalkeeper from a lower grade may move up and play in a higher-grade cup competition and then move back down to the grade that the goalkeeper came from.

**Scale of Penalties**

Level 1 fine	A fine of \$100 for the first offence and \$200 for a second offence within 12 months.
Level 2 fine	A fine of \$250 for a first offence and a fine of \$500 for a second offence within 12 months.
Level 3 fine	A fine of \$500 for the first offence and a fine of \$1,000 for the second offence within 12 months.
Level 4 fine	A fine of \$1,000.
Level 5 fine	A fine of \$5,000.