

SUTHERLAND
 SHIRE FOOTBALL
 ASSOCIATION



RULE BOOK AND BY-LAWS

2016

RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF COMPETITION GAMES

These Rules provide for the administration and conduct of all Competition games arranged by and played under the control of the Sutherland Shire Football Association Incorporated, including Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals.

For the purpose of these Rules “Competitions”, “Competition Matches” and “Games” shall mean all matches drawn by the Association from Round 1, or the first competition match played, to the Grand Final and any replays of these matches.

Rules are also included for matches conducted by Football NSW and also for pre-season games, “knock out” tournaments, gala days and all other events not controlled by the Association but involving Association teams.

This book also contains a copy of the current Association By-Laws which include the Association’s Disciplinary Procedures.

REVISION OF RULES

The Rules may only be revised or varied in accordance with Rule 36 of these Rules.

ADMINISTRATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

Section C. 2 (iii) of the Constitution of the Association empowers the E.C. to administer and interpret matters governing the Rules and to determine any matter not adequately covered by the Rules.

Section C. 2. (b) of the Constitution empowers the E.C. to make By-Laws as deemed necessary for the control and management of competitions.

ASSOCIATION WEBSITE – www.shirefootball.com

INDEX – RULES (Alphabetical)

<u>RULE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>RULE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
<u>ABANDONED MATCHES</u>	32	<u>MATCH SHEETS - PROCEDURE</u>	22
<u>BORROWING PLAYERS</u>	26	<u>- COMPLETED</u>	74
<u>CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS</u>	43	<u>NSW COMPETITIONS</u>	43
<u>CLUBS – MEMBERSHIP</u>	5	<u>NUMBER OF PLAYERS</u>	23
<u>CLUBS – SPONSORSHIP</u>	6	<u>NUMBERS ON SHIRTS</u>	25
<u>COACHES – DUTIES</u>	39	<u>OVERSEAS MATCHES</u>	44
<u>COMPETITIONS</u>	19		
<u>COMPETITION FORMAT</u>	19	<u>PLAYERS - BORROWING</u>	26
<u>CONCUSSION</u>	75	<u>- GRADING & REGRADING</u>	17
<u>CORNER KICKS – U12</u>	37	<u>- INTERCHANGING</u>	30
<u>DEFERRED MATCHES</u>	31	<u>- NUMBER OF</u>	23
<u>DISTURBANCES AT GROUNDS</u>	69	<u>- REGISTRATION</u>	7
<u>DRAW – PUBLISHED</u>	20	<u>- SHIRT NUMBERS</u>	25
<u>DRAW – OFFICIAL</u>	20	<u>POINT SCORING</u>	33
<u>DURATION OF MATCHES</u>	21	<u>PRE-SEASON GAMES</u>	43
<u>EXTRA TIME</u>	34	<u>REGISTRATION – PLAYERS</u>	7
<u>FIELD MARKING – U12</u>	37	<u>REPLAYS</u>	31
<u>FINALS</u>	34	<u>RESULTS – NOTIFICATION OF</u>	74
<u>FOOTBALL SIZES</u>	37	<u>RESULTS – RECORDING OF</u>	42
<u>FORFEITS</u>	32	<u>RULES – REVISION OF</u>	45
<u>GALA DAYS</u>	43	<u>SEMI FINALS</u>	34
<u>GAMES –SOCIAL & PRE-SEASON</u>	43	<u>SHIRT NUMBERS</u>	25
<u>GOAL DIFFERENCE</u>	33	<u>SOCIAL GAMES</u>	43
<u>GOAL KICKS – U12</u>	37	<u>SPONSORSHIP</u>	6
<u>GRADING – PLAYERS</u>	17	<u>STARTING TIMES</u>	21
<u>GRADING – TEAMS</u>	15	<u>STATE CUPS</u>	43
<u>GRADING & REGRADING TEAMS</u>	15	<u>TEAM – ENTRY</u>	14
<u>GRAND FINALS</u>	34	<u>TEAM – GRADING</u>	15
<u>GROUND CONTROL – DUTIES</u>	40	<u>TEAM – REGRADING</u>	16
<u>GROUND LOCATIONS</u>	68	<u>TECHNICAL AREA</u>	38
<u>I.D. CARDS</u>	23	<u>TROPHIES</u>	35
<u>INJURY TIME</u>	22	<u>UNCOMPLETED MATCHES</u>	31
<u>INTERCHANGING PLAYERS</u>	30	<u>UNIFORMS</u>	5
<u>INTERSTATE MATCHES ETC.</u>	44	<u>WASHED OUT MATCHES</u>	31
<u>MANAGERS – DUTIES</u>	39	<u>WET WEATHER</u>	71
<u>MATCHES - DEFERRED</u>	31		
<u>- DURATION OF</u>	21		
<u>- EXTRA TIME</u>	34		
<u>- INJURY TIME</u>	22		
<u>- STARTING TIME</u>	21		

INDEX (Item)

ITEM	RULE	PAGE
CLUB MEMBERSHIP – UNIFORMS – SPONSORSHIP	1, 2, 3	5 – 6
REGISTRATION PROCEDURES	4	7 – 13
TEAMS – ENTRY, GRADING & RE-GRADING	5, 6	14 – 16
PLAYERS – GRADING & REGRADING	7	17 – 18
CONDUCT OF COMPETITIONS –		
COMPETITIONS	8	19
COMPETITION FORMAT	9	19 – 20
PUBLISHED DRAW	9	20
STARTING TIMES FOR MATCHES	10	21
DURATION OF MATCHES	11	21 – 22
MATCH SHEETS	12	22 – 23
NUMBER OF PLAYERS	13	23
I.D. CARDS	14	23 – 25
SHIRT NUMBERING	15	25
BORROWING OF PLAYERS	16	26 – 30
INTERCHANGING PLAYERS	17	30 – 31
DEFERRED, UNCOMPLETED, WASHED OUT, ABANDONED AND REPLAYS OF COMPETITION MATCHES	18	31 – 32
FORFEITS	19	32 – 33
POINT SCORING	20	33
GOAL DIFFERENCE	21	33
SEMI FINALS, FINALS AND GRAND FINALS	22, 23	34
EXTRA TIME	24	34
TROPHIES	25	35 – 36
BALL SIZES	26	37

ITEM	RULE	PAGE
SPECIAL RULES - GOAL KICKS, CORNER KICKS AND FIELD MARKING FOR UNDER 12	27	37
TECHNICAL AREA	28	38
MANAGERS AND COACHES – DUTIES	29	39 – 40
GROUND CONTROL – DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS	30	40 – 42
RESULTS	31	42
NON ASSOCIATION GAMES –		
SOCIAL AND PRE-SEASON GAMES, GALA DAYS	32, 33	43
FOOTBALL NSW COMPETITIONS	34	43 – 44
INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS GAMES	35	44
REVISION OF RULES AND RULE BOOK	36, 37	45
BY-LAWS		46 – 67
APPENDIX ‘A’	GROUND LOCATIONS	68
APPENDIX ‘B’	GUIDELINES FOR CONTROLLING DISTURBANCES AT GROUNDS	69 – 70
APPENDIX ‘C’	WET WEATHER PROCEDURE	71 – 73
APPENDIX ‘D’	CLUB DUTIES – RECORDING RESULTS AND DELIVERY OF MATCH SHEETS	74
APPENDIX ‘E’	CONCUSSION – RECOGNITION TOOL	75 - 76

CLUB MEMBERSHIP – UNIFORMS – SPONSORSHIP

1. CLUB MEMBERSHIP

- A. A Club must affiliate with this Association prior to the 1st February each year to be eligible to enter teams in the competition.
- B. All Clubs shall submit names of Office Bearers, their email address and telephone numbers and pay the affiliation fee as determined by the A.G.M.

2. CLUB UNIFORMS

- A. Each Club shall have its colours registered and approved by the E.C. and shall submit a 25 cm x 20 cm colour photograph or colour design drawing of the Club uniform.
- B. Every member of each team of a Club shall wear the same Club colours and design (shorts, socks and shirt) as those registered.
- C. When two (2) teams from the same Club are playing each other, the team drawn as the "home" team shall change colours.
- D. When two teams from different Clubs play and a colour clash occurs, the team required to change strip is the one who last adopted the strip.
- E. Where the only colour clash with the opposing team is the goalkeeper's strip then the goalkeeper will be required to change.
- F. All players must wear protective shin pads.
- G. A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or another player (including any kind of jewellery).
- H. Players may use Equipment items worn under the Playing Equipment, such as underwear, shirts and thermal shorts. Such Equipment items worn under the Playing Equipment may be separate from, or permanently attached to, the shirt or shorts. The Colour of any such visible Equipment items worn under the Playing Equipment must be of the same group of a basic colour as the corresponding part (e.g. sleeves or legs) of a Playing Equipment item, or black or white. In the event that a player wears black or white undershorts or tights and they are not the predominant colour of the player's shorts, the shorts should cover a reasonable amount of the undershorts and tights so as to be fair to the opposing team. In the event that a Player is wearing a short-sleeve shirt as a Playing equipment item, a long sleeve shirt worn under the Playing Equipment must be of the same visual appearance as the long-sleeve shirt worn by other Players of the same team.

Tape applied externally to a player's Stockings may be of any colour; however Stockings / Socks of a different colour are not permitted to be worn externally to a player's Stockings.

This Rule is specific to local Association matches played against local Association teams in the local Association competition only. Teams participating in any other match, including FNSW tournaments, gala days, etc, will be subject to FIFA Rules and the laws of the Game (which prohibit Equipment that is not the predominate Colour of the corresponding part of Playing Equipment).

3. SPONSORSHIP

- A. Clubs may obtain sponsorship for teams and the sponsor's name and other details may be printed on the front and/or back of shirts or by attached printed patches.
- B. Advertising must not obscure or otherwise affect the shirt number.
- C. Sponsors details must not be of a size greater than 250 mm x 100 mm approximately.
- D. The advertising of hotels and alcohol is not permitted on the uniforms of players under the age of 18 years.
- E. The details of proposed advertising must be submitted in full size to the E.C. and approved before being placed on a Club shirt.
- F. Small patches to be attached to shirt sleeves or on the leg of shorts also require E.C. approval before they are attached to the uniform.
- G. The E.C. may reject or require the removal of any advertising which does not meet the requirements of this Rule or is considered to be offensive or contrary to the best interests of the Sutherland Association. This includes patches or similar on shirt sleeves and shorts.

REGISTRATIONS

4. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

A. Registration Procedures

- (a) A player must be registered with an Association Club and with the Sutherland Association prior to taking part in a competition game or MiniRoos game conducted by the Association.
- (b) Registered players shall be governed by the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the Sutherland Shire Football Association.
- (c) A player may register with any Association Club he/she desires for any season or part thereof and, having completed all requirements, shall be considered as being registered with that Club unless transferred in accordance with Clause H. or the registration is cancelled by the E.C.
- (d) In order to become a registered player with the Association, a player, (or if the Player is under 18 years of age at the time of signing that Player's parent or legal guardian), agrees to comply with the terms as specified within the FFA Registration of Amateur Player form, (NRR03) and in its incorporated documents, including the FFA Statutes and Spectator Code of Behaviour and pay to the Club a fee which includes the Association registration fees and also Association, State and National levies and insurance fees as advised by the Association.
- (e) The Club registering the player shall pay the fees and levies to the Association upon request and by the due date.
- (f) When a player's registration has been lodged with the Association in the manner prescribed by the Association and subject to all other requirements of registration having been met, a player shall be regarded as being provisionally registered for a period of twenty eight (28) days and, in the event that the E.C. shall not have exercised its powers under Clause C. 2. (a) (ii) of the Constitution within this period, the provisional registration shall automatically become final.
- (g) During the period of provisional registration, the player shall be deemed to be a registered player. If the E.C. exercises its powers under Clause C. 2. (a) (ii) of the Constitution the player shall be deemed to be unregistered from the date of the E.C.'s decision and all fees paid by the Club on behalf of the player will be refunded to the Club.
- (h) Association fees will not be refunded to players who withdraw from teams if notification is received by the Association less than fifteen (15) days before the first match of the season.

B. FFA Registration of Amateur Player Form

- (a) Every person applying to register as a player for the current season with a Club affiliated with the Association must complete the Association's mandated application process – electronically or in person using the FFA Registration of Amateur Player Form.
- (b) Players, (or if the Player is under 18 years of age at the time of signing that Player's parent or legal guardian), must sign and agree electronically or in person to the terms of the FFA Registration of Amateur Player Form.
- (c) Witness to signatures, if the FFA Registration of Amateur Player Form is completed in person, the signatures required as stated in (b) must be witnessed by the Club Registrar, President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.
- (d) Photographic Proof of Identity. Any player whose photograph for I.D. purposes is not available on the registering Club's records may be required to produce recent photographic identification, or other information acceptable to the Registrar, to verify the player's identity before the registration will be accepted and finalised.
- (e) Any player found to have provided false information on the Application shall be dealt with by an Association's Judiciary Committee.
- (f) The penalties for providing false information may be a suspension from playing or cancellation of registration.

C. Proof of Date of Birth

- (a) All persons registering with this Association for the first time must provide proof of age by the presentation of an original Birth Certificate, Passport or Australian Drivers Licence unaltered since issue or renewal, copies of these documents are not acceptable.
- (b) The Birth Certificate, Passport or Drivers Licence unaltered since issue or renewal must be sighted by a member of the Association's E.C. or by the player's Club President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Registrar.
- (c) When proof of date of birth is sighted for new players and verified by a Club official as stated in (b) an appropriate entry is to be made on the Association's official verification form. This form is to be forwarded to the Association with the player's Application to Register.
- (d) A player will not be accepted for registration or an I.D. card produced until the requirements of 4. C. (a), (b) and (c) are completed.

D. **Residential Qualifications**

- (a)
 - (i) Players in every age division from Under 6 to Over 45, Men and Women, who have not previously registered to play with the Association, must provide proof that they are currently residents of Sutherland Shire before their registration is accepted.
 - (ii) Players eligible to play in Junior Divisions who attend at a Primary or Secondary School in the Shire will be accepted for registration. Written proof of attendance at the school will be required.
 - (iii) In special circumstances the E.C may permit non-Shire residents, Junior or Senior, to register with an Association Club.
- (b) Proof of Shire residency must be by way of one of the following:
 - (i) A current Drivers Licence with the address unaltered since issue or renewal.
 - (ii) A current Council Rate Notice or Lease Agreement for a Shire property which is the place of residency of the player.
 - (iii) A recent document from a Government Department or Financial Institution.
- (c) The proof must be in the form of original documents, photocopies or other reproductions are not acceptable. The documents must be sighted and verified as acceptable by a member of the Association's E.C. or by the player's Club President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Registrar.
- (d) When proof of residence is sighted, as required in sub-section (a) by a Club official, an appropriate entry is to be made on the Association's official verification form which must be forwarded to the Association with the player's Application to Register.
- (e) The Association reserves the right to verify and call for further proof of residency at any time during the year of registration.
- (f) Clarification of residential eligibility or disputes shall be referred to the E.C. for determination. The Committee's decision, based on the information provided, shall be final but subject to review on the presentation of new information.
- (g) Players in every age group who have previously played in the Shire (with an Association Club) but reside outside the boundaries of the Sutherland Shire shall be permitted to re-register and play with Association, but no new players living outside the Shire shall be accepted. If Association records are not available the onus of proof of previous playing history in the Shire will be on the player.
- (h) A player will not be accepted for registration or an I.D. card produced until the requirements of 4. D. (a), (b) and (c) are completed.

E. **Age Divisions and Age Restrictions**

- (a) To be accepted for registration with the Association a player must attain the age of five (5) years or older between 1st January and 31st December of the current year.
- (b)
 - (i) A player's age group shall be determined by the age the player attains between 1st January and 31st December inclusive of the current season.
 - (ii) To be eligible to play in an Over 35 competition a player must have attained the age of 35 or older by 31st December of the year PRIOR to the current season.
 - (iii) To be eligible to play in an Over 45 competition a player must have attained the age of 45 or older by 31st December of the year PRIOR to the current season.
 - (iv) To be eligible to play in an Over 30 competition a player must have attained the age of 30 or older by 31st December of the year PRIOR to the current season.
 - (v) To be eligible to play in an Over 40 competition a player must have attained the age of 40 or older by 31st December of the year PRIOR to the current season.
- (c) Players who qualify by year of birth to register to play in age divisions up to and including Under 16 cannot register to play in an age group more than two (2) years older than the age they turn by the 31st December of the competition year unless special dispensation is granted under sub-clause 4. E. (d). Players turning 16 or younger are not permitted to register in All Age men's or Senior Women's competitions. No dispensation is permitted.
- (d) Special dispensation under 4. E. (c) will only be considered for approval by the E.C. if:
 - (i) A letter of consent is received from the player's parent, guardian or carer and
 - (ii) A letter is received from the Club stating that the player has been assessed by a competent Club Official who has confirmed that the player has the necessary fitness, skill and strength levels to play in the nominated age division and grade.

F. **Identification Photographs**

- (a) Every player registered to play in an Under 10 age division or older is required to have an official Association Identification Card (I.D. card) showing the player's photograph, name, date of birth, identification number (I.D. number), the Club, team and grade registered to play with and the current year.
- (b) I.D. cards will be produced by the Association and renewed annually. The I.D. number for the player will be the same for every year he/she is registered to play with the Sutherland Association.

- (c) Digital player photographs for I.D. cards will be taken by the Club, or submitted via an approved electronic process, and stored on the Association's computerised registration and player history file.

Note: No glasses are to be worn in I.D. photographs, unless they are sports glasses.
Refer to Rule 4.G regarding approval.

- (d) Players must be present in person, or via an approved process, for a new I.D. photograph if their appearance alters substantially once a photograph is submitted as part of registration.

Special Note: A maximum age of all photographs and/or a requirement to replace photographs by age groups may be determined annually by the Association and advised to Clubs.

- (e) A Club regrading a player to a different team within the Club during the season or accepting a player on transfer from another Club, must IMMEDIATELY apply for an updated I.D. card from the Association. An amended I.D. card will not be issued until the old card is returned to the Association Office. A player is not permitted to play in a competition game with an incorrect I.D. card. See Rule 7 – Grading and Regrading Players.

G. **Wearing of Sport Glasses for Playing**

- (a) A player requiring to wear sports (safety) glasses to play competition games must have the glasses approved by the E.C. before they can be worn in a competition game.
- (b) The player's I.D. photograph must be taken with the player wearing the approved glasses.

H. (a) **Transfers Between Sutherland Association Clubs**

- (i) A player registered with a Club in the Sutherland Association may in the season of registration, register with and transfer to another Club in the Association.

In order to arrange for a transfer a player must complete Section 1 of a Player Transfer Agreement Form, obtainable from his/her current Club Registrar, who is then required to complete Section 2 of this Form.

The player should then deliver the form together with their I.D. Card to the Club accepting the transfer.

To finalise the transfer the fully completed form, together with old I.D. card, must be forwarded to the Association Registrar for recording of the transfer and the issue of a new I.D. card.

- (ii) A player whilst registered with a Club affiliated with the Sutherland Association must not play with any other affiliated Club within this Association until officially transferred as covered by H. (a) (i)

- (iii) Any Sutherland Association Club refusing to grant a transfer to a player shall forward their reasons for refusing the transfer in writing to the Association within seven (7) days of the receipt of a request to transfer.
- (iv) No transfers will be allowed after 31st May of each year (or where this falls on a weekend, the last Friday of the month) unless there are special or extenuating circumstances acceptable to the E.C.

(b) **Transfers from Clubs Outside Association**

- (i) A player whose previous Club was not a Club affiliated with the Association must produce a written unconditional clearance if the previous Club was a member of the Council of Clubs (formerly a Federation Club).
- (ii) If the player has already registered with any Club or Association affiliated with Football NSW for the current season he/she must produce a clearance from that Club or Association.

I. **Restrictions for Acceptance of Registrations.**

- (a) To be eligible to play in the first competition match of the season a player must have complied with all the Association's initial registration requirements at least fifteen (15) days prior to the weekend of the first match.
- (b) Registrations received after that date will be processed in strict order of receipt and at the convenience of the Association Office.

J. **Dual Registrations**

- (a) A player is not permitted to register in more than one Association or Club affiliated with Football NSW.
- (b) A player is not permitted to register with more than one Club affiliated with the Sutherland Association.
- (d) Association representative players may be registered with an Association club, but will not be permitted to play with their club team in the local competition unless the rules of that player's representative league allow for it or require it.
- (d) These rules do not prevent a player registering and playing in school or college competitions.

K. **Closing Date for Registrations**

- (a) Registrations close on the 31st May of the current season, or when this date falls on a weekend, then the last Friday of the month. Registrations must be received at the Association Office by 3.00pm on that day. No registrations will be accepted by the Association Office after that date except as provided for in (b) below.

- (b) The E.C. may approve of the acceptance of a registration after 31st May (or where this falls on a weekend, the last Friday of the month) if it determines that extenuating circumstances exist to permit a late registration to be accepted.
- (c) Registration is deemed to have been received subsequent to all of the following conditions having been met:
 - (i) FFA registration form has been completed electronically or in person.
 - (ii) Current photograph has been uploaded (where required).
 - (iii) Proof of date of birth and residential qualifications have been met, and a properly completed sighting form has been received by the Association Office.
 - (iv) Player has been made 'Active' in MyFootballClub (MFC) by the club.
 - (v) Late registration form (or its equivalent) has been received by the Association Office.

ENTRY AND GRADING OF TEAMS

5. TEAM ENTRIES

Every club shall by a date to be fixed and on the form provided by the E.C., supply a list as specified in 5. A., B., C. and D. names for each of its teams for grading purposes, such players shall thereafter be members of that team and shall be “listed” players. Such form shall show player’s given name and surname, date of birth, team and Club last year played and position of such team in the competition. Incorrectly submitted forms may attract a fine, the amount to be determined by the E.C. from time to time.

A. MiniRoos – U6 and U7 (Non Competition) – Playing 4 x 4

No more than seven (7) registered players will be allowed for each team. A minimum of four (4) players are to be listed on the Team Grading Sheet.

B. MiniRoos – U8 and U9 (Non Competition) – Playing 7 x 7

No more than eleven (11) registered players will be allowed for each team. A minimum of six (6) players are to be listed on the Team Grading Sheet.

C. MiniRoos – U10 and U11 (Non Competition) – Playing 9 x 9

No more than thirteen (13) registered players will be allowed for each team. A minimum of seven (7) players are to be listed on the Team Grading Sheet.

D. Competitions - Under 12 and above – Playing 11 x 11

The minimum number of players to be listed on the team sheet will be eleven (11). The Grading Chairperson will have the discretion, where an explanation is provided, to accept sheets with less than eleven (11) players.

E. Clubs are advised that Team Entries listing player numbers greater than shown in A., B. and C. above will be accepted for grading but in order to permit the maximum participation time for the players the numbers should be kept within the limits shown if at all possible.

F. The E.C. shall fix and notify Clubs of a closing date for the entry of teams, subsequent to which date the only team entries will be those that take up available byes. No team entry will be accepted after the fifth (5th) round played.

G. WITHDRAWAL of a team after entry will cause the withdrawing Club to be liable to a penalty, the amount to be determined by the E.C. from time to time.

6. TEAM GRADING AND REGRADING

A. Team Grading Prior to Competition

- (a) Prior to the closing date for the entry of teams, the E.C. shall elect a Grading Committee to grade all team entries into their respective age groups and divisions and to place players registering after the completion of team gradings into appropriately graded teams.
- (b)
 - (i) The grading of teams shall be based on the past performance of the listed players, particularly the previous season, age of the players if appropriate and other information which may be available to the Grading Committee.
 - (ii) The Grading Committee shall have the power to elevate a team to a more competitive and/or older age/grade if in the opinion of the Grading Committee the team is too strong for its age group.
- (c) The official end of season point score for all teams in the oldest non-competition age division will be distributed to Clubs by December each year for grading purposes the following year.
- (d) Any Club shall have the right to protest in regard to a team grading. Any such protest shall be lodged by a date as nominated by the E.C. The decision of the E.C. on any protest shall be final.
- (e) No Club shall have more than two (2) teams graded into the same competition division except in extraordinary circumstances as deemed necessary by the E.C.
- (f) When a team withdraws, the E.C. will investigate all possible options to maintain the integrity of the competition affected.

B. Team Re-Grading after Competition Starts

- (a) Regrading of competition teams should occur at the conclusion of four (4) rounds of football.
- (b) For an age division playing competition for the first time, (first year after MiniRoos) the Committee may regrade a team up to and including the ninth game of the competition when concern exists regarding the future viability of the team in their allocated division.
- (c) The Grading Committee shall have the power to elevate a team to a more competitive and/or older age/grade if in the opinion of the Grading Committee the team is too strong for its age group.
- (d) MiniRoos - In situations where teams cannot be regraded within a Club, the Association will regrade MiniRoos (non-competition teams) up to and including nine (9) weeks after the commencement of the season.
- (e) No Club shall have more than two (2) teams regraded into the same competition division except in extraordinary circumstances as deemed necessary by the E.C.

- (f) When a team withdraws, the E.C. will investigate all possible options to maintain the integrity of the competition affected.

GRADING OF PLAYERS

7. GRADING AND REGRADING PLAYERS.

A. Grading Players Registering after Team Gradings

The following procedures will be followed for the placement of players into teams when an application to register is received after the team gradings have been completed:

- (a) The Association Office will place the player in the team and grade requested ONLY if the player's playing history is compatible with the grade requested.
- (b) If the Association Office considers the grade requested to be inappropriate, the request will be referred back to the Club for a formal written request for consideration by the E.C.
- (c) The formal request should be based on the criteria listed in Clause 7. D.

B. Regrading Players within a Club

Players may be transferred between teams (regraded) within a Club at any time during the season in accordance with the following conditions:

- (a) In cases where the transfer requested is in accordance with Rule 16 – Borrowing of Players, the transfer will be approved by the Association Office and the decision reported to the next E.C. Meeting.
- (b) In cases where the request is not in accordance with sub-clause 7. B. (a), the Club will be advised to provide a formal request as outlined in Clauses 7. A. (b) and (c) for consideration by the E.C.

C. Players Transferring between Association Clubs

The following procedures will apply to the placement of players transferring between Clubs during a season:

- (a) The placement into age divisions and grades will be in accordance with Rule 7. A. (a) to (c)
- (b) Transfer between Clubs is only permitted up to 31st May (or when this date falls on a weekend, then the last Friday of the month). The necessary procedures to be followed by Clubs are covered by Rule 4. H.

Note: Only under exceptional circumstances is a Club permitted to refuse a request from a player to transfer to another Club.

D. **Criteria for Requests for Grading and Regrading**

- (a) Requests to be based on:
 - (i) Playing history
 - (ii) Age of player
 - (iii) Skill level
 - (iv) Health or disability
 - (v) Player, team or Club hardship.
- (b) Requests must include all relevant information to support the request, including a medical certificate to support Clause D. (a) (iv)

E. **Appeals against E.C. Decision** (Re Grading and Regrading of Players)

- (a) Appeals will be referred to the next scheduled General Meeting of the Association for hearing.
- (b) A fee determined by the E.C. from time to time, which may be forfeited, will be invoiced to the Club on lodgement of such Appeal.
- (c) Refund or retention of the appeal fee will be determined by a vote of the General Meeting.
- (d) The decision of the General Meeting will be final and will not be subject to further appeals to any other Authority.
- (e) The player involved in the grading or regrading hearing may appear at the initial Committee hearings and at the Appeal hearing.

CONDUCT OF COMPETITIONS

8. COMPETITIONS

A. Proposed age groups for competitions are as follows:

Junior Mixed divisions - MiniRoos - Non Competition	Under 6 to Under 11
Junior Mixed divisions -	Under 12
Junior Men's divisions -	Under 13 to Under 21
Senior Men's Amateur League division -	All Age
Senior Men's divisions -	Over 35 Over 45
Junior Women's divisions - MiniRoos - Non Competition	Under 6 to Under 11
Junior Women's divisions -	Under 12 Under 14 Under 16 Under 18 Under 21
Senior Women's divisions -	All Age Over 30 Over 40

B. Amateur League teams will be known as AL1, AL2, AL3 etc., and shall be conducted under rules set forth for all Association football except as modified hereafter.

C. Junior Women's divisions – Under 12 up to Under 16 will be played on Saturdays.

9. COMPETITION FORMAT AND COMPETITION DRAW

A. Competition Format

- (a) The season competition will be conducted entirely within the winter season allocated to the Association by Sutherland Shire Council.
- (b) The program of matches will include the provision of a complete finals series as covered by Rule 23.
- (c) Irrespective of the number of teams in any grade or division the season draw will include the provision of eighteen (18) competition rounds before the finals. If it is necessary to abandon any rounds, the total number of rounds drawn will be reduced to allow four (4) weeks for a finals series.

- (d) If it is necessary to abandon any part of the finals series, the E.C. is authorised to arrange an alternate final series within the time available before the official end of the season. The alternative may include night games or “double headers” with the aim of achieving the maximum benefit to the teams involved.
- (e) Competition games will be played each Saturday and Sunday other than Easter weekend and at other times as nominated by the Association Office and approved by the E.C.
- (f) The first round of the competition will be played on a date to be determined by the E.C.
- (g) For eight (8) team competitions the half round will be played where feasible as determined by the E.C following the completion of two (2) full rounds, i.e. last four (4) rounds of eighteen (18) round competitions.

B. The Published (Official) Draw

- (a) The **published** draw is the official draw for competition and finals matches as published and distributed to Clubs before and during the season, including amendments as published and distributed in writing, by email, internet or telephone, as covered by Section B. (e) of this Rule.
- (b) All matches on the published draw will be played as listed and will not be played on different grounds or at different times without the approval of the E.C.
- (c) Wherever possible, the Association Office will draw lower graded teams in an age group to play before the higher grades in the same group to enable the higher teams to draw players from the lower teams, should the necessity arise.
- (d) The Association Office will, wherever practicable, allow up to ten (10) minutes between the official finishing time and the advertised starting time of each game drawn to be played on a ground.
- (e) Misreading of the published draw or subsequent amendment/s shall not constitute a replay of the match.
- (f) The first team mentioned for each match on the published draw is the "home team".

10. STARTING TIME FOR MATCHES

- A. A team having at least seven (7) of their listed registered players present at the **nominated starting time** must take the field and be ready to start play without delay after the appointed referee indicates to the teams, by word or by whistle, that the match is to be commenced.
- B. A competition team must have seven (7) of their listed registered players on the field of play and ready to commence play within fifteen (15) minutes after the nominated starting time otherwise the team shall forfeit the match.
- C. No team shall be required to commence their scheduled match prior to the **NOMINATED STARTING TIME** unless by agreement between officials of the two teams and the referee.
- D. All teams requiring I.D. cards may claim up to fifteen (15) minutes on the **nominated starting time** for the match should I.D. cards not be available for at least seven (7) listed registered team members. The referee is the sole judge of time. A team must take the field for the start of the game immediately once I.D. cards are available for at least seven (7) players.
- E. **For the purpose of this Rule, the “nominated starting time” shall be the time shown in the published draw or amended draw for the match.**

11. DURATION OF MATCHES

- A. Duration of matches for mixed, men’s and women’s age groups shall be as follows:-

Under 6 and 7	- 15 minutes each half
Under 8 and 9	- 20 minutes each half
Under 10 and 11	- 25 minutes each half
Under 12 years	- 25 minutes each half
Under 13 to Under 14 years	- 30 minutes each half
Under 15 to Under 16 years	- 35 minutes each half
Under 17 years	- 40 minutes each half
Under 18 years to Under 21	- 45 minutes each half
All Age	- 45 minutes each half
Over 30	- 45 minutes each half
Over 35	- 45 minutes each half
Over 40	- 45 minutes each half
Over 45	- 45 minutes each half

- B. At half-time the interval shall not exceed five (5) minutes except by consent of the Referee and playing time shall be of the same duration before and after this interval. Matches whose duration before and after the half-time interval are not the same may be referred to the J.C and a replay may be ordered.
- C. No match shall be shortened without the agreement of the officials of both teams and the referee before the start of play. Such agreement must then be recorded on the back of the match sheet by the referee and signed by officials from both teams. Non-compliance with this requirement may be referred to the J.C and a replay may be ordered.

- D. Injury Time
During competition matches prior to the semi finals no additional time will be added for injuries or other delays, injury time will be played in semi finals, finals and grand finals.

12. MATCH SHEETS

- A. A match sheet is required to be completed for each game.
- B. Match sheets shall be made available at each ground by the Club responsible for such ground for all matches to be played and must be completed prior to the start of each match by both of the teams concerned.
- C. The given name or initial, surname or family name in full and identification number (FFA No.) for every player Under 10 and older who participates in any match must be shown in the appropriate space on the match sheet. (Players whose names appear on a match sheet who have not played in that match should be crossed off the match sheet.)
- D. All players in Under 12 to Under 21 and all Senior divisions, or any other division that may be determined by the E.C., shall have his/her shirt number listed alongside the player's name in the space provided on the match sheet prior to the player participating in the game
- E. A player registered to play in an Under 12 or older age division shall be required to sign his/her name on the back of the match sheet if the Manager or Coach of the opposing team requests a player's signature. In this case the player must sign in the presence of the Manager or Coach of the opposing team.
- F. All borrowed players must have their name and details as specified, recorded on the match sheet.
- G. On completion of the game the match sheet shall be signed by the Coach or Manager of both teams to confirm the score. If agreement cannot be reached on the score or the identity or eligibility of any player(s), then the sheet is to be signed and a notation recorded and signed on the back of the match sheet.
- H. The names (given name or initial and surname) of the persons acting as Coach and Manager for the game being played must be printed on the match sheet before the start of the game.
- I. A player whose name is shown on a match sheet who is not a registered member of the team is a suspended player or is ineligible to play with the team for any reason, is deemed to have played for that team in the match shown on the match sheet.
- J. All teams participating in a competition match shall nominate one (1) person (who is a responsible adult) for additional Ground Control. This person is responsible for the behaviour of their own spectators and must cooperate with the Club Ground Controllers at all times and must wear an orange Ground Control jacket.

The name of each competing team Ground Controller must be printed on the bottom of the match sheet in the space provided.

- K. (a) A breach of Clauses 12. C. to 12. J. will incur an automatic fine as set by the E.C. prior to the season. The list of proposed fines to be presented to the Clubs for approval prior to the scheduled date for Round 1 of the competition.

- (b) There will be no fines for infringements by Under 6 to Under 11 MiniRoos teams.
- (c) (i) The E.C. may refer a breach of Rule 12 to a Judiciary Committee for consideration and action as deemed necessary.
- (ii) A penalty resulting in the loss of the game by forfeit and/or other penalty may be applied by the Judiciary Committee.
- L. (a) Complaints, reports or general comments written on the front or back of a match sheet will not be considered by the E.C. unless clearly supported by an official letter from a Club within two (2) working days of the match.
- Comments by Referees must always be in the form of official Incident Report.
- (b) Written comments on a match sheet which are offensive or insulting to the E.C. or a match or Club official may be referred to the Judiciary Committee for consideration and action as necessary.

13. NUMBER OF PLAYERS PER GAME

- A. For any competition match a team may enter on the match sheet any number of players.
- B. A team participating in a competition match must contain a minimum of seven (7) listed players of that team at the start of the match. There must be at least seven (7) players whose names appear on the match sheet on the field at all times, otherwise that team is to forfeit the match. A team having seven (7) listed players present at the scheduled starting time of the game must take the field of play except in circumstances outlined in Rule 10. D.
- C. A maximum of sixteen (16) players per team can participate in all competition matches played under the control of the Sutherland Association. The penalty for a breach of this rule shall be the loss of the game by forfeit by the offending team.

14. IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR COMPETITION MATCHES

- A. All players registered in Under 12 Divisions and older must have and present for inspection I.D. cards showing the correct team and grade for the current year. Players in Under 10 and Under 11 Divisions must have I.D. cards but only need to present these for inspection if they take part in Under 12 or older competition matches.
- B. Any player changing his/her appearance contrary to the photograph appearing on the current Identification Card must present themselves to their Club Registrar to have a new photograph taken and a revised I.D. card produced.
- C. With the exception of the provisions of Rule 14. H.:-
 - (a) A player is not permitted to play in a competition match if:
 - (i) They are not in possession of their current I.D. card.
 - (ii) Their I.D. card has not been inspected by the Manager, Coach or nominated team representative of the opposing team.

- (b) For instances where identification of a player from their I.D. card is uncertain, see Rule 14. G.
- D. (a) Before the start of a match the players nominated to play shall present their I.D. cards for inspection by the Manager of the opposing team in the centre of the field.
- (b) The referee will indicate by a notation in a space provided if a team has produced I.D. cards for inspection by the opposition team.

Referees will NOT be required to carry out or report on the identification procedure.

- E. Players preparing to take the field after the start of a match, whose I.D. card has not previously been inspected, shall present their I.D. card to the Manager of the opposing team on the halfway line in the interchange area for inspection before playing in the match.
- F. A Manager has the right to hold all the I.D. cards of the members of the opposing team playing in the match until the conclusion of the game. At the conclusion of the game ALL cards must immediately be returned to the opposing Manager.
- G. If, after inspecting I.D. cards or for any reason during the match, the Manager is uncertain of the identity of an opposition player, the matter should be brought to the attention of the opposition Manager who shall after the match:

- (a) Take action as necessary to clarify the player's identity to the satisfaction of the opposing Manager, or
- (b) If requested, arrange for the player to sign his/her name on the back of the match sheet in the presence of the opposition Manager for signature verification by the Association Office.

In this case, the Manager requesting the signature should make an appropriate notation on the back of the match sheet and take action as covered by sub-clause G. (c).

- (c) To report an alleged breach of the identification procedure by an opposing team, the Manager or Coach of the team protesting must make an appropriate notation on the back of the match sheet and the Club must advise the Association by official letter to the office by 7.00 pm on the Monday following the match.
- H. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a team is unable to produce the I.D. cards for the ENTIRE team, the team may participate in the match under the following conditions:
 - (a) All players to sign the Match Sheet in the presence of the opposing Manager – if necessary, the fifteen (15) minutes allowed for the production of I.D. cards may be used for this purpose.
 - (b) An appropriate notation to be made on the Match Sheet.
 - (c) Should 14.H.(b) not be complied with the Club to submit an official letter to the Association, fully outlining the reason for the failure to produce I.D. cards by 3.00 p.m. on the Thursday following the match for consideration by the J.C., in conjunction with the check of players' signatures if required.

I. **Breaches of Rule 14. A. to H.**

- (a) Reports received alleging breaches of the Rules covering the use of I.D. cards and reports received alleging the refusal of teams or Managers to participate in the presentation of I.D. cards for verification of identity, in accordance with Clause G, or to act in accordance with Clause H., shall be referred to a Judiciary Committee for investigation and action as appropriate.
- (b) If the offence is proved the match shall be declared lost by forfeit by the offending team. A fine as appropriate may also be levied.
- (c) The usual appeal provision against the Judiciary Committee's decision will be available to the offending team.

15. SHIRT NUMBERING

- A. All players in Under 12 to Under 21 and all senior divisions shall wear numbers on their shirts.
- B. Numbers must be a minimum of 20 cm. high and must be securely attached to the back of player's shirts.
- C. The colour of such numbers shall be a colour that is clearly distinguishable and in direct contrast to that of the colour of the player's shirt.
- D. Numbers may be of any series, not necessarily consecutive, but no number shall be duplicated in the same team, except in cases which enable interchange of a goalkeeper.
- E. A player's number (or numbers in the case of a player who may have played in the goalkeeper position) shall be listed alongside the player's name in the space provided on the match sheet.
- F. Borrowed players from Under 10 and Under 11 age division participating in matches where numbers are to be worn on shirts, WILL NOT BE required to wear numbered shirts, however, they must indicate their registered grade on the match sheet.
- G. Replacement players are not permitted to exchange shirts with a field player so replaced. All teams should have a spare shirt and/or additional numbers available thus ensuring that two (2) outfield players in the same team do not wear duplicated numbers (refer paragraph D.)

16. BORROWING OF PLAYERS

PLAYERS AGED UP TO AND INCLUDING 16 YEARS OF AGE, AS GIVEN BY THE AGE THEY TURN IN THE YEAR, ARE ONLY PERMITTED TO PLAY OR BE BORROWED INTO ANY SIDE THAT IS EITHER ONE (1) OR TWO (2) YEARS ABOVE THEIR AGE. OTHER NORMAL BORROWING RULES APPLY.

A. **Players Involved in MiniRoos Under 6 to Under 11**

- (a) Players in Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 years MiniRoos may be borrowed into any other side within their age group at any time. Coaches should not borrow players who are obviously of too high an ability for the grade into which they are being borrowed. This is to ensure some equity is retained.
- (b) Players in Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 years MiniRoos may be borrowed into a higher age group but cannot go up more than two (2) years in age as given by the age they turn in that year. They may be borrowed into any grade of MiniRoos.
- (c) Under 10 player may be borrowed into any Under 10 or Under 11 side but they are only allowed to go down one (1) grade when being borrowed into an Under 12 side. i.e. 10B to 12C, 10C to 12D etc., excepting 10A may only play in 12A, but can be borrowed into any Under 10 or Under 11 grade. No more than **TWO (2)** Under 10 players who have gone up to the Under 12 age group and down a grade may participate in a match. Players may only be borrowed to the same team **three (3) times** in total during the season. MiniRoos players cannot be transferred into Under 12 teams at any time in the season.
- (d) Under 11 player may be borrowed into any Under 11 side but they are only allowed to go down one (1) grade when being borrowed into an Under 12 or Under 13 side. i.e. 11B to 12C, 11C to 13D etc., excepting 11A may only play in 12A or 13A, but can be borrowed into any Under 11 grade. No more than **TWO (2)** Under 11 players who have gone up to the Under 12 or Under 13 age group and down a grade may participate in a match. Players may only be borrowed to the same team **three (3) times** in total during the season. MiniRoos players cannot be transferred into Under 12 or Under 13 teams at any time in the season.
- (e) Players in 10A may be borrowed into any Under 10 or Under 11 grade but may only be borrowed into 12A sides.
- (f) Players in 11A may be borrowed into any Under 11 grade but may only be borrowed into 12A and 13A sides.
- (g) Note that girls cannot be borrowed into any 13 years and older men's competitions nor can boys be borrowed into any 12 years and older girl's/women's competitions.
- (h) Boys 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are not to be borrowed into girl's only grades, but girls 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 may be borrowed into Junior Mixed Divisions.

B. **Players Involved in Under 12 to Under 21 Years (Boys and Women's Competitions)**

- (a) Players may be borrowed into any higher graded side in their age group, or a side in an older age group, a maximum of **three (3)** times during the season after which an application may be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side. They may not be borrowed a fourth time.
- (b) Where a Club has two or more teams in the same grade, **two (2)** players may be borrowed from the other side in that grade for any match. A player may only be borrowed in this fashion **three (3) times** in the season. They may not be borrowed a fourth time. An application may not be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side.
- (c) Girls playing in W12 Divisions may be borrowed into U12 Junior Mixed Divisions. They may only be borrowed into a grade the same or higher than the grade they play, i.e. W12B into 12B or 12A, W12A only into 12A. They may not be borrowed into a grade lower than the one they play. A player may only be borrowed in this fashion **three (3) times** in the season. They may not be borrowed a fourth time. An application may **not** be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side. The maximum number of players any team can borrow for a match is **four (4)**.

Girls playing in U12 Junior Mixed Divisions may be borrowed into W12 Divisions or W13 Divisions (if applicable). They may only be borrowed into a grade the same or higher than the grade they play, i.e. 12B into W12B, W12A, W13B or W13A; 12A only into W12A or W13A. They may not be borrowed into a grade lower than the one they play. A player may only be borrowed in this fashion **three (3) times** in the season. They may not be borrowed a fourth time. An application may **not** be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side. The maximum number of players any team can borrow for a match is **four (4)**.

- (d) Players in Under 12 to Under 14 year competitions may be borrowed into a higher age group but cannot go up more than two (2) years in age as given by the age they turn in the that year. They may be borrowed into any grade higher than the grade they are playing or into one (1) grade lower than the grade they play, except 'A' grade players who may only be borrowed into another 'A' grade side, i.e. 12B into 14C; D into E. Players may only be borrowed a maximum of **three (3) times** in total during the season into an older graded side after which an application may be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side. They may not be borrowed a fourth time. No more than **TWO (2)** players who have gone down a grade may participate in any one game.
- (e) Players in Under 15 year competitions may only be borrowed into Under 16 year's competitions and Players in Under 16 year's competitions may only be borrowed into Under 18 year competitions. These players cannot go up more than two (2) years in age as given by the age they turn in that year. These players may go down one (1) grade when being borrowed into the older age group, excepting 'A' grade players who may only be borrowed into 'A' grade. No more than **TWO (2)** players who have gone down a grade may participate in any one game.
- (f) The maximum number of players any team can borrow for a match is **four (4)**.

- (g) Under 18 year players may be borrowed into Under 21 grades. 18A may only play 21A, all other Under 18 players may go down one (1) grade, i.e. 18B into 21C; 18C into 21D etc. No more than **TWO (2)** players who have gone down a grade may participate in any one game.
- (h) Players 16 years of age as given by the age they turn in that year registered in U18 year's competition are not permitted to be borrowed into any higher age group. Under 18 year players may be borrowed into All Age Men's (AL) and Senior Women's (WS) competitions only in the following manner:

18A may play AL1, AL2, and AL3
 Women's 18A may play WSA and WSB
 18B may play AL1 up to and including AL6
 Women's 18B may play WSA to WSD
 18C and lower may play any All Age grade
 Women's 18C/lower any WS grade

Eligible players registered in W18B competition may be borrowed into any WS competition, only if the W18 competition has only two grades A and B.

Players may only be borrowed a maximum of **three (3) times** in total during the season into any other side after which an application may be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side. They may not be borrowed a fourth time.

- (i) Under 21 years players may be borrowed into All Age (AL) and Senior Women's (WS) competitions in the following grades:

21A may play AL1, AL2 and AL3
 Women's 21A may play WSA and WSB
 21B may play AL1 up to and including AL6
 Women's 21B – may play WSA to WSD
 21C/lower may play any All Age Grade
 Women's 21C/lower may play All Grades WS

Eligible players registered in W21B competition may be borrowed into any WS competition, only if the W21 competition has only two grades A and B.

Players may be borrowed a maximum of **three (3) times** during the season after which an application may be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side. They may not be borrowed a fourth time.

- (j) The penalty for a breach of any part of Rule 16 shall be the loss of the game by forfeit by the offending team with Rule 19 applying to the forfeit.

C. **Players Involved in All Age Men's and Senior Women's Competitions**

- (a) Players may be borrowed into any higher graded side in the All Age (AL) or Senior Women's (WS) competition a maximum of **three (3) times** during the season after which an application may only be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side. They may not be borrowed a fourth time.

- (b) Where a Club has two or more teams in the same grade, **two (2)** players may be borrowed from the other side in that grade for any match. A player may only be borrowed in this fashion **three (3) times** in the season. They may not be borrowed a fourth time. An application may not be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side.
- (c) All Age (AL) and Senior Women's (WS) players cannot be borrowed into younger nor older age competitions.
- (d) The maximum number of players any team can borrow for a match is **four (4)**.
- (e) The penalty for a breach of any part of Rule 16 shall be the loss of the game by forfeit by the offending team with Rule 19 applying to the forfeit.

D. **Players Involved in Over 35 Men's and Over 30 Women's Competitions**

- (a) Players may be borrowed into any higher graded side in the O35s men's and O30s women's competition a maximum of **three (3)** times during the season after which an application may be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side. They may not be borrowed a fourth time.
- (b) Where a Club has two or more teams in the same grade, **two (2)** players may be borrowed from the other side in that grade for any match. A player may only be borrowed in this fashion **three (3) times** in the season. They may not be borrowed a fourth time. An application may not be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side.
- (c) 35A players may be borrowed into AL1 to AL4; 35B players may be borrowed into AL1 to AL6; 35C players may be borrowed into AL1 to AL10; 35D and below may be borrowed into any All Age grade.
- (d) Women's 30A may be borrowed into WSA and WSB; W30B and below may play in any Senior Women's grade.
- (e) Players may only be borrowed into any competition side (in accordance with these Rules) a maximum of **three (3)** times during the season after which an application may be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side. They may not be borrowed a fourth time.
- (f) The maximum number of players any team can borrow for a match is **four (4)**.
- (g) The penalty for a breach of any part of Rule 16 shall be the loss of the game by forfeit by the offending team with Rule 19 applying to the forfeit.

E. **Players Involved in Over 45 Men's and Over 40 Women's Competitions**

- (a)
 - (i) Over 45 men may play in any grade of Over 35s and All Age competition.
 - (ii) Over 40 women may play in any grade of Over 30 women and Senior Women's competition

- (b) Where a Club has two or more teams in the same grade, **two (2)** players may be borrowed from the other side in that grade for any match. A player may only be borrowed in this fashion **three (3) times** in the season. They may not be borrowed a fourth time. An application may not be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side.
- (c) Players may only be borrowed into any competition side (in accordance with these Rules) a maximum of **three (3)** times during the season after which an application may be made to the E.C. for the player to be transferred into that side. They may not be borrowed a fourth time.
- (d) The maximum number of players any team can borrow for a match is **four (4)**.
- (e) The penalty for a breach of any part of Rule 16 shall be the loss of the game by forfeit by the offending team with Rule 19 applying to the forfeit.

17. PLAYER INTERCHANGE

- A. Unlimited interchanging of players is permissible at any time during the game in all Junior and Senior Competitions. A maximum number of sixteen (16) players are permitted to take the field in a match. See Rule 13. C.
- B. Interchange procedure shall be as follows:
 - (a) "Interchange Zone" will be an area one metre either side of the half-way line on one side of the field only.
 - (b) The home team shall decide on which side of the field interchanging for BOTH teams shall be conducted
 - (c) An interchange is one which is made when the ball is out of play and for which the following conditions shall be observed:
 - (i) The player leaving the field shall do so from sideline, crossing over at the sector called the interchange zone.
 - (ii) The player entering the field shall also do so from the interchange zone, but not until the player leaving the field has passed completely over the sideline.
 - (iii) A player nominated for interchange shall be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee whether called upon to play or not.
 - (iv) The interchange is completed when the player who was off the field, enters the field. From this moment they become a player and the player whom they replaced ceases to be a player.
- C. The number of interchanges made during a match is unlimited. A player who has been replaced may return to the field for another player.
- D. If during an interchange, an interchange player enters the field before the replaced player has completely left it, the referee shall ensure the replaced player leaves the field, then caution the interchange player and then restart the game.

- E. If during an interchange, an interchange player enters the field or a replaced player leaves it from a place other than the interchange zone, the referee shall caution the offending player.
- F. The interchanging of players will cease at the completion of normal and extra time. If at this time penalty kicks are required to obtain a result, then the eleven (11) players on the field at the end of extra time are the only players permitted to participate in the penalty kicks. No interchanging at this time is permissible.

18. DEFERRED, UNCOMPLETED, WASHED OUT, ABANDONED AND REPLAYS OF COMPETITION MATCHES

A. Matches not Played or Completed

Deferred, washed out or uncompleted matches, and matches to be replayed as directed by the E.C. or J.C., will be rescheduled to be played as soon as possible by using all available options including alternative playing days and night games, with the aim of providing eighteen (18) rounds of competition for all teams if possible.

- B. (i) When only part rounds are deferred as covered by Clause 18. A. (i) above or particular matches are deferred or replays required for any reason, then the E.C. will give priority to the re-drawing of these matches to ensure that all teams in a division or grade play an equal number of games before the Semi Finals commence.
- (ii) If it is not possible to redraw the unplayed matches in an uncompleted round due to time restraints or other reasons, the E.C. may void the results of the matches played and abandon the entire Round.

C. Rescheduled Matches

Only under exceptional circumstances will a request to vary the published draw for rescheduled matches be considered by the General Manager or E.C.

A request for the deferment of a rescheduled match involving Junior Men's and Junior Women's teams drawn to be played on a weekday night during school holidays will be considered if both teams agree. Only one deferment would be granted.

D. Entire Rounds not Played

- (i) If a complete round of Saturday and Sunday matches for Round 1 to Round 9 of the competitions is not played for any reason, including weather or ground conditions, the Rounds affected will be redrawn to be played as soon as possible. In certain circumstances where redrawing these rounds would be impractical, the E.C. may vary this arrangement to ensure the smooth running of the competition.
- (ii) If it is necessary to abandon completely any unplayed competition rounds prior to the finals, the E.C. will abandon Round 18 and, if necessary, additional rounds regressively from Round 17 to provide a finals series as covered by Rule 9. A. (c)

E. Abandoned Matches

Matches abandoned by the referee for a non-disciplinary reason will be replayed unless under special circumstances the Judiciary Committee rules that a replay is not required.

Matches abandoned for disciplinary reasons will be referred to the Judiciary Committee which may rule a replay of the match, a forfeit against one or both teams and/or sanctions or penalties as considered appropriate.

For a match declared abandoned, the referee should take action as follows:

- (i) Indicate by whistle that the match is concluded prior to the expiry of the prescribed time and inform the coach and/or manager of both teams that the match has been abandoned and the reasons for the action.
- (ii) Write and sign the words "Match Abandoned" on the match sheet and the expired time when the match was abandoned.
- (iii) Provide a full written report to the Association stating the reasons for the action, the report to be received by the Association within two (2) working days of the match.

19. FORFEITS

- A.
 - (a) A team shall be ruled to have lost a match by a forfeit if it is not ready to commence play as defined in Rule 10 or is unable to commence or complete a match due to a breach of the Local Rules or the officials Laws of the Game.
 - (b) Acting upon reports, complaints or protests, the Judiciary Committee or the E.C. may rule that a match has been forfeited for a breach as in (a) above or under other special circumstances.
- B. In the event of a forfeit the result of the match shall be recorded in accordance with Rule 20.A.
- C.
 - (a) A team ruled to have forfeited a match shall be required to pay all match and officials fees levied against both teams for that match.
 - (b) Except as provided in Rule 19. D., should a team notifying of a forfeit do so at least five (5) days before the date of the scheduled game, then no fees as in C. (a) above will be levied but a fine, the amount to be set by the E.C. prior to Round 1, will be imposed on the forfeiting team.

(See Rule 19.D. for forfeits of any of last three (3) competition games)
- D.
 - (a) A team forfeiting any of the last three (3) competition games drawn to be played prior to the semi-finals shall, in addition to the penalty imposed by Part C above, pay a fine as set by the E.C. prior to the season.
 - (b) Junior Men's (U12 to U18) and Women's teams (W12 to W18) to pay 50% of the fine set by the E.C. prior to the season.

20. METHOD OF POINT SCORING AND POINT SCORE RULES

- A. In the event of a forfeit, a result of 3-0 shall be recorded to the non-forfeiting team. In the event however that a match has been played until at least half time, and a non-forfeiting team has more than a three goal advantage at the time the match is forfeited, the score at the time of forfeit shall stand.
- B. Competition points will be awarded as follows:
- Win: 3 points Draw: 1 point Loss: 0 points Bye: 3 points
- C. (i) Where a team withdraws from any division, points gained by it will be given to the team or teams it has beaten, but goals will be disregarded.
- (ii) Teams which have beaten the withdrawn team will retain points gained, but goals will be disregarded.
- D. The allocation of points to teams being regraded both up and down will be as follows:
- (a) The team being graded up take 2/3 of their points and goals.
- (b) The team being graded down to take 1/3 points and goals of the team they are replacing.
- (c) Teams being regraded down into a bye position will be allocated 1/3 of the points and goals of the team leading that competition after four (4) rounds.
- (d) Where an uneven number is involved in any of these calculations it shall be rounded to next larger whole number.
- E. If a team does not replace the regraded team leaving a bye round in the competition, then all teams that have played the regraded team will be deemed to have scored points for a bye but goals will be disregarded.

21. GOAL DIFFERENCE

For the cases where goal differences are taken into account, the manner in which they shall be arrived at shall be:

- A. The number of goals AGAINST shall be subtracted from the number of goals FOR.
- B. The highest resultant figure from the subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference.
- C. Where teams finish with equal goal difference the team having scored the most goals FOR shall be declared the winner.
- D. Where teams have identical statistics the team with the best goal difference from competition matches between the teams in question will be the higher placed team.

SEMI FINALS, FINALS AND GRAND FINALS

22. SEMI-FINALISTS

In the event of teams finishing level in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th position on the completion of the competition rounds, their position on the competition points table shall be determined on “goal difference”.

Note: See Rule 21 for Goal Difference.

23. SEMI-FINALS, FINALS AND GRAND FINALS

- A. The team finishing highest in the competition is classified as the home team.
- B. Each Club participating in a match must supply one person for additional Ground Control. This person is responsible for the behaviour of their own spectators and must co-operate with the Club Ground Controllers at all times and must wear a Orange Ground Control Jacket. Jackets to be collected from Ground Control and returned to Ground Control after the match.

The name of each competing Club Ground Control nominee is to be printed on the bottom of the match sheet on the same side as the team represented.

- C. Injury time shall be played in each game.
- D. Normal borrowing rules apply as per Rule 16.
- E. **Semi-Finals**
At the end of the second round of the competition or on the date the E.C. rules that the competition shall end, the first four teams on a point score basis shall play semi-finals in which the leading team shall play the second placed team in the major semi-final and the third team shall play the fourth placed team in the minor semi-final. (See Rule 22)
- F. **Finals**
The loser of the major semi-final shall play the winner of the minor semi-final.
- G. **Grand Finals**
The winner of the major semi-final shall play the winner of the final, with the winner of this match becoming the winner of the competition.

24. EXTRA TIME

If after the duration of the time (see Rule 11) in a semi-final, final or grand final, the score results in a draw, an extra ten (10) minutes each way will be played. In the Under 12 competitions, extra time shall be five (5) minutes each way. If a draw still results, the team higher in the competition table shall be the winner.

AWARDING OF TROPHIES

25. AWARDING OF TROPHIES

A. Competition Trophies and Awards

- (a) Individual trophies will be awarded to each member of both teams participating in the Grand Final of all divisions – Winners and Runners Up.
- (b) In the event of a Minor Premier not participating in a grand final, a trophy shall be awarded to each member of the team.
- (c) Encouragement Award trophies to be awarded to teams up to and including Under 16. The Encouragement Awards shall be determined in accordance with By Law G (a) to (f) where possible.
- (d) The Association will at its cost, provide up to sixteen (16) trophies per team. Clubs shall be responsible for the cost of any additional trophies.
- (e) No trophies will be given in Under 6 to Under 11 divisions.

B. Perpetual Trophies

- (a) The Harrie Denning Cup will be awarded to the champion Club participating in the AL1, AL2, AL3 Competitions.
- (b) The Sutherland Association Cup will be awarded to the champion Club participating in Amateur League 4, 5, 6 etc. Competitions.
- (c) The Stan Ellis Cup will be awarded to the champion Club participating in Senior Women's, Over 30 and Over 40 Women Competitions.
- (d) The Rick Napier and Andy Page Memorial Shield will be awarded to the champion Club participating in Over 35 and Over 45 Competitions.
- (e) The Junior Men's Champions Cup will be awarded to the champion Club participating in Under 12 to Under 21 Competitions.
- (f) The Sue Holloway Memorial Junior Women's Champions Cup will be awarded to the champion Club participating in Under 12 to Under 21 Women Competitions.
- (g) Method of determining the winning Club for The Harrie Denning Cup, The Sutherland Association Cup, The Stan Ellis Cup, The Rick Napier and Andy Page Memorial Shield and the Junior Men's and Sue Holloway Memorial Junior Women's Championship Cups:

Points for Trophy:

$$\frac{(\text{Total No. of games played}) \times (\text{total number of points won})}{(\text{Total No. of teams}) \times (\text{Total No. of Teams} + 1)}$$

The Club with the highest total after the above calculation will be declared the winner of The Harrie Denning Cup, The Sutherland Association Cup, The Stan Ellis Cup and The Rick Napier, Andy Page Memorial Shield and the Junior Men's and Sue Holloway Memorial Junior Women's Championship Cups.

- (h) The named perpetual trophies listed in Rule 25. B. (a) to (f) will be presented to the winning Clubs at the Association's Annual Dinner but will be retained by the Association and placed on display at the Harrie Denning Football Centre building. Clubs will be presented with an appropriate award to retain as their permanent record of the event.

SPECIAL RULES – BALL SIZES, GOAL KICKS, CORNER KICKS AND FIELD MARKINGS

26. FOOTBALL SIZES

- A. Each team shall provide one match ball properly inflated, the size of which is prescribed in Clause B below. Failure to comply with this rule shall be as defined by the E.C. as per By-Laws.
- B. The football sizes used by the divisions shall be:
 - (a) Up to Under 9 and inclusive, circumference with a minimum 560 mm and maximum 610 mm known as size 3.
 - (b) Under 10 to Under 13 inclusive, circumference with a minimum 635 mm and maximum 660 mm known as size 4.
 - (c) All others, circumference with a minimum 685 mm and maximum 711 mm known as size 5.

27. GOAL KICKS, CORNER KICKS AND FIELD MARKINGS – UNDER 12

A. Junior Mixed Divisions (Under 12, including W12)

Corner Kicks (Short Corners)

For Under 12 (including W12) the kick will be taken 7.3 metres out from the outer edge of the penalty area with the normal corner kick conditions applying.

Goal Kicks (Long Goal Kicks)

For divisions Under 12 goal kicks to be taken anywhere within the penalty area.

Free Kicks by Defending Team

Free kicks awarded to the defending team within their own penalty area may be taken anywhere within the penalty area.

Note: For all Corner Kicks, Goal Kicks and Free Kicks opponents must remain at least 9.15m (10 yards) from the ball until the ball is in play.

B. Junior Mixed Divisions (Under 12 inclusive, including W12)

Field Markings

A distinct mark shall be made on the goal lines 7.3 metres from the outer edge of the penalty area to indicate the point from which corner kicks will be taken. (“Short Corners”) for Under 12 teams.

28. TECHNICAL AREA – ALL COMPETITION GAMES

- A. Clubs responsible for marking fields for competition games, Under 12 and older, shall clearly mark a Technical Area ON ONE SIDE OF THE FIELD ONLY to define the area where a Coach or Manager is permitted to coach or otherwise direct his/her team.
- B. The Technical Area shall be positioned one (1) metre from the sideline and extend ten (10) metres on both sides of the halfway line.

MANAGERS, COACHES AND GROUND CONTROL

29. COACHES AND MANAGERS FOR COMPETITION MATCHES

- A. (a) All teams must have an official Manager and Coach, one person may carry out both duties.
- (b) Clubs must advise the Association of the name of the official Manager and Coach of all teams prior to Round four (4) of the competition.
- (c) TEAMS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PLAY IN A COMPETITION MATCH UNTIL THE NAME OF THE OFFICIAL MANAGER HAS BEEN ADVISED TO THE ASSOCIATION.

Upon application and under special circumstances the E.C. may grant an extension of time for a Club to meet this requirement.

- (d) It is recommended that all Junior teams have an Official Manager over the age of 21 years, but if a young person is appointed the Club should arrange special briefing sessions to ensure the young Manager is fully aware of the duties and responsibilities of a Team Manager and has the maturity to fulfil the position effectively. Clubs should provide advice, guidance and supervision as necessary during the season.
- (e) The Association holds Clubs responsible for the performance of the Manager. The Club and Manager may be subject to penalties imposed by a Judiciary Committee for breaches of the rules or the Codes of Conduct of Managers.
- B. (a) The name of the team's Manager and Coach must be PRINTED in the space provided on the Match Sheet prior to the match.
- (b) The names shown shall be those of the Official Manager or Coach, or, in their absence, an adult person present for the match and nominated by the team or Club to carry out the duties.
- (c) One of the persons covered by (a) or (b) must sign the Match Sheet at the conclusion of the match.
- (d) For the entire match the Official or nominated Manager shall wear a distinctively coloured vest showing the Club name and the words "TEAM OFFICIAL" (or Manager) on the back in prominent lettering.
- (e) If the Manager shown on the Match Sheet is playing in the match he/she is to wear an "Association Manager" armband at all times. The Manager is required to inform the referee, the opposition Manager and the Ground Controller accordingly.
- (f) Every team must be represented by an identified official or nominated Manager for the entire period of a match.

A Manager playing in a match is NOT relieved of the duties and responsibilities of the position, particularly those covered by sub-clauses 29. B. (g) and (h).

- (g) The Manager or his/her nominee is required to exercise reasonable control over the team's players and supporters to prevent abuse and aggressive behaviour towards referees, players and spectators.
- (h) The Manager or his/her nominee is expected to assist and co-operate with the Manager of the opposing team, the referee and the Ground Controller/s to control any problems affecting the playing of the match or instances of unacceptable behaviour.

NOTE: The E.C. strongly recommends the appointment of NON PLAYER MANAGERS to all teams and Clubs are requested to make every effort to meet this objective.

- C. Should a referee at any time experience difficulty controlling the game due to interference by persons on the sideline, including abusive language, the referee may approach the team Manager/s or the Ground Controller and request them to instruct the persons to desist. If these persons persist in causing interference to the game or using foul or abusive language, the referee may stop the game and request the Ground Controller to ask these persons to leave the playing area or move to an area remote from the playing field. The referee may delay restarting the game until the problem is resolved and time lost will not be added to the playing time.
- D. Coaching from the sidelines in all divisions from Under 12 will only be permitted from within the Technical Area. Coaches and Managers, team or Club officials are not permitted to move up and down the sidelines (coaching teams) whilst games are in play.
- E. Irrespective of whatever age group, coaching from any point behind the goal line is NOT PERMITTED.

30. GROUND CONTROL

- A. All teams participating in a competition match shall nominate one (1) person (who is a responsible adult) for additional Ground Control. This person is responsible for the behaviour of their own spectators and must cooperate with the Club Ground Controllers at all times and must wear an orange Ground Control jacket.

The name of each competing team Ground Controller must be printed on the bottom of the match sheet in the space provided as per Rule 12. J.

- B. Clubs should provide a clearly designated Ground Control area where match sheets can be obtained and returned and where the Ground Controller can be located.

The Association's chart showing competition and match information must be prominently displayed at this location together with a current copy of the local Rule Book.

Clubs will be advised prior to Round 1 of the grounds allocated to them for match day control and responsibilities. The responsibilities will include all duties listed in Rule 30 for all grounds allocated.

- C. Clubs shall provide referees for Under 6, 7, 8, 9 , 10 and 11 MiniRoos games.

Ground Control is to ensure that all games start on time.

- D. Clubs shall appoint at least two (2) Ground Controllers to the Club's ground complexes, one (1) to be on duty in the vicinity of the Ground Control area and one (1) to provide control for each of the fields in use within the complex or reserve.

This arrangement will apply to all complexes where the Club has one (1) or more grounds allocated to it by the Association.

These persons must wear official orange Ground Control jackets at all times. Non-compliance with this rule will cause the Club concerned to be dealt with by the E.C.

Where both the home team and away team are playing on a ground which is not their respective Club's home ground, each team will be responsible to supply two (2) ground control persons for the duration of their game.

- E. A Club having responsibility of a ground shall for that ground:-

- (a) Ensure that each team supplies suitable footballs, properly inflated, for each Competition match.
- (b) Ensure that match sheets are available for competition matches.
- (c) Take note of all injuries reported or observed and ensure that the 'Accident Report' form has been completed accordingly.
- (d) Ensure that the playing field is properly marked with WHITE lines for full size competition matches and fit for play (with due regard to wet weather.)
- (e) Ensure that nets and flags (and sideline ropes, if possible) are in position.
- (f) Ensure that no bicycles, vehicles or any hazards are so close to the sidelines that they endanger players on the field.
- (g) Ensure that spectators do not encroach onto the playing field during matches, especially keeping the area around and behind the goalposts clear of spectators.
- (h) Ensure that all matches start on time with particular regard to the rule dealing with same.
- (i) For non-recording of team names on match sheet a fine, as set by the E.C. prior to the season, will be imposed on Ground Control and the offending team.
- (j) The referee is always responsible for the conduct on the field of play, but in all other matters pertaining to the ground, the Club should ensure that no conduct is permitted which would prove prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- (k) Ensure that NOBODY enters the field of play, including managers and coaches (e.g. to assist an injured player) until signalled to do so by the referee.
- (l) Ensure that teams are not coached by persons situated behind the goal line.

F. Ground Appointed Referees:

- (a) The Club Ground Controller is responsible for the appointment of a Ground Control Appointed Referee if an official appointed referee is not available or is not present at the scheduled time for the match to commence.
- (b) Referees must be appointed with due regard given to age, experience and ability.
- (c) Where an official referee is not present the words "Club Appointment" and the name of the referee must be printed in the appropriate space on the match sheet.
- (d) If there is no person willing to referee the scheduled match then the match will be taken as a forfeit by both teams with the normal forfeit conditions to apply.

31. RESULTS

- A. It is the duty of the Club responsible for the ground to record the results of all games played on that ground on the Association's Result Sheet. The Result Sheet is to be forwarded to the Association with the match sheets in accordance with Appendix "D". A copy of this sheet shall be retained by the Club Secretary for verification or checking purposes, if required.
- B. Such Club shall as determined by the E.C. ensure delivery of all match sheets to a place and by a time nominated from time to time by the E.C.
- C. A fine, the amount to be determined by the E.C. from time to time, may be imposed on any Club failing to comply with this rule.

NON ASSOCIATION GAMES

32. SOCIAL GAMES AND GALA DAYS

- A. Affiliated Clubs shall not arrange social games or gala days without the prior approval of the E.C.
- B. Prior approval of the Association is necessary before a Club takes part in Gala Days and Social Games.

33. PRE-SEASON GAMES

- A. The Sutherland Association must be advised prior to any team playing pre-season games within or outside the Shire.

Note: Failure to advise before the game may result in the players' insurance coverage not being available for the games played.

- B. For pre-season games played within the Shire, the organising Club must request the Association to obtain the approval of Sutherland Council for the use of the Council controlled grounds four (4) weeks prior to the game being played.

34. FOOTBALL NSW COMPETITIONS

A. Champion of Champions

- (a) In age divisions where a Champion of Champions competition is conducted, the Minor Premier of the 'A' grade competition in these age divisions will represent the SSFA in the appropriate division of the Champion of Champions competition.
- (b) For the purpose of this Rule the Minor Premier of AL1 is eligible to enter.
- (c) If a Minor Premier in the 'A' grade competition declines to enter the Champion of Champions, the position will be offered to the next highest team on the points table in that division.

B. Other Competitions – Bill Cullinan Cup, Robertson Cup and State Cup

Football NSW conducts various competitions in Mixed, Men's and Women's age divisions. The conditions of entry by Association Clubs into these competitions are:-

- (a) Each affiliated Club may nominate through the E.C. to enter these competitions.
- (b) Nominations shall be limited to one entry (one team per Club) in each competition and shall be restricted to 'A' grade teams, although they may include lower graded players within their permitted squad numbers, with the following exceptions:
 - (i) Clubs having more than one team graded 'A' in an age division may enter all their 'A' graded teams in the respective State Competitions.

- (c) All Football NSW competitions in which teams enter are conducted and governed by the rules of Football NSW.
- (d) Teams entering external competitions approved by the Association will not be granted deferrals of catch up games. Teams drawn to play in catch up games, who have not entered external competitions, will be granted one (1) deferment only, provided the request is made in writing at least five (5) days prior to the date of the scheduled game.

35. INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS GAMES

A. Interstate Games

At least one month prior to Clubs taking part in matches interstate, the club must advise the Association and forward the appropriate application forms to Football NSW for approval.

B. Overseas Games

At least two months prior to Clubs taking part in matches to be played overseas, the Club must advise the Association and forward the appropriate application forms to Football NSW for approval by Football NSW and Football Australia.

Note: Policy documents and application forms are available from the Association Office.

MISCELLANEOUS

36. REVISION OF RULES

- A. A general revision of the rules shall take place every two (2) years, the G.M. to consider such revisions shall be held during October in the years ending in an uneven number.
- B. Any Club or member of the E.C. shall be entitled to submit proposals to revise the rules, provided such proposals are submitted in accordance with directions as determined by the E.C. Such proposals shall also include an explanation as to why the change is deemed necessary.
- C. The Association will distribute to the Clubs all proposals and explanations as listed in 'B' above, at least two (2) weeks prior to the September General Meeting.
- D. All minutes that become rules after adoption to be extracted from minutes and promulgated as amendments to current Rule Book, numerically sequenced to be inserted into the Rule Book.
- E. A Special General Meeting may be called by the E.C. or by five (5) clubs to alter or amend the rules. The rules shall be altered or varied at this Special General Meeting by a simple majority of those entitled to vote; any alterations must come into effect prior to commencement of season.

37. RULE BOOK

The Rules and By-Laws of the Association shall be printed together in the same booklet.

BY-LAWS

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>PAGE NO.</u>
A.	DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES - DISCIPLINARY PANEL AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, APPEALS COMMITTEES AND PENALTIES	47 – 65
B.	PROTESTS AND DISPUTES	65
C.	FEES	65
D.	WET WEATHER	65 – 66
E.	GRADING COMMITTEE	66
F.	INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY	66
G.	ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD TROPHIES	66 – 67
H.	POINTS TABLES AND MINOR PREMIERS	67

A. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES – DISCIPLINARY PANEL AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, APPEALS COMMITTEES AND PENALTIES

1. DISCIPLINARY PANEL AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND APPEAL COMMITTEES

- (a) The Association Disciplinary, Judiciary and Appeals Committees shall be formed in accordance with Sections D.3 and D.4. of the Constitution and shall exercise the powers and duties prescribed in this Section.
- (b) The Association Disciplinary Panel shall comprise two (2) persons, at least one (1) of whom shall be a member of the E.C.
- (c) The Committees and the Panel must at all times act in good faith in accordance with the principles of natural justice and always ensure that the rights of accused parties are protected.

2. JUDICIARY COMMITTEES – MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

2.1 Program of Meetings

- (a) Judiciary Committees shall meet on Monday nights during the competition period commencing on the first Monday after Round 1 of the competition.
- (b) Additional meetings may be held as required or as directed by the E.C.

2.2 Meeting Procedures

- (a) The person or his/her authorised representative appearing before the Committee must be present throughout the entire hearing and no evidence is to be presented if he/she is not present.
- (b) For a person to act as an authorised representative of an accused person not present at the meeting, they must be authorised to appear on their behalf by:
 - (i) a letter signed by the accused
 - (ii) a telephone call from the accused to the Secretary or the Chairperson prior to the meetingor
 - (iii) under special circumstances acceptable to the Committee.
- (c) The accused person or authorised representative may:
 - (i) ask questions, but only through the Chair, not directly to another person.
 - (ii) have an official of his/her Club or team present to offer advice and observe proceedings

- (iii) present witnesses in his/her support
 - (iv) produce relevant documents, letters, written statements and photographs. Video material is not acceptable.
 - (d) The Chairperson has the right to:
 - (i) refuse permission for persons to attend the hearing and to request persons to leave the meeting at any time.
 - (ii) permit witnesses to be present only when they are presenting evidence or being questioned by the Committee.
 - (iii) call a halt to duplication or repetition of evidence or to the presentation of evidence straying outside the bounds of the case before the Committee.
 - (e) No member of the Judiciary Committee may leave the room whilst evidence is being taken without the permission of the Chairperson.
 - (f) A person under the age of eighteen (18) appearing before a Judiciary Committee should be accompanied by a parent or carer or an adult member of his/her Club. For a serious offence, the Judiciary Committee may rule that a hearing will be deferred until a suitable representative is present and, if appropriate, impose a suspension pending the deferred hearing.
 - (g) A Judiciary Committee hearing may be deferred to a later date if the Committee is of the opinion that additional evidence in the form of reports or the attendance of referees and/or witnesses are required before the matter can be satisfactorily finalised.
- The Committee may rule on the player's eligibility to play or an official's eligibility to carry out their duties pending completion of the hearing.
- (h) Players, officials or other persons guilty of disrespect, abuse or violence to members of the Judiciary Committee shall be dealt with as the Committee deems appropriate.
 - (i) Upon announcing the decision of the Committee, the appellants shall be advised of the rights and procedures for appeals against the decision.
 - (j) The Chairperson shall report all findings to the next meeting of the E.C.

3. **APPEALS AGAINST JUDICIARY COMMITTEE DECISIONS**

Appeals against Judiciary Committee decisions shall be conducted in accordance with Section D. 5. of the Constitution.

3.1 **Appeals by Players**

- (a) Except for circumstances covered by (b) and (c) of this clause, players may appeal against a decision of the Judiciary Committee. The appeal must be delivered to the Association Office within two (2) working days of the date of the decision by the Judiciary Committee (see Clause A.3.3 for Appeal Fees)
- (b)
 - (i) There shall be no right of appeal should a player not appear before a Judiciary Committee unless an application for deferment of the hearing has been received by the Committee prior to the meeting.
 - (ii) The E.C. may grant a late appeal by a player under special circumstances.
- (c) No appeals are permitted for mandatory suspensions resulting from the accumulation of cautions received during matches or against the mandatory one (1) match suspension applying to all send offs.

3.2 **Appeals by Clubs and Officials**

Appeals by Clubs and officials against sanctions, fines and suspensions imposed by a Judiciary Committee will be heard by an Appeals Committee. Appeals must be in writing, endorsed by the Secretary, President or Treasurer of the Club and delivered to the Association Office within seven (7) days of the date of the decision of the Judiciary Committee.

3.3 **Appeal Fees**

- (a) An appeal fee, as determined by the E.C. from time to time, will be invoiced to the club on lodgement of such appeal
- (b) Up to 50% of the appeal fee may be refunded at the discretion of the Appeals Committee. Only under special circumstances will an appeal fee be refunded in full.

3.4 **Grounds for Appeals**

- (a) The grounds for all appeals against suspensions or sanctions imposed by Judiciary Committees against players, clubs or officials are:-
 - (i) Severity of Sentence
 - (ii) New evidence not presented at the Judiciary Committee hearing

- (iii) Evidence improperly dealt with by the Judiciary Committee
 - (iv) Unfair treatment of the player, Club or official(s)
- (b) The letter of appeal must clearly state:
 - (i) The decision the player, Club or official is appealing against.
 - (ii) Which of the grounds shown in (a) (i) to (iv) are being used, either alone or in combination, for the appeal.

3.5 **Program for Meetings of Appeals Hearings**

Appeals shall be heard by an Appeals Committee as follows:

- (a) Appeals Committee – before the player’s next scheduled game, if possible.
- (b) In special circumstances the E.C. or President may request an urgent Appeals Committee hearing be conducted.

3.6 **Procedures for Appeals Meeting**

- (a) Appeals against Judiciary Committee decisions shall be conducted by an Appeals Committee as prescribed in Clause A.3. 3.1 to 3.6.
- (b) The Judiciary Committee must be represented at an Appeal Hearing but must leave the meeting after the completion of submissions to the Appeals Committee.
- (c) The appellants and their Club must be present throughout the hearing and no evidence may be presented to the Committee if they are not present.
- (d) The appellants and their Club may:
 - (i) ask questions, but only through the Chair, not directly to another person.
 - (ii) present witnesses in support
 - (iii) produce documents, letters, written statements and photographs but video material is not acceptable.
- (e) The Chairperson has the right to:
 - (i) refuse permission for any person to attend the meeting.
 - (ii) request any person to leave the meeting at any time during the hearing.

- (iii) permit witnesses to be present only when they are presenting evidence or being questioned by the Committee.
- (iv) rule on the acceptance or relevance of any documents presented, in part (d) (iii).
- (v) call a halt to the giving of evidence if deemed to be repetitious or straying outside the bounds of the case before the Committee or the grounds for the appeal as stated in the appeal notification.
- (f) No member of the Committee may leave the room whilst evidence is being taken without the permission of the Chairperson.
- (g) A hearing may be deferred to a later date if the Committee decides that additional evidence or witnesses are required before the matter can be satisfactorily finalised.

If deferred, the Committee may rule on a player's eligibility to play or official's eligibility to carry out their duties pending completion of the hearing.

- (h) The Chairperson or another member of the Judiciary Committee, who was a member of the Judiciary Committee when the decision was made, must be present at the appeal hearing. In addition, the referee, assistant referee and other persons who submitted reports to the Judiciary Committee will be requested to appear. If unavailable they may be requested for a telephone conference during the hearing if deemed necessary. A member of the S.S.F.R.A. Committee is also permitted to attend.

All persons appearing at the Appeal Hearing must leave before the Committee considers its decision on the appeal.

- (i) Players, officials and other persons guilty of disrespect, abuse or violence to members of the Committee during or after a hearing shall be dealt with by the Committee.
- (j) Upon announcing the decision of the Committee, the appellants shall be advised of the rights and procedures for appeals against the decision.
- (k) The Chairperson shall report all findings to the next meeting of the E.C.

3.7 **Appeals to Governing Body in N.S.W.**

Further appeals against Appeals Committee decisions must be directed to the governing body for Football in NSW. That body will only accept appeals after all Association appeals procedures have been followed and finalised. Clubs should contact the Association Office for procedures to be followed to appeal to Football NSW.

SEND OFFS – DISCIPLINARY/JUDICIARY PROCEDURES AND APPLICATION OF PENALTIES

4.1 General Information

- (a) In the first instance, Referees and Assistant Referees reports dealing with player send offs will be referred to the Disciplinary Panel for action as considered necessary. See Clause A.4.3 for Disciplinary Panels powers and procedures.
- (b)
 - (i) A Disciplinary Panel or Committee shall not make a decision or conduct a hearing into the sending off of a player or team official expelled in the absence of a written report from the officiating referee or assistant referee.
 - (ii) If the Association Judiciary Committee or Disciplinary Panel is advised or becomes aware of a player send off or of a team official being expelled from the field but a covering referee's report has not been received, the Judiciary Committee or Disciplinary Panel may, after verbal confirmation of the send off or expulsion has been provided by the referee or the player's or team official's Club, impose a one (1) match suspension on the player or team official.

No additional suspension can be imposed until a written report is received from the referee or Club and a Judiciary Committee hearing has been conducted.

- (c) A player sent from the field for receiving two (2) cautions during the same game shall be automatically suspended for one (1) competition match and is not entitled to a hearing before a Judiciary Committee or to appeal against the suspension except under Clause A.4.8 – Mistaken Identity.
- (d) A player or team official sent or expelled from the field shall not take part in a competition match, Association or State, until his/her case has been considered by a Disciplinary Panel or Judiciary Committee of the Association.
- (e) The I.D. card of a player sent from the field of play during a match must be handed to the referee by a team or Club official at the completion of the match. Failure to deliver the I.D. card to the referee will result in a fine against the Club.

Note: The referee is NOT required to approach a team to obtain the I.D. card of a player sent off during the match.

- (f) A player sent or a team official expelled from the field of play whose team is drawn to play MORE THAN ONE (1) COMPETITION GAME before the next scheduled Judiciary Committee meeting may request a hearing PRIOR TO THE SECOND GAME.

The hearing may only be requested in writing by an Executive member of the player's or team official's Club and must be received by the E.C. or Association Office in sufficient time to permit a Special Judiciary Committee meeting to be arranged. The Judiciary Committee hearing will be conducted after the one (1) match suspension has been served.

4.2 **Reports and Evidence Available to Judiciary Committees**

- (a) Information to be considered by a Judiciary Committee when determining the appropriate action following the sending off to a player or team official expelled may comprise:
 - (i) The reports of the officiating Referee and Assistant Referees.
 - (ii) Evidence presented to a hearing by persons invited, requested or cited to appear at the hearing, including persons appearing with the player or team official.
 - (iii) Written witness reports received prior to the hearing from persons who were present at the match. Verbal reports are not acceptable.

The Committee shall decide if such reports are acceptable evidence.

Persons providing reports must be prepared to appear at the Judiciary Committee hearing to support their report if requested.

- (b) Reports under (a) (iii) accepted by the Committee shall be listed in the minutes and will be tabled at the next Judiciary Committee meeting.

These reports will be available to the player prior to the next meeting as prescribed in Clause A.4.6 – Availability of Referees Reports and Witness Reports.

4.3 **Disciplinary Panel – Powers and Procedures**

- a) The Disciplinary Panel (D.P.) shall consist of two (2) persons, one (1) as a minimum will be a current Executive Committee Member.
- b) The Panel will receive all Referees and Assistant Referees Send Off Reports, including Incident Reports relating to an additional offence committed by a player after being sent off or team official expelled by the officiating referee.

The D.P. shall have the power to take action as follows:

- (i) Impose suspensions from one (1) to six (6) matches per offence in accordance with the chart of Suspensions in Clause A.6.2 and 6.3 if the offence is a B7 or B8.
- (ii) When considering Incident Reports as referred to in sub-clause (b) above, the Panel may impose penalties for each offence i.e. for the send off offence and the reported offence following the send off.

- (iii) For each offence the Panel considers may justify a suspension greater than six (6) matches, refer the matter to a Judiciary Committee for determination.
- (iv) Receive reports for “double yellow” caution send offs and confirm the mandatory one (1) match suspension or, if necessary, refer them to a Judiciary Committee.
- (v) Players, player representatives or Club officials are NOT permitted to attend meetings of the Disciplinary Panel.
- (vi) The decisions of the Panel shall be reported in Minutes within two (2) days of the Panel meeting, including the Send Off Code (R1 to R7) and the “Level of Offence” adopted by the Panel based on the Referees send off and incident report – see Clause A.4.4 for players and team officials rights re Panel’s decisions.

NOTE: CLUBS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING PLAYERS OR TEAM OFFICIAL’S OF THE DECISION AND FOR ADVICE TO THE PLAYER OR TEAM OFFICIAL OF HIS/HER RIGHTS RE THE DECISION

4.4 Disciplinary Panel Decisions – Players & Team Officials Rights

Following the handing down of a decision by the Panel a player and a team official may take action as follows:

- (a) (i) Challenge the decision by requesting a hearing before a Judiciary Committee.
- (ii) A challenge must be in writing or by email to the Association Office and be received by 3.00 pm on the THURSDAY of the week of the Panel’s decision. Unless advised otherwise by the Association, players or team official submitting a challenge should automatically appear at the Judiciary Committee Meeting at 7.00 pm on the Monday following submission of the challenge.
- (iii) A player or team official challenging a Panel decision shall retain the right to appeal against the Judiciary Committee decision.
- (iv) If the Panel imposes separate suspensions for a send off and for a second offence after the send off, see Clause A.4.3 (b), a player or team official may challenge one or both Panel decisions.
- (v) If, having advised of a challenge, a player or team official fails to appear before the Judiciary Committee without requesting a deferment of the hearing, the Committee will confirm the Panel’s decision without reduction and the player or team official will lose the right of appeal.

- (b) (i) If a player or team official does not challenge the Disciplinary Panel's decision the penalty imposed by the Panel will be automatically reduced by one (1) match and the matter will be considered to be finalised. This also applies to a non-challenge of one decision as per Clause A.4.4 (a) (iv) above, but for combined penalties applying to a single send off only a one (1) match reduction will apply to the full penalty imposed.
- (ii) The player or team official will not then have the right to challenge or appeal the Panels decision.
- (iii) A player or team official is not required to formally advise the Association of their decision not to challenge the Panel's ruling. The failure to submit a challenge by the player in accordance with Clause A.4.4 (a) (ii) above will be regarded as acceptance of the Panel's decision and the one (1) match reduction in the penalty will be applied.

4.5 **Multiple Send Offs**

- (a) Where two or more players or team officials are sent off by a Referee for involvement in a single incident e.g. violent conduct, the Referee's Reports for the send offs of all players or team officials involved will be dealt with jointly by the Disciplinary Panel in accordance with Clause A.4.3.
- (b) If the Panel decides that the players or team officials may have been involved at differing levels of responsibility, possibly justifying varying penalties, the reports will be forwarded to the Judiciary Committee for appropriate action.
- (c) If the Judiciary Committee cites players or team officials to attend a hearing into the incident and all players or team officials cited do not appear, the Committee may, depending on the circumstances, conduct a hearing for those players who do attend as cited.

4.6 **Availability of Referees Reports and Witness Reports**

Prior to a Club, Club official, team official or player appearing before a Judiciary hearing, copies of relevant reports may be obtained by Club officials or players or team officials at the Association Office during office hours or, if requested, by email or fax to the Club Secretary only. Copies will not be forwarded directly to the player or team official or another person or Club representative.

Reports are also available, as above, to players or team officials considering a "challenge" as permitted by Clause A.4.4 (a)

4.7 **Application of Penalties**

- (a)
 - (i) All players sent from the field of play (red card) by a Referee for breaches covered by R1 to R7 of the send off chart shall serve a MANDATORY ONE (1) MATCH SUSPENSION.
 - (ii) A team official who is expelled from the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitute's bench by a Referee for failing to conduct themselves in a responsible manner must serve a MANDATORY ONE (1) MATCH SUSPENSION.
 - (iii) The player or team official shall NOT have the right to challenge or appeal against this suspension except on the grounds of Mistaken Identity – See Clause 4.8.
 - (iv) The mandatory one (1) match suspension will be included in any longer period of suspension imposed by the Disciplinary Panel or Judiciary Committee.
- (b) A Disciplinary Panel or Judiciary Committee will review Referees reports of send offs and take action.
- (c) All decisions of the Disciplinary Panel or Judiciary Committee shall remain in force unless reversed or amended by an Appeals Committee.

4.8 **Mistaken Identity**

Protests by players against send offs (red cards), and cautions (yellow cards) or by team officials for expulsion on the basis of “mistaken identity” will be heard by a Judiciary Committee on the following conditions:

- (a) The protest must be submitted in writing to the Association by the player's or team official's Club by 12.00 noon on the day of the next scheduled Judiciary Committee meeting.
- (b) Protests will be heard at the next scheduled meeting of the Judiciary Committee.
- (c) Attendance at the hearing shall comprise:
 - (i) An official of the Club
 - (ii) The player or team official protesting the Referee's decision
 - (iii) The player or team official who actually committed the offence resulting in the send off or caution.
- (d) The decision of the Judiciary Committee will be final unless under special circumstances the E.C. grants an appeal against the Judiciary Committee's decision.

- (e) An appeal shall be heard by the A.C. at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee (see Clause A.3.5 (b) re urgent A.C. hearings)

4.9 **State Run Competitions – Special Procedures**

Players sent off or team officials expelled from the field of play in State Run Competitions will be subject to the Judiciary procedures of the organising body and as outlined in the Rules of the particular competition.

4.10 **Abandoned and Nullified Matches – Send Offs and Suspensions.**

- (a) If a match is abandoned for any reason by a Referee; an authorised Club official; or an Association representative:
 - (i) Players sent off or a team official expelled from the field of play during the match or during the time the match is under the jurisdiction of the Referee shall be dealt with by a Disciplinary Panel or Judiciary Committee in accordance with Clause A.4.1 and 4.3.
 - (ii) For players or a team official under suspension, the abandoned match shall be included in the matches served under the suspension, provided the match has commenced.
- (b) If the result of a completed match is nullified by a decision of the E.C. or Judiciary Committee the rulings covered by Clause A.4.10 (a) (i) and (ii) shall apply.

5. **CAUTIONS – ASSOCIATION AND STATE COMPETITIONS**

5.1 **Association Competitions**

- (a) Caution Reports from referees must be delivered to the Association Office by 7.30 pm on the Monday following the match - for midweek matches by 7.30 pm on the day after the match.
- (b) Clubs cannot appeal against cautions with the exception of mistaken identity.

Appeals or protests against cautions on this basis will be carried out in accordance with Clause A.4.8.
- (c) Players will be automatically suspended for cautions received during a season as follows:

5 cautions	1 match suspension
Additional 3 cautions	2 match suspension
Additional 1 caution	Player cited to appear before Judiciary Committee

All additional cautions
after nine (9)

Further citings to Judiciary Committee

- (d) No appeals against the suspensions imposed in Clause A.5.1 (c) are permitted.
- (e)
 - (i) Cautions accumulated in the competition rounds prior to the semi finals, finals and grand finals shall be cancelled prior to the commencement of the finals series of matches.
 - (ii) Suspensions resulting from cautions received in the last competition round will stand and must be served before a player plays any further matches.
- (f) Accumulated cautions received in semi finals, finals or grand finals will incur penalties as shown in Clause A.5.1 (c) above.
- (g) Cautions accumulated during a season do not carry over to the following season.

5.2 **State Competitions**

Cautions received in State Competitions will be covered by the Rules of that competition and will not be added to the list of cautions recorded against the player for Association competitions.

6. **SUSPENSIONS APPLYING TO OFFENCES BY PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS DURING COMPETITION MATCHES**

6.1 **General Information**

- (a) Suspensions for offences committed during competition matches will be imposed in accordance with the appropriate schedules as follows:
 - (i) Section A – Offences by players against players or other persons – See Clause A.6.2
 - (ii) Section B – Offences by players and team officials against match officials See Clause A.6.3
 - (iii) Section C – Other offences by players and team officials – See Clause A.6.4
 - (iv) In some circumstances where the Disciplinary Panel or Judiciary Committee deem appropriate, sentences imposed may be varied from those listed.
- (b) The term “players” includes current registered team members, players borrowed by the team in accordance with the Association Rules (Rule 16) and any ineligible or unauthorised player taking part in the match.

- (c) Team officials include coaches, assistant coaches and managers and other persons clearly directing or assisting the team during matches.
- (d) When imposing a penalty:
 - (i) The Disciplinary Panel (D.P.) shall consider only referee's reports to place the offence within the category from R1 to R7, determine the appropriate Level within that category and impose a penalty as shown in Section 'A', or if the offence is against a match official a B7 or B8 as shown in Section 'B'. In cases involving player from Under 14 competitions and lower (U11, U12, U13 and U14) where the D.P., at it's discretion, may consider written reports from the player's Club which are to be delivered to the Association Office by 10.00 am Monday following the matches.
 - (ii) The Judiciary Committee (J.C.) shall consider all referee's reports and also written and verbal reports accepted by the J.C. by persons appearing by invitation, citing or request.
 - (iii) When considering a challenge to a D.P. decision, the J.C. may amend the offence category and level and increase or decrease the penalty imposed by the D.P.
- (e) The offences listed under Sections B and C shall always be referred directly to the Judiciary Committee by the Disciplinary Panel or Executive Committee. The exception being a penalty shown as a B7 or B8 in Section 'B' which may be imposed by the Disciplinary Panel for a player send off.
- (f) Any player "sent off" or team official "expelled" from the field by the Referee during a match or during the time the referee is in control of the match and the players, shall receive a MANDATORY ONE (1) MATCH SUSPENSION.

This suspension shall be included in any subsequent suspension imposed by the Disciplinary Panel, Judiciary Committee or Appeals Committee – See Clause A.4.7

6.2 **Suspensions – Section A**
Offences by Players and/or Team Official's Against Players and Other Persons

- Notes:
1. To be used by the Disciplinary Panel and the Judiciary Committee to determine appropriate penalties for the offences listed in Section A.
 2. The Disciplinary Panel may impose a penalty up to a maximum of six (6) matches for each offence (e.g. R1 and R6). More serious incidents to be referred to the Judiciary Committee.
 3. The “Range of Offences” shows the full range of suspensions recommended by FFA and Football NSW for the particular offence within the R1 to R7 Send Off Codes.

R1 – SERIOUS FOUL PLAY (FFA SEND OFF CODE)		
CHALLENGING FOR THE BALL IN PLAY Illegal contact with the legs or body using moderate to excessive force with a possibility of causing injury, including violent charging and over the ball tackles RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS FOR R1 – SERIOUS FOUL PLAY 3 matches to 12 matches		
LEVEL 1 <i>3 match suspension</i>	LEVEL 2 <i>4 match suspension</i>	LEVEL 3 <i>5 or 6 match suspension</i>
Mistimed, careless late tackle or body charge from any direction with minor risk of causing injury	Strong, reckless tackle or body charge with a high risk of causing injury to the opponent	Using excessive to extreme force and showing disregard for the safety of an opponent

R2 – VIOLENT CONDUCT (FFA SEND OFF CODE)		
NOT CHALLENGING FOR BALL Off the ball tackle or incident involving striking, kicking, elbowing or head butting, either on or off the field, against an opponent, team mate or any other person. Involvement in a brawl or melee or running in to join a melee causing the incident to escalate but <u>not</u> if attempting to prevent a fight or shield a player RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS FOR R2 – VIOLENT CONDUCT 3 matches to 2 years		
LEVEL 1 <i>3 match suspension</i>	LEVEL 2 <i>4 match suspension</i>	LEVEL 3 or LEVEL 4 <i>5 or 6 match suspension</i>
Striking once or twice to the body or head or pushing with moderate force. Maybe in retaliation or after provocation. Minor involvement in a melee or brawl.	One or more strikes to the head or body, including kicking, using strong force with clear risk of causing injury. Elbowing to the head. Running in to become involved in a melee or brawl	Level 3 – Striking in any way including kicking or stomping with very strong force, including head butting, showing an obvious intent to cause harm or injury. Level 4 – Striking with strong and/or brutal force. Very aggressive and ongoing involvement in a brawl or melee

R3 – SPITTING AT A PLAYER, ANOTHER PERSON (FFA SEND OFF CODE)
ANY ACT OF SPITTING AT OR ONTO A PLAYER OR OTHER PERSON RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS FOR R3 – SPITTING 6 matches to 1 year
LEVEL 1 <i>6 match suspension</i>
Spits at an opponent or any other person
VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES UNDER R3 WILL ALWAYS BE REFERRED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

R6 – OFFENSIVE OR DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE OR GESTURES (FFA SEND OFF CODE)		
USE OF OFFENSIVE, INSULTING, INDECENT, DISCRIMINATORY OR RACIST LANGUAGE OR GESTURES, INCLUDING RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC OR SEXIST REMARKS		
RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS FOR R6 – OFFENSIVE CONDUCT 2 matches to 20 matches		
LEVEL 1 <i>2 match suspension</i>	LEVEL 2 <i>3 match suspension</i>	LEVEL 3, 4 OR 5 <i>4, 5 or 6 match suspension</i>
One or two words or gestures carrying minor offence, possibly in frustration or in response to provocation. Minor offensive, but not insulting words to a match official. Minor act of spitting but not at an opponent or any other person.		Strong to very strong offensive, insulting or abusive words, gestures or actions, including discriminatory, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist remarks. The assessed level to depend on the wording and descriptions provided in the Referee’s Report.
VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES UNDER R6 WILL ALWAYS BE REFERRED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE		

R4 – DENY A GOAL SCORING OPPORTUNITY BY DELIBERATE HANDBALL (FFA SEND OFF CODE) R5 – DENY A GOAL SCORING OPPORTUNITY BY A FREE KICK OFFENCE e.g. tripping, holding, impeding (FFA SEND OFF CODE) R7 – SECOND CAUTION DURING A MATCH (FFA SEND OFF CODE)
ALL INCUR A MANDATORY (1) MATCH SUSPENSION

6.3 **Suspensions – Section B - Offences by Players and Team Officials against Match Officials (Referees and Assistant Referees)**

<u>OFFENCE CODES</u>	<u>OFFENCE</u>	<u>MINIMUM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u>
B.1	Threatening or intimidating a match official by word or action	12 matches	Life
B. 2	Tripping a match official	1 year	Life
B. 3	Pushing with open hand, shoulder or hip	1 year	Life
B. 4	Striking with ball or other object	1 year	Life
B. 5	Punching, kicking, elbowing or head butting	Life	Life
B. 6	Spitting	8 matches	Life
B. 7	Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language	4 matches	12 matches
B. 8	Making offensive, insulting or abusive gestures	4 matches	20 matches
B. 9	Using racial or discriminatory language or gestures	6 matches	1 year

6.4 **Suspensions – Section C - Other Offences by Players and Team Officials**

<u>OFFENCE CODES</u>	<u>OFFENCE</u>	<u>MINIMUM</u>	<u>MAXIMUM</u>
C.1	Inciting the crowd	10 matches	6 years
C. 2	Attacking or fighting with spectators	1 year	Life
C. 3	Bringing the game into disrepute	6 matches	Life
C. 4	Deliberately misleading the D.P/J.C.	10 matches	2 years
C. 5	Spitting at or onto spectators	8 matches	Life
C. 6	Initiating or encouraging a breach of the competition rules	3 months	5 years
C. 7	Abusing or insulting an Association or Club Official	4 matches	Life
C. 8	Playing or carrying out team duties when under suspension (Additional to original suspension)	4 matches	8 matches

6.5 **Playing or Participating Prior to a Disciplinary/Judiciary Decision**

A player sent off or a team official expelled during an Association competition match or cited to appear before the Judiciary Committee shall **NOT** participate in any competition match, Association or State, until the player's or team official's case has been dealt with by the Disciplinary Panel or Judiciary Committee and a decision recorded.

6.6 **Serving Suspensions**

- (a) A suspended player or team official shall **NOT** participate in any competition match conducted by an organisation affiliated with Football NSW or the FFA during a period of suspension.
- (b)
 - (i) All decisions by the Disciplinary Panel shall remain in force unless challenged and varied by the Judiciary Committee – see Clause A. 4.4 (a) and (b).
 - (ii) All decisions of the Judiciary Committee shall remain in force unless reversed or amended by an Appeals Committee.
- (c) Suspensions not fully served at the completion of a season shall carry over to the following or subsequent seasons as follows:
 - (i) For a suspension of a specific number of matches, the outstanding matches will be served from the first competition match after the player's registration has been accepted by the Association.
 - (ii) For suspensions for a period of time or to a particular date, the suspension is deemed served at the conclusion of the period or at the date specified without the need for the player to register.
- (d) Suspensions received whilst playing or participating in competitions controlled by an organisation or association affiliated with Football NSW or Football Federation of Australia (FFA) must be served in an approved competition before the player or team official can participate in Association competitions.
- (e) Suspensions do not include byes, forfeits by the player's or team official's own team, deferred or cancelled matches or non-competition matches. Forfeits by opposing teams are included in a period of suspension.

7. **REQUESTED OR CITED TO APPEAR**

- 7.1 The E.C. or the Judiciary Committees may request or cite Clubs, officials or players to appear before them as part of investigations into reports or other matters under investigation, including appeals against Judiciary Committee decisions.

7.2 **Requested to Appear**

- (a) The Committees may request Clubs, Officials or players to appear at hearings for reasons as follows:
 - (i) The Club, officials or players have been mentioned in a written report received from a referee, a Club or a member of the E.C. regarding an event or incident justifying investigation by the Association.

Verbal reports will not be accepted.
 - (ii) The Committee has reason to believe that the Club, official or player may be able to assist the Committee to reach a fair and reasonable decision regarding a matter under investigation.
 - (iii) A player sent from the field by a referee for receiving a second caution during the same game and reported in writing by the referee for committing a further offence after being sent off.
- (b) The request shall be advised in writing stating the reason for the request.
- (c) Attendance when requested is essential to ensure a speedy completion of a hearing and requests for deferment of attendance must be in writing to the Association advising the reasons.
- (d) Clubs, officials or players failing to appear after a request without prior advice may be “cited” to appear before the Committee.

7.3 **Cited to Appear**

- (a) The Committees may cite Clubs, officials or players to appear at hearings for reasons as follows:
 - (i) Clubs, officials or players failing to appear after being “requested” to attend a hearing.
 - (ii) Players sent from the field during a match have failed to appear before a Judiciary Committee and the Committee wishes to impose a penalty greater than the recommended minimum penalty in accordance with Clause A. 6.1 (a) and (b).
- (b) The citing shall be confirmed in writing stating the reason for the citing.
- (c) For Clubs, officials and players “cited to appear” attendance is compulsory.
- (d) Should a person fail to appear after being cited, the Judiciary Committee shall be empowered to either determine in absentia or suspend the player or official to such time as they appear before the Judiciary Committee.
- (e) Requests for deferment must be in writing to the Association clearly stating the reason for the inability to attend at the date and time specified.

- (f) Only under special circumstances will more than one deferment of seven (7) days be granted.
- (g) If non-attendance occurs on the deferred hearing date, the Judiciary Committee may conduct a hearing based on the information available and decide appropriate action or penalty without further advice to the Club or persons involved.

7.4 **Availability of Reports by Clubs**

If the E.C. or Judiciary Committee requests a written report from a Club regarding an incident involving more than one Club, the reports received shall not be made available to any other Club before being tabled for consideration by the appropriate Association Committee.

B. PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

- (a) These shall be dealt with by the JUDICIARY COMMITTEE via Item "F" of the Constitution.
- (b) Any appeal against J.C decision shall be accompanied by the fee set from time to time by the E.C.

C. FEES

Fees shall be as determined by the E.C. from time to time.

D. WET WEATHER

- (a) A ground can only be re-opened by the authority which closed it or a higher authority as listed in the order shown in Appendix "C" in the Rule Book.
- (b) Individual matches on 'Open Grounds' may be called off at the discretion of the referee, or, in the absence of an official referee, by the Ground Controller.
- (c) In the event of inclement weather developing Friday night or Saturday morning (Saturday night or Sunday morning for Sunday football) procedure as set down by SSFA will be followed. On no account will Ground Controllers close grounds without the sanction of the SSFA or their nominee. Games drawn for 12.01 p.m. and later shall be considered on and all teams must appear at the ground drawn prior to the appointed time of the match.
- (d) Should the Sutherland Council permit the Association to use its discretion re use of grounds for competition, the Association will nominate the grounds that are to be used. ALL other grounds are to remain closed and must not be opened or used in any way by Clubs. Failure to comply with this By-Law will render the Club concerned a penalty as decided by the E.C. At the completion of the days play, Clubs will be responsible to see that the "Ground Closed" sign is down or uncovered.

- (e) Ground Closed also forbids use by any Club and/or team for training sessions. Any Club contravening the above could be liable to a penalty as laid down in the By-Laws of Sutherland Shire Council or by the E.C.

E. GRADING COMMITTEE

- (a) The Grading Committee shall be elected each year by the E.C.
- (b) The Grading Committee shall examine all teams' submissions for any age group and decide their suitability for grading in that age group.
- (c) The Grading Committee shall notify all affiliated Clubs their recommendations as to the grading of teams nominated and shall specify the period in which protests shall be considered. Any such protest shall be considered by the E.C. whose decision will be final.

F. INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

The use of buckets and sponges at matches under the jurisdiction of SSFA is prohibited.

G. ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD TROPHY

- (a) Trophies shall be awarded to members of the MOST IMPROVED TEAMS in each division, up to and including U/16. These shall be determined by subtracting the first round competition points from the second round competition points. The team showing the most positive difference shall receive the award.
- (b) If two or more teams have equal positive results the winner of the award shall be such of these teams with the best positive improvement in goal difference, e.g. a team with 10 goals for and 20 goals against in the first round games will have a goal difference of -10, should it in the second round games score 15 goals for and concede 20 goals against, it will have a goal difference of -5 for that round. The improvement for that team will be +5. Where the teams concerned each have a negative result comparing the difference, the winner will be the team with the least negative result. Where all results are still equal, the team with the best positive improvement in goals "for" difference shall be declared the winner.
- (c) Where more than two rounds are played, the competition points of the first and second rounds will be compared with the competition points of the second and third rounds.
- (d) Encouragement Award Trophies shall only be awarded to Under 12 to Under 16 competitions inclusive.
- (e) In a 6 or 8 team competition, the half round shall be disregarded and the rules as paragraph (a) above shall apply.
- (f) Teams promoted and downgraded shall have the points referred to in Rule 20 (E) used as the basis of Improvers Points.

H. POINTS TABLES AND MINOR PREMIER

- (a) Points tables for all competition grades will be published regularly during the season showing teams in order of the points scored for games played.
- (b) If teams are level on points scored, the position on the points table will be determined by “Goal Difference” as defined in Rule 21.
- (c) At the end of the second round of the competition, or on the date the E.C. rules that the competition shall end, the team with the highest aggregate points shall be declared the Minor Premier. In the event of teams finishing level on highest aggregate points, the team with the best goal difference, calculated as described in Rule 21 shall be declared the Minor Premier.
- (d) A points table of “wins, losses and draws” for each team in the Under 10 division will be distributed to Clubs once per season during November each year for grading purposes for the following year.

APPENDIX 'A'

GROUND	LOCATION	TELEPHONE
ANZAC OVAL	ANZAC AVENUE, ENGADINE	9520 – 2386
BILLA ROAD	BILLA ROAD, BANGOR	0449 924 313
BOX ROAD	BOX ROAD, SYLVANIA HEIGHTS	9522 – 4087
BOYS TOWN	WARATAH ROAD, ENGADINE	9545 – 5576
BUCKLE	BARNES CRES. (off Hall Dr.) MENAI	9543 – 2587
BUNDEENA	BUNDEENA DRIVE, BUNDEENA (opp Fire Station)	0422 490 743
CANBERRA ROAD	CANBERRA ROAD, SYLVANIA	9522 – 0800
CAROL AVENUE	CAROL AVENUE, JANNALI	
CASUARINA	CASUARINA DRIVE, ALFORDS POINT	9543 – 2587
COACHWOOD DRIVE	COACHWOOD DRIVE, ALFORDS POINT	
DOBELL ROAD	DOBELL ROAD, ENGADINE	9520 – 6956
FOREST ROAD	FOREST ROAD, KIRRAWEE	9521 – 1233
GRAYS POINT	ANGLE ROAD, GRAYS POINT	9524 – 5729
GLENN McGRATH	OFF WILLARONG ROAD, CARINGBAH	9542 – 7216
GYMEA BAY	CNR.AVENAL & GYMEA BAY RDS. GYMEA	9525 – 1516
HARRIE DENING F.C.	BATES DRIVE, KAREELA	9542 – 3577
HEATHCOTE	WILSON PARADE, HEATHCOTE	9520 – 3918
JANNALI	SUTHERLAND ROAD, JANNALI	9528 – 3519
KAREELA	PRINCES HIGHWAY, KIRRAWEE	9521 – 8780
KINGSWOOD ROAD	KINGSWOOD ROAD, ENGADINE	9548 – 1159
LAKEWOOD CITY	COOLIDGE CRESCENT, BONNET BAY	9528 – 2838
LILLI PILLI	PORT HACKING ROAD, LILLI PILLI	9526 – 1958
LOFTUS	PRINCES HIGHWAY, LOFTUS	9521 – 8528
NORTH CARINGBAH	DIANELLA STREET, CARINGBAH	9524 – 4914
OYSTER BAY	OYSTER BAY ROAD, OYSTER BAY	9528 – 4949
PORT HACKING HIGH	WANDELLA ROAD, MIRANDA	
PRINCE EDWARD PARK	PRINCE EDWARD PK ROAD, WORONORA	
PRESTON PARK	ENGADINE AVENUE, ENGADINE	9520 – 5610
SEYMOUR SHAW 1	THE BOULEVARDE, MIRANDA	
SEYMOUR SHAW 2, 3, 4	CENTRAL ROAD, MIRANDA	9524 – 3907
SOLANDER	CAPTAIN COOK DRIVE, WOOLLOOWARE	9523 – 9447
SUTHERLAND	GRAND PARADE, SUTHERLAND	9521 – 1681
THE RIDGE 1 & 2	OFF NEW ILLAWARRA RD. BARDEN RIDGE	0424 532 071
THE RIDGE 3, 4, 5, 9	OFF NEW ILLAWARRA RD. BARDEN RIDGE	0478 108 356
WARATAH PARK	RAWSON AVENUE, SUTHERLAND	9521 – 6694
WOOLLOOWARE	CNR. KINGSWAY & WOOLLOOWARE RD. W'WARE	9523 – 8172
WOOLLOOWARE HIGH	WOOLLOOWARE ROAD NTH, WOOLLOOWARE	
WORONORA HEIGHTS	WILLAROO AVENUE, WORONORA HTS	9545 – 5576
5 SPORTS CARINGBAH	ENDEAVOUR HIGH SCHOOL	9540 - 6555
	THE BOULEVARDE, CARINGBAH	

APPENDIX 'B'

GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH DISTURBANCES ON GROUNDS

FIELD INVASIONS, UNRULY BEHAVIOUR, UNAUTHORISED USE AND DELIBERATE DAMAGE

For grounds allocated to the Association and Clubs the initial control of incidents listed above rests with the Home Clubs and the Sutherland Association. Grounds are allocated to the Association who in turn allocate them to Clubs as “home” grounds or shared grounds.

The Home Clubs have a major role to play in the control of and the reporting of all activities listed above.

FIELD INVASIONS AND UNRULY BEHAVIOUR

Field invasions and unruly behaviour by players, officials or spectators or other persons resulting in disruption of a match and violence or threatened violence MUST BE ACTED UPON IMMEDIATELY.

The Association requires the Home Club to initiate action by the Ground Control and Club and team officials. Officials of the visiting team should also provide assistance to the Home Club officials in order to bring the situation under control as quickly as possible.

DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL THE POLICE IF A SITUATION THREATENS TO GET OUT OF HAND OR IF THERE IS VIOLENCE OR THREATENED VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS

TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR POLICE ATTENDANCE ARE:

SUTHERLAND	9542-0899 (South and West)
MIRANDA	9541-3899 (East and North)

Do **NOT** ring 000

Following any incidents covered by this heading, BOTH CLUBS should IMMEDIATELY carry out a full investigation and take appropriate action under the Club's Code of Conduct if considered necessary.

A complete report of the incident, including the results of any enquiry, should be forwarded to the Association by both Clubs within FIVE (5) DAYS of the incident.

An Association Judiciary Committee will also conduct an enquiry if necessary, including the calling of witnesses and persons involved. The findings of the Committee may prescribe penalties in addition to action taken by the Clubs and/or the Police.

Note: Sutherland Shire Council or its officers will not become involved in these matters.

UNAUTHORISED USE AND DELIBERATE DAMAGE

Sutherland Shire Council's "Enforcement Officers" are available seven days a week, including after hours, to take action regarding these matters.

A PHONE CALL TO 9710-0333 requesting assistance or action will ensure attendance by an Enforcement Officer although a reasonable delay should be anticipated. Matters covered by these headings are:-

UNAUTHORISED USE OF GROUND

Includes interference with Council's allocated use for training or matches and activities by sporting groups or Clubs not allocated the use of the ground.

Enforcement Officers have access to ground allocations and can control unauthorised activities.

Note: The use of grounds for training or matches when CLOSED due to wet weather is an unauthorised use and can result in action against the Association, your Club and other Clubs.

DELIBERATE DAMAGE

Includes any unauthorised activity which causes damage to the ground or buildings such as horse riding, driving cars or motor cycles on grounds and playing golf.

Note: If a situation becomes difficult or problems are anticipated CALL THE POLICE as well as the Council.

Incidents of unauthorised use and deliberate damage should also be reported to the Association Office during office hours to allow follow up action to be taken.

SPECIAL NOTE: THE ASSOCIATION WILL SUPPORT ANY REASONABLE ACTION TAKEN BY CLUB OFFICIALS IN MATTERS COVERED BY APPENDIX 'B'

APPENDIX ‘C’

WET WEATHER PROCEDURES

Following are the procedures adopted by Sutherland Council and the Association when grounds are affected by prolonged or heavy rain and the responsibilities of Clubs and referees for rain on match days.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

As the owner and/or manager of all Shire grounds allocated to the Association, including school grounds, the Sutherland Shire Council has the final decision regarding the suitability of grounds for matches and training.

Council usually makes decisions regarding the availability of grounds following wet weather for weekdays and nights ONLY and will allow the Association to make decisions for playing competitions on weekends. Only under severe weather conditions will Council enforce weekend closures.

If Council declares grounds unfit for play, their staff will uncover the ‘GROUND CLOSED’ sign at the grounds. Council’s decision usually covers ALL grounds on the basis of “one ground out – all grounds out.”

For the most accurate and up to date information regarding ground closures
TELEPHONE COUNCIL’S WET WEATHER LINE – 9710 0105

Information on this line is updated regularly and usually includes the date of inspection, period of closure (if any) and the date of the next inspection

Staff shortages or other causes may sometimes result in GROUND CLOSED signs not being displayed after closures or covered after re-opening.

**COUNCIL WILL USUALLY DISPLAY THE ‘GROUND CLOSED’ SIGN ON ALL
GROUNDS IF COUNCIL CLOSES GROUNDS BUT COUNCIL’S WET WEATHER LINE
IS THE BEST INDICATION OF GROUND CLOSURES AT ALL TIMES**

Clubs should encourage all Coaches and Managers, and inform parents and players, to use the Wet Weather Line if in any doubt regarding ground availability for training.

Council may permit weeknight competitions such a Touch Football and Oz-Tag to proceed on specific grounds and also allow important school daytime matches even if the grounds are closed.

When grounds are *CLOSED* training is NOT PERMITTED for any code or activity.

NEVER ASSUME THAT WEEKEND COMPETITIONS ARE CANCELLED IF GROUNDS ARE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS. ALWAYS WAIT FOR OFFICIAL ADVICE FROM THE ASSOCIATION

Note: Clubs and teams training during the week when grounds are closed face possible sanctions imposed by Sutherland Council, including costs of repairs and penalties imposed by the Association.

SUTHERLAND FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The following situations require the Association to make decisions on the previous day or early morning on match days regarding the condition of grounds following rain and their suitability to conduct competition matches:

1. Grounds have been closed by Council up to Friday night but the Association is permitted to make a decision for weekend matches.
2. Heavy rain on Friday night or during the weekend.

For both situations Club Ground Inspection Officers will be requested to inspect their home grounds and report on the condition of the grounds no later than 6.30am on match days by SMS text to phone number provided by SSFA office prior to the commencement of the season.

Members of the E.C. will be on duty to receive the reports from 6.00 a.m.

Please SMS as per instructions to:

Craig Arnott	0411 806 549 or
Barry Jones	0413 274 727

After all reports are received a decision will be made as follows:

1. All games to be played.
2. All games OFF with a decision regarding the re-drawing of these games to be made by the E.C. at a later date.
3. Some grounds declared playable with games drawn to unplayable grounds either relocated to other grounds on the same day or postponed to a later date.

Following the decision, Club Wet Weather Contact Officers will be advised by SMS text and/or email, and the Association website will be updated accordingly.

Note: It is not always possible to inform Clubs of the decision in time for early games. e. g. 8.00 am kick offs. Clubs and teams are reminded **WHEN IN DOUBT GO TO THE GROUND FOR KICK OFF TIME** or risk loss by forfeit.

Prior to the season all Clubs are required to advise the Association of the names and contact telephone numbers of their:

Ground Inspection Officer
Alternate Ground Inspection Officer
Wet Weather Contact Officer

This information is required to allow the Association to request Clubs to carry out inspections or to seek additional information re the ground condition after the inspection.

REFEREES

Referees have the right to declare a ground unplayable and decide that a match will not be played. They can only rule on matches they have been appointed to and their decision can only be made at kick-off time for the match.

REFEREES CANNOT RULE ALL GAMES OFF FOR THE DAY

CLUBS AND GROUND CONTROL

For rain developing during the day, a Club may rule that no further play is possible on the ground. This decision must be confirmed by a telephone call to the E.C. and then, if possible, contact the Clubs of visiting teams drawn to play on the ground later in the day.

CLUBS SHOULD NOT DISPLAY THE 'GROUND CLOSED' SIGN IF GAMES ARE CALLED OFF OR COVER THE SIGN IF COMPETITION GAMES ARE BEING PLAYED

ONGOING CLOSURE OF THE GROUND IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SUTHERLAND COUNCIL

APPENDIX 'D'

MATCH SHEETS AND RECORDING RESULTS

CLUB DUTIES

RECORDING OF RESULTS

It is the duty of the Club responsible for the ground to record the results of all games played on that ground on the Association's Result Sheet. The Result Sheet is to be forwarded to the Association with the match sheets. A copy of this sheet should be retained by the Club Secretary for verification or checking of results by the Association staff, if required.

DELIVERY OF MATCH SHEETS TO ASSOCIATION

Match sheets to be arranged in order from Under 6 to over 45 then Women's teams from W06 to WS, in grades from 'A' down, and deposited in the special locked box at the Harrie Denning Football Centre, Bates Drive, Kareela, or at another location if advised by the Association.

**THE MATCH SHEETS, TOGETHER WITH THE RESULT SHEET, MUST BE
DELIVERED TO THE ASSOCIATION BEFORE 8.15 AM ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY
IF MONDAY IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.**

**FOR MIDWEEK NIGHT MATCHES THE SHEETS MUST BE DELIVERED BETWEEN
8.15 AM AND 3.00 PM ON THE NEXT WORKING DAY.**

NOTE: Failure to comply with the above will result in a fine of \$100.00 being imposed by the Association on the offending Club.

**CLUBS ARE REQUESTED TO PLACE A COPY OF THIS SHEET
IN THEIR GROUND CONTROL AREA**

APPENDIX ‘E’

Pocket CONCUSSION RECOGNITION TOOL™

To help identify concussion in children, youth and adults



RE

Concussion should be suspected **if one or more** of the following visible clues, signs, symptoms or errors in memory questions are present.

1. Visible clues of suspected concussion

Any one or more of the following visual clues can indicate a possible concussion:

Loss of consciousness or responsiveness

Lying motionless on ground / Slow to get up

Unsteady on feet / Balance problems or falling over / Incoordination Grabbing /

Clutching of head

Dazed, blank or vacant look

Confused / Not aware of plays or events

2. Signs and symptoms of suspected concussion

Presence of any one or more of the following signs & symptoms may suggest a concussion:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| - Loss of consciousness | - Headache |
| - Seizure or convulsion | - Dizziness |
| - Balance problems | - Confusion |
| - Nausea or vomiting | - Feeling slowed down |
| - Drowsiness | - “Pressure in head” |
| - More emotional | - Blurred vision |
| - Irritability | - Sensitivity to light |
| - Sadness | - Amnesia |
| - Fatigue or low energy | - Feeling like “in a fog” |
| - Nervous or anxious | - Neck Pain |
| - “Don’t feel right” | - Sensitivity to noise |
| - Difficulty remembering | - Difficulty concentrating |

3. **Memory function**

Failure to answer any of these questions correctly may suggest a concussion.

“What venue are we at today?”

“Which half is it now?”

“Who scored last in this game?”

“What team did you play last week / game?”

“Did your team win the last game?”

Any athlete with a suspected concussion should be IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM PLAY, and should not be returned to activity until they are assessed medically. Athletes with a suspected concussion should not be left alone and should not drive a motor vehicle.

It is recommended that, in all cases of suspected concussion, the player is referred to a medical professional for diagnosis and guidance as well as return to play decisions, even if the symptoms resolve.

RED FLAGS

If ANY of the following are reported then the player should be safely and immediately removed from the field. If no qualified medical professional is available, consider transporting by ambulance for urgent medical assessment:

- Athlete complains of neck pain
- Increasing confusion or irritability
- Repeated vomiting
- Seizure or convulsion
- Weakness or tingling / burning in arms or legs
- Deteriorating conscious state
- Severe or increasing headache
- Unusual behaviour change
- Double vision

Remember:

- In all cases, the basic principles of first aid (danger, response, airway, breathing, circulation) should be followed.
- Do not attempt to move the player (other than required for airway support) unless trained to so do
- Do not remove helmet (if present) unless trained to do so.