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FOOTBALL
WEST

Competition Rules

This document must be read in conjunction with the following documents.

FIFA Documents

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

FFA Documents

- FFA Statutes
- National Registration Regulations
- National Disciplinary Regulations
- National Grievance Resolution Regulations
- National Code of Conduct
- National Member Protection Policy
- National Privacy Policy
- National Anti-Doping Policy
- National Spectator Code of Behaviour

Football West Documents

- Football West Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law
- Football West Competition Management By-Law
- Football West Code of Conduct
- Football West Spectator Code of Behaviour

All fixtures will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game in force at the time of publication of these rules and as laid down by the International Football Association Board, unless otherwise stated in these rules or the relevant competition annexe.

References to the male gender are for simplification and apply to both males and females.

A club which affiliates with FFA and enters a team or teams into Football West competitions is deemed to accept these Competition Rules.

Article 1 - General

1. The rules contained within this document are valid for all Football West competitions unless otherwise specified.
2. Where a rule in this document appears to conflict with a rule in an Annexe, the rule in the Annexe takes precedence.
3. Football West may alter, add to, clarify or delete any of these rules at its discretion. Any changes to these rules will be communicated to clubs.
4. Football West may investigate any alleged breach of these rules regardless of the source of the alleged breach. Whether a matter is investigated or not is entirely at the discretion of Football West.
5. A participant breaching any of these rules or those of the accompanying annexes is liable to a penalty. Whether a penalty is imposed or not is at the sole discretion of Football West.
6. Where a penalty is not specified in these rules, Football West reserves the right to use its discretion to determine and impose a penalty.
7. In the case of a rule being interpreted in two or more different ways, Football West reserves the right to determine which interpretation is valid. Any such determination is final.
8. In the case of a circumstance not being governed by these rules, Football West reserves the right to make a ruling on that circumstance. Any such ruling is final.
9. A club may apply for an exemption to these rules where it can demonstrate that exceptional circumstances exist. Football West will consider any application and determine whether or not the circumstances are exceptional. Any such determination is final and not subject to any further challenge.
10. Clubs may not display any national flags, slogans or emblems (except for the Australian flag) in any areas outside the clubrooms.
11. Football West reserves the right to request the removal of any national flags, slogans or emblems at any time. Refusal to comply with any such request may result in disciplinary action.
12. Breaches of these rules will be classified in the following manner:
 - a) Accidental; or
 - b) Negligent; or
 - c) Deliberate.
13. The determination of whether a breach is accidental, negligent or deliberate is entirely at the discretion of Football West.

14. If a breach which carries the penalty of a forfeit is declared accidental by Football West, the penalty will not be imposed. However, the club will receive a breach notice and will be required to ensure that the same or similar breach does not recur.
15. A club which has previously committed an accidental breach, and subsequently commits a similar breach will be considered to have committed a negligent or deliberate breach.
16. Football West may, from time to time, organise fixtures outside the normal league and cup season between the winning team of any division and another team from Western Australia, another Member Federation or another National Association. It is a condition of entry of Football West competitions that if such a fixture is organised, the team chosen MUST participate in that fixture.

Maximum Penalty for Breach **\$1,000**

Article 2 - Fixtures

1. All Football West fixtures must be played on grass or an artificial surface which has been approved in writing by Football West.
2. The venues, dates and times of fixtures will be fixed and published by Football West as soon as practicable prior to the commencement of each season, and except as otherwise provided in these rules, fixtures will be played at those venues and on those dates thus fixed.
3. A club is required to participate in its allocated fixtures unless otherwise specified in these rules.

Penalty for Breach **Forfeit**

4. Football West reserves the right to change the date, time and venue of any fixture. Football West may consult with and take into account any representations made by the clubs participating in the fixture in question, and with any other club or clubs which may be affected thereby before doing so.
5. In the event that a team is not ready to commence the fixture within 15 minutes following the scheduled kick-off time, the fixture may not proceed.

Penalty for Breach **Forfeit**

6. A fixture may be played wholly or partly under floodlights if the floodlight installation has been approved by Football West as suitable for the conduct of fixtures.
7. In the event of inclement weather, clubs are obliged to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken in order that the scheduled fixtures may proceed.
8. It is the responsibility of the home club to enable the ground inspection to be carried out by the referee.

9. Nets affixed to goalposts must be used in all Football West fixtures. The referee must not allow the fixture to proceed without nets.
10. The club named first in any fixture is deemed to be the home team regardless of the venue at which the fixture is played.

Article 3 - Postponed, Delayed or Abandoned Fixtures

1. A fixture may not be postponed, delayed or abandoned except:
 - a) on the instructions of the referee; or
 - b) by order of the police or other authority exercising its statutory powers to that effect; or
 - c) on the instructions of or with the prior written consent of Football West.
2. If the appointed referee postpones, delays or abandons a fixture, he must, within 30 minutes of making such a decision, inform:
 - a) The home club;
 - b) The visiting club; and
 - c) The Referee Allocator.
3. If a fixture does not commence for any reason on the scheduled date of the fixture, without having been rearranged with the approval of Football West, it is the responsibility of the allocated referee to notify Football West. Should no referee be allocated by Football West, the responsibility rests with the home club.
4. A fixture postponed in accordance with paragraph 1 may only be replayed at a date and time mutually agreed by both clubs except in the circumstances specified in paragraphs 6 and 7. The details of the rearranged fixture must be communicated to Football West at least 3 business days prior to the fixture.
5. If a club requests the postponement of a fixture, Football West reserves the right to require that an alternative date, time and venue are agreed before any such request is granted.
6. If a fixture is postponed in accordance with paragraph 1, and the clubs involved are not able to reach an agreement as to when the fixture will be played, Football West will determine the date, time and venue of the fixture and any such decision is final. If the rescheduled fixture incurs a cost, Football West may pass on that cost to either one or both clubs depending on the circumstances which led to the postponement.
7. If a postponed fixture cannot be rescheduled in accordance with paragraph 6, or cannot be completed for any other reason, Football West reserves the right to declare the fixture a 0-0 draw.
8. A club or participant found to have caused the abandonment of any fixture, will be sanctioned in accordance with the Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law and will forfeit that fixture.

9. If a fixture is abandoned prior to half time, then the fixture will be replayed, unless, in the opinion of the referee, one of the participating teams caused the abandonment of the fixture or unless otherwise specified in these rules or accompanying annexes.
10. If a fixture is abandoned at half time or after the commencement of the second half, then the score at the time of the abandonment of the fixture will be deemed to be the match result, unless, in the opinion of the referee, one of the participating teams caused the abandonment of the fixture.
11. Paragraphs 9 and 10 do not apply to the Optus Small Sided Football League. Abandoned fixtures in the aforementioned league will not be replayed under any circumstances. Where results are recorded by Football West, the result will stand as it was at the time of the abandonment.
12. If a fixture is abandoned, and that fixture is one in which the outcome must be that one of the teams must be declared a winner on the day, for example a knock out cup match, and at the time of the abandonment scores are level, then that fixture will be replayed in full, unless in the opinion of the referee, one of the participating teams caused the abandonment of the fixture.
13. An abandoned fixture which is to be replayed may be arranged at a mutually convenient time and venue by the participating clubs. Football West must be notified in writing of the date, time and venue of the rescheduled fixture at least 3 business days prior to the rescheduled kick-off time.
14. If an abandoned fixture cannot be rescheduled through mutual agreement, Football West will determine the date, time and venue of the fixture and any such decision will be final. If the rescheduled fixture incurs a cost, Football West may pass on that cost to either one or both clubs depending on the circumstances which led to the abandonment.
15. If an abandoned fixture cannot be rescheduled in accordance with paragraph 14, Football West reserves the right to declare the fixture a 0-0 draw. If the abandoned fixture is one in which the outcome must be that one of the teams must be declared a winner, Football West reserves the right to determine the outcome of the match using any method it chooses.
16. A fixture which is normally played between teams of 11 players may not continue if either team is reduced to fewer than 7 players.

Article 4 - Forfeited Fixtures

1. A team which forfeits a fixture may be sanctioned with the following penalty at the discretion of Football West:
 - a) State, Sunday & Women's State Leagues \$200
 - b) Metropolitan, Masters & Women's Metropolitan Leagues \$100
 - c) Junior Boys, Junior Girls & OSSF (8s-11s) Leagues \$50
 - d) Cup competitions In accordance with the level of competition

2. The result of a forfeited fixture will be awarded to the opposition club by a margin of 3-0, unless that score disadvantages the non-offending team.
3. A team which forfeits three consecutive fixtures or any four fixtures may, at the discretion of Football West, be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition.
4. In circumstances in which both teams participating in a fixture commit offences which carry the sanction of a forfeit, Football West reserves the right to declare the fixture played, and award each team zero points and zero goals, or if that fixture occurs in a knockout competition, disqualify both teams from that competition.

Article 5 - Playing Strip

1. Each player's shirt must display on its back a unique number clearly distinguishable from a reasonable distance. The number must be a whole number between 1 and 99. The number 1 may only be worn by a goalkeeper.
2. No part of the player's attire or the uniform worn by a club official may incorporate national flags, slogans or emblems.
3. The home team will wear its designated home strip unless an exemption is granted by Football West in writing or if otherwise provided for in these rules.
4. The captain of each team appearing in a fixture may wear an armband indicating his status as such.
5. Advertising on a strip is permitted except for advertisements which contravene state or federal laws (such as tobacco advertising), Football West Rules, Regulations and By-Laws, advertise products, brands or companies which are in direct conflict with Football West protected sponsors or damage the reputation of the league or Football West. No advertising relating to alcoholic beverages may appear on the playing strip of any player under the age of 18. Football West reserves the right to require that sponsorship advertising is removed from a playing strip if it deems the advertisement breaches this rule.

Article 6 - Match Officials

1. A club may not refuse to pay an officially appointed referee regardless of whether or not payment is due on the day or by invoice from Football West.
2. A referee arranged by the home club in accordance with these rules in the absence of an officially appointed referee assumes the same powers and responsibilities as an official referee for the duration of the fixture.
3. With the exception of the Masters and Over 45s competitions, a referee or assistant referee arranged by the home club in accordance with these rules in the absence of an officially appointed referee, must be at least as old as the youngest eligible player for the competition. For example, in senior men's competitions, he must be at least 16

years old in the year of competition. For Masters and Over 45s competitions, he must be at least 18 years old in the year of competition.

4. Participants must identify themselves to the match officials upon request.

Maximum Penalty for Breach \$100

5. Players and team officials must comply with any lawful instruction given to them by a match official officiating at a Football West fixture.

Maximum Penalty for Breach \$100

6. Neither players nor team officials may approach a match official after a fixture has ended unless invited to do so by the match official in question.

7. Match officials must not perform their duties in cases with an existing or potential conflict of interest. Any such conflict must be immediately disclosed to Football West. If there is any doubt as to whether or not any such conflict exists, the match official must declare it.

8. While performing their duties, match officials must avoid any situation that could lead to actual or perceived conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest arise if officials have, or appear to have, private or personal interests that detract from their ability to perform their duties as match officials with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Private or personal interests include gaining any possible advantage for himself, his family, relatives, friends or acquaintances.

9. A club which believes that a match official has an actual or perceived conflict of interest may report the matter to Football West and if the club chooses to report it, must detail the reasons for the alleged conflict. Any reports of alleged conflict which do not contain the reasons for the allegation will be dismissed immediately.

10. In the event that a conflict of interest, either actual or perceived, comes to the attention of Football West, Football West will decide on whether that conflict of interest exists, and what action is to be taken.

Article 7 - Match Documentation

1. A team list is required for all fixtures approved by Football West with the exception of Optus Small Sided Football in the 6s-7s age group. Players in these age groups are to be recorded on an attendance sheet.
2. The team list for a competitive fixture must list each player's name, shirt number and Football West registration number.
3. The team list for a non-competitive fixture must list each player's name and shirt number. If the player has previously been registered with Football West, his registration number must also be recorded.
4. A player whose name appears on a team list is deemed to have participated in the fixture as either a player or a named substitute.

5. A player whose name appears on a team list in accordance with paragraph 4, and who participates in a competition in which interchangeable substitutes are permitted, is deemed to have played in the fixture.
6. Each club is required to present the completed team list not less than fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the fixture to an authorised representative of the opposing club participating in the fixture. The team list must be presented to the referee once it has been signed by the authorised representatives of both clubs not less than ten minutes prior to the commencement of the fixture.
7. An exception to the rule specified in paragraph 6 is the Football West State League Premier Division in which the completed team lists must be presented to the referee 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the fixture.
8. The team list must be signed by the authorised representative of each club and the referee.
9. A fixture may not commence until the team list is in the possession of the referee.
10. The team list received by Football West from the match official will be accepted as the facts relating to the fixture.

Article 8 - Players

1. A player must be registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations to be considered eligible to participate in any competitive fixture approved by Football West.
2. A player may register if he was born on or before 31 December 2008.
3. A registered player may not participate in any fixture approved by Football West if he is suspended or otherwise deemed ineligible by Football West, another Australian Member Federation, FFA, AFC or FIFA.
4. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that a player participating in a fixture is eligible to do so.
5. The authorised representative of each club participating in the fixture is responsible for satisfying himself that the opposition players are properly registered with Football West.
6. A player who wishes to change clubs during the course of the season, may do so before 5pm WST on 28th June 2013 in accordance with the National Registration Regulations.
7. The movement of players between clubs as described in paragraph 6, does not apply to Optus Small Sided Football.

8. Female players may participate in any age based competition for players 16 years and under, the Girls League and Women's Leagues subject to any other restrictions in these rules and annexes.
9. A female player who wishes to participate in a competition other than those specified in paragraph 8, must apply in writing to Football West. Football West will make an assessment as to whether the player may participate in her chosen competition. Any such ruling is final and may not be contested.
10. Football West reserves the right to allow elite female players to participate in any male competition appropriate to their skill level regardless of age or normal eligibility criteria otherwise described in these rules. In such cases, the Football West Technical Director will determine the most appropriate competition for those players on a case by case basis.
11. Professional players may only participate in the State League or the Women's State League.

Article 9 - Ineligible Players

1. An ineligible player is a player who:
 - a) is not registered in accordance with the National Registration Regulations; or
 - b) plays for a club with which the player is not registered; or
 - c) plays without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required; or
 - d) plays within a stand-down period due to a change of status; or
 - e) plays while registered for two clubs at the same time without seeking an exemption to do so (note that the player is eligible to play for the club with which he was registered first in these circumstances); or
 - f) plays while under suspension; or
 - g) does not have proof of registration as described in Article 10; or
 - h) plays for a club, team or in a competition when not permitted to do so under Competition Rules (for example if he is "cup tied"); or
 - i) plays in a fixture when not listed on a team list; or
 - j) plays in a fixture in which his name has been added to the team list after the fixture has commenced; or
 - k) plays for a team which causes the maximum number of players allowed to be listed on a team list is exceeded; or
 - l) plays under a fictitious name; or
 - m) plays while not eligible to do so for any other reason.
2. If a player plays in a fixture while ineligible, the club will be liable for a sanction as described in Appendix A of this document. In certain circumstances, the player may also be sanctioned.

Article 10 - Proof of Registration

1. MyFootballClub must be used to generate proof of registration including a player photograph for every player participating in a fixture with the exception of Optus Small Sided Football.
2. Evidence of registration without a player photograph is not acceptable as proof of registration.
3. Each team must produce proof of registration for any or each of its players on request from the opposition club prior to kick-off.
4. If a club is unable to produce proof of registration for any player prior to kick-off after being requested to do so by the opposition club, the fixture may proceed. However, the proof of registration requested must be produced before the end of the fixture for that player(s) to be deemed eligible to participate. If the club is unable to produce the proof by the end of the fixture, the player(s) will be deemed ineligible.
5. The failure of a club to produce proof of registration to the opposition club must be reported to the referee who must note that failure on the team list. If the failure of a club to produce proof of registration is not communicated to the referee, then no protest based on the ineligibility for that player(s) will be entertained under any circumstances.
6. Proof of registration MAY NOT be requested after the fixture has commenced.
7. If a club has complied with all necessary requirements and wishes to subsequently lodge a protest based on player eligibility, it must do so in accordance with the conditions specified in the Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law.

Article 11 - Representative Teams

1. Players must be released for training, preparation and participation for representative matches when requested in writing to do so by Football West.

Ineligible Players

The following table describes the possible sanctions associated with fielding an ineligible player during a Football West match.

Type of Ineligibility	Sanction
Not registered in accordance with the Registration Regulations	Forfeit
Plays without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required	Forfeit (club) Suspension of 1 match (player) – players in senior teams only
Plays within a stand-down period due to a change of status	Forfeit (club) Suspension of 1 match (player) – players in senior teams only
Plays or coaches while under suspension	Forfeit and a fine of: State League \$500 Sunday & Women’s State Leagues \$300 Metropolitan, Women’s Metropolitan & Masters Leagues \$200 Junior and OSSF Leagues \$100
Enters the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play, the technical area, the players’ race or any other area within a venue where Club Associates are likely to assemble to prepare for a match within 15 minutes of the beginning of a match and 15 minutes after the match has finished while under suspension.	Deduction of 1 championship point and a fine of: State League \$300 Sunday & Women’s State Leagues \$200 Metropolitan, Women’s Metropolitan & Masters Leagues \$100 Junior and OSSF Leagues \$50
Does not have proof of registration (but is otherwise validly registered and eligible to play), or presents proof of registration which does not include a photograph.	Forfeit and a fine of: State League \$300 Sunday & Women’s State Leagues \$200 Metropolitan, Women’s Metropolitan & Masters Leagues \$100 Junior Leagues \$50 Fine increases by the same amount for each subsequent offence by the same team in the same season.

Plays for a team or in a knockout match when not permitted to do so under Competition Rules but would otherwise be eligible to play for the club in a league match (for example if he is “cup tied”)	Forfeit.
Plays in a fixture when not listed on a team list but would otherwise be eligible to play	A fine of: State League, Sunday League & Women’s State League \$300 Metropolitan, Women’s Metropolitan & Masters Leagues \$200 Junior and OSSF Leagues \$100
Plays in a fixture in which his name has been added to the team list after the fixture has commenced but would otherwise be eligible to play	A fine of: State League, Sunday League & Women’s State League \$300 Metropolitan, Women’s Metropolitan & Masters Leagues \$200 Junior and OSSF Leagues \$100
Plays for a team which causes the maximum number of players allowed to be listed on a team list is exceeded	Forfeit and a fine of: State League, Sunday League & Women’s State League \$300 Metropolitan, Women’s Metropolitan & Masters Leagues \$200 Junior and OSSF Leagues \$100
Plays under a fictitious name	As per the Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law
Plays while not eligible to do so for any other reason	At the discretion of Football West