



# Regulations

## 2023 Summer Football

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## SECTION 1: ORGANISATION AND ADMISSION

### 1. Scope and Application

- a) These Regulations apply to Participants in the following competition (**the Competition**) unless stated otherwise:
  - i. Hills Football Summer Competition
- b) Where these Regulations are silent on any particular aspect, then all Clubs, affiliated bodies and organisations will first have regard to the Constitution, By-Laws, FA rules and regulations and where applicable rules and regulations of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA.
- c) If any part of these Regulations is void that part shall be severable and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining sections of these Regulations.
- d) The Competition Administrator will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties.

### 2. Reference

Where these Regulations refer to a “Club” that reference is to a team that is entered into the Competition.

### 3. Capitalised Terms

Any capitalised terms used in these Regulations will have the meaning given to them in Schedule 3.

### 4. Alteration

The Competition Administrator will have the ability to expand on these Regulations and make additional rules which will be set out in Schedule 2.

### 5. Disciplinary Sanctions and Proceedings

All Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Match Officials, Spectators or any person participating in any manner at a Competition Fixture, Match or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Competitions Administrator.

### 6. Unforeseeable Circumstance

Nothing in these Regulations will prevent Football NSW from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by the Regulations.

### 7. Control of Competitions

The administrative control and conduct of the Competition is vested with the Competition Administrator affiliated to Football NSW.

## SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

### 1. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

All Fixtures will be played in compliance with the Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with FA and FNSW By-Laws, regulations, codes and directives, and under the FIFA Laws of the Game where applicable.

### 2. Recommended Age Grades

Endorsed summer football Competition Administrators will be able to determine age groups they intend to conduct, beginning at U6.

### 3. Match Format (5's, 6's, 7's)

- a) Competition Administrators will be permitted to select which of the following formats they wish to deliver their competition in;
  - 4 v 4 U6/7
  - 6 v 6 U8 and above
- b) With the exception of the 4 v 4 format in which there is no goal keeper, the total numbers indicated above is inclusive of the goal keeper.
- a) For age groups of U6 and U7, Competition Administrators must apply the principles of FA Small Sided Football, including:
  - 4 v 4 format;
  - no competition tables or points; and
  - no finals series.
- b) For age groups U8 to U11, Competition Administrators must apply the principles of FFA Small Sided Football including:
  - no competition tables or points;
  - no finals series;
  - Competition Administrators may apply smaller team numbers than those contained in the FFA Small Sided Football handbook, i.e. 5 v 5, 6 v 6 or 7 v 7.
- d) For age groups U12 and upwards, Competition Administrators can commence competitions with points and finals series.

### 4. Duration of Match

- a) Match duration will be at the discretion of the Competition Administrator. This flexibility is provided given different constraints at the various venues, including numbers of teams, age grades, players per team and length of venue hire.

- b) The following table details FNSW preferred match durations:

| Age Grade     | Minutes per match    |
|---------------|----------------------|
| U6 and U7     | Two 15 minute halves |
| U8 – U11      | Two 20 minute halves |
| U12 – U16     | Two 20 minute halves |
| U17 and older | Two 20 minute halves |

## 5. Added Time

It will be at the discretion of the Competition Administrator if added time is played.

## 6. Extra Time

It will be at the discretion of the Competition Administrator if extra time is played during the Championship of the Competition.

## 7. Determining the Winner by Penalty Kicks

- If the result of a Match in the Championship be a draw (including after extra time where applicable) alternate kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner, consistent with the principles described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond control and not the direct result of actions by either Team, the result will be decided by the drawing of lots by the referee in the presence of the two (2) Team captains.
- If, through the fault of a Team / Club, the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed the Match will be deemed forfeited against the Team / Club responsible.

## 8. Footballs

- The Competition Administrator is responsible for either providing the match balls or communicating to the Clubs that they are required to provide match balls.
- The following ball sizes are applicable to the different age grades:

| Grade            | Size       |
|------------------|------------|
| U10/11 and older | Mid Bounce |
| U9 and under     | Size 3     |

## 9. Premiership Ranking

The following process applies when determining the ranking of Teams within each grade of Competition:

- Greater number of points obtained in all Premiership Matches.
- If two (2) or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above criteria, their place will be determined as follows:
  - Greater goal difference resulting from all Premiership Matches;
  - Greater goals scored from all Premiership Matches;
  - Greater number of points obtained in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head);
  - Great number of goals scored in the Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head to head).

## 10. Competition Points

Points will be allocated as follows for all Premiership Matches:

- a) Win - 3 points;
- b) Draw - 1 point each Team;
- c) Bye - No points;
- d) Loss - No points;
- e) Forfeit - 3 points to the Team receiving the forfeit.

## 11. Competition System

The Competition Administrator may conduct a Premiership or Premiership and Championship which will include:

- a) Premiership consisting of a league format as approved by the Competition Administrator; and if applicable
- b) Championship consisting of knockout Matches in a format approved by the Competitions Administrator.

## 12. Technical Rules for the Championship

- a) All Championship Matches (where applicable) will be played in accordance with the knockout system, single match.
- b) Teams will play a single match and the Team having scored most goals in the Match will win the Match.
- c) If extra time or penalty kicks are required to determine the winner of a Championship Match they will be conducted as per these Regulations.

## 13. Interchange

- a) For all Competitions, unlimited interchange applies.
- b) The following is the procedure and rules for the unlimited interchange of Players:
  - i. The "Interchange zone" will be an area one (1) metre either side of the half-way line.
  - ii. An interchange is one which is made when the ball is out of play, and for which the following conditions will be observed:
    - a. the Player leaving the field will do so from the touch line, crossing over at the sector called the interchange zone; and
    - b. the Player entering the field will also do so from the interchange zone, but not until the Player leaving the field has passed completely over the touch line.
  - iii. Interchange may occur at anytime without the need to notify the referee as long as b) ii has been observed.
  - iv. If penalty kicks are required to obtain a result, any player that participated in the Match is able to participate in the taking of penalties.
- c) Substitutes and interchange players cannot be used to replace any player who has been dismissed from the Match by the referee.

### 15. Preferred Field Dimensions

- a) Field dimensions will be at the discretion of the host club.

### 16. Clubs Removed or Withdrawn from Competitions

In the event of any Team withdrawing or being removed from the Competition, all Matches against that Team will be treated as a bye or forfeit.

### 17. Restarts (goals kicks, throw-ins or kick-ins)

- a) should the ball leave the field of play across a touch line, play will be restarted by a “kick in” where the ball must be stationary on the sideline, all defensive players must remain a minimum of 5 meters from the ball..
- b) the defending team is to kick the ball off the ground into play to restart the match after a “goal kick” is awarded by the referee, a goal kick cannot be kicked over half way on the full. An indirect free kick will be awarded at halfway to the opposing team.

### 18. Match Schedule and Kick-Off Times

Match scheduling will be flexible and rests with the Competition Administrators.

### 19. Wet Weather Affected Fixtures

In all instances where rain preceding a Match raises doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the Competition Administrator will establish a process by which Clubs are informed of the status of that day’s Match. This may include the responsibility being passed to the Clubs to check a wet weather phone line or website notification.

### 20. Abandoned Matches

- a) When a Match is abandoned for any reason for which neither Club is responsible, the Match may be replayed at the discretion of the Competition Administrator.
- b) Should a Club, its Players, Officials or Spectators be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Club to the opposition.

### 21. Forfeits

- a) Teams will be deemed to have forfeited a Match when:
  - i. they fail to fulfill an engagement to play a Match on the appointed date, time or venue; or
  - ii. they refuse or fail to begin a Match within ten (10) minutes of the stipulated kick-off time; or
  - iii. they field fewer than the required players as communicated by the Competition Administrator; or
  - iv. they field an ineligible Player; or
  - v. any other scenario within these Regulations or the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations that stipulates a forfeit of the Match.
- b) In the event of any Team forfeiting its Match, full points allocated for the Match will be forfeited to the opposing Team (**Opposing Team**) and the goals will be recorded as 3 goals scored by the Opposing Team and 0 goals by the Team who has forfeited, unless the Opposing Team won by more than 3 goals, in which case the result on the pitch will be upheld. Any team who forfeits without notice will forfeit the match and a result of 0-10 will be recorded.

## 22. Protests

- a) Protests must be lodged and received by the Competition Administrator no later than two (2) hours after the Match was played.
- b) Protests will only be considered for obvious breaches of the Laws of the Game that clearly had a material effect on the outcome of the Match.
- c) No protests as to the result of a Match will be considered in relation to disciplinary decisions of the Match Officials or decisions of facts relating to play.
- d) Protests must be accompanied by a \$100 administration fee in order to be considered. The administration fee must be lodged together with the written protest.



## SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY

### 1. Age Eligibility

Eligibility to age grades will be determined by the age in which the player turns in 2023. For example, a player turning 12 at any time during 2023 is eligible for the U12 age grade.

### 2. Eligibility and Ineligibility of Players General

- a) Eligible Players: An eligible Player is one that meets all registration requirements within these Regulations and is not ineligible according to any article of these Regulations
- b) Ineligible Players: Ineligible Players include:
  - i. unregistered Players;
  - ii. suspended Players;
  - iii. a Player who is required to stand down for receiving the required number of cautions; and
  - iv. a Player that is deemed ineligible due to any article of these Regulations and the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- c) Any Team that fields an ineligible Player will automatically lose that Match on forfeit.
- d) Additionally, the Club, Team Official/s and Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- e) For clarity, it is the Club's absolute responsibility to ensure that they field eligible players in any Match.

## SECTION 4: REGISTRATION

### 1. Player Status

- a) All players registered to the Competition must be amateur.
- b) Clubs are required to record the status of each Player on Play Football by having the player self-register.
- c) Players are permitted to play for any number of Clubs in affiliated summer football Competitions, but not for multiple clubs within the one division of any Competition.

### 2. Process for the Registration of an Amateur

- a) All amateur Players must be registered via the Play Football system. The registration of an amateur Player with a Club is effective from the date the individual is made active by the Club within the national online registration system.
- b) The registration can be effected through:
  - i. the player self-registering via the Play Football system and the Club accepting the Player's registration;
  - ii. if a Player is registering for the first time, that Player must provide the Competition Administrator with evidence of name and age, by producing an original birth certificate, passport or drivers licence.

### 3. Submission of Registrations

All registrations must be submitted via Play Football and a head and shoulders photo is to be uploaded into the Player profile within the communicated registration period.

### 4. Registration Periods

The Competition administrator will communicate the Competition registration period.

### 5. Player Deregistration

- a) An Amateur Player may be de-registered by applying to de-register via the Play Football System, which will notify the Club and Competition Administrator of the Player's intention to deregister.
- b) If a Club no longer wants an Amateur / Professional to play for the Club, that Club needs to apply to deregister that Player via the Play Football System, which will notify the Player and FNSW of the Club's intention to deregister the Player.
- c) The deregistration is effective:
  - i. When the other party (i.e. Club or Player as the case may be) has confirmed the notification or cancellation; or
  - ii. Amateur Players: seven (7) days from the date the Player requested the deregistration in the Play Football system unless a grievance has been initiated with FNSW.
- d) Any disputes relating to Player deregistration will be settled in accordance with the FA Grievance Resolution Guidelines and FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

### 6. Maximum Player Rosters

U8 and above 12 players per match permitted.

## SECTION 5: TEAM SHEETS, REPORTING AND MATCH OFFICIALS

### 1. Match Official Appointments

The appointment of all Match Officials will be made by the Competition Administrator in consultation with the Referee Branch or Association providing the Match Officials.

### 2. Match Official Powers, Duties and Obligations

- a) The Match Officials are charged with all duties, responsibilities and obligations as contained within the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- b) Unless otherwise stated, the referee will be the sole arbiter as to whether a game will proceed, having regard to the condition of the ground, the weather at the time of inspection and the projected weather forecast.
- c) If the referee finds it necessary to stop play for whatever reason, he / she should wait a reasonable time before deciding to abandon the Match.
- d) Referees may abandon, postpone or forfeit a Match in accordance with any relevant articles of these Regulations.
- e) In addition, referees are required to, immediately after the conclusion of each Match, forward to the Competition Administrator send-off reports and incident reports if the latter is deemed necessary.

### 3. Welfare of the Match Officials

The Competition Administrator will be responsible for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the venue, until the time they depart the venue.

### 4. Non-attendance of Match Officials

Should an official referee not be appointed, or be appointed and not attend, it is the Competition Administrator's responsibility to determine who will officiate the Match. This may be a volunteer, employee or Club representative, or combination of any of the above throughout the Match.

### 5. Team Sheets

- a) Competition Administrators are required to prepare team sheets for each match.
- b) The numbers on the back of the Player's jerseys will correspond to the numbers on the team sheet handed to the referee before the commencement of a Match.
- c) When a Match is forfeited, the team sheet will be endorsed accordingly by the referee.
- d) A Team Official from both the home and away Club is to sign the team sheet at the completion of the Match to confirm the information is correct.
- e) Unless otherwise stated in the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, or in these Regulations, a Player listed on the team sheet will be deemed to have participated in the Match.
- f) The home Club Team appears first on the team sheet (left side).

### 6. Match Result Reporting

The Competitions Administrator will upload the scores of each match to the Competition website.

### 7. Expulsion and Caution Reporting

Expulsion and caution reporting is as per the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## SCHEDULE 1: ADDITIONAL RULES CHAMPIONS & CHAMPIONS

### 1. Champions of Champions

- a) FNSW will conduct a Champion of Champions for the open men's and women's age grades of the 2023 summer football season (**FNSW Summer Football Champion of Champions**).
- b) Endorsed Competition Administrators will be invited to nominate one open men's and one open women's team to compete in the 2023 FNSW Summer Football Champion of Champions competition.
- c) The team nominated by the Competition Administrator must meet the following criteria:
  - be comprised of players that competed as a team in the 2023 summer football Competition delivered by the Competition Administrator; and
  - have finished as the Premier or Champion (which should be noted in the respective competition regulations of the summer football Competition); or
  - be the highest positioned team on the ladder should nominations be required prior to the completion of any summer football Competition.
- d) The FNSW Summer Football Champion of Champions competition will be facilitated by Football NSW at no extra cost to affiliated summer football Competition Administrators or participating Teams.
- e) Additionally, regardless of the format participated in at the respective summer football Competitions, teams that qualify and participate in the FNSW Summer Football Champions of Champions tournament will do so in a 6 v 6 format.
- f) The FNSW Summer Football Champion of Champions competition will be conducted in 2023, before the Christmas break.
- g) Football NSW will issue further regulations, competitions dates and match schedule once the number of Competition Administrators that intend on nominating teams is confirmed.

## SCHEDULE 2: ADDITIONAL RULES – COMPETITION SPECIFIC

### 1. Scope and Application

- a) These additional regulations expand on the regulations presented above.
- b) These regulations are specific to the following Competition only:
  - i. Hills Football Summer Competition

### 2. Age Grades

U6/7, U8/9, U10/11, U11girls, U12/13, U14/15, U13girls, U15girls, Youth Girls, U16/17, AAmen, AAladies, AAmixed, O30ladies, O35men, O45men & O55mixed

### 3. Match Format

6v6 except U6/7 will be 4v4

### 4. Duration of Match

U6/7 15min halves U8/9-O45 20min halves (half time 2 mins)

### 5. Added Time

No added time

### 6. Footballs

Provided by Hills Football – U6-U9 size 3, U10 – 035 Mid Bounce

### 7. Competition System

Dribl

### 8. Clash of Colours

Bibs will be provided

### 10. Restarts (goals kicks, throw-ins or kick-ins)

Sideline kick in (no throw ins)

### 11. Maximum Player Rosters

Up to 12 players permitted to play per fixture U8-O55

### 12. Other Competition Specific Regulations

- All Age Mixed competition teams must have a minimum of 2 females on the field at all times
- No slide tackles are permitted.
- The goal keeper is not permitted to throw or kick the ball over half way on the full, except when played to them by a team mate or by an opponent and does not control the ball with their hands.
- There are NO offsides.
- All free kicks are indirect except for a penalty, all defensive players must remain a minimum of 5 meters from the ball.
- The penalty spot will be 8 meters from the goal line.
- U12 and above the minimum number of players to commence a match is four (4)

- Players who show dissent (word or action) towards any match official will be “Sin Binned” for 3 minutes. Team will play “short” whilst the player is temporarily dismissed.

### SCHEDULE 3: DEFINITIONS

**“Body”** Has its meaning given to it under the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

**“By-Laws”** means the by-laws of Football NSW as amended from time to time.

**“Championship”** means the final series conducted at the completion of the Premiership in accordance with the Regulations.

**“Club”** means an entity formed for the purpose of playing summer football in the Competitions.

**“Competition”** mean the relevant organised matches delivered by the Competition Administrator.

**“Competition Administrator”** means the person in charge of all matters relating to the administration of the summer football competition, including enforcement of its rules and regulations.

**“Constitution”** means the constitution of Football NSW as amended up to 26 August 2011.

**“Executive”** means the Chief Executive Officer of Football NSW or his or her nominee.

**“FA”** means Football Australia Limited, the governing body for football (soccer) in Australia.

**“Field of Play” or “playing area”** Means the field of play and any perimeter area between the line markings of the pitch and the spectator area.

**“FIFA”** means Federation Internationale de Football Association, its successor or assignee.

**“Fixture”** means a meeting of two (2) clubs as scheduled in all grades applicable.

**“Football NSW”** means Football NSW Limited ACN 003 215 923 which is the governing body for football (including Futsal) in the State.

**“Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations”** Means the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations of the Competition as endorsed by FNSW.

**“Home Club”** Means the Club playing the match at its home ground and/or appearing first on the fixture list in the event a match is conducted at a neutral venue.

**“Laws of the Game”** means the official laws of the game of football and futsal as promulgated by FIFA.

**“Match”** means any match played in a Football NSW Competition, Cup, Premiership, other event or tournament under Football NSW’s control.

**“Match Official”** means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by FA, Football NSW, a Referee’s Body, a Centre, an Association Member or a Club to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.

**“Official”** means a Club Official, Match Official or Team Official.

**“Participant”** means a Player, Official or Spectator.

**“Player”** means any person who participates in a Match (irrespective of whether he or she is registered with FFA, junior or senior or an amateur or professional.

**“Premiership”** means the round robin Matches (both home and away) that a team competes in during a Season in accordance with the Football NSW Rules and Regulations.

**“Regulations”** means these Football NSW Competition Regulations.

**“Season”** means from the commencement of a Football NSW Competition to the conclusion of a Football NSW Competition unless otherwise directed by Football NSW.

**“Spectator”** means a person who attends a Match.

**“State”** means the state of New South Wales with the exception of the northern regions of NSW which are identified by FA as “Northern NSW”.

**“Suspensions”** means the suspensions issued by a Body pursuant to these Regulations.

**“Team”** Individual group of players and officials submitted by a Club to represent them in Competition.