



Geraldton Midwest Soccer Association

AMENDED MARCH 2016

COMPETITION RULES & BYLAWS

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This document must be read in conjunction with the following documents.

FIFA Documents

- FIFA Laws of the Game
- FIFA Statutes
- FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
- FIFA Disciplinary Code

FFA Documents

- FFA Statutes
- National Registration Regulations
- National Disciplinary Regulations
- National Grievance Resolution Regulations
- National Club Identity Policy
- National Code of Conduct
- National Member Protection Policy
- National Privacy Policy
- National Anti-Doping Policy
- National Spectator Code of Behaviour

Football West Documents

- Football West Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law
- Football West Competition Management By-Law
- Football West Code of Conduct
- Football West Spectator Code of Behaviour

Midwest Soccer Association Documents

- MSA Rules of Association
- MSA Disciplinary & Grievance By Law
- MSA Competition Annexes

All fixtures will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game in force at the time of publication of these rules and as laid down by the International Football Association Board, unless otherwise stated in these rules or the relevant competition rules.

References to the male gender are for simplification and apply to both males and females.

A club or group which affiliates with FFA and enters a team or teams into Midwest Soccer Association (MSA) competitions is deemed to accept these Competition Rules.

Article 1 General

1. The rules contained within this document are valid for all MSA competitions.

The MSA may alter, add to, clarify or delete any of these rules at its discretion. Any changes to these rules will be communicated to clubs.

2. The MSA may investigate any alleged breach of these rules regardless of the source of the alleged breach. Whether a matter is investigated or not is entirely at the discretion of the MSA.
3. A participant breaching any of these rules or those of any accompanying annexes is liable to a penalty. Whether a penalty is imposed or not is at the sole discretion of the MSA.
4. Where a penalty is not specified in these rules, the MSA reserves the right to use its discretion to determine and impose a penalty.
5. In the case of a rule being interpreted in two or more different ways, the MSA reserves the right to determine which interpretation is valid. Any such determination is final.
6. In the case of a circumstance not being governed by these rules, the MSA reserves the right to make a ruling on that circumstance. Any such ruling is final.
7. All member clubs must renew membership prior to the AGM each year, together with payment of the annual subscription fee.
8. Members who are un-financial at any time during the season will, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, not be allowed to participate in any of the association fixtures or be allowed to vote at any delegates, committee or special meetings of the association.
9. A new club applying for membership may register a maximum of four (4) players in the men's competition and a maximum of four (4) players in the women's competition that were registered with any club within the Midwest Soccer Association the previous or current year.
10. A new club must have their colours approved prior to being accepted for membership. Existing member's colours cannot be used.
11. The Management committee may impose conditions of entry on a new club applying for membership.
12. The association may from time to time request compulsory attendance of delegates to meetings. Any club breaching this rule will be subject to a fine. Attendance to all other delegates is optional, however decisions affecting clubs may be made in their absence.

Penalty for Breach

\$250.00

13. All clubs are to be represented at the Annual General Meeting of the association. Any breach of this is subject to an automatic fine.

Penalty for Breach

\$250.00

Article 2 Requirements of the Game

1. A fixture may be played wholly or partly under floodlights if the floodlight installation has been approved by the MSA as suitable for the conduct of fixtures.
2. Nets affixed to goalposts must be used in all MSA fixtures. The referee must not allow the fixture to proceed without nets. All goal posts shall be secured to the ground surface in accordance with regulations as stipulated by the City of Greater Geraldton and Department of Commerce.
3. Clubs providing the venue are responsible to mark grounds and put up nets and provide corner flags. Teams that are last to play at a fixture shall assist by taking down nets.
4. Where another sport's pitch is marked out, the soccer pitch markings shall be clearly distinguishable from the other.
5. Clubs providing a venue shall be responsible for ensuring that grounds have been booked with the City of Greater Geraldton.
6. All clubs are responsible to lodge and pay ground user fees to the City of Greater Geraldton in accordance with the City Regulations.
7. The club named first in any fixture is deemed to be the home team regardless of the venue at which the fixture is played.
8. The maximum time for fixtures shall be 45 minute halves for men and 40 minute halves for women.
9. The referee must adjust the duration of a fixture to ensure that the next fixture commences at the scheduled kick-off time.
10. No injury time is added unless the referee calls for a stretcher.
11. The MSA uses interchange and not substitution. The interchange of players can only be done when the ball is out of play. This rule is under the control of the referee and changes cannot be made without the referee's consent. Interchange players must be ready and waiting at the halfway line when interchange is called.
12. The technical area may have a maximum of 8 occupants, consisting of a maximum of 4 named interchange players and a maximum of 4 team officials.
13. All interchange players must wear coloured vests and be seated within the technical area unless warming up.
14. Interchange players are permitted to warm up outside the technical area provided they are wearing different colours to both teams and the match officials.
15. Consumption of alcohol or smoking is prohibited within the technical area.
16. Spectators may only watch the fixture from behind a distance of 2 metres from the area of play.

17. Once fixtures have been published, no changes may be made unless otherwise provided for in these rules. A club may request a fixture change if it can demonstrate exceptional circumstances, in writing, not less than one (1) week prior to the scheduled kick off date. This request may or may not be approved by the MSA in its discretion. Any request for a fixture change must be accompanied by written consent from the opposition club.

18. The club providing the venue must provide one stretcher which is to be placed in a safe and accessible position. The stretcher must be in position before the commencement of the first fixture of the day until conclusion of the final fixture of the day unless being utilised.

Maximum Penalty for Breach

\$20.00

19. The MSA may from time to time nominate any fixture as being under the direct control of the MSA. In such circumstances, the MSA will determine the conditions under which the fixture is to be played.

20. A match card is required for all fixtures approved by the MSA.

21. The match card for a competitive fixture must list each player's name (Family & Given) and shirt number. Nick names are not permitted.

22. A player whose name appears on a match card in the first 11 players is deemed to have participated in the fixture. A player named as an interchange player that has been marked as played by the referee is deemed to have participated in the fixture as a player.

23. Each club is required to present the completed match card prior to the commencement of the fixture to an authorised representative of the opposing club participating in the fixture. The match card must be presented to the referee once it has been signed by the authorised representatives of both clubs not less than ten (10) minutes prior to the commencement of the fixture.

24. A fixture may not commence until the completed and signed match card is in the possession of the referee.

25. The match card received by the MSA from the match official will be accepted as the facts relating to the fixture.

26. The match card for each fixture must clearly indicate the fixture result, the half-time score, goal scorers (if any) and misconduct offences (if any). Each match card must be correctly signed by the match referee.

27. The first eleven players listed on the match card must be on the field of play when the fixture commences unless the team is unable to field eleven players.

28. The appointed referee must complete a match report according to the instructions dictated by the Referees Technical Committee. Such reports are to be lodged with the MSA within two (2) days of the completion of the fixture.

Article 3 Additional Competitions

1. The MSA may from time to time introduce a separate competition. The format will be at the sole discretion of the Management Committee of the MSA.

Article 4 Registrations

1. All players must self-register on “MyFootballClub”.
2. Club Registrars shall either approve or reject player registrations.
3. Registrations close 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off of the fixture they intend to play in. Any registration that is approved by a club after registration closes and consequently plays before they are eligible will result in the forfeit of that fixture.
4. Each week clubs will be invoiced for player registrations for that period. Payment must be made in full within 7 days of the invoice date.
5. If a club that has failed to settle its player registration debt within the required timeframe will be deemed as failing to comply with these regulations and will result in the club being removed from ALL competitions until the outstanding amount is paid in full. Scheduled games will be forfeited and awarded to the opposition club by a margin of 2-0.
6. A club which, after being removed from all competitions as described above, allows a debt to age to more than 30 days will be disaffiliated from the MSA and will not be permitted to compete in any competitions for the remainder of the season or any further competitions until the debt has been satisfied.
7. Any player that has been registered with the MSA as owing money to another club will be refused registration until the matter of the debt has been settled.

Article 5 Proof of Registration

1. “MyFootballClub” must be used to generate proof of registration.
2. Each team must produce proof of registration for any or each of its players on request from the opposition club. Photo ID is mandatory for MSA competitions. Full compliance is required by 30 June 2016.

Penalty	\$250 per non compliance
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3. If a club is unable to produce proof of registration for any player prior to kick-off, the fixture may proceed. However, the proof of registration requested must be produced by 48 hours after the end of the fixture for that player(s) to be deemed eligible to participate. If the club is unable to produce the proof by the end of the 48 hour period, the player(s) will be deemed ineligible.
4. The failure of a club to produce proof of registration to the opposition club must be reported to the referee who must note that failure on the team list. If the failure of a club to produce proof of registration is not communicated to the referee, then no protest based on the ineligibility for that player(s) will be entertained under any circumstances.
5. Proof of registration MAY NOT be requested by the opposition club after the fixture has commenced.

6. If a club has complied with all necessary requirements and wishes to subsequently lodge a protest based on player eligibility, it must do so in accordance with the conditions specified in the Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law.
7. Clubs must advise the association in writing by 31st December each year of any player that has outstanding debts at the end of the season. This is to prevent that player being registered to another club before payment is made.
8. A club may apply for an exemption to these rules where it can demonstrate that exceptional circumstances exist. The MSA will consider any application and determine whether or not the circumstances are exceptional. Any such determination is final and not subject to any further challenge.
9. Clubs may not display any national flags, slogans or emblems (except for the Australian flag) in any areas outside the clubrooms.
10. The MSA reserves the right to request the removal of any national flags, slogans or emblems at any time. Refusal to comply with any such request may result in disciplinary action.
11. The home venue of Amateur League clubs must meet the criteria specified by the MSA.
12. A club may request to change its home ground venue but may do so only by written application or via email to the MSA. The MSA reserves the right to refuse any application if the facilities do not meet the criteria as specified by the MSA.
13. The MSA reserves the right to take whatever action is deemed necessary in the event that fixtures are not affected by changes to the availability of any venue/s.
14. No club will charge an entrance or gate fee for MSA sanctioned games.
15. The MSA reserves the right to appoint committees, sub-committees as considered necessary.
16. All fines imposed on a club must be paid within 14 days or penalties will be imposed.

Penalty

Discretion of Management Committee

17. Any fine imposed on a player is the sole responsibility of that player and must be paid prior to the next playing date that the player would normally participate in.

Penalty

Forfeit

Article 6 **Players**

1. A player may register if they turn 16 years of age in the competition year in the men's competition or 15 years of age in the women's competition.
2. A player who wishes to participate in a competition other than those specified in paragraph 2, must apply in writing to the MSA who will make an assessment as to whether the player may participate in the chosen competition. Any such ruling is final and may not be contested.
3. No more than 4 named interchange players may be listed on the match card.
4. A club may not poach or attempt to poach a registered player from another club during the season. A club wishing to approach a player from another club must do so in writing through the Secretary of the clubs. Direct approach to a registered player of another club will result in disciplinary action by the MSA.

Article 7 **Ineligible Players**

1. An ineligible player is a player who:
 - a) is not registered in accordance with the National Registration Regulations; or
 - b) plays for a club with which the player is not registered; or
 - c) plays without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required; or
 - d) plays within a stand-down period due to a change of status; or
 - e) plays while registered for two clubs at the same time without seeking an exemption to do so (note that the player is eligible to play for the club with which he was registered first in these circumstances); or
 - f) plays while under suspension; or
 - g) does not have proof of registration as described in Article 5; or
 - h) plays for a club, team or in a competition when not permitted to do so under Competition Rules (for example if he is "cup tied"); or
 - i) plays in a fixture when not listed on a team list; or
 - j) plays in a fixture in which his name has been added to the team list after the fixture has commenced; or
 - k) plays for a team which causes the maximum number of players allowed to be listed on a team list is exceeded; or
 - l) plays using a name that is not their own; or
 - m) plays while not eligible to do so for any other reason.
2. If a player plays in a fixture while ineligible, the club will be liable for a sanction as described in Appendix A of this document. In certain circumstances, the player may also be sanctioned.

Article 8 Playing Strips

1. All playing strips must comply with the colours registered with the MSA.
2. Each player's shirt must display on its back a unique number clearly distinguishable from a reasonable distance. The number must be a whole number between 1 and 99. The number 1 may only be worn by the Goal Keeper.
3. Each club shall register with the MSA its colours, stating the colour of its shirts, shorts and socks.
4. In the event of a clash of colours the visiting team must change, unless the MSA has made alternative directives to a club.
5. Shorts must be of an approved soccer style (board shorts or similar are not allowed). All players shorts must be the same style and colour as can be reasonably expected.
6. Undergarments such as skins or similar can be worn. Full length are permitted.
7. Tape or bands on the outside of socks must be as close as possible to the colour as the team's uniform. If club colour is unable to be obtained, black tape or band is acceptable.
8. Goal Keepers must wear a shirt that is distinct from all other players.

Article 9 Competition Points

1. Three points will be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a defeat.
2. If two or more teams are equal on points on the completion of the season, the following criteria are applied in order to determine the higher ranking team.
 - a) The team with the superior goal difference
 - b) The team with the higher number of goals scored
 - c) The number of points gained in matches between the teams concerned
 - d) The superior goal difference in matches between the teams concerned
 - e) The team with the lower number of red cards
 - f) The team with the lower number of yellow cards
 - g) The drawing of lots

Article 10 Individual Awards

1. A Fairest and Best prize will be awarded to the best player in each competition.
2. The match referee for each fixture will award votes. Three votes will be awarded to the best player, two votes to the next best player and one vote awarded to the third best player. The votes must be recorded on the official match card and submitted in accordance with Article 16 Rule 6.
3. The player who receives the most votes over the course of the season will win the Fairest and Best prize for their respective competition.
4. If two or more players tie for the highest number of votes, then a prize will be awarded to each of those players.
5. If a player receives a red card, or a sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee during the regular season, he will be ineligible to win the Fairest and Best award or Goal Keeper of the Year award for that season.
6. An award will be presented to the player who scores the most goals in their respective competition throughout the season. If two or more players score an equal number of goals, an award will be presented to each of those players.
7. A Goal Keeper of the Year award will be awarded to the best goal keeper in each competition.
8. The match referee for each fixture will award votes. Voting will be on a 3, 2, 1 basis for each goal keeper with 3 being the highest vote.
9. If two or more players score an equal number of votes for Goal Keeper of the Year award, an award will be presented to each of those players.

Article 11 Postponed, Delayed or Abandoned Fixtures

1. A fixture may not be postponed, delayed or abandoned except:
 - a) on the instructions of the referee; or
 - b) by order of the police or other authority exercising its statutory powers to that effect; or
 - c) on the instructions of the MSA Competition Manager
2. If the appointed referee postpones, delays or abandons a fixture, he must, within 30 minutes of making such a decision, inform;
 - a) the home club;
 - b) the visiting club; and
 - c) The Referee Allocator
3. If a fixture does not commence for any reason on the scheduled date of the fixture, without having been rearranged with the approval of the MSA, it is the responsibility of the allocated referee to notify the MSA. Should no official referee be allocated, the responsibility rests with the home club.
4. A fixture postponed in accordance with paragraph 1 may only be replayed at a date and time mutually agreed by both clubs except in the circumstances specified in paragraph 6 and 7. The details of the rearranged fixture must be with the consent of the MSA Competition Manager.
5. If a club requests the postponement of a fixture, the MSA reserves the right to require that an alternative date, time and venue are agreed before any such request is granted.
6. If a fixture is postponed in accordance with paragraph 1, and the clubs involved are not able to reach an agreement as to when the fixture will be played, the MSA will determine the date, time and venue of the fixture and any such decision is final. If the rescheduled fixture incurs a cost, the MSA may pass on that cost to either one or both clubs depending on the circumstances which led to the postponement.
7. If a postponed fixture cannot be rescheduled in accordance with paragraph 6, or cannot be completed for any other reason, the MSA reserves the right to declare the fixture a 0-0 draw.
8. A club or participant found to have caused the abandonment of any fixture, will be sanctioned in accordance with the Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law and will forfeit the fixture.
9. If a fixture is abandoned prior to half time, then the fixture will be replayed, unless, in the opinion of the referee, one of the participating teams caused the abandonment of the fixture or unless otherwise specified in these rules or accompanying annexes.
10. If a fixture is abandoned at half time or after the commencement of the second half, then the score at the time of the abandonment of the fixture will be deemed to be the match result, unless, in the opinion of the referee, one of the participating teams caused the abandonment of the fixture.

11. Where results are recorded by the MSA, the result will stand as it was at the time of abandonment.
12. If a fixture is abandoned, and that fixture is one in which the outcome must be that one of the teams must be declared a winner on the day, and at the time of abandonment scores are level, then that fixture will be replayed in full, unless in the opinion of the referee, one of the participating teams caused the abandonment of the fixture.
13. An abandoned fixture which is to be replayed may be rearranged at a mutually convenient time and venue by the participating clubs. The MSA Competition Manager will advise the date, time and venue of the rescheduled fixture.
14. If an abandoned fixture cannot be rescheduled through mutual agreement, the MSA will determine the date, time and venue and any such decision will be final. If the rescheduled fixture incurs a cost, the MSA may pass on that cost to either one or both clubs depending on the circumstances which led to abandonment.
15. If an abandoned fixture cannot be rescheduled in accordance with paragraph 14, the MSA reserves the right to declare the fixture a 0-0 draw. If the abandoned fixture is one in which the outcome must be that one of the teams must be declared a winner, the MSA reserves the right to determine the outcome of the match using any method it chooses.
16. A fixture may not continue if either team is reduced to fewer than 7 players.

Article 12 Forfeited Fixtures

1. A team which forfeits a fixture may be sanctioned with a penalty at the discretion of the MSA.
2. The result of a forfeited fixture will be awarded to the opposition club by a margin of 2-0, unless that score disadvantages the non-offending team.
3. A team which forfeits three consecutive fixtures or any four fixtures may, at the discretion of the MSA, be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition.
4. In circumstances in which both teams participating in a fixture commit offences, which carry the sanction of a forfeit, the MSA reserves the right to declare the fixture played and award each team zero points and zero goals.

Article 13 Complaints

1. All complaints arising out of competition matches and/or breaches of the Bylaws or Rules shall be investigated by the Competition Manager and referred to the management committee of the MSA to deal with such complaints.
2. All complaints lodged from a member club must be in writing, duly signed by the club Secretary or President and lodged with the Secretary of the MSA within 72 hours of the incident.
3. All complaints will be dealt with in accordance with Grievance Management Policies of the MSA.
4. Any club associate that wishes to lodge a complaint with the MSA must do so through their club. The complaint must be lodged with the MSA by the club Secretary or President in accordance with these rules.

Article 14 Crowd Control

1. Each member club is responsible for the behaviour of its associates (officers, spectators, players and members).
2. It is the clubs responsibility to inform their spectators of any breach of the Spectator Code of Conduct and request their immediate compliance.

Article 15 Match Balls

1. The club providing the venue will be issued with match balls by the MSA.
2. It is the responsibility of that club to ensure the match balls are accounted for and store them until required.
3. Loss of any match ball must be reported to the MSA.

Article 16 Match Officials

1. A referee arranged by the home club in accordance with these rules in the absence of an officially appointed referee assumes the same powers and responsibilities as an official referee for the duration of the fixture.
2. A referee or linesman arranged by the home club in accordance with these rules in the absence of an officially appointed referee, must be at least 16 years old in the year of competition for the Men's competition and 15 years old in the Women's competition.
3. Referees shall be paid at the rate agreed by the Management Committee of the MSA. Payments to Football Referees Geraldton Branch shall be made on receipt of invoice only.
4. If required, clubs must provide referees.
5. Clubs must provide linesmen. The game may not proceed without linesmen.

Penalty

Loss of 3 points & \$100 fine

6. At the conclusion of the match, the referee will place the completed match card/s in the box provided at the venue or otherwise deliver them to the Competition Manager of the MSA within 24 hours of the completion of the match.
7. The allocation of match officials will be determined by Football Referees Geraldton Branch. No club may request the attendance or non-attendance of any particular match official.
8. In the event that a referee is not allocated to the fixture by Football Referees Geraldton Branch, or that none of the match officials allocated to a fixture is ready and able to commence the fixture within 5 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, then the home club will allocate a referee.
9. In the event that the home club is not able to allocate a referee in accordance with Rule 8, then the fixture will be rescheduled by the MSA.
10. If the officially appointed referee delays any fixture which is not commenced that same day, he must submit a report in writing to the MSA within 48 hours of the scheduled conclusion of the fixture outlining the reasons for his actions. The officially appointed referee is entitled to 50% of the match fee for a delayed fixture which is subsequently postponed to another date.
11. When a fixture is forfeited by a club, the referee is entitled to receive 100% of the prescribed match fee to be paid by the club which forfeited the fixture, unless the forfeiting club informed the MSA at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
12. When a match is abandoned, the match officials are entitled to receive the full amount of their normal match fees.

Ineligibility Penalties

The following table describes the sanctions associated with fielding an eligible participant during a MSA match.

Type of Ineligibility	Sanction
Plays or is listed on a team sheet while not registered in accordance with the Registration Regulations	Forfeit
Plays or is listed on a team sheet without an ITC where one is required	Forfeit (club) Suspension of 1 match (player)
Plays or is listed on a team sheet within a stand-down period due to a change of status	Forfeit (club) Suspension of 1 match (player)
Plays or is listed on a team sheet or coaches while under suspension	Forfeit and a fine of: \$300
Enters the field of play, its surrounds of the field of play, the technical area, the players race or any other area within a venue where Club Associates are likely to assemble to prepare for a match within 15 minutes of the beginning of a match and 15 minutes after the match has finished while under suspension	Deduction of 1 championship point and a fine of: \$300
Plays or is listed on a team sheet for a team or in a match when not permitted to do so under Competition Rules but would otherwise be eligible to play for the club in a different match (for example if he is “cup tied”)	Forfeit
Plays in a fixture when not listed on a team list but would otherwise be eligible to play	A fine of: \$300
Plays or is listed on a team sheet in a fixture in which his name has been added to the team list after the fixture has commenced but would otherwise be eligible to play	A fine of: \$300
Plays for a team which causes the maximum number of players allowed to be listed on a team list is exceeded	Forfeit and a fine of: \$300
Plays using a name that is not of their own	As per the Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law
Plays while not eligible to do so for any other reason	At the discretion of the MSA

Registration Fees

The following table describes the registration fees associated with registering as a player.

MSA PLAYER REGISTRATION FEES 2016

FEE	FFA		FW		MSA		REG FEE	TOTAL
	19 & O	18 & U	19 & O	18 & U	19 & O	18 & U	19 & O	18 & U
NATIONAL LEVY	\$25.00	\$12.60						
STATE LEVY inc. INSURANCE			\$56.00	\$19.40				
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION					\$109.00	\$112.00		
TOTAL							\$190.00	\$144.00