



**CENTRAL COAST
FOOTBALL**

2024 Competition Rules & Regulations

Approved by the Board of CCF on 12th December 2023

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CENTRAL COAST FOOTBALL (CCF) REGULATIONS

The following Regulations have been formulated and approved by the Board of Central Coast Football in accordance with Section 37 of the Central Coast Football Constitution and shall apply from 1st January 2023 and shall take replace all previous Rules and Regulations.

These Regulations should be read in conjunction with any other policy or approved by the Board of CCF.

1.1 ADMINISTRATION

1.1.1 Terminology and Definitions

- a. The following names/titles have been abbreviated in this document as stated, for the sole purpose of ease of presentation:

<i>Name/Title</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>
Central Coast Football Limited	CCF
Federation Internationale de Football Association	FIFA
Football Australia	FA
Football New South Wales	FNSW
Central Coast Football Referees Branch	CCFRB

- b. Where these regulations require Central Coast Football (CCF) to make a decision, determination, appointment or undertake an action then this responsibility is bestowed upon the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CCF or their nominee unless specifically written otherwise.

1.2 GENERAL - ALL COMPETITIONS

1.2.1 Competition Rules

- a. All matches must be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as approved by FIFA except where specifically stated in these Rules and Regulations.

1.2.2 Fines and Sanctions imposed for Breaching Rules and Regulations

- a. Teams, players, clubs and/or club officials found guilty of breaching these rules and regulations may have penalties and/or sanctions imposed upon them.
- b. Such penalties and/or sanctions may be imposed by the Judiciary Committee, Disciplinary Tribunal or Central Coast Football and may include:
- (i) Financial penalties in the form of fines, bonds or other such guarantees, sureties or payments
 - (ii) Determination of Result (as per 2.4.11)
 - (iii) Suspension and/or expulsion from any competition
 - (iv) Loss of competition points.

1.2.3 Competition Structures

- a. CCF shall from time to time decide on the format for each competition and shall notify each club/team prior to the closing date for team nominations, which shall be on a date determined by CCF.
- b. CCF may alter such formats if, after the closing of team nominations, it is found that any or all of the original format would not be practical, based on nominations received.
- c. All players must be properly registered and pay the appropriate fees as advised by CCF.

1.2.4 Player Payments

- a. Under no circumstances are players to receive payment for playing football in CCF competitions. This is a condition of FA registration.
- b. Under no circumstances are players to receive payment from a third party for playing football in CCF Competitions.
- c. As per the CCF Constitution, CCF may request clubs to provide their financials and have these audited.
- d. Any team, player, club and/or club official found to be in breach of this regulation may have penalties and/or sanctions imposed upon them in line with regulation 1.2.2.

1.2.5 Prize Money for Competitions

- a. CCF may fund prize money for any competition or part thereof. CCF shall decide the amounts to be funded.
- b. Such prize money shall be withheld if the intended recipient of same is in any way Unfinancial in respect to CCF. Such withheld prize monies may be applied by CCF in reduction of any monies owing by the intended recipient. CCF may impose conditions upon clubs by reasonable means, such as the necessity to wear badges depicting any sponsor, as a prerequisite to being eligible to receive any such prize monies.

1.2.6 Non-CCF Organised Competitions/Matches (E.g. Trial Matches, Exhibition Matches, or Similar)

- a. Clubs wishing to stage non CCF organised competitions/matches including, but not limited to, Pre-season/Trial, Out of Season, Out of Area, are to first obtain permission from CCF. Application is to be made on the CCF or FNSW Sanction Form.
- b. Any cautions or send offs may be dealt with as if they occurred in normal competition matches.

1.2.7 Outstanding Debts

- a. Should a club or team fall overdue by more than in any 28 days in any payment due, a late payment fee of 5% of the amount due will be applied.
- b. Any club or team who is more than 30 days overdue in payment and fails to comply with terms of outstanding debts without the approval of CCF will result ineligibility for competition points or ineligibility to participate in CCF competitions, including final series matches, whilst the debt remains unpaid.

1.2.8 Protests and Disputes

- a. CCF will investigate and make determinations in relation to protests and disputes lodged in writing by the club secretary regarding, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Match results
 - ii. Eligibility of Players
 - iii. Outcomes of Matches as a result of abandonment
 - iv. Outcomes of matches due to error in law by referees
 - v. Other matters as determined by the Board from time to time
- b. If a coach or manager considers that his team would have a valid protest the Manager should advise his Club Secretary to enable the Secretary to notify CCF in writing within 24 hours, of completion of the match with details of the dispute together with details of any supporting evidence
- c. CCF will investigate and if necessary hold hearings to determine the outcome of the Protest and may impose penalties and/or sanctions including but not limited to:
 - i. Financial Penalties in the form of fines, bonds or other such guarantees, sureties or payments
 - ii. Deduction of competition points
 - iii. Suspension and/or expulsion from any competition

- iv. Determination of the result of a match
- v. Determining if a match is to be replayed
- vi. Any other penalty as determined by CCF

1.2.9 Rights of Appeal following Protest and Disputes Determination

- a. Any affected party has the right to appeal.
- b. Any party notified of the determination of the Protest may appeal the decision within 48 hours of receiving written notification of the decision from CCF.
- c. All appeals must be in writing by the Secretary of the club or affiliated body or by the individual affected and must outline the grounds of appeal and any evidence to be presented in support of the appeal. The application for appeal must also be accompanied by a payment of a \$300 being the appeal fee. If the appeal is upheld the fee will be refunded.
- d. CCF shall appoint an Independent Appeal Chairperson following receipt of a completed request for appeal, within Seven (7) days, who will be sent all relevant evidence to determine the legitimacy of the grounds for the appeal.
- e. If the Chairperson determines there are no legitimate grounds for appeal, they may dismiss the appeal on the basis of no legitimate grounds. If the Chairperson dismisses the appeal on this basis they shall, in writing, outline the reasons for dismissal of the appeal. If the Chairperson decides there is grounds for appeal a hearing will be called within 14 days of the receipt of the request for appeal. CCF will then appoint two additional independent panel members to hear the appeal with the Chairperson.
- f. The Appeals Panel has the power to either reduce or increase the penalty being appealed against and to impose further penalties, dismiss the appeal or uphold it, as they see fit.
- g. The sanction imposed by CCF shall stand and is applied until such time as the appeal is determined.
- h. Affected Parties have a further right of appeal to the Board of Directors of CCF in relation to protests and disputes. Such appeal must be lodged, along with the \$500 appeal fee with CCF within 7 days of notification of the result of the appeal or the right to appeal will be forfeited.
- i. Following appeal to the Board of CCF no further right of appeal exists.

1.2.10 Use of Match Footage (VEO Camera & similar devices)

- a. Central Coast Football may request Clubs recordings of a match for promotional activities, referee development and other purposes.
- b. Any instance where recordings are requested, these will not be passed on to opposition clubs, with the exception of requirements in the Disciplinary and Grievance Policy.
- c. Central Coast Football will pass on its own recordings should both opposition clubs agree.

CCF WINTER COMPETITION REGULATIONS

2.1 GENERAL

2.1.1 Terminology and Definitions

Terminology	Definition	Abbreviation (if applicable)
Winter Competition	All competitions for the winter season.	Winter Comp
Competition	The League and, if applicable, Final Series, of a certain division/grade. (e.g. WAA3 comp, U13B comps, etc.)	Comp
League	The completion of a predetermined number of rounds for a competition that then finalises the accumulation of points. At that point, League Champions are determined, and if applicable, Finals Series begins.	
Finals Series	Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Finals. Once completed, Premiers are determined.	
League Champions	The team of each competition that ends up in the highest position of their relevant competition table at the end of the League.	
Premiers	The team of each competition that wins their Grand Final.	
Division	Specific group of teams based on age group (e.g. U12, W16, etc.) Each division may have a varying number of grades (e.g. U12 may have A, B, C and D grades, W16 may have only A and B grades).	
Grade	Levels of ability within each division (e.g. A grade, B grade, 1 st grade, Reserve grade, Third grade etc.).	
Round	A set of matches derived from the competition draw. This is usually made up of the set where each team in the draw plays each other once.	
Fixture	The details of a match, designating its venue, kick-off time, division, grade, etc.	
Small Sided Football	FA's format of playing matches for Under 5's, 6's, 7's, 8's, 9's, 10's and 11's. Small Sided Football is for boys and girls.	MINIROOS (U5, U6, U7, U8, U9, U10, U11)
Mixed Junior Football	Divisions from Under 12 through to Under 16 inclusive. Mixed Junior Football is for male and female registered players.	(Mixed comps will be prefixed with "U" – e.g. "U13")
Male Junior Football	Divisions from Under 17 through to Under 18 inclusive. Male Junior Football is only eligible for male registered players.	Male Junior Competitions will be prefixed with "M" – e.g. "M18"

Female Junior Football	Divisions from Under 12 through to Under 18 inclusive. Female Junior Football is only eligible for female registered players.	(Female Junior Football comps will be prefixed with "W" – e.g. "W14")
Women's Football	Divisions from All Age Women, W35's to the Women's Premier League and Womens Division One. Women's Football is only eligible to Female registered players.	(Women's Football comps will be prefixed with "W" – e.g. "WAA1")
Men's Football	Divisions from All Age Men, Over 35 to the Mens Premier League inclusive. Men's Football is only eligible to male registered players.	(Men's Football comps will be prefixed with "M" – e.g. "MAA1")

2.1.2 Hierarchy of Competitions

HIGHEST					
	MPL	WPL			
	DIV1	WDIV1			
	MAA	WAA	M35	M45	W35
	M20	W18			
	M18				
	U16	W16			
	U15				
	U14	W14			
	U13				
	U12	W12			
	U11				
	U10				
	U9				
	U8				
	U7				
	U6				
	U5				
LOWEST					

2.1.3 Competition Points

- a. Points shall be allocated as follows for all matches, unless stated otherwise in these regulations, or as deemed appropriate by CCF at the time:

TEAM RESULT	POINTS ALLOCATION
Win	Three (3) points
Draw	One (1) point
Bye	Nil (0) points
Loss	Nil (0) points
Forfeit (As per Section 2.4.4)	Four (4) - Nil (0) win to the team receiving the forfeit. A second and subsequent forfeit will result in an additional loss of three (3) competition points per forfeit

2.2 REGISTRATION

2.2.1 Player Eligibility (Valid Registration)

- a. No player will be eligible to play for any club in a CCF, or CCF sanctioned fixture, unless that player is a valid registered player.

2.2.2 Miniroos, Mixed Junior, Male Junior and Female Junior Registrations

- a. Players must be registered in their correct age group as determined by their Date of Birth. (Note: this does not restrict them to that age group for team nomination, as per the following relevant points in this section).
- b. No player may nominate in, nor play for a team, of a lower division than their registered division.
- c. Players may register in any division or any team up to three (3) years above their age in the calendar year based on their date of birth, excluding Overage competitions (M35, M45 & W35). This must be completed in the CCF approved registration system.
- d. Each player may only nominate in one team.
- e. All registered players must be listed in a team within the CCF nominated Player Registration System.
- f. All teams must be nominated on Team Nomination Day using the correct CCF Form.
- g. Each competition aged team must have a registered Coach or Manager.
- h. Each Coach and Manager must be registered in the nominated CCF registration system and must have a valid Working With Children Check as per NSW Government regulations.
- i. Miniroos Football from Under 5's through to Under 11's inclusive (U5 – U11) are open to both male and female registered players, with the exception of Girls only MiniRoos divisions.
- j. Mixed junior divisions from Under 12's through to Under 16's inclusive (U12 – U16) are open to both male and female registered players.
- k. Male Junior Football divisions from Under 17's through to Under 18's (M17 – M18) are open to male registered players only.
- l. Female junior Football divisions from Under 12's through to Under 18's inclusive (W12 – W18), are not open to male players.

2.2.3 Senior & Overage Registrations

- a. Each player may only nominate in one team.
- b. All Men's Over 35's and Over 45's players, must turn thirty-five (35) or forty-five (45) years of age respectively, or greater, within the calendar year of competition.
 - i. All Substitute players for the Over 35's and 45's, must turn thirty-five (35) or forty-five (45) years of age respectively, or greater, within the calendar year of competition.
- c. Women's Over 35's players must turn thirty (35) years of age or greater, within the calendar year of competition. The Women's 35's are permitted to register Two (2) players between the age of 30 and 35, these players must be registered in this team.
 - i. All Substitute players for the W35's competition, must turn thirty-five (35) years of age respectively, or greater, within the calendar year of competition. Players between 30-35 may not be borrowed into the team.
- d. All registered players must be listed in a team within the CCF nominated Player Registration System prior to team Nomination Day.
- e. All teams must be nominated on Team Nomination Day using the correct CCF Form.
- f. Each team must have a registered Coach or Manager at the time of nomination.
- g. Women's Football divisions from W35's and Women's All Age through to Women's Premier League and Women's Division 1 are not open to male registered players.

2.2.4 Requests to Variations in Registration

- a. Any requests for variation to any of the foregoing provisions are to be submitted to the CCF, in writing and fully documented. CCF will consider such requests based on the circumstances of each individual case. CCF is under no obligation to approve any such request.

2.2.5 Player Registration Fee

- a. Each Member or Associate Member Club shall be charged an Annual Player Registration Fee, the amount of which shall be decided by the Board of CCF from time to time, for each player registered or re-registered each season. This does not include the Team Nomination fee.
- b. Player registration fees must be paid in full as advised by CCF.
- c. Player registration fees are non-refundable and shall remain the property of the CCF.
- d. Player registration fees, as determined annually by the Board of CCF, will be invoiced at regular intervals to clubs as registrations are being processed.

2.2.6 Player Insurance

- a. All players upon registration with CCF shall be required to join the Accident Support Program as established by FNSW and pay all premiums annually through their club. Such insurance shall be compulsory for both senior and junior players.

2.2.7 Priority of Player Registrations

- a. A player cannot be registered with two (2) clubs. In the event of a player registering for more than one club, priority of registration shall be the deciding factor. CCF shall investigate the circumstances under which the player registered, to determine the priority of registration.
- b. Any player found to have willfully registered for more than one (1) club, or any club found to have knowingly induced a player to register with that club in the knowledge that the player has previously registered with another club, shall be dealt with by the Board of CCF.

2.2.8 False Information

- a. Any player who provides false information in respect to the information required in their registration, or who acknowledges the same, knowing that the statement(s) in the online registration to be not true, will have their registration suspended until the matter is considered by the Board of CCF, may be subject to penalties, as determined by the Board of CCF.
- b. Any club who submits registrations, or other documentation or details in respect to a registration, knowing the same to contain false or misleading information, may be subject to penalties, as determined by the Board of CCF.

2.2.9 Proof of Identity

- a. Players up to and including the age of sixteen (16):
 - i. Proof of date of birth must be supplied by a club upon registration of a new player and within seven (7) days in respect to any player when requested by CCF at any time during the competition.
 - ii. CCF will accept as proof of birth the following:
 - Birth Certificate or Extract of Birth Certificate
 - Baptismal Certificate showing date of birth and signed by Minister of Religion.
 - Passport or official documents of identity.
- b. Players seventeen (17) years or older:
 - i. Date of birth to be included in the online registration system.
 - ii. Documents confirming player identity i.e. driver's license, birth certificate, passport or such other form of identification acceptable to CCF when players are registering new to a club and CCF.
- c. Proof of age of all players not previously registered, is to be obtained at the time of registration for submission to CCF if requested, and the subsequent return.

2.2.10 Player Registration Deadline

- a. Registration of all players and transfers shall cease on the 31st May each year.

2.2.11 Registration Photos

- a. It is mandatory for all new players to upload a photo at the time of registering.
- b. Player Registrations are not valid without a correct passport style photograph.
- c. A Registration photo must be clear and the player must be easily identified.
- d. The photo should be a passport style image of the head only. Hats and sunglasses should not be worn in the photo.
- e. CCF may reject any inappropriate photos and decline subsequent registrations.
- f. All Electronic match sheets will display photos of registered players. If a valid photo is not on the Match sheet the player is ineligible to play
- g. Junior player photos must be updated every two (2) years up until the age of 18.
- h. Senior photos must be updated every five (5) years.
- i. Player registrations are not valid without a correct passport style photograph

2.2.12 Player Transfers and Clearances

- a. Acquisition of Players
 - i. Clubs shall be permitted to acquire registered players of other clubs Intra-Federation, Inter-Federation, Interstate without a formal clearance. Overseas transfer of players must be requested by the club in the CCF approved registration system and be approved by FA.

2.2.13 Overseas Transfer of Players

- a. The transfer of players from CCF to Overseas Clubs and/or Associations/Federations shall be permitted at any time. Player clearance is to be sought and approved as per CCF process.

2.2.14 Transfer of Players between Association Clubs

- a. The transfer of the registration of a player from one club to another club shall be requested either via email or in writing to the previous club's Registrar.
- b. A club must provide clearance within 7 days of the request and provide the following:
 - ii. The player's financial status if applicable
 - ii. Submit any protests and disputes in relation to the transfer of a player to another club to CCF as per regulation 2.2.18

2.2.15 Transfer of Players under Suspension

- a. The transfer documents of players, who are currently under suspension by CCF at the time of transfer, must be accompanied by a declaration by the club transferring the player, that the club acquiring the player has been notified by the transferring club, of any suspension existing on the player at the date of transfer.

2.2.16 Transfer of Registration – Deadlines

- a. Transfer of player registrations to another CCF member club are permitted prior to the close of registrations on 31st May each year and must be actioned accordingly using the online registration system.
- b. Transfer of player registrations within the same club will cease after the Round 3 regrades are completed.
- c. Clubs with special circumstances may apply, in writing to the Board of CCF for exemption to the above regulations on a case by case basis.

2.2.17 Unfinancial Players

- a. In the event of any player being in debt to their club, for equipment or other items, the burden of proof of such debt shall rest solely with the advising club.
- b. If a club still wishes to register an Unfinancial player, the club the player is in debt to can protest to CCF in writing through the Club Secretary. The matter will then be dealt with as per the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

2.2.18 Termination or Suspension of Players by Clubs

- a. If any player is found guilty of any serious breach of their agreement, the club's By-Laws and or constitution, the Constitution of CCF, the Rules and Regulations of CCF, any other Association or League of which the club may be a member, or otherwise by their action brings the club or the game of Football into disrepute, the club may, upon giving not less than seven (7) days written notice to the player, terminate their agreement and dispense with the services of the player.

- b. In the event of a player being found guilty of misconduct, of the breach of the disciplinary rules, of the club, of CCF, or any other Federation or League of which the club may be a member, which in the opinion of the club is not of the nature to justify the actions of point (a) above, then the club may suspend the player for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days and/or impose upon the player, payment of a monetary fine notwithstanding any action which may have been taken against the player in the course of such misconduct or breach by any Disciplinary Committee of CCF, or any other Federation or League of which the club may be a member.
- c. When a club takes action under point (a) above or suspends a player for longer than fourteen (14) days under (b) above full details are to be advised to the Board of CCF with a request for ratification of the action taken.
- d. When advising the player of such action, the player must be given the right to appeal the club's decision. Should the player wish to appeal, the player must submit such appeal in writing to the club within seven (7) days of being advised of the club's decision, giving their grounds for appeal. The club must on-forward same to the Board of CCF to enable a hearing to take place. Such appeal hearing would be heard in the first instance by a Disciplinary Panel authorised by the Board of CCF.

2.2.19 Registration of Club Team Officials

- a. All persons employed or volunteering their services as a Team Coach or Team Manager (hereinafter called a Team Official) shall be registered annually with CCF.
- b. Details of such persons' names, addresses, team and Coaching certificate held are to be completed in the CCF Online Registration System.
- c. No club shall appoint a person to undertake any of the above Team Official positions, unless that person undertakes to register with CCF.
- d. No person will act as a Team Official until they have been duly registered by CCF.
- e. Should a competition team not have a registered Team Official prior to the start of the winter competition they will be ineligible to receive competition points until such time as they have a registered team official.
- f. All persons registered as a Team Official will become eligible through their club for cover in the Accident Support Program, as established by FNSW, and their club shall pay all premiums and other fees payable in respect thereof.
- g. CCF will issue identification cards to all Coaches and Managers in a manner to be determined by the Board of CCF.

2.2.20 Team Nomination Day

- a. Team Nomination Day will be held as directed by CCF.
- b. On that day, clubs will lodge their Team Nomination forms, including requested grading's together with payment for the total amount payable in respect thereto. Clubs must grade players into teams with other players of similar ability. Teams must then be graded by the club into grades commensurate with the overall ability of the teams and its players. Players must be entered into teams within the CCF nominated Registration system.
- c. Any club that withdraws a team from the competition after nomination day will be required to pay that team's nomination fee in full, no refunds. No player fees will be charged for the team in this instance.

2.2.21 Minimum Registered Players for a Team

- a. No team will be registered unless the minimum numbers of players (as per the following table) have been fully registered and allocated to that team (including payment of appropriate registration fee to their club.) Such players must be valid registered players for the nominated age group.

Division(s)	Minimum No of Registered Players
Under 5's to Under 7's	Four (4)
Under 8's and Under 9's	Seven (7)
Under 10's and Under 11's	Nine (9)
Womens Premier League Womens Division One	Fourteen (14)
All other divisions	Eleven (11)

2.2.22 Grading of Nominated Teams

- a. Under 5's to Under 7's:
- i. As these games are non-competition, no grading will take place.
- b. Under 8's, 9's, 10's and 11's:
- i. Whilst still being a non-competition division, these players should be graded into teams with other players of similar ability.
 - ii. The teams are then to be nominated into grades on the Team Grading form that is lodged on Team Nomination Day.
- c. All other divisions:
- i. All players are to be graded into teams according to their ability
 - ii. CCF may change the grading of teams at their discretion.

2.2.23 Regrading of Players

- a. CCF has the right to regrade a player if it considers such regrading warranted.
- b. Any player registered after Round 3 of the competition is subject to grading approval by CCF before they are eligible to participate.
- c. No player may be moved from one team to another team after round three (3) of the competition. Should a club move a player to a team other than their nominated team after Round 3, the team they have moved too will forfeit all competition points for the match and/or matches the player played in while in breach of this rule.
- d. Under Exceptional circumstances CCF may approve the movement of a player from one team to another at it's sole discretion.

2.2.24 Grading Committee

- a. CCF may appoint a Grading Committee to evaluate nominations and grading's following Team Nominations.

2.3 QUALIFICATIONS

2.3.1 Player Numbers in Teams

<i>Division</i>	<i>Max Registered Players</i>	<i>Min Players for Match</i>	<i>Maximum Borrowed Players</i>	<i>Max Players on Team sheet</i>	<i>Max Players on Field</i>
U5 – U7	No Restriction	No Min*	No Restriction*	N/A	Four (4)
U8 – U9	No Restriction	No Min*	No Restriction*	N/A	Seven (7)
U10 – U11	Thirteen (13)	No Min*	No Restriction*	Thirteen (13)	Nine (9)
U12 – U18	Sixteen (16)	Seven (7)	Five (5)	Sixteen (16)	Eleven (11)
M20, MAA & WAA	Twenty (20)	Seven (7)	Five (5)	Sixteen (16)	Eleven (11)
W35, M35, & M45	Twenty (20)	Seven (7)	Five (5)	Sixteen (16)	Eleven (11)
MPL Under 21	No Restriction	Seven (7)	No Restriction	Sixteen (16) of which up to 6 players maybe over the age of 21	Eleven (11)
WPL & WDIV1	Twenty (20)	Seven (7)	No Restriction	Twenty (20)	Eleven (11)
MPL & DIV1	No Restriction	Seven (7)	No Restriction	Sixteen (16)	Eleven (11)

2.3.2 Eligible Players - General

- a. The eligibility of players will be defined by CCF from time to time.
- b. An eligible player is one who has registered correctly with CCF in terms of these Regulations.
- c. An eligible player is one who is financial through his/her club within CCF.
- d. An eligible player is one who is not under suspension, either through direct action by the Judiciary and/ or disciplinary policy, breaching the maximum number of yellow cards as determined by the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations and is not under any impediment not previously declared.
- e. An eligible player is one who is not in breach of these regulations by reasons of which he/she should not play.

2.3.3 Movement of Players between Teams

- a. This section applies to players who play for another team other than their nominated team.
- b. General (all competitions):
 - i. All players playing for teams other than their nominated team must have sufficient physical, mental and playing ability.
 - ii. Players up to and including 14 years of age may only play in a division up to 3 years above their age based on the age they turn in this calendar year. Player's turning 15 years of age and older this calendar year may play in any division above their registered age including all age and grade competition, subject to grading and the hierarchy of competitions in 2.1.2.
 - iii. No player shall play for any team in a lower division (as per division hierarchy outlined in table 2.1.2) than their own nominated team.
 - iv. Players substituting within their own nominated team's division are not eligible to play in a lower grade excluding MPL, DIV1, WPL & WDIV1. Grades are in numerical order or alphabetical order. Eg 1,2,3/A,B,C

- v. Where a club has two (2) or more teams in the same division and grade, there shall be no movement between those two teams. North and South competitions are not considered the same division or grade
 - vi. Where a club has two (2) or more teams in the same division and grade, substitute players are not eligible to play for both teams. The team in which they substitute into first shall be considered the only team they are eligible for.
- c. MiniRoos (U5 – U11), Mixed Junior and Male Junior Competitions
- i. Any player may play for any division above their nominated division.
 - ii. Under 5 – Under 8 players playing up divisions may substitute into any grade
 - iii. Under 9 – Under 10 players playing up divisions shall play no lower than three (3) grades below their nominated teams' grade.
 - iv. Under 11 – Under 18 players playing up divisions shall play no lower than one (1) grade below their nominated teams' grade.
- d. Men's 18 & Men's 20 competition
- i. M18A and M20 players may only play up into MPL, DIV1, or MAA 1 to 3.
 - ii. M18B players may only play up into MPL, DIV1, or MAA 1 to 5
 - iii. M18C players and below may play into MPL, DIV1, or any MAA team.
 - iv. Any player may play for any division above their nominated division, excluding female only competitions.
 - v. Players must be age eligible to play in Overage competitions.
- e. Women's Junior competitions
- i. Any player may play for any division above their nominated division excluding male only competitions.
 - ii. Players must be age eligible to play in Overage competitions.
 - iii. Players playing up divisions within the Women's Junior Competitions shall play no lower than one (1) grade below their nominated team's grade.
 - iv. Players up to and including 14 years of age may only play in a division up to 3 years above the age they turn in this calendar year. Player's turning 15 years of age and older in this calendar year may play in any division above their registered age including all age and grade competition, subject to grading and the hierarchy of competitions in 2.1.2.
 - v. Players registered in the Women's junior competition are eligible to substitute into the Mixed Junior competition. They shall play no lower than their nominated Women's Junior team's division. They shall play no lower than two (2) grades below their nominated Women's team's grade.
 - vi. Female players registered in the Mixed Junior competition are eligible to substitute into the Women's Junior competition. They shall play no lower than their nominated mixed junior team's grade.
- f. Women's 18 competition
- i. W18A players may play up into WPL/WDIV 1 or any WAA team.
 - ii. W18B players and below may play up into WPL/WDIV 1 or any WAA team.
 - iii. Any player may play for any division above their nominated division excluding male only competitions.
 - iv. Players must be age eligible to play in Overage competitions.

g. Men's and Women's Competitions

- i. Players in MPL (First, Reserve Grades and Under 21's), WPL, DIV1 (First and Reserve Grades) & WDIV1 are to be nominated as such and may not play elsewhere in any other competition. During the normal winter competition, players are free to move between First, Reserve grades and under 21's subject to these competition rules.
- ii. MPL (First, Reserve Grades and Under 21), WPL (First), DIV1 (First and Reserve Grade) & WDIV1 (First) may draw substitute's players from any other division or grade.
- iii. In each MPL under 21 team eligible players must turn 21 or under in the calendar year of the competition. Each MPL under 21 team is eligible to play up to six (6) players over the age of 21 in any MPL under 21 game.
- iv. A MAA player who is age eligible for M35's or M45's, when substituting into the M35 or M45 competitions, will be subject to the following grade restrictions:
 - A MAA1 player may only substitute into the A grade competitions.
 - A MAA2 player may only substitute into the A, B, or C grade competitions.
 - A MAA3 or below player may substitute into any M35 or M45 grade competition.
- v. A M35, when substituting into the MAA competitions, will be subject to the following grade restrictions:
 - An "A grade" player may only substitute into the MAA1 to 3 competitions.
 - A "B grade" player may only substitute into the MAA1 to 5 competitions.
 - A "C grade" or below player may substitute into any MAA grade competition.
- vi. A registered M35 player, when substituting into the M45 competitions, will be subject to the following restrictions:
 - Any "M35A or M35B grade" player may only substitute into the M45A competitions.
 - Any "M35C grade" or below registered player may substitute into any M45 grade.
- vii. A M45 player, when substituting into the M35's competition will be subject to the following grade restrictions:
 - An "A grade" player may only substitute into the M35A, B or C competitions.
 - A "B grade" player or below may substitute into any M35 Competition.
- viii. A M45 player, when substituting into the MAA competition may substitute into any MAA team.
- ix. A W35 player, when substituting into the WAA competitions, may substitute into any WAA team.
- x. A WAA player who is Age Eligible for W35's, may substitute into the W35's competition.

2.3.4 Final Series Eligibility

- a. All competitions other than Mens Premier League, Women's Premier League, Men's Division One and Women's Division One:
 - i. Players who have played the majority of their competition games in a lower grade will automatically be eligible to play in a higher division or grade in the Final Series.
 - ii. Players registered in M35 & 45 Divisions who are substituting into MAA teams in the final series must have played Six (6) matches in the team they are substituting into during the regular winter season competition to be eligible to play for that team in the final series.
 - iii. Players registered in W35 Division who are substituting into WAA teams in the final series must have played Six (6) matches in the team they are substituting into during the regular winter season competition to be eligible to play for that team in the final series.
 - iv. Players registered in WAA Divisions who are substituting into W35 teams in the final series must have played Six (6) matches in the team they are substituting into during the regular winter season competition to be eligible to play for that team in the final series.
 - v. Players registered in MAA Divisions who are substituting into M35 & M45 teams in the final series must have played Six (6) matches in the team they are substituting into during the regular winter season competition to be eligible to play for that team in the final series.
 - vi. Any player who is selected as playing on the team sheet will be credited with a full match.
 - vii. Any player who has played the majority of their season in a higher grade/division (as per 2.1.2) will not be eligible to play in their nominated team in the final series.
 - viii. Any player who is registered in a club's "top team", being Womens All Age, Womens 18 or Womens 16 and is substituting into WPL or WDIV1 throughout the winter season is not restricted by the amount of games they play in WPL or WDIV1. The player will be eligible to play the final series in their registered team.
 - ix. CCF will determine a clubs 'top team' with respect to Rule 2.3.4 viii in its sole discretion.
- b. Mens Premier League, Women's Premier League, Men's Division One and Women's Division One:
 - i. Any player who takes the field will be credited with a full match.
 - ii. For players who participate in more than one match in a day, only the lowest grade will be credited.
 - iii. All players are eligible to play for First Grade in the final series.
 - iv. A player will only be eligible to play for Reserve Grade or Under 21's in the Final Series if one or more of the below apply.
 - a. All First, Reserve Grade and Under 21 for the club are still in the Final Series
 - b. The player played the majority of their season in Reserve Grade or Under 21s
 - c. The player played the majority of the last 5 games of the season in Reserve or Under 21s grades.
 - v. Goal keepers who qualify in First Grade shall be eligible to be substitutes for Reserve Grade and Under 21s as a goalkeeper and or stand in for an injured or unavailable Reserve or Under 21's goalkeeper.

2.4 DRAWS, FIXTURES, STRUCTURE

2.4.1 Fixtures - General

- a. CCF shall provide draws, fixtures and all competition management.
- b. Fixtures may be played wholly, or in part, under floodlights, provided that any alteration to starting times shall have been given due approval and provided also that the standard of lighting shall meet the requirements of CCF, FNSW and local Councils.
- c. Fixtures are to be played on the date and times as nominated in the CCF Online Draw or any amendments issued thereto. These dates could include daytime, evening or night fixtures on any weekday, Saturday, Sunday, public or school holiday.
- d. Fixtures will be published for the whole season on a date to be determined by CCF, before the commencement of the season, and will be altered only in case of Regrades (after Round 3 of the competition), washouts (competition matches only) or other extenuating circumstance as decided by CCF.

2.4.2 Abandoned and Deferred Fixtures

- a. CCF shall have the power to abandon or defer any of their fixtures and organise any other fixture if it deems such action necessary in the interests of the competition.
- b. In the event of abandoned matches, CCF shall investigate the circumstances, and shall determine the following:
 - i. The result, including whether the score at the time of abandonment should stand or whether the match should be awarded to one team or the other, or if both teams will be awarded one (1) point each. In this case the score will be recorded as one (1) goal to each team.
 - ii. Whether or not the match should be re-played in full, or in part and under what conditions.
 - iii. Whether the abandonment was due to misconduct, and if so, refer the matter to Judiciary.
- c. If a match is abandoned due to inclement weather, failed floodlighting, or player injury and 75% of the game or greater is completed the result will at the time shall stand. Should 75% of the match have not been played then a full match replay of the match will occur.

2.4.3 Interference with Fixtures

- a. Clubs shall not arrange or agree to participate in other matches or events which would interfere with official CCF fixtures or other club's home fixtures. Such other matches could include, but not be restricted to, social matches and external competitions.
- b. Clubs shall not endeavor to coerce other clubs into agreeing to alterations to official CCF fixtures. Clubs in breach of this regulation shall be liable to such penalties as determined by CCF.

2.4.4 Forfeited Fixtures

- a. The club of the team that is forfeiting a fixture must notify CCF, by 12pm Friday for weekend games or by 12pm on the day of the match for midweek games.

Outside this, it is the responsibility of the Club of the forfeiting team to notify the following;

- The CCF Competitions Administrator via SMS and email
- The Opposition Club via phone and email and

Any club, without just cause as determined by CCF, failing to notify correctly or fulfill an engagement to play the club's fixture on the appointed date, time or venue, shall be deemed to have forfeited that match or matches and will be liable for paying the appointed referee and assistant referee fees and also may be fined at the discretion of CCF.

- b. Matches shall commence within ten (10) minutes of the stipulated starting time. In the case of delays being incurred due to various matters, including finishing times of previous matches which prevent a kick off being taken within the ten (10) minute period, the match will commence when the referee is ready. Any team which refuses to or cannot commence to play a match after these periods, shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.
- c. Teams who forfeit a fixture will on the first occasion, have the result recorded as a four (4) – Nil (0) loss to the forfeiting team.
- d. Teams forfeiting a second and subsequent fixtures will have the result recorded as a four (4) – Nil (0) loss to the forfeiting team and will have an additional three (3) competition points deducted per forfeit.
- e. Teams forfeiting on three (3) occasions without an explanation satisfactory to CCF, may be removed from the competition.
- f. MPL, DIV1, WPL & WDIV1 teams forfeiting must forfeit their lowest grade first.

2.4.5 Clubs/Teams Removed from the Competition

- a. In the event of any Member or Associate Member Club, or any of their teams being removed from the competition, the following procedure will take effect to allow the competition to proceed:
 - i. Removed or withdrawing before competition has started:
 - a) BYE will be included to replace the appropriate team, or the competition may be redrawn.
 - ii. Removed or withdrawing during first rounds
 - a) For the opposing teams that have played the removed or withdrawn teams (for the complete first round), points and goals will be deleted from their records and shall be credited with a bye result. Teams that have not played the removed or withdrawn team will obtain a bye result.
 - iii. Removed or withdrawing during the second or subsequent rounds:
 - a) For the completed first round, all points and goals acquired will be retained by opposing teams. For the second or later rounds, points and goals acquired against such disaffiliated team shall be lost and bye results shall be credited for these parts of the competition.
 - iv. Regrading a team from one division to another between rounds 1 – 4 inclusive:
 - a) Teams will have their points deleted and replay any matches as required.
 - v. Regrading a team from one division to another after the fourth (4th) round:
 - a) CCF will determine what points, if any, the regraded team will have allocated to them in the new competition
 - vi. CCF has the discretion to change rule [2.4.5](#) in specific circumstances.

2.4.6 Splitting Grades during the Competition

- a. In the event of a particular grade being split into separate competitions, once the competition has begun, the following procedure will be followed:
 - i. The splitting will occur at the completion of a specified round.
 - ii. All points, for all teams will be carried over to the new competitions
- b. Each team's points and results in the first competition (prior to splitting it) can be used as a guide and aid for the regrading of teams appropriately for the new competitions.

2.4.7 Notification of Results

- a. Results will be entered by the referee online after the match. In the event of a referee not being appointed, the unofficial referee will notify the official table and the club will enter the result.

2.4.8 Kick-Off Times

- a. Kick off times of all fixtures shall be as determined by CCF and will be detailed in the Official Fixtures List.
- b. All fixtures must commence at the nominated time, taking into account Regulation [2.41-c](#). When a match commences later than the stipulated kick off time, short time shall be played if necessary for subsequent matches to commence on time. Equal halves shall be always played.
- c. Except where special instructions or changes have been issued by CCF, or are contained in other regulations, all First Grade fixtures must commence no later than 3.00pm for any daytime fixture. All other fixtures prior to First Grade shall be played in equal periods that shall allow the First Grade fixture to commence at the scheduled kick-off time.

2.4.9 Postponed Matches / Wet weather Conditions

- a. For all Junior and Senior matches except for MINIROOS, MPL, DIV 1, WPL and WDIV1 in the event of any match not being played owing to weather either due to ground closure or a decision taken by the Referee under Law 5 of the game, or other causes over which neither Club has any control, on being ordered to be replayed, it shall be replayed but with a minimum period of 48 hours notice.

Matches will only be changed or rescheduled within the following time frames:

MATCH SCHEDULED TO BE PLAYED ON	MATCH CHANGED
Saturday	No later than 5pm Friday
Sunday	No later than 5pm Saturday
Monday	No later than 5pm Saturday
Tuesday	No later than 5pm Sunday
Wednesday	No later than 5pm Monday
Thursday	No later than 5pm Tuesday
Friday	No later than 5pm Wednesday

- b. MINIROOS matches will not be rescheduled; all matches will be published in the draw at the beginning of the season. The Under 11 Tournament will be advised during the season.
- c. Depending on field availability MPL, WPL, DIV1 and WDIV1 matches may be rescheduled up to 9am on the day of the match.
- d. In the event of all games in the League round being cancelled, all games will be rescheduled at the discretion of CCF. If however no wet weather allowance is available and an alternative date for these games cannot be supplied by CCF, no points shall be awarded to any team and the games will not be replayed.
- e. In the event of some games being played and others not when CCF has not cancelled the games and the Council or relevant authority has not closed the grounds, the results for the played matches shall stand and the unplayed games shall be rescheduled at the discretion of CCF.
- f. If a team has given notice of a forfeit but the corresponding fixture is subsequently called off due to wet weather, the forfeit will stand.
- g. CCF reserves the right to alter rule [2.4.9a](#) if it sees fit.

2.4.10 Change of Home Ground

- a. Notwithstanding other regulations, CCF may direct any Member or Associate Member Club, to play their home fixture or fixtures at a ground other than the club's home ground for reasons of sponsorship, television coverage, disciplinary, ground conditions, wet weather or any other reason CCF may determine.
- b. Any Club failing to satisfactorily manage the match day at their home ground (with reference to the responsibilities set out in 2.4.13) will be deemed to forfeit all matches scheduled for the day in question.

2.4.11 Determination of Result

- a. In all instances where a regulation or a penalty brought down there under, provides for a Determination of Result the following shall be recorded as the official result of the fixture in which the breach occurred, or from which the penalty resulted: The match will always result in the offending team forfeiting the game and goals awarded as follows:
- b. If offending team won the match, full points allocated for the match shall be forfeited to their opponents and the result recorded as two (2) goals scored by the team getting the points to nil (0) goals by the team who has infringed.
- c. In the event of the offending team drawing the match, the result of the match shall be recorded as a win to their opponents by two (2) goals to nil (0). Full points allocated for the match shall be awarded to their opponents.
- d. In the event of the offending team being defeated, the result of that fixture shall remain as a win to their opponents. However, any goals scored by the offending team, shall be deleted, and if the winning team scored only one (1) goal, their number of goals will be increased to two (2). If the winning team scored two (2) or more goals, that number of goals will stand.

2.4.12 Playing Strips

- a. Teams must play in their club's primary playing strip.
- b. In the event of a clash of colours, the HOME team shall change to an alternate playing strip which does not conflict with the playing strip of their opponents.
- c. The goalkeeper shall wear colours which distinguish him from the other players and from the match officials. Only with the referee's approval may the goalkeeper wear tracksuit trousers of an acceptable colour.
- d. Playing strips are to be clearly and individually numbered, including all goalkeepers.
- e. The referee shall be the sole arbiter on match day on the question of whether playing strips clash.

2.4.13 Home Club Responsibilities

- a. When a Member or Associate Member Club has been nominated in the CCF Online Draw for matches at their grounds, whether or not such matches involve teams from their club, it is that club's responsibility to ensure the following is adhered to:
 - i. Their nominated ground is available for the competition fixtures on the date and time as set down in the CCF Online Draw.
 - ii. All or any maintenance on the ground is carried out to ensure that the playing surface is in a condition that the referee considers to be safe.
 - iii. Ground markings are clear and accurate.
 - iv. Corner posts are provided correctly, and wherever possible, goal nets.
 - v. The referee shall be the deciding official on all matters relating to (ii), (iii) and (iv).
 - vi. Bathroom and toilet facilities are available for players, referees and spectators.

- vii. Change-rooms must be accessible for ALL MPL & WPL fixtures & free of any stored items that may impede with a team’s preparation.
- viii. Any requests made by the referee to have any defects corrected are to be complied with. The referee shall report any breaches in writing to CCF. A fine/penalty as decided by CCF may be imposed for each proven offence.
- ix. All clubs that have fixtures set down at their grounds must have two (2) nominated Ground Officials - one at the official table and the other on ground patrol, to ensure all CCF regulations and codes of conduct are complied with, at their ground.
- x. Clubs will be fined by CCF should they fail to have a Ground Official at an Official table, where fixtures are set down at grounds.
- xi. The home club is to supply an official table.
- xii. Refer to Regulation [2.4.15](#) regarding team sheets.
- xiii. In cases of wet weather, clubs who have matches set down for their grounds are to inspect them the day before the fixture(s) and update CCF Competitions staff.
- xiv. If it is known that a ground will be unplayable for some other reason, e.g. due to maintenance or vandalism, the CCF Competitions Administrators are to be notified as soon as possible,
- xv. If a ground becomes unplayable for some reason during the day, the CCF Competitions Administrator or his/her nominees, the opposition clubs Fixtures Officer, and appropriate day’s CCFRB Appointments Officer, are to be advised as soon as possible.

2.4.14 Spectator Control

- a. For all competition matches, all fields must be marked two (2) meters from each touch line, and at least five (5) meters from the goal line. No spectators, club or team officials shall be allowed within the marked area.
- b. Central Coast Football Code of Conduct should be displayed at all grounds and adhered to by all players and spectators.

2.4.15 Team Sheets

- a. It is compulsory for all clubs to use the nominated online team sheet program for all official fixtures. In the event of the internet dropping out, CCF will permit clubs to use the hard copy paper team sheets as an emergency measure.

- i. All team sheets referred to in this document are the online version unless specified.

Any club found to be in breach of rule [2.4.15](#) a by using hard copy team sheets when not an emergency may have sanctions imposed upon them by the Board of CCF.

- i. Any player from a lower division substituting is to be selected from the drop down list on the team sheet.
- ii. Team sheets should contain full names and registration numbers of all players taking part in or expected to take part in the match (including the names of nominated substitutes). Applicable shirt numbers are to be listed against each player. All players will be automatically be ticked as taking part in the match. Any player who is not taking part in the match must be de-selected from the team sheet.
- iii. Team Sheets are only required for the following grades. The maximum numbers of players who may be listed on a team sheet for each division are:

DIVISION	MAXIMUM ON TEAM SHEET
Under 10’s and Under 11’s	Thirteen (13)

Juniors	Sixteen (16)
Seniors & Overage	Sixteen (16)

- iv. Team sheets must be completed for each competition match. All details including player's names and registration number thereon shall be recorded. Team sheets that are not completed may result in a fine/penalty for each sheet, as determined by CCF.
- v. The Referee must complete the team sheet after the match and enter the match score and any sanctions. The Referee will use his login to verify the result and yellow and red cards. No sign off by team Managers is required.
- vi. In the case where an official referee is absent, the Ground Official is responsible for ensuring the unofficial referee enters the match score and will also be responsible for signing off on the result at the completion of the game.

c. Paper Team Sheets

- i. Home clubs must have emergency paper team sheets in case of emergency e.g. internet failure at the official table. The Rules below cover the instances when paper team sheets are required only.
- ii. Home clubs must fill out the date, ground, division, grade and participating teams on these team sheets. Paper team sheets are to be completed by the Coach or Manager at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time.
- iii. The Ground Official is to check that the team sheet has been completed and that any referee fees have been collected at least five (5) minutes prior to the commencement of the match.
- iv. Any player from a lower division substituting up is to have their registered division and grade written clearly next to their name on the paper team sheet.
- v. Paper team sheets should contain full names and registration numbers of all players taking part in or expected to take part in the match (including the names of nominated substitutes). Applicable shirt numbers are to be listed against each player. If a player is not taking part in the match DNP (Did not play) should be written against the player.
- vi. The Coach or Manager must sign the paper team sheet after the match to verify match score and substitutes.
- vii. Once the paper team sheet has been filled in by both teams correctly, up to the point of kick off, the Ground Official will hand the paper team sheet to the referee, who maintains ownership of the paper team sheet from kick off until all referee's responsible areas have been completed after the match, at which time, the referee then returns it to the Ground Official.
- viii. It is the responsibility of the hosting club to forward all paper team sheets, for all matches scheduled at their fields, whether or not such matches involve teams from their own club. All paper team sheets for matches on a weekend, must reach the CCF Office by 12.00pm on the Monday following the game. In the case of midweek matches, team sheets are to reach the CCF Office within 48 hours of the match.
- ix. Team sheets can be emailed or dropped into the CCF office. Team sheets are not to be sent through the post.
- x. Nothing other than the above is to be written or recorded on the paper team sheet.

2.4.16 Registration Photos

- a. Registration photos must be able to be produced on the Online Team Sheet for all players participating in a match. Should a player not have a photo available they shall not be eligible to play.

- b. Should the opposition Manager note or suspect an irregularity, he/she may request CCF or the vested Ground Official to check the photos in terms of Regulation [2.4.18-a-iv](#). Teams are to make themselves available at the or designated area ten (10) minutes prior to official kick off time, to enable the checking of registration photos by the opposition Manager and/or Ground Official.
- c. If photos are not visible for inspection in terms of regulation point (b) above, the Ground Official is to be notified and a report detailing the circumstances is to be submitted to CCF by the Home Club Secretary. The Protest and Dispute committee shall investigate and may determine penalties as deemed necessary. Refer to section 4 of the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- d. Failure to check photos shall be deemed as acknowledgement by the opposition Manager that all matters in relation thereto were in order, and no protests or disputes relating thereto will be entered into.
- e. Failure to allow the opposition Manager to check photos is to be reported to CCF for review by CCF as to what penalties are to be applied. Such penalties could include but not limited to fines, determination of results, forfeit or replay of game or other action as prescribed in Section 1.2.2.

2.4.17 Vested Team Officials

- a. Each Team is to provide One (1) Vested Team Official for each match
A Vested Team Official must:
 - i. Be 18 years of age or older.
 - ii. Wear clearly identifiable vest
 - iii. Not be injured or incapacitated
 - iv. Be located near the playing field in such a position that they can see and act upon any disturbance that may eventuate.
 - v. Make themselves clearly visible to the Match Officials prior to the commencement of a Match and ensure their names are displayed on the applicable team sheet.
 - vi. Not consume alcohol or smoke whilst acting as a Vested Team Official
 - vii. Not engage in any verbal or physical altercation
 - viii. Not, unless it is safe to do so, approach opposition spectators behaving inappropriately and must instead approach the opposition Vested Team Official to resolve any issues. If the opposition Vested Team Official is unwilling or unable to assist, and the opposition spectators continue to behave inappropriately, the Vested Team Official should approach the home club Ground Official for further assistance
 - ix. Clubs, Teams and Vested Team Officials that fail to comply with these Rules and Responsibilities may be fined by CCF or dealt with in accordance with the CCF Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

2.4.18 Ground Officials

- a. Ground Officials are to be available throughout the duration of each and every fixture. Ground Officials are to be clearly identifiable and are to make themselves known to the referee prior to commencement of the match. Such Officials are responsible on behalf of their club to ensure that these regulations are adhered to. Further to this, Ground Official duties also include:
 - i. Ensure the smooth running of all matches scheduled at their ground.
 - ii. Maintaining the security of any computer device used for team sheet purposes.
 - iii. Liaise with referees.
 - iv. Ensure that referees complete team sheets.
 - v. Provision of adequate security for the protection of players and the public.

- vi. Control of spectators and supporters.
- vii. Carry out any request received from the referee or assistant referee.
- viii. Ensure no unauthorised persons enter the playing field.
- ix. A club will be fined at the discretion of CCF should clubs fail to have a Ground Official present at an official table where fixtures are set down at grounds.

2.4.19 Referees

- a. Each match will be played, where and when possible, under the control of an official referee, with or without official assistant referees, appointed by the CCFRB. CCF may delegate the responsibility for referees appointments as it sees fit.
- b. Official referees shall wear their officially approved uniform when refereeing a game. The referee shall not wear a uniform of a colour which conflicts with a team uniform.
- c. All referees fees will be paid directly by CCF. No teams will pay the referee cash on the day.
 - i. Clubs will be invoiced by Central Coast Football in arrears for actual referee appointments.
 - ii. Payment terms are strictly 14 days after invoice.
 - iii. Failure to pay will result in a 5% administration charge.
 - iv. Should Referees fees be outstanding longer than 28 days with the consent of CCF that Clubs team shall play for no points or be removed from final series until such time as the fees are paid.
- d. The referee will log into the team sheet and enter the match score, and the number of yellow and red cards issued to each team, at the conclusion of the match.
- e. If Paper copy team sheets are being used, the referee will endorse the match score, and the number of yellow and red cards issued to each team, at the conclusion of the match.
- f. In the case of team failing to appear, the referee shall endorse the online team sheet accordingly.
- g. In the case of a team (or teams) failing to show for a match, the referee shall wait for a period of ten (10) minutes after scheduled kick off time. If a team or both teams fail to show, the referee shall endorse the team sheet and provide details to the ground official. The ground official must then report this to CCF The referee and/or assistant referees must report to CCF, by way of an incident report, all cases of misconduct of players, officials, spectators or other persons.
- h. The referee and/or assistant referees must report in writing to CCF by way of an incident report any breaches of regulations, bylaws or other problems associated with the ground, club officials or the match.
- i. The official referee will be responsible to complete sendoff reports online and forward incident reports for matches at which he/she officiated - to reach the CCF Office by 12pm Monday following weekend games and by 12pm the following day after midweek games.
- j. In the event of no official referee being in attendance, the home team on the team sheet shall appoint a referee for the match. Failure to do so will be regarded as a forfeit against them. The Ground Official is to ensure that the full name of the unofficial referee and his/her club is entered on the team sheet and the score and any cautions are recorded.
- k. The same person is to referee the entire match, save and except for valid reason such as injury.
- l. Unofficial referees inherit the powers and responsibilities of an official referee and are to be treated accordingly and any cautions issued, or send-offs are to be appropriately recorded and forwarded to the CCF Office. No fees are payable to unofficial referees.

- m. Except in the case of trained cadet referees who may be as young as twelve (12) years of age and who cannot referee competition matches, all unofficial referees must be at least fourteen (14) years of age and any minors cannot referee an age group higher than two (2) years below their current age.
- n. At the conclusion of matches, unofficial referees are to report to the official table and enter the result and any yellow or red cards on the team sheet. In the event a red card has been given the referee must complete a written report. Any reports are to be left at the Official Table for the club to forward to the CCF Office.

2.4.20 Substitutes

- a. For Mens Premier League (First and Reserve), Division One (First and Reserve grade) teams may nominate up to five (5) substitutes on each team sheet. During the match up to a maximum of five (5) Players (including a goalkeeper) may be replaced at one (1) of three (3) permitted substitution opportunities during a match, up until the conclusion of normal playing time, time lost or Extra Time, if played. The replacement Player must be one of the substitutes selected on the Team sheet. For the avoidance of doubt, any substitutions made during the half-time break will not count towards the three (3) permitted substitution opportunities during a match.
- b. Womens Premier League (first grade) and Womens Division 1 teams may nominate up to nine (9) substitutes on each team sheet. During the match up to a maximum of five (5) Players (including a goalkeeper) may be replaced at one (1) of three (3) permitted substitution opportunities during a match, up until the conclusion of normal playing time, time lost or Extra Time, if played. The replacement Player must be one of the substitutes selected on the Team sheet. For the avoidance of doubt, any substitutions made during the half-time break will not count towards the three (3) permitted substitution opportunities during a match.
- c. For Mens Premier League U21 fixtures teams may nominate up to five (5) substitutes on the team sheet and five (5) substitutes may take the field. A player who has been replaced cannot retake the field.
- d. For all divisions other than those specified in paragraph a. and b. above, unlimited interchange of players shall apply.

2.4.21 League Champions

- a. At the end of each season's league, the team in each grade of each division which scores the highest number of points shall be declared the League Champions of that grade.
- b. Should two (2) or more teams, having completed their fixtures, possess the same highest number of points, the team with the highest goal difference shall be considered to be the winner.
- c. In the event of the highest number of points and goal difference being equal, the team which has scored the most goals shall be considered the winner.
- d. If two (2) or more teams have the same highest number of points and goal difference and have scored the same number of goals, then those teams shall be considered to be Joint League Champions.

2.4.22 Finals Series (Premiers)

- a. Semi-finals, Finals and Grand Finals may be played by all qualifying teams in all Junior and Senior leagues.
- b. In special circumstances the Board may vary the above provisions. Such variations could include either not proceeding with any or all Finals Series matches or deferring the date of any or all Grand Finals.
- c. The finals series format will be determined by the Board during the season and may follow an extended final series format or the standard top four (4) teams on the competition table, in each league. The procedure for determining these top four teams is as follows:
 - i. Should two (2) or more teams, having completed their league fixtures, possess the same number of points, the team with the highest goal difference shall be considered to finish higher.
 - ii. In the event that the number of points and goal difference are equal, the team which has scored the most goals shall be considered to finish higher.

- iii. If two (2) teams have the same number of points and goal difference and have scored the same number of goals, then they shall have a play-off game. The Finals Series match format shall be used to determine the winner of the match (refer to Regulation [2.4.22](#)) which will then determine their relevant table positions.
 - iv. If three (3) teams have the same number of points and goal difference and have scored the same number of goals, then they shall have play-off matches. The Finals Series match format shall be used to determine the winner of each match (refer to Regulation [2.4.22](#)). A draw of lots will be used to determine the position for the play-offs. The winner of the drawing of lots will sit out the first play-off match, and then play the winner of that match (the loser will be deemed as third place between the three teams). The loser of the second play-off match will be deemed as second place between the three teams, with the winner being deemed as first place. This will then determine each of the three team's table position.
 - v. If four (4) teams have the same number of points and goal difference and have scored the same number of goals, then they shall have play-off matches. The Finals Series match format shall be used to determine the winner of the match (refer to Regulation [2.4.22](#)). A draw of lots will be used to determine who verses who in the first two play-off matches. The loser of those matches will play-off to determine 3rd & 4th table positions, and the winner of those first two matches will play-off to determine 1st & 2nd table positions.
- d. The Finals Series format for all Grade competitions (MPL, DIV1, WPL and WDIV1), unless another format is approved by the Board of CCF or mentioned elsewhere in these rules, shall be as follows:
- i. The team who has first table position will play the team in second position (hereinafter called Major Semi Final) and the team who has third table position will play the team in fourth position (hereinafter called Minor Semi Final).
 - ii. The loser of the Major Semi Final shall play the winner of the Minor Semi Final (hereinafter called Final) and the winner of Major Semi Final shall play the winner of the Final (hereinafter called Grand Final). The loser of both the Minor Semi Final and the Final are eliminated. The winner of the Grand Final match will be deemed Premiers of their competition.
- e. The Finals Series format for all junior competitions, unless another format is approved by the Board of CCF or mentioned elsewhere in these rules, shall be as follows:
- i. The Final Series Format for all junior competitions will be that team who has first table position will play the team in fourth position (hereinafter called Major Semi Final) and the team who has finished in the second table position will play the team in third position (hereinafter called Minor Semi Final). The loser of both Semi Final's will be eliminated. The winner of both Semi Final's will play each other (hereinafter called Grand Final). The winner of the Grand Final match will be deemed Premiers of their competition.
- f. The Finals Series format for all Overage and All Age competitions shall be as follows:
- i. The Final Series Format for all overage competitions (M35, M45 & W35) and all age competitions (MAA and WAA) will be that team who has first table position will play the team in fourth position (hereinafter called Major Semi Final) and the team who has finished in the second table position will play the team in third position (hereinafter called Minor Semi Final). The loser of both Semi Final's will be eliminated. The winner of both Semi Final's will play each other (hereinafter called Grand Final). The winner of the Grand Final match will be deemed Premiers of their competition.
- g. The Board of Central Coast Football in its absolute discretion may vary the format of or cancel the final series
- h. The Finals Series match format will be as follows:

- I. In all junior and senior Finals Series matches, normal time shall be played as per a league match.
 - II. For all Junior and Senior leagues except for MPL, DIV1, WPL and WDIV1, if the scores are level at the conclusion of normal time, then ten (10) minutes each way of Extra Time shall be played. There shall be a straight turn around between the two halves of Extra Time.
 - III. For MPL, DIV1, WPL and WDIV1, if the scores are level at the conclusion of normal time, then Fifteen (15) minutes each way of Extra Time shall be played. There shall be a straight turn around between the two halves of Extra Time.
 - IV. Extra Time will follow a maximum five (5) minute break after normal time. During such break, teams must remain in a group on the field and only the Coach and/or Manager may go to them.
 - V. For all Junior and Senior leagues except for MPL, DIV1, WPL and WDIV1 the match will be determined by the Golden Goal rule. The first team who scores a goal during the period of extra time is determined the winner. The game finishes when a goal is scored.
 - VI. If the match is still drawn at the end of Extra Time the match shall be determined by a Penalty Shootout, as per FIFA's laws of the game.
 - VII. For MPL, DIV1 WPL and WDIV1 the golden goal rule does not apply. The full duration of extra time will be played, the match will be determined by a Penalty Shootout should the result still be drawn at the end of extra time, as per FIFA's laws of the game.
 - VIII. For MPL, DIV1, WPL and WDIV1 finals series matches, one (1) additional substitute will be allowed should the game go to extra-time.
 - IX. For all MPL, DIV1, WPL and WDIV1 finals series matches, stoppage time will be played in all grades
- i. At least two (2) match balls are to be provided by each team.
 - j. In the case of a clash of colours in a Final Series match, the HOME team shall change to their alternate strips. The referee shall be the judge as to whether a clash of colours occurs
 - k. Any team that forfeits a Finals series match (including extended finals series legs) will result in immediate disqualification from the finals, with the exception of penalties brought down by determination of results

2.5 MiniRoos Football

2.5.1 General

- a. Divisions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will play Small Sided Football (MINIROOS) under the FA format. These matches are strictly non-competition and no point scores are to be released on these matches. Game scores are only recorded on team sheets for U10's and U11's and are for grading purposes only. These results are not published.

2.5.2 Supporters

- a. Whilst it is human nature for parents and supporters to get excited and enthused watching their children play, certain criteria must be complied with:
 - i. Must not endeavor to Coach the children. This is the province of the Coach and too many people shouting directions merely confuses the children and puts them under unnecessary pressure.
 - ii. Must not enter the field of play and must remain behind the spectator line, at least two (2) meters from the field.
 - iii. Must act in a sporting manner to players of both teams.
 - iv. Support and encourage players of both teams but do not set them targets that are too high or put them under undue pressure to perform.
 - v. Must not abuse or criticise players, referees or officials.

- vi. Must let the players enjoy themselves.
- vii. Any breaches of the above criteria may result in disciplinary action against offender(s) and/or club(s).
- viii. All supporters must abide by the CCF Code of Conduct.

2.5.3 Coaches and Coaching (Otherwise May Be a Parent Helper)

- a. The main role of a Coach is to ensure that the players enjoy the game and improve their football ability.
- b. The Coach is the only person allowed to Coach the team, and then only if carried out quietly in a non-hysterical manner
- c. On field Coaching is allowed in the Under 5 age group only.
- d. Coaches should be prepared to assist opposition players as well as their own.
- e. Coaches or Managers, who enter the field to attend to injured players, are not to Coach nor interfere with play.
- f. Coaches should support and encourage players but not put them under undue pressure to perform.
- g. Coaches must not abuse or criticise players, referees or officials.
- h. Coaches must endeavor to have all players getting equal time on the field.
- i. Any breaches of the above points could result in disciplinary action by CCF against the offender or their club.
- j. All Coaches must abide by the CCF Code of Conduct.

2.5.4 Match Details

- a. Players are encouraged to play all positions, providing they have the physical, mental and playing ability.
- b. All interchanges are to be made at the halfway line.
- c. Interchanges can be made while ball is in play but only after the substituted player has left the field.
- d. The making of an Interchange should not interfere with the match nor be used to break up play.
- e. Following is a table of common information about each non-competition division format:

Playing Format	Under 5 ,6 & 7	Under 8 & 9	Under 10 & 11
Numbers	4 v 4	7 v 7 (including goalkeeper)	9 v 9 (including goalkeeper)
Field size	Length: 30m Width: 20m	¼ Full size pitch Length: 40m to 50m Width: 30m to 40m	½ Full size pitch Length: 60m to 70m Width: 40m to 50m
Field markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings	Markers or line markings
Penalty area	No Penalty Area	5m deep x 12m wide	5m deep x 12m wide
Goal Size	Width: 1.5m -2.0m Height: 0.9m - 1.0m	Width: 2.5m - 3.0m Height: 1.8m - 2.0m	Width: 4.5m - 5.0m Height: 1.8m - 2.0m
Goal type	Goals, Poles or Markers	Goals, Poles or Markers	Goals, Poles or Markers
Ball size	Three (3)	Three (3)	Four (4)
Goalkeeper	No – All players are to be involved in the game. No Player should acting as a goalkeeper.	Yes	Yes
Match duration	Two 15 minute halves (no added time)	Two 20 minute halves (no added time)	Two 25 minute halves(no added time)
Half Time Break	5 minutes	5 minutes	7.5 minute
Referee	Game Leader	Instructing Referee	Official Referee
Tables & Finals	NO	NO	U11 Tournament
Substitutes	Unlimited Interchange – Maximum of three	Unlimited Interchange - Maximum of four substitutes	Unlimited Interchange - Maximum of four substitutes

	substitutes who may rotate during the entire game.	who may rotate during the entire game.	who may rotate during the entire game.
Goal Kicks	Attacking Players are to retreat to the half way line. No attacking player can enter the other half of the field until the ball has been touched by 2 players.	Opponents must remain at least 10 metres outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked directly out of the penalty area.	Opponents must remain at least 10 metres outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it is kicked directly out of the penalty area.
Corner Kicks	N/A	Normal	Normal
Offside	No offsides.	No offsides, Children should be discouraged from standing in blatant offside positions.	Obvious, Repeated Offside will be enforced by Official Referees

2.6 JUNIOR FOOTBALL (JUNIOR MIXED, JUNIOR MALE AND JUNIOR FEMALE)

2.6.1 General

- Junior competitions shall be from division twelve (12) through to division eighteen (18) – one competition allowing for mixed gender up to and including division sixteen (16), with division eighteen (18) being Male only. A separate Junior Female competition will be held for girls only, from division twelve (12) through to division eighteen (18).
- Unless specified in these regulations, all other rules are as per FIFA's laws of the game.

2.6.2 Match Details

- Interchanges can only be made once the ball is out of play and only with the referee's permission.
- The substituted player has to have left the field, before the oncoming player can enter the field.
- The referee has the right to ask the substituted player to leave the field of play from anywhere – it doesn't have to be at halfway. The oncoming player must come on from halfway.
- Following is a table of common information about each junior division format:

Information	Divisions 12	Divisions 13 & 14	Divisions 15 & 16	Division 18
Maximum No. of players on team sheet	16	16	16	16
Ball size	4	Division 13: size 4 Division 14: size 5	5	5
Match duration	Two 25 minute halves – no added time	Two 30 minute halves – no added time	Two 35 minute halves – no added time	Two 40 minute halves – no added time
Substitutes	Unlimited Interchange	Unlimited Interchange	Unlimited Interchange	Unlimited Interchange
Goal kicks	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Corner kicks	Short (8m from edge of penalty box)	Normal	Normal	Normal

2.6.3 Junior Club Champions (Junior Male, Mixed Junior and Junior Female)

- a. The Bill Pluim Cup (formerly the Sterland Trophy):
 - i. The winner shall be the club with the highest amassed total number of competition points gained in the Junior Leagues.
- b. The Jack Atkins Trophy:
 - i. The winner shall be the club with the highest resultant figure assessed on the number of points gained in the Junior Leagues, based on the table below, and divided by the number of teams registered in such leagues at the beginning of the season. Points shall be assessed as follows:

Team grades	Total points multiplied by:
"A" Grade	Two (2)
"B" Grade	Two (2)
"C" Grade & subsequent grades	One (1)

- ii. Clubs must have a minimum of six (6) teams competing in the Junior Leagues to be eligible for this Trophy.

2.6.4 Determination of Club Champions in event of a draw:

- i. In the event of two (2) or more clubs finishing with equal points, in either of the above, the winner will be determined on a count back of points over the second half of the league, starting from the final league fixture.

2.7 SENIOR FOOTBALL

2.7.1 General

- a. Senior football may consist of the following Senior divisions:
 - i. Men's Premier League to be known as MPL
 - i. Women's Premier League to be known as Women's Premier League (WPL)
 - ii. Men's Division One (DIV1)
 - iii. Women's Division One (WDIV1)
 - iv. Mens Under 20 (M20)
 - v. Men's All Age (MAA)
 - vi. Women's All Age (WAA)

and also, the following Overage divisions:

- i. Men's Over 35 (M35)
- ii. Men's Over 45 (M45)
- iii. Women's Over 35 (W35)

CCF may establish other senior competitions as required in its absolute discretion.

2.7.2 Men's Premier League & Men's Division One Competitions

- a. The Men's Premier League competition shall consist of the maximum number of teams as determined by CCF and a club entering the competition must enter a First and Reserve grade and Under 21 team.
- b. The Men's Division One Competition shall consist of the maximum number of teams as determined by CCF and a club entering the competition must enter a First grade and Reserve grade team.
- c. Promotion and/or relegation, at the conclusion of each season, between Men's Premier League and Men's Division One, shall be as determined by CCF. The following general principles shall apply on promotion and relegation, providing the club is eligible for promotion to the Men's Premier League, meets the criteria detailed in the Regulations as set by CCF and meets any other criteria as determined by the Board of CCF:
 - i. At the end of each season the Men's Division One clubs who have finished first and second in the Division 1 club championship, shall be promoted to Men's Premier League. If two or more clubs have the same highest points, then the club whose first grade finishes highest in the league table shall be promoted. If still equal, then the Board of CCF shall make the determination on which, if any, club shall be promoted.
 - ii. At the end of each season the Men's Premier League clubs finished last and second last on the MPL club championship, shall be relegated to Division One. If two or more clubs have the same lowest points, then the club whose first grade team finishes the lowest on the league table shall be relegated. If still equal, then then the Board of CCF shall make the determination on which, if any, club shall be relegated.
 - iii. In the event one or both competitions are not completed for any reason, promotion and relegation will be at the discretion of the Board of CCF.
- d. The decision regarding any or all divisional grading positions is final and not subject to any appeal to CCF.

2.7.3 Women's Premier League and Women's Division 1 Competition

- a. The Women's Premier League Competition shall consist of the maximum number of teams as determined by CCF and a club entering the competition must enter a First grade team.
- b. The Women's Division 1 League Competition shall consist of the maximum number of teams as determined by CCF and a club entering the competition must enter both a First grade team.
- e. Promotion and/or relegation, at the conclusion of each season, shall be determined by the CCF in its absolute discretion.

2.7.4 Men's and Women's All Age Competitions

- a. Men's and Women's All Age Division Competitions shall consist of teams nominated by Member clubs or bodies as approved by the Board of CCF.

2.7.5 Overage Competitions

- a. Teams may be nominated for Overage competitions by eligible clubs or bodies. Individual teams, who apply for Associate membership, and who receive approval from the Board of CCF for such membership, may also nominate.
- b. Each competition shall be open respectively only to players who are registered with CCF. For the M35 and M45 competitions such players must have turned or be turning 35 or 45 years of age respectively within the calendar year of competition. For the W35 competition such players must have turned or be turning 35 years of age respectively within the calendar year of competition.
- c. No underage players may play or substitute into these competitions, with exception being made for two registered player over 30 years of age that may be registered in the W35's competition.
- d. Eligible clubs or associate members may nominate one (1) or more teams at the discretion of CCF.

2.7.6 Match Balls

- a. The following match balls shall be available for use during each match in CCF competitions:
 - i. For all competitions, each home team shall provide two (2) CCF approved match balls.
- b. It is the duty of the Home club to ensure that the required numbers of match balls are available for play at all times.

2.7.7 Match Details

Interchanges can only be made under the following circumstances and in compliance with the FIFA laws of the game:

- a. Once the ball is out of play and only with the referee’s permission.
- b. The substituted player has to have left the field, before the oncoming player can enter the field.
- c. The referee has the right to ask the substituted player to leave the field of play from anywhere – it doesn’t have to be at halfway. The oncoming player must enter the field from halfway.
- d. Following is a table of common information about each senior division format:

Information	MPL & DIV1	WPL & WDIV1	ALL AGE & M20	OVERAGE
Maximum No. of players on team sheet	16 MPL Under 21 (16 Players of which 6 maybe over the age of 21)	20	16	16
Match duration	Two 45 minute halves – 1 st grade has added time – Res grade and U21s has no added time	Two 45 minute halves - no added time	Two 40 minute halves - no added time	Two 40 minute halves - no added time
Substitutes	MPL & DIV 1 First & Reserves Max 5 can be used – no interchange as per 2.4.20 MPL Under 21 Grade – Max 5 can be used – no interchange	WPL & WDIV1 Max 5 can be used – no interchange as per 2.4.20	Unlimited Interchange	Unlimited Interchange

2.7.8 WPL and WDIV1 Club Championship

Separate Club Championships will be awarded in each division (WPL and WDIV1). At the conclusion of the league fixtures for all WPL and WDIV1 competitions the club which has amassed the most points as calculated below, shall be awarded the Club Championship for the most consistent club:

Team grades	Total points multiplied by:
First Grade	Four (4)

2.7.9 MPL and Div1 Club Championship

- a. Separate Club Championships will be awarded in each division (MPL and Div1). At the conclusion of the league fixtures for all MPL and Div1 competitions (the club which has amassed the most points as calculated below, shall be awarded the Club Championship for the most consistent club:

Team grades	Total points multiplied by:
First Grade	Four (4)
Reserve Grade	Two (2)
Under 21 (if applicable)	One (1)

2.7.10 Senior Club Champions

- a. At the conclusion of the league fixtures for all Men’s Divisions the club which has amassed the most points as calculated below, shall be awarded the Senior Men’s Club Championship for the most consistent club performance:

Team grades	Total points multiplied by:	Divided By
First Grade	One (1)	Total number of teams to give an average
Reserve Grade	One (1)	
U21s (if applicable)	One (1)	
All Age & M20	One (1)	
M35	One (1)	
M45	One (1)	

2.7.11 Senior Women’s Club Champions

- a. At the conclusion of the league fixtures for all Women’s Divisions the club which has amassed the most points as calculated below, shall be awarded the Senior Women’s Club Championship for the most consistent club performance:

Team grades	Total points multiplied by:	Divided By
First Grade	One (1)	Total number of teams to give an average
All Age	One (1)	
W35	One (1)	

OTHER CCF COMPETITIONS

3.1 Cup Competitions

- a) CCF may conduct cup competitions at any time.
- b) Rules for these cup competitions shall be set by CCF prior to the commencement of any cup competition but at all times shall be subject to the following rules:

- a. All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game and a result in knockout matches obtained in accordance with FIFA Regulations.
- b. Only players correctly registered with CCF shall be eligible to play. Clubs playing players who are ineligible to play are subject to sanctions and penalties as determined by the Judiciary of CCF as determined by the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.