



**Auckland Football Federation
Northern Football Federation
Senior Conference Leagues
Rules & Regulations
Season 2019**

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1. DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

- 1.1. **Competition;** any Competition, tournament or league administered by AFF including pre-season, season proper, finals series and any post season tournament or knockout cup competition.
- 1.2. **Season;** The period of time starting with the first official match of the Competition and ending with the last official match of the Competition.
- 1.3. **Regulations;** Means these Competition regulations.
- 1.4. **NZF;** New Zealand Football Incorporated.
- 1.5. **AFF;** Auckland Football Federation
- 1.6. **NFF;** Northern Football Federation
- 1.7. **Club;** An affiliated member club of NFF or of AFF that enters at least one team in a Competition.
- 1.8. **Competitions Manager;** means the official appointed by the Federations from time to time to administer the Competitions
- 1.9. **Home Venue:** A match played at a Club's own nominated match venue.
- 1.10. **Home Team;** the Club named first on the Competition fixture.
- 1.11. **Home Club;** The Club responsible for the organisation and management of matches played at their own nominated match venue.
- 1.12. **Away Team;** The Club playing a match at an opponent's nominated match venue.
- 1.13. **Player;** Any football player registered as such with a Club, and **Players** shall be construed accordingly.
- 1.14. **Playing;** Means taking the field of play including as a substitute. Being named on the **Match Day Line-up** and not taking the field of play does not constitute as playing
- 1.15. **Health and Safety Regulations;** The Health and Safety Act 2015 and all other relevant regulations.
- 1.16. **Match Information:** Refers to COMET Match Report, Team List, Team Card or any other means of recording player participation in a Competition Match.
- 1.17. **COMET:** Means the NZF National Registration System and Competitions Management System.
- 1.18. **Fines Schedule:** means the schedule attached to these regulations.
- 1.19. **Regional Association Disciplinary Committee;** The Disciplinary Committee of a Regional Association/Federation
- 1.20. **NZF Disciplinary Committee;** The Disciplinary Committee of NZF.

2. COMPETITION

- 2.1. Participation in the Competition shall be open to invited Clubs within the boundaries of Auckland Football and Northern Football Federations.
- 2.2. The Federations recognize the shared responsibility for the AFF/NFF Men's' and Women's Conference divisions and the need for shared decision making between the two Federations.
- 2.3. The Federations reserve the right to amend or replace these Competition regulations as applied from time to time. Any such amendment or replacement shall be notified by email or in writing to all relevant Clubs. The non-receipt by a Club of notice of such amendment or replacement will not invalidate the change.
- 2.4. Final decisions on interpretations of any part of these regulations shall rest with the Federations. A decision by the Federations in regard to these regulations can be appealed to the relevant Regional Association Disciplinary Committee as per the NZF Disciplinary Code.
- 2.5. No change to these regulations shall be implemented without a minimum notice period to Clubs of 30 days, once the season has commenced.
- 2.6. The Federations shall have the right to change the Competition name to reflect the name of a sponsor if it so desires.
- 2.7. These Regulations regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all Clubs in the Competition. These Regulations are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition.
- 2.8. All matches shall be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game, unless varied as per these Regulations.
- 2.9. The NZF Statutes and Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and all FIFA Regulations in force shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to the NZF Statutes and Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and FIFA Regulations, refers to the Statutes, Rules and Regulations valid at the time of application.
- 2.10. Unless otherwise determined by these Regulations, the entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Federations. The Federations shall have the power to do all other things necessary to ensure the progress of the Competition through all its stages and may take appropriate action to bring about such results.
- 2.11. The Federations shall determine the number of teams that will compete in the Competition. The decision of the Federations as to the composition of the Competition shall be final and binding. The Federations retain the ability to increase or decrease the number of teams at its sole discretion.
- 2.12. The Federations may appoint a Competition Manager or similar who shall be responsible for administration of the Competition. The Competition Manager is authorised to determine the imposition and duration of the suspensions and fines pursuant to the NZF Disciplinary Code. The Competition Manager shall also retain the discretion to refer any disciplinary matters to the relevant Regional Association Disciplinary Committee.
- 2.13. Each Club competing in the Competition shall be primarily responsible for the organisation and control of each of their own home matches in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Competitions, in accordance with any instructions as may from time to time be issued by the Federations.

- 2.14. At the time of confirming entry to the Competition, each Club shall nominate its match venue(s) as requested by the Federations.
- 2.15. Each Club wishing to compete in the Competition shall, on or before a date advised by the Competition Manager, confirm in writing their acceptance of an invitation to compete in the Competition.
- (a) Written confirmation is to be submitted by the due date.
- 2.16. Entry to, and continued participation in, the Competition shall be determined by the Federations having regard to:
- (a) The Clubs satisfying criteria established from time to time by the Federations on a continuing basis.
- (b) The criteria established by the Federations shall include, but not be limited to Registration of players, level of coaching qualifications, and financial performance and shall otherwise be at the discretion of the Federations.
- 2.17. In the event of any Club not continuing in the Competition for whatever reason, including, failing to meet the aforementioned criteria, resulting in their removal from the Competition, then the filling of the consequential vacancy shall be determined by the Federations, which may in its sole discretion choose not to fill the vacancy.
- 2.18. Each Club competing in the Competition shall pay any Competition costs as directed by the Federations.
- 2.19. In the event of any Club not paying the relevant Competitions fees as required, then, without prejudice to any other remedies available to the Federations, and at the sole discretion of the Federations, the Club may be subject to:
- (a) A suspension from participation in the Competition or any further iteration of the Competition.
- (b) The collection of unpaid costs being directed to a collection agency.
- 2.20. From time to time the Federations may set costs of participation above and beyond the normal Federations and NZF levies which shall be payable to the Club's own Federation.

3. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 3.1. Disciplinary incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Disciplinary Code. Where there is any conflict between the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations, then these Regulations shall apply.
- 3.2. The Clubs, their Players and Officials, agree to comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game and with the FIFA Statutes and Regulations, in particular the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Code of Ethics (in particular in matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism and match-fixing), the FIFA Code of Conduct and NZF Statutes and Regulations, in particular the NZF Disciplinary Code, the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations, the NZF Code of Ethics, the NZF Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Regulations and the NZF Code of Conduct.

- 3.3. In addition, the Players agree to:
- (a) Respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence;
 - (b) Behave accordingly;
 - (c) In the interests of Competition integratory, refrain from doping as defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 3.4. Any team or members within a team that receives any incident reports within the same season of proven instances of unacceptable behaviour and/or NZF Code of Conduct breaches may be subject to a good behaviour financial team bond. This will be imposed by the Competition Manager and may be refunded at the end of the season if no further proven reported incidents are received. Any proven reported incidents may result in a forfeit of the financial bond.
- 3.5. Teams or members within a team who have been placed on a good behaviour financial team bond in the previous season may be subjected to a non-financial team bond in the following season. The first proven reported incident of unacceptable behaviour and/or NZF Code of Conduct breaches may result in a good behaviour financial team bond being imposed by the Competition Manager.
- 3.6. Any good behaviour financial team bond imposed must be paid by the Club by the advised date. In the event of non-payment, fixtures for that team will be defaulted week by week until paid in full.

Referee's Reports

- 3.7. Reference to a Referee's report for the purposes of the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations shall include reference to the **Match Day Line-up (COMET Match Report)**.
- 3.8. Citation by the match Referee of the relevant offence code on the Referee's report shall be deemed to also be citation of the nature of the offence and the IFAB Laws of the Game for the purposes of the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations.

4. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS

- 4.1. Any Club in the Competition may bring a dispute or protest to the relevant Federation who shall make a decision or refer to the appropriate Judicial Body according to NZF Statutes or Regulations, and advise the party or parties concerned in accordance with the relevant regulations providing that;
- (a) The protest must be in writing to the Competition Manager, setting out the full details of the incident or protest and must be accompanied by the prescribed Incident Report Form.
 - (b) A protest shall be made by the Club Secretary or other recognised Club official by the Wednesday following the match, or in the case of a weekday match, within 3 working days of the alleged breach.
- 4.2. Clubs or players may appeal a decision through the process set out in the NZF Disciplinary Code.

5. EQUIPMENT

Playing Strips

- 5.1. Each Club shall inform the Federations of playing strips (shirts, shorts, and socks) with two different and contrasting colours for its Club colours and alternate strip. In addition, each Club shall select two contrasting colours for goalkeepers (shirts, shorts and socks). These goalkeeper strips must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the Club colours and alternate strips. **Any breach of this regulation may result in the offending club being fined as per the Fines Schedule attached to these regulations.**
- 5.2. Each Team shall wear its Club strip in their Home matches, and all other matches where there is no clash of colours with the Away Team. In the event of any match being played at a neutral match venue, the named Home Team will wear their Club strip.
- 5.3. Where the strips of the two Teams are alike or similar, the Away Team shall wear their alternate strip as long as that does not contain any of the basic colours of the Home Team and is approved by the Referee. **Failure to provide an alternate strip may result in the offending club being fined as per the Fines Schedule attached to these Regulations.**
- 5.4. If, in the opinion of the Referee, a clash of colours will occur to the detriment of the match, the Referee may direct either or both Clubs to change or vary their strip.
- 5.5. Where necessary to ensure a game is played, training bibs may be used to differentiate colours of the two competing teams.

Numbers

- 5.6. All participating teams in the AFF/NFF Senior Conference Divisions must have numbered shirts.
- 5.7. Each Player shall wear the number assigned to them in the **Match Day Line-up**. Where shorts are numbered, the same number must be displayed on the back of their playing shirt and on the front of the shorts. The same number may, at the Club's discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt. The number(s) must be clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance for all Players, Match Officials, and spectators from the colours used for the respective playing equipment item.
- 5.8. There shall be no duplication of numbers within a team. The size of the number on the back of the shirt must be between 25cm and 35cm in height and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt. The number must be entirely visible when the Player's shirt is tucked into the shorts. The stroke width of the figure of the numbers on the back of the shirt used by the Players must be between 3cm and 5cm.

Official Match Balls

- 5.9. Size 5 FIFA sanctioned match balls shall be provided by the home team **and must be approved by the Referee as suitable.**

6. MATCH VENUES, DATES AND KICK-OFF TIMES

- 6.1. The Federations shall publish a fixture list including the match venues, dates and kick-off times for the season. All matches shall be played on the dates and times as published by the Federations and shall not be varied without the prior written approval of the Federations.
- 6.2. The Competition Manager shall determine times, dates and grounds for any fixture in the competition and shall have the right at all times to amend, postpone or cancel any fixture.
- 6.3. Games may be scheduled on grass, hybrid or approved artificial surfaces.
- 6.4. Matches shall be played at such time and on such grounds as directed by the Federations;
- 6.5. In the event of a late start for any reason, if it is known or can be ascertained prior to kick-off that there is no later match scheduled for the pitch which would be disrupted by doing so, the match shall be extended to its normal duration in two equal halves.
- 6.6. If there is a match scheduled to follow on the same pitch, the match should be transferred to another available field or postponed. The Competition Manager may;
 - (a) Confirm the match is postponed, or
 - (b) Reschedule the match.
- 6.7. If any Club wishes to change the match date or kick off time, they must advise both the opposing Club and the Federations no less than 15 days prior to the scheduled games, setting out in full their reasons for requiring the change. In the event of both Clubs agreeing to the change, the Federations shall take that into account prior to giving its decision.
 - (a) The Federations may approve the request to change; or
 - (b) The Federations may not approve the request to change; or
 - (c) The Federations without the opposing Club's agreement may in their sole discretion agree to the change.
 - (d) Requests for postponements must include a confirmed date for the rescheduling of the fixture – if no date is included the fixture shall be determined to have been a default by the team requesting the postponement and the appropriate fine will be issued.
- 6.8. In exceptional circumstances postponements may be proposed by Clubs through the Club Secretary or other recognised Club official. Such proposed postponements must be received by the Federations no less than 24 hours before the scheduled time of kick-off, and will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the Competition Manager.
- 6.9. A request for postponement may be considered if:
 - (a) The team has been drawn to play in a New Zealand Football cup competition less than 72 hours before or after the fixture.

- 6.10. In exceptional circumstances or emergencies, requests for change of fixtures, venues and kick-off times not accompanied by the permission in writing of an authorised official of the opposing team/Club may be considered by the Federations.
- 6.11. Other changes to individual fixtures may be made at the sole discretion of the Federations, not instigated by a Club and not requiring permission in writing from the opposing club/team or Club.
- 6.12. If any Club wishes to change any match date or kick-off time, they must advise both the opposing Club and the Federations in writing at least 15 Days prior to the scheduled game, setting out in full their reasons for requiring the change. In the event of both Clubs agreeing to the change, the Federations shall take that into account when giving its decision.
- 6.13. Any additional cost incurred in changing a previously agreed match date or kick-off time shall be borne by the Club making the request.
- 6.14. In the event of a Club wishing to play at a match venue other than its nominated match venue, it must give the Federations 15 days' notice in writing setting out the reasons for the change of match venue, with full particulars of the new match venue and facilities available for players, spectators and officials. The decision of the Federations as to the acceptability of the proposed match venue change will be final.

Floodlit Matches

- 6.15. A fixture may be played wholly or partially under floodlights subject to the floodlight installation having been approved by the Federations as being suitable.

Cost of Floodlights

- (a) Any costs of night matches scheduled at the request of a club shall be borne by the Club making the request.
- (b) Any costs of night matches scheduled by the Federations shall be borne by Federations.
- (c) Any costs of night matches rescheduled by the Federations shall be borne by Home Club (this shall apply where the Home Club has not taken the opportunity to reschedule).
- (d) Any match re-scheduled at the request of a Club, shall be borne by the Club making the original request.

Security

- 6.16. The Host Club shall be responsible for taking all practicable measures to ensure:
 - (a) That all facilities and equipment comply with the Health and Safety Regulations. Certificates of compliance as required must be current;
 - (b) The orderly behaviour of the crowd and safety of the Match Officials, players and officials of the teams and all spectators; and
 - (c) Each Club must make every effort to ensure that the NZF Code of Conduct is communicated and made available to its staff, Players, coaches, volunteers and spectators.

7. FIELD OF PLAY

- 7.1. All Home Clubs are to ensure that their grounds comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game, Law 1 – The Field of Play.
- 7.2. Matches may be played on natural, **hybrid** or approved artificial football turf surfaces.
- 7.3. All Home Clubs are required to have the field of play of their home grounds maintained in a satisfactory condition.
- 7.4. In the event of inclement weather, the Home Club shall be obliged to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that scheduled fixtures proceed.
- 7.5. In the event of inclement weather, the Home Club shall be obliged to re-mark all or portions of the ground, at the request of the Referee.
- 7.6. The Referee's decision shall be final as to the condition of the ground for play.

8. REFEREES

- 8.1. The Federations will make appointments for Competition fixtures as follows;
 - (a) AFF/NFF Men's Conference: Referee, Assistant Referees
 - (b) AFF/NFF Men's Conference Reserves: Referee
 - (c) AFF/NFF Women's Conference: Referee
- 8.2. Should a referee not be appointed to a match or if the referee fails to arrive then the home team may provide a Club Based Referee (CBR) with current accreditation to control the whole fixture. If a CBR is provided he or she shall provide his/her name and membership number to the visiting coach/manager, and is required to **visibly** wear their CBR shirt.
- 8.3. If the Home Club does not have a CBR and the visiting team does, then the visiting CBR shall control the fixture.
- 8.4. If in the event that a CBR is not available to referee, then;
 - (a) A person appointed by the home team shall referee the first half and a person appointed by the visiting team shall referee the second half. Or;
 - (b) Teams may agree that one Referee shall officiate the whole fixture. Once agreed, the referee should not be changed during a match other than for injury or by mutual agreement of both team's management.

9. SUBSTITUTION RULES

Substitution Procedures

- 9.1. The procedure for substitutions shall be in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.

Substitutions will be as follows:

- (a) **AFF/NFF Men's Conference:**
Up to three (3) substitutes may be used from up to five (5) named on the **Match Day Line-up**, at the discretion of the Referee.
- (b) **AFF/NFF Men's Conference Reserves:**
Up to five (5) substitutes may be used from up to five (5) named on the **Match Day Line-up**, with unlimited interchange of Players at any time in the match, at the discretion of the Referee.
- (c) **AFF/NFF Women's Conference**
Up to five (5) substitutes may be used from up to five (5) named on the **Match Day Line-up**, with unlimited interchange of Players at any time in the match, at the discretion of the Referee.
- (d) **AFF/NFF Over 35s and Over 40s Men's Conference**
Up to five (5) substitutes may be used from up to five (5) named on the **Match Day Line-up**, with unlimited interchange of Players at any time in the match, at the discretion of the Referee.

9.2. Substitutes may warm-up during the game subject to the dimensions of the ground but may not use a ball. A goalkeeper is permitted to use a ball to warm-up.

10. TECHNICAL AREA

- 10.16. All occupants of the Technical Area shall be recorded in the **Match Day Line-up** prior to the commencement of the match.
- 10.17. Only one person at a time may convey technical instructions from the Technical Area.
- 10.18. The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the Technical Area except in special circumstances, for example, entering the field of play with the Referee's permission to treat an injured Player.
- 10.19. The coach and other occupants of the Technical Area must conduct themselves at all times, in a responsible manner, and in particular refrain from using offensive, insulting, abusive language and or gestures.
- 10.20. The Referees shall monitor the Technical Area. Any breach may be sanctioned by the match official and reported by way of the **Match Day Line-up and NZF Incident Report Form** to the Competition Manager.
- 10.21. The use of any communication equipment and/or systems between and/or amongst the Players, substitutes and/or technical staff is not permitted.
- 10.22. There is to be no coaching from behind the goal line or from the position as Referee from any member involved with the team, officials or spectators.
- 10.23. For all matches, a maximum of eleven (11) people are entitled to sit in the Technical Area during a fixture, being comprised of up to the given maximum number of substitutes and no more than six (6) others. All occupants of the Technical Area must wear different coloured tops to those worn by the team they are associated with.

11. PLAYING OF FIXTURES

- 11.1. Clubs must take all reasonable steps to arrive at a match on time.

- 11.2. Teams shall have a maximum of 11 players on the field at any time and a minimum of 7 players.
- 11.3. Any team having nine (9) or more players present must be ready to commence its match within ten (10) minutes after the published start time. Any team that does not comply shall forfeit the match.
- 11.4. If a team during any Competition match is reduced, for whatever reason, to less than seven (7) Players, the Referee shall abandon the relevant match, subject to the provisions of the IFAB Laws of the Game.

Postponed Matches

- 11.5. In the event of a match being postponed due to any of the following the Federations will reschedule the match to be played at the soonest possible time:
 - (a) Aborted Travel arrangements;
 - (b) Adverse or unforeseen weather;
 - (c) Field of play conditions or;
 - (d) Any other reason preventing the commencement of the game.
- 11.6. In the event of a late postponement by the Competition Manager on the day of the fixture but where the two teams arrive at the ground unaware of the postponement and the game is played, the Competition Manager shall at their absolute discretion determine whether the result of the game shall be recorded as played, postponed or abandoned.

Unforeseen Changes

- 11.7. In the event of a change of match venue being necessary prior to a match because of unforeseen weather or field of play conditions, the Home Club shall take all reasonable steps to give adequate notice to the Federations and the Away Team as to the new match venue. The Federations shall make the final decision, which will be binding on all parties.

Defaults

- 11.8. Any default will be recorded as a 3-0 win to the opposing team.
- 11.9. Notification of a team's default must be made in writing to the Competitions Manager by the Club Secretary or other recognised Club official. **The appropriate fine shall be applied for all defaults – see Fines Schedule.**
- 11.10. A team which defaults either two (2) matches in succession or a total of three (3) matches in the season may be disqualified from the competition at the discretion of the Federations.
- 11.11. If both teams are deemed to have defaulted, a 'no result' of 0-0 may be recorded with no points attached or the match may be rescheduled at the sole discretion of the Federations.
- 11.12. Where a team claims a match by default on the day of the match, the Club must notify the Competition Manager in writing via email.

Suspended or abandoned matches

- 11.13. In the event of adverse weather conditions occurring during a match, where in the view of the Referee endangers the Players or Officials, the Referee may at their sole discretion suspend play for a period of up to ten (10) minutes to allow time for conditions to improve to a point where the match is able to recommence.
- 11.14. Where weather/ground conditions preceding a fixture raise doubts as to whether play shall take place, the Home Club and/or Referee shall call the Competition Manager to discuss whether the ground is fit for play. Due notification of these circumstances shall be communicated to the Away Team by the Competition Manager. The above procedure shall be initiated with the travelling time of the Away Team in mind.
- 11.30. In these circumstances, if the Away Team has been notified that a match is to be played, then all reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that the match proceeds in accordance with these regulations.
- 11.16. Any match abandoned after kick-off, for any reason, shall be reported directly to the Competitions Manager by the referee if present and the Home Club. Upon review, the Federations may decide that:
- (a) The score at the time of the abandonment shall stand, or
 - (b) The match shall be awarded to one of the teams as a forfeit win with a recorded score line of 3-0, or
 - (c) The match shall be rescheduled by the Federations.
 - (d) In all cases the discretion of the Federations shall apply.

12. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 12.1. The Federations have no financial provisions for teams in the Competition.
- 12.2. Any individual player that is not financial with the Federation will not be eligible to play in the competition.

13. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- 13.1. A Player is eligible to play in the Competition provided that:
- (a) The Player is duly registered for their club and is marked **CONFIRMED in COMET** for the current season in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 13.2. Each Club shall be solely responsible for fielding only eligible players.
- 13.3. Any Club found guilty of fielding an ineligible Player for whatever reason shall be subject to the following penalties:
- (a) Fine;
 - (b) Loss of points where points were awarded;

- (c) Where a club repeatedly infringes this regulation the Federation may increase the sanction to be pronounced as deemed appropriate for the infringement.
- 13.4. All international transfer clearances (ITC) must be processed and completed as per the NZF Regulation of Status and Transfer of Players.
- 13.5. Competitions for women are restricted to female players only.
- 13.6. Competitions for Men may include female players.
 - (a) Females wishing to play in Competitions for Men may do so only with written dispensation from the Federations.
- 13.7. Males aged 15 years require dispensation from the Federation to be eligible for the Men's Competition. Requests for dispensation must be received at the Federation office accompanied by a letter from the parent/guardian of the player supporting the dispensation request. Players must not take the field unless dispensation has been granted.
- 13.8. No dispensation will be given for males aged 14 or below to play in any senior competition.
- 13.9. Females aged 14 years require dispensation from the Federation to be eligible for the Women's Competition. Requests for dispensation must be received at the Federation office accompanied by a letter from the parent/guardian of the player supporting the dispensation request. Players must not take the field unless dispensation has been granted.
- 13.10. No dispensation will be given for females aged 13 or below to play in any senior competition.
- 13.11. Players playing in the Over 35's leagues must reach their 35th birthday during the calendar year of the current season, prior to playing in any match. Players not meeting this age criteria are not eligible to play in this competition.
- 13.12. Players playing in the Over 40's leagues must reach their 40th birthday during the calendar year of the current season, prior to playing in any match. Teams may have up to two (2) players on the team card for any matches whom do not reach these criteria, provided they meet the age criteria for Over 35's leagues. Players not meeting this age criteria are not eligible to play in this competition.
- 13.13. Where a team is found to have played an ineligible player, the team will forfeit the match. A team sanctioned by a forfeit is deemed to have lost the match by 3 – 0. If the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than three (3), the result on the pitch is upheld. The offending team's Club shall incur any ineligible/unregistered player fine as set down in the Schedule of Fines.

14. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 14.1. All players must be duly registered in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. A player can only be registered for one (1) Club at a time and can only play for that Club.
- 14.2. Clubs must sight a copy of proof of age of the player, such a document to be a birth certificate, passport or other recognised legal document. The Club is required to produce proof of age if requested by the Federations.

15. RELEASE OF PLAYERS

- 15.1. A club holding the registration of a player called up to play in a Federation team must release them to the federation on the dates for the representative event including the preparation and competition.
- 15.2. If the player is not released by the club, that player shall be ineligible for any matches scheduled during the representative preparation and competition.

16. MATCH INFORMATION

- 16.1. Each Club shall name a team in the **Match day Line-up** with a maximum number of eighteen (18) players noted and up to six (6) staff.
- 16.2. Any player whom participates in the match and has not been named in the **Match Day Line-up** is ineligible.
- 16.3. Each Club is responsible for ensuring that the **Match Day Line-up** is completed properly no later than 30 minutes before the scheduled kick off.
- 16.4. The starting eleven may be adjusted in case of an injury during the warm-up, prior to kick off at the discretion of the Referee.
- 16.5. The numbers on the Players' shirts and shorts if numbered must correspond to the numbers on the **Match Day Line-up**.
- 16.6. **The Match Information** should be completed with:
- (a) Goal scorers; and
 - (b) Any misconducts.
- 16.7. **The Match Information** should be checked that details are correct:
- (a) By the Referee and an official of both teams.
 - (b) If no appointed Referee, by both teams and the Referee who completed the match.

17. COMPETITION FORMAT

- 17.1. The Competition shall normally be played on a double-round robin basis, with each team facing all others once at home and once away, unless a grading competition is required in which case a Championship format will be advised in conjunction with the grading format.
- 17.2. Three (3) points are awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw, nil (0) points for a loss.
- 17.3. No extra time shall be played during the Competition in the case of a drawn match between teams.
- 17.4. The results of Competition matches will be recorded in a Competition standings table. The ranking of each team shall be determined as follows:
- (a) Greatest number of points obtained in all matches in the Competition; then

- (b) Greatest goal difference in all matches in the Competition; then
- (c) Greatest number of goals scored in all matches in the Competition

- 17.5. If for any reason the Competition cannot be completed within the required time-frame the Federations may close the relevant Competition and declare the final placings at their sole discretion.
- 17.6. In the event of a team being withdrawn from any division at any round during the Competition, then results, points and goal statistics may be adjusted as though the team concerned was never involved in that division, at the sole discretion of the Federations.

18. NON-COMPLIANCE

- 18.1. Unless otherwise specified, if a Club is in breach of this Regulation the Federations shall notify the Club in writing of the breach, and the Club will be given a reasonable period of time to rectify the breach. It is the Club's responsibility to undertake remedial action within the timeframe set and to keep the Federations informed of progress, including any possible delays due to circumstances beyond its control.

19. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 19.1. For the purposes of this clause, "Intellectual Property" shall mean the intellectual property of NZF or the Federations including but not limited to all copyright, trademarks, design rights and all rights whether created before or after the date of this regulation and whether registered or unregistered, the name and logo of the Federations, all broadcasting, media and production and reproduction rights of any games in the Federations in any form whatsoever, all operational information including all promotional and advertising material in relation to the Federations and all internet and website based information, including Competitions.
- 19.2. A Club shall ensure that the ownership by NZF or the Federation of the Intellectual Property is protected at all times and that any breach of it or unauthorised or unlicensed use of it is reported to NZF or the Federations promptly.
- 19.3. Any unauthorised or unlicensed use of the Intellectual Property by a Club or any such unauthorised or unlicensed use permitted by a Club shall be deemed a breach of these Regulations and enforceable under the non-compliance provisions of these Regulations.

20. CODE OF CONDUCT AND OBLIGATIONS

- 20.1. No person is entitled to bring the NZF, the Federations, the game or any related issue into disrepute. In particular, coaches and Players are not entitled to communicate negative comments, including the use of social media, which results in such disrepute. Any person who breaches this clause will be liable to a fine and/or appropriate sanction at the sole discretion of NZF or the Federations, as appropriate.

21. MISCELLANEOUS

- 21.1. Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by the Federations. All decisions shall be final.

22. REFERENCES

22.1. IFAB Laws of the Game

22.2. FIFA Disciplinary Code

22.3. NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

22.4. NZF Disciplinary Code:

APPENDIX ONE

1. PROMOTION / RELEGATION

The following will determine Promotion / Relegation:

- 1.1. At the conclusion of the AFF/NFF Senior Conference Leagues, the two-lowest placed teams will be relegated to the next applicable Federation division for the following season.
- 1.2. Any associated Reserves sides will also be relegated, regardless of finishing position.
- 1.3. Eligibility for and promotion to the AFF/NFF Senior Conference competitions will be determined by the Federations at their sole discretion taking into account finishing positions within the applicable Federation division.

2. TROPHY, AWARDS & MEDALS

- 2.1. The Federations shall present (18) medals to each of the Club that places 1st within each AFF/NFF Men's & Reserves and Women's Conference Division competitions.

3. PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

- 3.1. The Federations reserve the right to inspect any Club's grounds and facilities prior to the acceptance of any team into the AFF/NFF Senior Conference Leagues. Clubs participating in the AFF/NFF Senior Conference Leagues are expected to have a higher standard of ground and facilities than those participating in lower ranked competitions.

4. GROUNDS

- 4.1. All Home Clubs are to ensure that their grounds comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game, Law 1 – The Field of Play, and be:
 - (a) Natural Grass;
 - (b) Artificial Turf (according to FIFA quality Standards).
 - (c) Hybrid

5. MATCH RESULTS

- 5.1. Results for all AFF/NFF Senior Conference League divisions must be entered directly into COMET, no later than 12 noon the day following the match. Teams failing to input results in time may incur a fine to the Club for Late Result as noted in the Schedule of Fines. Match events NOT entered by an appointed referee will be exempt from this clause.

6. DECLARATION OF WINNER

- 6.1. At the completion of the Competition the highest team in the Competition ladder, as per these Regulations, is declared the winner.
- 6.2. If any two or more teams are still equal, then the team with the superior head to head record will be declared the winner. If teams still remain equal, disciplinary record in the Competition (by virtue of

having the fewest penalty points accrued during the Competition) shall be declared the winner. Penalty points shall be accrued as follows:

- (a) for each yellow card received, a team will accrue 1 penalty point;
- (b) for each red card received, a team will accrue 3 penalty points.
- (c) If any two or more teams are still unable to be separated, the Federations may arrange a play-off match, at their sole discretion, to determine the winner.

7. SIDELINE BEHAVIOUR

- 7.1. Spectators and supporters should watch the match from the side-lines and not from behind the goal line. Spectators guiding or advising a goalkeeper from behind the goal line are deemed to be coaches. Referees and opposing coaches are entitled to request any persons to move to the side line.
- 7.2. Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators, team management officials and players and are required to ensure their representatives abide by any FIFA, NZF and Federation Codes of Conduct and uphold the spirit of Fair Play while participating in Federation competitions.
- 7.3. Home Clubs are also responsible for the conduct of any others present at the match, whether or not such persons are directly connected to the Club. Clubs must show that they have taken all reasonable steps to manage offending spectators.
- 7.4. The Referee may request Home Club officials to remove offenders if he/she feels that the consumption of alcohol or other substances are affecting his/her control of the match. The Referee may stop the match until the offenders have been removed. The incident shall be reported by way of an Incident Report after the match to the Competition Manager.
- 7.5. Once a match is stopped and is abandoned for any reason relating to alcohol or other substances, the matter must immediately be reported to the Competition Manager by the Referee or either Club by way of NZF Incident report form. The matter will be passed on to the offending Club's Federation for such action as it deems appropriate.

FEDERATION COMPETITION MANAGERS:

AFF: Stephanie Brown – stephanie@aucklandfootball.org.nz

NFF: Terry Hobin – terry.hobin@nff.org.nz

SCHEDULE ONE - 2019 FINES

1. ADMINISTRATION

Match Information not entered into COMET are subject to the following sanctions:

- (a) Fine of \$40.00 (No GST) per instance, per week;
- (b) 3rd and following week not received as noted an additional \$40.00 (No GST) and loss of one competition point.
- (c) Information not entered by the appointed referee will be exempt of any sanctions.

2. DEFAULTS

- 2.1. Defaults advised prior to 12 noon on the Friday preceding the weekend fixture or prior to 12 noon on the day preceding a weekday fixture as defined in these Regulations may be fined \$100.00 (\$50 Over 35 & Over 40) (No GST).
- 2.2. Defaults advised after 12 noon on the Friday preceding the weekend fixture or prior to 12 noon on the day preceding a weekday fixture as defined in these Regulations may be fined \$200.00 (\$100 Over 35 & Over 40) (No GST).
- 2.3. Defaults not advised or advised on the scheduled day of the fixture may be fined \$400.00 (\$200 Over 35 & Over 40) (No GST).

3. PLAYING INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- 3.1 As per the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players there will be a loss of match points. A fine of \$100.00 (no GST) per player may also apply for each offence.
- 3.2. Where a team has fielded an ineligible player in subsequent fixtures a fine of \$200 (No GST) may be applied per instance.
- 3.3. Where a team has fielded five (5) or more ineligible players in one match they may be subject to a further fine of \$500.00 per instance.

4. UNAUTHORISED PLAYING STRIP

- 4.1. Playing in strip other than the Club's registered home or alternate strip or failure to provide an alternate strip – a fine of \$100.00 each time (No GST).

5. APPEALS

- 5.1. Appeal Fees as per the New Zealand Football Disciplinary Code, Section 88;
 - (a) For Appeals to the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee \$125.00 plus GST
 - (b) For Appeals to the Disciplinary Committee (NZF fee) \$250.00 plus GST
 - (c) For Appeals to the Appeals Committee (NZF fee) \$500.00 plus GST