

GIPPSLAND SOCCER LEAGUE INC.



RULES OF COMPETITION

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SCHEDULE 1. - GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

1.1 Application and Definitions

- 1.1.1 These rules shall apply to all levels of Competition as defined in rule 2.1 and administered under the control of GSL.
- 1.1.2 These Rules should be read in conjunction with the following documents:
- FIFA Official Laws Of The Game
 - FFA National Registration Regulations
 - FFA/FFV National Disciplinary Regulations
 - GSL Constitution
 - GSL Disciplinary Policy
 - GSL Codes of Conduct
 - Spectator Code of Conduct
- 1.1.3 The competitions shall consist of registered teams from affiliated clubs as determined by the GSL Board each season.
- 1.1.4 These rules of competition will be made available to all affiliated clubs on the GSL website.
- 1.1.5 These rules of competition are to be prominently displayed by affiliated clubs and each member of the club including coaches and team managers are to be made aware of their contents.
- 1.1.6 Any Club or member of the GSL Board shall be entitled to submit proposals to revise the rules of competition. Such proposals should include an explanation as to why the change is deemed necessary. Any alterations as determined by the GSL Board will come into effect prior to the commencement of a season.
- 1.1.7 If any provision of these Rules is held invalid or unenforceable by a Court of competent jurisdiction then the remainder of these Rules and the application thereof shall not be affected thereby and shall continue to be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 1.1.8 Terms defined in the GSL Constitution, the GSL Grievance Discipline and Tribunal (**GDT**) shall have the same meaning in these Rules unless otherwise stated.
- 1.1.9 In addition to rule 1.1.3, unless the context otherwise requires;
- 1.1.9.1. **Club** means GSL affiliated clubs.
 - 1.1.9.2. **Club Official** means anyone representing the club, generally a Committee Member or Marshal.
 - 1.1.9.3. **GSL** means Gippsland Soccer League.
 - 1.1.9.4. **FFV** means Football Federation Victoria.
 - 1.1.9.5. **FFA** means Football Federation Australia.

- 1.1.9.6. **Final Series** means semi finals and grand final.
- 1.1.9.7. **Junior means** eligible to play in the age restricted competition.
- 1.1.9.8. **Rule** means a rule of this current year of competition.
- 1.1.9.9. **Regulation** means a clause outlined in the specific league regulations.
- 1.1.9.10. **Registered** means registered and eligible in MFC in accordance with the GSL Registration Regulations.
- 1.1.9.11. **Registered club official** means club office bearer.
- 1.1.9.12. **Played** means in a league where the interchange rule applies played is defined as being listed on the match record; the player must take part in the game to be recorded on the match record .
- 1.1.9.13. **Field of Play** means;
- 1.1.9.13.1. at an enclosed ground the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing.
 - 1.1.9.13.2. at an open ground the entire area within 3 metres of the football pitch.
- 1.1.9.14. **Non-Participation in a Fixture** means failure to participate in a fixture but notifying GSL more than two working days prior to the fixture.
- 1.1.9.15. **Forfeit** means failure to participate in a fixture and notifying GSL less than two working days prior to the fixture or not at all. Forfeited fixtures will be awarded to the opposition as a 3-0 win on forfeit. On second offence, a 1 point penalty will apply.
- 1.1.9.16. **No Result** means the awarding of a '0-0' score in a match with no points or goals awarded to either team, this is recorded as a match played.
- 1.1.9.17. **Abandoned** means a fixture which has commenced but been stopped by the Match Official prior to the conclusion of normal time.
- 1.1.9.18. **Postponed** means a fixture which has not commenced as scheduled.
- 1.1.9.19. **Play Off** means a match played to determine the final standings or eligibility for promotion/relegation of a team in any competition.
- 1.1.9.20. **"Fill the Card"** means assign players to teams, enter goal scorers, enter yellow & red cards, enter substitutions (where applicable) onto the FOX SPORTS PULSE competition management system.

1.1.9.21. **Myfootballclub** means the player registration system used by FFV and FFA to register players.

1.1.9.22. **FOX SPORTS PULSE** means the Online Competition Management System being used by the GSL to administer competitions.

1.2. Consequences of a Breach

1.2.1. In addition to any consequences stated in these Rules, any proven breach of or failure to comply with an obligation or requirement set out in these Rules will amount to misconduct and may be subject to the provisions of the GDT.

1.2.2. To avoid doubt where these Rules do not specify the consequences of a breach or failure to comply with these Rules, such breach or failure to comply will still amount to misconduct and may be subject to the provisions of the GDT.

1.3. Affiliation of Clubs

1.3.1. GSL will consider applications by clubs for affiliations. Clubs wishing to enter into affiliated relationships with another Club(s) must lodge their formal application in accordance with FFA's Club Affiliation Criteria as published from time to time.

1.3.2. Each club involved in the affiliation must provide a letter of intent to affiliate. In particular, GSL will have regard to the community objectives and outcomes of the proposed affiliation.

1.3.3. All affiliation applications must be lodged by no later than 1st December prior to the year of proposed competition. GSL may accept applications after this date at its sole discretion.

1.3.4. The GSL may refuse any application without reason or may terminate any previously sanctioned club affiliation at any time. Any such decision or determination by GSL will be final and binding on all parties.

1.4 New Club Team Entry Criteria

1.4.1. The club must field at least one team in the GSL competition, unless otherwise directed by the GSL.

1.4.2. New applicants for affiliate membership must make a formal application in writing and by completing the New Club Application, to the GSL Board, no later than its March Delegates meeting of the year prior to that for which Affiliate membership is sought demonstrating that their admission to the GSL will benefit the football competition in the area in which they propose to establish and will not impact adversely on the membership of any existing club in that area.

- 1.4.3 All clubs must be working towards having accredited coaches prior to the season starting.
- 1.4.4 The club must present a letter from its local council, controlling body or organisation granting permission to use the playing field(s) and other facilities such as dressing rooms and toilets.
- 1.4.5 The GSL will forward all new team applications and will then forward this information to the GSL Board for consideration.
- 1.4.6 Each club shall be incorporated and shall provide a current Certificate of Incorporation.
- 1.4.7 Each new club shall, upon affiliation, be supplied with a copy of the League Constitution and Rules of Competition.

1.5 Joint Team Nominations

- 1.5.1. Where a club has insufficient numbers to nominate a junior team in an age group, they may apply for nomination as a joint team.
- 1.5.2. Teams may be made up from different clubs to form one or more teams in an age group/competition.
- 1.5.3. Player's playing in "joint teams" will remain members of that club to which they first registered and will be due any such benefits from that club.
- 1.5.4. Each Club having members in a "joint team" may take turns in hosting the home games of the team.
- 1.5.5. Team colours will be designated by the GSL Board.
- 1.5.6. All teams must nominate a coach and team manager for all team entries, who must be register (as non playing members of the GSL if they are not registered as a player of their club), as a coach on myfootballclub.
- 1.5.7. Where insufficient entries are received to form a competition in any age group/division, the GSL reserves the right to refuse those team entries or not offer that age group/competition.
- 1.5.8. Club Affiliation fees and GSL fees for players in all competitions will be fixed by the GSL Board.

1.6 Monies Owing to GSL

- 1.6.1. Subject to this Rule all amounts owed by a club or player to GSL must be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice issued by GSL, failing which:
 - 1.6.1.1. the Club will be sent a 21 day Reminder Notice; and,

- 1.6.1.2. the Club is required to bring its accounts with GSL into order within that 21 day period.
- 1.6.1.3. GSL reserves the right to suspend from any or all GSL competitions or representative teams on such terms as it sees fit any player who owes monies to GSL until such debts are paid or secured to the satisfaction of GSL.
- 1.6.2. Clubs will not be eligible to earn any competition points from any of its Matches following the deadline for compliance unless and until all outstanding monies are owed.
- 1.6.3. To avoid doubt if the outstanding monies or any part thereof are not referable to any particular team or teams, then all teams of the Club will be ineligible to earn Championship points until all monies are paid.
- 1.6.4. In the case of repeated failure to pay outstanding monies GSL may in its absolute discretion expel a club from GSL Competition.
- 1.6.5. The GSL may offset any monies that the GSL owes to a Club, prior to the issuing of any invoice to a club for outstanding amounts owing to GSL.
- 1.6.6. Where monies due for payment by a club prior to 31 October in any given year or, in the case of monies falling due after that date, remain unpaid by a club after the due date for payment. The club will then be ineligible to nominate candidates for the GSL Board at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), nor will the club be permitted to vote at the AGM.

1.7 Non Scheduled Matches

- 1.7.1 Any club staging or taking part in any competition, tournament, friendly match, or other match which does not form part of GSL's schedule of matches, or which is not played under the jurisdiction of GSL, must abide by all relevant codes of conduct and shall not bring the game into disrepute.
- 1.7.2 Any club or affiliated league or organisation which organises or takes part in any competition, tournament, friendly match, or other match, which does not form part of GSL's schedule of matches, must ensure that appropriate insurance and Workcover arrangements are made to provide coverage for players, Match Officials, and officials involved in these matches.

1.8 Insurance

- 1.8.1 FFV will negotiate and as it sees fit, appoint insurance companies to provide cover for all club officials and players registered with GSL provided Clubs are incorporated at all times.

1.8.2 Insurance of Players

- 1.8.2.1 all players taking the field of play (or training) must be insured through FFV's Insurer (or as otherwise allowed by GSL). The player's insurance will be collected by FFV at the time of player payment for registration via the Club Finance System (refer to the Summary of Cover as posted on FFV website for policy details).
- 1.8.2.2 players who participate in competition fixtures without having their registration details updated relevant to their Club will be deemed ineligible.

1.8.3 Insurance of Club Officials

- 1.8.3.1 in addition to compulsory player insurance, FFV shall provide through its insurance scheme insurance known as 'Not for Profit Organisation Liability' for Club officials.

1.9 Strict Liability of Clubs

Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its club associates at or in the vicinity of any match or event in which a Club is engaged or is in attendance regardless of the responsibilities attaching to any other person or entity in respect of such a match or event.

1.10 Media/Social Media Comment

- 1.10.1 A club (including club associates) must not make derogatory comment(s) to the media or in any public social media forum whether verbally or in writing (including any form of electronic communication) about GSL or the performance of Match Officials. Any such complaints should be made in writing to GSL.
- 1.10.2 Match Officials are prohibited from making any comment to the Media or in any public social media forum whether verbally or in writing (including any form of electronic communication) in regard to any fixture of GSL at any time.
- 1.10.3 A breach of 1.10.1 and 1.10.2 may result in disciplinary action as set out in the GSL GDT.

1.12 Security at Home Grounds

- 1.12.1. The home club is responsible for providing appropriate arrangements to ensure the orderly behavior of spectators and provide for the protection of Match Officials, players and officials at GSL fixtures including but not limited to any specific requirements of GSL which are notified to the home club.
- 1.12.2. Each home club is responsible for security and/or police requirements as directed by the GSL. Ordinarily, this will be wholly the responsibility of the home club but GSL reserves the right to require any club involved in a match

to provide additional security requirements.

- 1.12.3. The GSL Tribunal may take into account any security measures implemented by a club and any security requirements directed by GSL, when assessing any misconduct charges that may be brought against a Club.
- 1.12.4. When lockable change rooms are not available to Match Officials, the home club must appoint a property steward to ensure player change rooms are not accessed by unauthorised personnel and to safeguard the valuables of Match Official(s) that should be handed to the property steward.
- 1.12.5. The venue host (normally the home club) will be held responsible if it is found that GSL appointed Match Official(s) do not have all items returned.
- 1.12.6. Teams from each club are responsible for the valuables of its players, and valuables that are left in change rooms are done so at their own risk.

1.13 Representative Teams

- 1.13.1 Any player registered to the GSL will be eligible to represent GSL in representative games, camps or tours.
- 1.13.2 All clubs must release selected Players for training and preparation for, and participation in, representative matches, camps or tours.
- 1.13.3 Where a club has three or more outfield players selected from the one team participating in a GSL/FFV/FFA approved representative match (not training commitment) which conflicts with a scheduled match in which that team is required to participate, it may seek the postponement of that match.

These may include but are not limited to:

- 1.13.3.1 FFA National Championships (Football & Futsal)
 - 1.13.3.2 FFV State Team
 - 1.13.3.3 GSL Squad Team
 - 1.13.3.4 National Team
 - 1.13.3.5 Representation in privately run tournaments and subsequent training does not constitute a valid reason for postponement of a GSL fixture.
- 1.13.4 All requests pursuant to rule 1.13.3 must be received no less than 7 days prior to the fixture. GSL shall determine the outcome of that request in its

absolute discretion and that decision shall not be appealed or reviewed.

- 1.13.5 Coaches that may have their own children playing in the age group that they are coaching, will still be very involved in the selection process, however the final say on team selections will be determined by two (2) independent coaches appointed by the GSL. Coaches that do not have their own children involved will be assisted by one (1) other selector to determine final places.
- 1.13.6 Teams are to be allocated 16 players per squad. An additional two (2) 'train-on/reserve' players are to be chosen to train with the squad with a clear understanding that they will only be called up if a selected player becomes unavailable/injured. If this eventuates, the 'train-on/reserve' player shall be given the opportunity to step up into the full squad should they still be willing to make themselves available.
- 1.13.7 Once teams have been selected, the GSL will announce and display the final squad selections at a predetermined date on the GSL website. All notifications to players are to be directed through the GSL office.
- 1.13.8 All players are required to try out for representative teams within their own age group, irrespective of which level they compete at club level. Players will only be considered for an older age group, if they apply in writing with the consent and signature of a parent or guardian to the GSL Office for dispensation, prior to the first trial. Players will then only be considered if they are currently participating in State Representative teams or a talented pathway program as recognised by the GSL. An independent selector will then assess the playing level and appropriateness of the request. Once a determination has been provided, the GSL office will advise of the outcome and the decision will be final. Goalkeepers may receive additional dispensation at the discretion of the GSL.
- 1.13.9 Players will be required to attend three (3) trials to be considered for selection (unless released prior to final trial). If a player is unavailable to attend, they must notify the coach prior to the trial with a valid reason for nonattendance.
- 1.13.10 All players will be encouraged to register online and complete the medical information required prior to trials. Players must return a completed form prior to the first trial. This form is available in the SQUADS section of the GSL website and will also be available at the trials.

1.14 Lighting of Flares or Other Flammable Objects/Throwing Objects

- 1.14.1 The lighting of flares or other flammable objects and/or the throwing of objects is strictly prohibited in all GSL sanctioned fixtures.
- 1.14.2 Clubs whose club associates are in breach of 1.14.1, will be held fully accountable for the actions of those club associates.
- 1.14.3 Each Club must take steps to ensure that its Club Associates are made aware of this prohibition in 1.14.1 and do not breach this requirement, regardless of whether the club is playing at home or away.
- 1.14.4 Clubs or club associates who are in breach of Rule 1.14.1 will be fined \$250. In addition, the GSL may deduct points from a team or teams, or take further disciplinary action if it sees fit.

1.15 Member Protection Policy

- 1.15.1. The GSL has endorsed the FFA National Member Protection Policy for all Clubs, including its club officials, club associates, coaches and its players who form part of these Rules. The FFA National Member Policy is displayed on the GSL web site <http://www.gippslandsoccer.com.au>
- 1.15.2. Any person wishing to lodge a letter of complaint under the Member Protection Policy must address their correspondence to the GSL Board within 7 days after the date that the alleged offence occurred.
- 1.15.3 A conciliation hearing will then be convened to discuss and resolve the matter.
- 1.15.4 If conciliation is not achieved, the GSL may lay charges of misconduct against those alleged to be responsible and refer the matter to the GDT.

1.16 Club Compliance

- 1.16.1. In order to be eligible to compete in GSL competitions in the current year, a club must have complied with all requirements of GSL's in force from time to time including but not limited to all regulatory requirements of FFV, Consumer Affairs Victoria and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission.
- 1.16.2. Where a club's playing name is different to its incorporated name, if any, by 31 December of the current year the club must either:
 - (a) formally amend its registered name to accord with the playing name; or,

- (b) Register a business name in the name of the registered club name that is identical to the playing name.

1.17 Correspondence/Communication

- 1.17.1 All correspondence by GSL to clubs shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs:
- 1.17.1.1 in the case of email immediately;
 - 1.17.1.2 In the case of communication sent by mail 5 days after such communication was posted.
- 1.17.2 Clubs must ensure that postal mailboxes, specified email accounts and the GSL website are checked regularly, and that any information received is forwarded to the club addressee or relevant club parties.
- 1.17.3 All correspondence relating to club requests, including, but not limited to; fixtures, forfeits, grading, result disputes and disciplinary matters must be made by a club official. Requests made by anyone not listed as a club official will not be actioned.
- 1.17.4 All clubs must have an active email address and phone number. The club must ensure that this address and phone number and all other relevant details are current and up to date in MyFootballClub.
- 1.17.5 All correspondence received by the GSL must be under official club letterhead and signed by a club official.

1.18 Working With Children Check

In Victoria, the Child and Wellbeing and Safety Amendment Act 2015 requires clubs to meet "Child Protection Standards" Clubs are required to comply with these obligations regardless of whether they are run by paid employees or volunteers. FFV Child Protection Guidelines are available on the GSL website. www.gippslandsoccer.com.au

2 COMPETITION RULES

2.1 General Information

- 2.1.1 All GSL fixtures are played under the FIFA Laws of the Game, unless otherwise specified in these Rules.
- 2.1.2 If a team is withdrawn on or before the point of the season at which all teams have played each other once a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn team in the fixture, and all points along with goals scored (for & against) that team will be erased. All Best & Fairest, votes gained in matches involving the withdrawn team will be erased.
- 2.1.3 If a team is withdrawn after the point of the season at which all teams have played each other once, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn team in the fixture, and:
 - 2.1.3.1 all points together with goals scored (for & against) that team before the point of the season at which all teams have played each other once will remain.
 - 2.1.3.2 all points together with goals scored (for & against) that team after the point of the season at which all teams have played each other once will be erased.
- 2.1.4 If a team withdraws prior to the start of the competition season and cannot be replaced, a "BYE" will be inserted into the relevant fixture.
- 2.1.5 The GSL may abandon or restructure any competition as/if required.

2.2 Player Eligibility

- 2.2.1 A player is eligible to play in his or her team provided he or she:
 - 2.2.1.1 has been registered in line with FFA, FFV and GSL Registration Regulations, via the MFC system.
 - 2.2.1.2 an amateur player is free to transfer to another club during the approved transfer period only. The transfer season for players wishing to transfer between clubs both within the GSL and from outside Leagues into the GSL, will operate between 1st January to the 25th July.
 - 2.2.1.3 the GSL are not responsible for any late, missing or incorrectly completed lodgments. Any player whose re-registration, registration and/or transfer forms have not been fully completed prior to the day of the fixture shall be deemed an ineligible player.
 - 2.2.1.4 is not under suspension by GSL, or any other Football Association

- 2.2.1.5 meets the competitions age group and gender guidelines, if applicable.
- 2.2.1.6 presents a current Player ID Card upon request to the Match Official prior to the commencement of the fixture, where competitions require ID cards.
- 2.2.1.7 any player who does not appear on the list of registered players that clubs can access on the MFC system is deemed an ineligible player.
- 2.2.1.8 meets competition requirements for finals or playoffs.
- 2.2.2 If there is a dispute about any player(s), the Match Official must note the details and send these to GSL together with the Match Report.
- 2.2.3 Any club that wishes to lodge an official protest must do so in accordance with GDT.
- 2.2.4 In the event of a team being found guilty of fielding a player who is not eligible to play in that team, the opposing team shall be awarded the normal competition points. Regardless of the result of the game, a three goals to nil result or if the offending team lost by more than three goals the score-line will stand, whichever ever the higher will be the official result of the fixture. The offending club shall be subject to a penalty as determined by the GSL Board and/or suspension of the offending player.
- 2.2.5 Any player under suspension by the GSL, FFV or any of its affiliated bodies, or clubs/leagues located within Victoria, outside Victoria or overseas, will be deemed ineligible, and are not permitted to participate in any GSL fixture until that suspension is served.
- 2.2.6 Players found to be in breach of the documentation regarding eligibility for cup fixtures will be deemed ineligible.

2.3 Protest - Playing Ineligible Player

- 2.3.1 For a formal protest to be considered legitimate, the following must apply:
 - 2.3.1.1 any club is permitted to lodge a letter of protest regarding the fielding of an ineligible player.
 - 2.3.1.2 the protest must be in writing under club letterhead and must be lodged with the GSL within 72 hours of the completion of the fixture.
 - 2.3.1.3 a protest fee of \$250.00 will apply and must be paid within the specified time. In the event that the protest fee is not paid within the specified time, then the protest will be deemed to be a complaint and will be dealt with according to the GDT.
- 2.3.2 The GSL reserves the right to, at any stage; investigate any club for fielding ineligible players. Such investigation will be considered a protest and actioned accordingly.

2.4 Protest - Penalties & Outcomes

2.4.1 In the event that the protest is upheld, then the following will apply:

- 2.4.1.1 100% of the protest fee will be refunded to the presenting club.
- 2.4.1.2 the club found guilty shall forfeit any goals scored and points gained in that match and the points and match will be awarded to the opposing club.
- 2.4.1.3 the game will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposition club, unless the final result was of a greater margin in favour of the opposition club.
- 2.4.1.4 the appointed GDT may impose a fine (maximum \$2000.00 per offence) or take any disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club and/or player.

2.4.2 In the event that the protest is dismissed, then the following will apply:

- 2.4.2.1 the protesting club will forfeit the protest fee; and
- 2.4.2.2 the match result will stand.

2.5 Complaints - Playing Ineligible Player

2.5.1 A complaint is not a protest and has the following characteristics:

- 2.5.1.1 a letter and/or protest fee received from a club outside of the 72-hour period.
- 2.5.1.2 a letter received from any other party regarding the fielding of an ineligible player.
- 2.5.1.3 a referee's report alleging the fielding of an ineligible player will be investigated as a complaint (unless the opposing club lodges a protest that meets the requirements of rule 2.3).

2.6 Complaints - Penalties & Outcomes

2.6.1 In the event that the complaint is upheld, then the following will apply:

- 2.6.1.1 The match result will stand.
- 2.6.1.2 The GDT, may impose a fine or take any disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club and/or player.

2.7 Loan Players

- 2.7.1 Under no circumstances are clubs permitted to sign players on loan agreements or any other agreements to this effect.
- 2.7.2 The GSL reserves the right to accept written applications from clubs with junior's teams to loan players from an opposing club where they do not have an appropriate age group for the player to compete in based on his /her date of birth.

2.8 Player Contracts / Agreements

Clubs are not permitted to enter into contractual agreements with players.

2.9 Gender Rules

- 2.9.1 Females may play in their equivalent age group of male junior competitions without obtaining prior approval in writing from the GSL Board.
- 2.9.2 Females who are over the junior age groups are eligible to apply for an exemption to rule 2.9.1 which will be considered at the discretion of the GSL Board.
- 2.9.3 Males are not permitted to play in any female competitions.

2.10 Competition Structures

Specific regulations for the different levels of competition are set out in the schedules to these rules and shall form part of these rules.

2.11 Unforeseeable Circumstances

Nothing in the Rules of Competition shall prevent the GSL from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by these rules.

3 FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Facilities/Ground Arrangements

3.1.1 It is the responsibility of all clubs to:

3.1.1.1 provide a ground that meets the following dimensions for competitive age groups:

- Maximum dimension of 105m x 68m; and,
- Minimum dimension of 90m x 45m
- The ground is correctly marked, including the technical area,
- Suitable goal nets and corner flags safely fastened or pegged to the ground
- A clearly nominated timeslot, whereby Female teams will have sole access to the change rooms.

3.1.1.2 clubs with grounds available for junior and senior fixtures that do not meet these specifications, should make application to the GSL for dispensation.

3.1.1.3 provide a safe environment for players, Match Officials, club officials and spectators;

3.1.1.4 ensure that their facilities and equipment are clean and fit for purpose;

3.1.1.5 ensure that all applicable State and local government statutory and other requirements have been met in respect of their facilities including but not limited to:

3.1.1.5.1 legitimate approved use of the facility by the owner or land manager

3.1.1.5.2 requirements under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Food Act 1984 and Building Act 1993; and,

3.1.1.5.3 any local laws.

3.1.1.6 a Club which advises GSL prior to a season that it cannot provide facilities in accordance with these Rules or which, during the course of the season, are found by GSL to not comply with these requirements may:

3.1.1.6.1 have its home games fixtured by GSL as away matches; or

3.1.1.6.2 must, upon request by GSL, advise what steps the club will take to ensure that it can meet these facility requirements.

- 3.1.1.7 Subject to this rule upon written request from a club, GSL may in its sole discretion grant a temporary dispensation from compliance with these requirements to a club which:
 - 3.1.1.7.1 is in the process of upgrading its facilities to GSL's requirements; or
 - 3.1.1.7.2 due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control the club cannot comply with these requirements.
 - 3.1.1.7.3 has satisfied GSL that the club is taking all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these facility requirements.
- 3.1.1.8 GSL will not grant dispensation pursuant to this rule from compliance with any requirement that relates to matters of safety or legislative compliance.
- 3.1.1.9 During the course of a season if any club's facilities do not meet these requirements that club may:
 - 3.1.1.9.1 be suspended from playing home matches until these requirements have been met.
 - 3.1.1.9.2 have their remaining home fixtures played away.
 - 3.1.1.9.3 be deemed to have forfeited any match which has not been able to be played due to the failure to meet these requirements, in which case the result will be recorded as a 3-0 loss for each of that club's teams scheduled to play at that facility.

3.2 The Technical Area

- 3.2.1 A maximum of 9 persons are permitted to be within the technical area.
- 3.2.2 This can only include the coach and assistant coach, the team manager, the substitutes and a registered health practitioner, sports trainer or accredited first aider.
- 3.2.3 All persons must remain seated within the confines of the technical area, except in special circumstances e.g., a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player.
- 3.2.4 Players may leave the technical area to warm up, provided it does not interrupt the view of the Match Official.
- 3.2.5 Only one person may stand up at one time within the technical area.

- 3.2.6 All persons within the technical area must be wearing colours that clearly distinguish them from all players and Match Officials on the field of play e.g. a bib, jackets.
- 3.2.7 The Match Official may expel any person from the technical area at any time as he or she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left the technical area and field of play to the Match Official's satisfaction.
- 3.2.8 A player or club associate who is under suspension must not attend the technical area.

3.3 Match Records

- 3.3.1 Clubs must list in the match record all players taking part in a fixture and must produce to the Match Official a match record not less than 15 minutes before the commencement of any match.
- 3.3.2 A club will be guilty of Misconduct if:
 - 3.3.2.1 any player listed on the Match Record is ineligible;
 - 3.3.2.2 any player who takes the field is not listed on the match record.
- 3.3.3 A representative from each team must sign the match record at the conclusion of the fixture and should do so only after the appointed Match Official has recorded all outstanding details.
- 3.3.4 If a club disagrees with any of the details set out on its own team's match record, the club must sign and indicate any disputed information by circling that specific detail. Only the following information can be disputed:
 - 3.3.4.1 goal scorers.
 - 3.3.4.2 Red and Yellow Cards.
- 3.3.5 Clubs must follow up any disputes by contacting GSL Competitions Team within 10 days of the fixture. Disputes will only be investigated if the following evidence is submitted:
 - 3.3.5.1 Full Match Record.
 - 3.3.5.2 Statutory Declaration(s).
- 3.3.6 Match Records will only be amended if GSL is satisfied that the information disputed is proven beyond reasonable doubt. GSL's decision shall not be appealable.
- 3.3.7 Once signed by all parties at the conclusion of the fixture, each club must make a copy of its Match Record available to the opposing team.

- 3.3.8 If a team enters more than 16 players on a Match Record that team shall be deemed to have played an ineligible player and the provisions of the GDT shall apply.
- 3.3.9 The first eleven players listed on the Match Record shall be the eleven players who will commence the match on the field of play.
- 3.3.10 For all competitive divisions / age groups, each player shall have their valid FFA Player Identification Number entered in the appropriate area on the Team Sheet and Misconduct Summary Form given to the referee.
- 3.3.11 It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure that all details on the Team Sheet and Misconduct Summary Form are correct, and that the players taking the field are the same as those listed on the Team Sheet and Misconduct Summary Form. Upon receipt of the Team Sheet and Misconduct Summary Form by the referee, the Team Manager (or Coach) implicitly assures to the GSL that this is the case.
- 3.3.12 Should any listed player in any competitive division / age group, fail to submit a valid FFA Player Identification Number, by the conclusion of the half-time interval and participates in the fixture then that player will be deemed to be in breach of GSL Rules and the club will be disciplined as follows:
- 3.3.12.1 if it is established that the player was legitimately registered and eligible to play, then the club will not be fined for each offence, and the match result will stand.
 - 3.3.12.2 if it is established that the player was not legitimately registered and/or ineligible to play, then the club and player will be charged with misconduct and summoned to appear before the GDT.
 - i. if the club and/or player are found guilty of the charge, the GDT, reserves the right to fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club or player.
 - ii. in this situation, the result of the match will stand, unless a club lodges a formal protest.
- 3.3.13 The referee must note the details of any disputed player(s) and send this together with a misconduct/incident report to the GSL. It is recommended that both teams only sign the team sheet once the Match Official has recorded all outstanding details on the team sheet, at the conclusion of the fixture. Once the details of the match have been recorded on the team sheet and have been signed off by all parties, each club will receive a copy of their opponent's team sheet duly completed by the appointed Match Official.
- 3.3.14 Home clubs that have appointed a club referee to a fixture must ensure that both sets of team sheets, match reports and best player votes are sent to the GSL. Clubs who fail to lodge completed team sheets, match reports and

best player vote forms within five (5) days since the completion of the match, may be fined \$25.00 for each offence.

3.4 Results Of Matches

- 3.4.1 It is the responsibility of both teams to ensure all final results and all player information including cards; goals and substitution for each respective age group are completed on the FOX SPORTS PULSE competition management system.
- 3.4.2 In all junior competition, no team is to be recorded as having a greater than six (6) goal winning difference. The first six goal scorers (and additional goal scorers after the opposing team has scored) are to be recorded on the online match records. If the opposition team scores 3 goals, the winning team can only enter a maximum of nine (9) goals on the system. E.g.: 9 - 3. A nine (9) - zero (0) result will be entered as six (6) - zero (0) with the first six (6) goal scorers to be entered onto the online match records.

3.5 Online Match Records

Entering match results onto the online competition management software.

- 3.5.1 At the completion of each game in all competitions, Senior's, Women's and Junior's, teams must enter the result (including goals scored per team e.g. 3-2) by 8pm Sunday Night.

- 3.5.1.1 penalty for non-compliance = official warning

- 3.5.2 Any home team (Not Club) receiving four (4) warnings in a season, for not entering in that weekends game results (including goal scores per team e.g. 3-2) by the Sunday night deadline of 8pm, will receive penalty equating to the reduction of one (1) premiership point to that home team.

“Fill the Card” Online

- 3.5.3 By 9.30am Tuesday morning, each team home & away must:

- assign players to teams
- enter goal scorers
- enter yellow & red cards;
- enter substitutions (where applicable).

- 3.5.4 If a team does not “fill the card” by 9.30am Tuesday morning, a warning will be sent to the club president and club secretary.

- 3.5.5 If a team does not “Fill the Card” by 9:30am on the Thursday following the game, the team will receive an official warning.

- 3.5.5 Any team (Not Club) receiving four (4) warnings in a season, for not “fill the card” (including goal scores per team e.g. 3-2) by the Thursday deadline of 9:30 am, will receive a penalty equating to the reduction of one (1) premiership point to that team.

3.6 Ground Marshals

- 3.6.1 Each home & away club must provide one marshal for each GSL fixture game.
- 3.6.2 Ground Marshal's must:
 - 3.6.2.1 be at least 18 years old;
 - 3.6.2.2 wear clearly identifiable uniform;
 - 3.6.2.3 be visible from the field of play at all times; and,
 - 3.6.2.4 two Ground Marshals, where possible, to escort appointed Match Officials to and from the change rooms and the field of play at half time and full time.
- 3.6.3 Match Officials should not leave their dressing rooms to enter or leave the field of play to return to their rooms, until the identifiable ground marshals are present.
- 3.6.4 GSL may vary the minimum ground marshal arrangements for any fixture at any time.
- 3.6.5 The Ground Marshals must identify themselves to the appointed Match Official 10 minutes prior to Kick-Off of each fixture.
- 3.6.6 A Ground Marshal must be visible at all times and are to provide an escort to all Match Officials at half time and full time.
- 3.6.7 Clubs who fail to provide a Ground Marshal or sufficient Ground Marshals for a fixture will be fined \$150.00 for each offence.
- 3.6.8 Ground Marshals are in no way to place themselves in a position where physical violence could result.
- 3.6.9 Ground Marshals s should write a report to their club secretary on any incident that may be investigated by the GSL.
- 3.6.10 Ground Marshals are to assist referees, assistant referees, teams, clubs or GSL officials in the enforcement of these rules of competition.

3.7 Player's Strip/Apparel

- 3.7.1 *Clothing and Protective Gear*
 - 3.7.1.1 all teams must nominate a 'Home' and 'Alternate' playing strip. These must be entered in to GSL's online system.
 - 3.7.1.2 teams must provide two clearly identifiable strips to avoid any potential colour clashes on day.

- 3.7.1.3 if a colour or style change occurs to either the "Home" or "Alternate" strip, clubs shall supply a photograph of the change for League endorsement.
- 3.7.1.4 where more than one club seeks to register the same or similar colours, preference will be given to the Club which participated in the previous season's competition, provided the same colours are retained.
- 3.7.1.5 all teams are not required to provide alternate shorts.
- 3.7.1.6 Bibs are not permitted to be worn in any competition fixture.
- 3.7.1.7 all teams named first on the GSL fixture shall be deemed the home team and will therefore play in their home strip.
- 3.7.1.8 if there is a clash of colours at any match, it is the visiting team's responsibility to change into an alternate strip. Visiting club's may be required to wear a combination of their home and alternate strips to ensure the clash is resolved.
- 3.7.1.9 all playing shirts must have a visible number on the back of the shirt.
- 3.7.1.10 all playing numbers displayed on shirts must be unique within the team.
- 3.7.1.11 a club may be penalized pursuant to the GDT if:
 - 3.7.1.11.1 a match does not commence due to an inability to resolve a clash of strips, and it can be established that such Club or team did not comply with sub rule 3.7.1.8
 - 3.7.1.11.2 a club changes their home or alternate playing strip without updating the new colours on the GSL FOX SPORTS PULSE competition system, and this change results in a match being postponed.
- 3.7.1.12 goalkeepers may wear any colour except black, provided it does not clash with either team or the Match Official.
- 3.7.1.13 FIFA rules in relation to playing equipment including but not limited to shin guards, jewellery and spectacles must be complied with.

3.7.2 Eyewear

- 3.7.2.1 Any player requiring vision correction should wear contact lenses, or wear spectacles that:
 - 3.7.2.1.1 are firmly secured with a sports band or adjustable strap
 - 3.7.2.1.2 have purpose-designed and closely fitted curled ends on the arms; or
 - 3.7.2.1.3 are specially designed protective sports glasses constructed of plastic with rubberised cushioning and no metallic parts.

3.8 Stretchers / First Aid

- 3.8.1 Each home club must allocate one stretcher suitable for first aid and emergency use, at all fixtures.
- 3.8.2 Advise the ambulance service of the best entry strategy to the complex; and the deployment of personnel to guide the attending ambulance to the ambulance gateway and the position of the injured person.
- 3.8.3 Access to the pitch for ambulance needs to be clearly identified, unobstructed, and if in the form of a gate – it must be unlocked.
- 3.8.4 Each home club must provide a first aid kit including, but not limited to:
 - 3.8.4.1 band Aids;
 - 3.8.4.2 bandages; and
 - 3.8.4.3 ice Pack (or other available ice).
- 3.8.5 No person may enter the field of play for the purpose of rendering first aid or medical assistance until summoned by the officiating referee. Officials found guilty by the GSL of breaching this rule shall be subject to penalties as the GSL sees fit.

3.9 Smoking / Drinking At League Venues

- 3.9.1 It is prohibited for anyone to smoke or consume alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence. This includes the team bench within the technical area and anywhere on or within 10 metres of the touchline.
- 3.9.2 Alcohol must not be sold, provided, consumed or otherwise promoted at any junior match or within view of any person attending such match.
- 3.9.3 Clubs are responsible for ensuring that smoking and drinking alcohol are confined to legitimate public areas at a distance no less than 10 metres from the touchline.

3.9.4 If any person is in breach of this rule, both the individual and if the person is a club associate, that person's club, may be face disciplinary action under the GDT.

3.10 National Flags, Slogans & Emblems

3.10.1 It is strictly prohibited to display any national flags, slogans, emblems or other material, with the exception of the Australian flag, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders flag or emblem, at any match.

3.10.2 It is strictly prohibited to incorporate any national flags other than the Australian flag, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders slogans or emblems on any part of the players' attire or any uniform worn by club officials.

3.10.3 No club may distribute, disseminate, broadcast or publish by any means whatsoever whether electronically or otherwise any material in a language other than English, without the prior written consent of GSL to do so.

3.10.4 All clubs must have the prior written approval of GSL before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan onto any club logo or name, product or medium, including but not limited to playing strips, promotional material, club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, website or any other form of communication.

3.10.5 GSL may request the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.

3.10.6 If any person is in breach of this rule, both the individual and any club of which that person is associated will face disciplinary action under the GDT.

3.11 Lighting Standards

3.11.1 Clubs wishing to play competition fixtures under lights must ensure that lighting for those fixtures must meet the minimum of 100 lux for their field.

Note: the minimum lux refers to the maintained average as measured in field audits.

4 FIXTURE DETAILS

4.1 Duration of Matches

4.1.1 Periods of Play

- 4.1.1.1 Subject to this rule all fixtures will be played over two equal periods as specified below in table 4.2, unless agreed otherwise between the Match Official and the two participating teams prior to commencement (**Normal Time**).

Table 4.2 – Duration of normal time across age groups

Age Group	Duration of Matches – Normal Time
Under Twelve (12)	2 x 30 minute halves (= 60 minutes)
Under Fourteen (14)	2 x 35 minute halves (= 70 minutes)
Under Sixteen (16)	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Under Fifteen (16) Girls	2 x 40 minute halves (= 80 minutes)
Senior Women's	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Reserves	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)
Senior Men's	2 x 45 minute halves (= 90 minutes)

- 4.1.1.2 Periods of play for specific competitions may be altered by GSL provided they are implemented throughout the age group or competition.
- 4.1.1.3 The Match Official may cut short any match if in the Match Official's opinion playing conditions compromise player safety or otherwise only if:
- 4.1.1.3.1 it is in line with FIFA rules; and
 - 4.1.1.3.2 he or she has consulted with the coaches of each participating team.

4.1.2 Commencement Time

- 4.1.2.1 Teams must be ready to begin playing by the stated kick off time.
- 4.1.2.2 If either team is not ready to begin playing within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time the Senior Match Official may;
- 4.1.2.1 in the case where only one team is not ready the offending team shall forfeit the fixture;
 - 4.1.2.2 in a case where both teams are not ready award the Match a 'No Result';
 - 4.1.2.3 In a case where both teams and the Match Official agree the match may commence up to 30 minutes after the scheduled

kick off time, provided it does not delay the kick off of subsequent matches either at that venue or to which the Match Official is appointed.

4.1.3 *Half Time Interval*

The half-time interval must be a minimum of 5 minutes and no longer than 15 minutes in duration.

4.2 Match Officials

- 4.2.1. Apart from an officer of the League, no club official or team representative is permitted to contact the Referees Appointment Officer in order to request, alter or defer a referee's appointment to any league fixture, regardless of the reasons.

4.3 Abandoned Matches

- 4.3.1 Matches in any cup or league fixture may only be abandoned by a decision of the Match Official or by an officer of the GSL.

- 4.3.2 If 75 per cent or more of normal time of a match has been played then the score at the time of abandonment will stand, unless the matter is referred to the GSL GDT.

If less than 75 per cent of normal time of a match has been played before the time of abandonment, then the match will be replayed in full at a time and venue to be determined by GSL unless the GDT determines otherwise.

- 4.3.3 The match will be abandoned if:

- 4.3.3.1 any club has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA requirement of seven players;
- 4.3.3.2 the lighting at the venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play;
- 4.3.3.3 the Match Official determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason; or
- 4.3.3.4 the Marshal and Ground Officials, determines that the conditions for players, coaches, match marshals or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.

- 4.3.4 Any player suspended for an abandoned match will be deemed to have served one match of their suspension if the match is not replayed.

- 4.3.5 If a match is abandoned due to a matter set out in sub rule 4.3.3 GSL may refer the matter to the GDT which may determine the:

- 4.3.5.1 match to be awarded as a 'No Result'.

- 4.3.5.2 match result is a 0-0 draw.
- 4.3.5.3 match result is 3–0 to either club unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non offending Club.
- 4.3.5.4 match to be replayed from the time at which the original match was abandoned.
- 4.3.5.5 match result should stand.
- 4.3.5.6 such other outcome as it sees fit.
- 4.3.6 Further, any club or club associate found to be responsible either in whole or in part for the abandonment of a game may be guilty of misconduct and may be subject to further penalties under the GDT.
- 4.3.7 When a match is abandoned, all Match Officials are entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee.

4.4 Postponed/Rescheduled Matches

- 4.4.1 All clubs must notify GSL as soon as they have reason to suspect that a ground may be unsuitable for play in an upcoming fixture.
- 4.4.2 Change of venues will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. The GSL Board reserve the right to refuse a request to change a fixture.
- 4.4.3 Subject to rule 4.4.4 Matches may only be postponed by the Match Official or a GSL Board member. Matches may only be rescheduled by an employee of the GSL.
- 4.4.4 If a match is postponed by the Match Official, the Match Official must notify the GSL by the next working day after the scheduled match day. In the case of a replacement Match Official appointed under rule 5.3.3, the home club must notify the GSL by the next working day after the scheduled match day.
- 4.4.5 GSL will determine the new time and date for the playing of a postponed/rescheduled match. Such decision is not open to appeal or review. Clubs are obliged to fulfill any postponed or rescheduled fixture as determined by GSL and any club which fails to do so will automatically forfeit the match and may face action under the GDT.
- 4.4.6 Any postponed or abandoned fixture that requires rescheduling will be rescheduled into the next available opportunity.
 - 4.4.6.1 if a fixture/s is postponed the home club is to propose three (3) alternative options for rescheduling to the visiting club. If the GSL deems that these options are fair and reasonable and the away club refuses to agree to the dates the GSL may award the fixture to the home club. If the home club fails to propose rescheduling options

within seven (7) days of the original fixture the GSL may award the fixture to the away club.

- 4.4.7 Any fixture ordered by GSL to be replayed must be completed by no later than one week after the conclusion of the relevant season unless otherwise approved or directed by GSL in writing. GSL may record the result of any match not completed within this time frame as a 'No Result'.
- 4.4.8 Clubs found guilty of rearranging any league fixture, or requesting the appointment of referees outside of the set kick-off time or date will be **fined \$150.00** (per offence). In this situation, the GSL reserves the right to record the final score as a **NO RESULT**, whereby, no points will be awarded, with all parties subject to further disciplinary action. Clubs that are repeat offenders will risk expulsion from the competition.
- 4.4.9 When a match is postponed, all appointed Match Officials are entitled to receive 50% of their normal match fee if the Match Official was present at the ground when the match was postponed.
- 4.4.10 No person apart from an officer of the GSL is permitted to schedule (or reschedule) any league fixture.
- 4.4.11 If only some matches can be played in a particular round due to postponement (ground conditions or otherwise) the starting 11 players of the teams that played will be ineligible to play for their club when the lower grade fixtures (Youth, Reserves) are re-scheduled. This rule will also apply when matches are fixtured on separate days in a given round. For example if Senior and Youth fixtures are scheduled on Saturday the starting 11 players from both matches are ineligible to play Reserves on Sunday.

4.5 Weather Conditions

- 4.5.1 GSL and/or the Match Official may postpone, delay or abandon any fixture due to weather or ground conditions such as but not limited to excessive heat/humidity or rain that may endanger participants.
- 4.5.2 If 30 minutes before kick off the temperature at the venue are 32° or above, water bottles must be made available to enable any player to take a drink during the course of the game. Permission of the Match Official to take a drink is not required.
- 4.5.3 If conditions are considered extreme by the Match Official, he or she may allow a 2 minute break during the course of each half.

4.6 Restrictions on Ground Usage

- 4.6.1 GSL may take whatever action is deemed necessary if a fixture or fixtures are affected by restrictions on the usage of grounds or where more than one game is scheduled to take place on a ground. By way of example only where it is necessary to limit the number of games to be played on a ground

then the game involving the senior team shall take priority over all other game.

4.7 Match Points

4.7.1 In all competition fixtures, Match points will be awarded as follows:

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---|---------------------------------------------|
| 4.7.1.1 | WIN | - | Three Points |
| 4.7.1.2 | DRAW | - | One Point |
| 4.7.1.3 | LOSS | - | Zero Points |
| 4.7.1.4 | BYE | - | Zero Points |
| 4.7.1.5 | NO RESULT | - | Zero Points or goals awarded to either team |
| 4.7.1.6 | ABANDONMENT | - | One Points |

4.7.2 GSL reserves the right to record any fixture as a 'No Result'.

4.7.3 The GSL Board reserves the right to record any outstanding fixtures that have not been completed by **NO LATER THAN** one (1) week after the conclusion of the League Home & Away season, as a **NIL-ALL DRAW**.

4.7.4 At the end of the championship season, all teams will be ranked from highest to lowest by virtue of the total number of championship points received.

4.7.5 If one or more teams finish the championship season on the same number of points, their final position will be determined as follows:

- 4.7.5.1 the team with the greatest goal difference will finish higher.
- 4.7.5.2 if goal difference is the same, then the team that has scored the most goals FOR will be deemed to have finished higher.
- 4.7.5.3 if goal difference is the same and goals FOR is the same, then the final order will be determined by the aggregate results of matches played between the teams.
- 4.7.5.4 if the aggregate scores between the teams are the same, then away goals will count as double.

4.7.6 If one or more teams have the identical number of championship points, goal difference, goals scored & conceded, and the results between the teams is the same, then those teams will be deemed to have tied.

4.8 Non-Participation in a Competition Fixture

- 4.8.1 Clubs are obliged to participate in fixtures determined by GSL. Any club which fails to do so will be penalised as follows and may also be subject to further sanction under the GDT:
- 4.8.1.1 the match will be awarded to the opposing team (as a 3-0 result), on 2nd offence a 3-0 result plus 1 penalty point will be imposed;
 - 4.8.1.2 senior team(s) will be fined;
 - referee's fees for the 1st offence
 - referee's fees, plus \$100 for each subsequent offence.
 - 4.8.1.3 in the event both teams refuse to play, the GSL reserves the right to award a **NO RESULT, fine both clubs \$100.00**, and recommend further disciplinary action.
 - 4.8.1.4 junior teams have until midday Friday to notify the GSL Office of a forfeit, failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine per forfeiting team.
- 4.8.2 When insufficient players are available to field all senior teams, clubs must field teams in order of hierarchy: seniors and reserves. If a club cannot field a senior team, it shall automatically forfeit the reserves match that round. Failure to field teams will be subject to the fines listed above.

4.9 Change of Venue/Fixture Requests

4.9.1 *Change of Venue Requests*

- 4.9.1.1 change of venue requests may only be made on the basis of perceived unplayable ground conditions, or to relocate a fixture to an improved facility.
- 4.9.1.2 a written request to change a venue due to perceived unplayable ground conditions must be received no less than two working days before the fixture. GSL will organise the inspection of the venue by a representative who will determine if the ground is playable. A change of venue will only be made on the basis of this inspection.
- 4.9.1.3 a written request to relocate a fixture to an improved facility must be received by GSL no less than ten (10) days prior to a fixture. GSL shall consider factors such as maintaining kick off times, relative distance to travel, and the quality of the facility and playing surface when considering such requests.

4.9.2 *Fixture Date/Time Change Requests*

- 4.9.2.1 GSL will consider fixture changes if the following criteria is met:

- 4.9.2.1.1 for changes to kick off times of less than two (2) hours from the scheduled kick off time;

- 4.9.2.1.1.1 the request is provided by the home club by a club official at least 10 days prior to the fixture. Opposition consent is not required for any change of less than 2 hours from the scheduled kick off time made more than 10 days from the fixture.
- 4.9.2.1.2 any request submitted less than 10 days from the fixture must be;
 - 4.9.2.1.2.1 accompanied by written consent, from a club official, of the opposition club.
 - 4.9.2.1.2.2 submitted no later than 5 working days from the scheduled fixture.
- 4.9.2.1.3 For changes to kick off times of more than 2 hours, including a change of date, from the scheduled kick off time;
 - 4.9.2.1.3.1 the request is provided by the home club by a club official at least 5 working days prior to the fixture.
 - 4.9.2.1.3.2 the request is accompanied by written consent, from a club official, of the opposition club.
- 4.9.3.1 Any request submitted less than five (5) working days from the scheduled fixture may not be considered.
- 4.9.3.2 Scheduled Catch-up and Cup Rounds are only to be used in the case of postponed or abandoned matches or scheduled cup fixtures.
- 4.9.3.3 GSL Board decisions in regards to rescheduling of fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and shall not be appealable.

5 MATCH OFFICIALS

5.1 Match Official Fees

- 5.1.1 The Match Official fees as set out in the GSL website will apply. Fees may be subject to change outside the playing season.
- 5.1.2 Unless otherwise stated in the Competition Rules, payment in cash or cheque of all fees for Match Officials must be made by the home team prior to the commencement of each fixture otherwise a match shall not commence.
- 5.1.3 If payment is made by cheque, and that cheque is subsequently dishonoured, the club may be fined \$200.
- 5.1.4 If a match is abandoned or postponed, all Match Officials are entitled to receive match fees in accordance with rules 4.3.7 and 4.4.9 respectively.

5.2 Assistant Match Officials

- 5.2.1 If insufficient assistant Match Officials have been appointed, each team must provide a linesperson to assist the Match Official. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit.

5.3 Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official

- 5.3.1 If the Match Official fails to honour his or her appointment, the next most senior Match Official ('Replacement') will take charge of the fixture.
- 5.3.2 If the Match Official is late arriving at a fixture, the replacement will take charge until the Match Official is ready to take over.
- 5.3.3 If no registered Match Official is present to act as the Replacement 10 minutes prior to the fixture, both clubs should agree on a replacement. If, by the scheduled kick off time, no agreement can be reached, the Home Club must appoint a person to act as Match Official for the fixture.
- 5.3.4 If any match does not kick off within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick off time due to the absence of a Match Official the home team will forfeit the fixture.
- 5.3.5 All clubs must fulfill all fixtures, regardless of whether or not the Match Official is present to take charge. Failure to do so may result in a fine and other action under the GDT.
- 5.3.6 All Match Officials appointed by "Home" clubs (i.e. Club Officials) are deemed to be officials of the game and will be required to complete the necessary Team Sheet Forms and Best Player Vote Forms. All paperwork should be handed to the home club /team secretary to complete the

necessary results process and returned to the GSL Office by Wednesday 12 noon.

- 5.3.7 All clubs are obligated to fulfil all fixtures regardless of whether the appointed Match Official is present to take charge.
- 5.3.8 Should any team(s) fail or refuse to participate in any GSL fixture on the above grounds, then:
 - 5.3.8.1 that match will be awarded to the opposing team (as a 3-0 result),
 - 5.3.8.2 the team(s) will be fined \$500.00 per offence and will be subject to further disciplinary action.
- 5.3.9 In the event both teams refuse to play, the GSL reserves the right to award a **NO RESULT**, fine both clubs \$500.00 and recommend further disciplinary action.

5.4 Decisions of the Match Official

- 5.4.1 The decisions of the Match Official or Assistant Match Official about any fact connected with the play are final and cannot be disputed by any party. A Match Official may change a decision if he/she realises that a decision is incorrect, or on the advice of an assistant Match Official, provided the play has not re-started.

5.5 Match Records

- 5.5.1 At the conclusion of each match, the Match Official shall consult with his or her Assistant Match Officials, where appointed, and confirm the correctness of all match information before completing both match records.
- 5.5.2 Match records must be submitted to the GSL office no later than Wednesday, 12 noon after the match date.
- 5.5.3 The appointed referee must record player votes on team sheets.
- 5.5.4 It is the Match Official's responsibility to ensure that all players taking the field of play are wearing equipment that is safe to themselves and any other person.
- 5.5.5 A referee may refuse to officiate on an insufficiently marked ground or one that they consider dangerous to the player/s. This will then be reported to the League for action on the appropriate form.

5.6 Player Safety and Blood Rule

- 5.6.1 The Match Official must ensure that any player who suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood leaves the ground immediately for the purpose of receiving medical attention outside the field of play.
- 5.6.2 The Match Official may allow the injured player to rejoin the game only after the Match Official is satisfied that the wound has been safely covered and contained.
- 5.6.3 If a player's uniform or attire has blood spilt on it, the Match Official may require the player to change his or her attire before rejoining the game.
- 5.6.4 If the injured player is required to change his or her uniform, and a shirt displaying the same number as the original shirt is unavailable, the Match Official may in his or her discretion allow the player to wear an alternative numbered, or blank, shirt.
- 5.6.5 Alternatively, in such circumstances, a team may replace the injured player in accordance with any applicable interchange rule.

6 CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

The following Codes of Behaviour incorporate the Australian Sports Commission template Code of Behaviour, the FFA National Code of Conduct and the FFA National Spectator Code of Behaviour. -These codes are deemed to be incorporated into these Rules of Competition and are outlined below.

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 It is vital that everyone involved in football, whether they are athletes, coaches, parents, officials or supporters, understand their responsibilities to ensure that all participants enjoy the sport.
- 6.1.2 It is strongly recommended that all players, parents, officials, coaches and members be given a copy of these codes by their club, and that each club ensures the codes are clearly displayed in their clubrooms.
- 6.1.3 As well as reading and seeking to understand the instructions contained in the codes, GSL asks all participants to recognise that there are underlying principles which extend beyond those specific instructions.

6.2 General Principles for all Persons Involved in Sport

- Operate within the Rules and spirit of Football, promoting fair play over winning at any cost.
- Encourage and support opportunities for people to learn appropriate behaviours and skills.
- Support opportunities for participation in all aspects of the sport.
- Treat each person as an individual.
- Display control and courtesy to all involved with the sport.
- Respect the rights and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Respect the decisions of officials, coaches and administrators in the conduct of the sport.
- Wherever practical, avoid unaccompanied and unobserved one-on-one activity (when in a supervisory capacity or where a power imbalance will exist) with people under the age of 18 years.
- Adopt appropriate and responsible behaviour in all interactions.
- Adopt responsible behaviour in relation to alcohol and other drugs.
- Act with integrity and objectivity, and accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a safe environment.
- Do not tolerate harmful or abusive behaviours.
- Do not bring the game of Football into disrepute, by engaging in discriminatory, offensive or criminal behaviour.
- Ensure your decisions and actions contribute to a harassment free environment.
- Do not bring the game into disrepute by engaging in harassment, including sexual harassment or any unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated.

- Do not bring the game into disrepute by provoking or inciting hatred or violence, including crowd violence.
- Do not bring the game into disrepute by engaging in corruption, forgery or falsification, or by abusing a position to obtain a personal benefit.
- Do not bring the game into disrepute by the throwing or fixing of a match, by accepting bribes, or by any conduct intended to unfairly effect the result of a match.
- Do not bring the game into disrepute by any other conduct that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of Football.
(NB for the purposes of this code of behavior 'Disrepute' means conduct, statement or appearance in public that is damaging to reputation).

6.3 Players' Code of Behaviour

- Give your best at all times.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit.
- Play by the Rules.
- Do not argue with the Match Official. If you disagree, have your captain or coach approach the Match Official during a break in play or after the match is concluded.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking another person is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Be a good sport and be prepared to acknowledge good play whether it is from your team or the opposition.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition.
- Remove all jewellery prior to training and match play, as it is a hazard to you and those around you.
- Do not accept or use any banned or unauthorised drug(s), including the consumption of alcohol at any time.

6.4 Coaches' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Help each person (athlete, official etc) reach their potential - respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each person and compliment and encourage with positive and supportive feedback.
- Any physical contact with a person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development.
- Be honest and do not allow your qualifications to be misrepresented.
- Be reasonable in your demands on younger players time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Teach your players to abide by the rules and Laws of the Game
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet a reasonable safety standard and is appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
- Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players.
- Develop and enhance respect between players, opposition coaches and the decisions of the Match Official.

- Follow the advice of a physician when determining the extent of a player's injury and beyond that, when players are returning from injury to training and match play.
- Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices (refer to Coach Accreditation Criteria).
- Take time out to teach players (& others) the Laws of the Game, hence raising their awareness.
- Remind all players to play within the spirit of the game at all times.
- Ensure players are good sports and ensure each team member shakes the hand of their opponents at the conclusion of every match.
- Do not smoke or consume alcohol from the team bench (technical area) or sideline.
- Remember the actions of yourself and your team is reflective of the perception others take away with them.

6.5 Administrators' Code of Behaviour

- Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the sport as a whole.
- Ensure that any information acquired or advantage gained from the position is not used improperly.
- Conduct your responsibilities with due care, competence and diligence.
- Do not allow prejudice, conflict of interest or bias to affect your objectivity.
- Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behavior and skill development, and assist in raising the standards of coaching and officiating.
- Ensure everyone involved in football emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
- Be tolerant and calm under pressure and approach problem solving in a supportive manner as members and players will expect you to set an example for others.

6.6 Match Officials' Code of Behaviour

- Place the safety and welfare of the athletes above all else.
- Be consistent and impartial when making decisions.
- Address unsporting behavior and promote respect for all people.
- Modify your approach to suit the skill levels and needs of players.
- Praise and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Do not tolerate unsporting behavior and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasize the spirit of the game rather than focus on negative aspects.
- Encourage and promote rule changes to all players and members.
- Be a good sport yourself, as actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in refereeing.
- Remember that you set the example on the park, therefore, your behavior and comments should always be positive and supportive.

6.7 Parents Code of Behaviour

- Encourage children to participate and have fun.
- Focus on the child's effort and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.

6.8 Spectators' Code of Behaviour

It is important that all spectators at a GSL approved fixture are able to enjoy the match in a safe and comfortable environment. Accordingly, each person present at a GSL fixture must;

- respect the decisions of the Match Officials, and teach children to do the same
- never ridicule or unduly scold a child for making a mistake
- respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their race, colour, religion, language, political views, national or ethnic origin
- not engage in the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, team officials (including coaches) or players
- not engage in discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form whether lawful or otherwise, including but not limited to the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting
- not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority; and
- conduct them self in a manner that enhances, rather than injures, the reputation and goodwill of GSL, Football Federation Australia (FFA), and football generally.

Any person who does not comply with this Code or who in the opinion of GSL causes or attempts to cause or is reasonably likely to cause a disturbance **may be evicted** from the venue and banned from attending future matches held under the auspices of GSL, for a period of up to 2 years from when the eviction occurred. Any offender who then breaches the ban order against them may be charged with trespass and subject to further penalties and sanctions, including the possibility of further legal action.

It is the host club's responsibility to ensure this Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all spectators.

6.9 Code of Conduct

Every person: spectator, player, club member, official, participant, administrator, coach, parent or member of the community involved with the sport, should work to ensure:

- inclusion of every person regardless of their age, gender or sexual orientation
- inclusion of every person regardless of their race, culture or religion
- opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in the sport and develop to their full potential
- respect is shown towards others, the club and the broader community
- a safe and inclusive environment for all
- elimination of violent and abusive behavior
- Protection from sexual harassment or intimidation.

This Code applies to community sport, training and club sanctioned activities.

6.10 Breaches of the Code

Penalties will be issued once the breach has been confirmed through an appropriate assessment process by the relevant State Sporting Association or club. The following behaviors are considered breaches of the Code;

- violent or abusive behavior towards another person
- vilification of any kind towards another person
- discrimination against another person based on their age, gender or sexual orientation
- discrimination against another person based on their race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic
- sexual harassment or intimidation of another person
- victimization of another person for exercising their rights through the Code of Conduct; and
- failure to maintain a safe environment.

6.11 State Sporting Association Responsibility

The responsibility of a State Sporting Association through the Code of Conduct is to:

- promote the Code of Conduct to all persons involved in the sport or club
- ensure reporting and assessment processes are in place to identify and penalize breaches of the Code
- report on the implementation of the Code to the State Government on an annual basis; and
- ensure that every person involved in the sport is able to exercise their rights without fear of victimisation.

6.12 Definitions

Person: spectator, player, official, club member, participant, administrator, coach, parent or member of the community involved with the sport.

State Sporting Association: the peak body for a particular sport in the state and affiliated with its National Sporting Organisation. The SSA is responsible for the development of the sport and the management and communication of the sport's rules and regulations to its affiliated clubs and members.

7. MATCH OFFICIALS

7.1 Best and Fairest Votes

- 7.1.1 All votes must be recorded on the Best and Fairest Voting Form provided on the GSL team sheet and submitted to the GSL within two working days.
- 7.1.2 When a club referee has been allocated, votes must be entered onto the team sheet and returned to the GSL office by Wednesday 12 noon.
- 7.1.3 All votes must be treated with the highest confidentiality.
- 7.1.4 All voting forms must be completed in full, including the Players' name, Club and FFA ID Number.
- 7.1.5 A failure to comply with this rule may result in a Match Official being suspended.
- 7.1.6 Votes shall be cast in a 3-2-1 format with 3 votes given for the Player adjudged by the Match Official to be the best and fairest in each match.
- 7.1.7 A player who receives a suspension as defined in the GDT shall be ineligible to win the award. To avoid doubt this includes but is not limited to a player who receives 5 Yellow Cards or in the Competition Season.
- 7.1.8 A Player who has a Direct Red Card revoked for mistaken identity shall be eligible to win the award.

SCHEDULE 2 –COMPETITION REGULATIONS

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

1.1. General Information

- 1.1.1 These rules shall apply to all competition fixtures (including league fixtures, cup games, finals & play-off matches) of GSL.
- 1.1.2 All competition matches will be played on Sunday, although GSL may schedule games on other days as it deems necessary
- 1.1.3 The kick-off times may be changed to accommodate playing at different times, venues or days. The GSL board reserves the right to change or alter playing times to accommodate fixturing requirements.
- 1.1.4 To be eligible to participate in Men and Women's competitions run by GSL, Players must turn 15 years (or older) in the current calendar year unless an application to GSL for exemption from this rule is made by the player's club on behalf of a player and is accepted by GSL.

Any such request for an exemption must at a minimum meet the following criteria;

1.1.4.1 must be supported by a signed letter from the player's club supporting the application;

1.1.4.2 must also be supported by a signed letter of consent from the player's parent or guardian supporting the application. At its discretion the GSL may request more information be presented for consideration.

1.2. Men's

- 1.2.1 The Senior Competition shall comprise of 10 Clubs, or such other number as determined by GSL at any time.
- 1.2.2 The Senior teams will play each other on a home and away basis determined by the GSL.
- 1.2.3 All Senior and Reserves teams will play on the same day with all Reserves games played as a curtain raiser to the senior fixture.
- 1.2.4 When insufficient players are available to field senior teams, clubs must field teams in order of hierarchy: Seniors then Reserves.
- 1.2.5 The team finishing 1st in all competitions at the conclusion of the home and away season will be crowned League Champions.

- 1.2.6 At the conclusion of the home and away season, the top four (4) placed teams, must play a compulsory finals series to determine the GSL Premier and Runner-up.
- 1.2.7 The applicable kick off times for Saturday or Sunday matches apply to any matches held on public holidays.

1.3 Women's

- 1.3.1 The Senior competition teams shall comprise of 10 clubs, or such other number determined by the GSL at the time.
- 1.3.2 The Senior teams will play each other on a home and away basis determined by the GSL.
- 1.3.3 The team finishing 1st in women's division at the conclusion of the Home and Away season will be crowned League Champions.
- 1.3.4 The applicable kick off times for Sunday matches apply to any matches held on public holidays.
- 1.3.5 At the conclusion of the home and away season, the top four (4) placed teams, must play a compulsory finals series to determine the GSL Premier and Runner-up.

1.4 Juniors

- 1.4.1 Junior teams in all divisions will play each other on a home and away basis determined by GSL.

Players in the following age groups may take part in the junior competition:

Age Group	Year of Birth
Twelves (12s)	Turning 12 on or after 1 st January in year of competition
Fourteens (14s)	Turning 14 on or after 1 st January in year of competition
Sixteens (16s)	Turning 16 on or after 1 st January in year of competition

- 1.4.2 Even number of players to apply to 16 girls competition at all times
- 1.4.3 Minimum of 7 players required at all times, excluding finals
- 1.4.4 The team finishing 1st in each division at the conclusion of the home and away season will be crowned League Champion.
- 1.4.5 Sunday fixtures kick off times will be deterred by the GSL at the start of each season.
- 1.4.6 The applicable kick off times for Sunday matches apply to any matches held on public holidays.

- 1.4.7 Where two or more teams have equal points in the junior competitions 12's – 16's, then they will be declared "Dual League Champions"

2. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Substitution/interchange

- 2.1.1 *Interchange Rule – Seniors, Reserves, Women's and Juniors*
- 2.1.1.1 a maximum of 16 players may be named on the match record. Clubs may make any number of interchanges during the course of the match.
- 2.1.1.2 a referee may decline the interchange of players in the last five minutes of a match if in his opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay the restart of play.
- 2.1.1.3 where a player's name is on the team sheet as an interchange player, they will be deemed to have played even if they did not take the field.
- 2.1.1.4 listing a player on the team sheet who is either not present or capable of taking to the field shall incur a fine of \$500 per offence.
- 2.1.2 All substitutes must be seated within the technical area.
- 2.1.3 Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the Technical Area, provided they are wearing an alternative coloured uniform to the team strip.
- 2.1.4 When warming up, substitutes must use an area furthest from the opposing team or as advised by the Match Official.

2.2 Match Balls

- 2.2.1 The home club shall provide the appointed Match Official with three (3) Match balls (size 5) no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled fixture.
- 2.2.2 At the conclusion of the game, the Match Official will return the 3 Match balls to the home club.
- 2.2.3 All clubs must use a licensed match ball from one of GSL's licensed ball manufacturers as advised by GSL from time to time.
- 2.2.4 Any breach of the match ball licensing arrangements must be reported to GSL by the Match Official.

3 FINALS SERIES

3.1 Competition Format –Finals Series

3.1.1 The top four (4) teams at the conclusion of the GSL home and away season will progress to the league finals series.

3.1.2 The format of the GSL Finals Series will be as follows:

Week 1 Semi- Final 1: 1st v 4th

Week 2 Semi-Final 2: 2nd v 3rd

Week 3 Grand Final: Winner Semi-Final 1 v Winner Semi-Final 2

3.1.3 Host venues will be determined at the absolute discretion of GSL during the course of the season.

3.1.4 GSL will cover all referee match fees for Grand Final of the Finals Series.

3.1.5 If any GSL Finals Series fixture is postponed, abandoned or cancelled, that fixture will be played within three (3) days of the original fixture at the absolute discretion of GSL. This may include the fixture being played the following day, and/or the fixture being played at an alternative venue.

3.1.5.1 GSL grand final maybe postponed to 7 days after scheduled game.

3.1.6 If game cannot be rescheduled, highest place team is deemed the winner in semi finals

3.2 Procedures to Determine the Winner of Finals

3.2.1 All matches played in the finals series will be played over one leg.

3.2.2 If, at the conclusion of any Senior Men's, Women's or Senior Men's final, the scores between the teams are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods of 15 minutes will be played, in accordance with FIFA Law 8. At the conclusion of any junior final the scores are tied, then extra time of two (2) equals periods of 5 minutes will be played.

3.2.3 If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the Match.

3.2.4 The team who wins the Grand Final will become the GSL League Premiers of that season.

3.3 Discipline

- 3.3.1 Yellow cards accumulated by a player during the Home and Away season will not be counted towards the final series. However, if a Player receives their 5th yellow card in their club's final Home and Away match he/she shall be suspended for week one (1) of the GSL Finals Series.
- 3.3.2 If a player receives a red card in the Finals Series, their club will be notified of the player's suspension in writing within 72 hours following the fixture in which the red card was received.

3.4 Player Restrictions

- 3.4.1 Each player must have played at least one third, plus one game, of the league home and away matches for that team during the current home and away season to be eligible to play finals.
 - 3.4.1.1 a player may not count more than 1 game per round. In the case that rule 3.4.1 means under 8 games, if a player has played more senior than reserves games, that player is considered a senior player and not eligible for reserve finals.
A player that has qualified for finals in the reserves, may play seniors without playing any home and away games. However, is then tied to senior in finals.
- 3.4.2 If a player plays eight or more senior games, they are ineligible for Reserve Finals
- 3.4.3 Juniors turning 16 on or after 1st January in year of competition are exempt from 3.4.2

