

NORTH QUEENSLAND FOOTBALL

2016

Senior Competition Rules

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1 PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND BODIES

- (a) Any club wishing to participate in the game of football under the control of North Queensland Football Ltd must be duly affiliated in accordance with the Constitution.
- (b) If a club is un-financial with North Queensland Football Ltd at the closing date of nominations, North Queensland Football Ltd will not accept the Club's nominations unless exceptional circumstances exist.
- (c) All official club correspondence shall be on club letterhead or in the form of an email from the nominated club representative.

1.1 AFFILIATION

Affiliation fees are determined by North Queensland Football Ltd from time to time. Any club, affiliating with North Queensland Football Ltd shall pay the prescribed fees and provide particulars of the uniform of its teams for affiliation purposes. Upon affiliation, the uniform of any affiliated club becomes the property of such club and shall not be worn by any other club.

2 PLAYER & TEAM OFFICIAL REGISTRATION

- (a) All registrations must be lodged via the My Football Club online process by the player (or parent and/or legal guardian if the player is under 18 years of age) or team official and shall be accepted by the affiliated club desiring their registration.
- (b) Any player not registered as per current National Registration Regulations and accepted by their club via the My Football Club online process is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in any North Queensland Football competition.
- (c) Any team official not registered and accepted by their club via the My Football Club online process is considered unregistered and will not be permitted in the technical area of a fixture held by North Queensland Football Ltd.
- (d) A player must de-register with one club and re-register with the other club via the My Football Club process. Players must not play for a club and a club shall not play a player, until that club has accepted their registration via the My Football Club process.
- (e) All competition coaches, managers and other team officials must be registered, as per the Football Queensland regulations, via the My Football Club program prior to the commencement of the official competition season or before participating in a fixture.
- (f) De-registration fees and refund policy will be in accordance with Football Queensland guidelines.

3 COMPETITIONS

- (a) North Queensland Football Ltd will call for nominations in the divisions as outlined below, however competitions may vary dependent on the number of nominations received for each division. Competitions will be gender specific as determined by North Queensland Football Ltd.

North Queensland Football Ltd may conduct the below competitions (included but not limited to), which shall comprise of a complete fixture competition on a home and away basis, other rounds as deemed appropriate and a final series competition.

The composition of each division will be determined based on nominations received.

- Men's Premier League
 - Men's Reserve Division
 - Men's Second Division
 - Men's Third Division
 - Colts (U18 Men)
 - Women's Premier League
 - Women's Reserve Division
 - Fillies (U18 Women)
- (d) All clubs that nominate a Men's Premier League team must also nominate a Reserve Division team. Similarly, all clubs that nominate a Men's Reserve Division team must also nominate a Men's Premier League. The following shall apply to the respective competitions, including finals, in regards to player substitution or interchange:
 - i. Premier and Reserve Men's Competitions - Each team can make up to three (3) substitutions in

- any given fixture, with no more than five (5) substitutes permitted to be named on the Team Sheet.
- ii. Men's Second and Third Divisions, all Women's and Youth Competitions - Each team can make a maximum of 6 interchanges at any time during the match with no more than five (5) interchange players to be named on the team sheet. In the case of final series matches going into extra time - an additional two (2) interchanges can be made during the period of extra time.
- (e) A club cannot nominate more than 1 team in the above competitions unless that Club has a team competing in all eligible Divisions (E.g. A Club cannot nominate 2 x Second Division teams if they do not have a Third Division team or 2 x Women's Reserve Division unless they have a Women's Premier League team as well)
 - (f) There is no obligation for North Queensland Football to accept late nominations however, North Queensland Football may choose to accept a late nomination from a club should it be for a competition that requires additional teams to participate. North Queensland Football may choose to charge a late nomination fee for such nomination.
 - (g) No team will be registered in a competition unless a minimum of 7 players are registered in a team and the player's registration has been accepted by the Club. Such players must be eligible for the nominated team and only be registered in one team.
 - (g) The leading team at the end of the last round of fixtures in all divisions shall be declared Premiers of their respective division.
 - (h) The four leading teams at the end of the last round shall play a final series as outlined in Rule 10.
 - (i) North Queensland Football may, from time to time, also schedule other competitions within the zone. Rules for these competitions shall be set prior to the commencement of any competition.
 - (j) North Queensland Football will accept nominations from local based NPL club for competitions as deemed appropriate by Football Queensland and club's technical director.

All Clubs are to provide North Queensland Football Ltd with a colour photograph of their current playing strips (shirt, shorts and socks) and a colour photograph of an alternative strip(s). All first named Clubs in the draw will be deemed the "Home" team and therefore will play in their nominated home strips. In the event there is a clash of colours with the visiting team, it will be the responsibility of the visiting team to change into their alternative strip.

3.1 FIXTURES

- (a) North Queensland Football Ltd will conduct competitions for its affiliated clubs to play in all divisions and in such manner as North Queensland Football Ltd sees fit.
- (b) All matches shall be 45 minute halves in duration with a 10-minute half time break. After normal time the appointed Referee may add on Injury / Stoppage Time as he/she sees fit. The Match Official has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.
- (c) All matches shall commence within fifteen (15) minutes of the stipulated commencement time.

3.2 POINTS

- (a) In all competition fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

WIN	Three (3) Points
DRAW	One (1) Point
LOSS	Nil (0) Points
BYE	Nil (0) Points
- (b) If, at the end of the competition, teams are equal on points then goal differences will be taken into account in determining:

- i. North Queensland Football Ltd Premiers
- ii. The four teams eligible for the semi-finals in each division.

3.3 GOAL DIFFERENCE

In cases where goal differences apply, the manner in which they will be derived shall be:

- (a) Number of goals FOR minus the number of goals AGAINST.
- (b) The highest resultant figure from such calculation shall be deemed to have the best goal differences and shall take precedence in determining positions.
- (c) In the event of teams being equal on goal differences so determined, the team having scored the highest number of goals FOR the season shall take precedence in determining team positions.
- (d) In the event of teams being equal on goal differences so determined, and being equal in relation to the highest number of goals scored FOR the season, then such teams shall be separated by results played in the fixture round when they played each other;
 - if the number of points is equal, then the team with the superior goal difference from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team;
 - if the goal difference and goals FOR are equal, then the team that scored the most away goals from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team.

4 DRAWS

- (a) North Queensland Football Ltd shall be empowered to develop and determine the fixtures as it deems fit and in the best interests of North Queensland Football and the game. Such fixtures shall be developed and made available to all clubs as soon as practical after the close of nominations. Clubs will be consulted in relation to the draw and where possible, preferences as to home games will be provided. North Queensland Football Ltd will ensure all teams play every other team in the same competition an equal amount of times.
- (b) All fixtures shall belong to and the copyright therein be deemed to be vested in North Queensland Football Ltd. The team listed first in the draw shall be the home team for that fixture.
- (c) Any application for the departure from fixture(s) and/or venue changes must be made in writing at least (15) fifteen working days prior to the scheduled match. Each request will be determined on its merits. North Queensland Football Ltd's decision and possible rescheduling of fixture(s) will be final.
- (d) Any other applications for changes to the draw shall only be considered by North Queensland Football Ltd if it believes that reasonable circumstances exist.
- (e) Decisions by North Queensland Football Ltd are final and North Queensland Football Ltd reserves the right to amend, change or otherwise alter any draw or fixture at any time.
- (f) North Queensland Football Ltd shall be empowered to enter into agreements to arrange fixtures, either interstate or intrastate, bearing in mind at all times the standing of the Zone, State and National Authority in such matters and the interests of the members and affiliated clubs of the Zone.
- (g) Where an affiliated club has two or more teams competing in the same division, a player can only play in a team but not both teams.
- (h) Clubs shall not compete in a match unless sanctioned by North Queensland Football Ltd.

5 FORFEITS

- (a) In the event a team is not ready to commence the fixture **within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time**, the match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team and the points will be awarded to the opposing team. With regards to the Frank Farina Cup (Fury Competition) a forfeit will also result in a 3-point penalty in the NQ Football competition as well as the monetary fine of \$500.
- (b) Should any team claim such a forfeit the completed official Team Sheet, signed by the appointed Match Official, or a club official, if a Match Official is not appointed, noting the circumstances of the non-playing of the fixture must be provided to North Queensland Football Ltd

- (c) Where a player is listed on the team sheet, where the match was forfeited by the opposition, then the fixture shall count towards the player's tally of matches played in that division.
- (d) In the event of a forfeit a \$500 fine will be imposed automatically to all forfeits. Upon receipt of payment of the fine, North Queensland Football Ltd will credit the account of the opposition club \$250.
- (e) In the event referees attend a match to officiate and it is forfeited, fines equivalent to the referee's fees will also be awarded against the offending Club.
- (f) Any club which forfeits more than three (3) matches in any one division will be required to attend a show cause hearing as to why the team should not be withdrawn from the competition immediately and club fined accordingly.
- (g) The offending club may also be subject to further disciplinary action by North Queensland Football Ltd.
- (h) North Queensland Football Ltd will not accept a club signifying its intent to not play other club sides from the commencement of the season as a notice of forfeit.
- (i) Any club that refuses to play or walk-offs from a game will be cited to appear before North Queensland Football Ltd to show cause why it should not be subject to a fine or suspension from the competition for the remainder of the season.

6 TEAM WITHDRAWALS AND LATE NOMINATIONS

- (a) Should a club, having nominated a team for competition and such team is accepted by North Queensland Football Ltd, then elect to withdraw that team prior to two (2) weeks before the commencement of the competition, that club **will be** fined to a minimum of \$1000. Acceptance of a team is determined by its inclusion in any draft draw.
- (b) Should a club withdraw an accepted team after two (2) weeks of the commencement of the competition, that club **will be** fined to a minimum of \$1500. Acceptance of a team is determined by its inclusion in any draft draw.
- (c) In both cases mentioned above any nomination fee is forfeited on withdrawal of a team.
- (d) Late nominations may be accepted by North Queensland Football Ltd however in addition to the nomination fee, that club **will be** fined to a minimum of \$1000.
- (e) In determining a penalty North Queensland Football Ltd will take into account all circumstances surrounding the withdrawal or late nomination of a team.

7 POSTPONED MATCHES

- (a) Matches may only be postponed by North Queensland Football Ltd
- (b) North Queensland Football Ltd reserves the right to reschedule all postponed matches on any day, time and place as it deems appropriate. Consultations between the affected Club shall occur but ultimately the decision rests with North Queensland Football Ltd.

8 ABANDONED MATCHES

- (a) If, through adverse weather conditions or other Acts of God, all fixtures are not played on a particular day/night, all matches will be replayed. If a single match is abandoned through any cause, discretionary power as to the award of points, replay or penalty shall be determined by North Queensland Football Ltd
- (b) The result of any match which does not reach it's natural conclusion for any reason outlined in the Laws of the Game (Law 5) shall be decided by North Queensland Football Ltd either by allocation of points according to the result of the game at the time of stoppage or by ordering a full replay.
- (c) North Queensland Football Ltd reserves the right to determine the match result if it is satisfied that one (or both) of the competing teams, its players, officials, members or supporters were directly responsible for the abandonment of the fixture. This includes the abandonment of a match due to a team having less than seven (7) players in an 11 a side match. If the allegation is proven, North Queensland Football Ltd may decide to direct any of the following outcomes:
 - the match be recorded as "NO RESULT"
 - the match be recorded as 0-0 draw

- the match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the score at the time of abandonment was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team
 - impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club, player(s) and official(s).
- (d) Replay requests must be made in writing within three (3) working days of the match being abandoned. The decision of North Queensland Football Ltd regarding the request for a replay shall be final. North Queensland Football shall take into consideration the following factors when considering a request for a replay:
- reasons why the match was abandoned
 - result of the match at the time of abandonment
 - the impact on the final league standing of a fixture
 - the impact on the finals series of a finals match

9 DIVISIONS

North Queensland Football Ltd shall create divisions and competitions according to nominations received. North Queensland Football reserves the right to allocate teams to competitions as deemed necessary for the betterment of the game and/or competition.

9.1 TEAMS

- (a) To register a team, each club must name a minimum of seven (7) players per team (as per rule 3.4), such nomination to be received by North Queensland Football Ltd no later than the prescribed deadline via the My Football Club program. Each player can only be nominated in one (1) team.
- (b) Clubs can nominate teams in divisions as they see fit, however the final decision will be approved by North Queensland Football Ltd
- (c) A Club who plays in their team, four (4) or more players who have participated in the two (2) immediately prior consecutive fixture matches in a higher North Queensland Football Ltd division, shall be deemed guilty of stacking that team. Such players shall be deemed ineligible. The match shall be awarded to the opponents with the goals recorded 3 - 0 in their opponents favour. For the purpose of determining the status of divisions:
- i. National Competition - FFA A-League deemed to be higher than National Premier League
 - ii. State Competition - National Premier League deemed to be higher than Premier League
 - iii. Premier League deemed to be higher than Reserve Division
 - iv. Reserve Division deemed to be higher than Second Division
 - v. Second Division deemed to be higher than Third Division
- (d) Ruling 9.1(c) does not apply to the youth divisions (Colts and Fillies) however this ruling does apply to the respective Women's competitions
- (e) The decisions of North Queensland Football Ltd will be final.

- (i) In the event of a match being drawn at the end of any of the finals games, then two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes extra time shall be played. If a result can't be achieved in any of the finals after extra time, then to achieve a result a penalty shoot-out shall take place.
- (j) In a penalty shoot-out, a series of five (5) penalty kicks shall be taken by each team alternatively by different kickers. The goalkeeper may be replaced at any time. All players that were on the field at full time and not actively engaging in the taking of the penalty kick shall remain on the halfway line in the centre circle. Team officials and bench players are not permitted to enter the field of play. If, after both teams have taken five kicks, each has scored the same number of goals, then the taking of kicks from the penalty spot shall continue by a different player. All eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick in the same order until such time as each has taken the same number of kicks and one team has scored a total of goals which establishes it as the winner.

11 MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Each home team must provide a ground marshal and this person must identify themselves to the referee prior to the fixtures commencing.
- (b) All teams must deposit funds into the NQ Football Referees account at the beginning of the season as advised by NQ Football Ltd. The Referees will be paid from this account using a 50/50 method between the home and away team. Eft receipts will be sent to both clubs on the Monday after the weekend fixtures. Every quarter NQ Football will provide the clubs with a statement of account. Refer point 12 (B)

11.1 HOST CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

- (c) Any club whose facilities do not meet the below requirements at least 30 minutes prior to kick off may be fined, suspended or have its home fixtures played away:
 - i. the ground is correctly marked, including the technical area;
 - ii. the ground markings (by-lines) are set a minimum of 3 meters from the playing field fence (in all directions);
 - iii. it provides suitable goal nets and corner flags safely fastened or pegged to the ground;
 - iv. it provides toilet facilities and dressing room facilities that are hygienic and clean;
 - v. it provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators;
 - vi. it provides a Referee's Room where referees can rest and leave their belongings while on the park. This area must contain seating and be secure.
- (d) Host Clubs will have substitute benches and technical areas clearly marked for all matches and will be on the side of the field opposite the crowd, where possible.
 - i. A maximum of ten (10) persons per team are permitted to be within the confines of their own technical area. They may include the coach, assistant coach, the substitutes and the trainer and/or medical staff.
 - ii. Team Official Identification Cards shall be worn and displayed at all times by the team coach, assistant/s, manager and sports trainers. Only persons with such identification or designated players as listed on the team sheets shall be permitted in the technical area.
 - iii. A team official may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match. The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area, except in special circumstances (E.g. a team sports trainer or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player).
 - iv. Team Officials are responsible for keeping all players behaving in an appropriate manner at all times before, during and after any game
 - v. All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. They must wear bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to their and their opposition's team strip.
 - vi. Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area, provided they are wearing bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to their and their opposition's team strip. When warming up, substitutes

are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.

- vii. All occupants of the technical area must behave in an appropriate manner. The Match Official has the right to expel any person from the technical area at any time as he or she sees fit. The match will not recommence until that person has left the playing field to the Match Official's satisfaction.
 - viii. Smoking or the consumption of alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence is strictly prohibited. This includes the team bench within the technical area and all of its occupants, including players, coaching staff, and officials.
- (e) Players in all competitions must appear in proper apparel in the club's registered colours, shirts or jerseys and each with different numbers, in accordance with the laws of the match. In the case of a player infringing, the Match Official shall have the power to order the offending player off the field in order to rectify their apparel or footwear. Goalkeepers must appear in a distinct colour from that registered by the goalkeeper's own club or the opposing team.
- (f) Where two clubs are participating have the same registered colours the first named team will be classed as the home team and the away team must change colours.
- (g) The home club shall provide the appointed Match Official three (3) licensed Size 5 match balls, no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of the scheduled fixture. At the conclusion of the fixture, a home Club official shall request the return of the match balls. The home club is responsible for replacing balls at the half way mark on each side of the field during a match. Referees will be responsible for the match balls that are located each side of half way at half time and full time until they are returned to the home club at the completion of the fixtures at the grounds on the day.
- (h) The total cost of Referees will be shared on 50/50 method of payment. North Queensland Football Ltd will make these payments from the Referees account all clubs have contributed to on the Monday following fixtures.
- (i) It is the responsibility of the home Club to provide at least one (1) Ground Official for all sanctioned matches, who must be clearly identifiable and visible at all times by way of uniform, official's armband or vest and must identify themselves to the appointed Match Official prior to the commencement of each match. The Ground Official cannot be a Team Official whose game is in progress. The role of the Ground Official is to ensure the progress of all scheduled matches at those grounds and be point of contact for Match Officials. If an official referee is not present, ensure that a referee is arranged by the club. If no ground official is available, the match referee should record the fact of no Ground official on both team sheets.
- Alcohol is only to be consumed in defined licensed areas at any club. North Queensland Football Ltd reserves the right to take any action or impose any penalty they deem appropriate for failure of any person to adhere to rules
- (j) Every affiliated club is responsible to North Queensland Football Ltd for the action of its players, team officials and supporters. All clubs are further required to prevent physical and verbal intimidation towards Match Officials, opposing team officials and players prior, during or at the conclusion of matches. It shall also be the responsibility of participating clubs to have suitably attired officials to ensure that adequate protection is given to Match Officials and assistants.
- (k) The results of fixtures must be conveyed to North Queensland Football Ltd, or nominated person, by the home Club as directed by North Queensland Football Ltd as follows:
- (l) Scanned/Photo of team sheet emailed to the office of North Queensland Football Ltd no later than 2 hours after the fixture has been decided. Failure to provide the match results by the required time will result in an automatic fine of \$100.00.
 - (j) Clubs wishing to host night fixtures must submit certified field lighting audits when requested to do so by North Queensland Football. Ltd Clubs will have one (1) calendar month from the date of the request to submit a certified field lighting audit. If not provided or does not meet the minimum Australian Standard night fixtures will not be granted.

11.2 TEAM SHEETS

- (a) Each team will be required to correctly complete a team sheet using Sporting Pulse.

The team list for each match must show in full the first name and last name of each and every player alongside the player's numbered shirt.

- (b) Both teams must hand their team sheets to the Match Official not less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of the game.
- (c) A team must not list more than sixteen (16) players on a team sheet for a match.
- (d) For a team to take the field, seven (7) or more eligible players must present themselves to play at the commencement of the match.
- (e) In the case of a club proven to have played an ineligible player the offending club shall forfeit the match to their opponents.
- (f) Challenging the Eligibility of a Player
 - i. On match day, any team may ask the eligibility of any opposing player.
 - ii. Should the identity of a player be challenged at any match they are involved in, the player must re-sign the Team Sheet in the presence of the Match Official. No player can refuse the request for such a signature. The Match Official should note the challenge on the Team Sheet.
 - iii. No club official shall have the power to prevent an opposition player from taking the field for any reason.
 - iv. Any club is permitted to lodge a letter of protest regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player. The protest must be in writing under club letterhead and be forwarded to North Queensland Football, within three (3) working days of the match. An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident will be undertaken immediately.
 - v. In the event that the protest is upheld, the Fines and Sanctions as deemed appropriate will apply. In the event that the protest is dismissed, then the match result will stand.

11.3 PLAYER OF THE YEAR VOTES

- (a) Player of the Year Votes
 - i. Player of the Year and other individual award votes are not recorded during finals series fixtures.
 - ii. Players that have received a red card throughout the season are ineligible for this award.
 - iii. At the end of the competition rounds, each club nominates 2 players from their team which is then added to a pool of players for that division. Each club then votes (5-4-3-2-1) from the list of players for that division, however Clubs cannot vote for their own nominees. Votes are tallied up and the winner with most votes wins.

12 MATCH OFFICIALS

- (a) Any Match Official who is also a registered player and is suspended from any match as a player shall not be eligible to act as a Match Official whilst under suspension as a player.
- (b) Match Officials shall be paid such fees as shall be from time to time determined by North Queensland Football Ltd. Both competing Clubs shall be equally responsible for the payment of fees. In the event of a forfeit, the forfeiting club is responsible for all match fees. Should the appointed match official fail to honor their appointment, then the next most senior match official will be appointed to take charge of the fixture. Failure by a Match Official to meet their appointments will result in the Referees Body being asked to show cause why the Match Official(s) should not be fined.
- (c) All Match Officials appointments will be available via Sporting Pulse with appointments to be supplied by the Referees Body to North Queensland Football Ltd by 4pm on Thursday of each playing week to ensure timely distribution to all clubs.
- (d) If a registered Match Official is unavailable, an alternative Match Official may be utilized, providing both teams approve the selected person. If both teams cannot agree, then a person should be appointed by the home team to officiate the match. In circumstances where an assistant referee has not been appointed, each team is obliged to provide a club linesperson to assist the match referee.
- (e) Any person officiating in a match shall be deemed to have the same authority as a registered Match Official to control the match.

- (f) The Match Official is responsible for ensuring the following:
- i. The team sheet and any incident report forms are complete in all aspects.
 - ii. That no more than sixteen (16) players are listed for each team.
 - iii. That Club officials sign their respective team sheets verifying the correctness therein.
 - iv. That completed team sheets, red card and incident reports are submitted to North Queensland Football Ltd by no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of the match or prior to 8am the following Tuesday morning whichever is the earlier.
 - v. All players who take the field of play are wearing equipment that is safe to themselves and any other person. All players shall wear shin-guards whilst on the field of play.
 - vi. Any player suffering an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood, that the injured player receives attention outside the field of play and only when they are satisfied that the injury or wound is safely covered and contained, will the player be permitted to rejoin the game. The Match Official will instruct any player whose uniform is splattered with blood to change their uniform before being permitted to rejoin the game.
 - vii. Clearly indicating the offence code on the team-sheet before submitting to club officials for a final sign off. A player may only appeal under Clause 11.3 of the National Disciplinary Regulations.
- (g) A Match Official should lodge a report into any incident that they believe warrants such action.
- (h) All decisions of the match referee are final and binding as far as the result of a match is concerned, and no protest can be lodged.
- (i) In extreme weather conditions, North Queensland Football Ltd or the appointed match official reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture. If the appointed match official postpones delays or abandons any fixture due to extreme weather conditions, they must outline the reasons in writing within 48 hours of the decision.
- i. All clubs, players and match officials are requested to please note the following:
 - If the temperature is 32° or above, water bottles should be made available and placed along the sidelines to enable any player to take a drink during the course of the game *and*
 - If conditions are considered extreme by the match referee, he or she has discretion to allow a two (2) minute break during the course of each half
 - ii. If the home club considers a ground inspection is required, they are to contact North Queensland Football Ltd before 8.00am on the day of the fixture to arrange an inspection.
 - iii. North Queensland Football will be responsible for the rescheduling of matches if required.
- (j) All clubs are obligated to fulfill all fixtures regardless of whether the appointed match official is present to take charge. Should any club fail or refuse to participate in any fixture, then:
- i. The match will be awarded to the opposing team (as a 3-0 result),
 - ii. The club will be fined per offence, and maybe subject to further disciplinary action,
 - iii. In the event both teams refuse to play, North Queensland Football reserves the right to award a NO RESULT, fine both clubs and impose further disciplinary action.

13 MISCONDUCT

- (a) All breaches of misconduct shall be dealt with under the National Disciplinary Regulations which is available on North Queensland Football Ltd's website. North Queensland Football Ltd reserves the right to impose penalties and sanctions as it deems appropriate.
- (b) The Codes of Conduct clearly define the behaviour expected by all parties involved, and any breach of the Codes will be dealt accordingly. Codes of Conduct are available from North Queensland Football Ltd's website.
- (c) No club, player or official shall make any statement for publication or contribute to any article or interview which might be published in any newspaper, magazine or other publication and which is or is likely to :-
- i. Reflect adversely on policy decisions of North Queensland Football Ltd, or
 - ii. Be detrimental to North Queensland Football Ltd, its member Clubs, Sponsors, or the game in general, or
 - iii. Reflect adversely on the performance of Match Officials, or
 - iv. Relate to any matter set down for hearing by, any decision of, or appeal to any Committee of Inquiry,

Disputes Committee, or other Tribunal

- (d) Players and Officials shall not:-
- i. Disobey all reasonable directions given by North Queensland Football Ltd Officials, Match Officials and Ground Officials, and
 - ii. Misbehave in public in a manner which reflects adversely on North Queensland Football Ltd, its member clubs, sponsors or the game as a whole, and
 - iii. Do anything by act or omission, which in the normal course of events is likely to incite spectators or others to violence or disorderly acts.
- (e) No affiliated club shall:-
- i. Grant approval to any member of that club to enter into any sponsorship or advertising agreements involving any company or product which conflicts with the aims and objectives of North Queensland Football Ltd or its sponsors, or
 - ii. Be obliged to grant approval to any member of that club to enter into any sponsorship or advertising agreement involving any company or product which conflicts with the aims and objectives of the club or its sponsors
- (f) North Queensland Football Ltd shall appoint suitably qualified persons to a Disciplinary Committee to deal with but not limited to:
- i. Disciplinary matters in any North Queensland Football competition
 - ii. Appeals against Additional Disciplinary Sanctions
 - iii. Misconduct reports/complaints
- North Queensland Football shall nominate alternate members to fill in when required
- (g) Decisions of the disciplinary committee and penalties for playing offences will be distributed electronically or by other nominated means to club contacts as advised to North Queensland Football Ltd
- (h) A member of the Disciplinary Committee shall not arbitrate on matters involving a member of his own Club
- (i) Quorum for the Disciplinary Committee shall be three, but in the event of Committee Members and alternates not being available the Chairman of the Committee can call upon a member of North Queensland Football to make up the Quorum
- (j) The Disciplinary Committee will conduct Hearings into
- (i) R2 Grade 4 send offs
 - (ii) R3 Grade 2 send offs
 - (iii) Other send offs as it deems appropriate
 - (iv) Appeals against Additional Disciplinary Sanctions
 - (v) Incident reports
 - (vi) Misconduct reports/ complaints
 - (vii) Appeals against penalties imposed by clubs
- (k) Persons summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee must attend either in person or by telephone. Players can write to North Queensland Football Ltd indicating that they have a valid reason for not attending and would like the charge(s) to be determined by the Committee in their absence. In this situation, the player must present their plea (guilty or not guilty) and detail their defense to the charge. If the player is not satisfied with the Committee's decision, they can lodge an appeal to the Board of Appeal
- (l) Hearings on (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) should commence no later than the 10th day after the offence and as soon as practicable for (v), (vi), and (vii).
- (m) Any party summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee will receive at least 2 working days notification prior to the hearing
- (n) All persons summonsed to appear before any Disciplinary Committee shall be afforded natural justice.
- (o) Any suspensions incurred by players in a competition shall be served consecutively, until such time as those suspensions are completed. If at the conclusion of the competition season, a player was still under suspension, the suspension will carry over and shall be served in the next fixture(s) that player would normally be eligible to play.

- (p) Where a player is eligible to play both senior and junior fixtures for the one club and is suspended in either competition they must serve their suspension in both competitions and cannot participate in either, until the suspension has been completed.
- (q) A player under suspension is not allowed to play in that or any other division, whether senior or junior, until the day after the team in which they were playing when they were given a Red Card has played the relevant number of matches for which they were suspended.
- (r) If a player or team official disputes the disciplinary committee's determination, that player or team official must provide North Queensland Football Ltd with an appeal notice within 7 days after the date on which the written determination was received, specifying the relevant facts and the reason for the dispute. A hearing will then commence within 14 days after the offence. An appeal application fee of \$250 shall accompany the appeal application which is refundable only if the appeal is upheld.
- (s) If the offender does not wish to lodge an appeal the suspension commences from the next match after the offence.
- (t) Should a player be suspended by another Competition Administrator (excluding International and Representative Teams), the player will not be permitted to play until that suspension has been served. North Queensland Football Ltd reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player.
- (u) North Queensland Football Ltd shall have the power to impose such penalty as they deem appropriate upon Clubs which they find to have brought the Code into disrepute by not playing their best teams in the appropriate divisions in which they are engaged.
- (v) North Queensland Football Ltd may take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary, which may include one or a combination of the following; a fine, loss of points, a bond, expulsion or suspension, or any other action.
- (w) Persons entitled to appear before a Disciplinary Committee Hearing are
 - (i) Summoned party accompanied by a club official
 - (ii) Players Parent or Guardian (Junior players only)
 - (iii) Summoned parties Witness
 - (iv) Appointed Match Official(s) accompanied by a Referee's Representative

14 MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) All trophies shall remain the property of North Queensland Football Ltd, and clubs holding any of these trophies shall be responsible for the preservation of those trophies and shall be responsible to restore or replace any trophy which has been damaged, mislaid, destroyed or stolen. All trophies are to be engraved and returned to North Queensland Football Ltd no later than 1 August in each year.
- (b) All clubs participating in the Men's Premier League competition will be levied \$200.00 towards a prize pool for the top four finishing teams in the men's premier league premiership. Incentives for all other Divisions will be discretionary and subject to funding. Allocation of the prize pool will be as follows:
 - 1st place 50%
 - 2nd place 25%
 - 3rd place 15%

4th place 10%

15 FINES AND SANCTIONS

- (a) Below is a schedule of fines that will be automatically imposed however North Queensland Football Ltd reserves the right to impose additional or higher penalties and sanctions as it deems appropriate.
- (b) North Queensland Football Ltd shall have the power to impose such penalties as it sees fit upon affiliated clubs which are found to have brought the game into disrepute or in breach of these rules.
- (c) During the playing season, North Queensland Football Ltd operates a "3 Zone" system in relation to caution and suspensions:
 - 1. Pre-Season and Inter City Friendlies to include all Pre-Season and authorized trial matches and Inter City friendlies.
 - 2. Fixture season to include all Premiership Fixtures and Cup games.
 - 3. Finals Series to include all Finals Series games
- (d) Minor Infringements - Yellow Card Accumulation
 - i. In Zone 1 and 3, two (2) cautions accumulated automatically means the player will be suspended for 1 match. This suspension is to take place in the next match in which this player would be involved.
 - ii. In Zone 2 a player accumulating five (5) yellow cards during the competition equates to a one (1) match suspension. A player accumulating eight (8) yellow cards during the competition equates to a two (2) match suspension. For every three yellow cards thereafter, a two (2) match suspension. For example, two (2) match suspension for 11 yellow cards and 14 yellow cards
 - iii. A player, who accumulates three (3) yellow cards during the course of the Finals Series, must serve a mandatory one (1) match suspension.
- (e) Serious Infringements - Red Card Accumulation - In addition to the standard match suspension for the relevant offence a Player who accumulates the following number of direct Red Cards during the Regular Season or Finals Series, must serve the following mandatory match suspension:
 - 1. 1st occasion, equates to a one (1) match suspension;
 - 2. 2nd occasion, equates to a two (2) match suspension;
 - 3. 3rd occasion, equates to a three (3) match suspension; and
 - 4. 4th occasion, equates to a four (4) match suspension.

Any player that is consistently a repeat offender, may be asked by the Disciplinary Committee to Show Cause why the player should not be suspended until the duration of the season, or until advised by the disciplinary committee.

A red card is regarded as indirect if it is the result of the accumulation of two (2) yellow cards in the same match.

and as direct in all other cases. Where a player receives an indirect red card, he will serve a mandatory match suspension of one (1) match. This will be served immediately in the next completion match.

- (f) A Match Official 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 by the Match Official must serve a mandatory match suspension of one (1) match.
- (g) Any player or official expelled from the match who fails to leave the field of play and return to the Club house/dressing room or who uses foul and abusive language towards the match official(s) after being expelled from the match, will incur at least an additional one (1) match suspension, in addition to any suspension handed down by the Disciplinary Committee
- (h) North Queensland Football Ltd has set the penalties as the minimum standard penalty for each offence. As minimum standard penalties they are not subject to appeal other than on the basis of a claim of mistaken identity. If a penalty greater than the minimum standard penalty is applied by the disciplinary committee, then the additional penalty only may be appealed. The standard minimum suspensions will automatically be applied to offenders. If the match official indicates that the nature of the offence committed warrants a greater or lesser penalty than the standard minimum

suspension the matter will be referred to the disciplinary committee for action.

- (i) North Queensland football has the right to incur suspended sentences on match suspensions. These suspended suspensions will be served if the player for whatever reason receives additional citations or red cards through offences or accumulation of yellow cards. These will be served immediately and run concurrently.

Offence	Club Penalty
Five Yellow Cards accumulated by a player	\$20
Eight Yellow Cards accumulated by a player	\$40
Eleven + Yellow Cards accumulated by a player	\$60
Second Red Card incurred by the same player/official	\$50
Third Red Card incurred by the same player/official	\$100
Fourth Red Card incurred by the same player/official	\$150
Non wearing of armbands/vests by ground officials	\$100
Team-sheet being incorrectly completed or incomplete	\$100
Supply of incorrect team sheet	\$100
Players wearing incorrect shirt number	\$100
Non supply of club linesman or match referee as required	\$100

Red Card Offences (Send Offs)

- a) A Player, Substitute or Substituted Player will be sent off if they commit any of the following offences:

R1 Serious foul play (when challenging for the ball)

R2 Violent Conduct (violent conduct when not challenging for the ball)

R3 Spitting at a player

R4 Denying the opposition a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (does not apply to the goal keeper within the penalty area)

R5 Denying 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

R6 Offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist

R7 Second caution in the same match

- b) A Player, substitute or substituted player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and technical area and return to the dressing room.
- c) All Players who are sent off receive a mandatory match suspension, which is not appealable except in the case of alleged mistaken identity. They may be subject to an additional disciplinary sanction depending on the offence.

Suspensions for Red Card Offences

The following Standard suspensions will apply for each offence (mandatory match suspension plus any additional disciplinary sanction).

OFFENCE	GRADE	MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSION (non-appealable)	ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY SANCTION (appealable)	TOTAL (STANDARD) SUSPENSION
R1		1 match	1 match	2 matches
R2	Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4	1 match 2 matches 2 matches 2 matches	1 match 1 match 3 matches + Review + Hearing	2 matches 3 matches 5 matches + Review 2 matches + Hearing
R3	Grade 1 Grade 2	2 matches 2 matches	5 matches + Hearing	7 matches 2 matches + Hearing
R4		1 match		1 match
R5		1 match		1 match
R6	Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4	1 match 2 matches 2 matches 2 matches	1 match 4 matches 1 match 3 matches	2 matches 6 matches 3 matches 5 matches
R7		1 match		1 match

Grading of Offences

R2	Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4	Pushing with no punches thrown Striking, kicking, elbowing or head-butting (including attempting these offences) Intends to cause significant bodily harm to any person, involvement in a brawl Against a Match Official
R3	Grade 1 Grade 2	At a Player or other person At a Match Official
R6	Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4	Against a Player or other person Discriminatory language Against a Match Official Unsporting conduct toward a Match Official

- d) TABLE 10 plus Grading's
- e) Any Player who uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/ or gestures towards any Match Officials after being sent off will incur at least an additional one match suspension
- f) Any player who fails to leave the field of play and the technical area and immediately return to the dressing room after being sent off will incur at least one additional match suspension
- g) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a Player, this does not nullify the sending off offence

Accumulation of Direct Red Cards

The following suspensions will apply for the accumulation of direct red cards in a season:

- i) Second Direct Red Card Standard + 1 additional match
- (ii) Third Direct Red Card Standard + 2 additional matches
- (iii) Fourth Direct Red Card Standard + 3 additional matches

ATTACHMENT 2

Assaults on Match Officials

North Queensland Football Limited Guidelines for Disciplinary Sanctions to be imposed for assaults on Match Officials

CATEGORY 1 OFFENCE

Deliberately striking a Match Official by way of physical contact with any part of the body or the use of any object.

Sanction:

6 months to Life suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official)

\$5000 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Sponsor)

CATEGORY 2 OFFENCE

Attempting to strike a Match Official by the way of physical contact with any part of the body or the use of an object.

Sanction:

6 months to 3 years' suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official)

\$5000 fine on the Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

CATEGORY 3 OFFENCE

Spitting at or on a Match Official

Sanction:

12 months to 18 months' suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official)

\$1000 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

CATEGORY 4 OFFENCE

Deliberate physical contact with a Match Official not covered in Category 1,2 or 3. Such conduct would include, but not limited to, deliberately pushing a Match Official.

Sanction:

- 5 matches to 2 years' suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official)

\$500 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

16 Preferred Criteria for Premier League involvement

For a Club to be involved in the Premier League competition they shall comply with the following criteria:

- 1. Field a Premier League team and a Reserve Division team**
- 2. Field a Colts team in the competition**
- 3. Provide evidence that appropriately accredited coaches are appointed to club teams & the club is accredited under the NCAS.**
- 4. Have a field that complies with North Queensland Football Ltd requirements.**
- 5. Provide changing rooms for both home and away teams. toilet facilities and referee room**
- 6. Provide an updated 5-year plan showing the direction of the Club and how they intend to grow the “game”.**
- 7. Although not essential for senior teams it is advised that a development program to grow their junior base will be considered if numerous nominations are received.**
- 8. Provide annual financials to North Qld Football Limited to show the club is financial.**