

FOOTBALL FEDERATION VICTORIA INC.



**FOOTBALL
FEDERATION
VICTORIA**

**2008 RULES OF COMPETITION
JUNIOR BOYS / GIRLS LEAGUES**

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SECTION 1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1 Application and definitions

- 1.1 These rules shall apply to all levels of Junior Competition including all Super League Age Groups, Junior Boys & Girls Competitions and all Rooball Leagues (unless otherwise specified in the Rooball Guidelines), administered under the auspices of FFV.
- 1.2 If any provision of these Rules is held invalid or unenforceable by a Court of competent jurisdiction then the remainder of these Rules and the application thereof shall not be affected thereby and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 1.3 Terms defined in the FFV Constitution, 2008 FFV Registration Regulations or the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.
- 1.4 Notwithstanding rule 1.3 of this section, in these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) **Club** means a football club which is registered with FFA and complies with 23(1) of the FFV Constitution
 - (b) **Club Affiliation Criteria** means any written criteria published by FFV relating to the affiliation, amalgamation or merger of Clubs including but not limited to these Rules.
 - (c) **Club Associate(s)** means one or more of the following, whether individually or collectively:
 - (i) Club Office Bearers;
 - (ii) Club Officials (coach, team manager, anyone who is officially associated with the Club).
 - (iii) Players of a Club;
 - (iv) Members of a Club;
 - (v) Supporters of a Club;
 - (vi) a Club
 - (d) **Tribunal** means the FFV Tribunal established under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

2 Consequences of breach

- 2.1 In addition to any consequences stated in these Rules any proven breach of or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement set out in these Rules will amount to Misconduct and may be subject to the provisions of the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.
- 2.2 To avoid doubt where these Rules do not specify the consequences of a breach or failure to comply with these Rules such breach or failure to comply will still amount to Misconduct and may be subject to the provisions of the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

3 Amalgamations, mergers, affiliation of Clubs

- 3.1 Amalgamations/mergers between Clubs shall be formulated prior to 1st December. Applications received after 1st December, may be considered by FFV in its absolute discretion.
- 3.2 Where two or more Clubs wish to amalgamate they shall:-
- (a) Apply to FFV in writing for its approval for such amalgamation. The letter is to be signed for and on behalf of the amalgamating Club's Committees.
 - (b) Submit the name of the proposed new amalgamated Club and provide;
 - (i) A copy of the notice of General Meeting of both Clubs
 - (ii) A copy of the signed record of attendance at the General Meetings of both Clubs,
 - (iii) A copy of the minutes of the General Meetings of both Clubs, signed by the Office Bearers of the Club which confirms the approval by Club members of the amalgamation/member,
 - (c) Submit a copy of the proposed Constitution, or, if the proposed new Club is intending to become an Incorporated Association, the proposed Statement of Purpose and Rules
 - (d) Submit the names of the proposed Office Bearers.
 - (e) Upon incorporation registration of any new entity to run the amalgamated Club, if any, provide to FFV a copy of a certificate of incorporation or other such documentation as FFV may require in respect of that new entity.
- 3.3 Amalgamating Clubs may nominate the League or Division in which they wish to participate provided it is a League or Division in which one of the amalgamating Clubs would be eligible to participate in the season immediately following.
- 3.4 Before amalgamation is approved all outstanding financial obligations and playing commitments to the FFV must be fulfilled by the amalgamating Clubs.
- 3.5 On approval all players of amalgamating Clubs shall be deemed to be players registered by FFV as players of the newly formed Club.
- 3.6 The newly amalgamated Club must fulfill its commitments and be responsible for all the terms and conditions of any players' agreements with each of the amalgamating Clubs current at the time of amalgamation.
- 3.7 After approval of amalgamation FFV shall declare a vacancy or vacancies in the appropriate League or Division and this vacancy or vacancies shall be filled or left vacant at the discretion of FFV.
- 3.8 Where two or more Clubs intend to amalgamate FFV is to be advised prior to any formal meetings of the respective Club Members being convened

and FFV may be represented at such Meetings by an appointed Office Bearer.

Affiliations

- 3.9 (a) FFV will consider Club Affiliation applications. Clubs wishing to enter into affiliated relationships with another Club(s) must lodge their formal application in accordance with FFA's Club Affiliation Criteria.
- (b) All affiliation applications must be lodged by no later than 1st December. FFV may accept applications after this date.
- (c) FFV may refuse any application without reason or may terminate any previously sanctioned Club affiliation at any time without reason. Any such decision or determination by FFV will be final and binding on all parties.

4 Playing colours

- 4.1 FFV colours shall be a combination of navy, white and gold and shall not be the colours of any Club.
- 4.2 The playing colours of a Club in FFV competitions shall be as prescribed in the relevant rules of competition from time to time.

5 Lighting standards

- 5.1 Clubs wishing to play competition fixtures under lights must ensure that lighting complies with the guidelines prepared by FFV.

6 Monies owing to FFV

- 6.1 Subject to this rule 6 all outstanding amounts owed to FFV, as well as annual team affiliation fees, as determined by FFV, must be paid by a Club within 30 days of invoicing failing which:
- (a) no teams or players will be registered unless a Club's account with FFV is in credit and all outstanding invoices are paid in full; and
- (b) FFV may offset any transfer or compensation fees owed to an unfinancial Club to the extent of amounts owing by that Club to FFV
- (c) A fine as set out in FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law
- 6.2 Three subsequent failures in the same FFV financial year by a Club to pay any monies owing in accordance with Rule 6.1 of this section will result in 3 competition points being deducted from each of that Club's teams in competitions to which these Rules apply. Clubs will be notified in writing when the deduction of points will take effect.

- 6.3 FFV may in its absolute discretion expel a Club if it does not comply with this Rule.
- 6.4 If at the end of a season a team has been promoted, but that team's Club has not paid all amounts owing to FFV by the last working day of October, that team shall not be promoted.
- 6.5 If the deduction of 3 points under rule 6.2 of this section results in a team or teams being relegated, such relegation will stand even if the outstanding monies are subsequently paid.

7 Protection of important fixtures

- 7.1 No Club nor any entrepreneur may stage any tournament in the Melbourne Metropolitan area on a day on which an A-League fixture is scheduled to take place in Victoria except with the consent of the A-League Club or Clubs concerned.
- 7.2 Where an International or an Inter-State match is scheduled for the Melbourne Metropolitan Area, FFV may direct that for any one or more FFV competitions no matches shall take part on that day.

8 Non scheduled matches

- 8.1 (a) Any Club staging or taking part in any competition, tournament, friendly match, or other match which does not form part of FFV schedule of matches, or which is not played under the jurisdiction of FFV, shall notify FFV in writing and complete and lodge the relevant documentation as required by FFV.
- (b) Any Club or Affiliated League or Organisation which organises or takes part in any competition, tournament, friendly match, or other match, which does not form part of FFV's schedule of matches, must ensure that appropriate insurance and Workcover arrangements are made to provide coverage for players, referees, and officials involved in these matches.
- 8.2 No Club shall promote a team to play or permit any of its players to play in any competition or with any body not affiliated directly or indirectly with a FIFA-approved league, association or federation.
- 8.3 Any Club or Association wishing to participate in any Interstate or International matches, tournaments or events, must apply in writing to the FFV for prior approval.

9 Insurance

- 9.1 FFV will negotiate and as it sees fit, appoint insurance companies to provide cover for all Club officials and players registered with FFV provided Clubs are incorporated at all times.

Insurance of Players

- 9.2 All players taking the field of play (or training) must be insured through FFV's Insurer (or as otherwise allowed by FFV). The player's insurance will be collected by FFV at the time of player registration (refer to the Summary of Cover as posted on FFV website for policy details).
- 9.3 Players who participate in competition fixtures without having their registration details updated relevant to their Club will be deemed ineligible.
- 9.4 The FFV insurance policy will be null and void unless all players participating in football are legitimately registered or otherwise eligible to play competition matches.

Insurance of Club Officials

- 9.5 In addition to compulsory player insurance, FFV shall provide through its insurance scheme insurance known as 'Not for Profit Organisation Liability' for their Club officials.

10 Strict liability of Clubs

- 10.1 Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of Club Associates at or in the vicinity of any match or event in which a Club is engaged or is in attendance regardless of the responsibilities attaching to any other person or entity in respect of such a match or event.

11 Media comment

- 11.1 Clubs and Club Associates must not make derogatory comment(s) to the media about FFV or the performance of match officials. Any such complaints should be made in writing to FFV.
- 11.2 Match officials are prohibited from making any comment to the Media in regard to any fixture of FFV at any time.
- 11.3 A breach of this Rule may result in a fine and further disciplinary action as set out in the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law

12 Change of Club name

- 12.1 Any Club that wishes to change its registered Club name must provide the information in rule 12.3 of this section in writing to FFV, which will then be considered by FFV.
- 12.2 All applications for a Change of Club Name must be made outside of the winter season, but not later than 1 December unless otherwise allowed by FFV.

- 12.3 This application will be assessed in 2 parts as outlined below, and it is imperative all aspects of these requirements are adhered to when applications are lodged.

Part A – Prior to FFV Ratification

- (i) The Club submits on letterhead its request for change of Club name.
- (ii) Full disclosure of information including the reasons for the request.
- (iii) The 'name' should be representative of the broader geographic area within which the Club is located and shall not make any reference to any ethnic name, slogan, sponsor or business. In addition, the 'name' shall not contain initials of any type that can be interpreted as non-representative of the geographic area.
- (iv) It is imperative that the application for change of name includes an alternative name that can be assessed, again with full disclosure as per item (ii) and (iii) above.

Part B – Once the Change of Name has been ratified by the Club it will provide to FFV:

- (i) A copy of the Minutes of Special General Meeting of the Club, approving the Change of Name,
- (ii) Evidence of Registration of the new Club (Business) Name and incorporation name with the appropriate entity,
- (iii) Payment to FFV of the fee set out in the FFV website.

FFV will assess all change of name applications only when all of the above information has been lodged with FFV and it may reject any application for a change of name as it sees fit.

13. Member Protection Policy

- 13.1 FFV has implemented a Member Protection Policy which has been designed as the main source document from which Clubs can refer to when resolving any issues within their respective organisations. This Policy is deemed to be incorporated into these Rules.

14. Ticketing and Refunds of money

- 14.1 This clause is applicable to all FFV Competition Fixtures where admission fees are charged.
- 14.2 Clubs that charge admission fees must hand over an admission ticket to the paying customer when the exchange of money is made.
- 14.3 Gate attendants or security staff whose role it is to collect the admission ticket, must ensure that the ticket is torn in half and given back to the customer at the point of entry as proof of purchase.
- 14.4 Customers that present an authentic FFV Media Pass, FFV Special Pass or are aged 14 years or younger, will be granted free entry and will not be issued an admission ticket.

- 14.5 It is the customer's responsibility to ensure that he or she retains proof of purchase.
- 14.6 This ticketing clause is to be displayed at the ticket box at all venues where admission fees are charged.
- 14.7 Paying customers will be entitled to a full refund (including car park fees) from the 'Home' Club on the day of the game provided the main fixture has been called off prior to the conclusion of the first half of the match for reason of light failure or unsuitable ground conditions.
- 14.8 To be eligible to receive a full refund on the day of the game, the paying customer must: Present to the Home Club or the Club charging admission fees, the admission ticket (or part thereof) as proof of purchase that he or she was issued when entering the ground.
- 14.9 If the main fixture is abandoned after the conclusion of the first half, then no refund will be given.

15. Security at Home Grounds

- 15.1 The Home Club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly behaviour of spectators and provide for the protection of match officials, players and officials at FFV fixtures.
- 15.2 Each FFV Home Club is required to provide Club marshals and/or security and/or police as per the Rules of Competition or as directed by FFV.
- 15.3 FFV Tribunal will take into account the security measures implemented by Clubs, when assessing any Misconduct charges that may be brought before them.
- 15.4 In addition, each Club must appoint a property steward to ensure player change rooms are not accessed by unauthorised personnel and to safeguard the valuables of match official(s) that should be handed to the property steward. Both the match official(s) and property steward must sign a record listing the particular valuables handed to the property steward.
- 15.5 The venue host (normally the Home Club) will be held responsible if it is found that FFV appointed match official(s) does not receive all items back.
- 15.6 The visiting team is responsible for the valuables of its players and valuables that are left in change rooms are done so at their own risk

16. Representative Teams

- 16.1 Any player registered in Victoria under the FFA National Registration rules will be eligible to represent Victoria in representative games, camps or tours and each such player must make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative matches, camps or tours when requested by FFV.

- 16.2 All Clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours, when requested by FFV.
- 16.3 FFV will ensure that all selected players, coaching staff and officials chosen in the representative party are insured to cover their participation.
- 16.4 Where a Club has three or more players from one team participating in a FFV approved representative match, camp or tour which conflicts with a scheduled match in which that team is required to participate, it may seek the postponement of that fixture. FFV shall determine the outcome of that request in its absolute discretion and that decision cannot be appealed or reviewed.
- 16.5 Players selected that are under the age of 18 years will be required to supply FFV with a letter of consent from their parent/guardian

17. Lighting of Flares or Other Flammable Objects/Throwing Objects

- 17.1 The lighting of flares or other flammable objects and or the throwing of objects is strictly prohibited in all FFV sanctioned fixtures.
- 17.2 Clubs whose Club Associates are in breach will be held fully accountable for the actions of their Club Associates.
- 17.3 Clubs must take steps to ensure that their Club Associates are made aware of this prohibition and do not breach this requirement, regardless of whether the Club is playing at home or away.
- 17.4 Clubs or Club Associates who are in breach of this Rule will be fined in accordance with the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law. In addition FFV may deduct points from a team or teams or take further disciplinary action if it sees fit.

18. Racial and Religious Vilification Code

- 18.1 FFV has endorsed a Racial and Religious Vilification Code for all Clubs and its players (referred to in these Rules as **Racial and Religious Vilification Code**) which forms part of these Rules. The Racial and Religious Vilification Code is displayed on the FFV web site <http://www.footballfedvic.com.au>
- 18.2 Racial and Religious Vilification includes any act, otherwise than in private, which;
- (a) is reasonably likely, in all circumstances, to offend, insult, humiliate, or intimidate another person or a group of people; and,
 - (b) is done because of the race, colour or national or ethnic origin of the other person or of some or all of the people in the group.
- 18.3 The Racial and Religious Vilification Code requires Clubs to:
- (a) ensure that Club Associates do not engage in Racial and Religious Vilification against any person,

- (b) continuously educate their Club Associates about Racial and Religious Vilification,
- (c) publish information on the subject of racial and religious vilification to players and Club Associates; and
- (d) use their best endeavours to ensure that all Club Associates act in a manner which is consistent with the objectives of the Racial and Religious Vilification Code.
- (e) adopt an action plan, which is contained in the Racial and Religious Vilification Code

18.4 Any person wishing to lodge a letter of complaint under the Racial and Religious Vilification Code, must address their correspondence to the Chief Executive Officer of FFV within 7 days after the date of the alleged offence.

18.5 A conciliation hearing will then be convened to discuss and resolve the matter.

18.6 If conciliation is not achieved, then FFV may lay charges of Misconduct against those alleged to be responsible and refer the matter to the Tribunal.

SECTION 2. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1. Boys' Competition

1.1 The Boys' Competition shall consist of such teams registered with FFV and being identified with FFV Junior Clubs together with such representative teams from country affiliates as determined by FFV.

1.2 Players in the following age groups may take part in the Boys' Competition:

Eleven's (11s)	Born on or after 1 January 1997
Twelve's (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 1996
Thirteen's (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 1995
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 1994
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 1993
Sixteens (16s)	Born on or after 1 January 1992
Seventeens (17s)	Born on or after 1 January 1991
Eighteens (18s)	Born on or after 1 January 1990*

*Refer also to the following rule 1.3

1.3 In additions to Section 2 rule 1.2 the following rules shall apply to the 18's competition (both Boys and Girls):

- (a) To be eligible to participate in the 18s competition, players must be born between 1 January 1990 and 31 December 1993.
- (b) FFV Junior Clubs may field up to five (5) players born between 1 January 1992 and 31 December 1993.
- (c) Country affiliates may field any number of players born between 1 January 1990 and 31 December 1993.

2. Girls' Competition

2.1. The Girls' Competition shall consist of such teams registered with Football FFV of Victoria ('FFV') and being identified with FFV Junior Clubs together with such representative teams from country affiliates as determined by FFV.

2.2 Subject to Section 1 Rule 1.3 the Girls' Competition will be played in the following age groups:

Eleven's (11s)	Born on or after 1 January 1997
Twelve's (12s)	Born on or after 1 January 1996
Thirteen's (13s)	Born on or after 1 January 1995
Fourteens (14s)	Born on or after 1 January 1994
Fifteens (15s)	Born on or after 1 January 1993
Sixteens (16s)	Born on or after 1 January 1992
Seventeens (17s)	Born on or after 1 January 1991
Eighteens (18s)	Born on or after 1 January 1990*

* Refer also to Section 2, rule 1.3.

2.3 Any Club wishing to field a junior girls' team must either:

- (a) Provide a separate change room or rooms for girls' team/s, or
- (b) Have a clearly nominated and enforced timeslot giving the girls' team/s sole access to the change rooms.

3. Composition of Leagues

- 3.1 FFV aims to have no more than 10 teams in each division of all Junior Leagues, including Super Leagues.
- 3.2 If it is necessary for any division to have 12 or 14 teams, a maximum of 18 rounds will be played even though this means some teams will play some opponents only once during the season.
- 3.3 If it is necessary for FFV to create a league with 8 or less teams, the full complement of games will be played (to a maximum of 18 rounds) even though this means some teams will play each other more than others.

4. Super League Competitions

- 4.1 The 2008 Super League Competition in the South East and North West regions shall consist of 4 age groupings, the 13s, 14s, 15s and 16s. Teams from each group will play each other on a home and away basis over 18 rounds.
- 4.2 The 18s Super League competition will consist of a single metropolitan league with 12 teams. These teams will play each other on a home and away basis over 22 rounds.
- 4.3 The National Training Centre (NTC) will be included in the 2008 14s Super League (North-West) competition. Games will be played mid-week over a season of 20 rounds. Participants in the NTC team will only be eligible for this competition on the criteria set out in the Registration Guidelines.
- 4.4 All games in the 13s, 14s and 15s will be played for competition points which will be used to determine the end-of-season competition ladder.
- 4.5 At the end of the 2008 season, the top 8 teams from the 13s, 14s and 15s will automatically qualify for the 2009 Super League Competition.
- 4.6 Remaining teams from the 13s, 14s and 15s will be relegated into the appropriate North, West, South or East A-League competition.
- 4.7 The two remaining spots in the 14s, 15s and 16s Super League will be filled by the winners of the North, West, South, and East A Leagues respectively.
- 4.8 At the end of the 2008 season, the top four teams in the 16s South East Super League and the 16s North West Super League will automatically qualify for the 2009 18s Super League.
- 4.9 The remaining four spots will be filled by the top teams in the North, South, East and West 16s Leagues respectively.

- 4.10 If a team qualifies for Super League, but declines to accept its position, their place will be offered to the A-grade team which achieved the next-highest ranking within the same region during the 2008 season. Should that team also decline, FFV will offer the place to the next highest ranked team from either region. Any further vacancies will be filled at the sole discretion of FFV.
- 4.11 The composition of the 13s North West and South East Super Leagues for season 2008, is outlined below.

North West

The top four teams in the 12A North and 12A West Leagues will automatically qualify for the 2008 Under 13 North West Super League.

The remaining two positions will be determined by the results of a play-off between the fifth-placed teams in the 12A North and 12A West Leagues and the Under 13 Country Champion and/or Runners-Up.

To be eligible to participate in these play-offs, country Champions and Runners-Up must come from the North-West region. If no country Champion or Runner-up is available from this region, no play-off will take place. Instead, both fifth-placed teams from the 12A North and 12A West Leagues will automatically qualify.

South East

The top four teams in the 12A South and 12A East Leagues will automatically qualify for the 2008 Under 13 South East Super League.

The remaining two positions will be determined by the results of a play-off between the fifth-placed teams in the 12A South and 12A East Leagues and the Under 13 Country Champion and/or Runners-Up.

To be eligible to participate in these play-offs, country Champions and Runners-Up must come from the South-East region. If no country Champion or Runner-up is available from this region, no play-off will take place. Instead, both fifth-placed teams from the 12A South and 12A East Leagues will automatically qualify.

5. Junior Leagues

- 5.1 FFV will determine the composition of each League in its absolute discretion.
- 5.2 The teams in each division will be based on previous season's standings. FFV will consider written requests by Clubs to have teams placed into lower-graded divisions.
- 5.3 Any online team application submitted after the closing date for such applications will be accepted only if a vacancy exists within that division and the team or Club pays an additional administration fee set out in FFV website. If such an application is accepted, the team's grading privileges will be negated.

- 5.4 If a team withdraws from a Junior Competition after the due date for team applications, a Late Withdrawal fee will apply as set out in FFV website.
- 5.5 If a team withdraws prior to the start of the competition season and cannot be replaced, a "BYE" will be inserted into the relevant fixture.

If a team withdraws after the start of the competition season, the following will apply:

- (a) If a team withdraws before the conclusion of the round which marks the halfway point of the competition season:
- (i) a 'BYE' will be inserted in the fixture to replace the team withdrawn
 - (ii) all points, (including goals scored for and against) for that team, will be erased.
- (b) If a team withdraws after the halfway point of the competition season, but before the end of the round which marks the end of the competition season
- (i.) a 'BYE' will be inserted in the fixture to replace the team withdrawn
 - (ii.) all points, (including goals scored for and against) for that team, up to the conclusion of the round that marks the halfway point of the season will stand
 - (iii.) all points, (including goals scored for and against) for that team, in the second half of the season up to and including the withdrawn Club's last fixture, will be erased.
- 5.6 (a) The 11s League is an ungraded competition which will be split into two divisions, Kangaroos and Joeys, in the 2008 season.
- (b) Clubs will nominate a preferred division for their team in their online Team Application and will be allocated into groups according to geographical location.
- (c) As a guideline for Clubs, the Kangaroos League is designed for juniors of higher ability and a Club's allocation of 11s players into this League will be one factor taken into account when determining the 12s League structure in the following season.
- (d) FFV will determine the final composition of the 2008 12s A-League (North, West, South, East) and, based on the number of teams registered, may schedule play-off matches where necessary.

6. Team Entry

- 6.1 Clubs may apply to enter any number of teams in any one age group.
- 6.2 If a Club enters a number of teams within an age group that exceeds the number of leagues within that age group, FFV will allocate teams to such leagues as it sees fit and in its sole discretion.

- 6.3 Any new team entering a Junior competition above the 11s age group from a Club with an existing team in that age group, will be graded below that existing team unless otherwise directed by FFV.

7. Existing & New Club Team Entry Criteria

- 7.1 Each Club in Junior Competitions must:

- (a) field a minimum of 2 teams (11s-18s) unless otherwise directed by FFV.
- (b) have at least 2 qualified FFV coaches (in accordance with the Coach Accreditation Criteria as advertised on the FFV website).
- (c) provide to FFV a basic Financial Statement/Business Plan showing an income and expenditure budget for the conduct of the Club over the proposed season of membership.
- (d) provide to FFV names, numbers, email addresses and postal addresses of Club officials who can be interviewed by FFV.
- (e) provide to FFV a letter or other evidence from the local council, controlling body or organisation in charge of its grounds, granting permission to use those fields, and other facilities such as dressing rooms and toilets, as required during the competition.

- 7.2 New Clubs may not use grounds that are already occupied by existing FFV member Clubs or existing junior Clubs.

- 7.3 An application for entry into a Junior Competition must include the name, address and date of birth for each player whom the Club proposes to register.

- 7.4 All such applications must be lodged by no later than Friday 18 January 2008 unless otherwise permitted in writing by FFV.

8. Eligibility of Players

- 8.1 Eligible Players

- 8.2 A Player is eligible to play in his or her team, provided he or she:

- (i) has been registered in line with FFA National Registration Regulations,
- (ii) is not under suspension by FFV,
- (iii) meets the team's age group guideline as stated in Section 2, Clauses 1 and 2, and
- (iv) presents their current Player ID Card to the Match Referee prior to the commencement of the fixture.

- 8.3 A Player will not be prevented from playing above his or her age group (except in the 18's competition, where Section 2, Clause 1.3 applies).

- 8.4 A Player who is participating above his or her age group, will not be prevented from returning to play in his or her rightful age group unless that player is suspended

- 8.5 For all Junior Competitions, any player who has played at a higher level within that age group for 6 matches or more cannot drop to a lower level within that

age group for his or her club for the remainder of the season. This requirement is designed to avert team stacking at the lower level within that age group.

Eg: If a 15 year old player, playing in the 16 A League participates in 6 games, he / she will not be able to play for their Club's 16 B, 16 C, 16 D side for the remainder of the season. However he / she will still be eligible to participate in any side within the 15's Competition due to it being his / her rightful age group.

- 8.6 Players in the 11's –16's boys age groups, and 12's –18's girls age groups who are listed on the Match Record will be deemed to have participated in the fixture.
- 8.7 Players in the boys 17's and 18's age groups listed on the Match Record who do not take the field of play will be deemed to have not participated in the fixture.
- 8.8 Any Club or Player who in the opinion of FFV is in breach of the above will be ineligible and subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

SECTION 3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

1. Facilities/Ground Arrangements

- 1.1 Each Club must ensure that it complies fully with the criteria set out below
- 1.2 Any Club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be fined in accordance with the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-law, suspended or have its home fixtures played away.
- 1.3 Clubs which do not have grounds or facilities available for junior fixtures that meet these specifications should apply in writing to FFV for dispensation where that Club is in the process of upgrading its facilities in accordance with FFV Classification of Grounds Criteria.
- 1.4 The Home Club must ensure:
- (a) The ground is correctly marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game, including the technical area.
 - (b) Toilet facilities and dressing room facilities are adequate.
 - (c) Goalposts and corner flags must comply with rules 1.4-1.6 and are of approved materials, colour, design and dimensions according to the current Laws of the Game.
 - (d) Corner posts must not be metal or spring loaded. They must be plastic or wood and stand a minimum of 1.5 metres above the ground with a non-pointed top. Corner flags must not feature nationalistic emblems.
- 1.5 It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure they provide a safe environment for their members. To minimise risk and to prevent injury, football goals are to be constructed and installed to the correct safety standards. The main areas of concern are:
- (a) Construction of goal frames for either fixed or portable use;
 - (b) Securing and stability of the goal frame;
 - (c) Net fixings to the frame of the goal;
 - (d) The net itself.
- 1.6 *Fixed Football Goals*
- All football goals that are installed as a permanent structure on a football pitch must be properly secured, installed at the regulation width and height, as per the Laws of the Game, and should have no sharp edges protruding that may cause injury.
- 1.7 *Portable football goals*
- (a) If a Club uses portable goals for training or competition, it must ensure that these goals conform to the current Standards Australia Handbook HB227-2003 for "Portable Football Goalposts – Manufacture, use and storage". The manufacturer of portable goals should provide the Club with a certificate of conformity. The handbook HB227-2003 can be

purchased direct from the Standards Australia website
<http://www.standards.com.au> as a hardcopy or PDF file.

- (b) All new portable structure must comply with the standards stipulated by Consumer Affairs Victoria. For further information refer to the website <http://consumer.vic.gov.au>.

1.8 *Ground and Line Markings*

- (a) As a general rule and forming part of your Tenancy Agreement with the Local Council, Limil, Herbicides and other products such as 'Round Up', that can cause damage to the playing surface and more importantly are harmful to your health, are not to be used under any circumstances.
- (b) Products such as agricultural limestone, creosote or water based spray paint or other similar material which will not endanger ground users or damage turf grasses, are the substances that should only be used for line marking.
- (c) To ensure the safety of all players, officials and spectators, any Club found in breach, will not be able to play any home matches until the breach has been rectified or FFV grants dispensation from these requirements.
- (d) A Home Club whose match is postponed/abandoned due to the use of prohibited substances for marking their grounds (as above), will forfeit the match and 3 points will be awarded to the opposing team. The Home Club will also incur a fine for a breach of the Rules of Competition as set out in the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

Junior Leagues - Essential Requirements

1.9 *Playing Arena*

- (a) The pitch markings must fall between the following range:
 - (i) minimum length of 96 metres and maximum length of 105 metres
 - (ii) minimum width of 60 metres and maximum width of 68 metres.
- (b) The field of play must be rectangular. The pitch shall be an evenly grassed surface, marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game,
- (c) A minimum distance of 3 metres must be provided from the side lines and goal lines to the public viewing position, barrier fence (if present) or nearest hazard including the respective team benches,
- (d) Goalposts and corner flags of approved material, colour and dimensions as per the current Laws of the Game. Corner posts must not be metal or spring loaded. They must be plastic or wood and stand a minimum of 1.5 metres above the ground with a non-pointed top. Corner flags must not feature nationalistic emblems,

- (e) Two covered coaches/substitutes benches, with adequate seating for five (5) people.
- (f) Regardless of the external dimensions, the internal measurements must be in accordance to the Laws of the Game.

1.10 *Players' and Match Officials' Amenities*

- (a) Lockable separate dressing rooms for players and match officials, each with hot and cold water showers,
- (b) Toilet Access.
- (c) A first aid area which is kept clean and sterile and providing basic first aid equipment.

Junior Leagues - Preferred Requirements

1.11 *Playing Arena*

- (a) A pitch of 105 metres in length and 68 metres in width

1.12 *Players' and Match Officials' Amenities*

- (a) Access to toilets within the building structure,
- (b) First aid room or area which must be kept clean and sterile.

1.13 *Spectator amenities*

- (a) Canteen/kiosk serving hot and cold drinks and snack foods,
- (b) Scoreboard,
- (c) Disabled toilets.

2. Technical Area

2.1 Each Club must clearly mark out the Technical Area of their ground as stipulated by FIFA guidelines.

- 2.2 (a) The coaches, players and other team officials must remain seated within the Technical Area, except in special circumstances – for example, a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with a Referee's permission, to assess an injured player.
- (b) The coach or team manager is permitted to move forward and relay technical information to his/her players at any time, however, must then return immediately to his his/her position on the bench.

3. Match Records (formerly Team Sheets)

3.1 (a) Clubs must list in the Match Record all players taking part in a fixture

and must produce the list to the Senior Match Referee together with valid FFV Player Identification Cards for each listed player, not less than 30 minutes before the commencement of any match.

- (b) A player listed on the Match Record will be deemed to have participated in the fixture.
- (c) If :
 - (i) a player listed on the Match Record is ineligible; or
 - (ii) a player who takes the field is not listed on the Match record or is ineligible

then that player's Club will be guilty of Misconduct and may be dealt with under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

- 3.2 (a) Coaches and managers for 11s to 18s fixtures may inspect the opposing team's FFV Player Identification Cards on match day if they wish.
- (b) If there is a dispute about any player(s), the Senior Match Referee must note the details and send these to FFV together with the Match Report.
- (c) Any Club that wishes to lodge an official protest must do so in accordance with the FFV Grievance, Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

3.3 Both teams must ensure the Senior Match Referee completes a Match Record after the game.

- (a) Representatives from each team must sign the Match Record at the conclusion of the fixture and should do so only after the appointed match official has recorded all outstanding details.
- (b) Once signed by all parties at the conclusion of the fixture, each Club must make a copy of its Match Record available to the opposing team.

3.4 It is the Club's responsibility to ensure:

- (a) It has minimum number of 7 players to commence the match
- (b) All players participating in the 11s to 18s competition have a valid FFV Player Identification Card which is available for inspection on match day. **NO FFV ID CARD, NO PLAY.**
- (c) All players taking the field are eligible to play and not under suspension
- (d) All players taking the field are correctly listed on the match record in legible writing
- (e) All players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time

- (f) All players are wearing the appropriate, licensed apparel, including shin guards, before taking the field
 - (g) All players shake the hands of their opponents at the conclusion of the match (as per FIFA Guidelines)
- 3.5 If a person is appointed as Referee to a fixture pursuant to section 5 rule 3.3 the Home Club must ensure both sets of match records are sent to FFV at the conclusion of the fixture. Failure to do so will constitute Misconduct and may result in penalties under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

4. Interchange / Substitution Of Players

- 4.1 (a) In fixtures for teams between 11s and 16s boys age groups and 11s to 18s girls age groups, the Interchange Rule shall apply.
 - (b) In fixtures for 17s and 18s age groups only, the Substitute Rule shall apply. Clubs can make up to five substitutions in any fixture, ensuring that no more than 16 players are listed on the Match Record.
- 4.2 Teams are permitted an unlimited number of interchanges in any given fixture, with up to 5 interchange players allowed to be named on the Match Record.
- 4.3 To avoid time wasting, interchange of players in the last 5 minutes of normal time in any fixture will only be permitted at the discretion of the Match Referee.
- 4.4 Substitutes and interchange players may warm up outside the Technical Area, provided they wear an alternative coloured strip to those used by players in the game in progress. Players should warm up in an area as far away as possible from the opposing team.

5. Ground Marshals

- 5.1 Each Home Club must provide a minimum of 2 Ground Marshals. Ground Marshals may not be younger than 16 and must be older than the age level of the league in which he/she is officiating.
- 5.2 All Ground Marshals must identify themselves to the appointed Senior Match Referee prior to kick-off of each fixture.
- 5.3 Ground Marshals must be in clearly identifiable uniform, must be visible at all times, and must escort the Senior Match Referee and Assistant Referees to and from the field of play at Half Time and Full Time.
- 5.4 Senior Match Referees and Assistant Referees should not leave their dressing rooms to enter the field of play, or leave the field to return to their rooms, until identifiable Ground Marshals are present to escort them.
- 5.5 FFV may increase the minimum security arrangements for any fixture at any time. The costs will be covered as FFV sees fit.

6. Match Balls

- 6.1 The Home Club shall provide the appointed Senior Match Referee with 2 match balls no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled fixture.
- 6.2 At the conclusion of the game, the Senior Match Referee will return the 2 match balls to the Team Manager of the Home Club.
- 6.3 All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from one of FFV's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by FFV from time to time and must comply with the following size guidelines:

11s – 13s inclusive	Size 4
14s – 18s inclusive	Size 5

- 6.4 Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FFV by the Senior Match Referee.

7. Players Strip/Apparel

7.1 *Clothing and Protective Gear*

- (a) All Clubs must nominate a "Home" and "Alternate" playing strip.
- (b) Clubs must provide two entirely different strips to avoid any potential colour clashes on match day. No part of the alternate playing strip (shirts, shorts & socks) may be the same as the nominated home playing strip – for instance, if a Club nominates white shorts for its home strip, it cannot nominate white shorts for its alternate strip.
- (c) Predominantly black playing shirts will not be permitted under any circumstances.
- (d) Once nominated strips are approved by FFV, each Club's home and alternate strips will be published on the FFV website.
- (e) All Clubs named first on the FFV fixture shall be deemed the Home Team and will therefore play in their home strip.
- (f) If there is a clash of colours at any match, it is the visiting team's responsibility to change into an alternate strip. Visiting Clubs may be required to wear a combination of their home and alternate strips to ensure the clash is resolved.
- (g) Team managers are urged to check the apparel worn by their opponents on a weekly basis to avoid the likelihood of a clash in colour of playing of strips.
- (h) A Club may be penalised pursuant to the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law if:

- (i) a match does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that such Club or team did not comply with rule 7.1(f)
- (ii) a Club changes their home or alternate playing strip without FFV's prior written approval, and this change results in a match being postponed,

7.1.1 Goalkeepers may wear any colour except black, provided it does not clash with either team or the Match Referee

7.1.2 All apparel worn by players must be made by FFV licensed manufacturers as advised by FFV from time to time.

7.1.3 Any failure to do so must be reported to FFV by the Senior Match Referee and an offending Club may be penalised under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

7.1.4 All players are required to wear shin guards at all times whilst on the field of play.

7.2 *Jewellery*

- (a) FIFA 'Laws of the Game' state that players are forbidden to wear any equipment that may be dangerous to either the player him or herself, or to another player. This includes, but is not limited to, jewellery and spectacles.
- (b) All jewellery, including wedding bands and any studs, rings, bars or other body-piercing jewellery, must be removed before a player enters the field of play. No taping of any type is permitted.
- (c) Any player wearing jewellery will be cautioned and removed from the field of play until the Senior Match Referee is satisfied that the player has removed the item in question. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- (d) Any player requiring vision correction should consider wearing contact lenses, or wear spectacles that:
 - (i) are firmly secured with a sports band or adjustable strap,
 - (ii) have purpose-designed and closely fitted curled ends on the arms, or
 - (iii) are specially designed protective sports glasses constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and no metallic parts.

8 Stretchers / First Aid

8.1 Each Home Club must allocate one stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use at all fixtures. Clubs that fail to do so may be fined under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

8.2 Each Club must ensure that stretchers are placed at the half way line prior to the commencement of each fixture and that they remain inside the barrier/fence, in a safe and accessible position to first aid staff, for the duration of the match.

- 8.3 Wooden or canvas stretchers are prohibited. Clubs must ensure their stretchers comply with current Australian Standards.
- 8.4 It is recommended that Clubs have a person trained in first aid present during all matches.

9. Results of Matches

- 9.1 It is the responsibility of the Home Team to ensure that all final results for each respective age group and/or competition are communicated to FFV (Head Office) as follows:
- (a) Junior competitions before 6:00pm every Sunday
 - (b) Clubs that make use of the online *Results Vault* to enter results have until 9.00am on the Monday immediately proceeding the weekend the matches took place to enter their Club's final results.
 - (c) If a fixture is postponed or abandoned for whatever reason, the Home Club is still required to notify this fact to FFV and communicate the reasons why the game was not played.
 - (d) Rooball results are not required to be communicated to FFV
- 9.2 Results of each match may be communicated to FFV by any of the following methods:
- Telephone:** (03) 9474 1888
Facsimile: (03) 9474 1899
Email: results@footballfedvic.com.au
On-line: football.resultsvault.com
- 9.3 Clubs which fail to notify FFV of the results of any match by the time stipulated may be penalised under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

10. Correspondence/Communication

- 10.1 All correspondence by FFV to Clubs shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:
- (a) in the case of email or fax communication immediately;
 - (b) in the case of communication sent by mail 2 days after such communication was posted
- 10.2 Club representatives are responsible for ensuring that postal mailboxes, specified email accounts and the FFV Website is checked regularly, and that any information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties.
- 10.3 All correspondence received by FFV from Clubs must be on Club letterhead and signed by a Club official or come from the Club's email address which is registered with FFV.

10.4 All Clubs must have an active email address

11. Smoking / Drinking At League Venues

11.1 It is prohibited for anyone to smoke or consume alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence. This includes the team bench within the Technical area and anywhere on or near the touchline.

11.2 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that smoking and drinking alcohol are confined to legitimate public areas at a safe distance from the playing field.

11.3 If any person in breach of this rule, both the individual and any Club of which that person is a member may be fined and face disciplinary action under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

12. National Flags, Slogans & Emblems

12.1 It is strictly prohibited to display any national flags, slogans, emblems or other material, with the exception of the Australian flag or emblem, at any match.

12.2 It is strictly prohibited to incorporate any national flags other than the Australian flag, slogans or emblems on any part of the players' attire or any uniform worn by Club officials.

12.3 No Club may distribute, disseminate, broadcast or publish by any means whatsoever whether electronically or otherwise any material in a language other than English, with the prior written consent of FFV to do so.

12.4 All Clubs must have the prior written approval of FFV before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan onto any Club logo or name, product or medium, including but not limited to playing strips, promotional material, Club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, website or any other form of communication.

12.5 FFV may request the immediate removal of any offending material without notice at any time.

12.6 If any person is in breach of this rule, both the individual and any Club of which that person is associated may be fined and face disciplinary action under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

SECTION 4. FIXTURE DETAILS

1. Kick-Off Times/Duration of Matches

1.1 General

- (a) The kick-off times and duration of matches (“Normal Time”) is fixed for FFV Junior competitions. The details for each age group are as follows:

Age Groups	Kick-Off Times	Duration of Matches
Elevens (11s)	9:00AM	2 x 20 minute halves (= 40 minutes)
Twelves (12s)	10:00AM	2 x 25 minute halves (= 50 minutes)
Thirteens (13s)	11:15AM	2 x 25 minute halves (= 50 minutes)
Fourteens (14s)	12:30PM	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Fifteens (15s)	1:45PM	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
Sixteens (16s)	3:15PM	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Seventeens (17s)	11:00AM-3:00PM	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Eighteens (18s)	11:00AM-3:00PM	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)

- (b) FFV has adopted flexible kick-off times for the 17s and 18s Boys Competitions for 2008. Clubs may nominate their preferred home kick-off time provided it falls between 11:00am and 3:00pm. Once this time has been submitted to FFV, it cannot be altered.
- (c) FFV has flexible kick-off times for all Junior Girls League Competitions. Clubs may nominate a preferred home kick-off time. Once this time has been submitted to FFV it can not be altered.

1.2 Complying with Fixed Kick-Off Times

- (a) It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that it has access to a sufficient number of grounds to accommodate all teams playing at home on any given match day at the specified time/s
- (b) No Club Official or Team Representative may contact the FFV Referees Appointment Branch to request, alter or defer a Referee’s appointment to any fixture.
- (c) All matches must commence within 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time. If this is not possible the Senior Match Referee may, at his or her discretion and after consulting the coaches of both participating teams, reduce the playing time in line with FIFA regulations.

If a fixture is abandoned because a team is unable to start within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time or there is no agreement to start later than that:

- (i) The team that was ready to play will be awarded the match with a 3–0 margin,

- (ii) If neither team was ready to play, a 'no result' will be recorded for the fixture
- (iii) Any team that was not ready to play may face disciplinary action under the FFV Grievance, Disciplinary and Tribunal

1.3 *Duration Of Matches – Normal Time*

- (a) After Normal Time the Senior Match Referee may add on Injury/Stoppage time at his or her discretion.
- (b) The Senior Match Referee may cut short any match if, in his or her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.
- (c) The Senior Match Referee may reduce the playing time of a match in line with FIFA rules at his or her discretion, but only after consulting coaches of both participating teams.

2. Abandoned Matches

- 2.1 Matches in any cup or league fixture may only be abandoned by a decision of the Senior Match Referee.
- 2.2 If 80 per cent or more of Normal Time of a match has been played then the score at the time of abandonment will stand, unless the matter is referred to the Tribunal.
- 2.3 If less than 80 per cent of Normal Time of a match has been played before being abandoned, the result will stand unless :
 - (a) upon request by a team involved in the match within 72 hours of the abandonment FFV determines otherwise in its absolute discretion ; or
 - (b) the FFV Tribunal determines otherwise
- 2.4 The match will be abandoned if:
 - (a) any Club has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA requirement of seven players;
 - (b) the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Senior Match Referee it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;
 - (c) the Senior Match Referee determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason, or
 - (d) the Senior Match Referee, in consultation with security staff and ground officials, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.
- 2.5 If a match is abandoned due to a matter set out in rule 2.4 and FFV or the Tribunal determines that one (or both) of the competing Clubs, or Club

Associates were directly responsible for the abandonment then one of the following outcomes may be imposed:

- (a) Match to be awarded as a “No Result”. In this situation, no points will be awarded to either team for that fixture.
 - (b) Award match result as 0-0 draw.
 - (c) award result 3–0 to the non offending Club unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater an in favour of the non offending Club
 - (d) match result to stand
- 2.6 Further any Club or Club Associates alleged to be responsible for the abandonment of a game may be guilty of Misconduct and may be subject to penalties under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.
- 2.7 When a match is abandoned, all Referees are entitled to receive 100% of their normal match fee.

3. Postponed Matches

- 3.1 Matches may only be postponed by the Senior Match Referee or by an officer of the Competitions Department of FFV.
- 3.2 Should a match be postponed, the Home Club must notify the FFV by the next working day after the scheduled match day.
- 3.3 FFV will determine the new time and date for playing of a postponed match. Such decision is not open to appeal or review. Clubs are obliged to fulfill outstanding fixtures as determined by FFV and any Club which fails to do so will automatically forfeit the match and may face action under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law
- 3.4 Any fixture ordered by FFV to be replayed must be completed by no later than one week after the conclusion of the relevant Junior Leagues season. FFV may record the result of any match not completed within this time frame as a nil-all draw.
- 3.5 Only officers of FFV are permitted to schedule or reschedule any fixture. Any person or Club found guilty of rearranging a league fixture, or requesting the appointment of Referees outside a set kick-off time or date, may be penalised under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law. In addition, FFV reserves the right to record the final score of any such match as a ‘no result’.
- 3.6 When a match is postponed, all Referees are entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee if the Referee was present at the ground when the match was postponed.

4. Extreme Weather Conditions

- 4.1 FFV and/or the appointed Senior Match Referee may postpone, delay or abandon any fixture due to extreme weather conditions including, but not limited to, excessive heat or humidity, or poor weather that may endanger participants.
- 4.2 In such circumstances, the Senior Match Referee must his or her reasons in writing to FFV within 48 hours of the conclusion of the fixture.
- 4.3 If the temperature is 32° or above, water bottles should be made available and placed along the sidelines to enable any player to take a drink during the course of the game. In such circumstances, the Match Referee may at his or her discretion, allow a two-minute break during the course of each half, to allow for the extreme conditions.

5. Restrictions on Ground Usage

- 5.1 FFV may take whatever action it deems necessary if the Junior League's competitions are affected by restrictions to the usage of grounds.

6. Match Points

- 6.1 In all Junior League fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

WIN	-	3 Points
DRAW	-	1 Point
LOSS	-	Nil Points
NO RESULT	-	Nil Points for either team

- 6.2 FFV reserves the right to record any fixture as a 'no result'.
- 6.3 (a) At the end of the championship season, all teams will be ranked from highest to lowest by virtue of the total number of points received.
- (b) One or more teams finish the championship season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:
 - (i) The team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.
 - (ii) If Goal Difference is the same, then the team that has scored the most Goals FOR, will be deemed to have finished higher
 - (iii) If Goal Difference is the same and Goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the results of matches played between the teams.
 - (iv) If the aggregate scores between the teams are the same, then away goals will count as double.
- (c) If one or more teams have the identical number of Championship Points, Goal Difference, Goals Scored & Conceded, and the results between the teams is the same, then those teams will be deemed to have tied.

- (d) If the final standing has a bearing on promotion or relegation to another competition, then FFV reserves the right to call for a playoff or otherwise draw lots, or deal with the matter as it sees fit.

7. Non-Participation in FFV Fixture

7.1 Clubs are obliged to participate in fixtures as determined by the FFV. Any Club which fails to do so may be penalised as follows and may also be subject to further sanction under the FFV Grievance, Disciplinary and Tribunal By- Law.

- (a) the match will be awarded to the opposing team (as a 3-0 result),
- (b) a fine as set out in the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law
- (c) if both teams refuse to play, FFV may award a NO RESULT

8. Change of Fixture Requests

8.1 Change of venues will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Any application for a change of venue must be submitted to FFV, on Club letterhead and signed by a Club official, no less than five working days prior to the match. FFV will then consider the application and notify both Clubs of its decision.

- (a) All fixture change requests must be submitted to FFV on Club letterhead and signed by the appropriate Club officer, by the conclusion of Round 2 of the 2008 season
- (b) Upon payment of the fixture change request fee set out on the FFV website (in this rule 8.1 referred to as **Fee**) a Club may request a fixture change as above after Round 2. If the request is deemed by FFV to be for legitimate reasons, such as ground closure, FFV will refund the Fee.
- (c) If the request is judged by FFV to be frivolous (weddings, baptisms, funerals, confirmations or other social events) FFV may reject that request without further consideration and not refund the Fee.
- (d) FFV's decision in regards to rescheduling of league fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and shall not be appealable.

SECTION 5. REFEREES

1 Referee Fees

- 1.1 For the 2008 Junior League Season, the Referee fees as set out on the FFV website will apply:

Please Note: Fees listed above may change at any time.

- 1.2 (a) Unless otherwise stated, payment in cash or cheque of all fees for Referees must be made by the Home Club prior to the commencement of each fixture otherwise a match shall not commence.
- (b) If payment is made by cheque, and that cheque is subsequently dishonoured, the Club may be penalised under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.
- 1.3 If a match is abandoned or postponed, all Referees are entitled to receive their match fees in accordance with Section 4 rules 2.7 and 3.6 respectively.

2. Assistant Referees

- 2.1 A minimum of 2 Assistant Referees shall be appointed to a fixture to assist the Senior Match Referee.
- 2.2 If insufficient Assistant Referees have been appointed, each team must provide a linesperson to assist the Referee. Failure to comply will result in a 3-0 loss to the offending Club or in the case of a failure by both teams to do so a NO-RESULT.

3. Non-Attendance or unavailability of Match Referee

- 3.1 If the Senior Match Referee fails to honour his or her appointment, the next most senior Referee ('Replacement') will take charge of the fixture.
- 3.2 If the Senior Match Referee is late arriving at a fixture, the Replacement will take charge until the Senior Match Referee is ready to take over.
- 3.3 If no registered Senior Match Referee is present to act as the Replacement, the Home Club must consult with the visiting team and agree on the appointment of a person to act as Senior Match Referee for the fixture.
- 3.4 All Clubs must fulfill all fixtures, regardless of whether or not the Senior Match Referee is present to take charge. Failure by any team or Club to do so may result in that team being fined and other action under the FFV Grievance Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.

4. Decisions of the Referee

- 4.1 The decisions of the Senior Match Referee or Assistant Referee about any fact connected with the play are final and cannot be disputed by any party. A Senior Match Referee may change a decision if he or she realises that decision is incorrect, or on the advice of an Assistant Referee, provided the play has not re-started.

Duties of the Referee

5. Match Records and Match Ball

- 5.1 At the conclusion of each match, the Senior Match Referee shall consult with his or her Assistant Referees and confirm the correctness of all match information before completing both Match Records.
- 5.2 The Senior Match Referee must forward the original Match Records to FFV by no later than 2 working days after the match date.
- 5.3 In all competitions, Clubs must retain the FFV Player Identification for all players.
- 5.4 If a Club official protests to the Senior Match Referee about the fielding of an ineligible player, the Match Referee must instruct the Club official to lodge an official protest pursuant to the FFV Grievance, Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law.
- 5.5 The Senior Match Referee must ensure Clubs do not list more than 16 players on a Match Record for any fixture.
- 5.6 Subject to any Protest the Match Records received from the Senior Match Referee will be accepted as the accurate and official record of a match.
- 5.7 The Senior Match Referee must cross-check the Match Records with the Player ID Cards for each team participating in the fixture. Any discrepancies identified by the Senior Match Referee must be drawn to the attention of the appropriate team prior to the commencement of the match, and the discrepancy resolved before the match can start. Provided all information is considered by the Senior Match Referee to be correct, he or she shall return Player ID Cards to the appropriate Club at the conclusion of the fixture.

6. Player Safety and Blood Rule

- 6.1 It is the Senior Match Referee's responsibility to ensure that all players taking the field of play are wearing only equipment that is safe to themselves and any other person.
- 6.2 If a player is wearing any equipment which may endanger him or herself, or any other player (see Section 3, Clause 7) it is the Senior Match Referee's responsibility to ensure all such equipment is removed before the player enters the field of play.

- 6.3 The Senior Match Referee must ensure that any player who suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood leaves the ground immediately for the purpose of receiving medical attention outside the field of play.
- 6.4 The Senior Match Referee will allow the injured player to rejoin the game only after the Senior Match Referee is satisfied that the wound has been safely covered and contained.
- 6.5 If a player's uniform or attire has blood spilt on it, the Senior Match Referee will require the player to change his or her attire before rejoining the game.
- 6.6 If the injured player is required to change his or her uniform, and a shirt displaying the same number as the original shirt is unavailable, the Senior Match Referee may in his or her discretion allow the player to wear an alternative numbered shirt.
- 6.7 Alternatively, in such circumstances, a team may replace the injured player in accordance with the interchange rule.

SECTION 6. REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

The Registration Process is set out in the 2008 FFV Registration Regulations.

SECTION 7. CODES OF BEHAVIOR

The Australian Sports rule has produced the following 'Codes of Behaviour', which have been adopted not only by football, but also by most sports in Victoria. These codes are deemed to be incorporated into these Rules of Competition and are outlined below.

1. General

It is vital that everyone involved in sporting activities, whether they be athletes, coaches, parents, officials or supporters, understand their responsibilities to ensure that all participants enjoy the sport. This is particularly true at junior level.

It is strongly recommended that all players, parents, officials, coaches and members be given a copy of these codes by their Club, and that each Club ensures the codes are clearly displayed in their Clubrooms.

As well as reading and seeking to understand the instructions contained in the codes, FFV asks all participants to recognise that there are underlying principles which extend beyond those specific instructions.

FFV asks all junior Club members and other participants, to support those principles and to actively follow the practices outlined below.

2. Players' Code of Conduct

- (a) Play by the Rules
- (b) Do not argue with the match official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the match official during a break in play or after the match is concluded
- (c) Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport
- (d) Maintain your focus and work hard for yourself and your team
- (e) Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your team or the opposition
- (f) Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player
- (g) Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition
- (h) Play for your own enjoyment, and not just to please parents and coaches

- (i) Remove all jewellery prior to training and match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you
- (j) Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time

3. Parents' Code of Behaviour

- (a) Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment, and not yours
- (b) Encourage all children to participate, do not force them
- (c) Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than the result of the activity (that is, winning or losing)
- (d) Encourage children to always participate according to the rules
- (e) Never ridicule, yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game
- (f) Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud good play by both teams
- (g) Support all efforts to remove racial and religious vilification, verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities
- (h) Respect the match official's decisions and teach your child to do likewise
- (i) Show respect and appreciation to Club volunteers, including coaches, officials and administrators. Ensure any issues are raised through the correct channels
- (j) Do not smoke or consume alcohol near the team bench (Technical Area) or sideline

4. Coaches' Code of Behaviour

- (a) Remember that children participate for the fun of it and that winning is not everything
- (b) Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or being in a losing team
- (c) Be reasonable in your demands on younger players time, energy and enthusiasm
- (d) Teach your players to abide by the rules and laws of the games
- (e) Whenever possible, change the group of players to ensure everyone has a reasonable chance of success
- (f) Avoid overplaying the talented players as all players deserve equal time on the playing field

- (g) Ensure that equipment and facilities meet a reasonable safety standard and is appropriate to the age and ability of the players
- (h) Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players
- (i) Develop and enhance respect between players, opposition coaches and the decisions of the match official
- (j) Follow the advice of a physician when determining the extent of a player's injury and beyond that, when players are returning from injury to training and match play
- (k) Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices (refer to Coach Accreditation Criteria) and the principles of growth and development in children
- (l) Take time out to teach players (& others) the Laws of the Game, hence raising their awareness
- (m) Remind all players to play within the spirit of the game at all times
- (n) Ensure players are good sports and ensure each team member shakes the hand of their opponents at the conclusion of every match
- (o) Do not smoke or consume alcohol from the team bench (Technical Area) or sideline
- (p) Remember the actions of yourself and your team is reflective of the perception others take away with them

5. Administrators' Code of Behaviour

- (a) Involve young people in the planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making process in the Club network
- (b) Give all children equal opportunities to participate
- (c) Ensure the rules, equipment, length of games and training principles suit the age, ability and maturity level of participants
- (d) Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior players
- (e) Remember that children will only continue with football, provided they enjoy their experience, so do not over-emphasise awards
- (f) Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating
- (g) Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs
- (h) Be tolerant and calm under pressure and approach problem solving in a supportive manner as members and players will expect you to set an example for others

- (i) Support the implementation of the National Junior Sport Policy
- (j) Make every effort to educate persons who breach these guidelines from time to time

6. Officials' Code of Behaviour

- (a) Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players
- (b) Praise and encourage all participants
- (c) Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions
- (d) Do not tolerate unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents
- (e) Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than focus on negative aspects
- (f) Encourage and promote rule changes to all players and members
- (g) Be a good sport yourself, as actions speak louder than words
- (h) Keep up to date with the latest trends in refereeing, and knowledge of growth and development of children
- (i) Remember that you set the example on the park, therefore, your behaviour and comments should always be positive and supportive

7. Spectators' Code of Behaviour

- (a) Remember all children play football for their enjoyment, not just yours
- (b) Applaud good play and performances from both teams, and be forward in congratulating all participants on their performance regardless of the final outcome
- (c) Respect the match official's decisions on the day and teach children to do the same
- (d) Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake before, during or after the game, as this may deter that child from continuing in the sport
- (e) Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players
- (f) Show respect to for both teams when watching matches, because without them there would be no game
- (g) Encourage players to follow rules and accept the decision of the match official
- (h) Do not intimidate, harass or use foul language towards, players, match officials, Club officials or spectators