



**FOOTBALL  
SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA**



**NATIONAL  
PREMIER LEAGUES**

## **FOOTBALL SA COMPETITION OPERATING REGULATIONS**

**Specific to Senior Men's Competitions including  
National Premier League,  
State League 1 and 2 Competitions and  
Cup Competitions**

Amended, Updated and Implemented

**As of February 2024**

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## **Application**

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

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

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

## **Scope**

These regulations:

- i) apply to participating teams, players and officials participating in the National Premier League, State League(s) and Cup Competitions;
- ii) apply to all National Premier League, State League 1 and State League 2 and Cup Competition Games;

## **Definitions**

### **Abandoned**

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

### **Amateur Player**

Is any Player that is not a Professional, as defined in article 4.1. of the National Registration Regulations.

### **Amateur Competition**

A competition that does not have any professional registered players.

### **Australian Player**

Is any Player who is a citizen of Australia; a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a person residing in Australia on a "permanent" visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the person's Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the person's online Visa Entitlement Verification); a person who has been granted indefinite stay in Australia on their visa; or the holder of a refugee visa, humanitarian visa or protection visa issued by the Australian government.

### **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.

**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 a competition.

**Cup**

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

**Cup Fixtures**

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

**Final Series**

Is a competition that may be conducted following the Home and Away Season.

**First Team**

Is the highest-grade team that represents a club in the National Premier League, State League 1 or State League 2 competition.

**First Team Player Roster**

First Team Player Roster means the roster of Players for a Club's First Team maintained in accordance with the First Team Player Roster System and any other competition regulations provided by Football SA.

**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.

**Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations**

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

**Goal Difference**

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

**Home and Away Season**

Is the competition comprising of one **home** game at each team's venue and one **away** game at each team's venue.

**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.

**Life Member**

Is an individual who has been recognised by the Football SA Board for their outstanding contribution to the sport.

**Match**

Is a fixture sanctioned by Football SA.

**Match Commissioner**

Is an individual appointed by Football SA to a Match to ensure the minimum match day standards applying to a Competition are adhered to.

**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.

**NPL National Finals Series**

Is a National Competition conducted by Football Australia that involves teams that have won their respective Member Federation National Premier 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).

**Player Points System (PPS)**

Is a mechanism that is used by clubs to define and submit their player roster to Football SA.

**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.

**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.

**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.

# RAA NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE

## Minimum Requirements

FIELD OF PLAY AND TEAM AMENITIES		
Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Field Dimensions</b>	Field of Play must satisfy the requirements of the Laws of the game; minimum length of 90m and maximum length of 120m and minimum width of 45m and maximum width of 90m. Field must be rectangular.	The mandatory minimum field size for NPL will be 100m length by 60m width from the 2025 Season.
<b>Playing Surface</b>	The pitch shall be natural grass, or a FIFA approved synthetic surface with all internal field markings in accordance with the Laws of the Game.	Clubs must ensure they consult their council in relation to permitted substances that can be used on playing surfaces.
<b>Field Markings</b>	Line markings must be clearly visible and in accordance with the Laws of the Game.	Clubs must ensure they consult their council in relation to substances that can be used to mark the fields or that can be used on fields.
<b>Field Fence</b>	A permanent fence or fencing as approved by Football SA fully enclosing the field of play and that is a minimum of 2m in distance from the side lines and goal lines. The fence must be in a good condition and safe.	Football SA reserves the right not to sanction a venue if the field is not adequately fenced. <b>Non-Compliance:</b> Once the venue is sanctioned the onus is on the club to maintain fencing. If a club is not compliant a Level 2 fine will be imposed and the venue will need to be compliant prior to further use.
<b>Player's Race</b>	A player's race that leads directly from the dressing room of the players and match officials to the field of play must be implemented.	The player's race must be secured ensuring the safety of the players and match officials as they move between the two areas and be inaccessible by spectators and unauthorised persons. <b>Non -Compliance – (Refer to page 50-52 for details relating to fines)</b> A. Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if the player race does not meet the requirements. B. Failure to secure a player race resulting in access by unauthorised person/s: a. First occasion Level 2 Fine and may be referred to a Disciplinary Hearing. b. Second occasion Level 3 Fine and may be referred to a Disciplinary Hearing. c. Subsequent offences referred to Disciplinary Hearing.

## FIELD OF PLAY AND TEAM AMENITIES

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Technical Area</b>	Two covered coaches/substitutes benches/dugouts or as approved by Football SA, with adequate seating for at least 14 people. 7 subs and 7 staff for Senior matches; 7 subs and 5 staff for Reserve matches, 5 subs and 5 staff for Under 18 matches.	All team officials for all Senior grades (Under 18, Reserves and Under 18) are required to wear the accreditation provided by Football SA at all times.
<b>Field Equipment</b>	Goalposts, goal nets and corner flags of approved material, colour and dimensions as per the current Laws of the Game.	Laws of the Game stipulate that a corner posts, not less than 1.5m high, with a non-pointed top and flag must be placed at each corner. Flag posts may also be placed at each end of the halfway line, not less than 1m outside the touch line.
<b>Team Changing Rooms</b>	<p>Allocation of separate changing rooms to accommodate home and away teams. Each changing room must be lockable and provide the following minimum requirements;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Sufficient space to comfortably accommodate at least 18 players and officials at any one time.</li> <li>II. Shower facilities with a minimum of three shower heads providing hot and cold water.</li> <li>III. Toilet facilities that are adequately maintained and include at least one hand basin.</li> <li>IV. Lockers or hanging facilities for player's clothing.</li> <li>V. Trainers Table.</li> </ol>	<p>All dressing room facilities are to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition at all times.</p> <p>All dressing room facilities must be permanent buildings or as approved by Football SA and have the appropriate council approval.</p> <p>Other equipment recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whiteboard and pens</li> <li>• Power Points</li> <li>• Fridge or esky with ice</li> </ul> <p>Each room is to be clearly signed as home and away.</p>
<b>Match Officials Changing Room</b>	<p>Allocation of a changing room that comfortably accommodates up to four match officials at any given time. If possible, where male and female match officials are appointed, a separate changing room should be provided for female match officials.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Sufficient space to comfortably accommodate up to four match officials at any given time.</li> <li>ii. Shower facilities providing hot and cold water.</li> <li>iii. Toilet facilities that are adequately maintained and that include a hand basin.</li> <li>iv. Locker or hanging facilities for match officials clothing.</li> <li>v. Table</li> </ol>	<p>All dressing room facilities are to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition at all times.</p> <p>All dressing room facilities must be permanent buildings or as approved by Football SA and have the appropriate council approval.</p> <p>Other equipment recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power Points</li> <li>• Fridge or esky with ice</li> </ul> <p>Match Officials room is to be clearly signed.</p>



FIELD OF PLAY AND TEAM AMENITIES		
Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Floodlighting</b>	<p>Football SA stipulates that the <i>Australian Standard AS2560.2:2021, Sports Lighting</i> is to be implemented. To be eligible to play senior fixtures, the field floodlighting must be a minimum of 200 lux with a uniformity of 0.6.</p> <p>For Under 18 and Reserve Grade fixtures to be conducted as night games the minimum floodlighting requirements is 100 lux with a uniformity of 0.5.</p>	<p>Prior to a club being sanctioned to conduct night fixtures, a lighting certificate must be submitted to Football SA verifying the floodlighting meets the minimum lighting standards.</p> <p>A lighting certificate is valid for a period of two years. On expiry, a club will be required to provide Football SA a new lighting certificate prior to Football SA sanctioning of games.</p>
<b>Medical Room and Equipment</b>	A first aid room including basic first aid equipment including a suitably approved stretcher and a massage table. A stretcher is to be located on the sideline of the field of play from the commencement of a game.	All must be maintained in a clean and sterile condition.

- A. Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if any of the ground criteria is not fulfilled.
- B. Football SA reserves the right to modify the ground criteria for non-competitive games and competitive games involving Under 18 and Reserves Grades.  
\*Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if any of the venue criteria is not fulfilled.
- C. For a full outline of venue requirements please refer to the Football SA Venue Requirements document.

## SPECTATOR AND OTHER VENUE FACILITIES

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Spectator Amenities</b>		
Spectator amenities shall be fully enclosed with a perimeter fencing ensuring admission into the ground is controlled.		
<b>Access and exit to the venue</b>	There must be more than one exit point to the venue to accommodate the evacuation of spectators. Access is available for emergency vehicles including access to the playing field	
<b>Admission into the Venue</b>	Each venue is to have a admission entrance of a structure and design as approved by Football SA for the collection of admission fees.	
<b>Canteen and Bar</b>	Serving hot and cold drinks and foods compliant with all health and council regulations. The serving of alcohol must be in accordance to the license regulations.	Alcohol consumed outside of the clubrooms must be in plastic containers. An area designated as a dry zone free from alcohol consumption must be allocated.
<b>Car Parking</b>	Car parking is to be available that is in close proximity to the venue. Car Parking located at the venue must be made available to the appointed match officials	
<b>Media Area</b>	A media area that provides unobstructed views of the playing field and scoreboard is required to be provided at each venue.	Preference is for the media area to be a scaffold where possible, with a minimum elevation height of two (2) metres for livestreaming purposes. Any erected scaffold must be certified with Council and must be lockable and secure.
<b>Scoreboard</b>	A fully functional scoreboard (including the names of each participating team), which is clearly visible to spectators and the media/ press box.	Preference is for the scoreboard to include a clock that displays the match time
<b>Seating Capacity</b>	Seating for 200 people.	Recommended that the seating is undercover.
<b>Smoke Free Venues</b>	All venues are to be designated smoke free.	It is the responsibility of venue management to police and enforce a smoke free venue.
<b>PA System</b>	A fully operational Public Address System that is audible to all parts of the venue.	Recommended that the system can play music and announce simultaneously. Must also have the means to play music. A wireless microphone is recommended.
<b>Toilets</b>	Male and Female public toilets including disabled toilet access that are situated in the venue.	A public disabled toilet must be provided.

\*Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if any of the venue criteria is not fulfilled.

## TEAMS AND COACHING REQUIREMENTS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Senior Teams</b>	Each club is to field three grades of senior teams: a. Under 18s b. Reserves c. Seniors	<b>Non-Compliance</b> If a club is unable to field Senior, Reserve or Under 18s Grade Teams, the club will not be permitted to enter the National Premier League Competition.
<b>Junior Teams</b>	It is strongly recommended that clubs field the following junior teams: a. Under 12, 13, 14, 15 ,16 and 17 b. MiniRoos Teams at least one team in each age group, Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11	
<b>Player Points System</b>	Each club will be required to implement the Player Points System when selecting their senior grade team.	Football SA will provide the Player Points System to each club.
<b>Technical Director</b>	Each club is required to appoint a Technical Director to oversee the football development of teams aged 12-18 years of age. The person appointed to this position is required to be accredited to a minimum of an <b>B Diploma</b> .	The Technical Director is required to work with the Football SA Technical Director as required. Technical Director must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide the club a Working with Children Check.
<b>Senior Coaching Accreditation</b>	<p><b>First Team Coach</b> Minimum of B Diploma</p> <p><b>Reserve Team Coach</b> Minimum of C Diploma</p> <p><b>Under 18s Coach</b> Minimum of C Diploma</p> <p><b>All Assistant Coaches</b> Minimum of C Diploma</p> <p>*Coaches that hold overseas accreditation must have their accreditation recognised and endorsed by AFC through Football Australia.</p>	<p>All coaches must have the minimum accreditation to coach at the appointed level.</p> <p>All coaches must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide the club a Working with Children Check.</p> <p>Goalkeeper Coaches are recommended to have a minimum of a Foundation of Goalkeeping Certificate.</p>

<b>Junior Coaching Accreditation</b>	<b>Under 13 – 17 Coach</b> Minimum of C Diploma <b>MiniRoos – Under 12</b> Foundation of Football Certificate.	All coaches must have the minimum accreditation to coach at the appointed level.  All coaches must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide the club a Working with Children Check.
<b>Annual Coaching Conference</b>	The Technical Director and Head Coach of each club are required to attend Football SA annual Coaching Conference.	Coaches should be encouraged by their club to attend the conference to assist with Professional Development and revaluation of their coaching accreditation.
<b>Community Club Academy</b>	Each club is encouraged to establish a Community Club Academy within their club.	Football SA Coaching and Development Department will assist clubs in the establishment of the club academy.
<b>Football for Girls and Women</b>	Each club is required to demonstrate a commitment to football for girls and women. This may be achieved by developing a partnership with a local girls' and women's club or by fielding girls' and/or women's teams.	

## CLUB PERSONNEL AND REPORTING MECHANISMS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Club Liaison Officers</b>	<p>Each club is required to implement people to the following positions to assist with communication between the Football SA and the club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paid Club Administrator – minimum 15 hours per week</li> <li>Club Registrar - Football Australia Registration System</li> <li>Senior Competition Liaison Officer</li> <li>Media Liaison Officer</li> <li>Junior Competition Liaison Officer and MiniRoos Games Liaison Officer</li> <li>Club Development Liaison Officer</li> </ul> <p>All appointed officers must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide the club a Working with Children Check.</p>	<p>Job descriptions for each role will be provided by Football SA and is available on the Football SA website.</p>
<b>Annual Budget</b>	<p>All clubs are required to provide to Football SA a yearly budget by the 1 January of each year.</p>	<p>This requirement is to be provided to Football SA prior to the club being permitted to participate in the competition.</p>
<b>Annual Report</b>	<p>Clubs are to submit an Annual Report to Football SA summarising the activities undertaken by the club for the year and providing audited financials.</p>	<p>Due date 1 February each year. Where a club's financial year is in line with the calendar year. An unaudited Financial Report is to be provided by the 1 February with audited financials being provided by 1 May of each year.</p>
<b>Business Plan</b>	<p>Each club is required to develop and implement a Business Plan and a longer-term Strategic Plan that outlines the vision, goals and action plans of the club in all areas. These plans should include facility development.</p>	<p>On application of the new licence period and then 1 February each year as updated.</p>
<b>Date of AGM</b>	<p>Each club is to notify Football SA of the date and time of the Club's Annual General Meeting for each year.</p>	<p>14 days prior to the date of the AGM.</p>

## MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Senior Team Medical Personnel</b>	<p>Minimum Level 2 Sports Trainer or physiotherapist is required.</p> <p>Each appointed person is to register in the Football Australia Registration System registration system and provide proof of accreditation/ qualification by uploading their accreditation into the system.</p> <p>Appointed medical staff must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide the club Working with Children Check</p>	
<b>Junior Teams Medical Personnel</b>	<p><b>U12s – 17s Teams</b>     Minimum Senior First Aid Officer</p> <p><b>MiniRoos Teams</b>     Minimum Senior First Aid Officer</p> <p>Each appointed person is to register in the Football Australia Registration System and provide proof of accreditation/ qualification to their club.</p> <p>Appointed medical staff must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide their club with a Working with Children Check</p>	
<b>Medical Room</b>	A first aid room including basic first aid equipment including a suitably approved stretcher and a massage table. A stretcher is to be located on the sideline of the field of play from the commencement of a game.	All must be maintained in a clean and sterile condition.

<p><b>Medical Reporting</b></p>	<p>Each club is to ensure that all players and appointed team officials complete a medical form. Medical form should be retained by medical personnel appointed to the team.</p> <p>If an injury or medical incident does occur, Sports Trainer/First aid person is to complete an injury report form.</p>	<p>All medical forms should be treated with strict confidentiality. Only appointed medical personnel, team manager and nominated club person should have access.</p> <p>Incident report forms are to be provided to the club and Football SA if required.</p>
<p><b>Professional Development</b></p>	<p>Appointed medical personnel are required to attend first aid workshops as scheduled annually by Football SA.</p>	<p>Clubs are encouraged to identify people within the club that may move into such roles.</p>
<p><b>Medical Equipment</b></p>	<p>Each club is required to provide medical equipment, including strapping to their Senior Teams. Each team is to be provided with a first aid medical kit that is to be used by the nominated medical personnel.</p> <p>All clubs must have a defibrillator installed and maintained at their venue.</p>	<p>Medical personnel should be responsible for the first aid kit ensuring that it is restocked as required.</p>





## CLUB DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Game Day Presentation</b>	<p>Each club is to implement the following game day requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Implement match day guidelines as provided by the Football SA</li> <li>b. Produce a match day program.</li> <li>c. All Premier League Clubs are required to conduct half time entertainment at all home league fixtures. This may involve the conducting of MiniRoos Games.</li> </ul>	
<b>Team/player photographs</b>	<p>Each club is required to provide Football SA with a headshot of each registered player and coach in Seniors, Reserves and Under 18's. If a player or coach joins the club during the season, the club must provide Football SA with a headshot of the player or coach with the new club shirt.</p>	<p>Football SA will organise for all registered NPL Senior players to have a photoshoot prior to the commencement of the season. Clubs are required to provide headshots of players and coaches who do not attend the photoshoot and Reserves and Under 18 players.</p>
<b>Family Friendly Area</b>	<p>Each club is to implement a designated Family Friendly Area. This area is to be sectioned off and signs prohibiting alcohol or obscene language must be displayed. This area is to be patrolled by a designated ground steward who will enforce the requirements of the Family Friendly area.</p>	<p>Clubs are encouraged to promote family friendly venue/environment. The inclusion of activities for children such as face painters, designated play area are strongly encouraged.</p>
<b>Club Development</b>	<p>Each club must demonstrate a commitment to club development. Each club is required to complete the National Club Accreditation Program as directed by Football SA.</p> <p>Each club is required to register and work through the STARCLUB Program and the Good Sports Program</p> <p>Each club must send a minimum of one person to attend the annual Club Conference conducted by Football SA.</p>	<p>Football SA will provide assistance and guidance in relation to the club development programs.</p>

## CLUB DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Community Development and Engagement</b>	<p>Each club is required to develop partnerships with their local schools and at minimum conduct the following activities with each school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Program and conduct at least two (2) coaching clinics with local schools.</li> <li>b. Provide local school teams with the opportunity to participate in half-time entertainment.</li> <li>c. Provide a link for school players to progress into club-based football.</li> </ul>	
<b>Regional Development and Engagement</b>	<p>Each Club will be required to develop a partnership with a regional association and at minimum undertake the following activities within their regional area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Visit the regional area at least once a year to play a game and conduct coaching clinics with juniors within the area.</li> <li>b. Develop a relationship with the coaches or regional coaching director to assist in the identification of players.</li> <li>c. Invite players to the club to provide a career pathway and talent identification.</li> </ul>	
<b>Respect Program</b>	<p>Each club is required to implement any Respect Program that is implemented by Football Australia and/or Football SA. This includes displaying any resources associated with the program and following all directives relating to this program as provided by Football SA.</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that all players, team and club officials and spectators are aware of their responsibilities under any Respect Program.</p>
<b>Child Safe Environment</b>	<p>Each club is required to implement the Child Safe Environment Guidelines. This includes ensuring that all volunteers that have direct contact with participants under the age of 18, undertake a Working with Children Check. Each club is also required to undertake reference checks when appointing all volunteers.</p>	<p>A copy of the Child Safe Environment Requirements can be obtained from Football SA. All clubs are required to abide by the Football Australia Member Protection Policy.</p>

# STATE LEAGUE 1

## Minimum Requirements

FIELD OF PLAY AND TEAM AMENITIES		
Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Field Dimensions</b>	Field of Play must satisfy the requirements of the Laws of the game, minimum length of 90m and maximum length of 120m and minimum width of 45m and maximum width of 90m. Field must be rectangular.	
<b>Playing Surface</b>	The pitch shall be natural grass, or a FIFA approved synthetic surface with all internal field markings in accordance with the Laws of the Game.	Clubs must ensure they consult their council in relation to permitted substances that can be used on playing surfaces.
<b>Field Markings</b>	Line markings must be clearly visible and in accordance with the Laws of the Game.	Clubs must ensure they consult their council in relation to substances that can be used to mark the fields or that can be used on fields.
<b>Field Fence</b>	A permanent fence or fencing as approved by Football SA fully enclosing the field of play and that is a minimum of 2m in distance from the side lines and goal lines. The fence must be in a good condition and safe.	Football SA reserves the right not to sanction a venue if the field is not adequately fenced. <b>Non-Compliance:</b> Once the venue is sanctioned the onus is on the club to maintain fencing. If a club is not compliant a Level 2 fine will be imposed and the venue will need to be compliant prior to further use.
<b>Player's Race</b>	An player's race that leads directly from the dressing room of the players and match officials to the field of play must be implemented.	The player's race must be secured ensuring the safety of the players and match officials as they move between the two areas and be inaccessible by spectators and unauthorised persons. <b>Non -Compliance – (Refer to page 50-52 for details relating to fines)</b> A. Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if the player race does not meet the requirements. B. Failure to secure a player race resulting in access by unauthorised person/s; a. First occasion Level 2 Fine and may be referred to a Disciplinary Hearing. b. Second occasion Level 3 Fine and may be referred to a Disciplinary Hearing. Subsequent offences referred to Disciplinary Hearing.

FIELD OF PLAY AND TEAM AMENITIES		
Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Technical Area</b>	Two covered coaches/substitutes benches/dugouts or as approved by Football SA, with adequate seating for at least 14 people. 7 subs and 7 staff for Senior matches; 7 subs and 5 staff for Reserve matches, 5 subs and 5 staff for Under 18 matches.	All Teams Officials in the Technical Area must wear their Football SA Accreditation at all times.
<b>Field Equipment</b>	Goalposts, goal nets and corner flags of approved material, colour and dimensions as per the current Laws of the Game.	Laws of the Game stipulate that corner posts, not less than 1.5m high, with a non-pointed top and flag must be placed at each corner. Flag posts may also be placed at each end of the halfway line, not less than 1m outside the touch line.
<b>Team Changing Rooms</b>	<p>Allocation of separate changing rooms to accommodate home and away teams. Each changing room must be lockable and provide the following minimum requirements;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Sufficient space to comfortably accommodate at least 18 players and officials at any one time.</li> <li>II. Shower facilities with a minimum of three (3) shower heads providing hot and cold water.</li> <li>III. Toilet facilities that are adequately maintained and include at least one hand basin.</li> <li>IV. Lockers or hanging facilities for player's clothing.</li> <li>V. Trainers Table.</li> </ol>	<p>All dressing room facilities are to be provided in a clean condition at all times.</p> <p>All dressing room facilities must be permanent buildings or as approved by Football SA and have the appropriate council approval.</p> <p>Other equipment recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whiteboard and pens</li> <li>• Power Points</li> <li>• Fridge or esky with ice</li> </ul> <p>Each room is to be clearly signed as home and away.</p>
<b>Match Officials Changing Room</b>	<p>Allocation of a changing room that can comfortably accommodate up to four match officials at any given time. If possible, where male and female match officials are appointed, a separate dressing room should be provided for female match officials.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Sufficient space to comfortably accommodate up to four match officials at any given time.</li> <li>II. Shower facilities providing hot and cold water.</li> <li>III. Toilet facilities that are adequately maintained and that include a hand basin.</li> <li>IV. Locker or hanging facilities for match officials clothing.</li> <li>V. Table</li> </ol>	<p>All dressing room facilities are to be provided in a clean condition at all times.</p> <p>All dressing room facilities must be permanent buildings or as approved by Football SA and have the appropriate council approval.</p> <p>Other equipment recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power Points</li> <li>• Fridge or esky with ice</li> </ul> <p>Match Officials room is to be clearly signed.</p>

FIELD OF PLAY AND TEAM AMENITIES		
Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Medical Room and Equipment</b>	A first aid room including basic first aid equipment including a suitably approved stretcher and a massage table. A stretcher is to be located on the sideline of the field of play from the commencement of a game.	All must be maintained in a clean and sterile condition.
<b>Floodlighting</b>	Football SA stipulates that the <i>Australian Standard AS2560.2:2021, Sports Lighting</i> is to be implemented. To be eligible to play night games, field floodlighting must be a minimum of 100 lux with a uniformity of 0.5.	<p>Prior to a club being sanctioned to conduct night fixtures, a lighting certificate must be submitted to Football SA verifying the floodlighting meets the minimum lighting standards.</p> <p>A lighting certificate is valid for a period of two years. On expiry, a club will be required to provide Football SA a new lighting certificate prior to Football SA sanctioning of games.</p>

- A. Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if any of the ground criteria is not fulfilled.
- B. Football SA reserves the right to modify the ground criteria for non-competitive games and competitive games involving Under 18 and Reserves Grades.  
\*Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if any of the venue criteria is not fulfilled.
- C. For a full outline of venue requirements please refer to the Football SA Venue Requirements document.

## SPECTATOR AND OTHER VENUE FACILITIES

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Spectator Amenities</b>		
Spectator amenities shall be fully enclosed with a perimeter fencing ensuring admission into the ground is controlled.		
<b>Access and exit to the venue</b>	There must be more than one exit point to the venue to accommodate the evacuation of spectators. Access is available for emergency vehicles including access to the playing field.	
<b>Admission into the Venue</b>	Each venue is to have a admission entrance of a structure and design as approved by Football SA for the collection of admission fees.	
<b>Canteen and Bar</b>	Serving hot and cold drinks and foods compliant with all health and council regulations. The serving of alcohol must be in accordance to the license regulations.	Alcohol consumed outside of the clubrooms must be in plastic containers. An area designated as a dry zone free from alcohol consumption must be allocated.
<b>Car Parking</b>	Car parking is to be available that is in close proximity to the venue. Car Parking located at the venue must be made available to the appointed match officials	
<b>Media Area</b>	A media area that provides unobstructed views of the playing field and scoreboard is required to be provided at each venue.	Preference is for the media area to be a scaffold where possible, with a minimum elevation height of two (2) metres for livestreaming purposes. Any erected scaffold must be certified with Council and must be lockable and secure.
<b>Scoreboard</b>	A fully functional scoreboard (including the names of each participating team), which is clearly visible to spectators and the media/ press box.	Preference is for the scoreboard to include a clock that displays the match time
<b>Seating Capacity</b>	No requirement	It is preferred that there is seating provided for 200 people and that the seating is covered.
<b>Smoke Free Venues</b>	All venues are to be designated smoke free.	It is the responsibility of venue management to police and enforce a smoke free venue.
<b>PA System</b>	No requirement.	It is recommended that a fully operational Public Address System that is audible to all parts of the venue is available at all venues. Recommended that the system can play music and announce simultaneously. Must also have the means to play music. A wireless microphone is recommended.
<b>Toilets</b>	Male and Female public toilets including disabled toilet access that are situated in the venue.	A public disabled toilet must be provided.

\*Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if any of the venue criteria is not fulfilled.

## TEAMS AND COACHING REQUIREMENTS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Senior Teams</b>	Each club is to field three grades of senior teams: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Under 18s</li> <li>b. Reserves</li> <li>c. Seniors</li> </ol>	<b>Non-Compliance</b> If a club is unable to field Senior, Reserve or Under 18s Grade Teams, the club will not be permitted to enter the State League 1 Competition.
<b>Junior Teams</b>	It is strongly recommended that clubs field the following junior teams: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. At least three junior teams in three of the following age groups Under 12, 13, 14, 15, 16</li> <li>b. At least three MiniRoos teams in three of the following age - Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and Under 11</li> </ol>	
<b>Technical Director</b>	Each club is required to appoint a Technical Director to oversee the football development of teams aged 12-18 years of age. The person appointed to this position is required to be accredited to a minimum of an <b>C Diploma</b> .  Technical Director must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide the club with a Working with Children Check.	It is recommended that the Technical Director is accredited to an B Diploma.  The Technical Director is required to work with the Football SA Technical Director as required.
<b>Senior Coaching Accreditation</b>	<p><b>First Team Coach</b> Minimum of C Diploma</p> <p><b>Reserve Team Coach</b> Minimum of Foundation of Football Certificate</p> <p><b>Under 18s Coach</b> Minimum of Foundation of Football Certificate</p> <p><b>All Assistant Coaches</b> Minimum of Foundation of Football Certificate</p> <p>*Coaches that hold overseas accreditation must have their accreditation recognised and endorsed by AFC</p> <p>All coaches must have the minimum accreditation to coach at the appointed level.</p>	<p>It is recommended that coaches hold the following accreditation:</p> <p><b>First Team Coach</b> Minimum of B Diploma  <b>Reserve Team Coach</b> Minimum of C Diploma  <b>Under 18s Coach</b> Minimum of C Diploma  <b>All Assistant Coaches</b> Minimum of C Diploma</p> <p>It is recommended that Goalkeeper Coaches have a minimum accreditation of Foundation of Goalkeeping Certificate.</p>

<b>Junior Coaching Accreditation</b>	<p>Refer the Junior Competition Operating Regulations for minimum junior coaching accreditation.</p> <p>All coaches must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, must provide a Working with Children Check to their club.</p> <p>All coaches must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide the club with a Working with Children Check.</p>	<p>It is recommended that coaches hold the following accreditation:</p> <p><b>Under 13-17 Coach</b>                      Minimum of C Diploma</p>
<b>Annual Coaching Conference</b>	<p>The Technical Director and Head Coach of each club are required to attend Football SA annual Coaching Conference.</p>	<p>Coaches should be encouraged by their club to attend the conference to assist with Professional Development and revaluation of their coaching accreditation.</p>
<b>Community Club Academy</b>	<p>No Requirement</p>	<p>Each club is encouraged to establish a Community Club Academy within their club. Football SA Coaching and Development Department will assist clubs in the establishment of the club academy.</p>
<b>Football for Girls and Women</b>	<p>No Requirement</p>	<p>Each club is encouraged to demonstrate a commitment to football for girls and women. This may be achieved by developing a partnership with a local girls' and women's club or by fielding girls' and/or women's teams.</p>



## CLUB PERSONNEL AND REPORTING MECHANISMS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Club Liaison Officers</b>	<p>Each club is required to implement people to the following positions to assist with communication between the Football SA and the club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club Registrar - Football Australia Registration System</li> <li>• Senior Competition Liaison Officer</li> <li>• Media Liaison Officer</li> <li>• Junior Competition Liaison Officer and MiniRoos Games Liaison Officer</li> <li>• Club Development Liaison Officer</li> </ul> <p>All appointed officers must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide the club with a Working with Children Check.</p>	Job descriptions for each role is available on the Football SA website.
<b>Annual Budget</b>	All clubs are required to provide to Football SA a yearly budget by the 1 January of each year.	This requirement is to be provided to Football SA prior to the club being permitted to participate in the competition.
<b>Annual Report</b>	Clubs are to submit an Annual Report to Football SA summarising the activities undertaken by the club for the year. The report is to include an audited financial report.	Due date 1 February each year. Where a club's financial year is in line with the calendar year, an unaudited Financial Report is to be provided by the 1 February with audited financials being provided by 1 May of each year.
<b>Business Plan</b>	Each club is required is to develop and implement a Business Plan and a longer-term Strategic Plan that outlines the vision, goals and action plans of the club in all areas. These plans should include facility development.	On application of the new licence period and then 1 February each year as updated.
<b>Date of AGM</b>	Each club is to notify Football SA of the date and time of the Club's Annual General Meeting for each year.	14 days prior to the date of the AGM.

## MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Senior Team Medical Personnel</b>	<p>Minimum Level 1 Sports Trainer is required</p> <p>Each appointed person is to register in the Football Australia Registration System registration system and provide proof of their accreditation/ qualification to their club.</p> <p>Appointed medical staff must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide a Working with Children Check to their club.</p>	Recommend a minimum Level 2 Sports Trainer be appointed.
<b>Junior Teams Medical Personnel</b>	<p><b>U12s – 17s Teams</b>     Minimum Senior First Aid Officer</p> <p><b>MiniRoos Teams</b>     Minimum Senior First Aid Officer</p> <p>Each appointed person is to register in the Football Australia Registration System and provide proof of accreditation/ qualification by uploading their accreditation into the system.</p> <p>Appointed medical staff must, if working with minors, Under 18, must provide a Working with Children Check to their club.</p>	
<b>Medical Room</b>	A first aid room including basic first aid equipment including a suitably approved stretcher and a massage table. A stretcher is to be located on the sideline of the field of play from the commencement of a game.	All must be maintained in a clean and sterile condition.
<b>Medical Equipment</b>	<p>Each club is required to provide medical equipment, including strapping to their Senior Teams. Each team is to be provided with a first aid medical kit that is to be used by the nominated medical personnel.</p> <p>All clubs must have a defibrillator installed and maintained at their venue.</p>	Medical personnel should be responsible for the first aid kit ensuring that it is restocked as required.

## MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Medical Reporting</b>	<p>Each club is to ensure that all players and appointed team officials complete a medical form. Medical form should be retained by medical personnel appointed to the team.</p> <p>If an injury or medical incident does occur, Sports Trainer/First aid person is to complete a injury report form.</p>	<p>All medical forms should be treated with strict confidentiality. Only appointed medical personnel, team manager and nominated club person should have access.</p> <p>Incident report forms are to be provided to the club and Football SA if required.</p>
<b>Professional Development</b>	<p>Appointed medical personnel are required to attend first aid workshops as scheduled annually by Football SA.</p>	<p>Clubs are encouraged to identify people within the club that may move into such roles.</p>

## SIGNAGE AND LOGOS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Ground Signage</b>	Each club is to provide space 2400-3000 x 1000 for Football SA signs to be displayed at all home venues.	Football SA will determine the signage to be displayed and may include the major sponsor of the Competition or any other sponsor as determined by the Football SA.
<b>Playing Strip Logos</b>	Football SA will provide updated official Playing Strip Guidelines ahead of each season which is required to be adhered to.	

### Non-Compliance

Football SA will not sanction the use of a clubs playing strip if it does not meet the logo requirements. If a club uses a playing strip that does not meet the logo requirements, the following sanctions will be imposed, refer to page 50-52 for details of fines;

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A. First Offence               | A level 3 fine                                       |
| B. Second Offence              | A level 3 fine plus loss of one competition point    |
| C. Third or subsequent Offence | A level 4 fine plus loss of three competition points |

## CLUB DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Game Day Presentation</b>	Each club is to implement match day guidelines as provided by the Football SA.	It is recommended that each club implements the following; a. Produce a match day program. b. Conduct half time entertainment at all home league fixtures. This may involve the conducting of MiniRoos Games.
<b>Team/player photographs</b>	Each club is required to provide Football SA with a headshot of each registered player and coach in Seniors, Reserves and Under 18's.	If a player or coach joins the club during the season, the club must provide Football SA with a headshot of the player or coach with the new club shirt.
<b>Family Friendly Area</b>	No Requirement	Clubs are encouraged to promote family friendly venue/environment. The inclusion of activities for children such as face painters, designated play area are strongly encouraged and the implementation of family friendly areas free from alcohol and obscene language.
<b>Club Development</b>	<p>Each club must demonstrate a commitment to club development. Each club is required to complete the National Club Accreditation Program as directed by Football SA.</p> <p>Each club is required to register and work through the STARCLUB Program and the Good Sports Program</p> <p>Each club must send a minimum of one person to attend the annual club conference conducted by Football SA.</p>	Football SA will provide assistance and guidance in relation to the club development programs.
<b>Community Development and Engagement</b>	No Requirement.	<p>It is recommended that a club develop partnerships with their local schools and at minimum conduct the following activities with each school:</p> <p>a. Program and conduct at least 2 coaching clinics with local schools.</p> <p>b. Provide local school teams with the opportunity to participate in half-time entertainment.</p> <p>c. Provide a link for school players to progress into club based football.</p>

## CLUB DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Respect Program</b>	Each club is required to implement the any Respect Program implemented by Football Australia and/or Football SA. This includes displaying of all resources associated with the program and following all directives relating to this program as provided by Football SA.	It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that all players, team and club officials and spectators are aware of their responsibilities under the Respect Program.
<b>Child Safe Environment</b>	Each club is required to implement the Child Safe Environment Guidelines. This includes ensuring that all volunteers that have direct contact with participants under the age of 18, undertake a Working with Children Check. Each club is also required to undertake reference checks when appointing all volunteers.	A copy of the Child Safe Environment Requirements can be obtained from Football SA. All clubs are required to abide by the Football Australia Member Protection Policy.

# STATE LEAGUE TWO

## Minimum Requirements

FIELD OF PLAY AND TEAM AMENITIES		
Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Field Dimensions</b>	Field of Play must satisfy the requirements of the Laws of the game; minimum length of 90m and maximum length of 120m and minimum width of 45m and maximum width of 90m. Field must be rectangular.	
<b>Playing Surface</b>	The pitch shall be natural grass, or a FIFA approved synthetic surface with all internal field markings in accordance with the Laws of the Game.	Clubs must ensure that they consult with their council in relation to permitted substances that can be used on playing surfaces.
<b>Field Markings</b>	Line markings must be clearly visible and in accordance with the Laws of the Game.	Clubs must ensure that they consult their council in relation to substances that can be used to mark the fields or that can be used on fields.
<b>Field Fence</b>	No Requirement	It is recommended that a permanent fence or fencing as approved by Football SA, fully enclose the field of play and that it is a minimum of 2m in distance from the side lines and goal lines. The fence must be in a good condition and safe.
<b>Player's Race</b>	No requirement	It is recommended that the venue has a player's race that leads directly from the dressing room of the players and match officials to the field of play. The player's race must be secured ensuring the safety of the players and match officials as they move between the two areas and be inaccessible by spectators and unauthorised persons.
<b>Technical Area</b>	Two covered coaches/substitutes benches/dugouts or as approved by Football SA, with adequate seating for at least 14 people. 7 subs and 7 staff for Senior matches; 7 subs and 5 staff for Reserve matches, 5 subs and 5 staff for Under 18 matches.	All Team Officials must wear their playing accreditation in the Technical Area.
<b>Field Equipment</b>	Goalposts, goal nets and corner flags of approved material, colour and dimensions as per the current Laws of the Game.	Laws of the Game stipulate that corner posts, not less than 1.5m high, with a non-pointed top and flag must be placed at each corner. Flag posts may also be placed at each end of the halfway line, not less than 1m outside the touch line.

FIELD OF PLAY AND TEAM AMENITIES		
Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Team Dressing Rooms</b>	<p>Separate dressing rooms are required to accommodate home and away teams. Each dressing room must be lockable and provide the following minimum requirements;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Sufficient space to comfortably accommodate at least 18 players and officials at any one time.</li> <li>II. Shower facilities with a minimum of one (1) shower head providing hot and cold water.</li> <li>III. Toilet facilities that are adequately maintained and include at least one hand basin.</li> </ol>	<p>All dressing room facilities are to be maintained and provided in a clean condition. All dressing room facilities must be permanent buildings or as approved by Football SA and have the appropriate council approval. Other equipment recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hooks to hang clothes</li> <li>• Massage table</li> <li>• Whiteboard</li> <li>• Power points</li> <li>• Fridge or esky with ice</li> </ul> <p>Each room is to be clearly signed as home and away.</p>
<b>Match Officials Dressing Room</b>	<p>Separate changing room to accommodate match officials. If possible, where male and female match officials are appointed, a separate dressing room should be provided for female match officials.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Sufficient space to accommodate up to four match officials at any given time.</li> <li>II. Shower facilities providing hot and cold water.</li> <li>III. Toilet facilities that are adequately maintained and that include a hand basin.</li> </ol>	<p>All dressing room facilities are to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition at all times. All dressing room facilities must be permanent buildings or as approved by Football SA and have the appropriate council approval. Other equipment recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hooks to hang clothes</li> <li>• Power points</li> <li>• Fridge or esky with ice</li> </ul> <p>Match Officials room is to be clearly signed.</p>
<b>Floodlighting</b>	<p>Football SA stipulates that the <i>Australian Standard AS2560.2:2021, Sports Lighting</i> are to be implemented. To be eligible to play night games, field floodlighting must be a minimum of 100 lux with a uniformity of 0.5.</p>	<p>Prior to a club being sanctioned to conduct night fixtures, a lighting certificate must be submitted to Football SA verifying that the floodlighting meets the minimum lighting standards. A lighting certificate is valid for a period of two years. On expiry, a club will be required to provide Football SA a new lighting certificate prior to Football SA sanctioning of games.</p>

- A. Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if any of the ground criteria is not fulfilled.
- B. Football SA reserves the right to modify the ground criteria for non-competitive games and competitive games involving Under 18 and Reserves Grades.
- \*Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if any of the venue criteria is not fulfilled.
- C. For a full outline of venue requirements please refer to the Football SA Venue Requirements document.



## SPECTATOR AND OTHER VENUE FACILITIES

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comments
<b>Access and exit to the venue</b>	Access is available for emergency vehicles including access to the playing field	
<b>Canteen and Bar</b>	Serving hot and cold drinks and foods compliant with all health and council regulations. The serving of alcohol must be in accordance to the license regulations.	Alcohol consumed outside of the clubrooms must be in plastic containers. An area designated as a dry zone free from alcohol consumption must be allocated.
<b>Car Parking</b>	Car parking is to be available that is in close proximity to the venue. Car Parking located at the venue must be made available to the appointed match officials	
<b>Scoreboard</b>	No Requirement	It is recommended that the venue has a scoreboard, identifying home and away teams.
<b>Smoke Free Venues</b>	All venues are to be designated smoke free.	It is the responsibility of venue management to police and enforce a smoke free venue.
<b>Toilets</b>	Male and Female public toilets including disabled toilet access that are situated in the venue.	A public disabled toilet must be provided.

A. Football SA reserves the right not to sanction the use of a venue if any of the ground criteria is not fulfilled.

B. Football SA reserves the right to modify the ground criteria for non-competitive games and competitive games involving Under 18 and Reserves Grades.

## TEAMS AND COACHING REQUIREMENTS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Senior Teams</b>	Each club is to field three grades of senior teams. a. Under 18s b. Reserves c. Seniors	<b>Non-Compliance</b> If a club is unable to field Senior, Reserve or Under 18s Grade Teams, the club will not be permitted to enter the State League 2 Competition. Exceptional circumstances may be provided.
<b>Junior Teams</b>	No Requirement	Each club is encouraged to field junior and MiniRoos teams in the following age groups: Junior Teams – Under 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 MiniRoos Teams – Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11
<b>Technical Director</b>	No Requirement	It is recommended that if the club field junior teams that a Technical Director is appointed. Technical Director should be accredited to a minimum of an C Diploma.
<b>Senior Coaching Accreditation</b>	<p><b>First Team Coach</b> Minimum of C Diploma</p> <p><b>Reserve Team Coach</b> Minimum of Foundation of Football Certificate</p> <p><b>Under 18s Coach</b> Minimum of Foundation of Football Certificate</p> <p><b>All Assistant Coaches</b> Minimum of Foundation of Football Certificate</p> <p>*Coaches that hold overseas accreditation must have their accreditation recognised and endorsed by AFC through Football Australia</p> <p>All coaches must have the minimum accreditation to coach at the appointed level.</p> <p>All coaches must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide a Working with Children Check to their club.</p>	<p>It is recommended that for the 2023 season that all other Coaches has the following accreditation:</p> <p>Minimum of C Diploma</p>

<b>Junior Coaching Accreditation</b>	<p>If clubs do field Junior Teams, coaches need to refer to the Junior Competition Operating Regulations for minimum coaching accreditation.</p> <p>All coaches must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, must provide a Working with Children Check to their club.</p>	
<b>Annual Coaching Conference</b>	It is required that the Head Coach of each club attend Football SA annual Coaching Conference	Coaches should be encouraged by their club to attend the conference to assist with Professional Development and revaluation of their coaching accreditation.
<b>Community Club Academy</b>	No Requirement	Each club is encouraged to establish a Community Club Academy within their club. Football SA Coaching and Development Department will assist clubs in the establishment of the club academy.
<b>Football for Girls and Women</b>	No Requirement	Each club is encouraged to demonstrate a commitment to football for girls and women. This may be achieved by developing a partnership with a local girls' and women's club or by fielding girls' and/or women's teams.

## CLUB PERSONNEL AND REPORTING MECHANISMS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Club Liaison Officers</b>	<p>Each club is required to implement a person to undertake the following positions to assist with communication between the Football SA and the club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club Registrar - Football Australia Registration System</li> <li>• Senior Competition Liaison Officer</li> <li>• Junior Competition Liaison Officer and MiniRoos Games Liaison Officer (if the club field junior teams)</li> </ul> <p>All appointed officers must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, must provide a Working with Children Check to their Club.</p>	<p>All appointed officers must be registered in the Football Australia Registration System and must fulfill the required child safe environment guidelines.</p> <p>Job descriptions for each role is available on the Football SA website.</p>
<b>Annual Budget</b>	All clubs are required to provide to Football SA a yearly budget by the 1 January of each year.	This requirement is to be provided to Football SA prior to the club being permitted to participate in the competition.
<b>Annual Report</b>	No Requirement	
<b>Business Plan</b>	No Requirement.	Each club is encouraged to develop and implement a Business Plan and a Strategic Plan that outlines the vision, goals and action plans of the club in all areas. These plans should include facility development.
<b>Date of AGM</b>	Each club is to notify Football SA of the date and time of the Club's Annual General Meeting for each year.	14 days prior to the date of the AGM.

## MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Senior Team Medical Personnel</b>	<p>Minimum Senior First Aid Officer.</p> <p>All appointed officers must be registered on Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, must provide a Working with Children Check to their Club.</p>	Clubs are encouraged to appoint a Level 1 Sports Trainer.
<b>Junior Teams Medical Personnel</b>	Clubs that field junior teams must ensure that there is a person in attendance that has a minimum of a Senior First Aid certificate. All appointed officers must be registered on the Football Australia Registration System and must, if working with minors, Under 18, provide a Working with Children Check to their Club.	
<b>Medical Equipment</b>	<p>Each team is to be provided with a first aid medical kit that is to be used by the nominated medical personnel.</p> <p>Each club must ensure that there is a stretcher at the venue and that the stretcher is put near the field of play prior to the commencement of each game.</p> <p>Each club is to have a defibrillator installed and maintained at their venue.</p>	Medical personnel should be responsible for the first aid kit ensuring that it is restocked as required.
<b>Medical Reporting</b>	<p>Each club is to ensure that all players and appointed team officials complete a medical form. Medical forms should be retained by medical personnel appointed to the team.</p> <p>If an injury or medical incident does occur, Sports Trainer/First Aid person is to complete an injury report form.</p>	<p>All medical forms should be treated with strict confidentiality. Only appointed medical personnel, team manager and nominated club person should have access.</p> <p>Incident report forms are to be provided to the club and Football SA if required.</p>
<b>Professional Development</b>	Appointed medical personnel are encouraged to attend first aid workshops as scheduled annually by Football SA.	Clubs are encouraged to identify people within the club that may move into such roles.

<b>SIGNAGE AND LOGOS</b>		
<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Minimum Requirement</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Ground Signage</b>	No Requirement	Football SA will determine the signage to be displayed and may include the major sponsor of the Competition or any other sponsor as determined by the Football SA.
<b>Playing Strip Logos</b>	Football SA will provide updated official Playing Strip Guidelines ahead of each season which is required to be adhered to.	

### **Non-Compliance**

Football SA will not sanction the use of a clubs playing strip if it does not meet the logo requirements. If a club uses a playing strip that does not meet the logo requirements, the following sanctions will be imposed, refer to page 50-52 for details of fines;

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A. First Offence               | A level 3 fine                                       |
| B. Second Offence              | A level 3 fine plus loss of one competition point    |
| C. Third or subsequent Offence | A level 4 fine plus loss of three competition points |

## CLUB DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

Criterion	Minimum Requirement	Comment
<b>Game Day Presentation</b>	Each club is to implement match day guidelines as provided by the Football SA	It is recommended that each club implements the following; d. Produce a match day program. e. Conduct half time entertainment at all home league fixtures. This may involve the conducting of MiniRoos Games.
<b>Team/player photographs</b>	Each club is required to provide Football SA with a headshot of each registered player and coach in Seniors, Reserves and Under 18's.	If a player or coach joins the club during the season, the club must provide Football SA with a headshot of the player or coach with the new club shirt.
<b>Family Friendly Area</b>	No Requirement	Clubs are encouraged to promote family friendly venue/environment. The inclusion of activities for children such as face painters, designated play area is encouraged and the implementation of family friendly areas free from alcohol and obscene language.
<b>Club Development</b>	Each club must demonstrate a commitment to club development. Each club is required to complete the National Club Accreditation Program as directed by Football SA.  Each club must send a minimum of one person to attend the annual Club Conference conducted by Football SA.	Details of the National Club Accreditation Program will be provided to clubs. Each club is encouraged to register and work through the STARCLUB Program and the Good Sports Program.  Football SA will provide assistance and guidance in relation to the club development programs.
<b>Respect Program</b>	Each club is required to implement any Respect Program implemented by Football Australia and/or Football SA. This includes displaying of all resources associated with the program and following all directives relating to this program as provided	It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that all players, team and club officials and spectators are aware of their responsibilities under the Respect Program.
<b>Child Safe Environment</b>	Each club is required to implement the Child Safe Environment Guidelines. This includes ensuring that all volunteers that have direct contact with participants under the age of 18, Provide a Working with Children Check to their Club. Each club is also required to undertake reference checks when appointing all volunteers.	A copy of the Child Safe Environment Requirements can be obtained from Football SA. All clubs are required to abide by the Football Australia Member Protection Policy.

## **COMPETITION OPERATIONS**

### **1. Admission Charges and Season Passes**

- (1) The following maximum admission charges shall apply for all matches of Football SA competitions played at local club grounds. Football SA shall review admission charges on an annual basis.

#### **National Premier League**

\$15.00 Adults          \$7.00 Concession          Under 16 Free

#### **State League 1**

\$10.00 Adults          \$5.00 Concession          Under 16 Free

#### **\*State League 2**

\$5.00 Adults          \$2.00 Concession          Under 16 Free

\*Admission Charges for State League 2 will apply where the venue is fenced, and access is through an admission point.

Note: Provisions for family tickets available all prices include GST.

- (2) Football SA shall issue on a yearly basis to designated persons a Season Pass to cover admission into specified matches throughout the season. Passes will be provided to each individual registered player, registered club officials, nominated club sponsors, Hall of Fame and Life Members, Football SA Board Members, Staff and sponsors, media, match officials and any other parties as determined by Football SA. These passes shall allow individual entry into matches unless otherwise specified.

The passes will not be valid for any Final Series conducted or grand finals unless otherwise determined by Football SA. The Competition Administrator will provide information relating to the issuing of Season Passes.

Season passes are not transferrable and are provided at the sole discretion of Football SA.

- (3) If a club identifies that a season pass has been transferred, the club can confiscate the pass and forward it on to Football SA.

### **2. Kick-off Times and Duration of Matches**

- (1) Competition Fixtures are to be played as scheduled by Football SA.
- (2) Prior to the release of official fixtures, Football SA will consult clubs by providing draft fixtures for comment.
- (3) Once the official fixtures have been released, Football SA will only permit changes to these fixtures where extenuating circumstances require. Any changes implemented will be at the sole discretion of Football SA.



- (4) Where a mid-week fixture is conducted, no game may commence prior to 6.00pm or no later than 8.15pm. These times may only vary at the sole and absolute discretion of Football SA.
- (5) All Senior, Reserve and Under 18 grade games shall be of 90 minutes duration. In all cases additional allowances for lost time as per the FIFA Laws of the game is permissible subject to time restrictions at each venue on match days.
- (6) Match Officials shall adjust playing times accordingly ensuring the proceeding games kick off at the scheduled time. Unless otherwise notified by Football SA.

### **3. Registration of Players**

- (1) All players must be registered to participate in the Football SA Competitions.
- (2) Football SA will provide to clubs, on an annual basis, the dates that players can be registered.
- (3) Players that participate in a Professional Competition, a competition where there is at least one registered Professional Player, can only be registered during 1 of 2 windows. These windows will be provided to clubs on annual basis.
- (4) The registration of a player participating in an Amateur Competition, that being a competition where there are no registered professional players, shall be permitted up to the 30 June of each season.
- (5) A player that registers to the Reserve Grade Competition outside of the Senior Grade Registration Windows, who turns 21 years of age or older during the year of the competition, must play a minimum of three (3) games or more with the Reserve Grade of that team, prior to being considered for promotion into the Senior Grade Team but not if in breach of Clause 3. (6).
- (6) A Senior Grade player, may register and play for a Reserve Team with another club but is not permitted to play with the Senior Grade Team unless an exemption has been requested by the club and approved by Football SA and/or Football Australia.
- (7) A player will be defined as a Senior Grade Player if they are 21 years of age or older during the year of competition; or, if the player has participated in a total of ten (10) or more first team league matches in any competition.
- (8) A request to register a player outside of the Registration Windows for Professional Competitions and after the 30 June for Amateur Competitions may be submitted to Football SA for consideration in accordance with Clause 5.9 of the National Registration Regulations. Any decision is at the sole discretion of Football SA and/or Football Australia.

For further information on registration of players refer to the Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations and the National Registration Regulations.

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

- (1) Players who are aged up to 18, or who turn 18 in the year of competition, are eligible to play in the Under 18. There is no provision to allow overage players in this competition. Any club who breaches this rule shall be subject to the sanctions as per the unregistered, suspended and ineligible player rule. Refer to Clause 61 of Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations.
- (2) It should be noted that where clubs have teams participating on the same round it may call for players to play in a higher grade. However, once a player has played in that higher grade on that round, the player shall become ineligible to play in a lower grade for their club in the same round of matches (including the final series) unless Clause 4 (3) is satisfied. This applies even where the same round of games is played on different weekends. It must be noted that the Senior Competition is classified as a separate competition to that of the junior competition and consequently this rule will not apply to the movement of junior players.
- (3) Where a player has come on as a substitute, the player is permitted to play in a lower grade team in the same round if the player is recorded on the team sheet as having entered the field of play from 75 minutes or later.
- (4) Goalkeepers are exempt from clause (2) and (3).
- (5) Where a player moves from one club to another and participates in the same competition, the player is not permitted to play in a round that they had played in for their previous club.
- (6) No Player under the age of 14 can play in the Reserves or Seniors without gaining an exemption from Football SA.

## **5 Visa Players**

- (1) A maximum of two (2) Visa Players are permitted to be on the First Team's team sheet in the NPL, 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.

## **6. Substitution and Interchange of Players**

- (1) A team may only use in a match, players that are named on the team sheet.
- (2) Substitutions will be used in the Senior and Reserve Grades.
- (3) Where substitutions are used (Senior and Reserve Grades), a team can name up to six (6) substitutes on their team sheets. Of the six (6) substitutes, a team may only use a maximum of five (5) in any match.

- (4) Where interchange is used, being in the Under 18s, a team may list a maximum of 16 players on the team sheet and all players can be used.

For clarity, the maximum number of persons in a technical area are listed below:

*RAA National Premier League:*

- Seniors: 6 substitutes, 7 team officials
- Reserves: 6 substitutes, 5 team officials
- Under 18: 5 substitutes, 5 team officials

*State League 1:*

- Seniors: 6 substitutes, 7 team officials
- Reserves: 6 substitutes, 5 team officials
- Under 18: 5 substitutes, 5 team officials

*State League 2:*

- Seniors: 6 substitutes, 7 team officials
- Reserves: 6 substitutes, 5 team officials
- Under 18: 5 substitutes, 5 team officials

- (5) 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.
- (6) If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one (1) of the three (3) opportunities for each team.
- (7) Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into extra time.
- (8) Where competition rules allow an additional substitution in extra time, teams will each have one (1) additional substitution opportunity; substitutions may also be made before the start of extra time and at half-time in extra time.
- (9) Interchange will be used in the Under 18 Grade.
- (10) In matches where interchange is permitted, the following procedure shall apply:
- a. An interchange may only be made in the “interchange zone” which shall be on 1 side of the field of play, extending for 1 metre on either side of the halfway line unless otherwise directed by the match official.
  - b. A team shall only use an interchange player who is named on the team sheet.
  - c. An interchange shall only be made when the ball is out of play, or at a stoppage of play and is permitted by the Match Official.
  - d. When making an interchange, the following conditions shall be observed:
    - I. the player leaving the field shall do so by crossing over the interchange zone.

- II. the interchange player shall not enter the field until the player leaving the field has passed completely over the interchange zone.
  - III. the interchange player shall enter the field by crossing over the interchange zone, and
  - IV. the interchange is complete when one player has come off and another player has come on.
- e. The number of interchanges that may be made during a match is unlimited, a player who has been replaced may return to the field by being interchanged for another player; and
  - f. The referee may caution any interchange player who enters the field of play before the player being replaced has completely left the field. An Interchange player may also be cautioned if they enter the field from a place other than the interchange zone.

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

## **7. Mandatory Match Suspensions for Minor Infringements – Yellow Cards**

- (1) A player or coach must serve a mandatory match suspension for the accumulation of yellow cards in line with clause 74 of the Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations. Where a League is conducted that consists of 21 or more games, if a player or coach has not accumulated five (5) yellow cards at the conclusion of Round 18, a suspension will only be applied once a player or coach has accumulated eight (8) yellow cards.

**Example:** Round 17 a player or coach has four (4) yellow cards and in Round 18 they receive a fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) yellow card, the player or coach will receive a one match suspension.

Round 18 a player or coach has four (4) yellow cards and in Round 19 they receive a fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) yellow card, the player or coach will not receive a one match suspension. A suspension will only occur once the player or coach has accumulated eight (8) yellow cards.

- (2) Please note that the above rule only applies prior to the player or coach receiving 5 yellow cards. If the player or coach has already accumulated five (5) yellow cards, the one match suspension will be applied.
- (3) Any mandatory match suspension gained due to the accumulation of yellow cards in the league competition must be served in the next competitive league match.
- (4) If a team official is also registered as a player, or vice versa, yellow cards will be accumulated together.

## **8. Player Rosters**

- (1) All clubs involved in the RAA National Premier League, except for Adelaide United FC, are required to abide by the Player Points System as outlined in Appendix 1.
- (2) All clubs that participate in the State League 1 and State League 2 are required to provide to Football SA a Player Roster of their first team in a format outlined in Appendix 2.
- (3) All players that participate in the RAA National Premier League or State League 1 or State League 2 First Team matches must be listed on the Club's current PPS or First Team roster, or be exempt as per eligibility criteria outlined in each Appendix.

## **9. Player Remuneration**

- (1) Any remuneration paid to a player must be in accordance with the National Registration Regulations for Amateur and Professional Players.
  - a. An Amateur Player is a player that is not paid to play football. The player may be reimbursed for expenses incurred for playing football.
  - b. A Professional Player is a player paid to play football. A Professional Player Contract, NRR05, must be completed by both the club and the player in accordance with the National Registration Regulations and no other agreement between the two parties is to exist.
  - c. A club that participates in the National Premier League, State League 1 and State League 2 may reimburse an amateur player up to a maximum of \$200.00 per week for a maximum of 40 weeks in a calendar year. A player that is paid more than this amount must be placed on a Professional Player Contract or the onus is on the club to satisfy the Competition Administrator that the amount paid accurately reflects expenses incurred by the player.
- (2) Each club shall keep proper books and records of all remuneration paid to its players and shall make the books and records available for inspection upon request by Football SA.
- (3) Football SA may at its sole discretion undertake to audit a club. The club/s nominated will be required to follow the requirements of the audit.

Any audit conducted on a club shall be undertaken by an accountant who is a registered company auditor or by a member of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants or the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.

In this Clause, "remuneration" includes:

- a. signing-on fees; salaries; wages; superannuation and other money paid by a Club to its player.
- b. the amount or value of any gift, prize or award given or made by the Club to its players.
- c. the value of any other benefit provided or given by a Club to its players (including, for

example, the provision of accommodation or the use of a motor vehicle at no charge or less than a fair market rent or charge), and

- d. any such payment made, or benefit provided, by the Club to any person who is related to, or resides with, any of its players but does not include the reimbursement to the player of expenses actually incurred by the player, or the payment by the Club of expenses actually incurred by it, for:
  - I. the player's travel and accommodation necessarily incurred through the player's participation in a match, or
  - II. the player's equipment, training and insurance.

#### **10. Adelaide United Youth Team**

Where an Adelaide United Youth Team (AUFC) participates in the Senior Men's competition the following requirements will be applied:

- (1) AUFC will be required to field a Senior and Reserve Squad in the Football SA Competition.
- (2) AUFC is permitted to name a maximum of 36 players based on the following criteria. The Player must be:
  - a. Aged 20 years of age or under as of the 31 December of that year.
  - b. An Australian Player as defined by the A-League (AL) and National Youth League (NYL) Player Contract Regulations, specifically Clause 5 for both amateur and Contracted NYL Players and AL Players; and
  - c. AL Players, Contracted NYL Players, or Amateur NYL Players.
- (3) In addition to the 36 players outlined in sub-clause 2, AUFC may seek approval from Football SA, in its sole and absolute discretion, to register up to six (6) Players to their senior NPL Player Roster who are older than the eligible youth age bracket prescribed at sub-clause (2)(a) where the following criteria are satisfied in respect of that Player:
  - a. The Player must be an Australian Player as defined by A-League contract regulations and
  - b. The Player must be aged between 21 and 23 years of age as of 31 December of that year.
  - c. The Player must have appeared in the starting eleven (11) in no more than ten (10) matches during the most recent A-League season for any A-League Club; and
  - d. The Player is currently Professionally Contracted to the A-League Club.
- (4) Of the six (6) overage players, only three (3) overage players may be listed on a team sheet on any given round for the first team.
- (5) Overage players are not permitted to participate in the Reserve Grade.
- (6) Goalkeepers up to the age of 23 will not be considered as an overage player.
- (7) Adelaide United will be required to name and submit their player roster to Football SA on an annual basis by the date specified by Football SA.

- (8) In addition to the players named on the Players Roster, Adelaide United are permitted to use the players that are registered in the National Training Centre (NTC) Team to play in their Reserve or First Team. The NTC players and eligible Adelaide United FC players will be dual registered with both the NTC and Adelaide United. Free movement of players between the Adelaide United teams and NTC Team will be permitted, if age eligible.
- (9) AUFC may request, in writing, an alteration to their submitted roster, based on injury or other exceptional circumstances. Any decision is at the sole and absolute discretion of the Football SA.
- (10) All players must be registered in the National Registration System in accordance with clause 60 of the Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations.
- (11) If the AUFC Youth Team is crowned League Premiers, the team is not eligible to represent South Australia in the Football Australia National Premier League Finals Series. The qualifier will be the second placed team.
- (12) AUFC Youth Team is eligible to participate in a final series that is conducted by Football SA in the competition in accordance with rule 19.(4) of these regulations.
- (13) AUFC Youth Team is eligible to be promoted and/or relegated from any competition in which it participates.
- (14) AUFC will not be eligible to receive prize money.

**Penalty:** If a player is played that does not meet the above criteria, the club will be deemed to have played an ineligible player and will be in breach of Clause 61 of the Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations and will incur a penalty in accordance with this clause.

## **11. Match Officials**

- (1) All first team matches shall have a full complement of Match Officials, being a Referee and two (2) assistant referees. Where the full complement of Match Officials is not present within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time, the game shall be postponed unless otherwise directed by the Competition Administrator.
- (2) In the case of Reserve and Under 18 grade games, if at least one (1) referee is not in attendance within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time, the games shall be postponed.
- (3) If the referee or assistant referee does not attend the fixture or is unable to officiate the fixture through injury or other reason, the club and the appointed Match Official are to contact the relevant Football SA contact person 30 minutes prior to the fixture, where possible.

## **12. Online Team Squads**

Each NPL Club is required to submit their online team lists through the Football SA Competition Management System by 12.00noon Thursday prior to the weekend game or no less than 24 hours prior to kick-off for any mid-week matches.

### **Penalty for not providing the team lists within the timeframe**

Level 1 Fine Refer to page 51-52 for details relating to fines.

### **13. Notification of Results**

- (1) Unless Football SA direct otherwise, the Match Official shall be responsible for reporting the result of their appointed match, including all match and player statistics within 30 minutes of the game concluding.
- (2) Team Managers are required to review the match sheet via Dribl and confirm the information submitted by the Match Official. Team managers are able dispute any of the submitted information via Dribl within 24 hours of the scheduled kick-off of the fixture.
- (3) Football SA will review all disputed post-match sheets in the following week.

### **14. Ground Stewards**

- (1) All senior and reserve teams shall provide at each match a minimum of three (3) ground stewards.
- (2) All Under 18 teams shall provide at each match a minimum of one (1) ground steward.
- (3) Where the field of play is not fenced, the home team is responsible for providing a minimum of five (5) Ground Stewards for the Senior Grade Game.
- (4) The Disciplinary Committee and/or Football SA have the discretionary power to require a club to allocate more Ground Stewards where the club has been reported for poor behaviour.

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

### **15. Meetings**

All Senior Men's clubs shall ensure that a club official attends all meetings as scheduled by the Football SA. Meetings will be notified in a timely manner, where possible.

## **FINAL SERIES**

### **16. The Competition**

- (1) A Final Series may be conducted in the National Premier League, State League 1 and State League 2 at the conclusion of their respective home and away season. The Final Series may involve Seniors, Reserves and Under 18 teams.
- (2) Football SA will determine, in consultation with the clubs, the structure and format of any Final Series to be conducted. Details will be distributed to clubs prior to the season commencing.
- (3) The team that finishes top of at the conclusion of the home and away season in the Seniors, Reserves and Under 18s (where a Final Series is conducted) will be referred to as League Premiers.



- (4) The winner of the Final Series Competition shall be referred to as League Champions.
- (5) Where there is no Final Series conducted, the team that finishes first in their respective competition will be declared the League Champions.

**17. Host Clubs Responsibilities**

- (1) Host clubs for finals will be determined by their finishing position at the conclusion of the Home and Away season.
- (2) Football SA will have the sole and absolute discretion over the allocation of venues for all games played in the Final Series.
- (3) Host clubs are responsible for all costs associated with the hosting of the games including the payment of all match officials. Any variance to this is at the sole and absolute discretion of Football SA.
- (4) Revenue from the games will remain with the host club unless prior arrangement has been made between host club and venue management.
- (5) The clubs involved in the Final Series will be required to provide the necessary ground stewards as per Clause 23 of Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations and Clause 14 of Competition Operating Regulations however, Football SA may require the host club to provide additional ground and/or crowd security.

**18. Kick Off Times & Duration of Matches**

- (1) Fixtures for the final series will be set by Football SA in conjunction with the hosting club.
- (2) All matches shall be of 90 minutes in duration, 45 minutes each way with a maximum 15-minute interval at half time.
- (3) In the event of a match being drawn at the end of normal time two periods of extra time of 2 x 15 Minutes will be played. If the match is still drawn at the end of extra time, the result shall be determined by penalty kicks in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Note: Football SA will not sanction any other games to be played which are deemed to be in conflict with this competition.

**19. Eligibility of Players**

- (1) No player shall be permitted to play for more than one (1) Club in the Final Series.
- (2) **Reserve Teams**  
To be eligible to play in the Finals Series players must have played at least six (6) matches with the Club's Reserve Team during the Home and Away season. Clubs are permitted to use players from their Under 18s and/or junior teams without them having played the required number of games as outlined above.

- (3) **Under 18 Teams**  
To be eligible to play in the Finals Series players within the age ruling as per the Football SA competition regulations must have played at least six (6) matches with the Club's Under 18 Team during the Home and Away season. Clubs are permitted to use players from their Under 17s and/or junior teams without them having played the required number of games as outlined above. Where a junior player, that is a player that plays in the Football SA Junior Competition, has played in six (6) or more games in the Reserves or Senior Grade, the player will not be eligible to play in the Under 18s.
- (4) **Adelaide United First Team**  
To be eligible to participate in the Club's First Team Finals Series matches, players must have played at least six (6) matches with the First Team, Reserves or FSA NTC during the home and away season.
- (5) Football SA in its sole and absolute discretion may in extenuating circumstances provide an exemption for a player to play who does not meet the above criteria.

**Important Note:**

It should be noted that where clubs have teams participating in the same round of the Final Series it may call for players to play in a higher grade. However, once a player has played in that higher grade during that round of matches, they shall become ineligible to play in a lower grade for their club in the same round of matches unless Clause 20 (5) is satisfied.

- (6) Participated means that the player must have played in the game. A player that is named on the team sheet as a substitute but does not go onto the field of play, is not regarded as having participated in the game.
- (7) **Goalkeepers**  
Any Goalkeeper who is within the age restriction shall be eligible to play as a goal-keeper in either the Reserves or Under 18 final series and the above restrictions for matches in the Reserve and Under 18 grades DO NOT apply.

**Penalty due to fielding ineligible players**

Any club that fields a team with an ineligible player that is in breach of the age and match qualifications as detailed in these operating regulations will be deemed to have breached the Ineligible, Unregistered or Suspended rule as outlined in Clause 61 of Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations.

**20. Substitution and Interchange of Players**

- (1) Where substitutions are used, a game where there will be no extra-time played, a team may name six (6) substitutes with no more than five (5) players permitted to be substituted during the game.
- (2) Where there is a potential for a game to go into extra-time, a team may name seven (7) substitutes.

- (3) If a game goes into extra-time, each team is permitted to use an extra substitute. 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.
- (4) Where interchange is used, being in the Under 18s, a team may list a maximum of 16 players on the team sheet and all players can be used.
- (5) Where a player has come on as a substitute, the player is permitted to play in a lower grade team in the same round if the player is recorded on the team sheet as having entered the field of play from 75 minutes or later.

## **21. Player Suspensions**

Carry over suspensions from the Home and Away league shall apply.

- (1) A player or team official who receives three yellow cards during the final series shall be suspended for one (1) match.
- (2) All yellow cards at the conclusion of the Final Series shall be expunged prior to the next scheduled competition unless the player or team official has received a suspension due to the accumulation of yellow cards.
- (3) If a player or team official receives a suspension due to the accumulation of yellow cards, and their team is no longer in the Final Series or the next game is the Grand Final, the suspension shall be served in Round 1 of the next season's competition.
- (4) A player or team official who receives a Red Card during this competition shall be suspended in accordance with Clause 76 of Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations and National Disciplinary Regulations. If the player or team official receives a red card the suspension is to be served in the next competitive game/s.

## **22. Match Officials and Match Official Fees**

Football SA shall appoint Match Officials for all matches of this competition. The home team or hosting club shall cover all related Match Officials fees, excluding the Grand Final, which shall be covered by Football SA.

## **23. Notification of Results**

Please refer to Clause 13 of these regulations.

## **24. Admission Charges**

Admission charges shall apply for all matches of this competition as outlined in Clause 1 of these regulations. Season Passes are not permitted to be used during the Final Series. Admission charges for the Grand Final shall be set by Football SA on an annual basis.

**25. Prize Money and Presentation**

Refer to Clause 46 of the Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations and Appendix 3 of this document.

**26. Match Balls**

Refer to Clause 40 of the Football SA Competition Rules and Regulations.

**CUP COMPETITION**

Refer to the Cup Competition Operating Regulations.

**PENALTIES AND FINES**

**27. Summary of Fines**

- (1) Penalties relating to breaches of Football Competition Rules and Regulations and Operating Regulations are stipulated at the end of each rule or regulation, where a penalty is applicable. Clubs should also refer to the minimum competition requirements for noncompliance.
- (2) For full details of the sanction please refer to the relevant ruling in the Competition Rules and Regulations and/or Competition Operating Regulations.

**28. 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.

- (1) **Rule 4 – Competition Rules and Regulations – Club Colour and Uniform Rule**  
Level 2 Fine. If the game is postponed due to a colour clash, a forfeit will be imposed on the away team.
- (2) **Rule 13 – Competition Rules and Regulations – Ground Facilities and Club Signage**  
Level 2 Fine.  
Level 4 Fine for non-compliance of sponsor signage.
- (3) **Rule 23 – Competition Rules and Regulations - Ground Stewards**  
Not providing the required number of Ground Stewards and/or not fulfilling roles and responsibilities
 

All Senior Grades	Level 2 Fine
All other teams	Level 1 Fine

- (4) **Rule 29 – Competition Rules and Regulations – Abandoned Matches**
- (a) If the game is abandoned due to events outside of the control of the teams, the result of the game may stand if at least 75% of the game has been played.
  - (b) If a game is abandoned prior or at half-time, match official is to receive 50% of prescribed fee.
  - (c) If a game is abandoned after half-time, match official is to receive full match fee.

- (5) **Rule 31 – Competition Rules and Regulations – Abandoned Matches and Walk offs**  
 Forfeit of game and relevant fine. Further penalties may be implemented at the discretion of Football SA Disciplinary Committee.

(6) **Forfeit of Games**

Senior Team	Level 4 fine
Reserve Team	Level 3 Fine
Under 18 Team	Level 2 Fine

If a Match Official/s attends and the game is forfeited, the club is required to pay 50% of the prescribed match official fee.

(7) **Rule 39 – Competition Rules and Regulations - Teams Sheets and Match Reports**

- (a) *Incomplete Team Sheets*

NPL Senior Team	Level 2
State Leagues 1 & 2 Senior Teams	Level 1
All other teams	\$50.00
- (b) *Altering a team sheet once a game has commenced*

NPL Senior Team	Level 3 Fine
State League 1 & 2 Senior Teams	Level 2 Fine
All other teams	Level 1 Fine
- (c) *If a player who is registered and eligible to participate in accordance with the FA National Registration Regulations is not listed on the team sheet prior to the match and then participates in the match, the following shall apply:*

Senior Team

First Offence in season:	Warning and Level 4 Fine.
Second Offence in season:	Forfeit and Level 5 Fine.
Third Offence in season:	Guilty of Serious Misconduct, Show cause notice, Forfeit and Level 5 Fine.

Reserve & U18 Team

First Offence in season:	Warning and Level 3 Fine.
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Second Offence in season: Forfeit and Level 4 Fine.  
 Third Offence in season: Guilty of Serious Misconduct, Show cause notice,  
 Forfeit and Level 5 Fine.

(8) **Rule 40 – Competition Rules and Regulations - Match Balls**

Use of non-sanctioned match balls.

All teams Level 2 Fine

(9) **Rule 56 – Competition Rules and Regulations – Registration of Team Officials**

Non-Compliance	First Offence	Level 2 Fine
	Second Offence	Level 3 Fine
	Subsequent Offence	Disciplinary Hearing

(10) **Rule 61 – Competition Rules and Regulations - Playing of an Unregistered, Ineligible and Suspended Player**

NPL League Team	Forfeit and Level 3 Fine
State Senior League Teams	Forfeit and Level 2 Fine
All other teams	Forfeit and Level 1 Fine

(11) **Rule 62 – Competition Rules and Regulations – Ring-Ins (Playing a player under assumed or false name)**

NPL League Team	Level 4 Fine
State Senior League Teams	Level 3 Fine
All other teams	Level 2 Fine

(12) **Rule 12 – Competition Operating Regulations – Online Team Squads**

Not providing Senior Team List within required timeframe Level 1 Fine

(13) **Rule 74-76 – Competition Rules and Regulations – Red and Yellow Cards**

Accumulation of 5, 8 and 11 Yellow Cards	\$25 (No fine is to be paid if 5 cards are not received)
Accumulation of 14 and 17 Yellow Cards	\$50
Red Card issued to player or official	\$50 for each offence

(14) **Appeals**

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

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

Example 2: A club appeals the findings of a Disciplinary Committee who implemented a \$1000 fine for breach of spectator code of conduct. The Appeal Committee on hearing the evidence finds that the club undertook every possible action to prevent the breach and is found not guilty. The club would be entitled to a refund of the Appeal Fee.

Appeal Fee \$500





## Football Australia – National Premier Leagues

A key outcome of the National Competitions Review (**NCR**) conducted in 2012 was the introduction of the Player Points System (**PPS**) to complement the Club Licensing framework for the National Premier Leagues (**NPL**). The objectives of the PPS are to:

- Provide greater opportunities to Australian Players;
- Promote a greater focus on the importance of youth development;
- Ensure Player salaries remain at levels which ensure the long-term sustainability of NPL Clubs;
- Promote Players through the Club youth development structures;
- Increase the stability of NPL Club Player Rosters;
- Maintain competitive balance and parity amongst the NPL Clubs;
- Incentivise Players progressing through to national elite pathway teams (**National Elite Pathway Team**) to return to their original NPL Clubs; and
- Reward Clubs who develop Players that progress through to a National Elite Pathway Team.

The PPS encourages NPL Clubs to simultaneously promote greater focus on youth development whilst delivering the outcomes and objectives of the NCR.

The PPS distinguishes between two distinct types of **NPL Club** teams: those upon which an age restriction is placed (e.g. U16s, U18s, U20s) (**NPL Club Age-Eligible Team**) and the NPL Club's senior team, being the **First Team**.

The PPS points cap (**Points Cap**) applies to each NPL Club's First Team Player Roster (**First Team Player Roster**) and this First Team is required to remain within the Points Cap at all times.

The Points Cap for the 2024 season will be set by each Member Federation, in consultation with Football Australia (**FA**), up to a maximum of 200 points.

Each Player is, as a starting point, attributed a points value of 10 points, after which his points value is adjusted depending on certain characteristics which result in points being added to or deducted from the Player's points value. A Player's points value cannot be less than 0 points.

Promoting Players from the NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams onto the First Team Player Roster is permitted in limited circumstances as outlined further in the Explanatory Notes and Guidelines under First Team Player Roster Requirements.

## 1. PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

Category	Points Adjustment	Criteria
<b>Youth Player</b>	-1 for each year the Player is under 23 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Youth Player is 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.</li> <li>• In relation to a Player's age, one (1) point is deducted from the Player's points value for each year the Player is under 23 years of age.</li> <li>• The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points.</li> </ul>
<b>Visa Player</b>	+10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Visa Player is any Player who is <b>not</b> an Australian Player.</li> <li>• Ten (10) points is added to a Player's points value if that Player is a Visa Player.</li> <li>• A Visa Player will only incur a maximum of 20 points on a First Team Player Roster and will not otherwise be subject to the Switching Player category.</li> <li>• A Visa Player may still benefit from the other categories of the PPS (e.g. Youth Player).</li> <li>• A NPL Club can have a maximum of two (2) Visa Players on their First Team Player Roster at any one time.</li> </ul>
<b>Homegrown Player</b>	-1 for each season registered with the NPL Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Homegrown Player is a Player that has been registered for any period during a season with his NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams.</li> <li>• One (1) point is deducted from the Player's points value for each season the Player was registered with his NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams.</li> <li>• The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points.</li> </ul>
<b>Loyalty Player</b>	-1 for each continuous season with the NPL Club's First Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Loyalty Player is a Player that has registered for his NPL Club's First Team for at least four (4) continuous seasons.</li> <li>• One (1) point is deducted from a Player's points value for each season, starting from his fourth continuous season, in which the Player is registered for the NPL Club's First Team.</li> </ul>
<b>Switching Player</b>	+5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five (5) points is added to a Player's points value if:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) he was registered as a professional with his previous Club (this does not apply to the nominated Australian Marquee Player(s) or to a National Elite Pathway Loan Player); or</li> <li>(b) he was registered in the NPL as an amateur with his previous NPL Club and he played ten (10) or more games in that NPL Club's First Team in the most recent NPL season (unless the Player's last registration was with a National Elite Pathway Team).</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
	+3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three (3) points is added to a Player's points value if he was registered in the NPL as an amateur with his previous NPL Club and played in less than ten (10) games in that NPL Club's First Team in the most recent NPL season (unless the Player's last registration was with a National Elite Pathway Team).</li> </ul>
	+2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two (2) points is added to a Player's points value if he is an Australian Player and his last registration was as an amateur with an overseas Club.</li> </ul>

	+1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One (1) point is added to a Player's points value if the Player was last registered as an amateur with a National Elite Pathway Team and registers for a NPL Club other than their NPL Club of origin (i.e. the NPL Club he was registered with prior to that National Elite Pathway Team).</li> </ul>
<b>National Elite Pathway Loan Player</b>	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Player will not incur Switching Player points if they are loaned to an NPL Club from a National Elite Pathway Team, provided they are an Australian Player 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.</li> </ul>
<b>Pathway Player</b>	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No points are added to, or deducted from, a Player's points value only by virtue of that Player having left an NPL Club to join a National Elite Pathway Team and having returned to the same NPL Club.</li> </ul>
<b>Australian Marquee Player</b>	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Australian Marquee Player is an Australian Player that was registered as a professional Player for an A-League Club or an overseas Club immediately prior to registering with the NPL Club.</li> <li>The Australian Marquee Player will only incur a maximum of ten (10) points on a First Team Player Roster and will not otherwise be subject to the Switching Player category. The Player can benefit from the other categories of the PPS (i.e. Homegrown Player).</li> <li>An NPL Club can have a maximum of two (2) Players on its First Team Player Roster nominated as Australian Marquee Players at any one time. If an NPL Club has two (2) Australian Marquee Players on its First Team Player Roster, at least one (1) of these Players must be 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.</li> </ul>

### Points Deductions

An NPL Club's Points Total can be decreased in accordance with the following provisions:

Category	Points Bonus	Criteria
<b>Youth Player Advancement</b>	-3 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three (3) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is permanently transferred to a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams.</li> <li>The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season.</li> </ul>
<b>First Team Player Loan</b>	-3 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three (3) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is subsequently registered on Loan to a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.</li> <li>The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season.</li> </ul>
<b>First Team Player Advancement</b>	-8 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eight (8) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is permanently transferred to a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.</li> <li>The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season.</li> </ul>
<b>Promoted Club</b>	-20 per Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Promoted Club will receive a deduction of 20 points from their Points Total. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first season following promotion into, or being granted a licence to participate in, the NPL.</li> </ul>

## 2. GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

The general definitions are provided for ease of reference.

The following discussion points and examples are intended to provide Member Federations and NPL Clubs with further clarity with respect to each of the PPS categories.

### General Definitions

#### First Team

First Team means the NPL Club's senior team participating in the NPL.

#### First Team Player Roster

First Team Player Roster means the roster of Players for a NPL Club's First Team maintained in accordance with the Player Points System and any other NPL competition regulations provided by the applicable Member Federation.

#### Loan

Loan means the temporary transfer of a Player's registration from the Parent Club to the Loan Club, effected in accordance with the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.

#### Loan Club

Loan Club means the Club to which the registration of a Player subject to a Loan is, will be, or has been temporarily transferred from a Parent Club for the term of a Loan.

#### National Elite Pathway Team

A National Elite Pathway Team is a team which participates in the National Elite Pathway, as determined by the FA Technical Department and the Member Federations from time to time. Points are credited for the movement of Players through the National Elite Pathway.

For the purposes of the PPS, a team is a National Elite Pathway Team if they are one of the following:

- A-League Men's Club including Academy team's participating in the NPL and or, the A-League Team;
- National Y-League team; or
- National Training Centre team (full-time programs only).

#### NPL

NPL means the national men's second tier club competition staged in each Member Federation in Australia.\*does not account for any potential introduction of a National Second Tier in 2024.

### **NPL Club Age-Eligible Teams**

NPL Club Age-Eligible teams are the teams that sit below the NPL Club First Team as determined by each Member Federation. For clarity:

- where NPL Competitions commence from Under 12s, these include Under 12s through to Under 20s
- where NPL Competitions commence from Under 13s, these include Under 13s through to Under 20s

### **NPL Club**

NPL Club means any entity admitted by a Member Federation to field a team in the NPL.

### **Parent Club**

Parent Club means the Club from which the registration of a Player subject to a Loan is, will be, or has been temporarily transferred to a Loan Club for the term of a Loan.

### **PPS or Player Points System**

PPS or Player Points System means the system for calculating NPL Club's player points as set out in this document.

### **Points Cap**

Points Cap means the permitted total value of a NPL Club's Points Total, as determined by the Member Federation, in consultation with FA, up to a maximum of 200 points.

### **Points Total**

Points Total means the sum of all points attributed to all Players on a NPL Club's First Team Player Roster at any given time.

### **Promoted Club**

A Promoted Club means:

a club promoted into the NPL from a lower tier competition, including a lower division of the NPL or, is an entity granted a licence to participate in the NPL for the first time.

### **State Premiers**

State Premiers means the NPL Club who is premier of the relevant Member Federation's NPL Regular Season by being top of the table at the end of the NPL Regular Season.

## Explanatory Notes

### NPL Club First Team Player Roster Requirements

- At all times during a NPL season, a NPL Club must include a minimum of 20 Players on its First Team Player Roster and may include a maximum of 23 Players on its First Team Player Roster.
- All Players must be registered to the appropriate age-category (where applicable). Any Player who during the NPL 2024 Season exceeds the age-limit for the oldest NPL Age-Eligible Team at an NPL Club (e.g. U20), must be included on his NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.

### Youth Player

Please refer to the table below in respect to the relevant point deductions in the Youth Player category:

<i>Player's Age as at 31 December in current NPL season</i>	<i>Points Deduction</i>
22 years old (2002)	-1
21 years old (2003)	-2
20 years old (2004)	-3
19 years old (2005)	-4
18 years old (2006)	-5

### Australian Player

An Australian Player is any Player who is:

- (a) a citizen of Australia;
- (b) a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a person residing in Australia on a "permanent" visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the person's Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the person's online Visa Entitlement Verification); or the holder of a refugee visa, humanitarian visa or protection visa issued by the Australian government. For further details see: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.

### Visa Player

- Member Federations and NPL Clubs are encouraged to refer to the following website for further clarification regarding visas: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.
- For the purposes of the PPS, a New Zealand Citizen is classified as a Visa Player unless he satisfies the definition of an Australian Player. Please refer to the Department of Home Affairs for further clarification regarding the visa status of New Zealand Citizens in Australia: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.
- Any Player participating in the NPL with a A-League Men's Club who has been permitted to play in the National Youth-League as an "NYL Australian Player" will, for the purposes of the PPS, be deemed an Australian Player.

## Homegrown Player

- A Player does not need to register in continuous seasons in a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams to be eligible for Homegrown Player points.
- **Example:** For a Player who was registered to the NPL Club in the U14s and U16s but was not registered with the NPL Club in the U18s to U20s, a total of two (2) points will be deducted from his points value for the current season.
- A Player is eligible for Homegrown Player points at the same time as being eligible for Loyalty Player points.
- For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is eligible to receive a points deduction as a Homegrown Player where that Player was registered to the NPL Club's Age Eligible Teams, prior to that NPL Club being granted an NPL licence.
- **Example:** Prior to Club A being granted a licence to participate in the NPL, John Smith is registered to the age-eligible teams of Club A between 2018 and 2021 in the state league competition. On that basis, a total of four (4) points will be deducted from his points value for the current season.

## Loyalty Player

- **Example:** A Player is registered with a NPL Club's First Team in 2021, 2022 and 2023 (continuous seasons). If also registered in 2024, he will be eligible to receive his first reduction of one (1) point as a Loyalty Player in the 2024 season.
- If a Player is not registered with any Club for a season and subsequently returns to his last NPL Club, the number of continuous seasons of registering for that NPL Club will be deemed to be continuous.
- **Example:** A Player was registered with the same NPL Club in 2020, 2021 and 2022 (continuous seasons), however was not registered with any Club in 2023. If the Player registers with that NPL Club in 2024, it will be deemed his fourth continuous season with that NPL Club.
- Should a Player move into a National Elite Pathway Team, the determination of the continuous seasons of service will not be deemed to have ceased if he returns to his previous NPL Club. During the Player's time in the National Elite Pathway Team, the calculation of continuous seasons of service will be suspended.
- **Example:** Player John Smith of NPL Club A has been part of the First Team squad for three (3) continuous seasons. He then moves to an A-League Men's Club for two (2) years and then at the completion of his stint with that A-League Club, he returns to NPL Club A. This season with NPL Club A will be deemed his fourth continuous season.

## Switching Player

- In the event that a Player is a Switching Player, he can only be classified in one (1) category (e.g. a Player cannot incur Switching Player points in two (2) different categories).
- For the purposes of Switching Player points, played means taking the field of play (i.e. part of the starting eleven or taking the field as a substitute).
- Where a Player was registered with a NPL Club (**Former NPL Club**) and subsequently:
  - registers with a Club that does not participate in the NPL, A-League or NYL (**non-NPL Club**); and
    - having not played for the non-NPL Club in a competitive match seeks to register with a subsequent NPL Club (**Subsequent NPL Club**);
    - the Member Federation or FA may attribute Switching Player Points for that Player upon registration with the Subsequent NPL Club as if the Player had transferred directly from the Former NPL Club to the Subsequent NPL Club.
- The Subsequent NPL Club may apply to FA or the Member Federation (whichever is applicable) to justify the reasons as to why Switching Player points should not apply.
- The Member Federation has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply where the Member Federation is the Competition Administrator.

- Switching Player points also apply for mid-season registrations and transfers, including a Player promoted from a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Team.
- Where a Player is promoted from a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Team (or equivalent) to a NPL Club's First Team Player Roster during the season, Switching Player Points will be applied where the Player's registration immediately prior (e.g. earlier in the 2024 season) or in the previous NPL season was with another NPL Club.
- A Player will not incur Switching Player points if they are on Loan to an NPL Club from a National Elite Pathway Team, provided the Player is 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.
- In accordance with the FA National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations, a Player will remain registered with FA for a period of thirty (30) months from the date the Player made his or her last appearance for a Club in a Match. A Player who has been inactive for this thirty (30) month period will not incur Switching Player points should they then register with another NPL Club following this period.

### **National Elite Pathway Loan Player**

- A National Elite Pathway Loan Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (other than the Switching Player category). For example, a National Elite Pathway Loan Player is eligible for Loyalty Player points and Homegrown Player points.

### **Pathway Player**

- A Pathway Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (other than the Switching Player category). For example, a Pathway Player is eligible for Loyalty Player points and Homegrown Player points.
- A Player who departs a NPL Club for a National Elite Pathway Team and returns to the same NPL Club will be classified as a Pathway Player provided the Player has remained within the National Elite Pathway for the duration of their absence from the relevant NPL Club.

Example A: *Player history of John Smith – Eligible Pathway Player*  
 2021 - *Registered with United FC (NPL Club)*  
 2022 - *Registered with Perth Glory (NYL)*  
 2023 - *Registered with Brisbane Roar (A-League)*  
 2024 - *Registered with United FC (NPL Club)*

Example B: *Player history of Mark Jones – Ineligible Pathway Player*  
 2021 - *Registered with United FC (NPL Club)*  
 2022 - *Registered with Perth Glory (NYL)*  
 2023 - *Registered with Thailand FC (Overseas)*  
 2024 - *Registered with United FC (NPL Club)*

### **Australian Marquee Player**

An Australian Marquee Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (e.g. Homegrown Player) but will not be subject to the Switching Player category:



- (a) Subject to paragraph (b) below, a Player may only be categorised as an Australian Marquee Player in his first season with the NPL Club and for one (1) season only in his career for that NPL Club. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is not able to be an Australian Marquee Player in his second season in the NPL with that NPL Club.
- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) immediately above, if a Player is categorised as an Australian Marquee Player for an NPL Club, he then transfers as a professional to an A-League Men's Club or overseas Club and then subsequently returns to the NPL and seeks to register for an NPL Club (either the same or different NPL Club), he is eligible to be categorised as an Australian Marquee.

### **Points Deduction – Youth Player Advancement**

**Example:** A NPL Club has an U14 team Player and an U20 team Player signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have:

- (a) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from this season's Points Total;
- (b) three (3) points deducted (-3 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or
- (c) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from next season's Points Total.

### **Points Deduction – First Team Player Loan**

**Example:** A NPL Club has two (2) First Team Players signed on Loan this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have:

- (a) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from this season's Points Total;
- (b) three (3) points deducted (-3) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or
- (c) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from next season's Points Total.

### **Points Deduction – First Team Player Advancement**

**Example:** A NPL Club has two (2) First Team Players signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have:

- (a) sixteen points deducted (-16 points) from this season's Points Total;
- (b) eight (8) points deducted (-8 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or
- (c) sixteen points deducted (-16 points) from next season's Points Total.

### **Points Deduction – Promoted Club**

This category applies to Clubs promoted into the NPL or an entity granted a licence to participate in the NPL for the first time. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first season following promotion into, or being granted a licence to participate in, the NPL.

## Additional Notes

### Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds/Federation Cup

The PPS does not apply to the Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds SA/Federation Cup competition.

### PPS Windows

2024 Window(s)	Opening Date	Closing Date
January - February	Wednesday 10 January 2024	Monday 5 February 2024
April	Monday 15 April 2024	Thursday 18 April 2024
June/July	TBC	TBC

### Use of Players aged 20 or younger

Any Player who during 2024 turns 21 years of age (2003 born) must be included on his NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.

Any Player that is born in 2004 or is younger, is able to play for the First Team without the requirement to be listed on the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.

### Exceptional Circumstance

A club may apply to Football SA to make a change to the PPS team roster outside of the designated amendment windows, in exceptional circumstances. These may include (but not limited to):

- Long Term Player Injury – this would mean a player who is unable to play for a period of four (4) weeks or longer, supporting documentation is required to be provided upon the club making an application from a qualified General Practitioner or Specialist.
- Player Movement – Where the player leaves outside of the control of the club, for example a player is relocated due to work purposes.
- Goalkeepers – as this is a specialised position as determined by the National Registration Regulations.

The decision to grant an exemption for a club to change the PPS team roster outside of the windows is at the sole and absolute discretion of Football SA.

The First Team Player Roster was introduced in 2019 following consultation with clubs in 2018.

The purpose of the First Team Player Roster is to provide clubs participating in State League 1 and State League 2 with a similar framework to that of the Player Points System (PPS) utilised in the National Premier League. Further objectives of the First Team Player Roster are to provide a greater opportunity for youth players and to increase the stability of State League 1 and State League 2 teams by decreasing the movement of players.

Unlike the PPS, there is no points system weighted on players and therefore no points cap attributed to the First Team Player Roster.

Promoting players from Reserves or Under 18's onto the First Team Player Roster is permitted in limited circumstances as outlined further in the Explanatory Notes and Guidelines under First Team Player Roster requirements.

## **GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES**

The general definitions are provided for ease of reference.

The following points and examples are intended to provide Clubs with further clarity with respect to the First Team Player Roster.

### **General Definitions**

#### **First Team**

First Team means the Club's senior team participating in the State League 1 or State League 2 competition.

#### **First Team Player Roster**

First Team Player Roster means the roster of Players for a Club's First Team maintained in accordance with the First Team Player Roster System and any other competition regulations provided by Football SA.

Only players listed on the First Team Player Roster, or those that are age eligible, can participate in First Team matches.

#### **State League 1 (SL1)**

SL1 means the senior men's second tier club competition in South Australia.

#### **State League 2 (SL2)**

SL2 means the senior men's third tier club competition in South Australia.

### **Explanatory Notes**

#### **First Team Player Roster Requirements**

At all times during the season, the Club must include a minimum of 20 Players on its First Team Player Roster and may include a maximum of 23 Players on its First Team Player Roster.

Information required on the playing roster includes Football Australia Number, First and Last Name, Date of Birth, Age, Australian/visa player and professional or amateur player and must be completed on the provided First Team Player Roster template.

### **Use of Players aged 20 or younger (Movement of Players)**

- Any Player who during 2024 turns 21 years of age (2003 born) must be included on his Club's First Team Player Roster.
- Any Player that is born in 2004 or is younger, can play for the First Team without the requirement to be listed on the Club's First Team Player Roster.

### **Australian Player**

An Australian Player is any Player who is:

- a) citizen of Australia;
- b) a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a person residing in Australia on a "permanent" visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the person's Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the person's online Visa Entitlement Verification);
- c) a person who has been granted indefinite stay in Australia on their visa; or
- d) the holder of a refugee visa, humanitarian visa or protection visa issued by the Australian government. For further details see: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.

### **Visa Player**

- SL1 and SL2 Clubs are encouraged to refer to the following website for further clarification regarding visas: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.
- A visa player is any player that has not been granted an indefinite stay within Australia on their visa.
- Only two (2) visa players can be listed on a First Team Player Roster.
- A club can only list a maximum of two (2) visa players per match on the First Team's team sheet.

## Windows

### First Team Player Roster Windows during 2024:

2024 Window(s)	Opening Date	Closing Date
January - February	Wednesday 10 January, 2024	Monday 5 February, 2024
April	Monday 15 April, 2024	Thursday 18 April, 2024
June	TBC	TBC

### Exceptional Circumstances

A club may apply to Football SA to make a change to the First Team Player Roster outside of the designated windows, in exceptional circumstances. These may include (but not limited to);

- Long Term Player Injury – this would mean a player who is unable to play for a period of four (4) weeks or longer, supporting documentation is required to be provided upon the club making an application from a qualified General Practitioner or Specialist.
- Player Movement – Where the player leaves outside of the control of the club, for example a player is relocated interstate due to work purposes.
- Goalkeepers – as this is a specialised position as determined by the National Registration Regulations.

The decision to grant an exemption for a club to change the First Team Player Roster outside of the windows is at the sole and absolute discretion of Football SA.

# FINAL SERIES COMPETITION

## Season 2023 – Final Series Structure – RAA National Premier League, State League 1 and State League 2 Competitions.

The finishing position of teams at the conclusion of the home and away season will determine the team's position in the Final Series.

Week 1 – Elimination Finals					
Match	Home Team		Away Team		Type of Final
Match A	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	vs.	6 <sup>th</sup> Place		Elimination Final
Match B	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	vs.	5 <sup>th</sup> Place		Elimination Final
<i>1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team will have a bye</i>					

Week 2 – Semi Final Leg 1					
Match	Home Team		Away Team		Type of Final
Match C	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	vs.	Lowest Ranked EF Winner		Semi-Final #1 Leg 1
Match D	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	vs.	Highest Ranked EF Winner		Semi-Final #2 Leg 1

Week 3 – Semi-Final Leg 2					
Match	Home Team		Away Team		Type of Final
Match E	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	vs.	Lowest Ranked EF Winner		Semi-Final #1 Leg 2
Match F	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	vs.	Highest Ranked EF Winner		Semi-Final #2 Leg 2

Week 4 – Grand Final					
Match	Home Team		Away Team		Type of Final
Match G	Highest Ranked SF Winner	vs.	Lowest Ranked SF Winner		Grand Final

- Teams that finish 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the conclusion of the home and away season will have a bye in the first week of finals and progress to the Semi Finals.
- The team who finishes in first (1<sup>st</sup>) and second (2<sup>nd</sup>) position at the conclusion of the Home and Away Season can nominate their preference to play the first (1<sup>st</sup>) leg of their Semi Finals either at home or away, subject to venue availability and Football SA approval.
- Football SA may change the finals format at its own discretion.

### Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals Matches

If, at the conclusion of the regular period in an Elimination Final, across the two legs of a Semi Final match or the Grand Final the scores between the two (2) Clubs are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played. The conditions of the Laws of the Game will apply.

If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken, in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the Match.

The away goals rule will not be applied for the Semi Final matches.

## PRIZE MONEY FOR 2024

<b>RAA NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE</b>	<b>PRIZE MONEY</b>
Team that finishes first at the end of the home and away season	\$16,000.00
Team that wins the RAA NPL Grand Final	\$18,000.00
Team that comes runners-up in the RAA NPL Grand Final	\$8,000.00
Team that comes third in the final series	\$5,000.00
Team that comes fourth in the final series	\$2,000.00
Team that comes fifth in the final series	\$2,000.00
Team that comes sixth in the final series	\$2,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$53,000.00</b>
<b>STATE LEAGUE ONE</b>	
<b>STATE LEAGUE ONE</b>	<b>PRIZE MONEY</b>
Team that finishes first at the end of the home and away season	\$7,000.00
Team that wins the State League 1 Grand Final	\$8,000.00
Team that comes runners-up in the State League 1 Grand Final	\$3,500.00
Team that comes third in the final series	\$2,500.00
Team that comes fourth in the final series	\$1,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,500.00</b>
<b>STATE LEAGUE TWO</b>	
<b>STATE LEAGUE TWO</b>	<b>PRIZE MONEY</b>
Team that finishes first at the end of the home and away season	\$2,500.00
Team that wins the State League 1 Grand Final	\$3,500.00
Team that comes runners-up in the State League 1 Grand Final	\$1,000.00
Team that comes third in the final series	\$500.00
Team that comes fourth in the final series	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>
<b>FEDERATION CUP</b>	
<b>FEDERATION CUP</b>	<b>PRIZE MONEY</b>
Football SA Federation Cup Winner	\$5,500.00
Football SA Federation Cup Runners Up	\$2,500.00
Football SA Federation Cup Semi Finalist	\$1,000.00
Football SA Federation Cup Semi Finalist	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL OF PRIZE MONEY TO BE PAID</b>	<b>\$93,500.00</b>