FOOTBALL QUEENSLAND

METRO

2023 RULES OF COMPETITION

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1 SUMMARY OF DEFINITIONS

Abandoned – A Competition Fixture which has failed to commence for any reason or has commenced but has been stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion.

Been Listed – Refers to a player appearing on a Team Sheet/Squadi under the Return Substitution (Interchange) rule.

Borrowed – Using a player in that game that ordinarily would play or has been graded into another side e.g. An U13 Division 1 player being used by an U14 Division 1 team (in the same Club).

Cautions – Yellow and red cards received during a match.

Club Assistant – An Assistant Referee provided by the Club for the fixture.

Clubs – A body or incorporated association that has been accepted for affiliation and admittance into Football Queensland's competitions.

Competition Fixture – Any match that is administered by Football Queensland, within a competition.

Conference – Metro or refers to any region that exists as a member of Football Queensland.

Declared Weekend – A weekend that is declared as unplayable, due to extreme weather conditions.

Division – A particular grade or level of competition within Football Queensland.

Facilities Lighting Standards – refers to the Football Queensland Facilities Lighting Standards Policy as available through Football Queensland and adhering to the Australian Sports Lighting Standards.

Forfeit – A failure to participate in a Competition Fixture.

Graded – The team/competition that a player has been allocated and deemed to be eligible for.

Goal Difference – The difference between goals scored by a Club/Team (Goals For) and goals scored against a Club/Team (Goals Against) in a match or season.

Has Started – Refers to a player who commenced a match as part of the starting 11 under the Substitution rule.

Highest Placed Team – The team which finished in the higher position on the competition ladder after the fixture season.

League – A particular competition.

No Result – Recording a ‘0-0’ score line in a Competition Fixture with no points or goals awarded to either Team. A ‘No Result’ is recorded as a Competition Fixture played.

Penalties – A penalty shoot-out, in accordance with FIFA regulations will be taken to determine the winner.

Playing Facilities Standards – The minimum standards a Club must adhere to, to be eligible to play games at and host fixtures, in accordance with the Football Queensland Playing Facilities Standards Policy.

Postponed – A Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled and is to be rescheduled.

Regular Season – The duration of the season, not including Finals Series.

Replica Strip – An imitation shirt/shorts/attire of another Club or team, be it professional or amateur (e.g., Brisbane Roar Replica jersey).

Team – A football team entered by a Club in a League/Competition administered by Football Queensland.

2 COMPETITIONS

2.0 General

Football Queensland reserves the right to amend, change or alter these Competition Rules on an annual basis. In addition, Football Queensland reserves the right to amend, change or alter these Competition Rules should, in its opinion, the need arise during a season. The purpose of this is ensure transparency, consistency and best practice. The changing of the Rules mid-season would only occur in extraordinary circumstances.

This document is specific to the following Competitions:

- FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 3 - 6 Metro Men
- FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 Metro Women
- Senior Metro Leagues
- U20 Men
- FQ Academy Girls Leagues 1 - 2
- FQ Academy Boys Leagues 1 - 4
- Metro Junior Leagues
- Metro Divisional Juniors (including any Girls Only teams)

2.1 Competition Structure

Football Queensland reserves the right to decide on or amend the size, structure and composition of any competition. Clubs who are members of Football Queensland are eligible to nominate for any competition within the Football Queensland structure, provided they meet the minimum and mandatory requirements for the competition in which they nominate. New Clubs are required to apply to compete in Football Queensland Competitions by November 1 of each year. For further information, please contact Licensing.

2.1.1 All Competitions

All competitions within Football Queensland will be contested on a “Home and Away” basis, where possible.

2.1.2 Senior Competitions

FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 3 Metro Women
All participating Clubs in the above are required to field a “First Grade” team and an “Under 23’s” team.

Men’s & Women’s Metro Leagues, U20 Men
Entry into these leagues is available to Clubs from within the SEQ Region and the

decision will be based on upholding competition integrity. The composition of each competition will be determined by Football Queensland on an annual basis.

2.1.3 Junior Competitions

Football Queensland will organise age restricted competitions for junior players from Under 13 – Under 18. Competitions may be mixed or gender specific as determined by Football Queensland. The Competitions that are relevant to this Rules of Competition document are as follows:

- FQ Academy (U13 to U18) Girls Leagues 1 - 2
- FQ Academy (U13 to U18) Boys Leagues 1 - 4
- Metro Junior Leagues
- Metro Divisional Juniors (including any Girls Only teams)

The composition of Metro Junior League and Divisional competitions will be determined on an annual basis, based on Club nominations and results from the previous season.

2.1.4 Under 13

The playing format for Under 13 Competitions is located here.

2.2 Competition Winners

In each Competition, the team finishing with the most points at the conclusion of the "Regular" season will be the Premier. In the event of multiple teams having equal points, the ranking of the teams shall be determined in accordance with Section 3.11.

2.3 Promotion & Relegation - All Competitions

All competitions use a promotion/relegation system. Some competitions will still rely on Club nominations for the following season to finalise composition.

2.3.1 Senior Competitions

FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 3 Metro Women
The 1st and 2nd placed teams at the completion of the regular season will be eligible for promotion or play off. The teams placed last and 2nd last at the conclusion of the regular season will be relegated to the competition below for the subsequent season.

To earn promotion into FQPL 1 Men or FQPL 1 Women, Clubs must also meet the Grounds and Facilities criteria, which is outlined in the Advanced Club Participation Licence Agreements provided by Football Queensland. If one or both Clubs eligible

for promotion do not meet the requirements for promotion into the FQPL 1 Men/FQPL 1 Women, then the process outlined in "Promotion/Relegation Requests/Withdrawal" will be implemented.

The exception to the relegation rule is the lowest tier in Men's and Women's FQPL, where there will be no relegation.

Promotion & Relegation Requests/Withdrawal
If one or both teams who have qualified for promotion to the above competitions advises that they do not wish to exercise the privilege, they must provide their reasons in writing to Football Queensland for review. If the request is granted, Football Queensland will approach Clubs to enter, based on a number of factors including results and ability to fulfil the Competition requirements.

If it is a Competition where there was no relegation, Football Queensland can, if they choose, seek applications from any other Club to fill the vacancy.

If a team withdrawal or request for relegation causes a vacancy in FQPL, Football Queensland can, if they choose, seek applications from any other Club to fill the vacancy.

Note: Promotion and relegation rules/procedures may be subject to change, due to variations in competition structures.

All Men's & Women's Metro Leagues, U20 Men Competitions
There is no promotion to FQPL from Metro League Division 1. The composition of each of the Metro League divisions will be determined on an annual basis based on a combination of the previous season's results and collaboration with the nominations submitted by each Club.

Following the conclusion of Round 4 of the regular season, a Club may apply to have a team regraded. These applications will be assessed, and results taken into consideration when deciding the appropriate division for all teams. Football Queensland will also assess the results of each Metro League competition following the first 4 rounds and may seek to regrade a team based on their initial results. Football Queensland's determination on any regrade application or regrading of a team must be followed and will be final. If a Club requests to regrade from Round 5, a fee may be applicable if Football Queensland grant the request. There shall be no appeal against the decision of Football Queensland.

2.3.2 FQ Academy Girls Leagues 1 – 2, FQ Academy Boys Leagues 1 – 4

All Clubs competing in these competitions will not be subject to promotion or relegation, as placement is based on FQ Advanced Club Assessment outcomes and Advanced Club Participation Licence Agreements.

2.3.3 Junior Divisional Competitions

Under 14 – Under 18
The composition of each of these divisions will be determined on an annual basis based on a combination of the previous season's results and collaboration with the nominations submitted by each Club.

Several timeframes will be offered to Clubs in which to apply to have a team regraded. These applications will be assessed, and results taken into consideration when deciding on the appropriate division for all teams.

Under 13 Divisional Qualification Process
Each year, a grading process will occur to establish what divisions in which teams will participate in for the regular season. All teams nominated for Under 13 are required to play four (4) grading matches to determine their final division placement. The final composition across all divisions of Under 13 will see ten (10) teams selected per division. The final placement of teams into respective divisions will be based on results from the mandatory grading matches.

The divisions will be split into North and South, with the exception of Metro Junior League, which may be Cross River.

2.4 Other Competitions & Play-Off Matches

Football Queensland may conduct other competitions and/or Cup Competitions before, during and after the conclusion of the fixture season, including Finals Series. This includes any play-off matches which may need to occur to establish the composition of a competition. Additional Rules for these Competitions shall be set prior to their commencement.

All Cup Competitions are subject to (and should be read in conjunction with) these Rules of Competition and the additional Cup Rules. In the event of an omission or inconsistency between these Rules and the additional Cup Rules, Football Queensland will determine and rule on the interpretation.

2.5 Monies Owing to Football Queensland by a Club

All amounts owed by a Club to Football Queensland must be paid within 21 days of the date of the invoice (7 days in the case of match official payments) issued by Football Queensland in relation to that amount.

If a Club fails to pay any amount owing to Football Queensland in accordance with this, Football Queensland may issue a notice, giving the Club a further 14 days to pay that amount.

If a Club fails to comply with a notice issued in accordance with this, or agree to a

repayment plan with Football Queensland for the amount owed, Football Queensland may, at its sole discretion:

- Rule that Club [or the applicable Team(s) within that Club] ineligible to earn competition points in any Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match in which the Club (or Team) plays,
- Suspend or expel that Club [or Team(s)] from any Competition Fixture (including Cup Fixtures) and/or Football Queensland competitions.
- Prohibit that Club [or Team(s)] from promotion whilst the debt remains unpaid.
- Relegate that Club [or Team(s)] while the debt remains unpaid.
- Deduct points from a Club [or Team(s)] for the following season where the debt remains unpaid or accrues after 30 September of the relevant year.

If Football Queensland and a Club agree to a repayment plan relating to a debt owed to Football Queensland and the Club defaults any of the terms by the stipulated date and time, Football Queensland may immediately and without the need to issue a further notice, impose one or more of the sanctions referred to above.

3 FIXTURES

3.0 General

Football Queensland will schedule the dates, times and venues of all matches in collaboration with our Clubs and their requested preferences. Draft draws will be released to Clubs to allow for feedback prior to the commencement of the season. Football Queensland reserves the right to schedule matches on any day, time and venue and in any format in alignment with the best interests of the competition/s. This includes scheduling matches to accommodate media requirements and Referee appointments. Football Queensland reserves the right to reschedule matches in its absolute discretion.

Football Queensland will schedule fixturing meetings with Clubs to discuss and schedule fixtures for the season during the draft process.
All Football Queensland matches take precedence in scheduling over non-FA affiliated matches at all Football Queensland Clubs.

3.1 Scheduling of Matches

3.1.1 Senior Competitions

Senior matches will normally be scheduled between Friday and Sunday each weekend.

FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 3 Metro Women
Games must be scheduled sequentially as specified below:

- Under 23's, 1st team - on the same day at the same venue in that order
- FQPL 2 U23 Men may be scheduled to play after the First Team if the Home Team has nominated to do so

Other Leagues
Where two or more senior teams from the same Club are playing at home on the same day, these matches must be scheduled consecutively.

Day & Time Scheduling/Rescheduling

Midweek/Friday

- No senior matches will be scheduled to commence before 6pm
- No senior matches will be scheduled to commence after 8.30pm

Saturday

- No senior matches will be scheduled to commence before 11.00am
- No senior matches will be scheduled to commence after 7.30pm

Sunday

- No Senior matches will be scheduled to commence before 9.00am

- No senior matches will be scheduled to commence after 6.00pm

Exceptions may be granted in the case of public holidays or where both teams agree, for any fixture/s. Any request for exception must be submitted in writing to Football Queensland for approval and the decision made will be final. The request must be submitted in line with the fixture amendment process.

FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 3 Metro Women
Where there are clashes between the First Team and the U23's (i.e., teams from the same Club at different venues), the First Team match will take priority for scheduling and the U23's will have to be scheduled to avoid any clash (either with sufficient time between the matches on the same day or on a different day).

3.1.2 Junior Competitions

Listed below is the day on which each age group will be predominantly scheduled during the 2023 Football Queensland season. Matches must be scheduled sequentially as specified by Football Queensland.

	Under 13	Under 14	Under 15	Under 16	Under 17	Under 18
Metro Junior & Divisional competitions	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday or Sunday	Friday or Sunday	Friday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday
FQ Academy Girls Leagues 1 - 2, FQ Academy Boys Leagues 1 - 4	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday	Friday, Saturday or Sunday

*All Under 13 - 17 Girls, Under 14 Division 2 and below fixtures may be requested for Saturday to assist with field availability for Clubs.

*All FQ Academy Boys competitions must play on Sundays during Term 2.

<u>Day & Time Scheduling/Rescheduling</u>

Monday-Friday
- No junior matches will be scheduled to commence before 6pm
- the U13 age group will not kick off later than 8pm
- the U14 age group will not kick off later than 8pm
- the U15 age group will not kick off later than 8:15pm
- the U16 - U18 age groups will not kick off later than 8:30pm.

Saturday
- No junior matches will be scheduled to commence before 8.30am
- No junior matches will be scheduled to commence later than 7pm

Sunday

- No junior matches will be scheduled to commence before 8.30am
- No junior matches will be scheduled to commence after 6.00pm

Exceptions may be granted in the case of public holidays or where both teams agree, for any fixture/s. Any request for exception must be submitted in writing to Football Queensland for approval and the decision made will be final. The request must be submitted in line with the fixture amendment process.

3.1.3 Exceptions

Clubs may apply for an exception from the above scheduling rules depending on their situation, any determination Football Queensland makes in this matter is final.

3.2 Postponement/Rescheduling of Matches

The decision to postpone or reschedule competition fixtures can only be made by Football Queensland Competitions staff, except in the event of severe weather.

In cases of severe weather, matches may only be postponed by the appointed match official at the venue, or by Football Queensland upon advice from the HOME Club prior to the match (as per Section 9 – Wet Weather Procedures). Football Queensland may postpone an earlier match or matches on any day to allow a later match or matches to go ahead at its absolute discretion and in consultation with the host Club.

Football Queensland reserves the right to record any outstanding fixtures that have not been completed by one (1) week after the conclusion of the regular season as a NIL-ALL (0-0) DRAW. Football Queensland may decide not to reschedule a fixture that has no bearing on the final ladder positions. Football Queensland reserves the right to reschedule matches on any day, time and venue and in any format as it sees fit. Matches will be rescheduled with a minimum gap of 48 hours from other scheduled/rescheduled fixtures unless both teams agree, or Football Queensland determines a match needs to be played and other options are not available.

If a match is postponed while both teams are at the ground, the teams should liaise with each other to propose or agree to a reschedule date and time, while at the ground. Should a suitable date be agreed upon, both teams are to advise Football Queensland of the agreed rescheduling (via email) prior to 12pm the next business day.

3.2.1 Rescheduling Process

Postponed matches will be rescheduled by Football Queensland for the next available “Catch-Up” weekend, which is the primary option. If the next available “Catch-Up” weekend is unavailable due to other scheduling, Football Queensland

may determine that the matches would need to be rescheduled as midweek fixtures. If this is the case, the Clubs will be advised of this information. Notwithstanding this Rule, Football Queensland may reschedule to alternate dates as is required.
For matches that need to be rescheduled to midweek dates per above, the HOME Club has three
(3) days to respond with advice of their preferred option/s for rescheduling.

If the proposed date provides less than fourteen (14) days' notice, the HOME Club must obtain the AWAY Club's agreement. The AWAY Club cannot refuse a rescheduled match option that provides at least fourteen (14) days' notice.

Once a reschedule has been proposed, which adheres to the above, Football Queensland will determine a date for the match, which will be final.

FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 3 Metro Women - Rescheduling
If FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 3 Metro Women's matches are postponed or abandoned due to any circumstances, Football Queensland reserves the right to reschedule matches on any day, time and venue and in any format as it sees fit. Under 23's must always be scheduled to be played before the 1st Team, even if matches must be played across different nights.

FQPL 2 Men - Rescheduling

a) All matches to be rescheduled will automatically be rescheduled to be played Tuesday immediately following the originally scheduled match date.

    i. It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that their nominated venue (or another Football Queensland approved venue) is available for the match.

    ii. If both the First Team and U23 games need to be rescheduled, they will be played back-to-back. If the washed-out fixture is between two Clubs that crossover geographical zones (e.g., Brisbane to Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast to Toowoomba), or the home Club has a lighting curfew earlier than 10:00pm, the First Team will automatically be scheduled on Tuesday and the U23s will automatically be scheduled on Wednesday.

    iii. In the event, NPL/FQPL 1 Men and NPL/FQPL 1 Women's First Team are cancelled on the same weekend with the same host Club, Football Queensland will determine which games will be played on Tuesday. The other matches will be scheduled on Wednesday.

b) Should an entire round of matches be postponed, all matches may be rescheduled to the nearest designated Catch-Up round. The days and kick-off times will remain the same for all matches.

    i. If all designated Catch-Up weekends are exhausted, Football

Queensland will determine when and where the affected match/s will be rescheduled.

c) Football Queensland retains the right to make the final decision regarding the rescheduling of all matches.

d) Football Queensland at its discretion may determine that due to certain circumstances (such as distance between Clubs) that a match may be rescheduled to the nearest designated Catch-Up weekend or another date as determined by FQ.

    i. If all designated Catch-Up weekends are exhausted, Football Queensland will determine when and where the affected match/s will be rescheduled.

e) If the designated Home Club does not have a venue to play night matches or is unable to provide another Football Queensland approved venue to play the match, the match will be played at the nominated venue of the Away Club.

    i. If neither Club has a venue to play the scheduled match, the match will be played at a neutral venue.

f) If a Club refuses to play a rescheduled match as per these Competition Rules, the match may be declared a forfeit and awarded to the opposition Club as a win with a 3-0 score line.

General

Pursuant to the provisions of this Rule, Football Queensland will set a date as it determines whose decision shall be final. The decision of Football Queensland in this respect is not subject to appeal.

- If the HOME Club fails to provide a response within three (3) days of Football Queensland sending the request, the match may be awarded to the AWAY Club with a 3-0 score line and the HOME Club may be fined (See Fines and Penalties Document).
- Should a team refuse to participate in a match that has been rescheduled by Football Queensland, the match will be awarded to the opposition Club with a 3-0 score line and the Club may be fined (See Fines and Penalties Document).

NOTE: In the event of the rescheduling of a fixture in the final four weeks of the season, the Club response timeframes, outlined above, will be reduced to 48 hours (Club to respond in this time) and 7 days (Clubs to play no less than 7 days from date of advice).

3.3 Duration of Matches

The duration of matches for each age group are outlined in the table below. After

normal time in each half, the match official may add on Injury/Stoppage Time as required, however, this is only applicable for Senior Competitions. **No extra time is added for Junior Competitions.**

Competition	Half Duration	Interval Duration
Seniors	2 x 45 mins	10 - 15 mins
Under 18	2 x 45 mins	10 - 15 mins
Under 17	2 x 40 mins	10 mins
Under 16	2 x 40 mins	10 mins
Under 15	2 x 40 mins	10 mins
Under 14	2 x 35 mins	5 mins
Under 13	2 x 30 mins	5 mins

3.4 Substitution and Return Substitution (Interchange)

Substitutions and Return Substitutions (Interchange) can only occur in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. They must wear bibs or an alternative- coloured uniform to both team strips and are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area. When warming up, substitutes are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.

3.4.1 Senior Competitions

FQPL 2 Men (Inc. U23s), FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men
In the above competitions, each team may make up to five (5) substitutions in any given match, with a maximum of 3 stoppages in play. Half time substitutions will not be counted as a stoppage in play. There can be six (6) substitutes listed on the Team Sheet/Squadi.

Should any Finals Fixtures relating to the above competitions proceed to extra time, teams are permitted to utilise one additional substitution opportunity (whether or not the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes or substitution opportunities). Teams may only list a maximum of 17 players.

FQPL 3 Metro Women, All Remaining FQPL U23's, Men's & Women's Metro Leagues, U20 Men
In the above competitions, unlimited Return Substitutions (Interchange) are permitted, with no more than five (5) substitutes permitted to be named on the Team Sheet/Squadi. A player who has been substituted may return to the field for another player. **In these Competitions, a player whose name appears on the Team Sheet/Squadi is deemed to have participated in the match, even if they do not take the field of play**. The exception to this rule is a Reserve Goalkeeper (if marked as such on the Team Sheet/Squadi). Referees will record whether a Reserve Goalkeeper has participated by the normal manner of recording a substitution. If no record of

participation is shown, then the Reserve Goalkeeper will not be deemed to have participated in the match. Teams may only list a maximum of 16 players on match day.

3.4.2 Junior Competitions

In all competitions from Under 13 to Under 18, unlimited Return Substitutions (Interchange) are permitted, with no more than five (5) substitutes to be named on the Team Sheet/Squadi. A player who has been substituted may return to the field for another player. Teams may only list a maximum of 16 players on match day.

In these competitions, a player whose name appears on the Team Sheet/Squadi is deemed to have participated in the match, even if they do not take the field of play.

3.5 Alterations To Fixtures

3.5.1 Application For Alterations

Any application for an alteration to scheduled fixtures must be submitted to Football Queensland at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled fixture. **The correspondence must include the written agreement of the opposition Club, prior to submitting the request**.

Each request will be determined on its merits. Applications for alterations due to "social functions" (e.g. weddings, christenings, school holiday weekends or other social events) or "work commitments" do not justify an alteration request and will not be considered.
Scheduled Football Queensland Catch-Up and Cup Fixture rounds will **only** be used in the case of postponed or abandoned competition fixtures brought on by wet weather.

Any application made within the fourteen (14) day timeframe, even with the agreement of the opposition Club, **will not** be considered.

An application within this timeframe with extraordinary circumstances (entire squad flight delay/illness throughout the team with medical certificate), can be made to Football Queensland with required evidence. If no evidence is attached, the request will be declined.

For any other fixture alteration request (field/venue unavailability, field quality concern, lighting issue), an application may be made to Football Queensland without the agreement of the opposition Club, in the best interests of the fixture going ahead. This request must also be made 14 days prior to the scheduled fixture date.

Football Queensland reserves the right to decline any fixture alteration request, at Football Queensland's discretion. The decision of Football Queensland is final and

is not subject to appeal.

3.5.2 Representative Duties

Any competition team with four or more players/team members unavailable due to representative outdoor football duties, at Football Queensland/Football Federation Australia approved tournaments including state-wide school representative tournaments, will be entitled to have their fixture rescheduled upon application. Supporting evidence must be provided in an application. Applications must be made at least 21 days prior to the scheduled fixture.

Should Football Queensland approve the application to reschedule the match, the process as outlined in Section 3.2.1 will be followed.

Football Queensland will take into consideration what is reasonable and the decision will be final.

3.5.3 School Football (Junior Competitions Only)

Applications due to involvement in local inter-school sport or non-representative sanctioned competitions including but not limited to the Kanga Cup, will not be considered.

3.5.4 School Commitments (Junior Competitions Only)

Applications due to school commitments / functions will be assessed on their merits. All applications must be accompanied by a letter from the School Principal/Curriculum Coordinator/Year Coordinator on school letterhead outlining how the event relates to the education curriculum. The application must be received at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled fixture. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and the decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

If Football Queensland approves the application to reschedule the match, the process defined in Section 3.2.1 will be followed.

3.5.5 Exceptional Circumstances Related Postponement Requests

If teams are affected by circumstances outside of their control and are asking for consideration to postpone fixtures, application must be made in writing to the Manager – Statewide Competitions via email. Supporting documentation must be provided and each application will be assessed on a case- by-case basis.

3.6 Non-Participation in a Fixture/Forfeiting a Fixture

Any team that fails to fulfil any of its fixture or finals obligations arranged by

Football Queensland will be deemed to have forfeited the match and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

Any team that wishes to forfeit a match prior to the scheduled day and time must notify Football Queensland either by email (if prior to the day of the scheduled match) or by phoning the Manager – Statewide Competitions (if on the day of the match). Football Queensland will then notify the opposition team and match officials.

Any team that is not ready to commence a fixture or finals match within **15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time commencing**, (this includes the ground of the **HOME** team not being ready for kick-off in the opinion of the match officials, i.e., the field must be correctly marked, with nets and corner posts up and goals anchored if required), will be deemed to have forfeited the match.

If any team claims such a forfeit, they must contact the Competitions team (competitions@footballqueensland.com.au) and outline the events which led up to the match not being played.

A team deemed to have forfeited may submit a request, within three (3) days to Football Queensland, if they believe the forfeit was caused by extraordinary circumstances. Football Queensland will review the request and deliver a determination. Football Queensland's decision in regard to the forfeit shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal.

If any team forfeits a fixture for any reason on three or more occasions in the same competition season without satisfactory explanation provided in writing to Football Queensland, they will be asked to show cause as to why they should not be withdrawn from the competition. The decision of Football Queensland to withdraw a team from the competition shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal.

3.6.1 Senior Competitions

In FQPL Competitions, if a Club does not have sufficient players to field an U23's and First Team, the First Team shall take priority. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action against the offending Club and both the U23's and First Team fixtures will be deemed a forfeit.

Any match deemed to have been forfeited in Metro Competitions will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

3.7 Withdrawal/Removal/Suspension from Fixtures

If any team in a competition withdraws, is removed or suspended, then the following will apply:

- If the team is withdrawn, removed or suspended before the competition has started and cannot be replaced, a bye in the competition will be substituted where possible and the Club will be levied an administration fee.
- If the team is withdrawn, removed or suspended during the first round of fixtures, the recorded results for that team will be deleted and, if the team cannot be replaced, a bye in the competition will be substituted for the remainder of that round; if they cannot be replaced in the competition for the remaining round(s), a bye in the competition will be substituted for the remaining round(s) where possible and the Club will be levied an administration fee.
- If the team is withdrawn, removed or suspended during the second or subsequent round of fixtures, all points and goals acquired for the completed rounds will be retained by opposing teams. The recorded results for that team in the uncompleted round will be deleted and, if the team cannot be replaced, a bye in the competition will be substituted for the remainder of that round; if they cannot be replaced in the competition for the remaining round(s), a bye in the competition will be substituted for the remaining round(s) (for the purposes of this clause, a round is a full rotation of each team playing other teams) and the Club will be levied an administration fee.
- If Football Queensland has doubts about the validity of any earlier round matches for a team withdrawn during the second or subsequent rounds, it may delete all results for that team and the Club will be levied an administration fee.
- Football Queensland reserves the right to negotiate with the Club of a replacement team regarding the method that the new team enters the competition. This discussion can occur at any point in that competition and include how points are attributed to that team for the remainder of the season.

Football Queensland's decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

3.8 Team Additions to Fixtures

Should a Club request to be added to a competition or fixtures post the team nomination deadline, the Club may be liable for a late entry administration fee (See Fines and Penalties Document).

If any team is added to a competition, then the following will apply:

Note – Points accrued in another competition prior to being added to a new competition will not carry over to the new competition.

- Where a competition is comprised of eighteen (18) fixtures:
  - If a team enters on or before Fixture 4, that team will replay any

missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for the entire season.
    - If a team enters from Fixture 5, until the commencement of the second Round (Fixture 10) that team will not accrue results from those fixtures. However, the team will accrue points in the second Round,
    - If a team enters on either Fixture 10 or Fixture 11 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for Round 2 only.
    - If a team enters after the commencement of Fixture 12 that team will not accrue any points

- Where a competition is comprised of twenty (21) fixtures:
    - If a team enters on or before Fixture 3 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required, and will accrue points for the entire season
    - If a team enters from Fixture 4 until the commencement of the second Round (Fixture 8) that team will not accrue results from those fixtures. However, the team will accrue points in the second and third Rounds.
    - If a team enters on either Fixture 8 or Fixture 9 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for Rounds 2 and 3.
    - If a team enters from Fixture 10 until the commencement of the third Round (Fixture 15) that team will not accrue results from those fixtures. However, the team will accrue points in the third Round.
    - If a team enters on either Fixture 15 or Fixture 16 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for Round 3.
    - If a team enters after the commencement of Fixture 16 that team will not accrue any points
- Where a competition is comprised of twenty-two (22) fixtures:
    - If a team enters on or before Fixture 6 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for the entire season.
    - If a team enters from Fixture 7 until the commencement of the second Round (Fixture 12) that team will not accrue results from those fixtures. However, the team will accrue points in the second Round,
    - If a team enters on either Fixture 12 or on or before Fixture 14 that team will replay any missed matches from those fixtures as required and will accrue points for Round 2 only.
    - If a team enters after the commencement of Fixture 15 that team will not accrue any points

In the event that these provisions create any anomaly or are impossible to strictly comply then Football Queensland may in its discretion, determine how this rule shall be applied. Football Queensland's decision shall be final. The decision of Football Queensland in this respect is not subject to appeal.

3.9 Abandoned Matches

The match official has the right to abandon any fixture match if, in their opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety. If the match official abandons a Football Queensland match at half time or later for both Junior and Senior Competitions, **then the match result will stand,** unless one or both of the competing Clubs request the match to be replayed and the matter is referred to Football Queensland for consideration.

All replay requests must be made in writing within three (3) days of the match being abandoned. Any request after this time will be declined and the match result will stand.

Football Queensland shall take into consideration the following when considering a request for a replay:

- Reasons why the match was abandoned
- The time of the abandonment
- Result of the match at the time of abandonment
- The impact on the final league standings of the fixture
- Factors that may affect the opportunity for scheduling the match to be replayed

The decision of Football Queensland on whether to grant a replay will be final and this shall not be subject to appeal. Any replayed match will be played in full. Any match abandoned before half-time will be replayed unless both teams agree to forego the replaying of the match or Football Queensland determines that the match does not need to be replayed.

Football Queensland reserves the right to determine the match result if it is satisfied that one (or both) of the competing teams, its players, officials, members or supporters were directly responsible for the abandonment of the fixture. This includes the abandonment of a match due to a team having less than seven players on the field. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and is final and not subject to appeal.

If it is determined that one team is responsible for the abandonment, the Club responsible will be fined (See Fines and Penalties Document) and subject to any/all of the following action:

- The match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the score at the time of abandonment was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team
- Impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending Club(s), player(s) and official(s)

If it is determined that both teams are responsible for the abandonment, both Clubs responsible may be fined (See Fines and Penalties Document).

Football Queensland may also decide to impose any of the following outcomes:

- The match be replayed
- The match be recorded as "NO RESULT"
- The match be recorded as 0-0 draw
- Impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending Club(s), player(s) and official(s)

Football Queensland determination on the outcome of any abandoned match shall be in its absolute discretion and final and not subject to appeal.

Should Football Queensland determine that a match is to be replayed, the provisions for rescheduling as outlined in Section 3.2.1 (inclusive of 3.1.1 and 3.1.2) will apply.

3.10 Points

In all competition fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

Match Result	Value	Points Earned
Win	Three	3 Points
Draw	One	1 Point
Loss	Nil	0 Points
Bye	Nil	0 Points
No Result	Nil for either team	0 Points for either team

3.11 Goal Difference

In the case of teams having an equal number of points, goal difference will be used to determine:

- The Premiers
- The teams eligible to play in the Finals Series in the respective divisions
- The teams to be promoted to a higher division
- The teams to be relegated to a lower division
- All other positions on the points table

In the case of goal difference being equal, the team having scored the most goals FOR shall be the higher or highest placed team.

In the case of teams having an equal number of points, equal goal difference and having scored an equal number of goals FOR:

- The team with the higher or highest number of points from matches played between the teams in question shall be the higher or highest placed team
- If the number of points is equal, then the team with the superior goal difference from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team

- In the case of goal difference being equal, the team having scored the most goals FOR from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team
- If the goal difference and goals FOR are equal, then the team that scored the most away goals from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team

If teams are still equal after considering all the above considerations, the following will apply:

- To determine Premiers or promotion/relegation positions, the Clubs concerned shall play off one or more matches on neutral ground(s), the format, timing and venue(s) of which shall be determined by Football Queensland
- To determine Finals Series positions - an official of each team will be required to meet with an official of Football Queensland and lots will be drawn
  To determine all other positions on the table, lots will be drawn.

3.12 Penalties & Outcomes - Forfeits

Any match in all Football Queensland Competitions deemed to have been forfeited will be subject to the following:

- The match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team and the points will be awarded to the opposing team.
- Impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending Club(s), player(s) and official(s).

4 FINALS SERIES

4.0 Format

Football Queensland will arrange the dates, times and venues of all Finals Series matches. Football Queensland reserves the right to schedule or re-schedule matches on any day, time and place as it sees fit. All Football Queensland matches take precedence in scheduling over non-FA affiliated matches at Football Queensland Clubs.

The formats below will apply to all Football Queensland Metro competitions. The first listed team in each match below, is the designated Home Team.

Competition	Final Type	Teams
FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 3 Metro Women Including Under 23's	Semi Final 1	2nd vs 3rd
	Semi Final 2	1st vs 4th
	Grand Final	Highest Place Semi Winner vs Lowest Place Semi Winner

Competition	Final Type	Teams
Men's & Women's Metro Leagues U20 Men All Juniors Under 13 – Under 18	Semi Final 1	2nd vs 3rd
	Semi Final 2	1st vs 4th
	Grand Final	Highest Place Semi Winner vs Lowest Place Semi Winner

4.1 Senior Competitions

4.1.1 Venues

Semi Final Matches will be held at the Home Team venue, subject to the venue being deemed suitable for play by Football Queensland. (If the Home Team is unable to host the match, then it will be held at the Away Team venue or a venue determined by Football Queensland).

Grand Final Matches will be held at venues determined by Football Queensland where these shall be at independent grounds (where possible).

4.1.2 Duration of Matches

All finals matches will be played in accordance with the fixture duration (See Section 3.3).

FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 3 Metro Women, inc. U23's
If the scores are equal after normal time, then 2 x 15-minute periods of extra time will be played in full. If the scores are still equal after extra time, then a penalty shoot-out in accordance with FIFA regulations will be taken to determine the winner.

Men's and Women's Metro Leagues, U20 Men Competitions
If the scores are equal after normal time, then a penalty shoot-out in accordance with FIFA regulations will be taken to determine the winner (No extra time will be played).

4.2 Junior Competitions

4.2.1 Venues

Semi Final Matches will be held at the Home Team venue, subject to the venue being deemed suitable for play by Football Queensland. (If the Home Team is unable to host the match, then it will be held at the Away Team venue or a venue determined by Football Queensland).

All Grand Finals Matches will be held at venues determined by Football Queensland. Football Queensland will invite Clubs to submit an EOI one-month prior Finals Series commencing.

4.2.2 Duration of Matches

All finals matches will be played in accordance with the fixture duration for each age group (See Section 3.3).

If the scores are equal after normal time, then 2 x 10-minute periods of extra time will be played in full. If the scores are still equal after extra time, then a penalty shoot-out in accordance with FIFA regulations will be taken to determine the winner.

5 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

5.0 Player Eligibility and Borrowing

It is each Club's responsibility to ensure that any player taking the field for a competitive fixture is eligible to do so, per the competition requirements.
To be eligible to participate in any Football Queensland Fixture, players must meet the following criteria:

- Registered and Active in Play Football – 5.1
- Not Serving a Disciplinary Suspension – 5.2
- Age Eligible – 5.3
- Correctly Graded or Able to be Borrowed – 5.4
- Finals Eligible – 5.5
- Correctly Listed on Team Sheet/Squadi – 5.6

If a player is found to have participated in a match while in breach of any of the above eligibility requirements, the Penalties and Outcomes as per section 5.8 will apply.

5.1 Registered and Active in PlayFootball

All players must be registered and active in Play Football in order to participate in any fixtures.
Amateur players are able to register at any point throughout the season except the following competitions, who have a June 30 deadline:

FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 - 6 Metro Men, FQPL 3 Metro Women (inc U23's)
FQ Academy Juniors U13 - U18

For the avoidance of doubt, players registered after 30 June are only eligible to play in Metro Leagues, U20 Men and Junior Divisional Competitions. This includes new registrations and players who are moving between Clubs. Players who register after June 30 are not eligible to be borrowed into the above listed competitions.

The decision of Football Queensland will be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal.

5.2 Not Serving a Disciplinary Suspension

Any player under suspension by Football Queensland or any other Federation is ineligible and is not permitted to participate in any fixture until that suspension is served in the competitions and age-grade in which it was received. This includes mandatory suspensions for yellow and red cards along with penalties determined by a Disciplinary Committee.

5.3 Age Eligible

The requirements below apply to all competitions and must be read in conjunction with all eligibility rules.

The following competitions are age restricted:

Under 20	Players born in the year 2003 or later (between 2003 - 2006)
Under 18	Players born in the year 2005 or 2006
Under 17 (Girls)	Players born in the year 2006 or 2007
Under 16	Players born in the year 2007
Under 15	Players born in the year 2008
Under 14	Players born in the year 2009
Under 13	Players born in the year 2010

*Any player playing outside of their designated competition (*up or down*) as per their birth year (reference table above), must apply to Football Queensland for dispensation through a Dispensation Request form as per section 5.3.3.

Please refer to the 2023 FQ Advanced Club Participation Licensing Documents with regards to the limits for overage and visa players across the FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men and FQPL 3 Metro Women competitions.

5.3.1 U13 & U14 Age Restrictions

As stated in section 5.4, any player playing outside of their designated competition *(up or down)* as per their birth year, must apply to Football Queensland for dispensation through a Dispensation Request form.

Furthermore, in the specific cases of team viability within the U13 and U14 competitions (excluding FQ Academy U13 Girls) there will be additional parameters detailing the maximum number of players that can be borrowed or granted dispensation outside of their age groups. These can be found in the table below;

Competitions	**Age Restrictions**
All U13 competitions (excluding FQ Academy U13 Girls)	No more than 6 players born in the year 2011 (turning 12 in 2023) can be listed on the Team Sheet/Squadi for any fixture

All U14 competitions	No more than 7 players born in the year 2010 (turning 13 in 2023) can be listed on the Team Sheet/Squadi for any fixture

Clubs may apply to Football Queensland to allow an exception to these restrictions in extraordinary circumstances for a particular match or for the full season. The decision of Football Queensland will be final on whether to allow an exception. There shall be no appeal from the decision of Football Queensland in respect of the granting of an exception.

5.3.2 Juniors Playing Out of Designated Age Group into Senior Competitions

Male
Players born in 2005 and 2006 may play in senior Men's Competition without restriction. Players born in 2007 are eligible to play in Senior Competitions, provided a Dispensation Request has been submitted to and approved by Football Queensland with Club, coach, and parent support prior to taking the field.

Players born in 2008 are NOT eligible to play in any Football Queensland Senior Men's Competition.

Female
Players born in 2005, 2006 and 2007 may play in any senior Women's Competition without restriction. Players born in 2008 are eligible to play in Senior Competitions, provided a Dispensation Request form has been submitted to and approved by Football Queensland with Club, coach, and parent support prior to taking the field.

Players born in 2009 are NOT eligible to play in any senior Women's Competition.

Football Queensland reserves the right to withdraw an application regarding Dispensation Requests at any point in time.

5.3.3 Juniors Playing Out of Designated Age Group into Junior Competitions

Metro Junior Leagues and Metro Divisional Competitions (Including Girls Only)
Players wishing to play up or down one age group, subject to their eligible birth year, for the full season, must apply to Football Queensland with a Dispensation Request Form: 2023 Dispensation Register.
If a player is being borrowed into a team up one age group there will be no requirement for a Club to complete a Dispensation form. If a player reaches the maximum number of games allowed to play outside of their age group (as per section 5.4.1), and subsequently making that specific player lock into the higher age group, Football Queensland require the Dispensation Request Form to be submitted with approval required before that player plays outside of their age group again.

FQ Academy League 1 – 4 Boys
Players wishing to play up one age group subject to their eligible birth year into an FQ Academy League 1 – 4 Boys team for the full season must apply to Football Queensland with a Dispensation Request Form: 2023 FQ Academy League - Player Dispensation Request. Applications must also be made for players who are being borrowed into an FQ Academy League 1 – 4 Boys team in the above age group using the following form: 2023 Ad Hoc Dispensation Register

All Junior Competitions
Any player requesting to play two or more years above their age group, regardless of which team they are graded into (e.g., U14 into U16) must apply to Football Queensland with a Dispensation Request form and provide evidence of extraordinary circumstances (footballing development/physical size).

Players registered for any QAS teams may move freely between their graded age group and higher age groups outside of the above rulings. Eligibility of QAS players for finals will be subjective to checking with the competitions team prior to the commencement of the Finals Series.

5.3.4 Playing Below Designated Age Group Dispensation

Note: This is only available for a player born in the calendar year directly above. E.g., A player born in 2008 (turning 15 in 2023), may request to play down in the U14s for 2023, however a player born in 2006 cannot.

All players in Football Queensland competitions are required to play in their eligible age group unless granted dispensation by the Competitions Team. No team may have more than 2 players playing below their designated age group (e.g., an U14 Division 2 team may not have more than 2 players born in 2008 (15 years old) in their team). The exception to this rule is for Girls Only teams, where a maximum of 3 players can be granted dispensation into a team, upon application.

In any instance of a player wishing to play down an age group, the player's Club must submit a Dispensation Request form to Football Queensland. The determination as to whether a player can play below their designated age group shall be a decision for Football Queensland in its absolute discretion and whose decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Clubs may seek dispensation for the following reasons:

- Playing below their designated age group due to physical size
- Playing below their designated age group due to team viability
- Playing below their designated age group due to being born in the last 3 months of the year
- Playing below their designated age group for social/cultural grounds
- Playing below their designated age group due to NEVER being previously registered under FA or NEVER previously playing football

If approved, Football Queensland Competitions will then confirm the decision in writing to the relevant Club. Please note that until approval is provided, the player CANNOT participate in matches in the lower age group as an eligible player.

If dispensation is granted for a player to play down an age group, said player may be unable to be borrowed into another team at any point throughout the season. If a player is found to have been borrowed into any other team without approval from Football Queensland, they will be deemed to be an ineligible player.

Football Queensland reserves the right to revoke any dispensation approval regarding a player playing below their designated age group at any point in time. The decision of Football Queensland will be final on whether to allow a dispensation for a player to play below their designated age group.

5.4 Correctly Graded or Able to be Borrowed

All players will be classed as graded into the team where they play their first fixture. Players can only be graded into one team at any one time throughout the season.

In the event that a player is being borrowed by a team different than intended for their first fixture, the Club will need to advise the Football Queensland Competitions Team in writing that the player is being borrowed by a higher team and inform of the player's correct team.

The only exception to the above is in the senior metro competitions, where players are eligible to play without restriction during the 4 rounds of the season to assist Clubs in the grading process of their players. From Round 5 of the regular season, players will be graded into the team where they play their first fixture.

If a player changes Clubs during the season, then the "count" of matches played at a level does not carryover from their previous Club to their new Club. There is no restriction on what division a player is able to take part in, subject to the rules below applying at their new Club.

This does not include Cup Competitions where restrictions may apply if a player changes Clubs – see relevant Cup Competition Rules.

A Club can enquire as to the 'grading' status of their player according to their understanding, to Football Queensland, if required. The onus is on the Club to be aware of where their player, played their first fixture and was subsequently graded.

5.4.1 Borrowing in Junior Competitions

Wherever possible, borrowing should occur from a team of a lower division within the same age group. Borrowing from a team in a higher division in the same age group is NOT permitted unless dispensation has been granted by Football Queensland.

Registered competition players may be borrowed to play into higher divisions of the same age group and a maximum of 1 division lower if being borrowed into an age group higher, but may only do so for a maximum of six (6) matches. The maximum number refers to the total number of matches played up and not to each team they may play in, including games borrowed into senior competitions.

Note: For players who are graded into an FQ Academy Junior team, this borrowing limit when playing into higher age groups throughout the FQ Academy Leagues is eleven (11) matches, reflecting the longer season length. If borrowing into the age group above subject to a player's eligible birth year into an FQ Academy team, Clubs must apply to Football Queensland with an Ad Hoc Dispensation Request Form as per section 5.3.3.

Please see the table below as an **example** of what is accepted when borrowing junior players up an age group, subject to the submission of any required Dispensation Forms as per section 5.3.3:

		COMPETITION TO BE BORROWED INTO						
		U15 FQ Academy 1-2	U15 FQ Academy 3-4	U15 MJL	U15 Div 1	U15 Div 2	U15 Div 3	U15 Div 4
COMPETITION	U14 FQ Academy 1-2	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×
	U14 FQ Academy 3-4	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×
	U14 MJL	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×
	U14 Div 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×
	U14 Div 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
	U14 Div 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	U14 Div 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* The above table is an example of 2 age groups. The same should be applied for any other age group. If a Club is ever in doubt, please contact Football Queensland Competitions, PRIOR to adding players onto a Team Sheet/Squadi.

For the purposes of borrowing, the FQ Academy League 1 McKay U13 Boys competition is regarded as a higher division than the FQ Academy League 1 McKain U13 Boys competition. Players are able to be borrowed form the McKain team into

the McKay team when required, in line with borrowing limitations. Players who are graded in their first game into the McKay team, may not be borrowed into the McKain team.

Please see the table below as an **example** of what is accepted when borrowing junior players in senior competitions, subject to the submission of any required Dispensation Forms as per section 5.3:

		COMPETITION TO BE BORROWED INTO									
		NPL	QPL 1-2	QPL 3-6	etro 1	etro 2	etro 3	etro 4	etro 5	Metro 6+	U20
COMPETITION	U18 FQ Academy 1-2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×
	U18 FQ Academy 3-4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×
	U18 MJL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×
	U18 Div 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	U18 Div 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	U18 Div 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	U16 FQ Academy 1-2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×
	U16 FQ Academy 3-4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓
	U16 MJL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓
	U16 Div 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	U16 Div 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	U16 Div 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

In the event that a Club does not have options available to borrow players within the above outlined rules, the Club must apply to Football Queensland for Exception to borrow no more than 2 players that are not permitted to be borrowed within the above requirements, and to field no more than 12 players' total. This exception must be confirmed in writing before the player can take the field of play.

Players in Under 12 teams participating in the Kangaroo grouping are NOT permitted to be borrowed by teams in U13 Division 2 or lower. Teams in U13 Division 2 and lower may borrow from teams from the Under 12 Wallaby and Quokka groupings.

Players are not permitted to be borrowed from mixed teams to gender specific teams or vice versa without the consent in writing of Football Queensland. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal.

If a Club is ever in doubt, please contact Football Queensland Competitions, PRIOR to adding players onto a Team Sheet/Squadi.

5.4.2 Under 18 Boys and Under 17 Girls Players

Players graded into U18 Boys competitions may be borrowed without restriction to play in U23's and First Team for the purposes of development for the player. To be classed as a player in an U18 Boys competition, the player must be listed in an U18 Boys competition for their first fixture of the season, unless prior exemption has been requested to the Football Queensland Competitions Team.

In the event a Club does not have an U18 Boys team, Clubs may contact Football Queensland for exemption if the player was born between 2005-2007.

Players graded into U17 Girls competitions may be borrowed without restriction to play in U23's and First Team for the purposes of development for the player. To be classed as a player in an U17 Girls competition, the player must be listed in an U17 Girls competition for their first fixture of the season, unless prior exemption has been requested to the Football Queensland Competitions Team.

In the event a Club does not have an U17 Girls team, Clubs may contact Football Queensland for exemption if the player was born between 2006-2008.

Players in U17 Girls and U18 Boys competitions may be borrowed into Metro competitions, however, borrowing limits will apply. Players who have been listed more than six (6) times in total in any higher ranked Metro Competition at their current Club will become ineligible to play in their original team for the remainder of the season.

If a player in U17 Girls and U18 Boys competitions is exceeds the allowable borrows into Metro Leagues and subsequently becomes regraded, they are no longer eligible to be borrowed freely into U23's and First Team and regular borrowing limits will apply from the time of regrading.

If Clubs are unsure, clarification must be sought from FQ Competitions prior to any players taking the field of play.

5.4.3 Borrowing in Senior Competitions

Players may be borrowed to play in higher ranked competitions but may only do so for a maximum of six (6) matches. The maximum number refers to the total number of games played up and not to each team they may play in.

The following table identifies the appropriate order of rank for each league. Specifically, the highest rank league is at the top of the table.

Men	Women
NPL Men inc U23's	NPL Women inc U23's
FQPL 1 - 6 Men inc U23's	FQPL 1 - 3 Women inc U23's
Men's Metro League Competitions	Women's Metro League Competitions
Under 20 Competitions	

5.4.4 FQPL Men & Women

Players may play without restriction between First and U23 teams in regular season fixtures.

Clubs who wish to move players from Firsts to U23's, from one fixture match to the next fixture match may do so for a maximum of five (5) players. Should any Club wish to move more than five (5) players from Firsts to Reserves from one fixture match to the next, they must advise the Manager – SEQ Competitions prior to the match by email (competitions@footballqueensland.com.au), supplying their reasons for this.

5.4.5 Cup Competitions

Participation in Cup Competitions does not contribute towards the number of times a player may be borrowed into a higher competition.

5.4.6 Clubs with Teams in the Same Competition Division

If a Club has two or more teams in the same competition division in junior or senior leagues, players are only permitted to play for one team in that competition division. This does not exclude them from playing for other teams within the Club in other competition divisions (subject to all Player Eligibility Rules).

5.4.7 Dispensation when Returning from Long Term Injury

Clubs may apply to Football Queensland Competitions seeking temporary dispensation for a player who is returning from a long-term injury. If granted, this dispensation will allow a player to return from injury to a lower competition for a capped number of fixtures. A Dispensation Request form must be submitted, including medical documentation outlining the players' injury and an injury management plan for the player that dispensation is being requested for.

5.4.8 Regrading of Players

Regrading Upwards
If a player plays more than six (6) matches for any higher age group or division, or eleven (11) matches for junior FQ Academy players, that player is no longer

eligible to play in their original age group or division (they are automatically regraded to the higher age group or division).

Should the player be regraded into a higher age group, a Dispensation Request Form will need to be submitted in line with the requirements outlined in section 5.3.3. Should a player have played up in a mixture of competitions, in more than the permitted number of matches, the player will automatically be regraded into the team in which they have played the majority of their borrowed games. Should a player have played an equal number of borrowed matches across different teams, the player's Club is to advise Football Queensland who will rule on the player's eligibility.

Regrading Downwards
Clubs may request that a player be regraded downwards at any time. They must submit a request with the requested player's name, age and age group they wish to play into and the reason for the request.

If approved, Football Queensland will then confirm the decision in writing to the Club. Please note that until approval is provided, the player cannot participate in any lower grade matches as an eligible player. If approval is granted for a player to be regraded downwards, the player will NOT be able to be borrowed into higher ranked teams throughout the season.

5.4.9 Exceptions

Clubs may apply to Football Queensland to allow an exception to these rules in extraordinary circumstances.

Any application to borrow players outside of allowable borrowing rules are to be sent to Football Queensland, no later than 5pm of the Thursday prior to the commencement of a team's match. Any applications submitted after the 5pm deadline will not be considered until the following Monday. Any Players found to have been borrowed without permission, will be deemed an ineligible player and subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as per section 5.8.

The decision of Football Queensland will be final on whether to allow an exception. There shall be no appeal from the decision of Football Queensland in respect of the granting of an exception.

5.5 Finals Eligibility

A player who is eligible to play in a fixture for a team at the completion of the regular season as per the Player Eligibility Rules, is then eligible to play in the finals for that team subject to the following requirements.

To be eligible to play for a team across any competition in the finals series, a player must have started/been listed at that team's divisional level or lower in a

minimum of six (6) matches.

A player who is eligible to play in finals at a particular divisional level is eligible to play in finals in any team higher than that level (Subject to Player Eligibility and Borrowing Rules) without affecting their eligibility for their qualified level throughout the finals series. E.g., U13 Division 1 is eligible to play U13 FQ Academy League 1 but not U13 Division 4 (without an application/Exception).

5.5.1 FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 – Metro 6 Men (Substitution)

A player who has started in more matches in the First team than has been listed in U23's is ineligible to play in the U23's Team Finals Series.

In the event a player is listed on the Team Sheet/Squadi for the U23's and also STARTS in the First team on the same day, the Firsts team appearance will be counted towards that player's eligibility tally and not the U23's appearance.

A player who has started in more matches in Under 23's than First Team, may be eligible to be selected for both teams in the event that both teams make the Finals Series.

5.5.2 FQPL 3 Metro Women

A player who has been listed for more matches for the First team than has been listed in U23's is ineligible to play in the U23's Team Finals Series.

In the event a player has been listed on the Team Sheet/Squadi for the U23's and has also been listed in the First team on the same day, the Firsts team appearance will be counted towards that player's eligibility tally and not the U23's appearance.

A player who has been listed for more matches in Under 23's than First Team, may be eligible to be selected for both teams in the event that both teams make the Finals Series.

5.5.3 Junior Competitions

Junior graded players are not eligible to play in Senior Finals. This does not include any Junior aged players who have played more than the allowed number of matches in the Senior Competitions (and have therefore been regraded into a senior team) prior to the commencement of the Finals Series.

Clubs may apply to Football Queensland for exceptions to the eligibility rules. All requests for exceptions must be made prior to the commencement of the Finals Series for each particular competition. Football Queensland reserves the right to declare eligible any player it deems to have satisfied the intent and spirit of these rules. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and there shall be no appeal to this.

5.6 Correctly Listed on Team Sheet/Squadi

Both the home and away teams are expected to have submitted their Team Sheet/Squadi including player selections along with Team Officials, 15 minutes prior to the scheduled fixture.

Any required changes to the player selections after this deadline must be raised with the Match Official and noted on the Team Sheet/Squadi prior to kick off. Teams Sheets/Squadi must be submitted with the following information:

- All players and officials participating in the match listed on the Team Sheet/Squadi
- Correct jersey number and Photo ID listed for all players
- No more than the permitted number of players listed on the Team Sheet/Squadi

The team managers from both Clubs are to confirm post-match Team Sheet/Squadi by 9am the following Tuesday to ensure the information is correct. This should include the players listed, Referees listed, half-time and full-time scores are correct, scorers and any yellow/red cards.

There will be no appeal against the score line shown on a Team Sheet/Squadi once it has been signed and agreed upon by both team managers and the Referee unless new evidence is available to dispute the Team Sheet/Squadi. Such dispute shall be referred to and determined by Football Queensland in its absolute discretion and whose decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

If teams wish to dispute information loaded into Team Sheets/Squadi, an email must be sent to FQ Competitions by 9am the following Tuesday after a match has concluded. The email must be sent by a designated Club Official. No Club Official or Referee has the power to refuse to allow an opposition player to take the field for any reason.

5.7 Protests – Ineligible Players

Any Club is permitted to lodge a protest regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player(s). A protest must be lodged in writing (e.g., email) within seven (7) days of the match by a designated Club Official or Contact outlining the details of the protest and the player involved. Should the protest involve the allegation of a player playing under another player's name, the protest is required to include a photograph of the player(s). An investigation into the protest will be undertaken as soon as possible.

In the event that the protest is upheld, the Penalties and Outcomes as per section 5.8 will apply. In the event that the protest is dismissed, the match result will

stand. The decision of Football Queensland shall be in its absolute discretion and shall be final and not subject to appeal.

5.8 Penalties and Outcomes – Player Eligibility

If a player is found to have participated in a match while in breach of any eligibility requirements (e.g., unregistered, suspended, out of age, identity fraud, not on Team Sheet/Squadi, ineligible for finals), the player will be deemed to be an ineligible player. The following will apply:

Offence	**Competition**	**Penalties and Outcomes for 1st Offence**	**Penalties and Outcomes for Repeat Offence (Same Team)**
Participation in match while in breach of registration requirements as per section 5.1	All Competitions	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result
Participation in match while serving a disciplinary suspension	All Competitions	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result Extension of suspension at the discretion of Football Queensland	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result Extension of suspension at the discretion of Football Queensland
Participation in a match below eligible age without approval from Football Queensland	All Competitions	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result
Failure to adhere to overage player restrictions as per 2023 Club Licensing Documents	FQPL 2 - 6 Men & FQPL 2 - 3 Women (inc U23s)	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result

Breach of restriction on number of players playing above their age without approval from Football Queensland	All U13 and U14 Competitions (excluding FQ Academy U13 Girls)	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Written warning	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of result
Participation in match while in breach of borrowing restrictions as per 5.4 without the approval of Football Queensland	All Competitions	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result
Participation in match while in breach of Finals Eligibility restrictions as per section 5.5 without the approval of Football Queensland	All Competitions	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result
Participation in match when not listed on Team Sheet/Squadi (If player is determined to meet all other eligibility requirements)	FQPL 2 - 6 Men & FQPL 2 - 3 Women (inc U23s) FQ Academy Juniors	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result
	Junior and Senior Divisional Competitions	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Written warning	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result
Exceeding maximum allowable players on Team Sheet/Squadi e.g. 16 players listed but 18 participate overall	All Competitions	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document per additional player Overturning of Result	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document per additional player Overturning of Result

throughout the match			
Incorrect Jersey Numbers listed on Team Sheet/Squadi	All Competitions	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Written warning	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result
Incorrect Photo ID loaded on Team Sheet/Squadi for player	All Competitions	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Written warning	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result
Failure to submit Team Sheet/ Squadi by 15 minutes prior to scheduled fixture	All Senior Competitions FQ Academy Juniors	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result
	Junior Divisional Competitions	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Written warning	Financial penalty as per Fines and Penalties Document Overturning of Result

Note: All overturned results be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team and the points will be awarded to the opposing team (unless the score at the conclusion of the match was of a greater margin in favour of the opposition team). The above Penalties and Outcomes may be applied at the discretion of Football Queensland, with additional sanctions able to be imposed if deemed appropriate.

Both Teams

If it is established that both Clubs competing in any Football Queensland competition match fielded players who were ineligible to play, the Clubs of the ineligible player(s) will be fined as per the Penalties and Outcomes above, and the following will apply:

- The match will be deemed as a NO RESULT, whereby, no points will be awarded
- Football Queensland may suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending Clubs or players

If a Finals Series match or Cup match is declared a “No Result”, Football Queensland may determine that the match be replayed.

6 CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

6.0 Facilities/Ground Arrangements

Each Club must ensure their compliance with the Football Queensland "Playing Facilities Standards" available on the Football Queensland website.

The home Club must ensure:

- The ground is correctly marked, including the technical area
- That if portable goals are used, they are anchored as per the Australian Standards
- It provides suitable goal nets, safely fastened or pegged to the ground and corner flags
- It provides toilet facilities and dressing room facilities that are hygienic and clean
- It has adequate refreshment/canteen facilities open to the public
- It provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators
- It provides a Referee's Room where Referees can rest and leave their belongings while officiating

The dimensions of the playing field shall conform to the Laws of the Game and preferably shall be consistent with the dimensions specified in the Laws for International matches. Any Club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be fined, suspended or have its home fixtures played away. The minimum acceptable dimensions for the FQPL Men & Women are 90 metres (100 yards) long and 60 metres (66 yards) wide.

In the event that the HOME team's ground is not ready, in the opinion of the match officials, to commence a fixture or finals match by 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time; will be deemed to have forfeited the match and will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

6.1 Field Lighting

Clubs wishing to host twilight and night fixtures during the season must ensure their venue complies with the Football Queensland Facilities Lighting Standards. The Club is to submit a certified field lighting audit to Football Queensland for each field (as desired) prior to the season's commencement and have received approval for competition play by Football Queensland. Certification is based on an audit of the lighting system by a qualified lighting consultant/electrician and the Club is to pay the cost of the audit. This applies to any fixtures wishing to be scheduled after 3:15pm during the season.

Clubs involved in Football Queensland competitions that wish to hold matches at night (requiring lighting) must have a field that meets the Australian Standards of lighting for football matches [AS 2560.2:2021 Sports lighting - Specific applications

- Lighting for football (all codes)] and comply with the “Football Queensland Facilities Lighting Standards”.

This standard requires a Minimum Service Illuminance (Average) of 100 LUX with a Minimum Uniformity 1 (Min: Ave) of 0.5, a Minimum Uniformity 2 (Min: Ave) of 0.3 and Maximum Glare Rating of 50 for competition matches.

6.2 Technical Area

Each Club must have Technical Areas clearly marked as stipulated by FIFA guidelines and provide sufficient seating to allow all personnel to be seated during the match. The Technical Area must be positioned inside or on the fence line (where grounds are fenced) or at a maximum of two (2) metres from the touch line at unfenced grounds. Any structure must be at least two (2) metres from the touch line.

- A maximum of ten (10) persons are permitted to be within the confines of the Technical Area. This can include the coach, assistant coach, the substitutes and team trainer or medical staff.
- Team Officials must be selected on the virtual Team Sheet/Squadi, to be allowed in the Technical Area.
- Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions during the match.
- The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the Technical Area, except in special circumstances, for example, a team physio or doctor entering the field of play, with the Referee’s permission, to assess an injured player.
- All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. They must wear bibs or an alternative-coloured uniform to both team strips and are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area. When warming up, substitutes are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.
- All occupants must behave in a responsible manner. The match official has the right to expel any person from the technical area at any time as he or she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left the playing field and surrounds to the match official’s satisfaction.
- Smoking or the consumption of alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence is strictly prohibited. This includes the team bench within the Technical Area and all of its occupants, including players, coaching staff, Club marshals and officials.
- The penalty for breach of this clause shall be as per Fines and Penalties Document.

6.3 Team Officials

Football Queensland requires that all Team Officials be registered via the Play Football registration system in accordance with the registration regulations and in alignment with the expectations of players.

Team Officials must be listed on the Team Sheet/Squadi to be allowed in the Technical Area. Photos must be loaded on the Team Sheet/Squadi for all Team Officials. If a Team Official is not registered, the system will not allow them to be selected on a Team Sheet/Squadi. The match official has the right to expel any person from the technical area if they are not listed on the Team Sheet/Squadi.

Clubs are accountable for their appointed Team Officials (Coaches, Managers, and Medical staff) and they should be made aware that they are governed by a Code of Conduct. Penalties of suspension of Team Officials, fines, and other penalties and outcomes can be levied upon Clubs, where it is found that Team Officials have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is the Team Officials' responsibility to ensure:

- The team has minimum number of seven (7) players to commence the match
- That the team **does not list** more than the allowable players on the Team Sheet/Squadi
- All players taking the field are eligible to play
- All players taking the field of play are listed on the Team Sheet/Squadi
- All players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time

Team Officials are also responsible for players' behaviour before, during and after any game.

If a Team Official is not registered, that team is liable to be fined per Football Queensland's discretion. Football Queensland's determination on this is in its absolute discretion and final and not subject to appeal.

The penalty for breach of this clause shall be as per Fines and Penalties Document.

6.4 Ground Officials & Team Marshals

It is the responsibility of the home Club to provide sufficient Ground Officials who must be in clearly identifiable uniform and must identify themselves to the appointed Match Official prior to the match. The expectation is a minimum of one (1) Ground Officials per scheduled fixture.

Ground Officials are to be visible at all times and must be designated to provide an escort to all match officials before kick-off, at half time and full time.

A Ground Official cannot be the Coach or Manager whose game is in progress on the park, nor can the Ground Official be the Canteen Supervisor. Any Club found in breach of this is liable to be fined per the Fines and Penalties document. A Match

Official may refuse to commence a fixture if there is no Ground Official present.

The Ground Official must:

Before the Match

- Upon arrival of the Referees, make known to them that you are the Ground Official in case they need assistance.
- If an official Referee is not present, ensure that a Referee is arranged either by the Club or by consent of the two teams playing.
- Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees to the field of play.

During the Match

- Ensure that the spectators' behaviour is orderly and is not abusive to the Referee or his Assistants, players or other spectators.
- Direct and assist any ambulance if called to attend a player or any other person.
- Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees to and from the field of play at the half-time break.
- Be of assistance wherever possible, if required.

After the Match

- Ensure the Referees' safety at all times.
- Ensure that both teams leave the grounds in a proper and orderly manner.
- Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees from the field of play.

6.5 Admittance To Grounds

Clubs must fulfil all honorary admission passes issued by Football Australia & Football Queensland.

6.6 Match Officials' Fees

All match officials' fees will be invoiced to the Club on a weekly basis, where applicable.

All Competitions

- Fixtures - fees are paid by the Home Club
- Elimination/Qualifying, Semi and Preliminary Finals - fees will be shared equally by competing teams.
- Grand Finals – fees will be paid by Football Queensland

6.7 Playing Strips

All Clubs must nominate a "Home" and "Alternate" strip on the official Club affiliation form. The alternate strip must be of a different colour (this applies to

shirts, shorts and socks) to the nominated home strip. **Teams must either wear the full "Home" or "Alternate" strip that has been nominated to Football Queensland.** A Kit Guide is available on the Football Queensland website, but is subjective to submission from Clubs.

All playing strips must have clearly visible numbers on the back of the jerseys. Goalkeepers may play without a number.

In the event the player's uniform or attire has blood on it, the Referee will instruct that player to change their attire before being permitted to re-join the game. Should the injured player be required to change their shirt, then the Referee will show discretion in allowing the player to wear an alternative numbered or unnumbered shirt if necessary. The team manager and Referee will be required to manually amend the Team Sheet/Squadi post-match.

Sponsorship advertising on playing strips shall conform to the Football Queensland guidelines. Goalkeepers can wear any colour provided it does not clash with either team or Referee/Assistants.

NB - Goalkeepers MUST NOT wear replica strips.

6.7.1 FFQPL 2 Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 - 6 Metro Men, FQPL 3 Metro Women inc U23's

All first named Clubs will be deemed the "HOME" team and will play in their nominated Home colours. In the event there is a clash of colours, it is the responsibility of the "**AWAY" team** to change to an alternate strip.

In the event that any parts of either team's kits clash after changing, a combination of Home and Alternate strips must be worn to avoid any clash.

AWAY teams must take their alternate strip (shirts, shorts and socks) to every match and will be required to change if the appointed Match Official requests it as per requirements listed below in 6.7.3.

Team Managers should check the strip worn by their opponents to avoid the likelihood of a clash. The penalty for breach of this clause shall be as per Fines and Penalties Document.

6.7.2 Senior Metro Leagues, U20 Men & U13 - U18 Junior Competitions

All first named Clubs will be deemed the "HOME" team and will normally play in their nominated colours. In the event there is a clash of colours, it is the responsibility of the **"HOME" team** to change to an alternate strip.

Junior teams are not permitted to advertise any alcohol or tobacco related products on their playing strips.

6.7.3 Table of Permitted Clashes of Playing Strip

Clubs and Match Officials should refer to the following table which lists which items of the strip are permitted to clash for different Leagues.

	NPL Men, NPL Women	FQPL 1 – 2 Men, FQPL 1 Women	FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 2 Women, FQPL 3 Metro Women	Community Seniors	All Juniors
Jersey	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	No clash permitted
Shorts	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	Clash permitted	Clash permitted
Socks	No clash permitted	No clash permitted	Clash permitted	Clash permitted	Clash permitted

If a Competition Fixture does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that a Club did not comply with the requirements above, the offending Club may be deemed to have forfeited the match and will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

Should a Match Official proceed with a match in which a Club has not complied with the requirements above, the Match Official is to report this to Football Queensland and the offending Club will be fined and provided with a warning. If any team within the offending Club repeats the same offence they will be penalised with a forfeit (See Fines and Penalties Document).

6.8 Match Balls

The host Club shall provide three (3) footballs of correct size and in good order and condition for each match. The size of the match balls shall be as follows:

Competition	Match Ball Size
Under 13	Size 4
Under 14 – Senior	Size 5

Clubs should refer to the Memo issued by Football Queensland regarding the minimum standard ball for each competition.

The penalty for breach of this clause shall be as per Fines and Penalties Document.

6.9 Results of Fixtures

The results of each match must be confirmed in SEQ Team Sheets/Squadi by both participating teams. If no Football Queensland Referee is appointed to a match, it is the responsibility of the **HOME** Club to enter the results of the match by **9.00am on the Tuesday following** the weekend matches (Fri-Sun) and by **9.00am the following day** for mid-week matches (Mon-Thu).

6.9.1 3-2-1 Voting Process

In 2023, Coaches are required to vote for the opposition team's best players in a 3-2-1 format. Club Managers are to liaise with the relevant coaching staff to ensure their team's 3-2-1 votes are submitted after each match (home and away). The Coaches votes for FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 2 Women and FQPL 3 Metro Women must be entered in the electronic Team Sheet/Squadi by 9am on the Monday following the weekend's fixtures (or the day following a midweek fixture).

In 2023, Referees are required to vote in a 3-2-1 format for the best player of the match. This vote must be submitted in Team Sheet/Squadi after each match in FQPL 2 Men, FQPL 3 – 6 Metro Men, FQPL 2 Women and FQPL 3 Metro Women at the same time that the match details are recorded.

Football Queensland may impose a fee of $50 to Clubs that fail to confirm their information within the required timeframe (See Fines and Penalties Document).

A Player is ineligible to win any Individual Awards if the Player is suspended due to receiving a Direct Red Card in a match or due to a Disciplinary Committee Hearing or Match Review Panel into their conduct.

A Player may still be included in the Team of the Season if suspended due to receiving a Red Card (Direct or Indirect) in a match or due to a Disciplinary Committee Hearing or Match Review Panel, subject to the discretion of Football Queensland.

A Player is ineligible to win if they have played, (defined as taken to the field of play), in less than ten (10) First Team matches at the conclusion of the Regular Season.

7 WET WEATHER

7.0 General

All correspondence by Football Queensland sent to Clubs in relation to wet weather shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs.

It is therefore essential for Clubs to do the following:

- Ensure your Contacts for the Club are up to date with Football Queensland's Club Contacts and in Play Football (under the Organisation menu)
- Ensure the contact(s) has supplied a mobile phone number with their contact details to Football Queensland

Each Club is only responsible for notifying their own Club members of field closures.

7.1 Mid-week & Friday Night Cancellations

When the decision is made by a Club to close fields as a result of wet weather, Clubs must contact Football Queensland no later than **4:00pm** on the afternoon of the match. The **HOME** Club is responsible for deciding if matches are to proceed.

If any matches are called off, the **HOME** Club is required to **EMAIL** Football Queensland **(competitions@footballqueensland.com.au)** with this advice **(NO voicemail messages)**.

If the situation arises where conditions deteriorate after **4:00pm**, Clubs are to text the Wet Weather number to discuss the options – do **NOT** send an email.

If matches have not been postponed by **5:00pm**, it is then the Referee's decision, on arrival, as to whether matches are to go ahead.

7.1.1 Notification Process for weeknight matches (including Friday night)

Matches postponed will be listed in via the following:

FQPL 2 Men: SENIOR NPL AND FQPL GROUNDS

All Other Competitions: METRO (NORTH & SOUTH)

Opposing Clubs will NOT be advised unless kick off is within an hour of Football Queensland being notified.

If any **HOME** Club does not abide by the Wet Weather Procedures, they may be

deemed to have forfeited the match and will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

7.2 Saturday & Sunday Cancellations

The **HOME** Club is responsible for deciding if matches are to proceed in the event of wet weather. If the decision is made to cancel the match because of the condition of the field, the **HOME** Club is required to **text** Football Queensland on the Wet Weather Number no less than two (2) hours prior to the kick-off time, of the first scheduled match of the day. In the event of an 8:30am kick off, the home Club is required to advise Football Queensland by 6:30am.

If the situation arises where conditions deteriorate after these times and a decision is made to cancel the match due to wet weather then, **Clubs are to text the Wet Weather Number to discuss the options available to them prior to closing their venue** – do **NOT** send an email.

If matches have not been postponed after following the above procedure, it is then the Referee's (this includes Club Referees) decision, on arrival, as to whether matches are to go ahead. Should the Referee postpone matches, the **HOME** Club must notify **(by text)** the Wet Weather Number.

7.2.1 Notification Process for Weekend Matches

Matches postponed will be listed in via the following:

FQPL 2 Men: SENIOR NPL AND FQPL GROUNDS

All Other Competitions: METRO (NORTH & SOUTH)

Opposing Clubs will NOT be advised unless kick off is within an hour of Football Queensland being notified.

If any **HOME** Club does not abide by the Wet Weather Procedures, they may be deemed to have forfeited the match and will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

7.3 Complete Weekend Cancellation (Junior Competitions Only)

If Football Queensland declares the cancellation of a complete fixture weekend due to extreme weather events, all fixtures may be declared as 0-0 draws.

Any matches which were completed during a "declared" weekend will be declared as 0-0 draws.

Football Queensland may decide to play or replay any matches from a “declared” weekend, where necessary.

7.4 Extreme Weather Conditions

In Extreme Weather conditions, Football Queensland or the appointed Match Official reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture. If the appointed Match Official postpones, delays or abandons any fixture, they must submit a report to Football Queensland. Should a fixture be postponed or abandoned, please see Section 3 for information on how to reschedule.

All Clubs, players, Team Officials and Match Officials are requested to review Football Queensland’s Extreme Weather policy.

8 MATCH OFFICIALS

8.0 Non-Attendance of Match Official

Should the appointed Referee fail to honour their appointment, then the next most senior Match Official will be appointed to take charge of the fixture, provided they are qualified to officiate the match in question. In the event of an appointed Referee failing to honour their appointment, please text the Wet Weather number to advise. In the event the appointed Referee is late on arrival, then the replacement Match Official will take charge of the fixture until the appointed Referee is ready to take over.

In circumstances where only one Assistant Referee has been appointed, **the home team is requested to provide a Club Assistant to assist the Referee**. If necessary, the away Club may be asked to provide an Assistant. However, the game cannot start without two Assistants if the Referee requests them.

In circumstances where no Assistant Referees have been appointed, **the home team is requested to provide two Club Assistants to assist the Referee**. If necessary, the away Club may be asked to provide an Assistant. Please note, the game should not start without 2 Assistants, however this decision will be at the Referee's discretion.

If the parties can't agree on the above, but there is a Referee who has the appropriate accreditation, he shall Referee the game, which must be played.

8.1 Unavailability of Match Official

In the event no registered Match Official is present to take charge of the fixture, then the designated "Home" Club shall appoint a Match Official to take charge of the fixture. This Match Official has the same powers as a registered Match Official. Once a game has commenced, neither team can change their agreement to the appointed Match Official. In the event of an appointed Referee failing to honour their appointment, **please text the Wet Weather number to advise.**

8.1.1 Senior Competitions

If the home team is unable to provide a Match Official, the away team may provide the Match Official. If neither team can provide a Match Official, they may choose to postpone the match. This should be advised to Football Queensland as soon as possible. Both teams must agree within three (3) working days on a date for the rescheduling of the match and advise Football Queensland. If a reschedule is not agreed upon within this time, a 0-0 draw may be recorded as the result of the match. Football Queensland reserves the right to reschedule the match.

8.1.2 Junior Competitions

All Clubs are expected to fulfil all fixtures regardless of whether a Match Official is present to take charge.

Should any Club fail or refuse to participate in any fixture on the above grounds, then the offending Club may be deemed to have forfeited the match and will be subject to the Penalties and Outcomes as detailed in Section 3.12.

9 INTERPRETATIONS, DISPUTES & APPLICATIONS FOR VARIANCES

Football Queensland reserves the right to rule on any interpretation of these rules if any dispute arises. Clubs are advised to seek clarification from Football Queensland if in any doubt as to the meaning of these rules. Applications for variances to these rules must be lodged by the Club Secretary to the Manager – Statewide Competitions with all supporting documentation. Football Queensland reserves the right to change or amend these rules at its absolute discretion.

A request for a review against a decision in relation to a breach of the Competition Rules will not be considered unless the Club seeking the review provides significant new or additional evidence. Football Queensland in those circumstances will review the decision and allow the Clubs to provide a submission (written or oral). The decision on the review by Football Queensland will be final and not subject to appeal.

FOOTBALL
QUEENSLAND