

Highlands Soccer Association Inc.

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2025

RULES AND REGULATIONS

MiniRoos Junior and Senior Competitions Association Cups

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1. GENERAL

- (A) These Rules and Regulations are by-laws of the Highlands Soccer Association (HSA) and shall apply to all Competitions and Cups conducted by the HSA Inc. and shall be directly overseen by the HSA Competition Committee (HSACC) and the HSA Board.
- (B) These Rules and Regulations are subject to alteration as required by a simple majority vote of the HSA Board. FNSW are empowered to alter these rules & regulations at any time.
- (C) The HSA Competition Committee may choose to not enforce an article (or penalty breach) of these Rules and Regulations in some cases, in its absolute discretion, without affecting its right to enforce that article (or penalty breach) in other cases.
- (D) Any matters not included in these Rules and Regulations must be referred to the HSA Competition Committee whose decision shall be final.
- (E) The HSA Competition Committee shall determine the season structure and commencement dates.
- (F) All Clubs/Schools who wish to participate in the 2025 Winter season are required to complete the Team Nomination Form (HSA 001).

The closing date for nominations is Friday 7th March 2025 for Seniors, Juniors and MiniRoos.

- (G) Each HSA Club/School wishing to enter teams into any HSA MiniRoos / Junior / Youth Grade competitions must pay an entry fee of \$100 per team (incl GST) with the application. This amount is capped at \$500.
Additionally each HSA Club/school wishing to enter teams into All Age Competitions must pay an entry fee of \$1000 (incl GST) with the application. This fee includes eight (8) tickets to the HSA Senior Presentation Night.
- (H) Where a competition is administered by HSA but is not a joint competition, non-HSA registered Clubs who wish to enter teams in the HSA competition will be charged the HSA fee per player for the age group entered, plus DRIBL fee if applicable. This fee would include two (2) tickets to the HSA Senior Presentation Night.
- (I) Clubs with unpaid accounts with HSA aged greater than 30 days from date of invoice as at 30 November 2024 will not be able to enter any competition until the debt is paid.
- (J) Except where these competition rules specify otherwise, the HSA Competitions and Cups will be conducted in accordance with IFAB Laws of the Game.

2. REGISTRATION

- (A) Clubs/Schools are responsible, at all times, to ensure their players are officially registered and marked active in Play Football before taking the field in any match. Any Club which knowingly, or unknowingly, allows a player to play unregistered or over aged (without dispensation approval) will be subject to penalties within these Rules and Regulations.
- (B) All Clubs/Schools are responsible to ensure all their team coaches and managers are officially registered in Play Football, marked active, and comply with the NSW legislation regarding Child Protection.

- (C) Clubs shall, by the act of nominating a player as active in Play Football, certify that the Club is satisfied that the identity and date of birth of the player is the same as that entered in Play Football by the player or player's parent/carer.
- (D) Player registrations must be nominated as active in Play Football no later than 11.00am the day before a match to allow for the transfer of player data into the DRIBL competition management system before the start of any match in which the player may participate. Clubs must check that all players' data appears in the DRIBL system before fielding players in any match. Players that do not appear in DRIBL following registration and before any match cannot play otherwise they will be deemed ineligible players (see 20 (K) for penalties).

Player registrations must be entered into Play Football and nominated as active before 11pm, 30th June. Where a Club feels that there are exceptional circumstances for requiring a registration after this date, it can apply in writing to the HSA Board. The HSA Board will consider each case on its merit. The HSA Board's decision on each case shall be final.

Clubs have no recourse to limit player rights under FA statutes to de-register and/or transfer and/or re-register at another club as an Amateur Player should they nominate a player as active in Play Football. i.e., Clubs cannot claim the player is unfinancial for unpaid registration fees once the player is nominated as active in Play Football.

- (E) Players may be able to receive a refund of part of the HSA Component of the registration fee if they deregister before 1st June 2025. If a player deregisters up to, and including, 30th April, they will receive a refund of 60% of the HSA component. If a player deregisters from 1st May to 31st May then they will receive a refund of 40% of the HSA component.

3. COMPETITION FORMAT AND POINTS

- (A) Definition of Grades/Competitions in Ascending Order:
- U6, U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16 and Youth Grade
 - U7G, U9G, U11G All Girls Competitions
 - AA Men Third Grade/Highlands League, AA Men Reserve Grade/PL2, AA Men Premier League/PL1 (determined by the HSA Competition Committee).
 - AA Women Reserve Grade/PL2 and AA Women Premier League/PL1 (determined by the HSA Competition Committee).
 - Over 35's Men's Midweek Competition
 - AA Women's Midweek Competition
- (B) Depending on the number of teams nominating in each age grade, the HSA Competition Committee will determine the number of rounds in each competition. Full rounds will not necessarily be played. Split rounds, incomplete rounds, or other methods of providing a competition schedule will be employed at the discretion of the HSA Competition Committee.
- (C) There are no mixed gender competitions above the U16 age group unless with the approval of the HSA Board.
- (D) Clubs cannot enter a second team into the Highlands League competition unless they have a least one (1) team entered into the Premier League competition.
- (E) At the completion of the competition rounds the final series format will be determined by the HSA Competition Committee. Appendix H has detailed options.

See Appendix E for a detailed configuration of the final series in the event of wet weather if a 3 week final series is proposed.

(F) All competition matches will have match result points awarded as follows:

- Win..... 3 points
- Draw.....1 point
- Loss.....0 points
- Bye.....0 points
- Win by forfeit.....3 points (plus 3 goal difference) NB: (Forfeit rules apply as per Rule (22))

Note: For Double Points matches the second match will have a result of a 3-0 given to the winner of the first match with no goal scorers or cards recorded. If the first match was a draw, then the second match will have a result of 1-1 with no goal scorers or cards recorded.

(G) If teams finish on equal points at the end of the competition rounds, then the team position shall be determined by:

- (i) The number of goals scored by each team less the number of goals scored against that team,
- (ii) Or, if that be equal, then by the number of goals scored by each team,
- (iii) Or, if that be equal, then the head-to-head results between the teams,
- (iv) Or, if that be equal, then by a play-off match between teams.

(G) In the event of the withdrawal of any team before the conclusion of the competition, all points previously allocated in matches in which they have taken part shall be deleted and the goals for and against adjusted accordingly.

(H) In the event of a draw at the end of normal time in all final series matches, extra time shall be played as follows:

U12 to A/A.....10 minutes each way

The team with the most total goals at the end of extra time wins the match.

In the event of the match resulting in a draw after extra time has been played the following shall decide the winner:

- Five (5) penalty kicks per team taken alternately.
- If still equal after this, one (1) penalty kick per team shall be taken until one team gains a lead after an equal number of kicks.
- No player may be substituted/interchanged after the end of extra time, with the exception of the goalkeeper who may be replaced by a named substitute should the keeper become injured during the taking of penalty kicks and is unable to continue. A goal keeper may switch places with any player on the field prior to the penalty procedure taking place.

4. MATCH BALLS

- (A) U6, U7, U8, U9.....size 3
- U10, U11, U12, U13.....size 4
- U14 and older.....size 5

Note: In an instance where there may be a combined U13/U14 competition, a size 5 ball will be used.

- (B) It is required that both teams supply a match ball of acceptable standard for each match.

5. MATCH PLAYING TIMES

- (A) U6, U7 20 minutes each way
- U8, U9 20 minutes each way
- U10, U11 25 minutes each way
- U12 30 minutes each way
- U13, U14 30 minutes each way
- U15, U16 35 minutes each way
- Youth 45 minutes each way
- AA Women 45 minutes each way
- AA Men 45 minutes each way

Half time of 5 minutes is recommended for all MiniRoos matches (U6 – U11).

Half time of 10 minutes is recommended for all competition matches (U12 – AA).

- (B) Ten minutes grace only will be allowed from the advised kick-off time before a forfeit can be claimed. Matches that start after the advised kick-off time must ensure that the following match is able to commence at its advised starting time.
- (C) For AA Men and AA Women matches, additional time may be added by the Referee for time lost during each half of the match.

6. NUMBER OF MATCH PLAYERS

- (A) A maximum number of player names are to be listed on the team sheet according to this schedule:
 - a. U6, U7 8 players
 - b. U8, U9 12 players
 - c. U10, U11, U12 14 players
 - d. U13 and older 16 players
- (B) For a match to commence or continue, a team is required to have the following minimum number of players:
 - a. U6, U7 2 players
 - b. U8, U9 4 players
 - c. U10, U11, U12 6 players
 - d. U13 and older 7 players

7. PLAYING STRIP AND EQUIPMENT

- (A) All players in every match must appear in proper uniform (i.e., shirts, shorts and socks) in the club registered colours, as listed by the club on the Team Nomination Form (HSA 001).
- (B) Shin guards must be worn and always entirely underneath socks.
- (C) Numbered shirts or bibs are required for competition age groups U12 and above. Numbered shirts are not required for MiniRoos.
- (D) Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other players and the Match Officials.
- (E) All clubs must have an alternate strip or numbered bibs.
- (F) Where, in the opinion of the referee, the team colours and design conflict, the HOME team must change into their alternate strip or numbered bibs.
- (G) All players are permitted to wear beanies and gloves provided they are not deemed dangerous.
- (H) All tape applied to socks must be the same colour as the part of the sock to which it has been applied. The HSA will negotiate these colours if difficulties arise.
- (I) If skins are going to be worn by players then each club is to determine their teams' skins colours and advise the HSA Board prior to the start of the playing season. The determined colour must be consistent for all members of the participating team
- (J) Players up to, and including, U11s are allowed to wear tracksuit pants and a warm top, provided their jersey is worn over it.
- (J) All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are strictly forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewellery is not acceptable.
- (K) Sponsorship (other than the clothing brand name) will be permitted on socks, shorts, shirts and tracksuits. (See Rule 8).
- (L) Players cannot interchange shirts during a match.
- (M) Clubs wishing to change, alter or update a playing strip must apply to the HSA Board for permission to do so prior to taking the field in the changed strip.

8. SPONSORSHIP

- (A) Clubs may obtain sponsorship for teams, and the sponsor's name and other details may be included on the front and/or back of shirts or shirt sleeves or on the legs of shorts.
- (B) Advertising must not obscure or otherwise affect the shirt number.
- (C) Sponsors' details must not be of a size greater than approximately 250 mm x 100 mm.
- (D) HSA has adopted the Football NSW Sponsorship and Promotion Policy with regard to sponsorship, advertising and promotion in relation of any alcohol, tobacco, gambling and adult entertainment product.
- (E) HSA may reject, or require the removal, of any advertising which does not meet the requirements of this clause or is considered to be offensive or contrary to the best interests of Highlands Soccer Association.

- (F) All Clubs must comply with requests from HSA in relation to the club's sponsors' requests and obligations.

9. MATCH OFFICIALS

- (A) The Southern Highlands Referees (SHR) appointments officer shall appoint referees and assistant referees to matches. In the event of an appointed official not attending a match the team managers shall select a person to control the game and such person's decisions shall be accepted as official.
- (C) All MiniRoo Game Leaders for U6, U7, U8, U9, U10 and U11 games will be appointed by the Referee Coordinator for Highland Soccer Association (HSA), from the panel of trained Game Leaders. Where no such appointments have been made, the 'home team' shall appoint the Game Leader.
- (C) Where the home team needs to appoint a MiniRoo Game Leader, they can be a club official, parent, older child/player (minimum age 12 years) or a trainee referee.

10. PLAYER AND TEAM OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

- (A) Player Identification Cards are not mandatory for HSA Competitions or Cups.
- (B) Should the opposing manager dispute a player's identity then the disputing Club must lodge an official protest on the prescribed form "Grievance/Protest Notification"(HSA 005) within 48 hours of the start of the match.
- (C) It is mandatory for all team officials, which includes coaches and managers, to be registered in Play Football.
- (D) For competition matches, team officials must display their identification cards (ID cards) on a lanyard around the neck external to all clothing:
- (i) whilst in the technical area of the playing field on which their team is playing.
 - (ii) from 30 minutes prior to the fixture kick-off through to the conclusion of all post-match official duties for, and on behalf of, the team and club.
- (E) Only up to three (3) so identified team officials and up to five (5) players, whose names appear on the match team sheet, are permitted in the technical area. Only one (1) team official from each team may stand at any one time in the technical area.
- ~~(F)~~ Team official ID cards must be made available to the opposing team's team officials or to the referee or Ground Official upon request for the purposes of identifying the registered team official. If these ID cards are not produced as requested, the disputing club or party may lodge an official protest on the prescribed form "Grievance/Protest Notification" (HSA 005) within 48 hours of the start of the match.
- ~~(G)~~ The Ground Official and/or referee is empowered with discretionary authority to have non-identified persons removed from the technical area and/or playing facility at all HSA sanctioned events.

11. TEAM SHEETS

- (A) Clubs and Team Officials must use an electronic team sheet (ETS) within DRIBL.

For electronic team sheets the following procedure is to be followed:

- All players taking part in a match, either on the field or as a substitute, must be named on the ETS. Any player participating in a match and not listed on the ETS will be considered an ineligible player and the club fined accordingly, see Rule 20 (K).
- Any player who is listed on the ETS will be considered to have played the match.
- Shirt numbers are to be shown for all players in Junior and All Age Competitions and the Goalkeeper clearly marked, either GK or 1. No two (2) or more players can have the same shirt number, excluding where there has been a change of Goal Keepers.
- A maximum number of player names are to be listed on the ETS according to this schedule:
 - U6 – U77 players
 - U8 – U911 players
 - U10 – U1214 players
 - U13 – All Age16 players
- All teams must have a coach and manager listed on the team sheet.
- Changes in the ETS will be permitted any time until twenty (20) minutes past the scheduled kick off time.
- At the conclusion of a game in MiniRoos:
 - The official Game Leader shall complete their section of the ETS.
 - A Team Official (coach/manager) from the **Home** Club shall add the name of the Ground Official under the Officials tab.
 - If there has been no official Game Leader the name of the “Unaccredited Referee” will be added by the **Home** team manager under the Officials tab.
- At the conclusion of a game in the U12 – All Age competition:
 - The Match Official shall complete their section of the ETS with the score, goal scorers and note any players who have been cautioned or sent off using the codes as per Rules 33 and 34.
 - A Team Official from each Team shall review the ETS to confirm:
 - a) Half time and full-time scores
 - b) Goals scored are marked against the correct Player
 - c) Disciplinary sanctions are marked against the correct Player
 - A Team Official (coach/manager) from the **Home** Club shall add the name of the Ground Official under the Officials tab.

(B) In the case that DRIBL is not functioning and an ETS is not available, Team Officials from the Home Team must provide paper team sheets.

For paper team sheets the following procedure is to be followed:

- All team sheets must be fully completed in black pen, BLOCK LETTERS and be legible.
- All players taking part in a match, either on the field or as a substitute, must be named on the team sheet. Any player participating in a match and not listed on the team sheet will be considered an ineligible player and the club fined accordingly, see Rule 20 (K).

- Any player who is listed on the team sheet but is not participating in the match must be crossed out completely or they will be considered to have played the match.
- Any player under suspension must be listed on the team sheet but have their name crossed out with the notation SP after it.
- Shirt numbers are to be shown for all players in Junior and All Age Competitions and the Goalkeeper clearly marked, either GK or 1. No two (2) or more players can have the same shirt number, excluding where there has been a change of Goal Keepers.
- All Over 35 players in the AAM Youth grade competition must have O35 next to their name.
- FA Player Registration Numbers are not required to be entered onto the team sheet for competition or cup matches.
- All teams must have a coach and manager listed on the team sheet.
- No alterations and/or additions can be made to the U12 – All Age competition team sheet once the match kicks off.
- At the conclusion of a game in MiniRoos:
 - The Game Leader shall sign the team sheet.
 - A team official (coach/manager) from both the home and away Club shall sign the team sheet to confirm the players listed.
 - The “host venue” Ground Official present shall sign the team sheet.
- At the conclusion of a game in the U12 – All Age competition:
 - The Match Official shall complete their section of the team sheet with the score and note any players who have been cautioned or sent off using the codes as per Rules 33 and 34.
 - A Team Official from each Team shall review the team sheet to confirm:
 - a) Half time and full-time scores
 - b) Goals scored are marked against the correct Player
 - c) Disciplinary sanctions are marked against the correct Player
 - A team official from both teams shall sign the team sheet.
 - The “host venue” Ground Official present shall sign the team sheet.
- Neither the original team sheet, nor copies, are to be altered at all after the signing of the team sheet by each team’s coach/manager at the conclusion of the match.
- If a team official disagrees with final details on a team sheet and wishes to protest, the disputing club must lodge an official protest on the prescribed form “Grievance/Protest Notification” (HSA 005) within 48 hours of the start of the match.
- Note: Clubs which do sign the match sheet yet find out afterwards that they have grounds for a protest, can still file a protest form, (HSA 005), with the HSA Board provided it is submitted within the scheduled 48 hour period, as per Rule 12.
- Once HSA declares the result of a match or competition after the conclusion of that match or competition, then that result will stand. There will be no appeal against the match score shown on a team sheet once it is received by the HSA Director of Records and the result declared for the match.

- Fines will be issued for incomplete team sheets. This includes incorrect shirt numbers, incorrect names and failure by coach/manager/ground official to sign the team sheet. For penalties see Rule 20 (R).
- Each Club is to provide a “Drop Box” at their canteen where teams are able to put completed match sheets in after their game.
- It is the responsibility of the HOME TEAM (i.e., the team listed first in the draw) Club Recorder to ensure that completed team sheets are scanned in a PDF format and emailed to the HSA Director of Records (dir.records@hsa.org.au).
- The electronic copy of the team sheet is to be received by the Director of Records by Tuesday 11pm after a weekend match or within 2 days for all other matches.
- A copy of the team sheet must be retained by the ‘away’ club and filed on a weekly basis with the club Secretary or Recorder.
- A copy of the team sheet must be retained by the ‘home’ club and filed on a weekly basis with the club Secretary or Recorder.
- For U12 to All Age competitions, clubs are required to enter match results into Dribl by 8.00pm on match day. Issues that arise specifically in relation to recording of results can be directed to the HSA Director of Records (dir.records@hsa.org.au) by email only before 7.00pm match days.

12. PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

- (A) Any Club may protest in writing to the HSA Board on any matter relating to, or arising out of, the competitions conducted by the HSA Inc.
- (B) All protests must be lodged on the prescribed form “Grievance/Protest Notification” (HSA 005) and submitted within forty-eight (48) hours of the match/incident to which it is related.
- (C) Fines and penalties will be applied automatically in accordance with these Rules and Regulations. Clubs may lodge an appeal of any fine and/or penalty applied on the prescribed form “Appeal of Fine” (HSA 006).

13. CHANGE OF FIXTURES

- (A) No match fixture shall be deferred/changed without the approval of the HSA Competition Committee.
- (B) Any game played without the approval of the HSA Competition Committee may be declared null and void.
- (C) Notwithstanding any other Regulations on the same subject matter, the HSA Competition Committee reserves the right to alter or amend any fixture after it has been nominated in the official match schedule. The alterations could be to the date, venue, kick-off times or a combination of all.
- (D) All applications for fixture changes must use the prescribed form “Change of Fixture Application” (HSA 002) and be lodged no less than five (5) days prior to the affected fixture.
- (E) The HSA Competition Committee, upon consideration of the request, will communicate the decision in writing. If the request is granted, the HSA Competition Committee shall confirm to both parties the change of date, time, venue, and any conditions.

- (F) The match fixture must be played before the original fixture time/date or within two weeks after the original fixture date. If a mutually agreeable time/place cannot be found to play the match fixture, the requesting team will be deemed to have forfeited the match.
- (G) The HSA Competition Committee's decision regarding rescheduling of matches will be final and binding on all parties and shall not be subject to appeal or review.
- (H) If an agreed deferred game is unable to be played due to circumstances outside the control of the participating teams then the match score will be deemed a one-one (1-1) draw.

14. GROUND OFFICIALS

- (A) All Clubs will ensure that their Team Officials and members are made fully aware of the jurisdiction of the Ground Officials and the requirement that their requests shall be complied with. In addition, all clubs must ensure that Team Officials and Ground Officials are made aware of the FA Spectator Code Of Conduct.
- (B) On match days at least one (1) uniformed Ground Official shall be on duty per fixture/field. The Ground Official must be over 18 years of age, not be a coach, manager or a player listed on the Dribl entry of a match in progress and shall be provided by the 'host-venue Club' (See (E) below for an exemption for matches played during the week).
- (C) Ground Officials must be easily identifiable via a high-visibility vest, with the words "Official" or similar printed on it.
- (D) The Ground Official must be visible to the match referee and/or MiniRoos 'Games Leader' for the full duration of the fixture. This will require the Ground Official to be close to the field of play and/or technical area without entering the technical area unless directed by the referee.
- (E) Ground Officials at competition matches played during the week will be supplied by the participating teams and not the 'host-venue Club' if the 'host-venue Club' is not one of the teams playing. In this case each team is to supply a Ground Official who is neither the coach nor manager nor listed on the team sheet for the match.
- (F) For Saturday match days the 'host-venue Club' must provide an additional Ground Official (Ground Marshall) for the whole venue whose role is to support the Ground Officials. The Ground Marshall is the senior Ground Official whose direction and decision is final in the event of any uncertainty on matters arising.
- (G) If the appointed referee decides not to proceed with officiating a match at a playing field because NO Ground Official is present as per Rule 14 (B), the 'host-venue Club' and both teams shall be granted up to 10 minutes after the scheduled fixture starting time to appoint a Ground Official(s).

If the 'host-venue Club' cannot, or is unwilling, to appoint a Ground Official(s) within the time permitted by this Rule and neither team is able to provide a Ground Official then the match shall be deemed abandoned.
- (H) The Ground Officials shall circulate around the ground(s) and playing field facility to ensure they remain visible to the referee and spectators.
- (I) All persons at the ground(s) and playing field facility shall abide by any requests made by the Ground Officials.
- (J) Any incident report by Ground Officials must be on the prescribed form "Ground Official Incident Report" (HSA 007).

Refer to Appendix C for more information about the role of a Ground Official.

15. GROUNDS, MARKING AND EQUIPMENT

- (A) All Clubs and Schools hosting matches in any HSA Competition and/or Cups are to provide a diagram of their field set up prior to the season commencing, including the position of the designated send-off area. They are also to provide details of the goals used for each age group.
- (B) It shall be the responsibility of the 'home team' and/or 'host-venue Club' to ensure that the following field conditions are met each match day:
- The playing fields for U6 to U12 matches are marked with cones, domes or line marking paint per FA regulations.
If movable goals are used, they are to be set up following the procedures in the Club's User Agreement with Wingecarribee Shire Council. Refer to <https://footballnsw.com.au/resources> for information on goalpost safety.
 - The playing fields for U13 to All Age competitions are set up as per directions in the IFAB Laws of the Game to international standards, including corner flags and nets.
 - A technical area is clearly marked for each team, with seating available for eight (8) persons per team. Only three (3) team officials and a maximum of five (5) substitutes are permitted to be in the technical area. The technical areas should not be any closer than 1 metre from the touchline and extend 1 metre either side of the designated seating area.
 - A recognisable spectator viewing area separate from the playing area is to be established. Spectator areas must be 2m from the field sidelines and 5m from the technical areas.
 - Players temporarily dismissed from the from the field of play are to be seated on seating provided in the technical area and to remain seated for the period of the temporary dismissal from the field of play.
 - There is a designated area where players permanently sent from the field of play are to remain for the duration of their game should they not leave the playing facility.
- (C) Playing fields for U12 to All Age must be fully set up no less than 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time. An appointed referee may declare the field setup is unsatisfactory at any point in time from 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off.
- (D) If the appointed referee decides not to proceed to officiate a match at a playing field because they deem the playing field setup does not meet the requirements of Rule 15 (B), the 'host-venue Club' shall be granted up to 10 minutes after the scheduled match starting time to rectify the field set up deficiencies identified by the referee. If the 'host-venue Club' cannot, or is unwilling, to rectify any field set up deficiencies within the time permitted by this Rule, the 'host-venue Club' will be fined as per Rule 19 (H), the match deemed to be abandoned and rescheduled for a later date.
- (E) Should the appointed referee decide that the appointed ground is unfit for play per Rule 15 (B), the 'host-venue Club' Ground Official is empowered to move the match to be played onto an alternative, complying field at the same venue, provided that moving the match does not conflict with any other fixture.
- (F) It is recommended that each Club has a first aid kit available at their grounds and accessible for all matches played.

- (G) No person is to stand or sit in the area 5m off the field of play beyond the goal line. If the ground has a permanent fixed fence situated behind the goal line, then this will be the allowable distance that persons will be permitted to stand. The referee and/or Ground Officials are empowered to clear this area of all persons.
- (H) The HSA Board may at times require Clubs to amend the way grounds are prepared and operated when hosting competition matches and MiniRoos.

16. WET WEATHER PROCEDURES

(A) Non Storming Conditions:

- When inclement weather conditions occur, participants are to assume that all matches are still **ON**. Matches are only cancelled when fields are unplayable, not because it is raining.
- Pitches are considered unplayable when the ball is stopped/impeded from rolling freely due to surface water, when the pitch is waterlogged and commencement or continuance of play will ruin the playing surface or are considered unsafe to play on by either the host Club, referee or Wingecarribee Shire Council. Refer to Appendix F for assessment criteria.
- Individuals and individual teams are not authorised to make decisions to not play or defer matches due to rain. In any instance where a team(s) decide(s) not to play because of rain where the pitch on which the match is scheduled to be played (or adjoining pitch) has not been closed, the defaulting team(s) shall be considered as forfeiting without notice and shall be liable for any match official fees (if officials were appointed) together with the prescribed fines, (see Rule 20).

(B) Storming or Imminent Storming Conditions:

- When lightning is imminent team officials, referees and host Clubs are to observe the Football NSW Lightning Policy 30/30 Guideline below-
 - (i) Stop play if the time between seeing a lightning flash and hearing thunder is less than 30 seconds and immediately seek safety under appropriate shelter.
 - (ii) Do not resume play until at least 30 minutes has passed since the last thunder was heard.
- In instances where there is hail, flying debris or debris on the pitch (fallen branches), referees and host Clubs are to use common sense to minimise the risk of injury or death to players, coaches and spectators.

(C) Where matches affected involve MiniRoos teams (U6 – U11) cancelled matches will not be rescheduled.

(D) Where competition matches are affected by weather, the match result will stand if a minimum of 75 percent of the match has been played (see rule 23 (C)).

17. LIGHTING STANDARDS

(A) Clubs wishing to play competition fixtures under lights must ensure that lighting complies with the FNSW guidelines for Grassroots clubs, i.e., a maintained average horizontal floodlighting luminance of 100 lux for the match and a minimum 50 lux standard for warm-up areas.

(A) All scheduled competition night matches shall be subject to approval by the HSA Competition Committee.

18. SUBSTITUTES AND INTERCHANGE

- (A) For U12 – All Age competition matches, a maximum of five (5) substitutes per team may be listed on the team sheet. Substitutions may take place at any time and for any reason during a match as long as the substitute players were entered on the team sheet prior to the commencement of the game.
- (B) The interchange rule is to apply to the use of substitutes. Interchange shall be at the discretion of the referee in all cases.
- (B) Players being interchanged are to leave the field of play at the closest point but players entering must enter from within 1m of the halfway line halfway on the technical area side.

19. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

- (A) The predominant colour of the HSA Representative teams' strip shall be blue.
- (B) All equipment supplied to representative teams is to remain the property of the HSA.
- (A) The composition of any representative team will be determined by the HSA Board.
- (B) All players selected for representative teams are obliged to play for their representative team before playing for their club team. Representative team players may play for their local competition club when not required for the representative team.
A player picked to play in a representative match who does not fulfill this obligation without due reason will be suspended for two (2) ordinary competition matches.
 - i.
- (C) Any HSA competition team with four (4) or more representative players, coaches or managers may have their competition game deferred when these players, coaches or managers are required for representative games.

20. FINES AND PENALTIES

(A)	Club Bond (where applied by the HSA Board)	\$500 minimum
(B)	Withdrawal of a team after the draw has been compiled	\$200
(C)	Forfeit without required notice (See Rule 21)	\$50 Seniors minimum \$50 Juniors minimum
(D)	Failure to report any match result as required	\$50 each occasion
(E)	Failure to complete Dribl entry per Rule 11 (Fine applied for each Dribl entry on HSA Dribl entry Reports)	\$10 for each MiniRoos Dribl entry \$20 for each Junior and Senior competition Dribl entry
(F)	HSA Disciplinary Appeal fee	\$250 (\$100 is non-refundable)
(G)	Failure to adhere to the conditions of Rule 14	\$100 each occurrence
(H)	Failure to adhere to the conditions of Rule 15	\$100 each occurrence
(I)	Failure to return trophies per Rule 24	\$200 each + trophy replacement costs
(J)	No Club delegate at HSA General Meetings/AGM	\$10 with apology \$30 without apology
(K1)	Playing an ineligible player/s – 1 st match	\$100 + the match deemed a forfeit

		(3-0 score or match score if greater goal diff)
(K2)	Playing an ineligible player/s – 2 nd match	\$100 + the match deemed a forfeit (3-0 score or match score if greater goal diff) + loss of 1 competition point
(K3)	Playing an ineligible player/s – 3 rd match	\$100 + the match deemed a forfeit (3-0 score or match score if greater goal diff) + loss of 2 competition points
(K4)	Playing an ineligible player/s – 4 th & subsequent matches	\$100 + the match deemed a forfeit (3-0 score or match score if greater goal diff) + loss of 3 competition points
(K5)	Playing an ineligible player/s – any finals match	\$200 (minimum) \$200 + the match deemed a forfeit
(L)	Failure to provide a club Assistant Referee if requested	\$20
(M)	Failure to submit an incident or other report as directed by the HSA Board.	\$300
(N)	Send-off – 1 st instance for the season per player	\$50
(O)	Send-off – 2 nd and subsequent instances per player	\$75
(P)	Sent-off player fails to leave field of play and/or technical area or fails to comply with direction otherwise of a Referee or Ground Official	\$200
(Q)	Unauthorised person inside technical area (i.e., a player not on the team sheet or person not wearing team official identification)	\$50
(R)	Incomplete or illegible Dribl entry	\$5 each occurrence
(S)	Team Official found to have entered either the field of play or technical area while suspended	\$250 (maximum)

In addition to the above penalties there is a **Team Demerit** point system.

21. TEAM DEMERIT POINTS

- (A) At the beginning of the season all teams will start with zero (0) team demerit points.
- (B) Nominated offences carry demerit points which teams can accumulate throughout the season (see table below).

OFFENCES

Code	Offence	Team Demerit Points Accumulated
R1	Serious Foul Play	3 points
R2	Violent conduct – against a player or other person	5 points

R2	Violent conduct – against match official	10 points
R3	Spitting - against a player or other person	5 points
R3	Spitting - against match official	10 points
R4 / R5	Sabotaging an obvious goal scoring opportunity	0 points
R6	Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures or indecent actions – against a player or other person	3 points
R6	Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures or indecent actions – against a match official	5 points
R7	Second caution	0 points
T1	Team official dismissed from the field of play	5 points
C1	Accumulation of cautions per Rule 34.1 (D), (E) and (F).	1 point
S1	Accumulation of send-offs – for any second and subsequent send-off per player	1 point
O1	Breaches of the Code of Conduct by players, team officials, parents, spectators or club officials.	5 points
O2	Where a Club Member, player, team official, spectator or club official is cited to appear before any Tribunal or HSA Board in addition to any other offence.	3 points

- (C) The Team Demerit Points system applies to MiniRoos, Junior and All Age Competitions and Cups.
- (D) During the Competition Rounds:
- (i) When a team accumulates **10** demerit points the team (U12 to All Age) will have one (1) competition point deducted.
 - (ii) When a team accumulates **15** demerit points the team (U12 to All Age) will have two (2) competition points deducted.
 - (iii) When a team accumulates **20** demerit points the team (U12 to All Age) will have three (3) competition points deducted.
 - (iv) When a team accumulates **25** demerit points the team will be withdrawn from all MiniRoos/Competitions/Cups. If the team’s next match is a finals match, the team will not play in the finals and the fifth placed team will take their place.
- (E) Demerit points for all teams will reset back to zero (0) for the start of the Finals Series.
- During the Final Series:
- (i) When a team accumulates **10** demerit points the Club will be fined \$250.

- (i) For each demerit point received thereafter a fine of \$25 per point will apply.
- (F) Demerit points will be awarded for offences by players, team officials and spectators.
- (G) Teams will be automatically withdrawn from the competition by breaching the HSA By-Laws where the penalty for such demands team withdrawal.
- (H) Where it is noted that a club has persistent offenders, the HSA Board may cite the club, if, in its opinion, the Club is not performing its role of Club discipline.

22. FORFEITS

- (A) The Director of Competitions shall assign the venues, grounds and kick-off times for all fixtures. Fixtures shall start at the advertised time. Any team not ready to commence playing at the advertised time has ten minutes before the team shall be deemed to have forfeited the match and shall be liable for all referee expenses incurred together with the prescribed penalties.

(B) Forfeit Notification and Penalties:

U6 – U11 MiniRoos:

- If the forfeit is notified by **Friday 7.00pm** before the Saturday match and the Forfeit Procedures are followed, (see below), then the forfeiting team will not be fined.
- Notification after Friday 7.00pm and before 7.00am Saturday morning will incur a \$50 fine for the forfeiting team. The forfeiting team is still expected to follow Forfeit Procedures.
- Notification on Saturday after 7.00am or if there is no notification before the start of play will incur a \$100 fine for the forfeiting team

U12 – All Age Competition and Cups:

- If the forfeit is notified by **Thursday 5.00pm** before the Saturday match and the Forfeit Procedures are followed, (see below), then the forfeiting team will not be fined.
- Notification after Thursday 5.00pm and before 7.00am Saturday morning the forfeiting team will incur a \$50 fine The forfeiting team is still expected to follow Forfeit Procedures.
- Notification on Saturday after 7.00am, and at least 2 hours prior to the match, the forfeiting team will incur a \$100 fine plus pay the fees for the Referee and Assistant Referees.
- If there is no notification of the forfeit, or the forfeit is notified within 2 hours of the start of the match, the forfeiting team will incur a \$200 fine plus pay the fees for the Referee and Assistant Referee and a loss of three (3) competition points. The forfeiting club will be liable for any other expenses incurred.
- For Sunday matches the same penalties will apply as per a Saturday match with no fine if the notification of the forfeit is by **Saturday 7.00pm** and Forfeit Procedures are followed.
- For games held during the week, notification of a forfeit is required by **5.00pm the day before** the scheduled match. If there is no notification of the forfeit by the required time penalties will apply as per a Saturday match, including paying the fees for the Referee and Assistant Referees.

(C) Forfeit Procedures:

- The forfeiting team shall notify their Club committee in the first instance.
 - The forfeiting team shall lodge in DRIBL that they are forfeiting the match.
 - The forfeiting team shall notify the following by email:
 - Director of Competitions (dir.comps@hsa.org.au)
 - Director of Records (dir.records@hsa.org.au)
 - Director of Referees (dir.referees@hsa.org.au) (if competition match)
 - President and Secretary of the Opposing Club
 - Secretary of the Host Club where the match is being played at a venue that is neither Clubs' home ground.
 - The following information is required:
 - The team forfeiting (including team name – e.g., Bowral Blue)
 - The name of the team receiving the forfeit
 - The date and time of the forfeited game
 - The venue of the game
 - Where notice of less than 24 hours is given, the forfeiting team's Secretary is required to contact the opposition team's Secretary by phone to confirm the forfeit in addition to the email notifications as set out above.
- (D) For All Age competitions, when a forfeit is unavoidable, the lowest graded team(s) must forfeit before any higher graded team(s). Failure to comply with this rule will result in the lowest graded team that did play being deemed ineligible for the match and the full penalty of Rule 20 (K) will be applied in addition to Rule 20 (C) to the team that did forfeit.
- (E) No team sheets are required for forfeits in MiniRoos.
- (F) For all U12 to All Age Competition and Cup matches the non-forfeiting team is required to submit a team sheet to claim a forfeit and therefore be awarded three (3) points and three (3) 'goals for'.
- (G) Forfeits count as serving a one (1) fixture suspension for any suspended player from the non-forfeiting team provided such player(s) are recorded on the team sheet. The team responsible for the forfeit gains no advantage with respect to suspended players or the total games played by any player within that grade.
- (H) If a match has been forfeited by either team and is subsequently declared a washout by the Association due to weather or field closures, the washout shall override the forfeit provided the washout decision is made prior to the scheduled kick-off time. In such cases, the match will be treated as a washout for all purposes and may be rescheduled in any designated washout round or on another date as determined by the Association.

23. ABANDONED MATCHES

- (A) In cases where a fixture has been abandoned by the referee, the HSA Competition Committee may investigate the circumstances of the abandonment and impose such penalties as it deems fit on Clubs, Club Officials, players and/or spectators adjudged to be associated with the abandonment.
- (B) Should a Club, Club Official, its players or spectators be found to have caused the abandonment of the match, the match will be forfeited by that Club to the opposition. If the goal difference to the

opposition is greater than 3 goals at the abandonment then the opposition will be awarded the greater number of goals.

- (C) When a match is abandoned, (or not played), for any reason over which neither Club was responsible, then
- a. If 75% or more of the match has been played the score at the time of abandonment will stand.
 - b. If less than 75% of the match has been played the match will be replayed on a date to be arranged at the earliest reasonable opportunity by the HSA Competition Committee.
- (D) When a match is abandoned for any reason other than weather or causes over which neither Club has any control, the match may only be replayed with the approval of the HSA Competition Committee.
- (E) If a match is unable to be replayed prior to the Final Series, then the match will be deemed a one-one (1-1) draw.

24. AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY

- (A) A player's age is determined by their actual age on 31st December of the current season i.e., the age the player turns in the calendar year.

(B) MiniRoos:

MiniRoos covers the age group games from U6 to U11. The minimum age for MiniRoos is turning five (5) between 1st January and 31st December of the current year.

(C) Junior and All Age Competitions:

Age eligibility to play in the Junior and All Age competitions is as follows:

- (i) Under 12 Junior Competition (for males and females).
- 12 years old (born 2013) – eligible
 - 11 years old (born 2014) – eligible
 - 10 years old (born 2015) – player needs assessment made by the Club on the prescribed form "Application for Dispensation to Play Above Age Group" (HSA 003).
 - 9 years old (born 2016) – player needs assessment. Clubs are to apply on the prescribed form "Application for Assessment to Play Above Age Group" (HSA 004)
- (ii) Under 14 Junior Competition (for males and females).
- 14 years old (born 2011) – eligible
 - 13 years old (born 2012) – eligible
 - 12 years old (born 2013) – player needs assessment made by the Club on the prescribed form "Application for Dispensation to Play Above Age Group" (HSA 003).
 - 11 years old (born 2014) – player needs assessment. Clubs are to apply on the prescribed form "Application for Assessment to Play Above Age Group" (HSA 004)
- (iii) Under 16 Junior Competition (for males and females).
- 16 years old (born 2009) – eligible
 - 15 years old (born 2010) – eligible
 - 14 years old (born 2011) – player needs assessment made by the Club on the prescribed form "Application for Dispensation to Play Above Age Group" (HSA 003).
 - 13 years old (born 2012) – player needs assessment. Clubs are to apply on the prescribed form "Application for Assessment to Play Above Age Group" (HSA 004)
- (iv) Youth Grade Competition.

- Over 35 years old (born 1990 or earlier) - eligible
- 19 years old (born 2006) – eligible
- 18 years old (born 2007) – eligible
- 17 years old (born 2008) – eligible
- 16 years old (born 2009) – player needs assessment made by the Club on the prescribed form “Application for Dispensation to Play Above Age Group” (HSA 003).
- 15 years old (born 2010) – player needs assessment. Clubs are to apply on the prescribed form “Application for Assessment to Play Above Age Group” (HSA 004)

(v) All Age Men.

- 16 years old and over (born 2009 or earlier) – eligible
- 15 years old (born 2010) – player needs assessment made by the Club on the prescribed form “Application for Dispensation to Play Above Age Group” (HSA 003).
- 14 years old (born 2011) – player needs assessment. Clubs are to apply on the prescribed form “Application for Assessment to Play Above Age Group” (HSA 004)

(vi) All Age Women.

- 14 years old or over (born 2011 or earlier) – eligible
- 13 years old (born 2012) – player needs assessment made by the Club on the prescribed form “Application for Dispensation to Play Above Age Group” (HSA 003).
- 12 years old (born 2013) – player needs assessment. Clubs are to apply on the prescribed form “Application for Assessment to Play Above Age Group” (HSA 004)

25. ASSOCIATION TROPHIES

- (A) All perpetual cups and trophies shall be returned to HSA on the very same day these perpetual trophies are awarded. The applicable fine and replacement trophy cost penalties will automatically apply for breaches of this rule.
- (B) A smaller replica trophy shall be awarded with all perpetual trophies for the winning team/club/individual to keep.
- (C) HSA may recall all presented trophies where proven player ineligibility penalty includes the overturning of a match result.

26. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP/ FAIR PLAY TROPHY

(A) Club Championship:

A trophy known as the HSA Club Championship will be awarded to the club judged the annual Championship Club based on performances in competitions and Cups.

Club Championship points shall be awarded to, and deducted from, clubs as follows:

U12 – U16 (or U12 – U16 Div.1) (if run as a stand-alone competition from the start of the season)	Minor Premiers	6 points
	Runners up	3 points
	Third	2 points
	Fourth	1 point
U12 – U16 Div.2 (if run as a stand-alone competition from the start of the season)	Minor Premiers	4 points
	Runners up	3 points
	Third	2 points
	Fourth	1 point
Youth Grade	Minor Premiers	6 points
	Runners up	3 points
	Third	2 points
	Fourth	1 point

All Age Men Premier League / PL1 / All Age Women Premier League / PL1	Minor Premiers	6 points
	Runners up	3 points
	Third	2 points
	Fourth	1 point
All Age Men PL2 / All Age Women PL2 (if run as a stand-alone competition from the start of the season)	Minor Premiers	4 points
	Runners up	3 points
	Third	2 points
	Fourth	1 point
All Age Men Highlands League	Minor Premiers	3 points
	Runners up	2 points
	Third	1 point
U12 – U16 Div.1 / AAM PL1 / AAW PL1 / Youth Grade Grand Final Winners	Winner	4 points
	Runner up	2 points
U12 – U16 Div. 2 / All Age Men PL2 / All Age Women PL2 Grand Final Winners	Winner	3 points
	Runner up	1 point
All Age Men Highlands League Grand Final Winners	Winner	2 points
	Runner up	1 point
All Age Men Darryl Kill Cup (Premier League/PL1)	Winner	4 points
	Runner up	2 points
All Age Women Noelene Munro Cup (Premier League/PL1)	Winner	4 points
	Runner up	2 points
All Age Men Liberale Cup (Reserve Grade/PL2)	Winner	3 points
	Runner up	1 point
All Age Women Chris Jacobs Cup (Reserve Grade/PL2)	Winner	3 points
	Runner up	1 point
All Age Men George Auld Cup (Highlands League)	Winner	2 points
	Runner up	1 point
Youth Grade Cup	Winner	4 points
	Runner up	2 points
U16 HSA Cup	Winner	4 points
	Runner up	2 points
U14 Jan Plain Memorial Cup	Winner	4 points
	Runner up	2 points
U12 Antony Liberale Memorial Trophy	Winner	4 points
	Runner up	2 points

Note: For all red cards, send-off offences and unnotified forfeits (for competition/cup games), the offending participant's/team's club will have one (1) Club Championship point deducted from that Club's total points tally for the season.

(B) Club Fair Play Trophy:

- (i) Points will be tallied for all clubs participating in the competition providing they have at least one (1) All Age team and one (1) Junior team.
- (ii) Red cards will be attributed three (3) points and Yellow cards will be attributed one (1) point. If 2 Yellow cards are given to a player in a match resulting in a Red card, only three (3) points will be attributed. Points will be tallied for red and yellow cards given in Cup, competition and finals matches.

- (iii) The club with the least number of points at the end of the season will be awarded the Club Fair Play Trophy.

27. MINIROOS

- (A) MiniRoos will be conducted for U6 to U11 inclusive.
- (B) In U6 – U11 MiniRoos games, there are no restrictions on players being borrowed to play for any other team in the same age group or one (1) year above the player’s calendar year age group.
- (C) If a player wishes to play in a team two (2) or more years above the player’s calendar year age group then the relevant club has to apply to the HSA Competition Committee using the prescribed form “Application for Dispensation to Play Above Age Group” (HSA 003).
- (D) Regrades:
 - i) For the U6-U9 age group a maximum of one (1) player from one (1) higher age group may be regraded down one (1) year for the purpose of nominating and/or maintaining the complement of a team or when a specific MiniRoos age group is not going to be entered by a Club.
 - ii) For the U10-U11 age group a maximum of two (2) players from one (1) higher age group may be regraded down one (1) year for the purpose of nominating and/or maintaining the complement of a team or when a specific MiniRoos age group is not going to be entered by a Club.
 - iii) If there is **no** stand-alone U12 junior competition:
 - (a) A maximum of five (5) female players from the U12 age group may be regraded for the purposes of nominating and/or maintaining the complement of a team in the U11 MiniRoos age group.
 - (b) A maximum of two (2) male players from the U12 age group may be regraded for the purposes of nominating and/or maintaining the complement of a team in the U11 MiniRoos age group.
 - iv) All regrade requests will require HSA Competition Committee approval.
- (E) Coaches are only permitted on the field in U6 and U7 MiniRoos games for the first two rounds. Only the Game Leader is permitted on the field.
- (F) Coaches are NOT permitted on the field in U8 through to U11 MiniRoos games. Only the Game Leader is permitted on the field.
- (G) Refer to Football Australia website for all resources: www.miniroos.com.au

28. COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

- (A) All HSA Clubs are required to have paid all HSA and Southern Highlands Referees (SHR) accounts aged more than thirty (30) days after invoice date as of **1st August 2025** to be eligible to compete in any competition semi-final, final or grand final match. The only exception will be for any Club which has tendered a formal ‘deed of arrangement’ to repay any outstanding accounts in full, whereby this ‘deed of arrangement’ has been formally accepted by HSA/SHR and acceptance has been advised to HSA prior to **1st August 2025**.

All invoices from HSA & SHR are payable within thirty (30) days of invoice date. Clubs that do not pay HSA & SHR invoices within these payment terms during the semi-final, final or grand final match series will be deemed ineligible to play in these matches.

- (B) Excepting All Age, players may NOT play in a lower grade unless a regrade has been approved, (see Rule 29).
- (C) Players who register with other (non-HSA) associations cannot register to play in any HSA competition without Football NSW approval i.e., be dual registered.
- (D) For HSA clubs entering teams in FSC competitions the following applies:
- i) approval has to be granted in the first instance by the HSA Board
 - ii) the club will name a squad of 12 players who play in the FSC competition (in each grade). Those named squad players will not be eligible to play in the HSA competition but any other player on the FSC team sheet will be eligible to play in the HSA competition without restriction.

(E) Junior Competition (U12-U16) – General:

For Clubs with more than one junior (U12-U16 inclusive) team in a grade, only three (3) players listed on any competition team sheet can play in another same age group competition team on the same day.

(F) Junior Competition (U12-U16) – Finals:

- (i) A player must have played five (5) competition matches with a club to be eligible to play for that club in the final series.
- (ii) Where a club has 2 or more teams in the same age group, players from that club can only participate in the finals with the team that they have played the greatest number of games with. If they have played an equal number of games with each team then they must play with the highest placed team.
- (iii) Any player can play up in an older age group final series as long as they satisfy the eligibility criteria of Rule 24 and have played 5 matches for the club (as per (i) above).

(G) Youth Grade:

- (i) To be eligible to play Youth Grade a player must be no older than 19 on 31st December 2025 (Youth Player) or have turned 35 by 31st December 2024 (Over 35 player).
- (ii) Only five (5) Over 35 players can appear on a Youth Grade team sheet on any match day with only three (3) Over 35 players permitted to be on the field at any one time.
- (iii) A player who has played (or will play) in a Youth Grade fixture can play in any other grade.
- (iv) If an Over 35 player in Youth Grade is suspended for an R1/R2/R3/R6 offence, then that player is not eligible to play in Youth Grade for the remainder of the season.

(H) All Age Competition – General:

On any competition round match day:

- (i) There are no restrictions on any player playing in any, or all, grades if they fulfil the age eligibility of Rule 24.

(I) All Age Competition – Finals:

For each division the following eligibility criteria apply for finals:

Note: For Premier League, Highlands League and Youth Grade competitions, the number of fixtures does not include midweek competition matches.

- (i) Premier League / (PL1) – Any player that has played at least five (5) fixtures for the Club.
- (ii) Reserve Grade / (PL2) – Any player that has played at least five (5) fixtures for the Club and has played more fixtures for Reserve Grade (PL2) than Premier League (PL1).
- (iii) Highlands League – Any player that has played at least five (5) fixtures for the Club and has played more matches for Highlands League than Reserve Grade (PL2) or Premier League (PL1).
- (iv) Youth Grade – Any player that has played at least five (5) fixtures for the Club and must be no older than 19 on 31st December 2025 (youth player) or have turned 35 by 31st December 2024 (O35 player).
- (v) Midweek competition – As nominated by the HSA Competition Committee at the commencement of the competition.

Note: One (1) fixture is a 90 min game. In a Round Robin competition with modified games, one (1) fixture is all the games played on one day.

- (vi) Where a club has 2 or more teams in the same grade, players from that club can only participate in the finals with the team that they have played the greatest number of games with. If they have played an equal number of games with each team then they must play with the highest placed team.
- (J) An exemption to Rule 28 (I) to enable a player to play in a final's series may be applied for on the prescribed form "Application for Dispensation to Play in the Final Series" (HSA 008) no later than five (5) days prior to the match.
 - (K) A player cannot take the field of play in another match until the match they first played in has been completed including extra-time and penalties.
 - (L) Any team playing a match who believes that the opposition is violating eligibility should still play the game and submit the form "Grievance/Protest Notification" (HSA 005) within forty-eight (48) hours of the start of the match.

29. REGRADES

- (A) For regrades in MiniRoos see Rule 27 (D).
- (B) In Junior and All Age competitions, no regrades will be considered except upon written application from the club to the HSA Competition Committee on the prescribed form "Regrade Request" (HSA 009) specifying the exceptional circumstances whereby that club believes that a regrade should occur. Exceptional circumstances would include a proven medical condition or a disability.
- (C) No more than two (2) regrades will be permitted per team by the HSA Competition Committee unless further extenuating circumstances arise. For combined competitions (e.g., U12/U13 or U14/U15) only one (1) regrade will be permitted per team.
- (D) The HSA Competition Committee will respond to all applications as either 'approved' or 'denied'.

30. SUNDAY AVAILABILITY

Each player and club shall keep any Sundays designated on the 2025 Competition Calendar free in order to play wet weather catch-up games, Cup games or any other game as required.

31. SENIOR CUP RULES

(A) These Cup rules apply to the Darryl Kill, Noelene Munro, Liberale, Chris Jacobs, George Auld, Youth and HSA Cups. For other cups/tournaments refer to Appendix I.

(B) **Format:**

- All teams competing in the HSA Competition are automatically entered into the various Cup competitions.
- Cup formats and rules will be determined by the HSA Competition Committee.

(C) **Eligibility for Darryl Kill, Liberale, George Auld, Noelene Munro and Chris Jacobs Cups:**

- In Round 1 all players can play in only one (1) team. (In a round robin competition Round 1 is defined as all games played on the same day). This is the team that the player is now “cup tied” to.
- In Round 2 and subsequent rounds and finals -
 - (i) Players can play in the team that they played for in Round 1 and/or up in grade, but not down in grade.
 - (ii) Only a maximum of three (3) players can be borrowed from each grade to make up to 12 players listed on the team sheet.
 - (iii) Borrowed players (see (i) above) are not “cup tied” to the temporary team.
 - (iv) For cup competitions with more than one (1) club team, players from that club can only participate in the finals with the team that they have played the greatest number of games with. If they have played an equal number of games with each team, then they must play with the highest placed team.

(D) Youth Grade players (U19 or O35) are eligible to play in the Youth Cup and in any other cup round or final as long as the eligibility rules of 31(C) are followed for these other cups. i.e. They are NOT “cup tied” to the Youth Grade team.

(E) Teams must nominate nine (9) players for any forfeited match on a team sheet. The team sheet must be submitted as per Rule 11.

(F) For All Age Cups, when a forfeit is unavoidable, the lowest graded team(s) must forfeit before any higher graded team(s). Failure to comply with this rule will result in the lowest graded team that did play being deemed ineligible for the match and the full penalty of Rule 20 (K) will be applied in addition to Rule 20 (C) to the team that did forfeit.

(G) Other cups conducted by the HSA shall have the rules/eligibility specified by the HSA Competition Committee (refer to Appendix I).

(H)

32. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE:

- (A) The HSA Competition Committee will appoint a Match Review Committee of two (2) to three (3) people to examine and adjudicate reports from referees regarding players who have been sent from the field of play, or of incidents involving players, team officials or spectators relating to any fixture.
- (B) The Match Review Committee shall make a determination of any matter within ten (10) days of the date of the send-off or incident.
- (C) The Match Review Committee has the right to consider:
 - a. the severity of the offence.
 - b. the player's past record.
 - c. extenuating circumstances.
- (D) The Match Review Committee may:
 - a. Hand down an automatic sentence and penalty within the range of sanctions listed per offence in Rule 34.5.
 - b. Impose any sanction provided for by the Laws of the Game and/or 34.5 of these Rules pursuant to the HSA By-Laws
 - c. Determine that the case be referred to a General Purposes Tribunal.

GENERAL PURPOSES TRIBUNAL:

- (A) A General Purposes Tribunal will be held:
 - a. to hear and determine a matter arising from a Send-off Report or Incident Report where actual or threatened assault of a Match Official is reported.
 - b. when requested by the Director of Referees if they believe a matter raised in a Send-off Report or Incident Report may identify actual or threatened assault of a Match Official.
 - c. where determined by the Match Review Committee.
 - d. if a Club requests that a General Purposes Tribunal be held after receiving a determination from the Match Review Committee.
- (B) A General Purposes Tribunal will be convened by the HSA Competition Committee and will consist of two (2) to three (3) people who have no affiliation to the disputing parties and who have not been part of the Match Review Committee for this incident.
- (C) A General Purposes Tribunal will be held within ten (10) days of the date of the determination by the Match Review Committee or the date of notice from a club that they wish to have the matter heard by a General Purposes Tribunal.
- (D) If an offender sent from the field of play, or involved in an incident, does not attend a General Purposes Tribunal as required, the matter will be dealt with in their absence.
- (E) The General Purposes Tribunal may:
 - a. Hand down an automatic sentence and penalty within the range of sanctions listed per offence in Rule 34.5.
 - b. Impose any sanction provided for by the Laws of the Game and/or 34.5 of these Rules pursuant to the HSA By-Laws
 - c. Uphold the decision of the Match Review Committee.

- d. INCREASE the sanctions imposed by the Match Review Committee.
- e. Decrease the sanctions or dismiss the decision of the Match Review Committee.

(F) A determination of the General Purposes Tribunal will be made within ten (10) days of the hearing.

APPEALS TRIBUNAL:

- (A) An Appeals Tribunal shall be formed to hear an appeal against a determination of the General Purposes Tribunal. Appeals must be lodged on the prescribed form "Disciplinary Appeal" (HSA 010) within seven (7) days of the decision or finding being notified to the appellant. The appeal fee of \$250 with a non-refundable component of \$100 is to accompany any appeal.
- (B) An Appeals Tribunal will be formed within twenty-one (21) days of the receipt of the Disciplinary Appeal prescribed form (HSA 010) by the HSA Competition Committee.
- (C) The appellant's Club shall be notified no less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Appeals Tribunal hearing of the meeting day and place for the Appeals Tribunal hearing. Appellants shall be deemed to have received notice from the Club as to the meeting day of the Appeals Tribunal hearing.
- (D) Appellants may, no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the Appeals Tribunal hearing, inform the HSA Competition Committee in writing that they consent to the matter being heard "ex parte" and submit written evidence in support of their defence or in mitigation of penalty.
- (E) If an appellant fails to attend an Appeals Tribunal hearing regarding an appeal against a determination of the General Purposes Tribunal, then the appeal will be dismissed.
- (F) A determination of the Appeals Tribunal will be made within ten (10) days of the hearing.
- (G) The Appeals Tribunal will be chaired by an independent person who is neither paid staff nor a member of the HSA Board.

33. MATCH CAUTIONS (YELLOW CARDS)

33.1 Match Cautions:

- (A) A player shall be cautioned for the following offences as prescribed for in the Laws of the Game;
 - Y1 The player is guilty of unsporting behaviour
 - Y2 The player shows dissent by word or action
 - Y3 The player persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
 - Y4 The player delays the restart of play
 - Y5 The player fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
 - Y6 The player enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
 - Y7 The player deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

- (B) A caution is administered by the referee recording a player's name and number and the offence committed on the Match Team sheet at the conclusion of the match.
- (C) There shall be no appeal against the receiving of a caution from the Referee.
- (D) After an individual player has received five (5) official cautions, the player shall serve a one (1) fixture suspension. The suspension shall be served in the same grade (the same team if the club has two (2) or more teams in the same grade) that the fifth (5th) caution was received in. The player cannot play in any other grade until the suspension is served. There shall be no appeal against a one (1) fixture suspension after receiving five (5) official cautions.
- (E) Any player who accumulates a further three (3) official cautions, making a total of eight (8), shall be suspended for a further two (2) fixtures in the grade (the same team if the club has two (2) or more teams in the same grade) in which they received the eighth (8th) caution. The player must serve the two (2) fixture suspension in the team's next two (2) competition fixtures following the match in which the eighth (8th) official caution was received.
- (F) Any player who accumulates more than eight (8) official cautions in any one season may incur further penalties as determined by the Match Review Committee.
- (G) For any player who is dismissed from the field upon being cautioned for a second yellow card offence (i.e., R7), the yellow cards received will NOT be taken into account for the purpose of the accumulation of cautions for the application of suspension in accordance with Rule 33.1(D) and 33.1(E). If a player receives a yellow card and then a Red Card, (other than an R7), the yellow card will count towards the accumulation of cautions.
- (H) Cautions shall not carry over from season to season. The termination of a competition season shall be at the conclusion of the last fixture of the season before the final series.

33.2 Temporary dismissals ('sin bins'):

Any player cautioned for dissent, i.e. Y2, will receive a yellow card (as per existing Laws), and will also be required to leave the field for a period of:

- Ten (10) minutes, for matches greater than 60 minutes' duration; or
- Five (5) minutes, for matches of 60 minutes or less in duration.

For the period of the temporary dismissal the player will sit the teams designated bench within the technical area. The timing of the temporary dismissal will start once the player is seated. Once the temporary dismissal period is up the player can only return to the field of play once a break in play has occurred and when the referee has indicated they can return.

After the 'sin bin', a second yellow card to the same player will result in the player being also shown a red card for a second yellow card offence (R7)

Under amendments to sections 17.1 (c) and (d), temporary dismissals will be recognised as Yellow Cards during a match such that the following scenarios may arise:

- (a) If a participant received one (1) Temporary Dismissal and one (1) Yellow card in a match, this will be deemed an R7; or
- (b) If a participant receives two (2) Temporary Dismissals in a Match, this will result in an R7 Red Card Offence.

For the avoidance of any doubt, Temporary Dismissals accumulated by a participant will be treated as a Yellow Card for the purposes of the accumulation of Yellow Cards pursuant to sections 17.2 to 17.5 of the 'Laws of the Game 2024/25' document as prepared by Football NSW.

33.3 **Final Series Cautions:**

- (A) At the completion of the competition rounds, all players will start on zero (0) yellow cards for the finals.
- (B) Any player accumulating two (2) cautions in the final series shall automatically stand down the next fixture. If the player's team/club have completed its final series commitments the player shall stand down the first competition game in the following season.

34. MATCH SUSPENSIONS (RED CARDS)

34.1 For the purpose of defining suspensions, fixtures shall be deemed to be –

- (i) Any competition fixture or play-off controlled or organized by the HSA that the suspended party's team actually participates in
- (ii) Any cup fixture or play off controlled or organized by the HSA that the suspended party's team actually participates in.
- (iii) Any cup / tournament run by FNSW/FA that the suspended party's team actually participates in.

34.2 **Players Sent Off:**

- (A) For the purpose of these Regulations, reference to a player during a match includes a substitute and a substituted player.
- (B) A player shall be sent from the field for the following offences as prescribed for in the Laws of the Game;

R1 The player is guilty of serious foul play

R2 The player is guilty of violent conduct

R3 The player spits at an opponent or any other person

R4 The player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area)

R5 The player denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.

R6 The player uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures

R7 The player receives a second caution in the same match

- (C) Players sent from the field shall incur a minimum one (1) match suspension. This one (1) match suspension is mandatory and is not subject to challenge, appeal or waiver by the Match Review Committee unless the Club can prove that the player sent off was incorrectly identified. Clubs must

contact the HSA Competition Committee within forty-eight (48) hours of the match if the player sent off was incorrectly identified.

- (D) Send off reports are to be completed by the match referee with regard to any Red card offences entered on the team sheet.
- (E) Send off reports from each match are to be sent so as to reach the HSA Competition Committee within seventy-two (72) hours of the match. Reports not received by this time may not be dealt with.
- (F) The HSA Competition Committee will provide a copy of any send-off report to the offending person's Club within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of such report in accordance with Rule 34.2 (E), with Clubs having forty eight (48) hours to provide evidence to be considered by the Match Review Committee.

34.3 Players Sent from the Field of Play:

A player who has been sent from the field will not participate in another match on the same day. Any club who is found to have played a player who should have been stood down will be fined up to \$500.00 and the match will be awarded to the opponents with the score line reading three goals to nil (3-0).

34.4 Suspended Players – Trial Games:

A player under suspension for a number of competition fixtures shall not be permitted to play in trial games without the specific sanction of the HSA Competition Committee.

34.5 Penalties:

The Match Review Committee shall impose penalties within the following guidelines set out in the Table of Offences below:

TABLE OF OFFENCES

Note: Second and subsequent offences applies if the participant is found guilty of the second offence in the season in which the first offence was committed.

TABLE A: OFFENCES BY PLAYERS (including substitutes)

OFFENCE CODE		OFFENCE DESCRIPTION	GRADING GUIDELINES	INCIDENCE	PARTICIPANT SANCTION	
Red Card	GRADING				SUSPENSION (Minimum)	SUSPENSION (Maximum)
R1	01-01	Serious foul play <i>(Typically, but not limited to, tackles or challenges on an opponent with the ball)</i>	Serious foul play tackle or challenge	First	MMS	24 months
	01-02			Second & subsequent	MMS + 1 Fixture	
	02-01		Attempting to gain possession of the ball using excessive force	First	MMS + 1 Fixture	24 months
	02-02			Second & subsequent	MMS + 2 Fixtures	
	03-01		Conduct that endangers the safety of an opponent in a contest for the ball or has the potential to cause injury	First	MMS + 2 Fixtures	24 months
	03-02			Second & subsequent	MMS + 3 Fixtures	
	04-01		Conduct causing minor injury	First	MMS +4 Fixtures	24 months
	04-02			Second & subsequent	MMS + 5 Fixtures	
	05-01		Conduct causing serious injury	First	MMS + 6 Fixtures	24 months
	05-02			Second & subsequent	MMS + 10 Fixtures	
R2	01-01	Violent conduct <i>(Typically, but not limited to, the use or attempted use of excessive force against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a teammate, Club Official, Team Official, Match Official or Spectator)</i>	Excessive force	First	MMS	24 months
	01-02			Second & subsequent	MMS + 1 Fixture	
	02-01		Violent conduct	First	MMS + 3 Fixtures	24 months
	02-02			Second & subsequent	MMS + 5 Fixtures	
	03-01		Serious and/or premeditated violent conduct	First	MMS + 6 Fixtures	24 months
	03-02			Second & subsequent	MMS + 8 Fixtures	
	04-01		Serious violent conduct that has caused bodily harm or responsibility for a Melee (Grade 2)	First	MMS + 12 Fixtures	24 months
	04-02			Second & subsequent	MMS + 20 Fixtures	

R3	01-01	Spitting at an opponent or any other person	Causing spittle to land on an opponent or any other person (e.g. by "blowing a raspberry")	<i>First</i>	MMS +2 Fixtures	24 months
	01-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 4 Fixtures	
	02-01		Spitting at or towards an opponent or any other person	<i>First</i>	MMS + 4 Fixtures	24 months
	02-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 8 Fixtures	
	03-01		Spitting on an opponent or any other person	<i>First</i>	MMS + 8 Fixtures	24 months
	03-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 16 Fixtures	
R4	01-01	Denying goal scoring opportunity	Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (except a goalkeeper within their penalty area)	<i>First</i>	MMS	MMS
	01-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS	
R5	01-01	Denying goal scoring opportunity	Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the opponent's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	<i>First</i>	MMS	MMS
	01-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS	
R6	01-01	Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or gestures	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures in frustration	<i>First</i>	MMS	24 months
	01-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 1 Fixture	
	02-01		Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures directed at or towards another person	<i>First</i>	MMS + 1 Fixtures	24 months
	02-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 3 Fixtures	
	03-01		Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures directed at or towards another person	<i>First</i>	MMS + 4 Fixtures	24 months
	03-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 8 Fixtures	
	04-01		Threatening or intimidating language and/or conduct directed at or towards another person	<i>First</i>	MMS + 4 Fixtures	24 months
	04-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 8 Fixtures	
	05-01		Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures	<i>First</i>	MMS + 6 Fixtures	24 months
	05-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 14 Fixtures	
	06-01		Threat of physical violence directed at or towards another person or their family or property	<i>First</i>	MMS + 8 Fixtures	24 months
	06-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 16 Fixtures	
R7	01-01	Second caution or receiving two Temporary Dismissals in the same match	Second Yellow Card in a Match	<i>First</i>	MMS	MMS
	01-02			<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS	

*R6 suspension or penalties can be added to any other Red Card Code.

* Where the Offence giving rise to the Red Card was committed against a Match Official, the applicable Minimum and Maximum Suspensions are those set out in Table B.

TABLE B: OFFENCES BY PARTICIPANTS (players, team officials, club officials, spectators, media) AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS

OFFENCE CODE	OFFENCE DESCRIPTION	INCIDENCE	PARTICIPANT SANCTION	
			SUSPENSION <i>(Minimum)</i>	SUSPENSION <i>(Maximum)</i>
01-01	Fail to abide by or comply with a direction of a Match Official	<i>First</i>	MMS	24 months
01-02		<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 1 Fixture	
02-01	Disputing a decision of a Match Official, engaging in dissent or displaying unsportsmanlike or unprofessional behaviour <i>[R6 for Players]</i>	<i>First</i>	MMS	24 months
02-02		<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 1 Fixture	
03-01	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures in frustration <i>[R6 for Players]</i>	<i>First</i>	MMS	24 months
03-02		<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 2 Fixtures	
04-01	Use offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (isolated incident) <i>[R6 for Players]</i>	<i>First</i>	MMS + 3 Fixtures	24 months
04-02		<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 5 Fixtures	
05-01	Use offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (repeated and/or excessive conduct) <i>[R6 for Players]</i>	<i>First</i>	MMS + 5 Fixtures	24 months
05-02		<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 7 Fixtures	
06-01	Indecent gestures <i>[R6 for Players]</i>	<i>First</i>	MMS + 6 Fixtures	24 months
06-02		<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 10 Fixtures	
07-01	Provocation or incitement of hatred or violence <i>[R6 for Players]</i>	<i>First</i>	MMS + 8 Fixtures	24 months
07-02		<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 12 Fixtures	
08-01	Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures <i>[R6 for Players]</i>	<i>First</i>	MMS + 10 Fixtures	24 months
08-02		<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 12 Fixtures	
09-01	Threatening or intimidating language or conduct towards a Match Official <i>[R6 for Players]</i>	<i>First</i>	MMS + 11 Fixtures	24 months
09-02		<i>Second & subsequent</i>	MMS + 15 Fixtures	
10-01	Threat of physical violence towards a Match Official or his/her family or property <i>[R6 for Players]</i>	<i>First</i>	12 months	24 months
10-02		<i>Second & subsequent</i>	2 years	

11-01	Inappropriate contact with a Match Official <i>[R2 for Players]</i>	First	MMS + 3 Fixtures	24 months
11-02		Second & subsequent	MMS + 5 Fixtures	
12-01	Pushing a Match Official <i>[R2 for Players]</i>	First	12 months	Life
12-02		Second & subsequent	2 years	
13-01	Tripping a Match Official <i>[R2 for Players]</i>	First	12 months	Life
13-02		Second & subsequent	2 years	
14-01	Striking a Match Official with a ball or other object <i>[R2 for Players]</i>	First	12 months	Life
14-02		Second & subsequent	2 years	
15-01	Punching, kicking, elbowing or striking a Match Official <i>[R2 for Players]</i>	First	2 years	Life
15-02		Second & subsequent	4 years	
16-01	Causing spittle to land on a Match Official (e.g. by "blowing a raspberry") <i>[R3 for Players]</i>	First	6 months	Life
16-02		Second & subsequent	12 months	
17-01	Spitting at or towards a Match Official <i>[R3 for Players]</i>	First	12 months	Life
17-02		Second & subsequent	2 years	
18-01	Spitting on a Match Official <i>[R3 for Players]</i>	First	2 years	Life
18-02		Second & subsequent	4 years	

Note: For any other offences by members, Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations 2025 will be referred to. [2025-Football-NSW-Grievance-and-Disciplinary-Regulations.pdf](#)

34.6 Team Officials – Mandatory Match Suspension:

A referee may take action against a Team Official who fails to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may expel the Team Official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the technical area.

A Team Official who has been expelled from the field of play or technical area by a referee must serve a mandatory one (1) fixture suspension.

Clubs may be fined up to \$250 if any of their Team Officials are found to have entered either the field of play or technical area whilst suspended (See 20 (S))

34.7 Abandoned Matches – Cautions and Send Offs:

A yellow card issued during an abandoned match will be annulled if that match is replayed and upheld if that match is not replayed.

A red card issued during an abandoned match will be upheld, regardless of whether the match is replayed or not.

34.8 Use of Video Evidence:

The admissibility and weight to be given to electronic, audio and visual evidence in any proceedings shall be at the discretion of the Match Review Committee, General Purposes Tribunal or Appeals Tribunal hearing the matter.

Video evidence must be provided to the board prior to 10:00 AM the day after the fixture to be eligible for review.

34.9 Application of Fixture versus Time Suspensions:

- i) Suspensions in terms of fixtures apply only to the style of football in which they were received (11 – a – side or Futsal etc).
- ii) Suspensions in terms of time (e.g.: months) apply to all types of football (11 – a – side or Futsal etc).
- iii) For competitions in 2024, suspensions will be regarded as a number of fixtures unless otherwise specified. When there are multiple matches on any one (1) day (i.e., a round robin competition) then these matches will be regarded as one (1) fixture.
- iv) Where a club has two (2) or more teams in the same grade then the suspension has to be served in the team that the player/official received the suspension.

34.10 Send Offs for Over 35 players in Youth Grade:

If an Over 35 player in Youth Grade is suspended for an R1/R2/R3/R6 offence then that player is not eligible to play in Youth Grade for the remainder of the season.

35. MEDIA COMMENT

- (A) Clubs and/or Club Officials must not make derogatory or detrimental comment(s) to the media about the HSA or the performance of Match Officials. Any such complaints in the first instance should be made on the prescribed form “Grievance/Protest Notification” (HSA 005).

- (B) Players, officials and club/team associates must adhere to the FNSW Social Media Policy and any relevant HSA Policies. (Refer to <https://footballnsw.com.au/media/social-media-policy/>)

36. PRIVATE ACADEMIES

- (A) No member club of the Highlands Soccer Association, (or any individual club team), is to establish, participate in, endorse or recommend any private academy or other external provider of football services except with the permission of the HSA Board.
- (B) Should a Club, (or team), be found to breach Rule 36 (A) then that club may face sanctions.

37. MERCY RULE

- (A) The Mercy Rule is applicable to the following competitions
- Mini Roos (U6-U11)
 - Women's Midweek competition AAW 9s
 - Men's Midweek competition O35s
- (B) When a team scores its ninth (9th) goal, the match is officially concluded. Teams may continue playing for the remainder of the scheduled time in a mutually agreed modified format, such as:
- Reducing the number of players on the winning team
 - Allowing additional players for the opposing team
 - Rotating player positions
 - Emphasising team development (e.g., playing out from the back, every player must touch the ball before shooting at goal)

The intent is to uphold sportsmanship, encourage inclusive participation, and foster a positive football experience for all.

38. GENERAL MEETINGS

- (C) HSA shall publish all meeting dates at the start of the competition year.
- (D) All clubs are to have at least one (1) representative at each general meeting and the AGM. Clubs will be fined for non-attendance according to 20 (J).
- (E) An HSA Board member cannot be one of the club representatives.

~~~ End of Document – Appendices attached ~~~

**HSA Board**

|                                                                                    |                         |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| President<br>Previously - Chairman                                                 | chairman@hsa.org.au     | 0415 366 669 |
| Vice President                                                                     | vpresident@hsa.org.au   |              |
| Secretary<br>Previously -Director of Records, Competition Integrity and Governance | dir.records@hsa.org.au  | 0417 727 240 |
| Competitions Secretary<br>Previously - Director of Competitions                    | dir.comps@hsa.org.au    |              |
| Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)                                       | admin@hsa.org.au        |              |
| Treasurer<br>Previously - Director of Finance                                      | dir.finance@hsa.org.au  |              |
| HFC Representative<br>Previously - Director of HFC                                 | admin@hsa.org.au        |              |
| Referees Coordinator<br>Previously - Director of Referees                          | dir.referees@hsa.org.au |              |
| Football Development                                                               | admin@hsa.org.au        |              |
| Women and Girls Football Development                                               | dir.women@hsa.org.au    |              |
| Communications and Media<br>Previously - Director of Media                         | dir.records@hsa.org.au  |              |

**HSA Competition Committee**

|                                                                                    |                        |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Competitions Secretary<br>Previously - Director of Competitions                    | dir.comps@hsa.org.au   |  |
| Secretary<br>Previously -Director of Records, Competition Integrity and Governance | dir.records@hsa.org.au |  |

## Resources

### 1. Policies, Procedures and Rules

(refer to the HSA website [www.hsa.org.au](http://www.hsa.org.au))

### 2. Forms

|         |                                                          |                                                                                             |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HSA 001 | Team Nomination Form                                     | <a href="https://form.jotform.co/83387373693875">https://form.jotform.co/83387373693875</a> |
| HSA 002 | Change of Fixture Application                            | <a href="https://form.jotform.co/90837688333873">https://form.jotform.co/90837688333873</a> |
| HSA 003 | Application for Dispensation to Play Above Age Group     | <a href="https://form.jotform.co/90828206492865">https://form.jotform.co/90828206492865</a> |
| HSA 004 | Application for Assessment to Play Above Age Group       | <a href="https://form.jotform.co/90897370019868">https://form.jotform.co/90897370019868</a> |
| HSA 005 | Grievance / Protest Notification                         | <a href="https://form.jotform.co/90857311036858">https://form.jotform.co/90857311036858</a> |
| HSA 006 | Appeal of Fine                                           | <a href="https://form.jotform.co/90899121442864">https://form.jotform.co/90899121442864</a> |
| HSA 007 | Ground Official Incident Report                          | <a href="https://form.jotform.co/90857379319876">https://form.jotform.co/90857379319876</a> |
| HSA 008 | Application for Dispensation to Play in the Final Series | <a href="https://form.jotform.co/92307978355873">https://form.jotform.co/92307978355873</a> |
| HSA 009 | Regrade Request                                          | <a href="https://form.jotform.co/90851323912858">https://form.jotform.co/90851323912858</a> |
| HSA 010 | Disciplinary Appeal                                      | <a href="https://form.jotform.co/92508029042856">https://form.jotform.co/92508029042856</a> |

## **The Role of the Ground Official**

### **The Ground Official should:**

- Wear a high visibility 'Officials' vest to identify yourself.
- Assist in the control of the spectators.
- Assist the match officials in any way when requested.
- Try to ensure the HSA Codes of Conduct are adhered to.
- Ensure the safety of players.
- Ensure the safety of spectators.
- Ensure the safety of match officials.
- Complete and submit relevant reports as directed by the HSA Board.
- Assist with complaints.
- At all Junior matches – ask people drinking alcohol to stop or leave the venue to drink (the greater distance of beyond the venue fence line or 30m from the playing field /amenities).

### **What a Ground Official Does NOT do: -**

- Try to control angry spectators.
- Get into situations where injury may occur.
- Get involved in dangerous situations.

### **Helpful hints:**

- By the time a Ground Official is required, a situation is usually inflamed. Try to be aware of the feelings of the crowd and react early to stop poor behaviour before it escalates.
- When addressing spectators and volunteers remind them of the damage they do to their Club's reputation and the reputation of football.
- Make yourself aware of the Codes of Conduct.
- Report any incident to your Club Secretary on the day of the incident and if necessary, complete the prescribed form "Ground Official Incident Report" (HSA 007).
- Ground Officials are not the police. Some behaviour, such as drinking alcohol, is against the Law and Council regulations, not just our rules. Whilst we ask you remind anyone drinking that it is illegal to do so, we do not expect you to make them stop. If you think their behaviour is declining due to alcohol consumption, call the police.
- Stay safe – try to keep yourself safe.

### **Complaints:**

- People who complain do so because they think they have a genuine problem. Not dealing with the original issue will likely manifest itself later and can easily lead to Sport Rage.
- Offer the prescribed form "Grievance/Protest Notification" (HSA 005) to people to write any complaint or perceived problem. Refer complaints to the correct person and tell the complainant that their complaint will be dealt with.

## **All Age Player Awards**

Points will be tallied for All Age Men Premier League (PL1), All Age Women Premier League (PL1), All Age Men Reserve Grade (PL2), All Age Women Reserve Grade (PL2), All Age Men Highlands League and Youth Grade teams.

Points will be tallied for the **competition rounds only**.

### **(A) Golden Gloves Award**

Goal keepers (clearly marked shirt No.1 or GK on the team sheet) will receive one (1) point for every match in which the score for their team is zero (0). If a team's goalkeeper is changed during the match and the score for their team is zero (0) then each goalkeeper will receive a point.

The winner in each grade will be the/those players with the highest accumulated points at the conclusion of the competition.

### **(B) Golden Boot Award**

This will be awarded to the highest goal scorer in each grade.

### **(C) Player of The Year Award**

The voting method for the Player of the Year will be determined by the HSA Competition Committee.

## Final Series Configurations for Wet Weather

**Note: This is based on a 3 week final series.**

| Week 1           | Week 2           | Week 3 - GF      | Week 4 - Reserve        | Determined Outcome                                     |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Play Semi Finals | Play Final       | Play Grand Final |                         |                                                        |
| Play Semi Finals | Play Final       | Wash Out         | Play Grand Final        |                                                        |
| Play Semi Finals | Play Final       | Wash Out         | Wash Out                | Grand Final Winner:<br>Highest ranked winner Week<br>1 |
| Play Semi Finals | Wash Out         | Play Final       | Play Grand Final        |                                                        |
| Play Semi Finals | Wash Out         | Wash Out         | No Play                 | Grand Final Winner:<br>Highest ranked winner Week<br>1 |
| Play Semi Finals | Wash Out         | Play Final       | Wash Out                | Grand Final Winner:<br>Highest ranked winner Week<br>1 |
| Wash Out         | Play semi finals | Play Grand Final |                         |                                                        |
| Wash Out         | Play Semi Finals | Wash Out         | Play Grand Final        |                                                        |
| Wash Out         | Play Semi Finals | Wash Out         | Wash Out                | Grand Final Winner:<br>Highest ranked winner Week<br>2 |
| Wash Out         | Wash Out         | Play semi finals | Play Grand Final        |                                                        |
| Wash Out         | Wash Out         | Play semi finals | Wash Out                | Grand Final Winner:<br>Highest ranked winner Week<br>3 |
| Wash Out         | Wash Out         | Wash Out         | Play Grand Final<br>1v2 |                                                        |
| Wash Out         | Wash Out         | Wash Out         | Wash Out                | Grand Final Winner:<br>Minor Premier                   |

## **Wet Weather: Guidelines for Assessing Playing Fields**

The following measures are to be used as a guide to assist clubs and referees in deciding whether grounds are not fit for safe play:

### **1. Surface water:**

Competition matches must be cancelled if there is substantial surface water visible on the field. The only exception to this would be if the area affected was small (less than 2 to 5m<sup>2</sup>), in a low usage/wear area, the rest of the ground was firm, and no other issues such as ground softness and poor grass cover were evident. Surface water means that the ground has reached saturation point and will be damaged very quickly if played on.

### **2. Ground softness:**

Competition matches must be cancelled if there is any sinking into the field when walking on it and it does not bounce back or, if when standing still/walking, water rises to the surface. The only exception to this would be if the only area affected was small (less than 2 to 5m<sup>2</sup>), in a low usage/wear area and the rest of the field was firm (and poor grass cover was not an additional issue.) Water rising to the surface when walking on it means that the ground has reached saturation point and will be damaged very quickly if played on.

### **3. Amount of rainfall:**

Rainfall leading into match day should be used to guide decisions. If it has rained heavily or consistently leading up to match day, then this should aid the decision to be made. Some grounds will take rain all week and be fine on the weekend while other grounds will have no rain all week, rain the night before an event and will need to be cancelled. Clubs and referees should take into consideration the rainfall during the week, the night before, the forecast for match day and, where applicable, the day after when making decisions.

### **4. Soil profile and drainage:**

Some fields naturally drain better than others; this has to do with the soil profile below the surface. Sand based fields or deep coal wash drain quicker and more effectively than those on natural ground. Clubs and referees should have a good idea of the drainage and amount of rainfall these grounds can take, and this should be considered when making decisions.

### **5. Grass cover:**

During the winter season grass cover can often get below 80% and be fine for play during dry weather. However, during wet weather, if overall grass cover is below 80% then this ground is likely to wear more substantially if played on. If a decision is made to play on wet ground with low grass cover, then this may cause irreparable damage to the ground.

### **6. Amount of activity:**

Once all the above is assessed final consideration is to be given to how many matches the field will safely be able to host on match day.

## APPENDIX G – ADDITIONAL RULES U12 COMPETITIONS

### (A) IFAB – LAWS OF THE GAME

All Under 12 games will be played under the IFAB Laws of the Game with some modified rules as outlined below.

### (B) FIELD

a) The field of play shall be 65m-70m long, width 45m-50m.

b) Penalty Area: 10m deep and 20m wide.

c) Goals size 5m v 2m goals.

d) Penalty Spot – 8m from goal line

### (C) GOALKEEPER

a) The goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area.

b) To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet, within 6 seconds. The goalkeeper is not allowed to kick or drop kick the ball directly from their hands.

c) Opponents must be at least 10 metres outside the penalty area and cannot move inside the penalty area until the ball is in play. The ball is in play once it moves out of the penalty area or when the goalkeeper places the ball on the ground. If the opponent does not retreat and then is involved in the play, an indirect freekick shall be awarded.

### (D) GOAL KICKS

a) Goal kick from anywhere within the penalty area.

b) Opponents remain at least 10 metres outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. If the opponent does not retreat and then is involved in the play, an indirect freekick shall be awarded.

c) The ball is in play once it is kicked directly out of the penalty area or passed to a defender in the penalty area.

### (E) THROW IN

a) Throw In occurs when the ball has crossed the sideline as per IFAB Laws of the Game.

### (F) CORNER KICK

a) Corner kicks are to be taken from within the arc of the corner post. If no arc can be identified at the corner post, then ball shall be placed no more than 1 metre from the corner post.

b) Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball until it is in play.

c) The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

### (G) OFFSIDE

The offside law will apply.

### (H) FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Indirect free kicks are awarded for all acts of handball or fouls and misconduct. Opponents must be at least 5 metres away from the ball when the indirect free kick is taken. (An indirect free kick is where a goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal).

### (I) PENALTIES

For deliberate or serious acts of handball or fouls and misconduct by a player inside their penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded from an 8-metre penalty mark with only a goalkeeper in position. All other players must be outside the penalty area and be at least 5 metres behind the penalty

## APPENDIX H – FINAL SERIES OPTIONS

### (A) 4 Team Competition

| Round | Match | Title       | Teams                             |
|-------|-------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1     | 1     | Grand Final | 1 <sup>st</sup> v 2 <sup>nd</sup> |

### (B) 5 Team Competition

| Round | Match | Title       | Teams                             |
|-------|-------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1     | 1     | Semi Final  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> v 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| 2     | 2     | Grand Final | 1 <sup>st</sup> v Winner Match 1  |

### (C) Two Week Final Series (Highest Four Ranked Teams)

| Round | Match | Title        | Teams                             |
|-------|-------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1     | 1     | Semi Final 1 | 1 <sup>st</sup> v 4 <sup>th</sup> |
|       | 2     | Semi Final 2 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> v 3 <sup>rd</sup> |
| 2     | 3     | Grand Final  | Winner Match 1 v Winner Match 2   |

### (D) Three Week Final Series (Highest Four Ranked Teams)

| Round | Match | Title             | Teams                             |
|-------|-------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1     | 1     | Major Semi Final  | 1 <sup>st</sup> v 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
|       | 2     | Minor Semi Final  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> v 4 <sup>th</sup> |
| 2     | 3     | Preliminary Final | Loser Match 1 v Winner Match 2    |
| 3     | 4     | Grand Final       | Winner Match 1 v Winner Match 3   |

### (E) Three Week Final Series (Highest Six Ranked Teams – Top Two Ranked Teams Bye R1)

| Round | Match | Title                    | Teams                             |
|-------|-------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1     | 1     | Elimination Semi Final 1 | 4 <sup>th</sup> v 5 <sup>th</sup> |
|       | 2     | Elimination Semi Final 2 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> v 6 <sup>th</sup> |
| 2     | 3     | Qualifying Final 1       | 1 <sup>st</sup> v Winner Match 1  |
|       | 4     | Qualifying Final 2       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> v Winner Match 2  |
| 3     | 5     | Grand Final              | Winner Match 3 v Winner Match 4   |

### (F) Three Week Final Series (Highest Six Ranked Teams)

| Round | Match | Title                    | Teams                                                      |
|-------|-------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | 1     | Preliminary Semi Final   | 1 <sup>st</sup> v 2 <sup>nd</sup>                          |
|       | 2     | Elimination Semi Final 1 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> v 6 <sup>th</sup>                          |
|       | 3     | Elimination Semi Final 2 | 4 <sup>th</sup> v 5 <sup>th</sup>                          |
| 2     | 4     | Qualifying Final 1       | Winner Match 1 v Lowest Rank Winner of Match 2 and Match 3 |
|       | 5     | Qualifying Final 2       | Loser Match 1 v Highest Rank Winner of Match 2 and Match 3 |
| 3     | 6     | Grand Final              | Winner Match 4 v Winner Match 5                            |

## **Other Cups and Tournaments**

### **(A) Australia Cup:**

The Minor Premier of the AAM PL 1 competition for the previous Winter Competition will represent HSA in the Australia Cup.

### **(B) Pre-Season Cup:**

- The two teams in each competition to participate will be determined from the previous Winter season's standings or results as follows:
  - (i) The Minor Premiers of AAM / AAW Premier League 1 (PL1) will play the winner of the HSA AAM / AAW Premier League 1 Grand Final.  
  
If this is the same team then;
  - (ii) The Minor Premier (PL1) will play the winner of either the Noelene Munroe or Darryl Kill Cups.  
  
If this is the same team then;
  - (iii) The Minor Premier (PL1) will play the Runner Up to the Minor Premier.
  
- In order to be eligible to play, players must be registered in the FA Play Football system.

### **(C) Champion of Champions:**

- a. The date of Round 1 of the Football NSW Champion of Champions competition will be determined by FNSW. The Minor Premiers of Youth Grade, AAW Premier League (PL1) and AAM Premier League (PL1) (as well as O30 Womens, O35 Mens, O45 Mens and any other grades as determined by the HSA Competition Committee) will represent and play in the Champion of Champions competition against the minor premiers of other FNSW Associations.
  
- (ii) Where Highlands FC has teams in a junior age group corresponding to an HSA junior age group then Highlands FC may play off against the HSA Minor Premier of that age group to determine who will play in the Champion of Champions. If a HFC Junior team has no equivalent HSA Junior age group then the HFC team will represent the HSA.
  
- (iii) Teams that play in the Champion of Champions matches are required to, on match day, pay the full referee fees to the grounds canteen prior to taking the field of play.
  
- (iv) If a player is eligible to play in the Champion of Champions for both a representative team and a club team then that player is required to play for the club team.

### **(D) Joadja (Atkinson-Price) Cup:**

The Minor Premiers of the AAM PL1 and AAW PL1 competitions will represent the HSA in the Joadja Cup. Other teams may also represent the HSA as determined by the HSA Board.

**Playing Information**

| Age Group                 | No. of Players                                                                                                  | Size of Ball | Duration         | Half Time  |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>MiniRoos</b>           |                                                                                                                 |              |                  |            |
| U6 – U7                   | 4-a-side<br>Max 4 substitutes<br>No goalkeeper<br>Min. no. of players to start - 2<br>Max no. on team sheet - 8 | 3            | 20 mins each way | Min 5 mins |
| U8 – U9                   | 7-a-side<br>Max 5 substitutes<br>Min. no. of players to start - 4<br>Max no. on team sheet - 12                 | 3            | 20 mins each way | Min 5 mins |
| U10 – U11                 | 9-a-side<br>Max 5 substitutes<br>Min. no. of players to start - 6<br>Max no. on team sheet - 14                 | 4            | 25 mins each way | Min 5 mins |
| <b>Junior Competition</b> |                                                                                                                 |              |                  |            |
| U12                       | 9-a-side<br>Max 5 substitutes<br>Min. no. of players to start - 6<br>Max no. on team sheet - 14                 | 4            | 25 mins each way | 5 mins     |
| U13                       | 11-a-side<br>Max 5 substitutes<br>Min. no. of players to start - 7<br>Max no. on team sheet - 16                | 4            | 35 mins each way | 10 mins    |
| U14                       | 11-a-side<br>Max 5 substitutes<br>Min. no. of players to start - 7<br>Max no. on team sheet - 16                | 5            | 35 mins each way | 10 mins    |
| U15                       | 11-a-side<br>Max 5 substitutes<br>Min. no. of players to start - 7<br>Max no. on team sheet - 16                | 5            | 35 mins each way | 10 mins    |
| U16                       | 11-a-side<br>Max 5 substitutes<br>Min. no. of players to start - 7<br>Max no. on team sheet - 16                | 5            | 40 mins each way | 10 mins    |
| <b>Senior Competition</b> |                                                                                                                 |              |                  |            |
| Youth                     | 11-a-side<br>Max 5 substitutes<br>Min. no. of players to start - 7<br>Max no. on team sheet - 16                | 5            | 45 mins each way | 10 mins    |
| AA Women<br>AA Men        | 11-a-side<br>Max 5 substitutes<br>Min. no. of players to start - 7<br>Max no. on team sheet - 16                | 5            | 45 mins each way | 10 mins    |
| AAM/AAW<br>Midweek        | 9-a-side<br>Max 5 substitutes<br>Min. no. of players to start - 6<br>Max no. on team sheet - 14                 | 5            | 35 mins each way | 10 mins    |

