

FOOTBALL FEDERATION VICTORIA INC.



**FOOTBALL
FEDERATION
VICTORIA**



**NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES**

**2017 RULES OF COMPETITION
NPL WOMEN & GIRLS**

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1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.1. Application and Definitions

- 1.1.1. These Rules shall apply to all FFV Competition Fixture(s) and Sanctioned Match(es) as defined in Rule 1.1.4.
- 1.1.2. 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.
- 1.1.3. Terms defined in the FFV Constitution, 2017 FFV Registration Regulations and/or the **GDT** shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.
- 1.1.4. In addition to Rule 1.1.3 unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:
 - a. **Abandoned** means a Competition Fixture which has commenced but has been stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion.
 - b. **Competition Regulations** or **Regulations** means the regulations which supplement these Rules and which apply to the competitions administered by FFV for Men's Football, Women's Football, Junior Football and Metro & Masters Football, as amended and updated by FFV from time to time.
 - c. **Club** has the same meaning as in the FFV Constitution and includes but is not limited to a Futsal Club.
 - d. **Club Associate or Club Official(s)** has the meaning given to it in the GDT
 - e. **Competition Fixture** means any match that is administered by FFV and includes matches to which FFV appoints Match Official(s).
 - f. **Cup Fixture** means any knock-out cup match, fixture or other event organized and/or administered by FFV or FFA before, after or in conjunction with a Regular Season and includes, but is not limited to, the Dockerty Cup and the Westfield FFA Cup.
 - g. **Default Notice** means a notice of default issued by FFV in relation to an amount owed to FFV by a Club or a Player which that Club or Player has failed to pay in accordance with Rule 1.3.
 - h. **Division** means a particular grade or level of men's or women's competition within Victorian Football (such as Men's State League 1 or Women's State League 3 or Men's Metropolitan League 3).
 - i. **FFV** means Football Federation Victoria.

- j. **Field of Play** means:
 - (i) At an enclosed pitch the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or
 - (ii) At an open pitch the entire area within 3 metres of the boundary line of the football pitch.
- k. **Final** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings or champion of a specific competition administered by FFV.
- l. **Forfeit** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture if the Club or team in question has failed to notify FFV at least three (3) days prior to the Competition Fixture.
- m. **GDT** means the FFV Grievance, Discipline and Tribunal By Law (as amended from time to time)
- n. **Goal Difference** means the difference between goals scored by a Club/Team (Goals For) and goals scored against a Club/Team (Goals Against) in a match or season.
- o. **Home Club** means the Club named first in a Competition Fixture.
- p. **Host Club** means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at its home venue, whether or not that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals or not.
- q. **IFAB** means International Football Association Board
- r. **League** (when referred to in reference to means in Men's or Women's football), means a particular competition within a Division (such as Men's State League 1 South East or Women's State League 3 North or Men's Metropolitan League 3 North West);
- s. **Match Official** means a match official as defined in the GDT.
- t. **Match Record** means the official log (hard copy or online) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.
- u. **Misconduct** has the meaning given to it in the GDT.
- v. **No Result** means recording a '0-0' score line in a Competition Fixture with no points or goals awarded to either Team. A 'No Result' is recorded as a Competition Fixture played.

- w. **Non-Participation in a Fixture** means failure to participate in a Competition Fixture having notified FFV more than three (3) days prior to the Competition fixture.
- x. **Normal Time** means the maximum length of two (2) equal periods not including added time as specified in Rule 4.1 and Table 4.1, unless any time reduction is otherwise determined in accordance with Rule 4.1.
- y. **NPL** means all National Premier Leagues competitions participated in by Victorian Clubs.
- z. **NPL Club** has the same meaning as Club in the FFV Constitution, however, is specific to a Club that has signed a Participation Licence and is competing in NPL Competitions.
- aa. **NPL Competitions** means the collective term for both NPL Girls and NPL Womens.
- bb. **NPL Girls** means NPL junior competition including Teams, Leagues and Divisions between NPL under 13s and NPL under 18s competitions.
- cc.
- dd. **NPL Womens** is the Senior female open age competition of NPL.
- ee. **Participation Licence** means the non-exclusive licence agreement entered into by a Club and FFV for the Club to enter teams into NPL competitions.
- ff. **Play Off Match** means a Competition Fixture played to determine the final standings of a League or the eligibility for promotion/relegation of a Team between Leagues or Divisions.
- gg. **Played** means:
 - (i) A Team has participated in a Competition Fixture.

In specific reference to a player, **Played** means:

 - (ii) Being listed on the Match Record in a League where the interchange rule applies; or
 - (iii) Starting the Competition Fixture on or consequently being substituted onto the field of play in a League where the substitution rule applies.
 - (iv) If a player is originally listed on the Match Record and it is subsequently indicated on the Match Record that the player is no longer to participate in the Competition Fixture, that change must be acknowledged by signature of the senior Match Official prior to the

commencement of the Competition Fixture. Failure to comply will deem the player to have played that fixture under rule 1.1.4.aa.

- hh. **Player ID Card** means the MyFootballClub generated ID card containing recent photo, date of birth, FFA number, full name and Club name for that player.
- ii. **Player Roster Composition** means the Payer Roster Composition as outlined in the Participation Licence.
- jj.
- kk. **Postponed** means a Competition Fixture which has not commenced as scheduled.
- ll. **Registered** means registered and eligible in MyFootballClub in accordance with the 2017 FFV Registration Regulations.
- mm. **Regular Season** means the time and Competition Fixtures between the first and last round of the relevant competition in addition to any Play Off Match(es) required for the League in question.
- nn. **Risk Assessment and Security Policy** is the document which outlines minimum security requirements and responsibilities required at NPL matches.
- oo. **Rule or Rule of Competition** means a rule set out in a clause or clauses of these 2017 Rules of Competition.
- pp. **Sanctioned Match** means any match to which FFV appoints one (1) or more Match Official(s) but does not administer directly. This includes matches to which FFV is unable to appoint one (1) or more Match Officials due to availability, but a request for appointment has been made and acknowledged.
- qq. **Team** means a football Team entered by a Club in a League or, in junior football (U5s to U20s), a Team entered by a Club in a competition administered by FFV.
- rr. **Team App Cup** is the senior women's knockout cup competition contested by FFV Clubs.
- ss. **Technical Area** is as defined in the Venue Category Minimum Requirements set out in schedule 3.

1.2. Consequences of Breach

- 1.2.1. 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 may amount to Misconduct and will be subject to the provisions of the GDT.

1.3. Monies Owing to FFV

Monies Owing By a Club

- 1.3.1. All amounts owed by a Club to FFV must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FFV in relation to that amount.
- 1.3.2. If a Club fails to pay any amount owing to FFV in accordance with Rule 1.3.1, FFV may issue a Default Notice giving the Club a further 14 days to pay that amount.
- 1.3.3. If a Club fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.2 or agree to a repayment plan with FFV for the amount owed, FFV may, at its sole discretion:
 - a. Rule that Club (or the applicable Team(s) within that Club) ineligible to earn competition points in any Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match in which the Club (or Team) plays, until the debt is paid;
 - b. Suspend or expel that Club (or Team(s)) from any Competition Fixture (including Cup Fixtures) and/or FFV competitions.
 - c. Prohibit that Club (or Team(s)) from promotion whilst the debt remains unpaid.
 - d. Relegate that Club (or Team(s)) while the debt remains unpaid.
 - e. Deduct championship points from a Club (or Team) for the following season where the debt remains unpaid or accrues after 31 October of the relevant year.
- 1.3.4. If FFV and a Club agree to a repayment plan in relation to a debt owed by the Club to FFV and the Club fails to meet any of the terms of that payment plan by the stipulated date and time, FFV may immediately and without the need to issue a further Default Notice, impose one or more of the sanctions referred to in Rule 1.3.3..

Monies Owing By a Player

- 1.3.5. All amounts owed by a player to FFV must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by FFV in relation to the amount payable.
- 1.3.6. If a player fails to pay any amount owing to FFV in accordance with Rule 1.3.5, FFV may issue a Default Notice giving the Player a further 14 days to pay that amount.
- 1.3.7. If a player fails to comply with a Default Notice issued in accordance with Rule 1.3.6, or agree to a repayment plan with FFV for the amount owed, FFV may, at its sole discretion, suspend that player from any or all FFV competitions or

representative Teams on such terms as it sees fit until such debt is paid or secured to the satisfaction of FFV.

- 1.3.8. FFV may offset any monies owed by FFV to a Club or a player against any amount owed by a Club or a player to FFV prior to the issue of an invoice to a Club or player for amounts owing to FFV.

1.4. Protection of Important Fixtures

- 1.4.1. Where an A-League, International or an Inter-State match is scheduled in the State of Victoria, FFV may determine that no other Competition Fixture or Sanctioned Match take place on that day.

1.5. Sanctioned Matches

- 1.5.1. Any Club taking part in any Sanctioned Match must abide by any and all codes of conduct or codes of behavior prescribed by FFV and/or FFA from time to time, including the Codes of Behaviour attached to these Rules at Schedule 2.
- 1.5.2. By participating in a Sanctioned Match, the Club and any league or association to which that Club belongs, submits to the jurisdiction of FFV, its Rules and Regulations and the GDT.
- 1.5.3. Any Club or Team, association or organisation which administers or participates in any Sanctioned Match, must ensure that appropriate insurance and Work Cover arrangements are made to provide adequate and necessary coverage for their players, Match Officials, and all club associates involved in Sanctioned Matches.
- 1.5.4. Any Club or Team, association or organisation wishing to participate in any interstate or international match, tournament or events must apply in accordance with the 2017 FFV Registration Regulations, writing to the FFV MyFootballClub Team for prior approval.
- 1.5.5. All Competition Fixtures take precedence over non-FFV matches or fixtures or tournaments. Failure to fulfill Competition Fixtures for a non-FFV fixture may result in disciplinary action in accordance with Rule 4.6.

1.6. Insurance

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

Insurance of Players

- 1.6.2. All players taking the field of play (or training) must be insured through FFV's Insurer (or as otherwise allowed by FFV). Each player's insurance premium will be collected by FFV at the time of player payment for registration via the Club

Finance System (refer to the Summary of Cover as posted on the FFV Website for policy details).

Insurance of Club Associates and officials

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

1.7. Strict Liability of Clubs

- 1.7.1. Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its Club Associates and officials at or in the vicinity of any Competition Fixture, Sanctioned Match or non-FFV 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.

1.8. Club Name or New Club Name Application

- 1.8.1. Any application for either a new Club name or the change of an existing Club name must be made by the Club in question in accordance with FFA's National Club Identity Policy as published on the FFA website.
- 1.8.2. FFV will only assess an application under Rule 1.8.1 when all relevant information has been lodged with FFV. FFV may reject an application for a new name or a change of name as it sees fit.
- 1.8.3. The reference to 'Club name' in this Rule 1.8 includes the incorporated name, registered business name and/or approved playing name of a Club.
- 1.8.4. Process for new name application by a Club:
- a. The Club must:
 - (i) Submit on Club letterhead its request for a change of Club name or new Club name.
 - (ii) Provide full disclosure of the reasons for the requested change.
 - b. The Club name should be representative of the geographic area within which the Club is located and shall not make any reference to any ethnic name, slogan, sponsor or business or word which represents only one (1) gender. In addition, the 'name' shall not contain initials of any type that can be interpreted as non-representative of the geographic area.
 - c. The application for change of Club name or new Club name must include a minimum of three (3) proposed names that can be assessed, again with full disclosure as per Rules 1.8.4.a and 1.8.4.b.

- d. The new Club name must not contain any part of the name of any Club in the same or immediately adjoining municipalities, excepting the following traditional generic football names:
- United
 - Rovers
 - City
 - Old
 - Sporting
- e. FFV may, at its discretion, permit a new Club name within the same or adjoining municipality if, in FFV's opinion, the new Club (and its name) will not negatively impact any existing Club.
- f. Where a change of name also involves a Club proposing to relocate to a different local government municipality the application for change of name will not be considered unless evidence is provided to FFV that there are no outstanding debts or other obligations to the former council/municipality

1.8.5. FFV will not approve the relocation of a Club to a different municipality unless it is in the best interests of Victorian football in general (to be determined at the sole discretion of FFV) and no existing Club in the municipality to which the relocating Club wishes to move is materially disadvantaged (to be determined at the sole discretion of FFV).

1.8.6. No Club will be allowed more than one (1) incorporated name or registered business/playing name.

1.8.7. *Incorporation*

A Club must provide FFV with documentary evidence of registration of any new name with the appropriate government authority.

1.9. Security at Home Pitches

1.9.1. 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 Club Associates and officials at Competition Fixtures including but not limited to any specific requirements of FFV which are notified to the Home Club.

1.9.2. All Clubs, players, Match Officials, Club Associates and Club Officials must comply with the FFV's Match Day Risk & Security Policy as promulgated by FFV, and any security arrangements put in place as a result of the application of that policy.

- 1.9.3. Each Home Club is responsible for security and/or police as directed by FFV. Ordinarily this will be wholly the responsibility of the Home Club but FFV reserves the right to require any Club involved in a Competition Fixture to meet FFV determined security requirements.
- 1.9.4. Home Clubs must provide a lockable facility for all valuables of Match Officials(s). Failure to provide such a facility may result in the Home Club not being allocated Competition Fixtures at their home ground.
- 1.9.5. Rule 1.9.1 – 1.9.4 apply to a Club's home ground or facility and any neutral ground or facility (including the State Football Centre at Darebin and the Knox Regional Football Centre) where that Club is listed as the Home Club for the purposes of a Competition Fixture to be played at the neutral ground or facility.
- 1.9.6. The Home Club or FFV in the instance of Finals and Play Offs will be held responsible if it is found that Match Official(s) do not receive all items back.
- 1.9.7. Each Club is responsible for the valuables of its players, and valuables that are left in change rooms are done so at their own risk.
- 1.9.8. Rule 1.9 is subject to FFV's Risk Assessment and Security Policy which may be amended from time to time.

1.10. Representative Teams

- 1.10.1. Any player registered in Victoria will be eligible to represent Victoria in representative matches, camps or tours and each selected Player must make themselves available for training, preparation and participation for representative matches, camps or tours when requested by FFV.
- 1.10.2. All Clubs must release players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours.
- 1.10.3. Where a Club has three (3) or more outfield Players or one (1) goalkeeper from the same Team participating in an FFV/FFA approved representative match, camp or tour which conflicts with a FFV Competition Fixture in which that Club or Team is required to participate, it may seek the postponement of that Competition Fixture. Approved representative matches may include but are not limited to:
 - a. FFA National Championships (Football & Futsal);
 - b. FFV State Teams;
 - c. National Teams.
- 1.10.4. All requests pursuant to Rule 1.10.3 must be received no less than 10 days prior to the Competition Fixture in question, unless the player is called up within the 10 day period by FFV/FFA for representative duty. FFV shall determine the

outcome of any request under this Rule at its absolute discretion and that decision cannot be appealed or reviewed.

1.11. Member Protection

- 1.11.1. In order to address issues of discrimination and vilification, FFV has adopted the FFA National Member Protection Policy (**MPP**) for all FFV affiliated competition administrators, Clubs, players and Club Associates and officials. The MPP can be found by clicking the following [link](#).
- 1.11.2. FFV has partnered with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission in order to promote *Fair, Go Sport!* The aim of this project is to eradicate discrimination, particularly against those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex.
- 1.11.3. FFV has partnered with Vic Health in order to promote the Bystander Intervention Program. The aim of this program is to eradicate race and ethnic based discrimination.
- 1.11.4. FFV welcomes and fosters diversity in the world game. All Persons, Clubs, Players, Match Officials and/or Stakeholders involved with football are mandated to promote and provide safe and inclusive environments for all.

1.12. Club Compliance and National Club Accreditation

- 1.12.1. In order to be eligible to compete in FFV competitions in 2016 a Club must comply with the requirements set out by the following:
 - a. FFV's Club Compliance Program;
 - b. [FFV's Club Compliance By-Law](#);
 - c. The [National Club Accreditation Scheme](#) (NCAS) criteria;
 - d. Consumer Affairs Victoria;
 - e. Australian Securities and Investment Commission (as applicable).

1.13. Correspondence / Communication

- 1.13.1. All correspondence by FFV to Clubs shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:
 - a. In the case of online communication, the day on which it was published online;
 - b. In the case of email or fax communication, the time at which it was sent;
 - c. In the case of communication sent by mail, two (2) business days after such communication was posted.

- 1.13.2. Clubs must ensure that their postal mailboxes, specified email accounts and the FFV website are checked regularly, and that any information received is forwarded to the addressee or relevant parties within the Club.
- 1.13.3. All correspondence relating to Club requests, including, but not limited to; Competition Fixtures, forfeits, grading, result disputes and disciplinary matters must be made by a Club representative listed on MyFootballClub. Requests made by anyone not listed as a Club representative in MyFootballClub may not be actioned by FFV.
- 1.13.4. All Clubs must have an active email address and phone number and ensure that this address and phone number and all other relevant details are current, up to date in MyFootballClub and checked regularly by Club Associates and/or officials.
- 1.13.5. Failure by a Club to keep a current, active email address and phone number and to check that email address and any voicemail service connected to its phone number regularly, cannot be relied on by the Club in relation to the question of whether or not notice of any matter was received by the Club from FFV or otherwise.

1.14. Participation Licence

- 1.14.1. The terms of the Participation Licence are incorporated in to and shall form part of these Rules of Competition. To the extent of any inconsistency between the terms of these Rules of Competition and the terms of the Participation Licence, the terms of the Participation Licence will prevail.

2. COMPETITION RULES

2.1. General Information

- 2.1.1. All Competition Fixtures are played under the IFAB Laws of the Game, unless otherwise specified in these Rules.
- 2.1.2. Only teams from FFV registered clubs, country affiliates or representative teams may enter FFV competitions.
- 2.1.3. If a team is withdrawn on or before the point of the season at which all teams have played each other once a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn team in the fixture, and all championship points along with goals scored (for & against) that team will be erased. All Best & Fairest or Gold Medal votes gained in Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn team will also be erased.
- 2.1.4. If a team is withdrawn after the point of the season at which all teams have played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn team in the fixture, and:
 - a. all championship points along with goals scored (for & against) for FFV:
 - (i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn team up to the point of the season at which all teams have played each other an equal number of times will remain.
 - (ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team after the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased
 - b. All Best & Fairest or Gold Medal votes gained in;
 - (i) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all teams have played each other an equal number of times will remain;
 - (ii) Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team from the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased
 - c. For the avoidance of doubt, FFV may consider forfeited matches as Played for the purposes of Rule 2.1.4.
- 2.1.5. If a team withdraws prior to the start of the Regular Season and cannot be replaced, a "BYE" will be inserted into the fixture, or the fixture may be amended to accommodate the new number of Teams.
- 2.1.6. If a team withdraws from a league involving fewer than 9 teams or greater than 10 teams, additional competition rounds will be added to ensure all teams play an equal number of Competition Fixtures during the Regular

Season. Competition Fixtures will be preferentially scheduled to the catch up round before being scheduled mid-week.

- 2.1.7. FFV may alter Competition Fixtures kickoff, dates, venues and/or times as it deems necessary in its sole and absolute discretion.

2.2. Player Eligibility

- 2.2.1. A player is eligible to play in his or her team provided he or she:
- a. has been registered in line with FFA and FFV Registration Regulations.
 - b. is not under suspension by FFV/FFA.
 - c. meets the competition's age group and gender rules, where applicable and subject to any dispensation granted by FFV.
 - d. They comply with the Match Record requirements set out in Rule 3.3.
 - e. presents a current Player ID Card upon request to the Match Official for the player in the Competition Fixture, where competitions require ID cards.
 - f. Meets competition requirements for Finals or Play Off Matches.
- 2.2.2. Any Team which fields an ineligible player may be subject to penalty under the GDT.
- 2.2.3. Any Player playing under a dispensation granted by FFV must produce the letter of dispensation on match day upon request by the Match Official. Failing to produce a letter of dispensation upon request by the Match Official may result in a charge of Misconduct under the GDT.
- 2.2.4. If there is a dispute about any player(s) eligibility on the day of a Competition Fixture, the Match Official must note the details and send these to FFV together with the Match Report. No Club or Match Official may prevent a player from taking the field in an FFV Competition Fixture on suspicion of ineligibility. unless that player is unable to present an ID Card in accordance with Rule 2.2.1.e.

2.3. Gender Rules

- 2.3.1. Males may not play in any female competitions at any age level.

3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Facilities/Pitch Arrangements

- 3.1.1. It is the responsibility of all Clubs to:
- a. provide a venue that complies with the WNPL Facility Standard outlined in Schedule 3;
 - b. provide a safe environment for players, Match Officials, Club Officials and spectators;
 - c. ensure that their facilities and equipment are clean and fit for purpose;
 - d. ensure that all applicable State and local government statutory and other requirements have been met in respect of their facilities including but not limited to:
 - (i) legitimate approved use of the facility by the owner or land manager;
 - (ii) requirements under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Food Act 1984 and Building Act 1993; and,
 - (iii) any local laws.
- 3.1.2. A Club which advises FFV prior to commencement of Regular Season that it cannot provide facilities in accordance with Rule 3.1 or which, during the course of the season, has facilities which are found by FFV to not comply with these requirements may:
- a. have its home Competition Fixtures moved to an alternate venue or forfeit those home fixtures if a move to an alternate venue is not possible in FFV's opinion.
 - b. may be requested by FFV to advise what steps the Club will take to ensure that it can meet these facility requirements and may be relegated to such League as FFV deems appropriate.
- 3.1.3. FFV may in its sole discretion upon written request grant a temporary dispensation from compliance of Rule 3.1 to a Club which:
- a. is in the process of upgrading its facilities to FFV's requirements; or
 - b. due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the Club cannot comply with these requirements including temporary measures; or
 - c. has satisfied FFV that the Club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these facility requirements.

- d. Satisfies FFV that any requirements that need temporary dispensation does not impact fundamental match day operations including the impact on opposition teams, spectators and officials.
- 3.1.4. FFV may in its sole discretion upon written request may grant a temporary dispensation from compliance with Rule 3 to a Club which:
- a. is in the process of upgrading its facilities to meet FFV's requirements; or
 - b. due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the Club cannot comply with these requirements; or
 - c. has satisfied FFV that the Club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these facility requirements including temporary measures
 - d. satisfies FFV that any facility requirement(s) that need temporary dispensation do not impact fundamental match day operations including any impact on opposition Teams, spectators and officials.
- 3.1.5. FFV will not grant dispensation under Rule 3.1 from compliance with any requirement that relates to matters of safety or legislative compliance.

3.2. The Technical Area

- 3.2.1. A of 11 persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area at any given time during a Competition Fixture. Those persons may only include the coach and assistant coach, the Team manager, the substitutes and a registered health practitioner, sports trainer or accredited first aider as well as technical football and strength and conditioning staff
- 3.2.2. Subject to Rule 3.2.4, all persons must remain seated within the confines of the Technical Area, except in special circumstances e.g., a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player.
- 3.2.3. Players may leave the Technical Area to warm up, provided they do not interrupt the view of any Match Official.
- 3.2.4. Only one (1) person may stand up at one (1) time within the Technical Area.
- 3.2.5. All persons within the Technical Area must be wearing colours that clearly distinguish them from all players and Match Officials on the field of play e.g. a bib, jackets.
- 3.2.6. The Match Official may expel any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The Competition Fixture will not recommence until that person has left the Technical Area and field of play to the Match Official's satisfaction.

- 3.2.7. A player or Club Associate who is under suspension must not be present in the Technical Area.

3.3. Match Records

- 3.3.1. Clubs will be required to adhere to any future requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FFV from time to time.
- 3.3.2. Clubs must list on the Match Record all players taking part in a Competition Fixture and must produce to the Match Official a Match Record:
- a. in the case of NPL Womens not less than 60 minutes before the commencement of any FFV Competition Fixture.
 - b. in the case of all other competitions, unless otherwise stated in that competition's regulations, not less than 30 minutes before the commencement of any FFV Competition Fixture
 - c. If it fails to list on the Match Record the shirt number, full name and FFA ID number for each player, or adds players to the Match Record after submission to the Match Official (and without the Match Official's permission, and shall be processed in accordance with the terms of the GDT.
- 3.3.3. A club will be guilty of Misconduct if:
- a. any player listed on the Match Record is ineligible in accordance with either these Rules or the GDT;
 - b. More than 16 players are listed on the Match Record.
 - c. the club fails to list on the Match Record the shirt number, full name and FFA ID number for each player, or adds players to the Match Record after the submission to the Match Official (and without the Match Officials permission),

and shall be processed in accordance with the terms of the GDT.
 - d.
- 3.3.4. A representative from each team must sign the Match Record at the conclusion of the Competition Fixture and should do so only after the appointed Match Official has recorded all outstanding details.
- 3.3.5. If a Club disagrees with any of the details on a Match Record (either it's own or the oppositions), the Club must sign and indicate any disputed information by circling the detail in question. Only the following information can be disputed:
- a. Goal Scorers;

- b. Red and Yellow Cards
 - c. Final Score; or
 - d. Player Eligibility.
- 3.3.6. Match Record Disputes will only be investigated by FFV in the following circumstances:
- a. The Match Record and a request to conduct a match investigation is lodged with FFV within 7 days of the Competition Fixture; and
 - b. The following evidence is submitted by the Club in support of its request for a match investigation
 - i. Full Match Record;
 - ii. Video and/or photographic evidence;
 - iii. Statutory Declaration(s);
 - iv. Any other information accepted from the Club at the discretion of FFV.
- 3.3.7. FFV may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Rule 3.3.6.a. at its discretion.
- 3.3.8. Match Records will only be amended if FFV is satisfied that the information disputed is proven beyond reasonable doubt. FFV's decision is final in this regard and is not appealable.

3.4. Ground Marshals

- 3.4.1. Each Club must provide the number of marshals as directed by FFV.
- 3.4.2. Ground Marshals must:
- a. be at least 18 years old;
 - b. be in clearly identifiable uniform;
 - c. be visible from the Field of Play at all times; and,
 - d. escort the Match Official(s) to and from the change rooms and the Field of Play at the commencement of the Competition Fixture, at half time and at full time; and
 - e. where required, assist the Match Officials(s) to ensure a safe playing environment for all players, Club Officials and spectators.

- 3.4.3. Match Officials must not leave their dressing rooms to enter the field of play or return to their rooms from the Field of Play until the identifiable Ground Marshals are present.

Table 3.4 – Minimum Number of Ground Marshals for Competition Fixtures

League	Minimum Number of Ground Marshals
NPL Womens	4
NPL Girls	2

- 3.4.4. FFV may vary the minimum Ground Marshal arrangements for any FFV Competition Fixture at any time.
- 3.4.5. Each FFV Club, home and away, is required to provide 50% of the required marshals for all Competition Fixtures.
- 3.4.6. Ground Marshal numbers may be varied in line with FFVs Risk Assessment and Security Policy.

3.5. Player's Strip/Apparel

3.5.1. Clothing and Protective Gear

- a. All teams must nominate a 'Home' & 'Alternate' playing strip.
 - (i) Any change to these strips must be communicated to FFV 5 working days prior to the Club's next Competition Fixture.
- b. Predominantly black playing shirts will be permitted in NPL Womens and junior Fixtures for 2017 only.
- c. The Home Club in each Competition Fixture is required to wear their nominated 'Home' playing strip.
- d. In the instance of a clash between the home and away team as determined by the Match Official, the away team is required to provide a sufficiently alternate playing strip.
- e. The purpose of Rule 3.5 is to ensure that the two Clubs wear playing strips that distinguish them from each other and also the Match Officials. Clubs and Match Officials should refer to the following table to determine whether or not a strip clash exists. Table 3.5 lists which items of the strip are permitted to clash for different Divisions/Leagues.
- f. Table 3.5 outlines which items of kit are permitted to clash:

Table 3.5 – Clashes & Permissions

	NPL	NPL Girls

	Womens	
Playing Shirt	No Clash Permitted	No Clash Permitted
Shorts	No Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted
Socks	No Clash Permitted	Clash Permitted

- a. Bibs are not permitted to be worn in any Competition Fixture.
- b. All playing shirts must have a visible number on the back of the shirt.
- c. All playing numbers displayed on shirts must be unique within the team.
- d. A Club may be penalised pursuant to the GDT if:
 - (i) a Competition Fixture 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 3.5.1.d, or
 - (ii) a Club changes their home playing strip without notifying FFV Competitions via nplvictoria@ffv.org.au and this change results in a FFV Competition Fixture being postponed.
- e. Goalkeepers may wear any colour, provided it does not clash with either team or the Match Official.

3.5.2. Eyewear

- a. Any player requiring vision correction should wear 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.

3.6. Stretchers / First Aid

- 3.6.1. Each Home Club must allocate one (1) stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use for each pitch hosting Competition Fixture
- 3.6.2. Each Home Club must provide a First Aid Kit including, but not limited to:
 - a. Band Aids;
 - b. Bandages; and

- c. Ice Pack (or other available ice).

3.7. Smoking / Drinking At Venues

- 3.7.1. It is prohibited for anyone to smoke or consume alcohol within the confines of the field of play.
- 3.7.2. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that smoking and drinking alcohol are confined to licensed and permitted areas. Clubs should be familiar with and refer to State legislation regarding new smoking laws.

3.8. National Flags, Slogans & Emblems

- 3.8.1. Clubs must comply at all times with the [FFA National Club Identity Policy](#).
- 3.8.2. 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 Competition Fixture.
- 3.8.3. 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.
- 3.8.4. 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.
- 3.8.5. FFV may require the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.

3.9. Lighting Standards

- 3.9.1. Clubs wishing to play Competition Fixtures under lights must ensure that lighting for those Competition Fixtures complies with FFV's Football Lighting Policy referred to in Rule 9.

4. FIXTURE DETAILS

4.1. Duration of Competition Fixtures

4.1.1. *Periods of Play*

- a. All Competition Fixtures will be played over Normal Time as specified in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 – Duration of Normal Time across Age Groups

Age Group	Duration of Competition Fixtures – Normal Time
NPL 13	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
NPL 15	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
NPL 18	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
NPL Womens	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)

- a. Periods of play for specific competitions may be altered by FFV provided they are implemented throughout the age group or competition.
- b. The Match Official may cut short any Competition Fixture (including reducing the length of each half before the commencement of the Competition Fixture) if in the Match Official's opinion playing conditions compromise player safety or to prevent the delay to the commencement of any subsequent Competition Fixture from its scheduled kickoff time only if:
 - (i) it is in line with IFAB rules;
 - (ii) he or she has notified the coaches of each participating team.

4.1.2. *Commencement Time*

- a. Teams must be ready to begin playing by the stated kick off time.
- b. If either team is not ready to begin playing within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time the Match Official may determine the Competition Fixture as Abandoned in accordance with Rule 4.2:
- c. In circumstances where both teams and the Match Official agree the FFV Competition Fixture may commence up to 30 minutes after the scheduled kick off time, provided it does not delay the kick-off of subsequent Competition Fixtures either at that venue or to which the Match Official is also appointed on that day.

4.1.3. *Half Time Interval*

The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 15 minutes in duration.

4.2. Abandoned Competition Fixtures

4.2.1. Competition Fixtures may only be abandoned by a decision of the Match Official.

4.2.2. The Competition Fixture may be abandoned for any, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- a. any Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA requirement of seven (7) players;
- b. the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;
- c. the Match Official determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason;
- d. the Match Official, in consultation with security staff and ground marshals, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.
- e. One or both of the Teams is not ready to commence the Competition Fixture within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time; or
- f. In accordance with Rule 4.4.

4.2.3. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Rule 4.2.2 FFV may determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute sole discretion :

- a. If 80 per cent or more of Normal Time of a Competition Fixture has been played then the score at the time of abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by FFV with reference to the Match Official.
- b. Competition Fixture to be replayed in full.
- c. Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result'.
- d. Competition Fixture result is 0-0.
- e. Competition Fixture result is 3-0 to the non offending Team unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand. In determining what is a 'greater' result, FFV will give preference to goals FOR in the first instance (i.e. 4-1 will be considered a 'greater' result than 3-0).

- f. Competition Fixture to be replayed from the time at which the original Competition Fixture was abandoned. In the event a Competition Fixture is replayed in accordance with this Rule:
 - (i) The score at the time of the abandonment remains at the time the Competition Fixture recommences; and
 - (ii) Only players listed on the Match Record for the initial Competitions Fixture between the two sides will be eligible to compete in the recommenced Competition Fixture, unless FFV determines that additional players are eligible (for example, in the case of player injury or availability); and
 - (iii) FFV will determine what, if any, further substitutions are allowed by each Team during the recommenced Competition Fixture, giving consideration to the number of substitutions made in the Competition Fixture before it was originally abandoned (including which players may take the Field of Play or be substituted on).
- g. Competition Fixture at time of abandonment is to stand.

4.2.4. Any Club or Club Associate found to be responsible either in whole or in part for the abandonment of a Competition Fixture may be subject to penalties under the GDT.

a.

4.2.5. When a Competition Fixture is abandoned:

a. After commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of their normal match fee.

b. Prior to commencement of the Competition Fixture, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee if the Match Official(s) were present at the venue when the Competition Fixture was due to commence.

4.2.6. Match Officials may not claim more than one (1) postponed match fee from one venue on one day.

4.2.7. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned by the Match Official, both the Match Official and the Home Club must notify FFV by the following working day that the Competition Fixture has been abandoned.

4.3. Postponed/Rescheduled Competition Fixtures

4.3.1. Competition Fixtures may only be postponed or rescheduled by FFV competitions staff.

4.3.2. FFV may reschedule NPL Competition Fixtures at its discretion. In exercising that discretion, FFV:

- a. Is not subject to the deadline or timeframes set out in Rule 4.7;
 - b. Will take into consideration all relevant circumstances including but not limited to the scheduling of Cup Fixtures.
- 4.3.3. FFV will determine the new time and date for the playing of a postponed/rescheduled Competition Fixture. Such decision is not open to appeal or review. Clubs are obliged to fulfill any postponed or rescheduled FFV Competition Fixture as determined by FFV and any Club which fails to do so will automatically forfeit the Competition Fixture and may face penalty under the GDT.
- 4.3.4. Any postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture that requires rescheduling will be rescheduled into the next available catch-up round. Only when all catch-up rounds have been exhausted, or upon the written agreement of both clubs will FFV Competition Fixture be played midweek.
- 4.3.5. Any Competition Fixture scheduled by FFV to be replayed must be completed by no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of the Regular Season unless otherwise approved or directed by FFV in writing. FFV may record the result of any Competition Fixture not completed within this time frame as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.6. Any Club Associate or Club found guilty of rearranging a FFV Competition Fixture or requesting the appointment of Match Officials outside a set kick-off time or date will be subject to penalty under the GDT and may be subject to further penalties under the GDT. FFV may also record the final score of any such Competition Fixture as a 'No Result'.
- 4.3.7. In the event of a postponed or abandoned Competition Fixture which is required to be replayed, clubs have five (5) business days from the originally scheduled Competition Fixture to arrange an alternate date and venue. The date must fall within the Regular Season. Both date and venue must be approved by FFV. If no venue and date is provided the FFV Competition Fixture will be rescheduled at FFV's discretion.

4.4. Weather Conditions

- 4.4.1. FFV and/or the Match Official may delay or abandon any Competition Fixture due to weather, pitch conditions such as but not limited to excessive heat/humidity, lightning or rain that may endanger participants health and/or safety.
- 4.4.2. If 30 minutes before kick off the temperature at the venue is 32° or above, water bottles must be made available to enable any player to take a drink during the course of the Competition Fixture. Permission of the Match Official to take a drink is not required.

- 4.4.3. If conditions are considered extreme by the Match Official, he or she may;
- a. Allow a 2 minute break during the course of each half.
 - b. Allow additional drinks breaks in accordance with Rule 4.4.2 or otherwise;
 - c. Abandon the Competition Fixture, if in the Match Official's opinion it is unsafe to continue.

4.5. Match Points

- 4.5.1. In all Competition Fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

Result	Match Points Awarded
WIN	Three (3) points
DRAW	One (1) point
LOSS	Zero (0) points
FORFEIT	Three nil loss
NO RESULT	Zero (0) points and zero (0) goals awarded to either team

- 4.5.2. FFV reserves the right to record any Competition Fixture as a 'No Result'.
- 4.5.3. At the end of the Regular Season, all teams will be ranked from highest to lowest by virtue of the total number of match points received.
- 4.5.4. If one (1) or more teams finish the Regular Season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:
- a. The team with the greatest Goal Difference will finish higher.
 - b. If Goal Difference is the same, then the team that has scored the most Goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.
 - c. If Goal Difference is the same and Goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the aggregate results of Competition Fixtures played between those Teams For the current season (excluding Cup Fixtures)
 - d. if the aggregate scores between the teams are the same, then AWAY goals will count as double.
- 4.5.5. If one (1) or more teams have the identical number of match points, Goal Difference, Goals Scored & Conceded, and the results between the teams is the same, then those teams will be deemed to have tied.
- 4.5.6. If the final standing in any league is affected by a tie in accordance with Rule 4.5.5 so that it has a bearing on promotion or relegation to another League, Finals or Playoffs, then FFV will fixture a Play Off Match between the tied Teams in accordance with these Rules to separate them.

4.6. Non-Participation in a FFV Competition Fixture

- 4.6.1. Clubs/teams are obliged to participate in all Competition Fixtures. Any Club/Team which fails to do so may be subject to Misconduct under the GDT.
- 4.6.2. If both Clubs/Teams refuse to play or are not ready to commence the Competition Fixture as scheduled (refer to Rule 4.2.2.e), FFV may award a 'No Result'.
- 4.6.3. In the event of forfeit without adequate notification to FFV, the payment of any Match Official fees is entirely (100%) the responsibility of the non-participating Club. The payment will be shared (50%) if both Clubs do not (or are not ready to) participate in the Competition Fixture.
- 4.6.4. Non-participation and forfeit fines for specific competitions may be altered by FFV provided that they are implemented throughout the competition.
- 4.6.5. When insufficient players are available for a Competition Fixture a senior Team within a Club must take priority over a reserve Team. Failure to field either Team will be subject to penalty under the GDT.
- 4.6.6. Any Team which fails to participate in three (3) Competition Fixtures within a Regular Season may be removed from its League at FFV's discretion.

4.7. Change of Venue/Fixture Requests by Club

4.7.1. Change of Venue Requests

- a. Change of venue requests may only be made on the basis of perceived unplayable pitch conditions, or to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility.
- b. A written request, including booking confirmation, to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved facility must be received by FFV no less than ten (10) days prior to a Competition Fixture. FFV shall consider factors such as maintaining kick off times, relative distance to travel, and the quality of the facility and playing surface when considering such requests.
- c. Any change request based on deteriorating pitch or venue conditions may be considered within the 14 day period prior to the Competition Fixture at the discretion of FFV.
- d. Alternate venues will be assessed against the NPLW Facility Standard, any approval/dispensation is at the discretion of FFV.

4.7.2. Fixture Date/Time Change Requests

- a. FFV will consider a fixture changes if the request by a Club is received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture with written consent provided to FFV by the Club Officials of both Clubs. Any request submitted within 14 days is subject to the availability of match officials.
 - b. No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any NPL Womens Competition Fixtures
 - c. Scheduled FFV competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.
 - d. Exemption from Rule 4.7.2.c may only be made if;
 - (i) a request is made in accordance with Rule 4.7.2.a; and
 - (ii) five (5) days prior to the catch-up or Cup Fixture round neither Club is involved in any other Competition Fixture being played in that catch-up or Cup Fixture round.
- 4.7.3. Rules 4.7.1 and 4.7.2 do not apply to Finals or Play Off Matches.
- 4.7.4. Any decision to reschedule a Competition Fixture (or otherwise) under Rule 4.7 is subject to FFV's right to reschedule a Competition Fixture in accordance with Rule 4.3.2.
- 4.7.5. FFV' decisions in relation to rescheduling of Competition Fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and are not subject to appeal.

5. MATCH OFFICIALS

5.1. Match Official Fees

- 5.1.1. FFV will endeavor to appoint a Match Official to each Competition Fixture, subject to availability and applicable fixture schedule.
- 5.1.2. 2017 the Match Official fees as set out on the FFV website and will apply for the duration of the Regular Season, although are subject to change at any time.
- 5.1.3. Unless otherwise stated in the Competition Regulations, payment in cash or cheque of all Match Official fees must be made by the Home Club on the day of the Competition Fixture.
- 5.1.4. If payment is made by cheque, and that cheque is subsequently dishonoured, the Club will be invoiced for the outstanding amount plus any costs reasonably incurred by FFV as a result of the cheque being dishonoured.
- 5.1.5. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned or postponed, all Match Officials are entitled to receive match fees in accordance with Rules 4.2.5.

5.2. Assistant Match Officials

- 5.2.1. Where available a two (2) assistant Match Officials shall be appointed to a Competition Fixture (including junior Competition Fixtures) to assist the Match Official.
- 5.2.2. If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each team must provide assistant the Match Official. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit.

5.3. Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official

- 5.3.1. If the Match Official fails to honour his or her appointment, the next most senior Match Official (**Replacement**) will take charge of the Competition Fixture.
- 5.3.2. If the Match Official is late arriving at a Competition Fixture, the Replacement will take charge until the Match Official is ready to take over.
- 5.3.3. If no registered Match Official is present to act as the Replacement ten (10) minutes prior to scheduled start of the Competition Fixture, both clubs shall agree on a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture, or until the appointed Match Official arrives. If, by the scheduled kick off time, no agreement can be reached, the Home Club must appoint a person to act as the Match Official for the Competition Fixture.
- 5.3.4. If a Competition Fixture does not kick off within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time due to the absence of a Match Official the Home Club will be deemed to have forfeited the Competition Fixture.

- 5.3.5. All Clubs must fulfill all Competition Fixtures, regardless of whether or not the FFV-appointed Match Official is present to take charge. Failure to do so may result penalty under the GDT.

5.4. Decisions of the Match Official

- 5.4.1. The decisions of the Match Officials about any fact connected with the play are final and cannot be disputed by any party.

5.5. Pitch & Facility Exception Report

- 5.5.1. At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Pitch & Facility Exception Report, where necessary, and then ensure all relevant Competition Fixture documentation is lodged with FFV within two (2) working days.

5.6. Match Records and Misconduct Reports

- 5.6.1. At the conclusion of each Competition Fixture, the Match Official shall consult with his or her Assistant Match Officials, where appointed, and confirm the accuracy of all Competition Fixture information before completing each Team's Match Records.

- 5.6.2. Match Records must be:

- a. Submitted by the Club to FFV where no FFV Match Official officiates an NPL Competition Fixture and
- b. Retained by all Match Officials in relation to each Competition Fixture for a minimum of 12 months from the end of the Regular Season in which the Competition Fixture took place, and a copy submitted to FFV if requested.

- 5.6.3. Match Records to be submitted to FFV in accordance with Rule 5.6.2 must be submitted within 48 hours from the competition of the relevant Competition Fixture date. (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.a) or a request from FFV (in accordance with Rule 5.6.2.b)

- 5.6.4. Misconduct Reports must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in the GDT.

5.7. Player Safety and Blood Rule

- 5.7.1. The Match Official must ensure that any player who suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood leaves the pitch immediately for the purpose of receiving medical attention and for the safety of other players and officials
- 5.7.2. The Match Official may allow the injured player to rejoin the Competition Fixture only after the Match Official is satisfied that the injury or wound has been safely covered and contained.

- 5.7.3. If a player's uniform or attire has blood spilt on it, the Match Official may require the player to change his or her attire before rejoining the Competition Fixture.
- 5.7.4. 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 Match Official may in his or her discretion allow the player to wear an alternative numbered, or blank, shirt.

5.8. Match Reporting

- 5.8.1. Match Officials must enter all match results & player data in accordance with Rule 11.3
- 5.8.2. Match Officials will be required to adhere to any future requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FFV from time to time

6. REGISTRATION

6.1. The Registration Process is set out in the 2017 FFV Registration Regulations.

6.2. Player Roster Composition(PRC)

- 6.2.1. The PRC is as defined in the Participation Licence and as promulgated by FFV from time to time. A further copy of the PRC is contained in Schedule 4 to these Rules of Competition.
- 6.2.2. Clubs must comply with the PRC at all times.
- 6.2.3. A mandatory player roster of between 18 and 20 Players is required for each Club's NPL Women's Team.
- 6.2.4. A player roster of no more than 20 players is required for:
 - a. NPL 18 Girls
 - b. NPL 15 Girls
 - c. NPL 13 Girls
- 6.2.5. Initial player rosters must be submitted to FFV by Monday 20 February.
- 6.2.6. Any change to a player roster must be communicated to FFV prior to the player taking part in a NPL Women's Competition Fixture.
- 6.2.7. No Player may be added to NPL Women or NPL 18 player rosters after 30 June 2017 with the exception of Rule 6.2.7.a:
 - a. A maximum of two players from the NPL 18 roster may be elevated to the NPL Women's roster after 30 June 2017
- 6.2.8. If a Club participates in a Competition Fixture whilst in breach of the PRC, it will forfeit that match and the match will be awarded as a 3-0 win to its opposition.
- 6.2.9. In the event both Clubs are found to be in breach of the PRC in a Competition Fixture, that match will be recorded as a No Result.

7. CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Please refer to **Schedule 2** which sets out all relevant Codes of Behaviour and Codes of Conduct applicable to FFV competitions, Competition Fixtures, Clubs, Players, Match Officials and Club Associates and officials.

8. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF EACH VENUE CATEGORY

Please refer to **Schedule 3** for all Venue Category Minimum Requirements

9. FOOTBALL LIGHTING POLICY & REQUIREMENTS

Applicable lighting standards and requirements for Competition Fixtures are set out in FFV's [Football Lighting Policy](#) as published on the FFV website and as amended from time to time.

SCHEDULE 3 – 2017 COMPETITION REGULATIONS – NPL WOMEN'S & NPL GIRLS

10. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

10.1. General Information

10.1.1. These Regulations shall apply to all:

- a. NPL Womens Competition Fixtures;
- b. NPL Girls Competition Fixtures,

collectively referred to in these Regulations as '**NPL Competitions**'.

10.1.2. In 2017 NPL Competitions shall include the following:

League Name	Abbreviation	Number of Teams
National Premier Leagues Womens	NPLW	10
National Premier Leagues Girls 18	NPL 18	10
National Premier Leagues Girls 15	NPL 15	10
National Premier Leagues Girls 13	NPL 13	9

10.1.3. These Regulations are in addition to the Participation Licence signed by each NPL Club. Participation in NPL Competitions is subject to compliance with both these Regulations and the terms of the Participation Licence. See further Regulation 13.5.1 below.

10.1.4. All NPL Womens Teams and NPL 18 Teams from each NPL Club will play on the same day. NPL 18 Competition Fixtures will be played as a curtain raiser to NPL Womens Competition Fixtures on that day, unless otherwise determined by FFV.

10.1.5. NPL Competitions fixtures may only be played on public holidays with the permission of FFV.

10.1.6. FFV reserves the right to determine dates and times of Competition Fixtures with specific regards to the number of matches played within the surrounding two weeks; including but not limited to Team App Cup commitments.

10.2. NPL Competitions

10.2.1. All NPL Leagues shall consist of a single division comprising 9 NPL Clubs or such other number as may be determined by FFV in its absolute discretion.

- a. NPL Womens, NPL 18, and NPL 15 competitions will include FFV Talented Player Development teams. To avoid doubt the FFV Talented Player Development teams shall compete for competition points but are not eligible to play in Finals.

10.2.2. NPL Womens and NPL Girls will play each other on a home and away basis over 27 Rounds unless otherwise determined by FFV.

Finals

10.2.3. The Team finishing on top of the ladder at the conclusion of the Regular Season will be crowned premiers for that League.

10.2.4. All NPL Competitions will follow the finals format outlined below.

10.2.5. The Teams finishing in positions 1 to 4 at the conclusion of the Regular Season in each League will qualify for the NPL Finals Series for their League. The NPL Finals Series will be contested as follows:

a. *Week 1*

- (i) 1st place will host 2nd place with the winning Team advancing to the Grand Final, losing team will then compete in the Preliminary Final outlined in Rule 10.2.5.b (i).
- (ii) 3rd place will host 4th place, the winning Team will then compete in the Preliminary Final outlined in Rule 10.2.5.b (i), losing team is eliminated;

b. *Week 2*

- (i) The losing team in the match outlined in Rule 10.2.5.a (i) will host the winner from the match outlined in Rule 10.2.5.a (ii) with the winning team advancing to the Grand Final, losing team is eliminated;

c. *Week 3*

- (i) The Grand Final between the winners of the matches outlined in Rule 10.2.5.a (i) and Rule 10.2.5.b (i).
- (ii) The Grand Final will be hosted at an FFV appointed venue.

d. The winner of the Grand Final will be crowned the Victorian NPL Champion for that League.

Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

10.2.6. All Finals played in the 2017 Finals Series will be played over one (1) leg.

10.2.7. If, at the conclusion of any Final, the scores between the Teams are tied, extra time of two equal periods will be used to decide the winner.

10.2.8. If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game to determine the winner of the Final.

Player Restrictions

- 10.2.9. Each Player must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team during the current Regular Season to qualify to play Finals in 2017.

Fixtures

- 10.2.11. NPL Women's teams may nominate the following days to host their home Competition Fixtures: Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, although FFV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 10.2.12. Friday or Monday night Competition Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 6.15pm (NPL 18s) or 8.15pm (Seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 10.2.13. Saturday or Sunday Competition NPL Women's Fixtures may not kick off earlier than 12.15pm (NPL 18s) or 3.00pm (Seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 10.2.14. Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures may not kick off later than 6.30pm (NPL 18s) or 8.30pm (Seniors), unless either Competition Fixture has been rescheduled according to Rule 4.3.
- 10.2.15. The applicable kick off times for Saturday or Sunday Competition Fixtures apply to any Competition Fixtures held on public holidays.
- 10.2.16. NPL Fixtures may be played on Saturday or Sunday although FFV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 10.2.17. NPL Girls Fixtures may be played on Saturday or Sunday although FFV may schedule Competition Fixtures on other days as it deems necessary, or otherwise approves.
- 10.2.18. NPL Girls Fixtures have flexible kick off times provided they do not kick-off earlier than 9:00am or later than 6:30pm unless the FFV Competition Fixture has been rescheduled as per Rule 4.3, or as otherwise determined by FFV.
- 10.2.19. FFV may alter preferred kick off times to accommodate travel to and from regional areas.
- 10.2.20. FFV may alter kick off times of any Team within the NPL Girls competition upon the basis of a fixture clash.
- 10.2.21. Each NPL Club shall, in relation their NPL Womens Team:
- a. provide a facility and pitch which complies with the requirements of Rule 3.1 for all home Competition Fixtures.

- b. appoint and maintain a Media Liaison Officer;
- c. provide access to an internet connection at its home facility.
- d. make all Players available as may be required for promotional activities in their local communities as and when requested by FFV.

10.2.22. Failure to comply with Regulation 10.2.20 will result in the imposition of a penalty under the GDT and may also result in a charge of Misconduct unless FFV is satisfied that special dispensation should be granted.

10.3. NPL Girls Competitions

10.3.1. NPL Girls competitions will consist of the following age groups:

- a. Under 13;
- b. Under 15;
- c. Under 18.

Composition of Leagues Under 13 & Under 15

10.3.2. NPL Girls competitions will consist of one League in accordance with rule 10.1.2

- a. Each NPL Girls Team will play a total of 27 Competition Fixtures, under the competition format determined by FFV,

10.3.3. Every NPL Club may only (and must) enter one Team per age group in NPL Girls Competition (NPL18s, NPL15 s and NPL 13s).

10.3.4. FFV is not required to enter a Talented Player Development squad in each NPL Girls competition.

10.4. NPL 18 Competition

10.4.1. Players born prior to 1st January 1999 will be deemed 'overage' Players for the purposes of NPL 18s competition.

10.4.2. In the NPL 18s competition, Clubs may list and field a maximum of 4 overage Players in any one (1) Competition Fixture.

10.4.3. In all NPL 18s Competition Fixtures, Clubs must denote each overage Player on the Match Record by placing an asterisk next to that Player's shirt number.

10.5. Player Eligibility

10.5.1. All NPL Players must be registered in MyFootballClub in line with FFV Registration Regulations.

10.5.2. Players must be 15 years old by January 1 2017 to be eligible to participate in NPL Women's competition.

- a. A Club may seek dispensation from Rule 10.5.2 provided it applies in writing to FFV including an accompanying recommendation from the Club's Technical Director. FFV will consider and determine any such application in its sole and absolute discretion.

10.5.3. Players that participate in FFV Talented Player Development teams will be exempt from Rule 10.5.2

10.5.4. All Players competing in NPL Girls competitions are required to have Photo ID cards and present those ID cards to the Match Official before competing in any NPL Girls Competition Fixture. For clarity

- a. ID Cards must include the Player photo uploaded to MyFootballClub.
- b. An ID card with a photo attached after printing of the card will be deemed to be invalid.
- c. ID Cards presented in an electronic form, including but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops and computers are valid.
- d. Photocopied ID cards will be deemed invalid.
- e. Overage players in accordance with Rule 10.4.1 are not required to provide Photo ID cards

10.5.5. Players may apply for exemption to play down one age group under the guidelines for Relative Age Effect which are promulgated by FFV from time to time.

10.5.6. Players in the following age groups may take part in NPL Girls competitions:

Age Group	Year of Birth
NPL 13	Born on or after 1 January 2004
NPL 15	Born on or after 1 January 2002
NPL 18	Born on or after 1 January 1999

11. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

11.1. Substitution & Interchange

- 11.1.1. All Teams competing in NPL Women's Competition Fixtures are permitted to name five (5) and use all five (5) substitutes throughout those Competition Fixtures.
- 11.1.2. For all NPL Girls Competition Fixtures a maximum of 16 Players may be named on the Match Record. Those Teams may make any number of interchanges in accordance with the following:
 - a. For NPL 13 Competition Fixtures a maximum of two interchange periods per Team in each half;
 - b. For NPL 15 and NPL 18 Competition Fixtures a maximum of three interchange periods per Team in each half;
 - c. Teams must notify the Match Official when they intend to utilise their allocated interchange periods.
 - d. Teams may conduct any number of interchanges during the half time interval.
 - e. Match Officials may permit an interchange to take place outside of the allocated periods if, in their opinion and in consultation with the Team's first aid or medical staff, a Player has sustained an injury and is required to be replaced.
- 11.1.3. A Match Official may decline the interchange of Players in the last five (5) minutes of a Competition Fixture if in his opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.

11.2. Match Balls

- 11.2.1. The Home Club shall provide the Match Official with 3 match balls (size 5) no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture, subject to Regulation 11.2.2.
 - a. For all NPL 13 matches size 4 match balls must be provided.
- 11.2.2. All Clubs must use a licensed match ball from one of FFV's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by FFV from time to time.
- 11.2.3. All clubs must use the prescribed Mitre match ball in NPL Women's Competition Fixtures.
- 11.2.4. Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to FFV by the Match Official.

11.2.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 11.2 will result in a penalty under the GDT.

11.3. Results of Competition Fixtures

11.3.1. NPL Women's Competition Fixtures – Minimum Requirements

- a. The Match Official must enter:
 - (i) Half Time Score;
 - (ii) Full Time Score;
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Player List;
 - (iv) Home & Away Team Captain and GK;
 - (v) Home & Away Club Officials;
 - (vi) Home & Away Team goal scorers;
 - (vii) Home & Away Team yellow cards;
 - (viii) Home & Away Team red cards; and
 - (ix) Home & Away Team substitutions.
- b. Items outlined in 11.3.1.a.i and 11.3.1.a.ii must be entered within 90 minutes of the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.
- c. Items outlined in 11.3.1.a.iii to 11.3.1.a.vii (inclusive) must be entered within 24 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
- d. If no FFV Match Official has officiated the Competition Fixture:
 - (i) The Home Team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (including match score and information pertaining to the home team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.1.b and Rule 11.3.1.c.
 - (ii) The Away team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (excluding match score and information pertaining to the away team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.1.c.
 - (iii) Both the Home & Away team must submit to FFV a copy of their match record within 48 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
 - (iv) Clubs who fail to comply with Rule 11.3.1.d. may face a penalty under the GDT.

11.3.2. NPL Girls Fixtures – Minimum requirements.

- a. The Match Official must enter:
 - (i) Full Time Score;
 - (ii) Home & Away Team Player List & Numbers;
 - (iii) Home & Away Team Goal Scorers;
 - (iv) Home & Away Team yellow cards; and
 - (v) Home & Away Team red cards;
- b. Items outlined in 11.3.2.a.(ii) and 11.3.2.(iii) must be entered within 24 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
- c. If no FFV Match Official has officiated the Competition Fixture then:
 - (i) The Home Team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (including match score and information pertaining to the home team) in accordance with Rule 11.3.2.b and Rule 11.3.2.c.
 - (ii) The Away team must enter information outlined in Rule 11.3.1a (excluding match score and information pertaining to the away team)in accordance with Rule 11.3.1.c.
 - (iii) Both the Home & Away team must submit to FFV a copy of their match record within 48 hours of the completion of the Competition Fixture.
 - (iv) Clubs who fail to comply with Rule 11.3.2.c. may face a penalty under the GDT.

11.3.3. Clubs will be required to adhere to any future requirements relating to the use of online match records, results reporting and match data recording, as prescribed by FFV from time to time.

11.4. Catering

11.4.1. Home Clubs will be required to provide the following catering for visiting teams in NPL Competitions:

- a. NPL Women Competition Fixtures;
 - (i) 1 Slab of water (24 Bottles), or sports drink equivalent to be placed into the opposition change rooms prior to kick off.
 - (ii) 1 tray of sandwiches or equivalent hot food to be provided within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match.

- b. NPL 18 Competition Fixtures :
 - (iii) 1 Slab of water (24 bottles), or sports drink equivalent to be placed into the opposition change rooms prior to kick off.
- c. NPL 13 & NPL 15 Competition Fixtures;
 - (iv) There are no minimum catering requirements for junior fixtures

11.5. Recording of Matches

- 11.5.1. All Clubs are required to film all home matches of NPL Women's Team. In addition:
 - b. Footage must be filmed from at or near half way, at the highest available elevation.
 - c. Footage provided to FFV must be match highlights (all goals, other highlights at club's discretion) in minimum 720p video quality.
- 11.5.2. Match Highlights of each match must be provided to FFV no later than the Tuesday close of business following the NPL Women's Fixture in question, subject to Regulation 11.5.4 below.
- 11.5.3. For Competition Fixtures played on Monday, footage must be provided to FFV no later than Wednesday close of business.
- 11.5.4. For other midweek matches, excluding Friday, footage must be received no later than 2 working days after the conclusion of the Competition Fixture.

12. FIXTURE DETAILS

12.5. NPL Women & NPL Girls

12.5.1. No admissions fees may be charged for entry into NPL Women or NPL Girls matches.

12.5.2. Conditions of Entry to Venues

- a. For NPL Women's and NPL Girls Competition Fixtures the Home Club shall comply with FFV's conditions of entry to Club venues and shall display those conditions at each entry point to the venue.

12.6. Security

12.6.1. NPL Clubs are not required to provide contracted security for home matches.

12.6.2. Rule 12.6.1 is subject to FFV's Risk Assessment and Security Policy which may be amended from time to time.

12.7. Media and Other Passes

12.7.1. No Club may refuse entry to persons holding the following without FFV's prior written consent unless the person poses a genuine security threat:

- a. a current FFV Season or FFA Media Pass.

13. Participation Licence

- 13.5.1. Every NPL Club must sign a Participation Licence prior to participating in NPL competitions. The terms of the Participation Licence must be complied with at all times. In the event a term of the Participation Licence conflicts with one or more of these Regulations, the Participation Licence term(s) will prevail.

14. AWARDS

14.5. Best and Fairest Votes

- 14.5.1. At the conclusion of each NPL Women's Competition Fixture, the Match Official must complete the Best and Fairest Votes and submit these to FFV within two (2) working days.
- 14.5.2. All votes must be recorded on the FFV competition management system.
- 14.5.3. All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 14.5.4. Votes shall be cast in a 3-2-1 format with three (3) votes given for the Player adjudged by the Match Official to be the best and fairest in the relevant NPL Competition Fixture.
- 14.5.5. A failure to comply with Regulation 13 may result in a Match Official being suspended from officiating or demoted to a lower competition Division.
- 14.5.6. A player who receives a suspension as defined in the GDT, with the exception of a Y5 suspension, shall be ineligible to win a Best and Fairest award in the competition that the suspension was received. To avoid doubt this Regulation includes but is not limited to a player who receives ten (10) Yellow Cards or more in a Regular Season
- 14.5.7. A Player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win a Best and Fairest award.
- 14.5.8. Best and Fairest awards will not apply in NPL Gilrs Leagues.
- 14.5.9. In the event an FFV Match Official is not appointed to a Competition Fixture, no Best and Fairest votes will be awarded for that Competition Fixture.
- 14.5.10. The Player who has received the most Best and Fairest votes at the conclusion of the NPL Women Regular Season and who is not deemed ineligible under Rule 14, will be deemed the Best and Fairest winner for that League.
- 14.5.11. If two (2) or more Players have the same number of Best and Fairest votes at the conclusion of the Regular Season, multiple Best and Fairest winners will be awarded for that League.

14.6. Leading Goal Scorers

- 14.6.1. The Player who scores the most goals in a single League during the Regular Season will be deemed the Leading Goal Scorer of that League.
- 14.6.2. FFV will determine Leading Goal Scorers based on data entered into FFV's online competition management system.

14.6.3. Leading Goal Scorers will be awarded for all NPL competitions, including NPL Women's and NPL Girls Leagues.

SCHEDULE 2 - CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

Overview

The following codes are deemed to be incorporated into these Rules of Competition:

- [Australian Sports Commission Junior Sport Codes of Behaviour](#),
 - [FFA National Spectator Code of Behaviour](#),
 - [FFA National Code of Conduct](#),
 - [Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport](#)
- It is vital that everyone involved in Football, whether they are athletes, coaches, parents, officials or supporters, understand their responsibilities to ensure that all participants enjoy the sport.
 - 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.

General Principles for all Persons Involved in Sport

- Operate within the Rules and spirit of Football, promoting fair play over winning at any cost.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each person as an individual.
- Display control and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators in the conduct of the sport.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance will exist) with people under the age of 18 years.
- Adopt appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- Adopt responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.

- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Do not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviours.
- Do not bring the game of Football into Disrepute, by engaging in discriminatory, offensive or criminal behaviour.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in harassment, including sexual harassment or any unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by provoking or inciting hatred or violence, including crowd violence.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by engaging in corruption, forgery or falsification, or by abusing a position to obtain a personal benefit.
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by the throwing or fixing of a match, by accepting bribes, or by any conduct intended to unfairly effect the result of a match;
- Do not bring the game into Disrepute by any other conduct that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of Football.

(NB for the purposes of this code of behaviour 'Disrepute' means conduct, statement or appearance in public that is damaging to reputation).

Players' Code of Behaviour

- Give your best at all times.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
- Play by the Rules.
- 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.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your Team or the opposition.

- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, Teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
- Remove all jewelry prior to training and Match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you.
- Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time.

Coaches' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Be aware of and support the sport's injury management plans and return to play guidelines.
- Help each person (athlete, official, etc) to reach their potential. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and encourage them with positive and constructive feedback.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each participant as an individual.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up-to-date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of participants.
- Act within the rules and spirit of your sport.
- Promote fair play over winning at any cost.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators.
- Show respect and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Display responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment-free environment.

- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance exists) with people under the age of 18.
- Ensure that any physical contact with another person is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.
- Be honest and do not allow your qualifications or coaching experience to be misrepresented.
- Never advocate or condone the use of illicit drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances or methods.
- Never participate in or advocate practices that involve match fixing.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person, regardless of their age, race, gender, ability, cultural background, sexuality or religion.
- Do not tolerate abusive, bullying or threatening behaviour.

Administrators' Code of Behaviour

- Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the sport as a whole.
- Ensure that any information acquired or advantage gained from the position is not used improperly.
- Conduct your responsibilities with due care, competence and diligence.
- Do not allow prejudice, conflict of interest or bias to affect your objectivity.
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- 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.

Match Officials' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Be consistent and impartial when making decisions.
- Address unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all people.
- Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players.

- Praise and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Do not tolerate unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than focus on negative aspects.
- Encourage and promote rule changes to all players and members.
- Be a good sport yourself, as actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in refereeing.
- Remember that you set the example on the park, therefore, your behaviour and comments should always be positive and supportive.

Parents Code of Behaviour

- Remember that children play the sport for their enjoyment, and not yours;
- Encourage children to participate and have fun.
- Focus on the child's effort and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children to always participate according to the rules;
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud good play by both Teams;
- Support all efforts to remove racial and religious vilification, verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities;
- Respect the match official's decisions and teach your child to do likewise;
- Show respect and appreciation to Club officials, including coaches, officials and administrators. Ensure any issues are raised through the correct channels;
- Do not smoke or consume alcohol near the Team bench (Technical Area) or sideline.

Spectators' Code of Behaviour

All spectators must comply with the [FFA National Spectator Code of Behaviour](#).

It is important that all spectators at a Football Federation Victoria (FFV) approved fixture are able to enjoy the Match in a safe and comfortable environment. Accordingly, each person present at a FFV fixture must:

- Respect the decisions of the Match Officials, and teach children to do the same;
- Never ridicule or unduly scold a child for making a mistake;
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, race, colour, religion, language, politics, national or ethnic origin; Not use violence in any form, whether it is against other Spectators, Team Officials (including coaches) or Players;
- Not engage in discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form including the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting;
- Comply with any terms of entry of a venue, including bag inspections, prohibited and restricted items such as flares, missiles, dangerous articles and items that have the potential to cause injury or public nuisance;
- not, and must not attempt to, bring into a venue national or political flags or emblems (except for the recognised national flags of any of the competing Teams) or offensive or inappropriate banners, whether written in English or a foreign language;
- Not throw missiles (including on to the field of play or at other spectators) and must not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority; and
- Conduct themselves in a manner that enhances, rather than injures, the reputation and goodwill of FFV, FFA, and football generally.
- It is the host Club's responsibility to ensure this Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all spectators.

Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport

Every person in Victoria has the right to participate in community sport that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. At the same time, everyone plays a part in ensuring their behaviour and their actions are supportive of these values.

State Sporting Associations, leagues and clubs also have a responsibility to ensure participation in any community sport event is free of any anti-social behaviour. This means that behaviour both on and off the field should not prevent others from taking part and getting active.

The [Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport](#) outlines behaviours which are expected of every person involved in community sport, and behaviours which must not be tolerated.

The Code supports [Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women](#) by taking a zero tolerance stance towards violence against women. The Code also aims to encourage cultural and behavioural change as a pre-emptive measure against violence.

Acts of [violence](#), [discrimination](#) and [vilification](#) are illegal acts in Victoria. It is a club's responsibility to report these to the appropriate legal authorities and ensure these acts are not tolerated by the sport or club.

State Sporting Associations, leagues and clubs will have the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing the code through sport specific penalties. Organisations that do not adhere to and enforce the Code will not be eligible for funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria, and any existing funding will cease.

The Code provides the opportunity to make a positive impact on community participation in sport and recreation by encouraging appropriate behaviour at all times. Implementation of the Code will ensure that community sport remains safe and inclusive for all.

Code of Conduct

Every person: spectator, player, club member, official, participant, administrator, coach, parent or member of the community involved with the sport, should work to ensure:

- inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation
- inclusion of every person regardless of their race, culture or religion
- opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in the sport and develop to their full potential
- respect is shown towards others, the club and the broader community
- a safe and inclusive environment for all
- elimination of violent and abusive behavior
- protection from sexual harassment or intimidation.

This Code applies to community sport, training and club sanctioned activities.

Breaches of the Code

The following behaviours are considered breaches of the Code:

- Violent or abusive behaviour towards another person.
- Vilification of any kind towards another person.
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender or sexual orientation.
- Discrimination against another person based on their race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic.
- Sexual harassment or intimidation of another person.

- Victimisation of another person for exercising their rights through the Code of Conduct.
- Failure to maintain a safe environment.

If any of these behaviours take place within a sport or recreational context, the relevant State Sporting Association, league, association or club is able to impose penalties or sanctions. For this to occur, the breach must be confirmed through an appropriate assessment process at the appropriate level.

State Sporting Association Responsibility

The responsibility of a State Sporting Association through the Code of Conduct is to:

- promote the Code of Conduct to all persons involved in the sport or club
- ensure reporting and assessment processes are in place to identify and penalise breaches of the Code
- report on the implementation of the Code to the State Government on an annual basis
- ensure that every person involved in the sport is able to exercise their rights without fear of victimisation.

SCHEDULE 3 – NPL WOMEN'S FACILITY STANDARDS

WNPL Class - Matchday Facilities 2017				
Heading	Rule #	Current Requirement	Required by Round 1	Desired
Section 1 - Field of Play & Environs				
Pitch Size	1.1	Length - Minimum 96m, Maximum 105m		Length - Minimum 100m, Maximum 105m
	1.2	Width - Minimum 60, Maximum 68m		
Run-offs	1.3	A minimum runoff area of 3 metres to any tripping hazard or solid obstruction, including fences and team benches, must be provided		
Goals	1.4	Goals conform with FIFA Laws of the Game		
	1.5	Permanent and semi-permanent goals must conform to Australian Standard AS 4866.1 2007 - Playing field equipment - Soccer goals Part 1: Safety aspects and be properly installed and secured. Movable goals must be compliant with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's Consumer Protection Notice No.28 of 2010.		
Corner Flags	1.6	Corner flags must be in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game and not feature any nationalist emblem		
Pitch Surface	1.7	The field of play must have an even grass coverage. No important area of the field, including goal areas, may be significantly without grass		

	1.8	The field of play must not include a cricket wicket (synthetic or turf)		
Pitch - Synthetic Surface	1.9	Synthetic surfaces must hold a current FIFA 1 star rating		Synthetic surfaces to hold a FIFA 2 star rating

Section 1 continued - Field of Play & Environs

Line Markings	1.10	Lines must be marked in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the game		
	1.11	No extraneous markings may be present on the pitch		
	1.12	Only products such as agricultural limestone or water based paint or other similar products which will not harm ground users.		
Stretcher	1.13	One stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use must be available within the field of play fencing. Wooden or canvas stretchers are not suitable		
Pitch Fence	1.14		A chain wire, or similar temporary, fence around the pitch meshed or covered to the ground, with a minimum height of 1.1.	A permanent chain wire, or similar, fence around the pitch meshed to the ground, with a minimum height of 1.1.
Covered Players Race	1.15			A covered roof players race from the dressing rooms to the playing area is provided. The race should have a minimum height of 2.2m and minimum width of 2m.
Technical Area	1.16	A technical area must be marked for each team on opposite side of the halfway line, on the same side of the field. It must be marked no closer than 7m from the halfway line, and no further than 20m from the halfway line.		

	1.17	The technical area should extend 1m on either side of the designated seated area and extend forward up to a distance no closer than 1m from the touchline.		
Team Benches	1.18	Two covered team benches or equivalent seating with adequate seating for 9 people.		
Training Facilities	1.19	Refer to Youth Development Plan		

Section 2 - Player & Official Amenities

Player Change Rooms	2.1	Two players lockable dressing rooms must be provided, each with exclusive access to an immediately adjacent shower area and toilet facilities. The shower area must have hot and cold water showers		Four players lockable dressing rooms must be provided, each with exclusive access to an immediately adjacent shower area and toilet facilities. The shower area must be finished in impervious material to a height of 1.2 m and have hot and cold water showers. Recommended size for senior dressing rooms, including required shower and toilet area, is 25m ² . Recommended size for junior dressing rooms, including required shower and toilet area, is 20m ² .
Match Officials Room	2.2	Match Officials must have exclusive access to a lockable dressing room. The Match Officials room must be accessible without passing through any players' change room which is in use. The room must have exclusive access to a toilet and shower providing hot and cold water.		Recommended size for Match Officials rooms, including required shower and toilet area, is 20m ² .
	2.3		The Match Officials Room must include a writing desk and chair or bench.	

Massage Table	2.4		One fully functional and purpose built massage table must be provided for each of the players dressing rooms	
First Aid	2.5	A first aid room including basic first aid equipment and a bed / massage table all of which must be maintained in a clean and sterile condition.		

Section 3 - Spectator Amenities

Public Toilets	3.1	Female and Male toilets situated no more than 100m from the playing field must be provided.		Two toilet blocks provided for both female and male (each section having a minimum of two cubicles) situated not more than 100m from the playing field.
	3.2	Disabled toilet access must be provided		
Scoreboard	3.3		A fully functional scoreboard, clearly visible to the majority of spectators must be provided and operated on matchday for senior fixtures.	A fully functional scoreboard (including the names of each participating club), clearly visible to the majority of spectators must be provided and operated on matchday for senior fixtures.
Parking	3.4	Car parking for 100 cars must be available within 400 meters of the ground		
Food & Drink	3.5	A canteen/kiosk serving hot and cold drinks and snack foods must be available and operated on match day		

Public Address System	3.6		A fully functional Public Address (PA) system must be provided. The PA must be clearly audible to all parts of the venue, including social areas and operated on match day to make announcements to introduce players, announce scorers and provide emergency instructions to patrons.	
Spectator viewing area	3.7	No requirement in Year 1		Undercover seating / viewing area for 500 people to be provided

Section 4 - Operations & Media

Access	4.1	The venue must be accessible by emergency services vehicles.		
Media viewing area	4.2		A media and operations viewing area with unobstructed views of the playing arena and scoreboard must be provided. The media and operations viewing area must be under temporary or permanent cover.	The media and operations viewing area must be set up to enable media representatives to view the match and work on a computer, and include access to power outlets and a writing desk or table and chairs.
Broadcast / filming Point	4.3		Provision of unobstructed viewing access for media/camera operator.	A suitable location for the broadcast of Matches must be provided. The broadcast point must provide a safe, elevated where possible, location at the half way line for the camera operator. The camera operator's location(s) must be covered, safe to access and work from, protected from inclement weather and be provided with power. The camera must have a direct view, without glass, to the field of play.
Perimeter Fencing	4.4			Spectator amenities must be fully enclosed with perimeter fencing at least 1.8m high.

Section 5 - Training Venue(s) Requirements

Pitch Size	5.1		Full size pitch (approx. 100m v 60m) or comparable space, equivalent to half a pitch per team per session	
Pitch Surface	5.2		A well maintained flat, surface with a good coverage of grass or synthetic surface	
Lighting	5.3		Target of 50 lux lighting across the ground	
Toilets	5.4		Access to Unisex toilets within reasonable distance from the training area	
Access	5.5		Access to the venue for 3 nights per week, for 8 months per year noting this may include utilising multiple facilities to cover the 8 month period	

SCHEDULE 4 – 2017 PLAYER ROSTER COMPOSITION

Consistent with the NPL Men's competition and the recommendations from the Women's National Competition Review (WNCR), each NPL Women's Team will be subject to a modified version of a PPS. The aim of the PPS is to:

- Incentivise older and experienced players to remain in the top competition
- Encourage players to remain within the same club structure
- Encourage Home grown players
- Establish a limit of W-League (and hence national team) players in the one squad
- Encourage rising stars

As part of the WNCR, it was identified that the women's game does not have an issue with excessive player payments.

As part of the WNCR, it was identified that a modified version of the Men's PPS would be implemented in the NPL Women's to address a number of key issues in respect to player rosters. In moving towards a similar model that is adopted in the NPL Men's competition, the following model will be introduced in 2017 to provide us with an opportunity to directly address the key issues as identified in the WNCR, whilst also assessing the effectiveness of the current PPS model in operation across the NPL Women's competition in Victoria.

In order to achieve our objectives as outlined in the WNCR, the following system, titled the Player Roster Composition (PRC) is proposed to address the specific detail on the composition of a player roster via certain categories. This is a hybrid system that took into consideration the player roster regulations in the Westfield W-League, Foxtel National Youth League, Hyundai A-League and the English Premier League. The PRC allows clubs the flexibility to build a player roster with the WNCR objectives in consideration.

The PRC will provide a great stepping stone in encouraging clubs to address the key areas in the NPL Women's competition such as:

- Incentivising and encouraging experienced players to remain and return to the elite state based competition.
- Encouraging clubs to develop a youth development structure that promotes players from the club's youth teams into the Senior Women's team.
- Ensuring competition parity and stability by addressing key areas of a roster.

Required Player Roster Composition Categories for WNPL in Victoria

Category	Requirements
Youth Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 3 players on their player roster under the age of 17 in any one season (16 years of age or younger on 31 December) in that competition season
Overage Players	Each Team must have a minimum of 2 players on their player roster, 25 years of age or older in any one season (the player must be 25 years of age or older on or prior to 31st December in that competition season)
Matildas	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 2 current FFA contracted Matildas on their player roster in any one season
W-League Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 4 W-League Players on their player roster in any one season
Loyalty Players	Each Team must have a minimum of 8 Loyalty Players on their roster in any one season – Starting in 2017
Visa Players	Each Team is permitted to have no more than 2 Visa Players on their roster in any one season

Competition Requirements

- At all times during a NPL Women's season, a Club must include a minimum of 18 Players on its Player Roster and may include a maximum of 20 Players on its Player Roster.
- For the purposes of the PRC, playing in a match is defined as taking the field of play (i.e. in the starting 11 or entering the field as a substitute). For the avoidance of doubt, it will not constitute playing a match if the Player remains on the bench and does not enter the field of play.
- Player Roster Composition only applies to the PlayStation 4 NPL Women's (Senior) team only.
- All Players are required to be registered in-line with the PlayStation 4 NPL Rules of Competition and FFV Registration Regulations.

EXPANATORY NOTES

General

- A player may fulfil multiple categories simultaneously. I.e. A player may be classified as a Matilda and a W-League Player on a Player Roster. Clubs must take this into consideration when constructing their Player Roster.
- All Players on the Player Roster and competing in the WNPL competition must as a minimum turn 15 years of age by 31 December in that competition season.
- A player's age is based on their age as at 31st December in that WNPL competition season.

Player Roster

- Clubs can promote players from their Youth Teams into their Senior Women's team on a match day. However, a player that is not listed on the Player Roster can only participate (i.e. take the field of play) in a maximum of 6 matches before she is then required to be formally included on the Player Roster in order to be eligible to play in any further matches with the Senior Team.

Loyalty Player

- Should a player move from their WNPL club into the Talented Player Pathway (W-League and/or NTC) and then return to their original WNPL club from the Talented Player Pathway they will be classified as a Loyalty Player for the purpose of the PRC.

W-League Player

- A Player must have started 6 W-League matches, or taken the field (either starting or as a substitute) in at least 9 W-League matches in the previous W-League season, to be classified as a W-league Player.
- A Player, who would otherwise be classified as a W-League Player under the PCR will not be considered as a W-League player for the purposes of the Player Roster in the following circumstances:
 - In 2016 and 2017 – any player who has played for a minimum of 1 year or more as a junior at the NPL Women's Club (or original applicant)
 - In 2018 – any player who has played for a minimum of 2 years or more as a junior at the NPL Women's Club (or original applicant)
 - In 2019 - any player who has played for a minimum of 3 years or more as a junior at the NPL Women's Club (or original applicant)

Overage Player

- Should an Overage player leave a Club during the season, the Club may seek dispensation from FFV relieving it of the need to replace that Player during that season. Any dispensation request must explain why the Player left and why the Club cannot replace that Player with another Overage Player in the same year. FFV retains sole and exclusive discretion under the PRC to provide the club with a dispensation in relation to Overage Players in these circumstances.

Australian Player

An Australian Player is any Player who is:

- a citizen of Australia;
- a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a person resident in Australia on a "permanent" visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the person's Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the person's online Visa Entitlement Verification); or
- the holder of a subclass 200 refugee visa or a subclass 866 protection visa issued by the Australian Government.

Visa Player

- A Visa Player is any Player who does not meet the above definition of Australian Player.
- NPL Clubs are encouraged to refer to the following website for further clarification regarding visas: <http://www.border.gov.au/>
- For the purposes of the PCR, a New Zealand Citizen is classified as a Visa Player unless she satisfies the definition of an Australian Player. Please refer to the Department of Immigration website for further clarification regarding the status of New Zealand Citizens in Australia: <http://www.border.gov.au>

POST 30 JUNE – PLAYER REGISTRATION/PLAYER ROSTER

Player Registration: no player turning 16 or above in 2017 is permitted to register with an NPLW club post 30 June unless a exemption request is granted.

Player Roster: no player, even if registered to the club, may be added to a Senior or U18 Player Roster post 30 June with exception to youth promotion. This also includes any existing player listed on a Player Roster who is subsequently removed post 30 June for reasons such as LTI or 'underperforming'. Players in this instance will have the opportunity to register with a Women's State League club up until 4 August (final day for a player to change clubs).

Scenario 1

An unregistered/uncontracted player located interstate or overseas registers with an NPLW club and added to that club's Player Roster however would not be available for selection until mid July.

This would be permitted as the player has been:

- a) Registered and added to the Player Roster prior to June 30.

Scenario 2

A registered/contracted player located interstate or overseas is interested in joining an NPLW club however cannot de-register with their current club until mid July.

This player would not be permitted to register with the NPLW club because:

- a) They are not permitted to register with an NPLW club prior to June 30 as they will be registered with another club at that time; this constitutes dual-registration which is not permitted.
- b) Players cannot be registered to/added to a Player Roster post 30 June.

Scenario 3

A club removes a player from their Player Roster post 30 June, as they have been underperforming, and will be replaced by an U18 player.

This is permitted however:

- a) The removed player cannot be re-added to the Player Roster or permitted to register with another NPLW club;
- b) Players cannot be registered to/added to a Player Roster post 30 June.

Scenario 4

A club removes an U18 player from their Player Roster post 30 June, to be replaced by another U18 player who played their 6th senior match in the match prior being added to the Player Roster.

This is permitted however:

- a) The removed U18 player cannot be re-added to the SPR. If that player has played 6 senior matches they would not be permitted to play another senior match for the remainder of the season including finals (see 'Finals' below);
- b) The replacement U18 player cannot assume roster positions 21 or 22 on the SPR if those roster positions have already been filled (see 'Youth Promotion' below).

EXEMPTION REQUESTS

Clubs may apply for a player exemption request to register a player post 30 June in the instance their GK suffers a LTI or following departure of an 'Overage' player and that clubs falls below the minimum requirement.

NPLW clubs may only seek replacement players from non NPLW clubs. Player Exemption Request form can be found via the link below:

<http://www.footballfedvic.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/2016-Player-Exemption-Request-Form.pdf>

YOUTH PROMOTION

As agreed by Clubs and FFV, an additional 2 roster positions will be added to the SPR raising the maximum number of listed players from 20 > 22; the minimum of 18 listed players still remains.

Roster positions 21 & 22 on the SPR are reserved solely for the purposes of youth promotion of U18 players. Promoted youth players may only be listed in roster positions 21 and/or 22 once and cannot change at any point thereafter. Promoted youth players may also be included in the general roster or roster positions 1-20.

Youth Promotion players must be listed on the club's U18 Player Roster (see 'U18 Player Roster' below)

Scenario 1

A NPLW club submits its SPR on 30 June with 19 listed players with roster positions 21 & 22 left vacant. An U18 player then plays her 6th senior match and the club wishes to add her to the SPR to continue to play in senior matches.

The club is permitted to:

- a) Add the U18 player to the general roster (roster position 20). If that player is subsequently removed from the SPR, she cannot be re-added. Roster position 20 is now vacant for promotion of another U18 player.
- b) Add the U18 player to roster positions 21 or 22. That player has now taken a youth promotion roster position and cannot be replaced. In this instance, roster position 20 remains vacant for promotion of another U18 player.

Scenario 2

A registered/contracted player located interstate or overseas is interested in joining an NPLW club however cannot de-register with their current club until mid July.

This player would not be permitted to register with the NPLW club because:

- c) They are not permitted to register with an NPLW club prior to June 30 as they will be registered with another club at that time; this constitutes dual-registration which is not permitted.
- d) Players cannot be registered to/added to a Player Roster post 30 June.

U18 PLAYER ROSTER

Clubs must submit an U18 Player Roster by 30 June listing between 16-20 players. This Player Roster serves as the eligible player list for Youth Promotion to the SPR.

Selection of match day U18 squads are not limited to players solely listed on the U18 Player Roster. Clubs may still select 'overage' players from the Senior team to play down or players from their U15 team to play up.

FINALS ELIGIBILITY

Rules of Competition Excerpt

10.2.9. Each Player must have Played at least five (5) Regular Season Competition Fixtures for that Team during the current Regular Season to qualify to play Finals in 2017.

In addition to the above clause, FFV provide the following notes:

- Players must be listed on the SPR to be eligible for finals selection;
- Clubs will not be permitted to make any changes to the SPR following the final round of the regular season;
- In the event the senior team back-up goalkeeper has not 'played' (taken the field) the required 5 matches, the Club must submit in writing a dispensation request outlining:
 - Player details (Name & FFA ID number); and
 - Outline minimum 5 matches where that player acted as the back-up GK for the senior team.