



# Competition By-Laws of Hills

## Football Incorporated

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Date: 9 January 2024

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REVISION	DATE	Notes
1.0	14th Feb 2017	New document.
1.1	05th Jul 2017	2.3 3.1.1 3.3 4.3 4.16 4.17 8.1.11 8.1.19 8.2.7.3, 8.2.7.4 8.6.1, 8.6.1.1, 8.6.1.1.1, 8.6.1.2.1 8.6.1.6 8.6.5 13.1
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1.3	21st Feb 2018	Updated Formatting 4.10, 4.11, 4.17 8.6.1.1
1.4	28th Mar 2018	2.4.4 4.15 Remove as duplicated 4.21 Change Dates 4.23 Update nomenclature to refer to actual names of Fees 4.26 Update reference to 4.21 4.27 4.3 8.1.7 8.3.2 Removed 8.3.7 Moved 8.3.9 to 4.10 8.6.1.1
1.5	18th May 2018	8.6.4 Simplified and removed reference to "Over Age" 8.6.4.1 8.6.4.2 8.6.4.3 8.6.8 Removed, redundant clause 8.6.8.1 Removed 8.6.8.2 Removed 8.6.9 8.6.10
1.6	24th Sept 2018	2.2 Removed
1.7	29th Jan 2019	Updated Definitions Reformatted entire document making sure all references are still valid. Removed 2.3, 4.5, 4.11.1, 4.12.1, 4.16, 7.6, 8.2, 8.4, 8.4.5., 8.5.2, 7.16, 7.17, 8.6.2 Updated 3.3, 4.2.1, 4.21, 4.25, 7.23, 8.4.4, 8.5.2.1, 8.6.2, 8.0.3, 13.10



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		Added 7.17, 7.8
1.8	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Remove 8.6.10.3
1.9	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019	Remove 8.2.7.4, 8.2.9.5
1.10	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Reformatted entire document making sure all references are still valid. Updated 2.1, 2.3.5.1, 2.3.5.2, 2.4.1, 4.12, 4.25, 5.6, 7.6, 7.9, 7.10, 7.16, 8.1.4, 8.1.6, 8.1.5, 8.1.9, 8.1.11, 8.1.12, 8.1.13, 8.1.16, 8.2.1, 8.2.3, 8.2.3.1, 8.2.8, 8.2.6, 8.3.5.5, 8.6.5, 8.6.14.3, 8.7.1, 8.7.4, 8.8.1, 8.8.2 Removed 4.11.1, 4.11.2, 4.12.1, 4.12.2, 4.17, 7.8, 8.1.3, 8.1.8, 8.1.10, 8.2.3, 8.2.3.1, 8.2.5, 8.2.6, 8.2.7, 8.2.8.3, 8.2.9, 8.2.9.1, 8.2.9.2, 8.2.9.3, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, 8.4.2.1, 8.4.2.2, 8.4.2.3, 8.4.2.4, 8.4.2.5, 8.4.2.6, 8.4.2.7, 8.4.2.8, 8.4.2.9, 8.5.7, 8.8.4, 8.8.5, 8.8.6, 8.8.7, 8.9.1 Added 8.1.5.1, 8.1.5.2, 8.1.7, 8.1.7.1, 8.1.7.2, 8.1.4, 8.3.5.5.1, 8.3.5.5.2, 8.4.3
1.11	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Included Annexure 2 – Force Majeure Season 2020 By Laws Included By Law 1.4 – Force Majeure
1.12	27 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2020	Update to Annexure 2 – Clause 4.18
1.13	15 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2020	Updated Table of Contents. Updated Definitions. Updated clauses 1.4, 2.3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.9, 7, 7.1, 7.2.4, 7.2.5, 7.3, 7.5, 7.7, 8.1.5.1, 8.1.5.2, 8.1.5.3, 8.1.7.5, 8.1.8, 8.2, 8.2.2, 8.2.5.1, 8.3.5.5.2 b), 8.3.6.2, 8.4.4, 8.6.4, 8.6.9.2, 8.6.14, 8.7.8, 13.8, Removal of the covid-19 Annexure 2 developed for the 2020 shortened season. New Wet Weather Procedure Annexure 1, Borrowing Matrix reverted back to pre-covid-19 and titled Annexure 2. Reformatted document, removed wording not required and corrected grammar.
1.14	05 January 2022	Update to clauses 3, 2.2, 2.4, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, Annexure 2 – Age Grades and Borrowing Matrix and general grammar corrections throughout.
1.15	19 December 2022	Update to clauses 2.2, 2.4, 3.7, 4.12, 5.8, 7.19, 7.20, 7.21, 8.1.6, 8.1.12, 8.1.17, 8.2.5.1, 8.3.5.5.2, 8.3.6.4, 8.7.1, 8.7.5, 8.8.3, 2.9.4, 12.4, 13.2.1, Annexure 2 – Age Grades and Borrowing Matrix.
1.16	09 January 2024	Update, additions & deletion to clauses 1.2 Explanatory Text, 1.3 Definitions, 2.4.1, 4.8, 4.9, 4.16, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 5.12, 6.3.2, 7.15.1, 7.22, 8.1.12, 8.1.19, 8.3.5.5, 8.3.5.5.1, 8.3.5.5.2, 8.10.4, 12.3, 12.4, 13, 13.2.1, Annexure 2 clauses 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2 a), 2 e), 2 e)i, 2 e) iii, 2 f), 2 g) ii, 2 g) iii, 2 g) iv, 2 g) v, 2 g) vi, 2 g) vii, 2 i), Borrowing Matrix



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### EXPLANATORY TEXT

The FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply except where specifically varied by these By-Laws.  
*Text in italics is for commentary purposes only and does not form part of the By-Laws.*

## 2 DEFINITIONS

*Within these By-Laws the following items shall have the meaning defined in this table.*

Item	Definition
The Association	Hills Football Incorporated.
Abandoned Match	A scheduled match that has commenced, but for which play is stopped and not recommenced.
Accident Support Program	For the purposes of these By-Laws Accident Support program refers to the player insurance program managed by FNSW.
Association Office	The Offices of HFI.
BOD	Board of Directors.
By-Laws	These By-Laws of the Hills Football Incorporated including Schedules.
The Board	The Board of Directors of HFI.
Championship Competition	Semi Finals, Finals and Grand Final Rounds after the Premiership Competition.
Constitution	The Constitution of Hills Football Incorporated.
Club	A football club which is a member of or is otherwise affiliated with the Association.
Competitions	Competitions shall refer to both non-competitive and competitive football.
Competitions Committee	Competitions Director, General Manager and Competition Manager.
Contracted Player	A player who has signed a contract with a club that is in a State (non-association) run competition.
Division	Shall refer to a category of teams within a grade grouped together by similar skill.



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Field	“Field of play” as defined in the FIFA Laws of the Game, or other marked area defined in these By-Laws for the purpose of playing a football match. It is the area enclosed by the 2 goal lines and 2 touch lines.
Force Majeure	An unforeseeable circumstance including but not limited to fire, storm, flood, earthquake, explosion, war, invasion, rebellion, strike, sabotage and epidemic.
FA	Football Australia.
FNSW	Football New South Wales.
GDR	Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations of HFI.
GPT	General Purpose Tribunal, consisting of the Chairperson (a member of the Board), Secretary of the GPT and additional members.
Grade	Shall refer to age group.
Ground	Area enclosing a single field. A ground extends beyond the field boundaries to encompass stands, areas for spectators, markings, nets, flags, fences, amenities etc, as appropriate. Note that local sporting complexes may contain multiple grounds of varying sizes and common use facilities.
HFI	Hills Football Incorporated
Higher Division	A Higher Division Competition is defined within each Grade (Age Group) typically with Division 1 as the highest, Division 2 second highest, etc. Note that Higher Divisions are in inverse numerical order. Divisions designated by colours, animals, Matilda or Socceroo names have no higher or lower rankings. For the purposes of these By-Laws, divisions designated by colours or animals are considered lower than any numerical division of any higher grade.
Higher Grade	A Higher Grade competition is defined by the following sequences: (from lowest to highest)  1. U6, U7, U8, U9 ... U16, U18, U21, AA, Premier League, or  2. O55, O45, O35, O30, AA, Premier League.



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Photo ID	The official photo-identity for team officials and players issued by the Association via online competition software, currently Dribl.
Play Football	The on-line Registration system managed by the FA.
Postponed Match	A scheduled match that has not commenced (i.e. no first half kick off e.g. due to inclement weather, field damage.)
Premiership Competition	Competition rounds before the Championship Competition. Round 1 – 18 or (1 - 14).
Referee	Official Referee as appointed by the Referees Sub-Committee, or a Club Referee agreed by the team officials where no Official Referee is appointed. For non-competitive football, this is the Game Leader or Instructing Referee as defined in the FA MiniRoos / MiniTildas rules and guidelines as well as team appointed volunteer AR's for competition youth matches.
SAP	Skills Acquisition Program as per FNSW Regulations.
SGM	Special General Meeting.
SSF	Small Sided Football. This may be non-competitive or competitive football for Under Age (e.g MiniRoos, MiniTildas, U12 & U13G and Over Age Groups e.g. Walking Football.
Team Marshall	The person responsible to deal with spectator control for a team.
Wet Weather Procedure	The Procedure utilised by the Association and Clubs during wet weather as defined in Annexure 1 of the By-Laws.



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### 1. ALTERATIONS TO THE BY-LAWS

*This By-Law defines who, how and when the By-Laws may be altered, amended or corrected.*

- 1.1. These By-Laws shall only be modified as per the Hills Football Incorporated Constitution.
- 1.2. Each member Club shall have the right to apply for variations or amendments of these By-Laws.
- 1.2. The BOD shall have the power to grant special case exemptions to the By-Laws.
- 1.3. These By-laws may be amended by the BOD if required due to A Force Majeure event.

### 2 TEAM NOMINATION, GRADING & REGISTRATION

*This By-Law defines how Clubs nominate teams to the Association, and how they are graded or allocated into competitions, and how team registrations are completed.*

- 2.1. Clubs entering team/s in the Associations' competition shall not be permitted to enter the same team/s in any other competition administered outside the Association without the permission of Hills Football.

#### 2.2. TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 2.2.1. Teams must be nominated by Clubs in the manner prescribed by the Board.
- 2.2.2. The closing date for the nomination of teams for the next season shall be fixed by the Board prior to registrations being open for each season.
- 2.2.3. Clubs shall submit information as requested by HFI with team nominations to enable Hills Football to facilitate suitable team grading.
- 2.2.4. By 5pm on the day prior to the date for team nominations, clubs must have their players who participate in HFI Competitions registered and assigned to their respective teams within Dribl.
- 2.2.5. For a team nomination to be accepted by HFI, a minimum number of players must be registered and assigned to the respective team within Dribl as defined:
  - 11 v 11 teams – must have 10 players registered and assigned to a team
  - 10 v 10 teams – must have 9 players registered and assigned to a team
  - 9 v 9 teams – must have 8 players registered and assigned to a team
  - 7 v 7 teams – must have 6 players registered and assigned to a teamOnce players have been registered and assigned to a team at the team nomination date, no more than 3 players per team can then be moved to another team unless this is discussed and approved by the HFI Competitions Manager.
- 2.2.6. Late nominations may be accepted at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.

#### 2.3. TEAM GRADING

- 2.3.1. Following the closing date for nominations by Clubs for teams in each grade, the Competitions Committee shall meet and arrange suitable competitions for the season.
- 2.3.2. If insufficient entries are received in any grade, that competition may be suspended for the year and an alternative competition shall be recommended.



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- 2.3.3.** When there is a combination of two teams into one from the previous year then the highest division for grading for the current year for the nominated team will be no higher than the average of the previous year's two divisions unless nominated by the Club depending on the divisions available. Clubs submitting such nominations shall advise the names of at least four (4) players from the previous season's higher graded team.
- 2.3.4.** Hills Football may regrade teams at the completion of the fourth Round played. This will be in line with the Competition Regrading Policy.
- 2.3.5.** Grading will be based on prior years results as follows.
- 2.3.5.1.** The highest placed premiership team in a division from the previous season will be promoted to the next highest division. Where there is no higher division they will remain in the same division as the prior year.
- 2.3.5.2.** The lowest placed premiership team in a division from the previous season will be relegated to the next lowest division. Where there is no lower division they will remain in the same division as the prior year.
- 2.3.5.3.** Where a club believes a team should be in a different division to those mentioned above, they shall be required to put this in writing to Hills Football with the team nomination.
- 2.3.5.4.** The above clauses do not prevent Hills Football from grading teams differently to ensure correct balancing of competitions or where teams would be disadvantaged based on the above grading.

#### **2.4. TEAM REGISTRATIONS**

- 2.4.1.** A team must consist of at least four (4) players for Under 6 to Under 7; six (6) players for Under 8 to Under 9; eight (8) players for Under 10 to Under 12; nine (9) players for U13 Girls; ten (10) players for Under 13 to Over 45; five (5) players for Walking Football; ten (10) players for Masters Football and fourteen (14) players for Premier League must be registered with the Association by the Team Nomination date and time advised by HFI.
- 2.4.2.** Clubs with outstanding teams not registered must seek re-admission for these teams from Hills Football prior to the first competitive game. Any team re-admitted shall be subject to a late team fine, in accordance with By-Law 13.
- 2.4.3.** Registration of additional players will then be accepted up until the day stipulated by By-Law 4.18.
- 2.4.4.** The closing date for team registrations for the next season shall be fixed by the association following completion of the current season.
- 2.4.5.** Late team registrations may be accepted at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.





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### 3. TEAM COACH(S) AND MANAGERS

*This By-Law requires that all teams registered with the Association have a team coach and/or team manager registered with the Association to facilitate communication with teams. A player may be a coach or manager.*

- 3.1. Each team must have at least one (1) team official, who may be either a coach or manager, registered with the Association by the second competition game.
  - 3.1.1. Any team which does not have at least one team official registered by the due date of By-Law 3.1 shall be fined the equivalent of a forfeit fee for each match until such time as By-Law 3.1 is satisfied.
- 3.2. All registered team officials shall be issued an official Photo ID by the Association with the official's photograph.
- 3.3. A Team Official/s, including stand-in Team Official/s shall identify themselves/s as such to the Referee prior to kick-off.
- 3.4. The team officials shall be noted on the team sheet for all games in which they are acting in that capacity.
- 3.5. The BOD reserves the right to enforce any team to have a Team Marshall where they deem necessary.
- 3.6. Any person that works with or represents children (a person under the age of 18) within the Association shall be aware of and meet the criteria set down by the NSW State Government for Working with Children. Clubs shall be responsible for ensuring their Club is compliant with the NSW Working with Children requirements.
- 3.7. Hills Football and Member Clubs recognise the importance of Coaching and the positive influence that good coaching has on our youth players both for technical ability and for the enjoyment of football. Member Clubs are required to use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that their Coaches of division 1 youth teams have obtained an approved qualification commensurate with the age group and or age grade they are coaching.

Hills Football is committed to improving the development of youth players via appropriately accredited coaches and will provide coaching courses throughout each season and each pre-season open to all affiliated Member Club's so Member Clubs have every opportunity to upskill their coaches.

### 4. PLAYER REGISTRATION

*This By-Law requires that all players are registered with the Association. It also defines the eligibility criteria for playing in the various grade competitions and how players registered for one team may be re-registered with another team.*



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- 4.1. Any person wishing to participate in the Association's Competition must be properly registered with the Association. No contracted players are permitted to register with the Association.
- 4.2. A player shall become a registered player with the Association once all of the following have taken place –
  - 4.2.1. The player or parent/guardian must complete and sign a Play Football electronic registration form thus agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations of FFA, FNSW, the Association and the Club.
  - 4.2.2. The player must pay to the Club the relevant club registration fee.
  - 4.2.3. The Club must submit to the Association the player's registration and photo (as required) in the manner prescribed by the Board.
- 4.3. Every registered player playing in the under 10's and above shall be issued an official Photo ID by the Association with the player's photograph. Photographs shall be updated every three (3) years. For players above 21 years of age, photographs shall be updated every five (5) years unless the Club or Association considers a player has changed his/her appearance so as not to be easily recognised from the current photo.
  - 4.3.1. All new players to the Association must provide a photograph.
- 4.4. Once a Club has submitted to the Association the required information to register a player by the prescribed cut-off date the Association will provide the club with electronic ID Cards. Electronic Photo IDs must be used at all matches as proof of registration for the player's club and team.
- 4.5. For the purposes of the "Accident Support Program", a player is considered registered with the Club from the time he/she completes the aforesaid electronic registration and may submit a claim to the insurance company upon the Club completing the player's registration with the Association.
- 4.6. To be eligible to play in "Under Age" Grades, a player must be under the relevant age on the 31st December of the previous year.
- 4.7. The highest grade players under the age of 16 may register in is two grades above their actual age. A Club may apply to Hills Football in writing for permission for a player to play in a higher grade.
- 4.8. There is no upper age restriction once a player has turned 16 years of age however the association strongly encourages clubs and players to play in the grade relevant to their age.
- 4.9. In the U21 mixed competitions, players must be under the age of 21 before the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the previous calendar year and is recommended for players turning 19, 20 or 21. In the female Youth League competitions, players must be under the age of 18 before the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the previous calendar year and is recommended for players turning 16, 17 or 18.



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- 4.10. To be eligible to play in the Over 30 Women's Competition, a player must have turned 30 before the 31st of December of the previous Calendar Year.
- 4.11. To be eligible to play in the Over 35 Men's Competition, a player must have turned 35 before the 31st of December of the previous Calendar Year.
- 4.12. To be eligible to play in the Over 45 Men's Competition, a player must have turned 45 before the 31st of December of the previous Calendar Year however, only in the O45 div 1 competition, a team is permitted to have up to three (3) under-age players who must have turned 43 by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the previous Calendar Year.
- 4.13. Players registering for non-competitive football must have turned four (4) years old by, or on, the 31st December in the previous year.
- 4.14. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure a player is eligible to play in his/her registered age group by obtaining documented proof of age. Any breach of this By-Law shall result in any game in which the player plays being deemed to be a forfeit.
  - 4.14.1. Clubs entering teams in age group competitions must provide original birth certificates or satisfactory evidence of age of players if requested by the Association.
  - 4.14.2. The Competitions Manager shall deduct competition points in respect of each game played by the player or players in question until evidence of age is provided. An aggrieved Club may seek a review from Hills Football of any such decision under this By-Law.
- 4.15. No player may be registered with more than one Club at any one time in any one competition season.
- 4.16. All females will be allowed to dual register within the same club into two age group/grades (except O45W Masters players) and pay only the one rego fee, whichever is higher. Females are permitted to play in mixed competitions should their club deem their ability suitable for that division/team.
- 4.17. Any registered player proved to have played in any competition match of Association Football outside the Association without the permission of Hills Football may be suspended for a period to be determined by the GPT.
- 4.18. No player may be registered with the Association after 4.00pm on 30th June, or the Friday preceding the 30th June if the 30th June falls on a weekend.
- 4.19. A player having been registered with the Association as a member of a Club may deregister from that Club and register with another Club upon the Club notifying the Association in writing that the player has been deregistered in Play Football.
- 4.20. Where a player deregisters from one Club and registers with another Club, the first Club will only be charged the appropriate amount of registration. The second Club will be charged the Association Fee, FNSW Fees & FFA Fees.
- 4.21. No registered player may deregister from one Club and register with another Club on more than one occasion in any one season.



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- 4.22. Any player who seeks to deregister from one Club and register with another Club and is refused a clearance from his/her Club may appeal in writing to Hills Football for permission to register with another Club.
- 4.23. No player may be deregistered from one Club and registered with another Club, or from one team to another team within a Club, after the close of player registrations as in By-Law 4.18
- 4.24. If an affiliated Club has more than one registered team playing in the same grade and division, it shall not permit any player to interchange within these two teams unless the interchange is previously sanctioned by the Competition Committee. This rule does not apply to Over 30W, Over 35's and Over 45's competitions.
- 4.25. Transfer of the registration of a player of a Club between teams in the same grade and division or in the same grade and a lower division may be sanctioned by the Competition Committee. The Competition Manager may upgrade a player on request from the Club. This process must occur before the cut-off as stipulated by By-Law 4.18.
- 4.26. There are no age or gender limitations for players registering for Walking Football.

## 5. CLUB STRIP, PLAYERS EQUIPMENT & SPONSORSHIP

*This By-Law requires that all Clubs register their playing strip with the Association to ensure it complies with appropriate standards, for example sponsorship.*

- 5.1. Players in all matches must appear in Club uniform (comprising shirt, shorts and socks) and approved footwear and shin pads. Devices or materials used to hold shin pads in place shall be the same colour as the socks or as close as possible.
- 5.2. Approval for colour registration/alteration and changes to any part of a Club's strip must be submitted at the time of Club affiliation or reaffiliation for consideration by Hills Football. Requests for approval of new strip or changes to existing strip must be accompanied by full colour photographs of the front and rear of shirts, shorts and socks.
- 5.3. Clubs must seek permission from Hills Football before putting advertising/sponsorship on their playing strip. If approved, patches will only be allowed as follows –
  - 5.3.1. A patch not exceeding 450 cm<sup>2</sup> (21cm x 21cm) shall be permitted on the front of shirts.
  - 5.3.2. A patch not exceeding 300cm<sup>2</sup> (15cm x 20cm) and a maximum height of 15cm on the rear of shirts (2cm below shirt number).
  - 5.3.3. A patch not exceeding 100cm<sup>2</sup> (10cm x 10cm) shall be permitted on each sleeve of shirts.
  - 5.3.4. A patch not exceeding 100cm<sup>2</sup> (10cm x 10cm) shall be permitted on the front-side of each leg of shorts.
  - 5.3.5. Any Club not complying with this By-Law shall be subject to a fine as per By-Law 13.
  - 5.3.6. Any Club non-compliant shall be required to modify sponsorship patches within fourteen (14) days of notification.



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- 5.3.7. Clubs may apply to the association for allowances to the above sponsorship guidelines.
- 5.4. Where the colours of Clubs' strip are similar, Hills Football shall determine if a 'clash of strip' has occurred. The home team (as per fixture list) shall be the team to change when a designated clash of strip occurs, unless otherwise directed by Hills Football.
- 5.4.1. Bibs of a different colour to the Club's regular strip and of different colour to the opposition strip will be sufficient to satisfy a change of strip. Playing shirts must be worn underneath bibs with the correct numbers as per the team sheet.
- 5.4.2. When a goalkeeper shirt clashes with the opposition playing shirt it shall be the goal keeper's responsibility to wear an alternative shirt.
- 5.5. The Association must ensure that the Referees Committee is issued with a list of colour clashes designated by the Hills Football.
- 5.6. For games where Hills Football has designated a colour clash, it will be the responsibility of the Manager or Coach of the away team to inform the referee prior to the commencement of the game if the home team is not wearing an alternate strip. The game will then continue as normal at the discretion of the referee.
- 5.7. When requested by Hills Football, a sample of each Club's current playing strip must be supplied to Hills Football for approval.
- 5.8. When undergarments are being worn by a player, the undergarment shall be the same colour as the shorts or jersey the undergarment is being worn under. Where a head covering is being worn, it shall be the same colour as the jersey or black.
- 5.9. Each players playing number must be positioned on the back of their jersey and be clearly identifiable.
- 5.10. Players are permitted to wear sports goggles, sports glasses or sports sunglasses as long as, in the opinion of the referee, they pose no danger to the player or other players. The Optometrists Association of Australia has stated that children involved in sport, requiring assisted vision, should wear protective eyewear such as sports goggles or sports glasses with soft or flexible frames fitted with a plastic or polycarbonate lens.
- 5.11. As per IFAB Laws of the Game – Law 4, a player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous. The players must be inspected before the start of the match and substitutes before they enter the field of play. If a player is wearing or using unauthorised / dangerous equipment or jewellery, the referee must order the player to remove the item.
- 5.12. Other equipment – non dangerous protective equipment, for example headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protection made of soft, lightweight padded material is permitted, as are goalkeepers caps and sports spectacles.



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## 6. GROUNDS

*This By-Law requires that all Clubs provide consistent and appropriate ground dressing for their assigned grounds and any other grounds to which any of its teams have been allocated home ground status.*

- 6.1. Clubs are responsible for the dressing of their own ground or grounds unless the Competition Manager has allocated a team from another club home team status at a particular ground, in which case the home team is responsible for the dressing/undressing of the ground if required.
- 6.2. As a minimum, dressing shall consist of 4 corner posts, 2 nets, post and rope barriers or painted lines (unless field is fenced) to both sidelines at a minimum of 1.5m from the sideline.
  - 6.2.1. For matches where By-Law 8.2.3 applies (grades Under 12 and Under 13), that ground shall also have easily visible posts or cones placed at the 10m (U12) 25m (U13) mark out from each goal line, placed 1m outside each touch line.
- 6.3. Clubs must dress grounds at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off of the first game on that ground, and clubs must ensure all ground dressing is maintained until the completion of the last game on that ground that day.
  - 6.3.1. Where a ground has more than one playing field, each playing field may be treated separately for the purpose of By-Law 6.3.
  - 6.3.2. For competitive football format matches, a field where possible should have a technical area identified with lines or cones provided for players and officials only.

## 7. NON-COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL FORMAT (U6 to U11)

*This By-Law defines how non-competitive small sided football (also known as MiniRoos & MiniTildas) is structured for each season. MiniRoos & MiniTildas football is to foster skills development of younger players and is for ages Under 6 to Under 11.*

- 7.1. Except where varied in these By-Laws, non-competitive football games shall be played in accordance with the Association's MiniRoos / MiniTildas Match Rules.
- 7.2. Games shall be played as follows:
  - 7.2.1. For Under 6s and Under 7s, 4 v 4 games shall be played in twenty (20) minute halves with a five (5) minute half time on a field approximately 30 x 20 metres with portable goals 2m x 1m and ball size 3.
  - 7.2.2. For Under 8s and Under 9s, 7 v 7 games shall be played in twenty (20) minute halves with a five (5) minute half time on a field approximately 50 x 35 metres with goals 3m x 2m and ball size 3.
  - 7.2.3. For Under 10s and Under 11s, 9 v 9 games shall be played in twenty-five (25) minute halves with a five (5) minute half time on a field approximately 70 x 45 metres with goals 5m x 2m and ball size 4.
- 7.3. Match results and "competition" style tables shall not be published by the Association or Clubs for MiniRoos and MiniTildas grades U11 and younger.



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- 7.4. Managers, Coaches, Club Officials or Spectators may not take the field unless requested to do so by the Referee and then only in the case of injury.
- 7.5. All Under 6 through to Under 11 shall be differentiated in the fixture list by Socceroo player surnames for mixed competition and Matildas surnames for MiniTildas female competition.
- 7.6. No game will be scheduled on Good Friday, Easter Saturday or Sunday as well as ANZAC Day. Where ANZAC Day falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday there shall be no games scheduled for that day.
- 7.7. Matches washed out by rain or unplayable due to ground unavailability shall be replayed in accordance with the HFI Wet Weather Procedure detailed in Annexure 1 or for matters not covered by the HFI Wet Weather Procedure, at the discretion of the Competition Manager.
- 7.8. Teams forfeiting without prior notice to the Association / Club shall incur a forfeit fee as prescribed in the By-Law 13. Forfeits must be advised by the Club to the association by email, SMS or phone providing at least three (3) business days notice.
- 7.9. In all games, if the commencement of a game is delayed, a shorter period of time must be played in equal halves to ensure the game is completed five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of the next game.
- 7.10. No addition is to be made to the duration of either half of the game in the event of time being lost due to injury or any other occurrence that causes play to be suspended.
- 7.11. Unlimited player interchange is permissible at any stoppage in play during the game, subject to the authority of the referee.
- 7.12. The home club may allocate referees for specific grades of non-competitive football. If no referee is allocated an agreement is to be reached on who will referee the match. If there can be no agreement the game will be abandoned and will not be replayed. The club(s) of both teams may be required to provide a written explanation of why the game was not played.
- 7.13. For age groups Under 8 and above teams must complete team sheets as per By-Law 8.9.
- 7.14. Fines for non-competitive football shall be set in By-Law 13.
- 7.15. Players may only be borrowed into the same age group or a higher age group with the following caveats:
  - 7.15.1. No limitation to borrowed players.
  - 7.15.2. Players may only be borrowed up to two ages higher than their own age group – this is based on the players age not the age group they are playing in.
  - 7.15.3. As there are no divisions denominated, there is no restriction on the division a player can play in, however clubs are encouraged to not abuse this, and play players in teams of similar skill levels.
- 7.16. No jewellery is permitted to be worn.
- 7.17. Casts are not permitted to be worn.
- 7.18. The official offside rule does not generally apply in MiniRoos and MiniTildas games. Goals can be scored from an offside position. Referees may direct players standing in blatant offside positions to move into on side positions.
- 7.19. For ages U8 to U11, where players are purposely and blatantly playing offside whether directed to or not, the referee will have the authority to award a free kick against the team



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who's player is purposely and blatantly playing off side, at the sole discretion of the referee.

- 7.20. For ages U8 to U11, when a goalkeeper catches or traps a ball or the ball crosses the goal line for a goal kick, the attacking team must retreat back behind the exclusion zone. The attacking team shall not be permitted to attack until such time as the defending team takes their second touch of the ball allowing the goalkeeper or other player not to be under pressure and allow them to play out with two touches before the attacking team can attack.
- 7.21. For ages U8 to U11, field sizes must be in accordance with the HFI and FA recommended field sizes and have the exclusion zones clearly identified by line markings, marker cones or other similar clearly identifiable means so the players clearly understand where the exclusion zone is.
- 7.22. All U8, U9, U10 and U11 matches are to be played with the latest finish time being no later than 1:00pm and any matches that cannot be hosted by a club within this time limit will have an effected match moved to a neutral ground where there is space. All clubs are committed to hosting any small-sided matches that are moved to their ground to allow these younger age grades to be finished no later than 1:00pm.

## 8. COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL FORMAT

*This By-Law defines how competitive football is structured and conducted for each season. It is intended that Clubs ensure matches can proceed even when registered members of a team may not be available by allowing players of an appropriate standard from other teams within the Club to play in the match. This section does not apply to MiniRoos and MiniTildas Football except where the MiniRoos and MiniTildas By-law 7 specifically references therein.*

### 8.1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 8.1.1. FNSW tournaments will receive priority over Association organised competitions. The Association competitions will receive priority during the season over Club organised events.
- 8.1.2. All matches of competition football shall be conducted under the FIFA Laws of the Game, except where specifically varied in these By-Laws.
- 8.1.3. No game will be scheduled on Good Friday, Easter Saturday or Sunday as well as ANZAC Day. Where ANZAC Day falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday there shall be no games scheduled for that day.
- 8.1.4. In the Premiership, competition points shall be accumulative and allotted as follows: -
  - Win 3 points
  - Draw 1 point
  - Loss 0 points
  - Bye 3 points
  - Win by forfeit 3 points, with result being given as three (3) goals to nil (0)
  - Loss by forfeit 0 points, with result being given as nil (0) goals to three (3)





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- 8.1.5.** After the completion of the Premiership, should there be two or more teams equal on points, their competition table position shall be decided by:
- 8.1.5.1.** Greatest number of wins;
  - 8.1.5.2.** Greatest goal difference (i.e. goals against subtract from goals for);
  - 8.1.5.3.** If the number of points, wins and goal difference are the same, then the greatest number of goals scored for.
  - 8.1.5.4.** Determination made at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.
- 8.1.6.** After the completion of the Premiership Competition, the top four (4) teams on the table in competition shall play in Championship Competition.
- 8.1.7** Any club wishing to defer a game must complete the following process:
- 8.1.7.1** Download and complete the Reschedule Match Request Form at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled date of that game ([click here](#) to access form);
  - 8.1.7.2** Send the Reschedule Match Request Form to the opposing club with a proposed date, time and location of the rescheduled match;
  - 8.1.7.3** Once both clubs have agreed, the completed and signed Reschedule Match Request Form must be sent to the HFI Competitions Manager no later than 48 hours prior to the start of the original scheduled match date to ensure HFI can update the draws.
  - 8.1.7.4** Once both clubs agree, as well as HFI accepting the Reschedule Match Request Form, the rescheduling of the match is final and any further reschedule requests will not be considered by HFI.
  - 8.1.7.5** On request with at least 48 hours-notice an automatic deferment will be granted for any Association match/s scheduled during the same weekend for any team playing in any Football NSW Competitions at either a regional centre or in the final.
- 8.1.8** Premiership Competition games washed out by rain or unplayable due to ground unavailability shall be replayed in accordance with the HFI Wet Weather Procedure detailed in Annexure 1 or for matters not covered by the HFI Wet Weather Procedure, at the discretion of the Competitions Manager. No application for deferred games shall be considered with the exception that a Rescheduled Match Request Form is completed.
- 8.1.9** In the Championship and the final series, in the event of any Round being washed out, that Round will be rescheduled prior to any subsequent round, until the washed-out Round is played or until the remainder of the Round is cancelled.
- 8.1.10** If the Championship Competition is affected by wet weather, the Championship Competition match affected by wet weather will be rescheduled at the discretion of the HFI Competitions Manager.
- 8.1.11** The size of the match ball in the various grades shall be:
- |                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Under 12 to Under 13 | Size 4 |
| Under 14 to All Age  | Size 5 |
| Over 35 and Over 45  | Size 5 |
| Premier League       | Size 5 |



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**8.1.12** The duration of matches (apart from Masters Football) in the various grades shall be 2 equal periods of -

Under 12	25 minutes
Under 13 to Under 14	30 minutes
Under 15 to Under 16	35 minutes
Under 18	40 minutes
Under 21	45 minutes
Youth League Females	40 minutes
All Age	45 minutes
Over 30 Women	40 minutes
Over 35 and Over 45	40 minutes
Premier League	45 minutes
Walking Football	20 minutes

Masters Football O55M 4 x 15 minute quarters with 2 minutes drinks break

Masters Football O45W 4 x 20 minute quarters with 2 minutes drinks break separated by a five (5) minute half time break.

**8.1.13** In the event of any game not being played owing to weather or other causes over which neither Club has any control, a game is considered completed/played if a minimum of 50% of the game has been played. For the avoidance of doubt, if less than 50% of the allotted game time referenced in By-Law 8.1.12 has been played, the game will be required to be replayed.

**8.1.14** Except where specifically varied in these By-Laws, no addition is to be made to the duration of either half of the game in the event of time being lost due to injury or any other occurrence that causes play to be suspended.

**8.1.15** If the commencement of a match is delayed, a shorter period of time must be played in equal halves. However, for Premier League, no shortened times will be played.

**8.1.16** Players taking the field of play in any game must have shirts with unduplicated numbers within their team, including any upgraded players. Shirt numbers for all players in each team shall correspond to the number appearing on the team sheet for that player.

**8.1.17** No jewellery is permitted to be worn.

**8.1.18** Casts are not permitted to be worn.

**8.1.19** Over 30 and O45 Women Players may cross their arms over their chest during game play to protect their breasts from a ball strike. The arms must be flat against the chest and not moving to interfere with the balls natural expected movement, making the arms effectively the chest.

**8.1.20** For U12's mixed competition, in alignment with the FNSW SAP competition format 9 v 9 games shall be played on a field set up and played, where possible 18 yard box to 18 yard box and 50m – 60m wide with goals 5m x 2m.

**8.1.21** For U13's Girls competition, in alignment with the FNSW Girls SAP competition format 10 v 10 games shall be played on a field set up and played, where possible 18 yard box to 18 yard box and 50m – 60m wide with goals 5m x 2m.



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### 8.2 COMPETITION STRUCTURE (EXCLUDING MEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE)

8.2.1 All competitive football shall consist of a Premiership Competition and Championship Competition, subject to By-Law 8.1.9 at the discretion of the Competition Manager.

8.2.2 For grades Under 12 and girls U13, corner kicks are to be taken 7 metres out from the penalty area.

8.2.3 For grades Under 12 and Under 13, at the taking of a goal kick, the attacking team shall remain at least 10 metres for U12 and 25 metres for U13 from the defending team's goal line until: the goal kick is taken and is touched by a second player of the defending team; the ball travels beyond the 10m (U12) and 25m (U13) line; play is stopped for any other breach of the rules; or the ball goes out-of-play.

8.2.3.1 If an attacking player encroaches within the 10 metres (U12) 25 metres (U13) boundary in breach of the conditions of By-Law 8.2.3 then play shall be stopped and the goal kick retaken.

8.2.3.2 If an attacking team player repeatedly encroaches as per By-Law 8.2.3.1, that player shall be cautioned by the referee.

8.2.4 For "Over Age" grades slide tackles are not permitted. A slide tackle is defined as a tackle where a player slides in with his/her feet and there is the potential of contact with an opposition player. Any breach of this rule is punishable by an indirect free kick.

#### 8.2.5 CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION (FINAL SERIES)

8.2.5.1 The Championship competition shall be a finals series competition structured as follows:

Week 1	Semi-Final 1:	1 v 2
Week 1	Semi-Final 2:	3 v 4
Week 2	Final:	Loser Semi-Final 1 v Winner Semi-Final 2
Week 3	Championship Final:	Winner Semi-Final 1 v Winner Final

8.2.5.2 If rain causes the Championship Competition to be reduced the Competitions Manager will decide how this series will proceed depending on time available.

8.2.6 If in any game of the Championship Competition the score at the end of full time is drawn, then extra time each way will be played. If at the end of extra time the score is still drawn, then a penalty shoot-out will occur. The duration of extra time in the various grades shall be 2 equal periods of -

Under 12	5 minutes
Under 13 to Under 14	5 minutes
Under 15 to Under 16	10 minutes
Under 17 to Under18	10 minutes
Under 21 to All Age	15 minutes
Over 30, 35, and 45	10 minutes
Walking & Masters Football	10 minutes
Premier League	15 minutes



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### 8.3 COMPETITION STRUCTURE FOR MEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

**8.3.1** There will be a Premier League competition, both comprising of First Grade and Reserve Grade teams.

**8.3.2** The Premier League Shield will be awarded to the Premier League squad with the highest combined points of First Grade and Reserve Grade. First grade wins will be worth 6 points, draws worth 2 points. Reserve grade wins will be worth 3 points, draws worth 1 point.

**8.3.3** Premier League competitions shall consist of a Premiership Competition and Championship Competition.

#### 8.3.4 PREMIERSHIP COMPETITION

**8.3.4.1** Ten (10) team competitions to form the basis of Premier League competitions.

**8.3.4.2** 10 Team Competitions: Will play eighteen (18) rounds, playing each opponent twice.

**8.3.4.3** 8 Team Competitions: Will play twenty-one (21) rounds playing each opponent at least three times.

**8.3.4.4** Stoppage time will be played in all Premier League First Grade Premiership games.

#### 8.3.5 CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

**8.3.5.1** The Championship competition shall be a finals series competition structured as follows (for both First Grade and Reserve Grade):

Semi-Final 1: 1 v 2

Semi-Final 2: 3 v 4

Final: Loser Semi-Final 1 v Winner Semi-Final 2

Championship Final: Winner Semi-Final 1 v Winner Final

**8.3.5.2** If rain causes the Championship Competition to be reduced the Competitions Manager will decide how this series will proceed depending on time available.

**8.3.5.3** If in any game of the Championship Competition the score at the end of full time is drawn, then fifteen (15) minutes each way will be played. If at the end of extra time the score is still drawn, then a penalty shoot-out will occur.

**8.3.5.4** Stoppage time will be played in all Premier League Championship games at the discretion of the referee.

**8.3.5.5** A Player is eligible to play in Reserve Grade Championship Competition matches under the following scenarios:

**8.3.5.5.1** If the club's First Grade team also make a Championship Competition match, being a semi-final, final or grand final, all registered PL squad players are eligible for the same corresponding round of a Reserve Grade Championship Competition match.

**8.3.5.5.2** If the club's First Grade team does NOT also make a Championship Competition Match, only the following players will be eligible for Reserve Grade Semi Finals



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- a) Players who have played at least 60% of their total games in Reserve Grade. This does include players who play both Reserve Grade and First Grade on the same match day. HFI shall implement a process via Dribl to identify whether a player who is listed on a team sheet as a first grade player has actively taken part in the match or has been a substitute only who has not taken part in a match.
- b) Should clubs be in a situation where they are short on numbers for finals, clubs may apply to Hills Football for dispensation.
- c) Should a player be affected by injury during the year, the club may apply to HFI for dispensation.

**8.3.6** In the event of a Club being unable to provide sufficient players to take the field in both the reserve and first grade games and therefore wishing to forfeit one game, the Club can only forfeit the reserve grade game.

**8.3.6.1** Should a Premier League squad forfeit two (2) or more games in a season due to insufficient available players, the Club must present a case to Hills Football for their inclusion in the Premier League Competitions for the following season. Hills Football will then determine if the said Club be relegated to the All Age Competition for the following season.

#### **8.4 COMPETITION STRUCTURE FOR WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE**

The Women's Premier League Competition matches shall be played under the same rules as all other All Age Women's competitions (with the exception of the 'Championship' competition) but as a stand-alone competition with no promotion and relegation to other All Age Women's competitions.

**8.4.1.1** The Championship competition for the Women's Premier League shall be a finals series competition structured as follows:

Semi-Final 1: 1 v 2  
Semi-Final 2: 3 v 4  
Final: Loser Semi-Final 1 v Winner Semi-Final 2  
Championship Final: Winner Semi-Final 1 v Winner Final

**8.3.6.4** In consultation with HFI Clubs, HFI may enter into a joint association Women's Premier League competition with one or more other associations which will have competition By-laws or regulations for that competition separately defined as agreed with the other association/s.

#### **8.5 SUBSTITUTION & INTERCHANGE**

**8.5.1** In "Over Age" grades unlimited player interchange is permissible at any time when there is stoppage of play during the game. No more than eighteen (18) players may participate in any match for any one team. More than eighteen (18) names appearing on a team sheet will constitute a fine against that team as per By-Law 13. Where the opposition Manager believes that a team has actually played more than eighteen (18) players, the manager shall inform the Referee who shall note this on the back of the team sheet. The team playing more than eighteen (18) players may be subject to a forfeit at the discretion of the Judiciary.



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- 8.5.2** In Under 12 unlimited player interchange is permissible at any time when there is stoppage of play during the game. No more than fourteen (14) players may participate in any match for any one team. More than fourteen (14) names appearing on a team sheet will constitute a fine against that team as per By-law 13. Where the opposition Manager believes that a team has played more than fourteen (14) players, the manager shall inform the Referee who shall note this on the team sheet. The team playing more than fourteen (14) players may be subject to a forfeit at the discretion of the Judiciary.
- 8.5.3** In grades Under 13 to Under 21, All Age and Premier League Reserve Grade, unlimited player interchange is permissible at any time when there is stoppage of play during the game. No more than sixteen (16) players may participate in any match for any one team. More than sixteen (16) names appearing on a team sheet will constitute fine against that team as per By-law 13. Where the opposition Manager believes that a team has played more than sixteen (16) players, the manager shall inform the Referee who shall note this on the team sheet. The team playing more than sixteen (16) players may be subject to a forfeit at the discretion of the Judiciary.
- 8.5.4** In Premier League First Grade the substitution rule applies. A total of five (5) substitutions per team may be made at any time during a match during a stoppage in play, and subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the Referee. Once a player has been substituted, they are not permitted to retake the field. The substitutes and shirt numbers must be added to the team sheet prior to the game, however players listed as substitutes who have not taken to the field may be changed up until the end of the first half only. If and when changes to substitutes are required and provided this occurs prior to the end of the first half, the opposing team shall unlock the team sheet to permit substitutes to be changed. All players taking the field at the commencement of the game must be listed and numbered on the team sheet prior to kick off.

### **8.6 PLAYER IDENTITY CARDS**

- 8.6.1** All competitions are played under the Photo ID system.
- 8.6.2** Each team manager shall present the Electronic Team sheet to the opposition manager to check prior to the commencement of the game. The opposition manager has the right to sight any or all the players for verification against the Photo ID photograph. If the opposition manager contests the identity of a player, the manager should note on the team sheet that they contest the identity of the player, noting the name and ID of the player from the team sheet.
- 8.6.2.1** If Photo IDs are not available for inspection prior to the start of the match, the game shall be forfeited by the offending team. The opposition manager must advise the referee of the situation and the non-offending team will mark the Team sheet as disputed.
- 8.6.3** No protests will be accepted regarding player eligibility and identity if Photo IDs are not checked prior to the start of the game.



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- 8.6.4** Should a Photo ID not be available for an individual player, then said player shall not be eligible to take the field in any game.
- 8.6.5** Photo IDs for players, substitutes and interchange players that arrive after the opposition manager has sighted the team Photo IDs, must be produced to the opposing manager before the player, substitute/interchange player takes the field of play.
- 8.6.6** A manager has the right, at any time during the game, to request from the opposition manager the Photo IDs for that particular team if he/she has any doubt about the eligibility of any player on the field.

#### **8.7 PLAYING OUT OF GRADE/BORROWING**

- 8.7.1** During the premierships competition a player is entitled to play out of grade subject to the general provisions and applicable age specific provisions.
- 8.7.2** A team is only allowed to borrow a maximum of four (4) players within any premierships fixture (except for men's premier league).
- 8.7.3** During the Championship competition there will be no borrowing of players.
- 8.7.4** Borrowing will be as per the borrowing matrix located at Annexure 2
- 8.7.5 Men's Premier League**
- 8.7.5.1** Players registered to play in Premier League are ineligible to play in any other competition.
- 8.7.5.2** Premier League may borrow players from any division from any grade, provided at all times the player is over the age of 16.
- 8.7.5.3** Premier League can borrow up to a maximum of 9 players in any one fixture from other grades. A minimum of 7 registered Premier League players must be on the field at all times.
- 8.7.5.4** Premier League players may be freely transferred between first grade and reserve grade throughout the premierships. Clubs must ensure they are aware of by law 8.3.5.5 in regards to finals qualification of players.

#### **8.8 FORFEITS**

- 8.8.1** Matches shall be played on the ground/Field allocated by the Association and shall commence at the official kick-off times. For the avoidance of doubt, clubs shall not be permitted to change the ground/field allocated by the Association where games are to be played. Any team failing to play its match as set down shall be deemed to have forfeited the match. Where a club is aware that a team will forfeit, the club must notify the Office of the Association of the forfeit no later than two (2) business days immediately preceding the game.
- 8.8.2** In all grades, if a team is unable to field at least seven (7) of its registered players at the scheduled starting time, then such team will be deemed to have forfeited the match. No grace period shall be permitted.
- 8.8.3** Where a team loses enough players in a match that are unable to return to the field due to injury, send-off etc, such that it can no longer field seven (7) of its own registered players then the game shall be forfeited by the team who cannot field seven (7) registered players, and the referee must record the fact on the back of the Team Sheet..



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- 8.8.4** Teams forfeiting on two (2) consecutive occasions per season will automatically be referred to the General Purposed Tribunal.
- 8.8.5** Any team that forfeits a match shall be fined in accordance with By-Law 13. A forfeit fee will not apply where two (2) business days advance notice is given to the Association.
- 8.8.6** Any team which plays an ineligible player, suspended player, or a player who is not registered with the Association shall be deemed to have forfeited that match.
- 8.8.7** Where a team forfeits a match, such match shall be treated as a game by the opposing team for all purposes of these By-Laws and Schedules.
- 8.8.8** **Football NSW Competitions:** Where a club which has agreed to represent the Association in a Football NSW Competition and forfeit's a FNSW Competition match, the Club will be charged any amount imposed by FNSW in respect of the forfeit.

#### 8.9 TEAM SHEETS

- 8.9.1** In all competition matches, Hills Football will use electronic team sheets.
- 8.9.2** All information contained on Team Sheets will be deemed as correct once it has been signed by the Team Managers from both clubs. Unless an Official Letter from both Clubs is received by HFI within 48 hours of the finish of the match, the results of the match is final and cannot be appealed to HFI.
- 8.9.3** The home team will provide paper team sheets in the event that the electronic team sheets are not available for any reason. The paper team sheets are to be completed in accordance with the instructions of the Competition Committee. All paper team sheets are to be delivered to the HFI office by 10am the following Monday. Scores must be entered by both clubs via the Association's electronic competition software, Dribl.

#### 8.10 REFEREES

- 8.10.1** Where no official referee is available, it shall be the duty of the two team managers to reach a decision and appoint a substitute referee. If there can be no agreement the game will be abandoned and may be replayed at the discretion of the Competition Manager. The club(s) of both teams may be required to provide a written explanation of why the game was not played.
- 8.10.2** The person or persons who referee the match have the same authority and rights as an official referee, including, but not limited to, cautioning or sending off a player and submitting incident reports. The person or persons who referee the match should sign the electronic team sheet, noting any cautioned players, players sent from the field or incidents as appropriate.
- 8.10.3** Where an active, qualified member of the Referees Association is present at the ground, that referee has the right to referee the match, providing that the match is at the level of game the Referees Association member normally covers.





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## 9 DISCIPLINE

*This By-Law defines how grievance or disciplinary matters are dealt with.*

9.1 All aspects of grievance and disciplinary matters are set out in the Association Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations attached as a Schedule to these By-Laws. The Schedule is to be read in conjunction with these By-Laws and the Association Constitution.

## 10 PROTESTS/APPEALS

*This By-Law defines how Clubs or players may appeal decisions of the Association or constituted bodies of the Association.*

10.1 All appeals or protests will be conducted in accordance with the Association Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations set out in the Schedule to these By-Laws. The Schedule is to be read in conjunction with these By-Laws and the Association Constitution.

10.2 All appeals will be heard under the Association Appeals Procedures as drawn up by the Association. A copy of these procedures shall be provided to all appellants.

## 11 PERPETUAL TROPHIES

*This By-Law defines the management of perpetual trophies*

11.1 Clubs shall return to the Association, by 30th June in each year, any perpetual trophies presented to their teams for the previous season. Clubs failing to return same by the said date will incur a fee per trophy as prescribed in By-Law 13. Replacement for or repairs to trophies will be incur a cost to the club responsible.

## 12 SPECIAL COMPETITIONS

*This By-Law allows the Associations to run competitions other than those described elsewhere in these By-Laws.*

12.1 The Association may conduct special competitions under such rules and conditions as directed by Hills Football.

### 12.2 COMPETITION STRUCTURE FOR MEN'S O35 FRIDAY COMPETITION

There will be an O35 Friday Night competition, with two divisions competing in both a Premiership & Championship Competition.

Divisions to be known as; O35 Friday 1 & O35 Friday 2.

Premiership Competition.

6 Team Competitions to form the basis of O35 Friday Night competition

6 Team competitions: Will play fifteen (15) rounds, playing each opponent three (3) times.

After rounds five (5) and ten (10) have been played, there will be a whole competition bye.

Premiership Competition winner will be determined by the team on top of the competition ladder after 15 rounds.



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The Championship competition shall be a finals series competition structured as follows (for both divisions);

#### Week 1

Elimination Final 1: 3 v 6

Elimination Final 2: 4 v 5

#### Week 2

Semi Final 1: 1 v 2

Semi Final 2: EF1 Winner v EF2 Winner

#### Week 3

Preliminary Final: SF1 Loser v SF2 Winner

#### Week 4

Championship Final: SF1 Winner v PF Winner

If rain causes the Championship Competition to be reduced the Competitions Manager will decide how this series will proceed depending on time available.

If in any game of the Championship Competition the score at the end of full time is drawn, then ten (10) minutes each way will be played. If at the end of extra time the score is still drawn, then a penalty shoot-out will occur.

### 12.3 WALKING FOOTBALL

All clubs shall promote the competition being played on Sundays and to have all clubs open this age grade in their registration system and where a club has some players registered but not enough to field a full team, the relevant club are to put these players in touch with a person designated by Hills Football who will champion this competition for the Association. This person will be advised to clubs at the beginning of each year for each upcoming season.

The Association will be conducting Walking Football offering a social, small-sided and sustainable version of football specifically modified for older Australians. Clubs will be able to enter teams into this competition which will be played on Sundays between the hours of 11:00am to 1:00pm in a hub.

The competition focusses on passing rather than speed / running; flexible with its formats and accessible to the community and prospective players. There are no age or gender restrictions for walking football. The competition will highlight the health, well-being and social benefits of regular football and exercise activities for older people.



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### Format

It is low impact, team based exercise, utilising the defined Walking Football Rules and Formats specifically non-contact with the players always having one foot on the ground at all times.

Matches are played with modified formats (5v5/6v6) on a smaller field approximately 50m x 35m with goals 5m x 2m and ball size 5.

The competition aims to provide participants physical and mental health benefits, social contentedness and promotion of the benefits of ongoing physical activity.

### Structure

- Running is not allowed.
- A participant always has to have one foot on the ground at all times.
- It is a non-contact version of the traditional game.
- The ball cannot be kicked above head height.
- There is no heading of the ball.
- There are no referees as such and the competitive angle is kept to a minimum.
- The focus is on fun and making friends.

### 12.4 MASTERS FOOTBALL

For Women Over 45 – must have turned 45 prior to 31 December in the previous year

For Men Over 55 – must have turned 55 prior to 31 December in the previous year

**Masters Women** – will be for O45 Women playing traditional 11 v 11 format, same rules as O30 Women except for having four (4) x 20-minute quarters and played on Friday nights. O45 Women players must have turned 45 years of age by 31 December the year prior to competition and are not permitted to be dual registered to any other age grade but are permitted to be borrowed to the AAW competition. Players registered in AAW competitions even if age eligible for O45 Women are not permitted to be borrowed or be dual registered to the O45W competition.

**Masters Men** – will be for O55 Men playing traditional 11 v 11 format, same rules as O45 Men except for having four (4) 15-minute quarters and played on Sunday afternoons. O55 Men players must have turned 55 years of age by 31 December the year prior to competition and players can be borrowed to higher age grades.

## 13 FEES AND FINES

*This By-Law defines the fees and fines that may be applied to Clubs, teams or players in accordance with general By-Laws.*

### 13.2 HFI Forfeit Fees:

Under 6 to Under 8

\$15.00



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Under 9 to Under 11	\$20.00
Under 12 to Under 14	\$25.00
Under 15 to Under 16	\$30.00
Under 18 to AA	\$75.00
Over 30W & O45W, Over 35, Over 45 & Over 55	\$75.00
Walking Football	\$30.00
Premier League	\$100.00

**13.2.1** In addition to the above fees, if notification of such forfeit is NOT given to the Association no later than one (1) business day immediately preceding the game, then the team forfeit fee shall be double the appropriate fee. In addition to the above fees, if notification of such a forfeit is not given to the Association by 4:00pm on the Friday preceding the game then the team forfeit fee shall be double the appropriate fee.

**13.3** Protest Fee: \$200.00

**13.4** Appeal Fee: \$250.00 (\$100 of which is not refundable)

**13.5** Late Team Registration Fine: \$100.00

**13.6** Team Sheet related fines, including:

- No, late or incorrect result submitted
- More than the allowed players on team sheet
- Non completion of team sheet (prior and post match)

First Offence = Written Warning

Second Offence = \$10 fine

Third Offence = 1 point deduction from team

Fourth Offence = 3 point deduction from team

Fifth Offence = Potential removal from competition

**13.7** HFI General Fines:

Undressed grounds	\$50.00
No match ball	\$10.00 per team per match
Non-attendance at meeting of clubs	\$50.00
Non-attendance at a General Meeting	\$100.00
No Alternate Strip	\$50.00 per team per match
Failing to return perpetual trophy by due date	\$100.00 each trophy
Late Team Sheets	\$10 first offence, \$50 subsequent offences

**13.8** Hills Football shall have the power to waive any fees or fines.

**13.9** Football NSW Competitions:

**13.9.1** Failure to notify results by the prescribed time in the prescribed manner - \$250 (or such other amount as FNSW may impose)

**13.9.2** Forfeit Fee - \$250 (or such other amount as FNSW may impose)



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- 13.10** Fines for non-competitive football shall be \$5.00 per infringement except where varied by By-Law 13.2.
- 13.11** Fine for not complying with Strip & Sponsorship (see By-Law 5.3.1) shall not exceed \$500.



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## ANNEXURE 1 – HFI WET WEATHER PROCEDURE

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

### HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

As the owner and / or manager of all Hills Shire public grounds allocated to the Association / Clubs, including school grounds, the Hills Shire Council has the final decision regarding the suitability of grounds for matches and training. Council usually makes decisions regarding the availability of grounds following heavy wet weather for week days and week nights and will generally allow the Association / Clubs to make decisions for playing competitions on weekends.

Generally, only under severe weather conditions will Council enforce weekend closures. Council's Wet Weather Updates for Sporting Fields Information can be obtained via phone (02) 9843 0354 or via the internet <https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Venues/Find-a-Sportsfield/Sportsfield-Wet-Weather-Update> Information is generally updated regularly and usually includes the date of inspection, period of closure (if any) and the date of the next inspection.

Clubs should encourage all Coaches and Managers, and inform parents and players, to use the Wet Weather Updates for Sporting Fields Information sources if in any doubt regarding ground availability for training and games. Council may permit weeknight competitions such a Touch Football and Oz-Tag to proceed on specific grounds and also allow important school daytime matches even if the grounds are closed.

When grounds are CLOSED training is NOT PERMITTED for any code or activity. Never assume that competition matches are cancelled if fields are closed on Friday's. Always wait for official advice from the Association. Note: Clubs and teams training during the week when grounds are closed face possible punishment imposed by Hills Shire Council, including costs of repairs and penalties imposed by the Association.

### HILLS FOOTBALL INCORPORATED & CLUBS

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

1. Grounds have been closed by Council up to Friday night but the Association / Clubs are permitted to make a decision for weekend matches.
2. Heavy rain on Friday night or during the weekend. For both situations Club Ground Inspection Officers will be requested to inspect their home grounds and report on the condition of the grounds



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no later than 6:00pm on Friday evenings and 7:00am on Saturday and Sunday match days by SMS text to phone number provided by HFI office prior to the commencement of the season.

Whilst Clubs have authority to close their grounds when affected by wet weather, Clubs are required to contact the HFI Competitions Manager to discuss any field closure prior to making that decision known publicly and or notifying on social media. The HFI Competitions Manager will be on duty to receive the calls / reports from 3:00pm for Friday Night Competition Matches and from 6.30 am for both Saturday and Sunday Competition Matches. Please phone the Competitions Manager, Nicole Tindale on 0411 583 566.

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

1. All games are to be played or;
2. All games called OFF with a decision regarding the re-drawing of these games to be made by the Competitions Committee at a later date or;
3. Some grounds declared playable with games drawn at unplayable grounds either relocated to other grounds where possible on the same day or postponed to a later date. Following the decision, Club Wet Weather Contact Officers will be advised by SMS text and/or email, and the Association website and social media will be updated accordingly. Note: It is not always possible to inform Clubs of the decision in time for early games. e. g. 8.30 am kick offs. Clubs and teams are reminded **WHEN IN DOUBT GO TO THE GROUND FOR KICK OFF TIME** or risk loss by forfeit.

Prior to the season all Clubs are required to advise the Association of the names and contact telephone numbers of their: Ground Inspection Officer, Alternate Ground Inspection Officer and Wet Weather Contact Officer This information is required to allow the Association to request Clubs to carry out inspections or to seek additional information re the ground condition after the inspection.

#### **REFEREES**

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

#### **CLUBS AND GROUND CONTROL**

For rain developing during the day, a Club may rule that no further play is possible on the ground. This decision must be confirmed by a telephone call to the HFI Competitions Manager and then, if possible, contact the Clubs of visiting teams drawn to play on the ground later in the day. Clubs shall not display on their SOCIAL MEDIA platforms that their 'GROUND IS CLOSED' without consultation with the HFI Competitions Manager or their nominee.



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### AFFECT ON MATCHES

Whilst the above procedure is in place for all winter football conducted by HFI, the following will apply for season 2021 and will be updated for each season based on competition dates, public holidays and field access.

1. Up to and including Round 12 of Competitions, all matches that can be played shall be played and any washed out matches shall be rescheduled.
2. From Round 13 of Competitions onwards, only when more than 75% of fields are declared unplayable via this procedure, no matches are to commence and a decision will be made by HFI whether to cancel or replay the entire round.
3. All other matters relating to wet weather and/or field closures will be at the discretion of HFI





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### ANNEXURE 2 – AGE GRADES AND BORROWING MATRIX

Age grades for mixed / male and female competitions are listed below and on the annexure 2 matrix inclusive of player borrowing eligibility.

#### 1 GRADES

##### 1.1 Under Age Grades including open Age Grades (Mixed & Mixed MiniRoos)

Lower Grade >>>> U6 to U11 - U12 to U18, U21, All Age, Premier League >>>> Higher Grade

##### 1.2 Under Age Grades including open Age Grades (Female & MiniTildas)

Lower Grade >>>> U8 to U12 – U13 to Youth League, All Age, Premier League >>>> Higher Grade

##### 1.3 Over Age Grades including Open Age Grades (Males)

Lower Age Grade >>>> O55, O45, O35, All Age, Premier League >>>> Higher Grade

##### 1.4 Over Age Grades including Open Age Grades (Females)

Lower Age Grade >>>> O45, O30, All Age, Premier League >>>> Higher Grade

#### 2 PLAYER BORROWING

##### General Principles

###### a) Need to Borrow

The need for a team to borrow a player or players is only permitted when a team is impacted by one or more of their regular registered players being unable to play a match due to injury, illness or other absence. Borrowing is strictly prohibited to strengthen a team for the purposes of trying to obtain an advantage and or trying to win a match.

Where a team is impacted by player absences, a team is permitted to borrow up to a maximum of four (4) players from other grades in accordance with these bylaws however a team that has one or more borrowed players is not permitted to have more players on the team sheet and playing than the amount of players registered for the season in that team, apart from Men's Premier League.

If the Competitions Committee determines the borrowing of players in a match was not in accordance with the Need to Borrow General Principles and in the spirit of fair play, the Competitions Manager will refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee who may order the match to be replayed without borrowed players or deem the match to be a forfeit by the offending team.

###### b) Number of Borrowed Players

There is no limit to the amount of borrowed players in the non-competitive age groups from U6 to U11. For competitive teams whilst competing in the Premiership Competition, the maximum number of borrowed players in any team is four (4).



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### c) Duty of Care

Clubs and their Team Officials must exercise a duty of care to ensure players are not playing beyond their physical capability. In particular, special care needs to be taken when youth players are playing two years beyond their normal Age Group or in Open Division if they have turned 16 years of age.

### d) First and Reserve Grade

Where an Age Grade is played as first and reserve grade, both teams are regarded as having the same division for the purposes of these Borrowing Rules. For the purpose of matches played for a team the first grade and reserve grade shall be considered separate teams.

### e) Teams in Grades with Players Required to be Under a certain Age

- i. In all borrowing for teams required to have players under a certain age, Options A, B and C shall be followed in that order wherever possible.
- ii. Where a club has no eligible team in either Option A, B or C, a borrowed player may come from a team registered in the HFI Age Group in which the club has a team. In this case, the club must satisfy itself and pay particular attention to clause 2 c) Duty of Care.
- iii. In U12 to U21 age groups, the permitted division of the borrowed player's team is further restricted relative to the division of the Borrowing team as per below.

#### Female Teams

Borrowing Option	Allowed Divisions as Borrowed Player
Option A	Same or Lower Division
Option B	One Higher Division, Same Division and Below
Option C and borrowing under (ii)	Any Division

#### Mixed and Male Teams

Borrowing Option	Allowed Divisions as Borrowed Player
Option A	Same Age but Lower Division
Option B	One year younger and same or lower Division
Option C and borrowing under (ii)	Two years younger and same or lower Division

f) Teams in Youth League Girls and U21 Mixed competitions can borrow players from the following competitions, provided they are under the relevant age on the 31<sup>st</sup> December of the previous year which would have allowed them to play in the Youth League Girls or U21 mixed competition:

- Male Teams - All Age competitions for Men from division 5 and lower



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- Male Teams - Under 18 and U16 mixed competition
- Female Teams - All Age competitions for Women from division 2 and lower
- Female Teams – U15 Girls competition

#### **g) All Age Teams**

- Teams in All Age Men divisions 3, 4 and 5 may borrow players registered in teams in the same open competition provided they are registered in the same or a lower Division than the borrowing team. Teams in All Age Men divisions 6 and lower may borrow players registered in the same open competition and be borrowed up or down in divisions 6 and below.
- Teams in All Age Men's competitions may borrow players registered in Over 35 and Over 45 competitions.
- Teams in All Age Men's competitions may borrow players registered in Over 55 Masters competitions.
- Teams in All Age Men divisions 3, 4 and 5 may borrow from U21 of one division higher or the same or lower division as the borrowing team. Teams in AAM divisions 6 and lower may borrow from U21 from either of the two lowest U21 divisions.
- Teams in All Age Men's competitions may borrow from U16 and U18 of any division provided the player has already turned 16 years of age.
- Teams in All Age Women's competitions may borrow players registered in Over 30 and O45 Masters Women competitions.
- Teams in All Age Women's may borrow from YL Girls provided the player has already turned 16 years of age.

#### **h) Over 30, Over 35 & O45**

- Borrowed players playing in Over 30, Over 35 and Over 45 competitions must be age qualified to play in these competitions.
- Teams in Over 30, Over 35 or Over 45 competitions may not borrow players registered in the Premier League Competitions.
- Teams in Over 30 div 1 competitions may borrow players in other Over 30 competitions provided players are registered in the same or a lower division than the borrowing team.
- Teams in Over 30 div 2 and lower competitions may be borrowed up or down in another O30 competition.
- Teams in Over 30 competitions may borrow players from All Age competitions provided the borrowed player is age qualified.
- Teams in Over 35 div 1 & 2 competitions may borrow players in other Over 35 competitions provided players are registered in the same or a lower division than the borrowing team.
- Teams in Over 35 div 3 and lower competitions can be borrowed up or down in another O35 competition.
- Teams in Over 35 competitions may borrow players from All Age competitions provided the players are registered in the same or a lower division than the borrowing team and the player is age qualified.



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- ix. Teams in O35 division 1 Saturday competition may borrow players from Teams in the O35 division 1 Friday night competition, and teams in O35 division 2 and lower Saturday competition may borrow from the O35 division 2 Friday night competition.
- x. Teams in Over 35 competitions may borrow players from Over 45 competitions.
- xi. Teams in Over 45 div 1 competitions may borrow players from All Age competitions provided the players are registered in the same or a lower division as the borrowing team and the player is age qualified.
- xii. Teams in Over 45 competitions may borrow players from Over 35 competitions provided players are registered in the same or a lower division as the borrowing team and the player is age qualified.
- xiii. Teams in Over 45 div 2 and lower competitions may be borrowed up or down in another O45 competition.

#### **i) Masters Competition for O55 Men and O45 Women**

- i. O45 Women Masters players are not permitted to be dual registered however are permitted to be borrowed to an All Age Ladies team. Players registered in an All Age Ladies or O30 team even if age eligible are not permitted to be dual registered or borrowed to the O45 Women's Master Competition.
- ii. O55 Men's Masters players are permitted to be borrowed to higher Mens Age Grades.



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MIXED / MALE	2024	Borrowing Option A		Borrowing Option B		Borrowing Option C	
Age Grade	Borrowing Team	Age Group	Limit	Age Group	Limit	Age Group	Limit
<b>NON COMPETITIVE</b>							
U6	U6	U6	NO				
U7	U7	U7	NO	U6	NO		
U8	U8	U8	NO	U7	NO	U6	NO
U9	U9	U9	NO	U8	NO	U7	NO
U10	U10	U10	NO	U9	NO	U8	NO
U11	U11	U11	NO	U10	NO	U9	NO
<b>COMPETITIVE</b>							
U12	U12	U12	4	U11	4	U10	4
U13	U13	U13	4	U12	4	U11	4
U14	U14	U14	4	U13	4	U12	4
U15	U15	U15	4	U14	4	U13	4
U16	U16	U16	4	U15	4	U14	4
U17	U17	U17	4	U16	4	U15	4
U18	U18	U18	4	U17	4	U16	4
Youth PL	Youth PL	YL	4	U18	4	U17	4
U21	U21	U21	4	U18	4	U16	4
AAM	AAM	AAM	4	U21, U16-U18	4	AAM, O35, O45	4
Premier League	PL	PL	9	YPL & YL	9	AAM, O35, O45	9
Over 35	O35	O35	4	AAM*	4	O45	4
Over 45	O45	O45	4	O35*	4	AAM* & O55M	4
O55M Masters	O55M Masters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>FEMALE</b>							
Age Grade	2024	Borrowing Option A		Borrowing Option B		Borrowing Option C	
Age Grade	Borrowing Team	Age Group	Limit	Age Group	Limit	Age Group	Limit
<b>NON COMPETITIVE</b>							
U8	U8	U8	NO	U7 Mixed	NO		
U9	U9	U9	NO	U8 Mixed	NO	U7 Mixed	NO
U11	U11	U11	NO	U9	NO	U9 Mixed	NO
<b>COMPETITIVE</b>							
U12	U12	U12	4	U11	4	U10 Mixed	4
U13	U13	U13	4	U12	4	U11	4
U14	U14	U14	4	U13	4	U12	4
U15	U15	U15	4	U14	4	U13	4
Youth League	YL	YL	4	U15	4		
AAW	AAW	AAW	4	YL	4	O30W & O45W	4
W Premier League	WPL	AAW	4	YL	4	O30W	4
O30W	O30W	O30W	4	AAW*	4		
O45W Masters	O45W Masters	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>KEY - * = Age Qualified</b>							



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