



**Northern Region Football  
Premier Youth Leagues  
NRF Premiership  
NRF Metro  
NRF Conference  
Rules and Regulations  
Season 2020**

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## 1 DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

- 1.1. **Competition;** any competition, tournament or league administered by AFF including pre-season, season proper, finals series and any post season tournament or knockout cup competition.
- 1.2. **Season;** The period of time starting with the first official match of the Competition and ending with the last official match of the Competition.
- 1.3. **Regulations;** Means these Competition regulations.
- 1.4. **NZF;** New Zealand Football Incorporated.
- 1.5. **AFF;** Auckland Football Federation
- 1.6. **Club;** An affiliated member club of NZF or of AFF that enters at least one team in a Competition.
- 1.7. **Competitions Manager;** means the official appointed by the Federations from time to time to administer the Competitions
- 1.8. **Home Venue;** A match played at a Club's own nominated match venue.
- 1.9. **Home Team;** the Club named first on the Competition fixture.
- 1.10. **Home Club;** The Club responsible for the organisation and management of matches played at their own nominated match venue.
- 1.11. **Away Team;** The Club playing a match at an opponent's nominated match venue.
- 1.12. **Player;** Any football player registered as such with a Club, and **Players** shall be construed accordingly.
- 1.13. **Playing;** Means taking the field of play including as a substitute. Being named on the Match Information/Team List and not taking the field of play does not constitute as playing
- 1.14. **Health and Safety Regulations;** The Health and Safety Act 2015 and all other relevant regulations.
- 1.15. **Match Information;** Refers to COMET Match Report, Team List, Team Card or any other means of recording player participation in a Competition Match.
- 1.16. **COMET;** Means the NZF National Registration System and Competitions Management System.
- 1.17. **Fines Schedule;** means the schedule attached to these regulations.
- 1.18. **Regional Association Disciplinary Committee;** The Disciplinary Committee of a Regional Association/Federation
- 1.19. **NZF Disciplinary Committee;** The Disciplinary Committee of NZF.
- 1.20. **Age classification (U13, U14, U15 and U17) –** Any player in these competitions must have achieved the required age during the current calendar year i.e. U14 player must have turned 14 during the calendar year of the current season.

## 2 COMPETITION

- 2.1 Participation in the Competition shall be open to invited Clubs within the boundaries of Auckland Football and Northern Football Federations, and New Zealand Football development teams.
- 2.2 The Federations recognize the shared responsibility for the AFF/NFF Metropolitan and Conference Youth League (the Competition) and the need for shared decision making between the two Federations.
- 2.3 The Federations reserve the right to amend or replace these Competition regulations as applied from time to time. Any such amendment or replacement shall be notified by email or in writing to all relevant Clubs. The non-receipt by a Club of notice of such amendment or replacement will not invalidate the change.
- 2.4 Final decisions on interpretations of any part of these regulations shall rest with the Federations. A decision by the Federations in regard to these regulations can be appealed to the relevant Regional Association Disciplinary Committee as per the NZF Disciplinary Code.
- 2.5 No change to these regulations shall be implemented without a minimum notice period to Clubs of 30 days, once the season has commenced.
- 2.6 The Federations shall have the right to change the Competition name to reflect the name of a sponsor if it so desires.
- 2.7 These Regulations regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all Clubs in the Competition. These Regulations are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition.
- 2.8 All matches shall be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game, unless varied as per these Regulations.
- 2.9 The NZF Statutes and Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and all FIFA Regulations in force shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to the NZF Statutes and Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and FIFA Regulations, refers to the Statutes, Rules and Regulations valid at the time of application.
- 2.10 Unless otherwise determined by these Regulations, the entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Federations. The Federations shall have the power to do all other things necessary to ensure the progress of the Competition through all its stages and may take appropriate action to bring about such results.
- 2.11 The Federations shall determine the number of teams that will compete in the Competition. The decision of the Federations as to the composition of the Competition shall be final and binding. The Federations retain the right to increase or decrease the number of teams at its sole discretion.
- 2.12 The Federations may appoint a Competition Manager or similar who shall be responsible for administration of the Competitions. The Competition Manager is authorised to determine the imposition and duration of the suspensions and fines pursuant to the NZF Disciplinary Code. The Competition Manager shall also retain the discretion to refer any disciplinary matters to the relevant Regional Association Disciplinary Committee.
- 2.13 Each Club competing in the Competitions shall be primarily responsible for the organisation and control of each of their own home matches in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Competitions, in accordance with any instructions as may from time to time be issued by the Federations.

- 2.14 At the time of confirming entry to the Competitions, each Club shall nominate its match venue(s) as requested by the Federations.
- 2.15 Each Club wishing to compete in the Competitions shall, on or before a date advised by the Competition Manager, confirm in writing their acceptance of an invitation to compete in the Competitions.
- (a) Written confirmation is to be submitted by the due date.
  - (b) Invitations to a grading tournament to determine the U13 Competition will go to the top two divisions of AFF and NFF U12 competitions from the previous season and winners of the next divisions below in the Federations. The Federations will determine which Clubs are invited.
- 2.16 Entry to, and continued participation in, the Competition shall be determined by the Federations having regard to:
- (a) The Clubs satisfying criteria established from time to time by the Federations on a continuing basis.
  - (b) The criteria established by the Federation shall include, but not be limited to Registration of players, level of coaching qualifications, and financial performance and shall otherwise be at the discretion of the Federations.
- 2.17 In the event of any Club not continuing in the Competition for whatever reason, including, failing to meet the aforementioned criteria, resulting in their removal from the Competition, then the filling of the consequential vacancy shall be determined by the Federations, which may in its sole discretion choose not to fill the vacancy.
- 2.18 Each Club competing in the Competition shall, pay any Competition costs as directed by the Federations.
- 2.19 In the event of any Club not paying the relevant Competitions fees as required, then, without prejudice to any other remedies available to the Federations, and at the sole discretion of the Federations, the Club may be subject to:
- (b) A suspension from participation in the Competitions or any further iteration of the Competitions.
  - (c) The collection of unpaid costs being directed to a collection agency.
- 2.20 From time to time the Federations may set costs of participation above and beyond the normal Federations and NZF levies which shall be payable to the Club's own Federation.
- 2.21 The Federations shall determine the number of teams that will compete in the Competition. The decision of the Federations as to the composition of the Competition shall be final and binding. The Federations retain the ability to increase or decrease the number of teams at its sole discretion

### **3 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

- 3.1 Disciplinary incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Disciplinary Code. Where there is any conflict between the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations, then these Regulations shall apply.
- 3.2 The Clubs, their Players and Officials, agree to comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game and with the FIFA Statutes and Regulations, in particular the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the

FIFA Code of Ethics (in particular in matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism and match-fixing), the FIFA Code of Conduct and NZF Statutes and Regulations, in particular the NZF Disciplinary Code, the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations, the NZF Code of Ethics, the NZF Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Regulations and the NZF Code of Conduct.

- 3.3 In the case of Youth Competitions, Players will be exempt from fines incurred as a result of receiving a yellow or red card. This waiving of fines does not apply in cases of exceptional misconduct where the Disciplinary Committee of the relevant Federation may impose whatever sanctions it may feel appropriate.
- 3.4 In addition, the Players agree to:
- (a) Respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence;
  - (b) Behave accordingly;
  - (c) In the interests of Competition integratory, refrain from doping as defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 3.5 Any team or members within a team that receives any incident reports within the same season of proven instances of unacceptable behaviour and/or NZF Code of Conduct breaches may be subject to a good behaviour financial team bond. This will be imposed by the Competition Manager and may be refunded at the end of the season if no further proven reported incidents are received. Any proven reported incidents may result in a forfeit of the financial bond.
- 3.6 Teams or members within a team who have been placed on a good behaviour financial team bond in the previous season may be subjected to a non-financial team bond in the following season. The first proven reported incident of unacceptable behaviour and/or NZF Code of Conduct breaches may result in a good behaviour financial team bond being imposed by the Competition Manager.
- (a) Any good behaviour financial team bond imposed must be paid by the Club by the advised date. In the event of non-payment, fixtures for that team will be defaulted week by week until paid in full.

#### **Referee's Reports**

- 3.7 Reference to a Referee's report for the purposes of the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations shall include reference to the Match Day Line-up.
- 3.8 Citation by the Match Referee of the relevant offence code on the Referee's report shall be deemed to also be citation of the nature of the offence and the FIFA Laws of the Game for the purposes of the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations.

#### **4 DISPUTES AND PROTESTS**

- 4.1 Any Club in the Competition may bring a dispute or protest to the relevant Federation who shall make a decision or refer to the appropriate Judicial Body according to NZF Statutes or Regulations, and advise the party or parties concerned in accordance with the relevant regulations providing that;
- (a) The protest must be in writing to the Competition Manager, setting out the full details of the incident or protest and must be accompanied by the prescribed Incident Report Form.

- (b) A protest shall be made by the Club Secretary or other recognised club official by the Wednesday following the match, or in the case of a weekday match, within three (3) working days of the alleged breach.
- (c) Clubs or players may appeal a decision through the process set out in the NZF Disciplinary Code.

## **5 EQUIPMENT**

### **Playing Strips**

- 5.1 Each Club shall inform the Federations of playing strips (shirts, shorts, and socks) with two different and contrasting colours for its Club colours and alternate strip. In addition, each Club shall select two contrasting colours for goalkeepers (shirts, shorts and socks). These goalkeeper strips must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the Club colours and alternate strips. For all age groups of Youth Premiership and Metro Competitions, goalkeepers are required to have distinctly different shirt, short and sock colours from that of the opposition and opposition goal keeper. Any breach of this Regulation may result in the offending club being fined as per the Fines Schedule attached to these Regulations.
- 5.2 Each Team shall wear its home strip in their Home matches, and all other matches where there is no clash of colours with the Home Team. In the event of any match being played at a neutral match venue, the named Home Team will wear their Home strip.
- 5.3 Where the strips of the two Teams are alike or similar, the Away Team shall wear their alternate strip as long as that does not contain any of the basic colours of the Home Team and is approved by the Referee.
- 5.4 If, in the opinion of the Referee, a clash of colours will occur to the detriment of the match, the Referee may direct either or both Clubs to change or vary their strip.
- 5.5 Where necessary to ensure a game is played, training bibs may be used to differentiate colours of the two competing teams.

### **Numbers**

- 5.6 All participating teams in the Premier Girls or Metropolitan Youth Competition must have numbered shirts. Any breach of this regulation may result in the offending club being fined as per the Fines Schedule attached to these regulations. For the avoidance of doubt; teams in the Conference Youth Competition are not required to wear numbered shirts.
- 5.7 Each Player shall wear the number assigned to them in the Match Day Line-up. Where shorts are numbered, the same number must be displayed on the back of their playing shirt and on the front of the shorts. The same number may, at the Club's discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt. The number(s) must be clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance for all Players, Match Officials, and spectators from the colours used for the respective playing equipment item.
- 5.8 There shall be no duplication of numbers within a team. The size of the number on the back of the shirt must be between 25cm and 35cm in height and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt. The number must be entirely visible when the Player's shirt is tucked into the shorts. The stroke width of the figure of the numbers on the back of the shirt used by the Players must be between 3cm and 5cm.

### **FIFA/IFAB Requirements**

5.9. All players shall comply with IFAB Laws of The Game - Law 4.

#### **Official Match Balls**

5.10 The Home Team are to provide and ensure that match balls comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game, Law 2 – The Ball:

- (a) U13: size 4
- (b) U14-U17: size 5

#### **6 MATCH VENUES, DATES AND KICK-OFF TIMES**

6.1 The Federations shall publish a final fixture list on their respective websites including the match venues, dates and kick-off times for the season. All matches shall be played on the dates and times as published by the Federations and shall not be varied without the prior written approval of the Federations.

6.2 The Competition Manager shall determine times, dates and grounds for any fixture in the Competitions and shall have the right at all times to amend, postpone or cancel any fixture.

6.3 Matches shall be played at such time and on such grounds as directed by the Federations;

- (a) In the event of a late start for any reason;
  - i. If there is no later fixture scheduled for the pitch which would be disrupted by doing so, the match shall be extended to its normal duration in two equal halves; or
  - ii. If there is a later fixture scheduled for the pitch the time available may at the sole discretion of the appointed referee or if there is no appointed referee by mutual agreement of both team's management be divided into equal halves with an allowance for half time, so that the fixture shall end at the scheduled finish time
- (b) The agreed game duration shall not be changed once the fixture has commenced.
- (c) Standard match playing days and kick-off times shall be as per Appendix One of these regulations.
- (d) If any Club wishes to change the match date or kick-off time, they must advise both the opposing club and the Federations no less than 15 days prior to the scheduled game, setting out in full, their reasons for requiring the change. In the event of both Clubs agreeing to the change, the Federations shall take that into account prior to giving their decision.
  - i. The Federations may approve the request to change; or
  - ii. The Federations may not approve the request to change; or
  - iii. The Federations without the opposing Club's agreement may in its sole discretion agree to the change.
  - iv. Other changes to individual fixtures may be made at the sole discretion of the Federations, not instigated by a club and not requiring permission in writing from the opposing club/team or club.



- (e) Any additional cost incurred in changing a previously agreed match date or kick-off time shall be borne by the Club making the request.
- (f) All rescheduled matches must be played prior to the scheduled final round of the Competitions as published on the final fixtures list prior to the current season. Failure to do so may mean the requesting Club will incur the match as a default.
- (g) In the event of a Club wishing to play at a match venue other than its nominated match venue, it must give the Federations 15 days' notice in writing setting out the reasons for the change of match venue, with full particulars of the new match venue and facilities available for players, spectators and officials. The decision of the Federations as to the acceptability of the proposed match venue change will be final.
- (h) In exceptional circumstances postponements may be proposed by Clubs through the Club Secretary or other recognised Club official. Such proposed postponements must be received by the Federations no less than 24 hours before the scheduled time of kick-off, and will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the Competition Manager.
- (i) A request for postponement may be considered if:
  - i. In exceptional circumstances or emergencies, requests for change of fixtures, venues and kick-off times not accompanied by the permission in writing of an authorised official of the opposing team/Club may be considered by the Federations.

#### **Floodlit Matches**

- 6.4 A fixture may be played wholly or partially under floodlights subject to the floodlight installation having been approved by the Federations as being suitable.

#### **Cost of Floodlights**

- (a) Any costs of night matches scheduled at the request of a Club shall be borne by the Club making the request.
- (b) Any costs of a match re-scheduled at the request of a Club, shall be borne by the Club making the original request.
- (c) Any costs of a night match scheduled by the Federation shall be borne by the Federation.
- (d) Any costs of a night match rescheduled by the Federation shall be borne by the Home Club (this shall apply where the Home Club has not taken the opportunity to reschedule).

#### **Security**

- 6.5 The Home Club shall be responsible for taking all practicable measures to ensure;
- (a) All facilities and equipment comply with the Health and Safety Regulations. Certificates of compliance as required must be current.
  - (b) Orderly behaviour of the crowd and safety of the match officials, Players and officials of the teams and all spectators.

- 6.6 Each Club must make every effort to ensure that the NZF Code of Conduct is communicated and made available to its staff, Players, coaches, volunteers and spectators.

## **7 FIELD OF PLAY**

- 7.1 All Home Clubs are to ensure that their grounds comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game, Law 1 – The Field of Play. The Competition covered by these specific Competition regulations require field dimensions to be no more than 100m x 65m.
- (a) Clubs may apply to the federation for a match to be played on a field larger than 100m x 65m if they do not have access to a field of the correct size.
- 7.2 Matches may be played on natural, hybrid or approved artificial football turf surfaces.
- 7.3 All Home Clubs are required to have the field of play of their home grounds maintained in a satisfactory condition.
- (a) In the event of inclement weather, the Home Club shall be obliged to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that scheduled fixtures proceed.
  - (b) In the event of inclement weather, the Home Club shall be obliged to re-mark all or portions of the ground, at the request of the Referee.
- 7.4 The Referee's decision shall be final as to the condition of the ground for play.

## **8 REFEREES**

- 8.1 The Federations may make Referee appointments for Competition fixtures.
- 8.2 Should a Referee not be appointed to a match or if the Referee fails to arrive, then it shall be the responsibility of the Home Club to provide a Club Based Referee (CBR).
- (a) A CBR must have a current accreditation (Federation CBR ID Card with Membership number) to control the whole fixture, and;
  - (b) Shall be required to visibly wear a CBR shirt.
- 8.3 If the Home Club does not have a CBR and the visiting team does, then the visiting CBR shall control the fixture.
- 8.4 If in the event that a CBR is not available to referee, then;
- (a) A person appointed by the home team shall referee the first half and a person appointed by the visiting team shall referee the second half. Or;
  - (b) Teams may agree that one Referee shall officiate the whole fixture. Once agreed, the referee should not be changed during a half other than for injury or by mutual agreement of both team's management.
- 8.5 The prime purpose of anyone refereeing in these grades is to add to the enjoyment of the players through the application of the FIFA Laws of the Game, these regulations and common sense. In any event, the Referee controlling any part of the fixture has the same rights and obligations as an appointed Referee.

## **9 SUBSTITUTION RULES**

### **Substitution Procedures**

- 9.1 The procedure for substitutions shall be in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- 9.2 The maximum number of substitutions in all AFF/NFF Premier Youth Competitions is 5 from 5 returning (rolling) unlimited substitutions (4 from 4 for U13 Girls Premier).
- 9.3 Substitutes may warm-up during the game subject to the dimensions of the ground but may not use a ball. A goalkeeper is permitted to use a ball to warm-up.

## **10 TECHNICAL AREA**

- 10.1 All occupants of the Technical Area shall be recorded on the Match Day Line-up in COMET prior to the commencement of the match.
- 10.2 Only one person at a time may convey technical instructions from the Technical Area.
- 10.3 The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the Technical Area except in special circumstances, for example, entering the field of play with the Referee's permission to treat an injured Player.
- 10.4 The coach and other occupants of the Technical Area must conduct themselves at all times, in a responsible manner, and in particular refrain from using offensive, insulting, abusive language and or gestures.
- 10.5 The Referees shall monitor the Technical Area. Any breach maybe sanctioned by the match official and reported by way of the Match Day Line-up and NZF Incident Report Form to the Federation Competitions Manager.
- 10.6 The use of any communication equipment and/or systems between and/or amongst the Players, Substitutes and/or technical staff is not permitted.
- 10.7 There is to be no coaching from behind the goal line or from the position as Referee from any member involved with the team, officials or spectators.
- 10.8 For all matches, a maximum of eleven (11) people are entitled to sit in the Technical Area during a fixture, being comprised of up to the given maximum number of substitutes and no more than six (6) staff. All occupants of the Technical Area must wear different coloured tops to those worn by the team they are associated with.

## **11 PLAYING OF FIXTURES**

- 11.1 Clubs must take all reasonable steps to arrive at a match on time.
- 11.2 Teams shall have a maximum of 11 (9 for U13 Girls) players on the field at any time and a minimum of 7 (5 for U13 Girls) players.
- 11.3 Any team having nine (9) (six (6) for U13 Girls) or more players present must be ready to commence its match within ten (10) minutes after the published start time. Any team that does not comply shall forfeit the match.
- 11.4 If a team during any Competition match is reduced, for whatever reason, to less than seven (7) Players, the Referee shall abandon the relevant match, subject to the provisions of the IFAB Laws of the Game.

### **Postponed Matches**

11.5 In the event of a match being postponed due to any of the following the Federation will reschedule the match to be played at the soonest possible time.

- (a) Aborted Travel arrangements
- (b) Adverse or unforeseen weather
- (c) Field of play conditions or;
- (d) Any other reason preventing the commencement of the game

11.6 In the event of a late postponement by the Competition Manager on the day of the fixture but where the two teams arrive at the ground unaware of the postponement and the game is played, the Competition Manager shall at their absolute discretion determine whether the result of the game shall be recorded as played, postponed or abandoned.

### **Unforeseen Changes**

11.7 In the event of a change of match venue being necessary prior to a match because of unforeseen weather or field of play conditions, the Home Club shall take all reasonable steps to give adequate notice to the Federation and the Away Team as to the new match venue. The Federation shall make the final decision, which will be binding on all parties.

### **Defaults**

11.8 Any default will be recorded as a 3-0 win to the opposing team.

11.9 Notification of a team's default must be made in writing to the Competitions Manager by the Club secretary or other recognised Club official no later than 12 noon on the Friday preceding the weekend fixture or 12 noon on the day preceding a weekday fixture. The defaulting club may be fined – see Fines Schedule.

11.10 A team which defaults either two (2) matches in succession or a total of three (3) matches in the season may be disqualified from the Competition at the discretion of the Federations.

11.11 If both teams are deemed to have defaulted, a 'no result' of 0-0 may be recorded with no points attached or the match may be rescheduled at the sole discretion of the Federations.

11.12 Where a team claims a match by default on the day of the match, it must submit a properly completed Incident Report, submitted to the Federation within three (3) working days of the fixture.

### **Suspended or abandoned matches**

11.13 In the event of adverse weather conditions occurring during a match, where in the view of the Referee endangers the Players or Officials, the Referee may at their sole discretion suspend play for a period of up to ten (10) minutes to allow time for conditions to improve to a point where the match is able to recommence.

11.14 Where weather/ground conditions preceding a fixture raise doubts as to whether play shall take place, the Home Club and or Referee shall call the Competitions Manager to discuss whether the ground is fit for play. Due notification of these circumstances shall be communicated to the Away Team by the

Competitions Manager. The above procedure shall be initiated with the travelling time of the Away Team in mind.

- (a) In these circumstances, if the Away Team has been notified that a match is to be played, then all reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that the match proceeds in accordance with these regulations.

11.15 Any match abandoned after kick-off, for any reason, shall be reported directly to the Federation by the referee if present and the Home Club. Upon review, the Competitions Manager may decide that:

- (a) The score at the time of the abandonment shall stand, or
- (b) The match shall be awarded to one of the teams as a forfeit win with a recorded score line of 3-0, or
- (c) The match shall be rescheduled by the Federations.

11.16 If the below defined lengths of play are reached in the match and the match is abandoned for any reason, the Competition Manager may deem that the score at the time of the abandonment shall stand.

- (a) U13 Girls – at least 50 minutes.
- (b) U13 Grade, U14 Grade & U14 Girls – at least 55 minutes.
- (c) U15 Grade & U16 Girls – at least 65 minutes.
- (d) U17 Grade – at least 75 minutes.
- (e) In all cases the discretion of the Competitions Manager shall apply.

## **12 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

12.1 The Federation has no financial provisions for teams in the Competition.

12.2 Any individual player that is not financial with the Federation will not be eligible to play in the Competition.

## **13 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

13.1 Players must play within their correct age grade unless the appropriate dispensation has been approved by the Federation. Age grade is determined by the year of birth (e.g. U13 is for players who will attain their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday during the calendar year of the current season).

13.2 Any Player may play at any time in an age grade for which he/she is eligible by reason of age, irrespective of how many games he/she may have played at a higher grade, including senior football, provided he/she satisfies the requirements of these Regulations.

13.3 A Player is eligible to play in the Competition provided that the Player is duly registered for their club and is marked CONFIRMED in COMET for the current season in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

13.4 Each Club shall be solely responsible for fielding only eligible players.

13.5 Any Club found guilty of fielding an ineligible Player for whatever reason will forfeit the match and shall be subject to the following penalties;

- (a) Fine
  - (b) Loss of points where points were awarded
  - (c) A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the match by 3-0. If the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than 3 in favour of the opposing team the result on the pitch is upheld.
  - (d) Where a club repeatedly infringes this regulation the Federation may increase the sanction to be pronounced as deemed appropriate for the infringement.
- 13.6 All international transfer clearances (ITC) must be processed and completed as per the NZF Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players.
- 13.7 The Competitions are open to male and female players that meet the criteria as set out in these Regulations.
- 13.8 All Clubs competing in the AFF/NFF Metropolitan Youth Competition are required to submit a list of 10 players who are unable to move down to play for any AFF/NFF Conference Youth or local Federation division team at any time during the season. This list of 10 must be received by 12 noon the Friday before the first match or in the instance where the first match is during the week, 12 noon the day prior. This list will be circulated to all Clubs involved in the Competition.
- 13.9 Clubs may apply for re-grading of players recorded on that list of 10; individual players can be re-graded no more than twice in the same season.

#### **Re-grading of players**

- 13.10 Applications for grading or re-grading of players must be in writing to the Federation, submitted by a recognised Club official no later than 12 noon on the Friday preceding the weekend fixture or 12 noon on the day preceding a weekday fixture that the player is to take part in. The submission must provide clear reasons for the re-grading request.

#### **Dispensations**

- 13.11 A Club may apply for age dispensations for individual players who wish to play above their age grade. Applications should only be made for players with **high potential** and **appropriate club capability**.

**High potential** is defined as:

- (a) Player is part of NZF's national talent programme/database, and/or
- (b) Player is part of NFF/AFF Federation talent programme/database, and/or
- (c) Player is part of licenced club-based talent development programme, and
- (d) Player meets **all other** Federation dispensation criteria currently in place.

**Appropriate club capability** is defined as:

- (a) Appointed Director of Football or equivalent.
- (b) Accredited OFC/NZF C Licence coach, or overseas equivalent or higher, linked directly to the player asking for dispensation, and
- (c) The club has provided a child protection policy supporting the dispensation.

- 13.12 A Club may apply for age dispensations for individual players who wish to play below their age grade. Applications should only be made for players who may be **negatively affected** by competing in their own age grade and also meet the criteria for **high potential** and **appropriate club capability**.

**Negatively affected** is defined as:

- (a) A player's experience, health and/or safety are being adversely affected by playing in their age grade.
- (b) Candidates will be considered based on AFF/NFF 'Relative Age Effect & Late Maturers Guidelines'.

13.13 Applications for age dispensation, must be on the relevant dispensation form accompanied by the reason for dispensation, signature of the parent or caregiver of the player and must be approved by the Federation before the player can take the field.

13.14 Failure to obtain the necessary dispensation renders the player(s) ineligible for the AFF/NFF Metropolitan or Conference Youth Competitions will incur a sanction in accordance with these regulations.

#### **14 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

14.1 All players must be duly registered in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. A player can only be registered for one (1) Club at a time and can only play for that club.

14.2 Clubs must sight a copy of proof of age of the player, such a document to be a birth certificate, passport or other recognised legal document. The Club is required to produce proof of age if requested by the Federation.

#### **15 RELEASE OF PLAYERS**

15.1 A club holding the registration of a player called up to play in a Federation team must release them to the Federation on the dates for the representative event including the preparation and Competition.

15.2 If the player is not released by the Club, that player shall be ineligible for any matches scheduled during the representative preparation and Competition.

#### **16 MATCH INFORMATION**

16.1 Each Club shall name a team in the Match Day Line-up in COMET with the maximum number of players noted below and up to six staff.

- (a) U13 Premier Girls League: 13 players (9 selected players and up to 4 substitutes).
- (b) U16 Premier Girls League: 16 players (11 selected players and up to 5 substitutes).
- (c) Metropolitan League: 16 Players (11 selected Players and up to 5 substitutes)
- (d) Conference League: 16 Players (11 selected Players and up to 5 substitutes).

16.2 Any player whom participates in the match and has not been named in the Match Day Line-up is ineligible.

15.4 Each Club is responsible for ensuring that the Match Day Line-up is completed properly, and no later than 30 minutes before the scheduled kick off:

- (a) The starting eleven may be adjusted in case of an injury during the warm-up, prior to kick off at the discretion of the referee.
- (b) The numbers on the Player's shirts and shorts if numbered must correspond to the numbers on the Match Day Line-up.

16.2 The Match Day Information should be completed with:

- (a) Goal scorers; and
- (b) any misconducts.

16.3 The Match Day Information should be checked that details are correct:

- (a) By the Referee and an official of both teams.
- (b) If no appointed Referee by both teams and the Referee who completed the match

## **17 COMPETITION FORMAT**

17.1 The Competition shall normally be played on a double-round robin basis, with each team facing all others once at home and once away, unless a grading Competition is required in which case the Championship format will be advised in conjunction with the grading format.

17.2 Clubs may only enter one team in any one grade of the Premiership, Conference & Metropolitan Competition.

17.3 Three (3) points are awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw, Nil (0) points for a loss.

17.4 No extra time shall be played during the Competition in the case of a drawn match between teams.

17.5 The results of Competition matches will be recorded in a Competition table. The ranking of each team shall be determined as follows:

- (a) Greatest number of points obtained in all matches in the Competition; then
- (b) Greatest goal difference in all matches in the Competition; then
- (c) Greatest number of goals scored in all matches in the Competition

17.6 If for any reason the Competitions cannot be completed within the required time-frame the Federations may close the relevant Competition and declare the final placings at their sole discretion.

17.7 In the event of a team being withdrawn from any division at any round during the Competition, then results, points and goal statistics may be adjusted as though the team concerned was never involved in that division, at the sole discretion of the Federations.

## **18 NON-COMPLIANCE**

18.1 Unless otherwise specified, if a Club is in breach of this Regulation the Federations shall notify the Club in writing of the breach, and the Club will be given a reasonable period of time to rectify the breach. It is the Club's responsibility to undertake remedial action within the timeframe set and to keep the Federations informed of progress, including any possible delays due to circumstances beyond its control.

## **19 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

19.1 For the purposes of this clause, "Intellectual Property" shall mean the intellectual property of NZF or the Federations including but not limited to all copyright, trademarks, design rights and all rights whether created before or after the date of this regulation and whether registered or unregistered, the



name and logo of the Federations, all broadcasting, media and production and reproduction rights of any games in the Federations in any form whatsoever, all operational information including all promotional and advertising material in relation to the Federations and all internet and website based information, including Competitions.

- 19.2 A Club shall ensure that the ownership by NZF or the Federation of the Intellectual Property is protected at all times and that any breach of it or unauthorised or unlicensed use of it is reported to NZF or the Federations promptly.
- 19.3 Any unauthorised or unlicensed use of the Intellectual Property by a Club or any such unauthorised or unlicensed use permitted by a Club shall be deemed a breach of these Regulations and enforceable under the non-compliance provisions of these Regulations.

## **20 CODE OF CONDUCT AND OBLIGATIONS**

- 20.1 No person is entitled to bring the NZF, the Federation, the game or any related issue into disrepute. In particular, coaches and Players are not entitled to communicate negative comments, including the use of social media, which results in such disrepute. Any person who breaches this clause will be liable to a fine and/or appropriate sanction at the sole discretion of NZF or the Federations, as appropriate.

## **21 MISCELLANEOUS**

- 21.1 Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by the Federations. All decisions shall be final.

## **22 REFERENCES**

- FIFA Laws of the Game;
- FIFA Disciplinary Code;
- NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players;
- NZF Disciplinary Code

## **APPENDIX ONE**

### **1 PROMOTION / RELEGATION**

The following will determine Promotion / Relegation:

- 1.1 The two lowest placed teams from AFF/NFF Premier Girls will be placed into a single round-robin play-off with the winners of the AFF and/or NFF highest ranked Federation leagues during the pre-season of the following season. At the conclusion of this playoff, the top two placing teams will gain entry to the AFF/NFF Premier Girls subject to meeting the minimum entry criteria. The remaining teams will be placed in either AFF or NFF local Federation football as appropriate.
- 1.2 The two lowest placed teams from AFF/NFF Metropolitan will be placed into a single round-robin play-off with the two highest placing teams from the AFF/NFF Conference during the pre-season of the following season. At the conclusion of this playoff, the top two placing teams will gain entry to the AFF/NFF Metropolitan subject to meeting the minimum entry criteria. The remaining teams will gain entry to the AFF/NFF Conference.
- 1.3 The two lowest placed teams from AFF/NFF Conference can be placed into a single round-robin play-off with the winners of the AFF and/or NFF highest ranked federation leagues during the pre-season of the following season. At the conclusion of this playoff, the top two placing teams will gain entry to the AFF/NFF Conference. The remaining teams will be placed in either AFF or NFF local Federation Competitions as appropriate.
- 1.4 The Competition promotion/relegation is subject to potential changes for 2021.

### **2 TROPHY, AWARDS & MEDALS**

- 2.1 The Federations may present (18) medals to each of the Clubs that place 1<sup>st</sup> within each grade of the AFF/NFF Metropolitan and Conference Youth Competitions.

### **3 PARTICIPATION CRITERIA**

- 3.1 The Federation reserves the right to inspect any Club's grounds and facilities prior to the acceptance of any team into the AFF/NFF Metropolitan, Girls Premier or Conference Youth Leagues. Clubs participating in the AFF/NFF Metropolitan Youth Leagues are expected to have a higher standard of ground and facilities than those participating in lower ranked Competitions.

### **4 GROUNDS**

- 4.1 All Home Clubs are to ensure that their grounds comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game, Law 1 – The Field of Play, and be:
  - (a) Natural Grass;
  - (b) Artificial Turf (according to FIFA quality Standards);
  - (c) Hybrid

### **5 STANDARD MATCH PLAYING DAYS AND KICK-OFF TIMES / MATCH DURATION**

- 5.1. AFF/NFF Premier Girls:

Saturday is the standard playing day with kick-off times as follows:

  - U13 Premier Girls Saturday 11.00 a.m.

- U14 Premier Girls Saturday 11.00 a.m.
- U16 Premier Girls Saturday between 12.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m.

5.2. AFF/NFF Metro and Conference:

Sunday is the standard match playing day with kick-off times as follows:

- U13 Metro and Conference Sunday 10.00am or 11.00am
- U14 Metro and Conference Sunday between 10am and 12pm
- U15 Metro and Conference Sunday between 11am and 1pm
- U17 Metro and Conference Sunday between 12pm and 3pm

The duration of matches are as follows, with no additional time:

- (a) U13 Girls – 2 x 30 minute halves plus 10 minutes half time.
- (b) U13 - 2 x 35 minute halves plus 10 minutes half time.
- (c) U14 - 2 x 35 minute halves plus 10 minutes half time.
- (d) U15 - 2 x 40 minute halves plus 10 minutes half time.
- (e) U16 Girls - 2 x 40 minute halves plus 10 minutes half time.
- (f) U17 - 2 x 45 minute halves plus 10 minutes half time.

## 6 MATCH RESULTS

- 6.1 Results for all Metropolitan and Conference Youth leagues must be entered directly into COMET, no later than 12 noon the day following the match. Teams failing to input results in time may incur a fine to the Club for Late Result as noted in the Schedule of Fines. Match events NOT entered by an appointed referee will be exempt from this clause.

## 7 DECLARATION OF WINNER

- 7.1 At the completion of the Competition the highest team in the Competition ladder, as per these Regulations, is declared the winner.
- 7.2. If any two or more teams are still equal, then the team with the superior disciplinary record in the Competition (by virtue of having the fewest penalty points accrued during the Competition) shall be declared the winner. Penalty points shall be accrued as follows:
- (a) for each yellow card received, a team will accrue 1 penalty point;
  - (b) for each red card received, a team will accrue 3 penalty points.
- 7.3. If any two or more teams are still unable to be separated, the Federations shall arrange a play-off match, at their sole discretion, to determine the winner.
- 7.4. In the event of a team being withdrawn from any division at any round during the Competition, then results, points and goal statistics may be adjusted as though the team concerned was never involved in that division, at the sole discretion of the Federations.

## **8 SIDELINE BEHAVIOUR**

- 8.1. Spectators and supporters should watch the match from the side-lines and not behind the goal line. Spectators guiding or advising a goalkeeper from behind the goal line are deemed to be coaches. Referees and opposing coaches are entitled to request any persons to move to the side line.
- 8.2 Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators, team management officials and players and are required to ensure their representatives abide by any FIFA, NZF and Federation Codes of Conduct and uphold the spirit of Fair Play while participating in Federation Competitions.
- 8.3 Home Clubs are also responsible for the conduct of any others present at the match, whether or not such persons are directly connected to the Club. Clubs must show that they have taken all reasonable steps to manage offending spectators.
- (a) In particular, Clubs are reminded of their duties to manage the sale and consumption of alcohol at their grounds.
- 8.4 Referee may request Home Club officials to remove offenders if he/she feels that the consumption of alcohol or other substances are affecting his/her control of the match. The referee may stop the match until the offenders have been removed. The incident shall be reported by way of an incident report after the match to the Competition Manager.
- 8.5 Once a match is stopped, and is abandoned for any reason relating to alcohol or other substances, the matter must immediately be reported to the Federation by the Referee or either Club by way of NZF incident report form. The matter will be passed on to the offending Club's Federation for such action as it deems appropriate.

## **9 CONFERENCE DISPENSATIONS**

- 9.1 Applications for dispensations outside of the criteria defined in the dispensation clause in these regulations may only be granted for players in AFF/NFF Conference Youth Competitions playing a maximum of one (1) year above their age group and one (1) year below their age group. Numbers of dispensations shall be at the Federations discretion.

**APPENDIX TWO - MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS PREMIER GIRLS**

The following criteria will be required from all clubs participating in AFF/NFF Premier Girls Youth Competitions.

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
Playing Philosophy and Team Model	Must have a playing philosophy and Team Model	1. Show evidence of own playing philosophy or adoption of NZF's 2. Show team model
Number of players	Maximum squad size of 18 players	1. Players registered in National Registration System
Home Grown Players	2019 – Must have 8/18 home grown* players 2020 – Must have 10/18 home grown* players 2021 – Must have 12/18 home grown* players  <i>* Home grown players are players that have been registered with the club or MOU club for 2 or more consecutive seasons.</i>	1. Players registered in National Registration System
Coach Qualifications U13 Competition	Named head coach must hold a current NZF Youth Level 2 Coaching Award OR higher.	1. Coaches registered on National Registration System 2. Show evidence of course completion
Coach Qualifications U14 and U16 Competitions	Named head coach must hold a current OFC/NZF 'C' Licence OR equivalent* OR higher.  Coaches who did not participate in the previous season of the Competition must attend the OFC/NZF 'C' Licence before the start of the season if they do not already hold a current OFC/NZF 'C' Licence OR international equivalent* OR higher.  <i>* Equivalent must be recognised by New Zealand Football via 'Recognition of Prior Learning' process.</i>	1. Coaches registered on National Registration System 2. Show evidence of course completion 3. <i>New coaches only</i> – show evidence of course attendance
Emergency Aid	Must have one person at each session and match who holds a current first aid qualification.	1. Show evidence of first aid certificate
Child Safety	Head coach must be police vetted.	1. Show evidence of valid police vetting document

In the 2020 season, clubs will be able to enter the Competition without meeting the above criteria. However, the following sanctions will be applied to teams failing to meet the criteria:

- A. 3-0 loss for the team that does not meet the criteria if playing against a team that does meet the criteria.
- B. If both teams do not meet the criteria, no points will be awarded.

In the 2020 season, clubs must meet the criteria and submit evidence to the Federation Competitions Manager before their team entry will be approved.

## APPENDIX TWO - MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS METROPOLITAN

The following criteria will be required from all clubs participating in AFF/NFF Metropolitan Youth Competitions.

Requirement	Details	Evidence
Playing Philosophy and Team Model	Must have a playing philosophy and Team Model	1. Show evidence of own playing philosophy or adoption of NZF's 2. Show team model
Number of players	Maximum squad size of 18 players	1. Players registered in National Registration System
Home Grown Players	2019 – Must have 8/18 home grown* players 2020 – Must have 10/18 home grown* players 2021 – Must have 12/18 home grown* players  <i>* Home grown players are players that have been registered with the club or MOU club for 2 or more consecutive seasons.</i>	1. Players registered in National Registration System
Coach Qualifications:	Named head coach must hold a current OFC/NZF 'C' Licence OR equivalent* OR higher.  Coaches who did not participate in the previous season of the Competition must attend the OFC/NZF 'C' Licence before the start of the season if they do not already hold a current OFC/NZF 'C' Licence OR international equivalent* OR higher.  <i>* Equivalent must be recognised by New Zealand Football via 'Recognition of Prior Learning' process.</i>	1. Coaches registered on National Registration System 2. Show evidence of course completion 3. <i>New coaches only</i> – show evidence of course attendance
Emergency Aid	Must have one person at each session and match who holds a current first aid qualification.	1. Show evidence of first aid certificate
Child Safety	Head coach must be police vetted.	1. Show evidence of valid police vetting document

In the 2020 season, clubs will be able to enter the Competition without meeting the above criteria. However, the following sanctions will be applied to teams failing to meet the criteria:

- A. 3-0 loss for the team that does not meet the criteria if playing against a team that does meet the criteria.
- B. If both teams do not meet the criteria, no points will be awarded.

In the 2021 season, clubs must meet the criteria and submit evidence to the Federation Competitions Manager before their team entry will be approved.

## SCHEDULE ONE - 2020 FINES

### 1 ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 Late or incomplete match day results not submitted as noted in these regulations:
- (a) Fine of \$40.00 (No GST) per result, per week
  - (b) 3<sup>rd</sup> and following week not submitted as noted an additional \$40.00 (No GST) & loss of one Competition point
  - (c) Results not entered by appointed match referees shall not be subject to these sanctions.

### 2 DEFAULTS

- 2.1 Defaults advised prior to 12 noon on the Friday preceding the weekend fixture or 12 noon on the day preceding a weekday fixture as defined in these Regulations may be fined \$25 (No GST).
- 2.2 Defaults advised after 12 noon on the Friday preceding the weekend fixture or 12 noon on the day preceding a weekday fixture as defined in these Regulations may be fined \$50 (No GST).
- 2.3 Defaults not advised or advised on the scheduled day of the fixture may be fined \$100 (No GST).

### 3 PLAYING INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- 3.1. As per the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players there will be a loss of match points. A fine of \$100.00 (no GST) per player may also apply for each offence.
- 3.2. Where a team has fielded five (5) or more ineligible players in one match they may be subject to a further fine of \$500.00 per instance.

### 4 PLAYING STRIP

- 4.1 Playing in strip other than Club registered home or alternate strip or failure to provide alternate strip \$100.00 each time (No GST).
- 4.2 Playing in strip without numbers as required by these regulations \$100.00 each time (No GST).

### 5 APPEALS

- 5.1 Appeal Fee as per the New Zealand Football Disciplinary Code, Section 88;
- (a) For Appeals to the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee \$125.00 plus GST
  - (b) For Appeals to the Disciplinary Committee (NZF fee) \$250.00 plus GST
  - (c) For Appeals to the Appeals Committee (NZF fee) \$500.00 plus GST

## SCHEDULE TWO - NZF YOUTH FRAMEWORK MATCHDAY GUIDELINES

### PLAYING PLAYERS IN MULTIPLE POSITIONS

The game training model is designed to help players apply their skills in a functional way within the team environment, including increasing the positional understanding of players. It is beneficial for players to play in a number of different positions between the ages of 13-15 years.

Coaches, however, need to be mindful of how to manage positional rotation in both training and in games. Some simple rules to follow:

- Growth and maturation can influence the position a player may end up playing later on in their career so avoid creating positional specificity too early.
- Try to keep the players in at least a certain area or role for each training or game or a series of trainings or games. For example, on the right side, in the centre, on the left, as an attacker or as a defender (goalkeepers can share a half.) This way the feedback you give is relevant to what they've done and what they'll be doing. What value is feedback about attacking play when they'll spend the rest of the game in the back line? Use the game to focus on a topic and learn more about it.
- When a player has made up their mind that they want to play in a particular position, respect their decision, unless you have to share the position. If they want to play exclusively in the back, let them. They can become an expert, enjoy their time there and change later when they're ready.

### EQUAL PLAYING TIME

In the Youth Framework, it has been made clear that there are a number of different factors that determine how a player develops. It is also made clear that winning should be a by-product of development, not the driving force.

It is important to give every player, regardless of their level of maturation, the same opportunity to develop as their teammates. If a player is not consistently experiencing the football problems that happen during a game e.g. they are sitting on the bench, it is unlikely that they will progress at the same rate as their teammates. New Zealand Football asks coaches to put the player at the centre. Equal playing time will give every player the best opportunity to progress.

### SUBSTITUTIONS

In youth football rolling substitutions are recommended. It is important that coaches understand that substitutions can have an impact on both the flow of the game and on the players involved. Coaches should make substitutions at suitable intervals to allow the game to flow and for players to be able to have appropriate continuous game time.

New Zealand Football recommends that coaches use half time as a main substitution window. In addition to this it is recommended to have a maximum of one substitution windows during the first half and a maximum of two substitution windows in the second half (except in cases of injuries).

### ASSESSING PERFORMANCE IN MATCHES

Focus your observation on how successfully the players are implementing what has recently been taught at training. The Main Focus of the cycle should be a major factor in observation, especially towards the end of the cycle.

Winning is the purpose of football and it is an important part of player development; however, the youth coach must remember that their role is not to get their team to win the Championship, but to develop individual players who will be successful within the Playing Style when they reach the Performance Phase.

On match day, it is important the youth coach avoids emotional behaviour with constant reaction to every incident in the game. Rather than shout instructions, they observe and listen to what the players do and communicate. This will help them gain an accurate indication of the players' progress and the success of their training program.