

MACQUARIE FOOTBALL LIMITED

A.C.N. 050 293 153

NEWCASTLE FOOTBALL LIMITED

A.C.N. 052 054 163

HUNTER VALLEY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED

REGULATION E

PLAYING RULES

ZONE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (ZFL) COMPETITIONS

- Zone Football League Divisions:
Premier, League One, Two & Three
- Zone Football Women's League Division

Issued by the Joint Board of Directors of Macquarie Football Limited, Newcastle Football Limited and Hunter Valley Football Association Incorporated.

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E01 MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMPETITION

All matters relating to Membership, the Qualification of a Member, calling of Applications, Acceptance of a Member, the Composition, Appointment, Retirement, Relegation or Disqualification (as far as this concerns the Competitions) are provided for in the Zone Association's Constitution and By-Laws and Regulations.

E02 HOME TEAMS' RESPONSIBILITIES

When a Home Team has been nominated in the Official Fixture List for a Home Fixture, it is the Responsibility of the Home Team's Club's to ensure adherence to the following:-

- (a) Its nominated ground is available for the Competition Fixture, on the date and time set down. In the event of the ground being unfit or unavailable (except by wash-out) for the Fixture, the Home Team's Club shall arrange through the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator an alternative venue for that date and time. The Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator must be notified of any change of venue as soon as possible but not later than eight (8) days before the scheduled date. Failure to comply with this Regulation or part thereof will result in a forfeit to the opposing Team and a fine as determined annually.
- (b) Any maintenance on the ground is carried out to ensure that the playing surface is in a condition that the Referee considers safe. Ground markings are to be clear and accurate and within the dimensions as specified from time to time. Nets and corner posts are provided to conform with the requirements of the Competition. Assistant Referee's Flags are to be made available as and when required.
- (c) Two (2) appropriate benches are available for the 'BENCH SYSTEM'. Adequate Security Measures for the welfare of Team Official(s), Match Official(s), Players and the Public are to be provided. A Ground Official (DUTY OFFICER) **must** be available for the duration of all Fixtures as well as for a period of 30 minutes prior to the start of a Fixture and for a period of 30 minutes after the conclusion of a Fixture. A centrally located Official Table, on which the required Official Team Sheet for the Fixture is placed, is to be provided. Failure to comply with this Regulation or part thereof may result in a forfeit to the opposing Team and a fine as determined annually.
- (d) The result of each Fixture is to be uploaded to "On-line" results section of the web; this should be completed preferably on the day of the match(es) but certainly no later than 9.00am on the Monday following the weekend's matches. Failure to comply will result in a fine as determined annually.
- (e) In the event of a washed out Fixture, it is the Home Club's responsibility to ensure that all relevant parties are advised. (See Rule E43).
- (f) A minimum of two (2) Approved Footballs must be available for each Fixture.
- (g) The Referee is the deciding Official on all matters relating to the above Regulation (b) and should report any breaches in writing to the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator. A fine of a sum as determined annually shall be imposed for each proven offence.
Should a Referee refuse to commence a Fixture due to lack of ground markings or a deficiency in the ground surface, the Home Club shall pay the Match Officials' Fees and the Visiting Team shall be awarded a Forfeited result except in the case of a neutral ground; then the Home Club shall be responsible for the payment of the Match Officials' Fees and the Fixture shall be re-scheduled. A fine of a sum as determined annually shall be imposed for each proven offence.
- (h) A Team protesting against the condition of a ground, or its appointments, shall make the Protest to the Ground Official (Duty Officer) before the commencement of the Fixture and in writing to the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator on its Club Letterhead at the completion of the Fixture.
- (i) The Fixture shall be played despite a Protest made in accordance with the previous paragraph and any subsequent Official Protest received shall not invalidate the result of the Fixture.

- (j) Should two (2) or more Protests be received about the same Ground within a one (1) month period then the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator or his/her Zone Association Representative, together with the Executive of the Club concerned shall inspect that Ground and determine the fitness of that Ground.

E03 DEFINITION OF A HOME TEAM

A HOME TEAM shall mean the Team that is set down to compete or is competing on its Home Ground or the Team whose name appears first in the Official Fixture list. Home Team may also mean a Home Club and/or a Host Club. The Home Team for a Finals Series or Special Competition Fixture shall be based on its position on the Points Table – the Team of higher position of the two (2) competing Teams is the Home Team **except for Semi Final fixtures which are to be played on a two-leg Home and Away basis.**

E04 POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME GROUND

Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator may direct a Team to play its Home Fixture(s) at a ground other than its Home Ground for Disciplinary or any other reason provided that reasonable notice is given to the Team(s) participating in the Competition.

E05 THE COMPETITION RULES

A Fixture shall be played in compliance with the Regulations in force at the time and in Accordance with Football Federation Australia, Northern NSW Football and the Zone Association respectively and under the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board; provided that the Zone Association may decide from time to time the duration of a Fixture and may vary the Competition Rules providing due notice of the variation is given to each competing Team and other interested parties.

E06 AN APPROVED FOOTBALL

The Home Team in a Competition Fixture shall provide two (2) approved Footballs for each Fixture..
Each Team competing in a Finals Series Fixture shall provide one (1) approved Football to the Fixture Referee.
Footballs must be provided to the Match Official not less than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of any Fixture. The Referee will select the Ball to be used in the Fixture with the other being held as a spare. Any breach of this Regulation shall result in a fine, as determined annually.

All Grades Use Size 5 Ball - minimum diameter 67 cm / maximum diameter 72 cm

E07 PLAYING TIMES

- (a) The following shall be the playing times:
- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ZFL First Grade | 2 equal periods of 45 minutes |
| ZFL Reserve Grade | 2 equal periods of 40 minutes |
| ZFL Third Grade | 2 equal periods of 40 minutes |
- (b) The Playing Time for each Fixture shall commence from the time nominated as the starting time in the Fixture lists.
- (c) Minimum of five (5) minutes shall be taken at the end of the first half.
- (d) Extra time shall, in all **FIRST GRADE FIXTURES ONLY**, be allowed to be added on to playing time for injuries and/or other causes at the discretion of the Referee.
- (e) A Fixture which falls short of the stipulated playing time shall be deemed to have been completed.

E08 OFFICIALS AT FIXTURES

The Home Team's Club shall be solely responsible for the following:-

- (a) To provide adequate security and welfare for the Officiating Referee and Assistant Referee(s) from the time each arrives at the ground until the time each departs from the ground; and to provide adequate security for the protection of participating Players and Team Officials.
Failure to carry out these requirements shall render the Home Team Club liable to a penalty/fine as determined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).
- (b) To provide a nominated Ground Official/Duty Officer to be available and identifiable throughout the duration of each and every Fixture and for a period of 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the Fixture and for a period of 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Fixture.
Failure to carry out these requirements shall render the Home Team Club liable to a penalty/fine as determined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).
- (c) The Ground Official (Duty Officer) shall be responsible for the good order and conduct of the Fixtures being played on the day. The Ground Official shall wear and be identified by the designated Vest provided by the Zone Association for this purpose.
Failure to carry out these requirements shall render the Home Team Club liable to a penalty/fine as determined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).

E09 FINDING WINNERS

The Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator shall determine methods of finding winners for the various Competitions and they are as follows:-

- (a) **PREMIERSHIP COMPETITION WINNERS AND PLACEGETTERS**
 - (1) When all Premiership Fixtures are concluded and the Competition Points allocated for each competing Team's performance, the Team with the highest number of points on the Official Points Table shall be declared the PREMIERS.
 - (2) In the event of two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same highest number of Points, then the Team with the better goal difference shall be considered to be the higher placed Team.
Goal difference shall be determined by subtracting the number of goals against from the number of goals for. The highest resultant plus figure shall take precedence, down to zero and on to the lowest resultant minus figure and down to the largest resultant minus figure.
 - (3) In the event of two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points and having the same goal difference, then the Team which has scored the most goals shall be considered to be the higher placed Team.
 - (4) In the event of two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference and having scored the same number of goals, then the Team that has scored the most goals in Competition matches played between the two (2) or more Teams shall be considered the higher placed Team.
 - (5) In the event of two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, having scored the same number of goals, and having scored the same number of Goals in Competition matches played between the two (2) or more Teams, then the team that has scored the highest aggregate number of goals (based on 'away' goals rule – home goal 1, away goal 2) in Competition matches played between the two (2) or more Teams shall be considered the higher placed Team.

- (6) In the event of two (2) Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, having scored the same number of goals, having scored the same number of goals in Competition matches played between the two (2) Teams, and having the same aggregate number of goals (based on 'away' goals rule – home goal 1, away goal 2) in Competition matches played between the two (2) Teams, then those two (2) Teams will play off in a qualifying match (which may include extra time and penalty kick decider) to determine, by use of Regulation E09 Part (a) 1,2,3,4,5 & 6, which shall be considered the higher placed Team..
In the event of three (3) or more Teams in the same Competition having the same number of Points, having the same goal difference, having scored the same number of goals, having scored the same number of goals in Competition matches played between the three (3) or more Teams, and having the same aggregate number of goals (based on 'away' goals rule – home goal 1, away goal 2) in Competition matches played between the three (3) or more Teams, then the final ranking positions of the three (3) or more Teams shall be determined by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.
- (7) Determination of all other ranking positions in the Points Table at the conclusion of the Premiership Competition shall be decided as per this Regulation E 09 Part (a) 1,2,3,4,5 & 6.

(b) FINALS SERIES COMPETITIONS (FOUR TEAMS)

- (1) When all Premiership Fixtures are concluded and the Competition points allocated for each competing Team in the Competition, the Four (4) Teams with the highest numbers of points on the Official Points Table shall qualify to continue in a Finals Series Competition, with ranking positions 1, 2, 3 & 4 determined as per Regulation E09 (a).
- (2) The two (2) Teams finishing first and fourth on the Official Points Table will play off in a Two (2) Match Qualifying Semi-Final Series, each Team playing one (1) Home Match and one (1) Away Match.
The two (2) Teams finishing second and third on the Official Points Table will play off in a two (2) Match Qualifying Semi-Final Series, each Team playing one (1) Home Match and one (1) Away Match.
Fixtures will be played on the following basis – Week 1 4 v 1 Saturday; 3 v 2 Sunday Week 2 1 v 4 Sunday; 2 v 3 Saturday - applies to all Grades.
- (3) The winning Team from each of the two Qualifying Semi-Final Series shall be the Team with the higher aggregate number of goals for the two-leg series.
In the event of both Teams having an equal aggregate number of goals, the Team with the higher aggregate number of goals (based on 'away' goals rule – home goal 1, away goal 2) for the two-leg series shall be the winning Team.
In the event of both Teams having an equal aggregate number of goals and an equal aggregate number of goals based on 'away' goals rule (home goal 1, away goal 2), the winning Team shall be determined as follows:
- (a) For ZFL First Grade only - extra time (2 x 10 minutes) to be played at end of normal time in second leg Semi-Final. Penalty Kick Decider method to be used if two Teams are still equal after extra time has been played.
 - (b) For ZFL Reserve and Third Grades only – Penalty Kick Decider method to be used at end of normal time in second leg Semi-Final.

- (4) The two winning Teams from the Qualifying Semi-Finals shall play off in the single Match Grand Final.
 In the event of the two Teams being equal at end of normal time, the winning Team shall be determined as follows:
- (a) For ZFL First Grade only – extra time (2 x 10 minutes) with Penalty Kick Decider method to be used if required.
 - (b) For ZFL Reserve and Third Grade – Penalty Kick Decider method to be used.

(c) VENUES FOR FINALS SERIES MATCHES

Venues for Finals Series Matches shall be determined as follows:-

- Qualifying Semi-Finals (two leg) - hosted by the competing Clubs on basis of one Home leg each
- Grand Finals - allocated by Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator on a priority basis to the best possible available venues from applications from ZFL Clubs / other nominations

E10 COMPETITION POINTS

Points shall be allotted as follows for all Competition Fixtures:-

Win	Three (3) Points
Draw	One (1) Point
Bye	No (0) Points
Loss	No (0) Points
Forfeit	Three (3) Points
Abandoned	As determined by Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator

E11 PLAYING AREA REQUIREMENTS

During any Fixture, an Official, a Player or a Supporter shall not be permitted to stand closer than three (3) metres to the playing field marked lines and, where no permanent boundary fence exists around the field perimeter, a rope or a defined line should be arranged at a minimum of three (3) metres from the side line and no access beyond that point is allowable. Coaching from the boundary line is strictly prohibited.

- (a) In the event that appropriate dug-outs are not available, then two (2) benches (or sufficient chairs) must be located on one side of the playing field with a bench positioned at equal distance either side of the centre line and at least one (1) metre from the playing field. Each bench must be capable of seating the Team Coach, Team Manager, Team Official and Reserve Players. All persons must remain seated or stand immediately behind the bench during the Fixture.
- (b) Only the Team Coach, Team Manager, Team Official and Players eligible for the match (those named on the Official Team Sheet) are to be in the Technical / Bench Area. No other persons are permitted in this area.
- (c) Controlled limited Coaching will be permitted by the Accredited Team Coach or Team Official from the Technical Area which includes the Bench. Any Team Official who leaves or refuses to remain at the Technical Area and gives instructions from outside the field of play shall forfeit any rights to organize the activities of the Team from the Technical Area for the duration of the Fixture. The Team Official who instructs his/her Team from outside the playing field also forfeits his/her right to attend an injured Player of the Team.

- (d) Should a replacement of a Player become necessary, a Team Official shall notify the Fourth Official, Assistant Referee or Referee of the change and will remain with the Player at the centre line until the Player is called onto the field of play.
- (e) Should an injury occur, the Team Official (one (1) only) shall be called onto the field of play to inspect any injury to a Player. In the event of injury of a serious nature, treatment or movement of that Player is to be at the discretion of the Team Official.
- (f) Should a Player be sent from the field of play by a Referee, he/she must leave the Playing Area and go outside the Boundary Fence or Line to remove his/her shirt. Such Player is not allowed to use the bench or Technical Area.
- (g) In the event of any infringement of the above Regulations (a,b,c,d,e,f) the Referee may hold up Play until he/she is satisfied that the Regulations are complied with and shall report the matter to the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator. If a person persists in infringing the Regulations to the detriment of the Fixture, the Home Team Official and/or the Ground Official/Duty Officer shall escort the person from the ground. Such infringements shall be referred to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) where the Member Club, Team and/or Person may be dealt with by manner of Fines, Suspension or Withdrawal from Competition.

E12 ADMISSION CHARGES

The Admission Charges for each Competition, including a fee for cars if permitted into the ground, will be determined by the Joint Board of Directors of the Zone Associations upon application and notification by Members, from time to time, and this charge will be similar at ALL grounds for the same Competition.

E13 WINNERS' MEDALLIONS AND AWARDS

Each Team winning a Zone Association Competition or being a Runner-Up in a Zone Association Competition may receive the following:-

- (a) Winners (Grand Finals) - A set of eighteen (18) Silver Medallions.
- (b) Runners-Up (Grand Finals) - A set of eighteen (18) Bronze Medallions.
- (c) Premiers - A set of eighteen (18) Gold Medallions.
- (d) Further Medallions may be obtained from the Zone Association by a qualifying Team in the event of that Team having more Registered Participants than the number of Medallions provided.
- (e) Medallions will be presented firstly to the Runners-Up, secondly to the Winners.

E14 TROPHIES / AWARDS

- (a) The Association may make available a Special Award Winner Trophy suitably inscribed with the date and winner's name. This inscription may have to be arranged after the Award has been presented.

(b) CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

At the completion of all the Official Fixtures for the Premiership in Zone Football League Competition, the Club which has accumulated the highest number of points as per the following formula shall win the Club Championship Award.

Points are to be allocated as follows:

Win	First Grade	-	8 points
Draw	First Grade	-	4 points
Loss	First Grade	-	nil (0) points
Win	Reserve Grade	-	4 points
Draw	Reserve Grade	-	2 points
Loss	Reserve Grade	-	nil (0) points
Win	Third Grade	-	2 points

Draw Third Grade - 1 point
Loss Third Grade - nil (0) points

In the event that two (2) or more Clubs finish with equal points the winner shall be determined by Goal Differences.

(c) **LEADING GOAL SCORER AWARDS**

At the Completion of all the Fixtures for a Premiership Competition in each Zone Football League/Grade, the Player who has scored the highest number of goals in the Grade that he/she has competed in will be honoured by receiving a Leading Goal Scorer Award for that Grade. This is to be decided at the discretion of the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator.

E15 PLAYERS' UNIFORMS / GEAR REQUIREMENTS

- (a) A Team shall not show any form of advertising on its playing strip, tracksuit or equipment bag excepting the Association's Emblem Badge, the distinguishing mark, badge or emblem of the manufacturer and the Competition's Sponsor without prior written permission of the Zone Association.
Such consent may not be refused where reasonable identification of a Team's Sponsor is involved.
- (b) A Sponsor's name may be permitted across the front of the Player's shirt, or across the back of the Player's shirt between the collar and the top of the shirt number in letters not exceeding 75 mm high. Where a Sponsor's logo is used, the logo and name are to be confined to the front of the Player's shirt only.
- (c) A Player should commence his/her Fixture fully equipped in Association Approved Gear including a shirt, socks, shorts, shin-pads and footwear. The shirt is to have a legible number affixed; socks **MUST** completely cover the shin-pads.
- (d) A Player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself/herself or another Player (including any kind of jewellery).
- (e) Shin guards (pads) must be worn by all Players at all times during any Fixture. A shin guard must cover the length of a Player's leg from ankle to knee, minus 1 – 2 cm at each end and should offer maximum protection to the Player.
- (f) As per FIFA Laws of the Game, 'skins' must be the colour of the predominant colour of the leg of the short.
- (g) Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other Players, the Referee and the Assistant Referee(s). If long pants are worn, then socks must be worn on the outside of the pants. The goalkeeper's socks may be the same colour as the rest of the Team but this is not essential. Should a goalkeeper take the place of a field Player during a Fixture, said goalkeeper must wear the same colour shorts, shirt and socks as the rest of the Team.**
- (h) The Match Referee has the right to determine whether or not a Player's equipment is considered satisfactory and is compliant with the relevant Regulations. The decision of the Match Referee is final.
- (i) A Club with a Team having a Player competing in the Competition not being properly equipped with Zone Association Approved Gear shall become liable to forfeit Competition Points and to a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

E16 EXPENSES

All expenses incurred in participating in a Zone Association Competition shall be the responsibility of the participating Team/Club.

E17 FINES

A Team and/or Club not fulfilling its obligations under these Regulations in respect of which a fine is not already specified may be fined at the discretion of the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).

E18 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- (a) **The Competition Administrator – Administrator may suspend, fine, reprimand, caution or otherwise deal with a Player, Team, Team Official, Match Official or Member Club who he/she considers has breached the Laws of the Game, the Regulations or has brought the code into disrepute.**
- (b) **As part of his/her powers under clause (a) the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary may suspend a Match Official from officiating at any Match until such time as the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary is satisfied that the Referees Association to which the Match Official belongs has provided the Match Official with education and counselling appropriate to the conduct subject of the complaint.**
- (c) **Only the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary may permit a registered Player to play pending a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee of an Appeal.**

E19 KICK-OFF TIMES

The Kick-Off Time for the Competition Fixture shall be as determined by the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator and will be detailed in the Official Fixture List.

- (a) A Fixture should start at the nominated Kick-Off Time, provided that when a Fixture starts later than the stipulated Time, short time shall be played in equal halves in order to allow the following Fixture to start at the proper Time.
- (b) The Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator, in setting down Kick-Off Times, may start Fixtures at 8.30am for any daytime Fixture which may include Saturday, Sunday or any Public Holiday. A Fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights providing any alteration to the Kick-Off Time has been approved by the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator and providing also that the standard of lighting shall meet all requirements of the Zone Association.
- (c) Normal match Kick-Off Times shall be:

Premier & League 1 Third Grade	11.30 am
Premier, League 1,2,3 Reserve Grade	1.15 pm
Premier, League 1,2,3 First Grade	3.00pm
- (d) Finals Series Matches will kick-off at earlier times than those shown above in order to allow for extra time and penalty shoot-outs where required. These times will be advised in Finals Series Draws notified by the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator.

E20 DISPUTE OVER FIXTURE SCORES

In the event of a Dispute in respect of the scores of a Fixture, the score recorded by the Match Official shall be the Official Score of the Fixture.

If the score recorded is in Dispute, the Team Official shall sign the Disputes Box on the Team Match Sheet on the day; and the Member Club shall submit **by e-mail** a written submission on its official letterhead certified by the Secretary or another Executive Officer outlining the Dispute to the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary (disciplinary@macquariefootball.com) within **two (2) days/forty-eight (48) hours** of the incident (Refer to Regulation A 15).

The Competition Administrator - Disciplinary shall make the final score determination.

E21 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS AND OTHER DETAILS

Results of ALL ZFL Competition Fixtures shall be provided by Host Clubs, which will be responsible for entering results by the end of the day's play online for each Competition Match played at the Club grounds on that day (and also including any forfeits of Competition Matches scheduled at the Club grounds on that day.

The ABSOLUTE DEADLINE for Clubs to enter results online on the website will be BEFORE 9.00 am on the Monday following the weekend's Matches.

Failure of Host (Home) Clubs to enter results online by the stipulated time shall result in a Fine for the Club as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

E22 GOAL DIFFERENCE

In the cases where Goal Differences are taken into account, the manner in which they shall be arrived at shall be:-

- (a) Number of Goals scored against the Team subtracted from the number of Goals scored for the Team is the Goal Difference (either positive, zero or negative)..
- (b) Where a Team scores through its own Goal, such Goal shall be taken as having been scored by its opponent in the determination of Goal differences and in the determination of the Team's goals scored.

E23 PENALTY KICK DECIDER

In the event that a Fixture Result is decided by the Penalty Kick Decider Method, the winner shall be determined by compliance with the Laws of the Game as approved by the International Football Association Board and in accordance with Regulations of Football Federation Australia and Northern NSW Football.

E24 OFFICIAL FIXTURE LIST

All Fixtures to be contested between Registered Teams in the Zone Association ZFL Competition shall be prepared by the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator as soon as practicable after the closing date for Team Nominations and Registrations and upon publication shall be known as the Official Fixture List.

- (a) Where practicable, a Competition shall consist of two (2) rounds with each Team playing the Opposing Teams on two (2) occasions. Should the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator consider that the Competition is finishing too early in the season, a third (3rd) round may be played between such Teams as the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator deems fit.
- (b) Any dispute between two (2) or more Clubs as to the arrangements of Fixtures shall be referred to and decided by the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator. Dislocation of any Fixture for any cause whatsoever shall be immediately reported to the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator by the Home Club concerned and it shall be the Home Club in each instance to notify immediately the appointed Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator and their opponent of such dislocation. Any proposed rearrangements of Fixtures by Clubs shall be submitted to the appointed Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator for approval before any change is made.
NO APPROVAL, NO CHANGE.
- (c) Fixtures should be played on the date and times as nominated in the Official Fixtures List; and these dates could include any weekday evening or night Fixtures; any daytime, evening or night Fixtures on Saturdays, Sundays or Public Holidays.

- (d) Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator reserves the right to alter or amend any Fixture after it has been nominated in the Official Fixtures List. Such alterations could be to the date, venue, kick-off times or a combination of all, providing the Clubs involved are given seven (7) days prior notice, whenever possible.
- (e) The Directors of the Zone Associations shall have the power to abandon any Fixture and organize any Fixture if it deems such action necessary in the interests of the Competition.
- (f) **Washed out Fixtures are to be re-scheduled within one (1) week of the washout by the two Clubs agreeing on the date, time and venue of the re-scheduled Fixtures, notifying the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator of the agreement and being given approval for these re-scheduled Fixtures. The re-scheduled Fixtures must be completed within three (3) weeks of the originally scheduled washed out Fixtures. In the event of the two Clubs being unable to reach agreement on the re-scheduling within the one (1) week period, the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator shall arrange the re-scheduled Fixtures (date/times/venue); the Clubs must play at the scheduled date/time/venue or forfeit the Fixture(s).**

E25 FORFEITED FIXTURES

A Team that, without cause, fails to fulfil an engagement to play an Official Fixture on the appointed date, time or venue, shall, for each and every offence, forfeit that Fixture. The offending Team shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents relative to the Fixture.

- (a) A Fixture should start at the stipulated Time; however, a Fixture may have a late start of not more than ten (10) minutes after the stipulated starting time. Any Team unable or unwilling to begin a Fixture after this period shall have forfeited the Fixture. When a Fixture starts later than the stipulated Time, short time shall be played. Two (2) equal halves are always to be played.
- (b) A Team must field at least seven (7) of its eligible Registered Players at the start of the Fixture. Failure to do so shall result in the offending Team forfeiting the Fixture. A Team forfeiting on two (2) occasions without an explanation that is satisfactory to the Zone Association may be removed from the Competition.
- (c) In the event of a Team forfeiting its Fixture the following procedure shall take effect:- Full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to its Opponent Team and the Fixture score shall be recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) to the forfeiting Team.
The offending Team shall pay all appropriate Referee and Assistant Referee(s) Fees and such compensation as shall be determined by the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator..
The offending Team may be liable for further penalty / Fines as determined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).
- (d) The LOWEST grade is the only ZFL grade that may be forfeited when Player numbers are insufficient (eg for P & L1, third grade; for L2 & L3 reserve grade). In an extreme case a Club may forfeit all three grades; but it may not forfeit eg reserves when first and third play.
- (e) In the event of a Fixture being forfeited by a Team, the Home Club shall submit a Team Sheet (together with Team Sheets for any other Matches scheduled for the Home Club's grounds on that day) recording the Match result as a forfeit by the forfeiting Team and a 3 – 0 win to the non-forfeiting Team. The Home Club must also enter the Match result online (together with all other Matches played at the Home Club's grounds on that day) as a forfeit noting the 'GIVING FORFEIT' and 'RECEIVING FORFEIT' Teams (note that the score of 3-0 must NOT be entered..
Fines will be imposed for non-compliance with this Regulation.

- (f) **In the event of a Team forfeiting a Finals Series Fixture, the Team will be automatically disqualified from any further participation in the Finals Series.**
- (g) **In the event of a Team forfeiting a Competition Fixture, the notification of the forfeit must be received by the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time of the Fixture; failure to notify before the deadline will result in a Fine being imposed on the offending Team Club by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).**
- (h) By the designated team/player registration day, all Clubs must have registered a minimum of 40 Players (P & L1) or 28 Players (L2 & L3). Failure to meet this requirement may result in withdrawal from the Competition.

E26 APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS/FIXTURES

A Member Club shall not allow its Teams to play in any other Competition in opposition to these Zone Association Competitions unless it has received prior written approval from the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator. A Club shall notify the Zone Association in writing on Club letterhead of any other event it proposes to conduct in each season – minimum notice seven (7) days prior to the event.

A Member Club shall apply to the Zone association ZFL Competition Administrator and apply online to NNSWFL for permission to conduct Football Clinics and/or Out of Season activities it may propose. Minimum notice required to NNSWFL / Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator is seven (7) days and the submission must state the type of activity, full list of the participants and full details relevant to the proposed event.

Member Clubs that conduct such events without seeking and gaining the approval of NNSWFL / Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator will be subject to disciplinary action.

E27 DEFERMENT OF FIXTURES

A Club may seek the permission of the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator to have a Fixture(s) deferred, providing that such a deferment shall be requested in writing on Club letterhead at least eight (8) days prior to the Fixture.

- (a) **Consideration for a Deferment will be given only in the case of any cause which which the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator at his/her discretion considers of sufficient weight to merit a Deferment.**
- (b) Upon the granting of a requested Deferment the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator shall arrange a re-scheduled date for the playing of the Deferred Fixture provided always that the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator may at his/her discretion declare the Fixture abandoned.
- (c) Upon the granting of a requested Deferment, the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator shall notify each competing Club of the time, date and venue of the re-scheduled Deferred Fixture and shall also notify the Referees Association of these details of the re-scheduled Deferred Fixture.
- (d) A Deferred Fixture not played in accordance with Regulation E 27 (c) shall not be recognised by the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator and the Teams concerned may be subject to Disciplinary action by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) including the loss of points gained for the Fixture. Only a Fixture authorized by Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator shall be recognised.
- (e) **Clubs will not be granted a Fixture Deferment when the Club's request is made on the basis of a potential shortage of Registered Players due to external events, such as NRL State of Origin matches, popular events such as 'Groovin the Moo', attendance at weddings etc. In all such situations, the playing of a Fixture in accordance with the published Fixtures Draw will take precedence over any other external events.**

E 28 ABANDONMENT OF FIXTURES / SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE

In cases where a Fixture has been abandoned by the Referee, through the invasion of the field by spectators or other reasons, the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) shall investigate the circumstances of the abandonment and shall:-

- (a) Determine the result of the abandoned Fixture. Determine whether the Fixture should be re-played and under what conditions. Impose such penalties / Fines as it shall deem fit on Member Clubs, Teams, Team Officials, Players and/or Spectators adjudged to be associated with the Abandonment.
- (b) In respect of the above Regulation E 28 (a), the decision of the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) shall be final and not subject to an appeal to another authority. The action of the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) in respect of penalties imposed in this regard shall be distinct from the decisions as determined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) in respect of Member Clubs, Team Officials and Registered Players charged with offences by a Referee and/or Assistant Referee(s) in relation to these matters.

E 29 INCOMPLETE FIXTURES

Any Fixture which does not reach its natural conclusion may be an **Abandoned Fixture** (when the Referee ends the Match short of the scheduled finishing time due to Player misbehaviour, spectator interference etc) or a **Time-Completed Fixture** (when the Referee ends the Match at the scheduled finishing time despite play having been halted for some of the scheduled Match time due to a seriously injured Player being treated/removed from the field by ambulance officers at some time after the injury).

Note that a Time-Completed Fixture is NOT an Abandoned Fixture.

- (a) **Any Fixture abandoned or stopped during the first half, at the half-time break and up to the actual start of the second half (ie. the blowing of the whistle by the Referee to commence the second half) shall be deemed NOT to have reached its natural conclusion and will be re-scheduled for play at a date, time and place as determined by the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator.**
- (b) **Any Fixture abandoned or stopped during the second half (ie at any time after the blowing of the whistle by the Referee to commence the second half) shall be deemed to have reached its natural conclusion and will NOT be re-scheduled. The score at the time of the abandonment / stoppage will be taken as the final Match score and Match result.**

E 30 FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED

The Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator, acting for the Joint Board of the Zone Associations, may re-schedule any Competition or Finals Series Fixture OR determine the result of any Competition or Finals Series Fixture at his/her discretion in the event of any such Fixture not being played or completed due to wet weather, deferment and/or abandonment. In the case of wet weather washouts, the Home Club must report the ground(s) as unfit for play by the nominated time; an Ovals Board or Club Official who has the power to call out the use of the ground may declare the ground(s) as unfit for play.

In the event of a washout in the Finals Series the following Rules shall apply:-

- (a) **Rule E 24 (d) and (e) shall apply as the overarching Rules for such a situation: Notwithstanding any other Regulations on the same subject matter, the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator reserves the right to alter or amend any Fixture after it has been nominated in the Official Fixtures List.**

Such alterations could be to the date, venue, kick-off times or a combination of all, providing the Clubs involved are given seven (7) days prior notice, whenever possible

The Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator has the power to abandon any Fixture and organise any other Fixture if he/she deems such action necessary in the interests of the Finals Series Competition.

- (b) In the event of a complete or major washout in any one set of Finals Series Fixtures, the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator may seek to put the season back one (1) week IF THIS IS POSSIBLE.
- (c) Efforts will be made by the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator to re-locate or re-schedule washed out Finals Series Matches to a suitable venue if the original venue is washed out.
- (d) If it is not possible to achieve any of the outcomes in E 30 (a), (b) or (c), the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator may declare the Finals Series event for a specific grade or for all grades to be CANCELLED.
- (e) In the event of the CANCELLATION of ONE leg of the home and away two leg SEMI-FINAL Matches, the Winners of the two single leg Semi-Final Matches played shall qualify to play in the GRAND FINAL Match whilst the Losers of the two single leg Semi-Final Matches played shall be eliminated.
In the event of a score draw in a single leg Semi-Final Match, the home and away goals Rule (2 for an away goal, 1 for a home goal) will be used to determine the Winner (to proceed to the Grand Final) and the Loser (to be eliminated).
In the event of a scoreless draw in a single leg Semi-Final Match, the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator shall arrange for a play-off Match between the two Teams to take place during the week following the drawn Match. If at the end of normal time in this Match the Teams are still locked in a scoreless draw, Rule E 09 (b) (3) shall be used to find the Winner – extra time + penalty kick decider if required (for First Grade only); penalty kick decider (for Reserve and Third Grade).
In the event of the CANCELLATION of BOTH legs of the home and away two leg SEMI-FINAL Matches, the Teams placed in positions 1 and 2 on the Competition ladder shall qualify to play-off in the GRAND FINAL; the Teams placed in positions 3 and 4 on the Competition ladder will be eliminated.
- (f) In the event of the CANCELLATION of the GRAND FINAL Match, the Grand Final round for that Division/Grade shall be declared NULL AND VOID and the Competition shall be declared COMPLETED. No Grand Final Winner or Grand Finalist (Grand Final Runner-Up) shall be declared since no Match has been played.

E 31 TEAMS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITION & FINAL SERIES

In the event of a Team withdrawing or being removed from the Competition or Final Series, the following procedure shall take effect to allow the altered Competition to proceed to a conclusion:-

- (a) Team removed or withdrawn before the Competition has started – a Bye result may apply in the Competition.
- (b) Team removed or withdrawn during the first round of Competition – each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals deleted from its records and shall be credited instead with a Bye result; each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a Bye result.
- (c) Team removed or withdrawn during the second round of Competition – each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals for the second round removed from its record and shall be credited with a Bye result. Each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a Bye result.

- (d) If at the discretion of the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator (acting for the Joint Board of the Zone Associations) Rule E 31 (c) is impractical then each opposing Team that has played the removed or withdrawn Team shall have the relevant points and goals for the second round removed from its record and shall be credited with a Forfeit result. Each Team that has not played the removed or withdrawn Team shall be credited with a Forfeit result.
- (e) If a Team is removed or withdraws from the Final Series then, at the discretion of the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator (acting for the Joint Board of Zone Associations) either
 - (i) a Bye situation will be declared; or
 - (ii) a Team will be promoted, based on position of the Points Table (ie: position in Competition Points Table) to take the place of the Team removed or withdrawn.
- (f) An infringement of Rule E 31 (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) shall subject the Home Club a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

E 32 A COLOUR CLASH

In the event of a Colour Clash of playing strips, the Visiting Team will be required to change strip (ie: play in an alternate colour strip to the Home Team).

- (a) In a Finals Series Fixture or a Special Competition, the Team named first in the Draw shall be deemed to be the Home Team.
- (b) The perception of a colour clash and the consequent required change of strip in the event of a colour clash shall be at the sole discretion of the Referee.
- (c) The colour of the Goalkeeper's shirt must in all cases be clearly distinguishable from the colour of shirts worn by all other Players. The Goalkeeper shall wear socks in accordance with the duly approved colours of the Team. The Referee may at his/her discretion approve that a Player may wear tracksuit trousers of an acceptable colour, with team socks clearly visible.
- (d) No Team shall be permitted to play in colours likely to be mistaken for those of the Match Officials. The colours worn by Ballpersons shall be distinct from those worn by either of the competing Teams.
- (e) A failure to comply with this Regulation (E 32) will subject the Team's Club to a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

E 33 TEAM SHEETS

- (a) The Team Sheet for every Competition Fixture played on a Club Home Ground during any day **shall be sent by the Home Club to the Macquarie Football Office to be received at this Office no later than seventy-two (72) hours following the completion of the Fixture.**
MFL Zone Office PO Box 58 BOOLAROO NSW 2284
3 Main Road BOOLAROO NSW 2284
Delivery must be before 5.00pm (Close of Business).
 Team Sheets for weekend Fixtures must be received at Macquarie Football Office before 5.00pm on the Wednesday following the weekend Fixtures. Team Sheets for midweek Fixtures must be received at the Macquarie Football Office no later than seventy-two (72) hours following completion of the midweek Fixtures.
- (b) The Home Club shall prepare (or have prepared by the Zone Association) an ORIGINAL Official Team Sheet and may prepare a DUPLICATE copy at the same time, if the Club desires. The Duplicate copy shall be retained by the Club; the ORIGINAL MUST BE SUBMITTED.

- (c) The Home Club shall ensure that each Official Team Sheet is correctly filled out with required details provided – venue, division, grade, scheduled date, playing date, round number, Home Team, Visiting Team, and ticking of one of two boxes to indicate whether the Match is the original scheduled Match or the re-scheduled Match.
- (d) The First Name and Surname of each Player is to be printed in block letters on the Official Team Sheet; this **MUST** be done by the Team Manager, **NOT BY INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS**. Each Player named on the Team Sheet must **SIGN** his/her name in the box adjoining the printed Player name.
This filling in of the Official Team Sheet must be done at the Official Team Sheet Table provided for this purpose.
No Player Names shall be added to the Official Team Sheet after the Referee has picked up the Official Team Sheet prior to starting the Match.
- (e) The Official Team Sheet (white for ZFL 2015) has spaces for 16 Player Names and three Team Officials – Coach, Manager, Trainer - Names to be printed.

ZFL First and Reserve Grades may list 16 Names on the Official Team Sheet and these 16 named Players may sit on the Bench; however a Maximum of 14 Players (11 Starting + 3 Substitutes) shall participate in the Match; the 2 non-participating Players must be marked (as “DNP”) on the Official Team Sheet after the Match.

ZFL Third Grades may list 15 Names on the Official Team Sheet and these 15 named Players may sit on the Bench; a Maximum of 15 Players (11 Starting + 4 Interchange) shall participate in the Match.

- (f) A Team Official from each competing Team must sign the Team Sheet to verify the recorded Result at the finish of the Fixture. In the event of the Referee needing to record disciplinary matters from the Match, it will be necessary for the Team Official(s) to wait until the Referee has finished his/her recording before signing to certify the correctness of all information on the Team Sheet.
In the event of a Dispute regarding the recorded Match Result and/or Score and the Referee refusing to alter the recorded Result and/or Score; or in the event of a Dispute pertaining to the Match, the Team Official(s) shall have the Dispute noted on the Team Sheet by signing his/her name in the Dispute Box on the front of the Team Sheet. The Team Official(s) must also report the Dispute to his/her Club which must submit **by e-mail** a written submission on Club letterhead certified by the Secretary or another Executive Officer outlining the Dispute to the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary (disciplinary@macquariefootball.com) within **two (2) days/forty-eight (48) hours** of the incident (Refer to Regulation E 20).
- (g) At the conclusion of the Fixture the Referee must give the completed Official Team Sheet to the Home Club Official and it shall be the responsibility of the Home Club to send the completed Official Team Sheet to the address shown on the current year's Official Team Sheet.
- (h) Should an Official Referee not be present at the Fixture, then it shall be the responsibility of the Home Club to collect the completed Official Team Sheet from the Match Official and send it to the appropriate address.
- (i) A failure to comply with Regulation E 33 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and/or (f) will subject the Home Club to a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.
- (j) A failure by the Match Official to comply with Regulation E 33 (g) shall subject the Referee to a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

E 34 TEAM SHEET DETAILS

- (a) **Only the Official Team Sheets pre-printed and supplied by the Zone Associations to Home Clubs can be used for ZFL Matches. Replacement hand-written Team sheets (those where details of Match are hand-written) must NOT be used.**
- (b) **A Team Official from each Team shall have the appropriate Official Team Sheet completed at the Official Table by printing the names of all Players and having each Player sign alongside his/her name. This must be completed no later than fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled Kick-Off Time. No Official Team Sheet is to be taken away from the Official Table – the Match Official is the only person authorized to take the Official Team Sheet from the Official Table when it is required for the Match.**
- (c) The eleven (11) Players first named shall start the Fixture, the other five (5) Players being designated as Substitutes (Firsts/Reserves) or the other four (4) Players being designated as Interchange (Thirds). A Player's Name may not be added to the Team Sheet after the game has commenced. No more than five (5) names are to appear on the Team Sheet as Substitutes or Reserves (see Rule E 36).
Each Player named on the Team Sheet must give his/her signature in the space provided next to the printed Player Name. Failure of a Player to sign will result in the Team being deemed as having fielded ineligible Player(s) and will be dealt with as per Regulations.
- (d) The Home Team shall check all the Fixture details such as Division, Grade, Date, Ground and competing Teams on the Official Team Sheet provided for each Fixture; and should also check after the Official Team Sheet has been handed in by the Match Official after the end of the Match that all required details have been completed.
- (e) The number on a Player's shirt shall correspond with the Player's Name and number on the Team Sheet and there should be no change of number before or during a Fixture except on a change of Goalkeeper.
- (f) The name and origin (age grade / division) of a Registered Player temporarily playing from another Team shall be recorded on the Team Sheet by the Team Manager who has borrowed the Player. (This is applicable to the lowest grade ONLY - Rule E 47).
- (g) A Team Sheet shall be completed in Black or Blue Biro using block letter and all relevant details thereon must be legible. A Team Sheet completed in pencil, Red Biro or Marker Pen, or not legible, shall result in a Fine to the offending Team's Club of a sum as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations, for each breach of the Official Team Sheet Regulations.
- (h) The Referee shall endorse the Substitution of Players on the Official Team Sheet.
- (i) When a Fixture is forfeited, the Official Team Sheet shall be signed accordingly by the Referee and the relevant Team Official(s).
- (j) Should a Team Official have a reasonable doubt regarding the eligibility of an opposing Player(s) named on the Official Team Sheet, he/she should sign in the dispute box on the front of the Official Team Sheet and proceed in accordance with Regulation E 33 (d) – Refer to Regulation E 33 (d).
The Player(s) will be allowed to play in the Fixture and the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary shall determine the eligibility of the Player(s).
- (k) A person found guilty of supplying false information on an Official Team Sheet shall be dealt with as determined by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary.
- (l) Failure by any Member Club, Registered Player or Official to adhere to the preceding Rules of E34 may be subject to action by the Competition Administrator -Disciplinary for the Joint Board of Zone Associations, which could result in Fining and/or loss of points and/or suspension.

E 35 TEAM SHEET ISSUE

Each Member Club shall be issued with pre-printed Official Team Sheets applicable to the ZFL Competitions Fixtures to be hosted by the Home Club. The Home Club shall be responsible to have at Home Fixtures the Official Team Sheets available at the designated Official Table.

Official pre-printed Team Sheets MUST be used at all Fixtures.

The Zone Association will provide replacement pre-printed Official Team Sheets only when the originally issued pre-printed Official Team Sheets have been destroyed by misadventure. Home Clubs are required to carefully store and issue the pre-printed Official Team Sheets as required for Home Fixtures. Hand written Team Sheets must NOT be used for ZFL Fixtures.

Failure to observe this Regulation shall result in a Fine of a sum as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

An Official Team Sheet for a Finals Series Fixture(s) or a Special Competition will be supplied to the Host Club / Organisation controlling that event by the Zone Association.

E 36 SUBSTITUTION/INTERCHANGE OF A PLAYER

(1) Substitution of Players is applicable in Zone Football League First and Reserve Grades in each Division ie Premier League – First and Reserve Grades; League 1 – First and Reserve Grades; League 2 – First and Reserve Grades; League 3 – First and Reserve Grades.

(a) Substitution of a Player shall be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Each Competing Team may at its discretion use three (3) Substitute Players, one of whom may be the Goalkeeper, at any time in a Fixture.

(b) The Substitution can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission. A Substitute Player's name shall be nominated on the Team Sheet prior to commencement of the Fixture. A Substitute Player cannot be used to replace a Player who has been sent off during the Fixture by the Referee.

(c) Only the Team Coach, Manager and Players eligible for the Match (as named on the Official Team Sheet) are to be in the Technical / Bench Area. No other persons are permitted (See Regulation E 33 (e)).

(2) Interchange of Players is applicable in Zone Football League Third Grades in each Division where these are available ie Premier League – Third Grade; League 1 – Third Grade.

(a) Interchange of Players must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Each Competing Team may at its discretion use four (4) Interchange Players in any Fixture. These Interchange Players' names shall be nominated on the Official Team Sheet prior to commencement of the Fixture. An Interchange Player cannot be used to replace a Player who has been sent off during the Fixture by the Referee. If a designated Goalkeeper is named, he/she is permitted to interchange only with the Goalkeeper.

(b) Interchange is not limited but neither is it compulsory to use a set number of Interchanges or to use any Interchanges at all – this is optional only.

(c) Interchange during the Match can only be made when play has stopped for any reason and the Referee has given permission.

(d) Only the Team Coach, Manager and Players eligible for the Match (as named on the Official Team Sheet) are to be in the Technical/Bench Area. No other persons are permitted (See Regulation E 33 (e)).

E 37 MATCH OFFICIALS

Each Fixture, wherever possible, shall be played under the control of an Official Referee and Assistant Referees (hereinafter called the Match Officials) appointed by the Referee Appointments Committee.

In the event of no Official Referee being appointed to or in attendance at the Fixture:-

- (a) The Home Team shall appoint a Referee for the Fixture. Failure to do so shall be regarded as a FORFEIT to the Visiting Team. Failure of the Visiting Team to accept the appointed person shall be regarded as a FORFEIT to the Home Team.
- (b) The appointed person shall take to the centre of the field. Failure of either Team to take to the field within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time shall mean a forfeit to the opposing Team. The appointed person shall assume the full responsibility of the Referee and shall be treated accordingly.
- (c) The appointed person must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, have a good understanding of the Laws of the Game and be of suitable fitness and health; he/she should desirably have completed and passed the basic Club Referee course.
- (d) In the event of an Official Referee failing to appear, the Official Team Sheet is to be clearly endorsed accordingly and the matter reported by the Home Club to the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator who shall keep a comprehensive list of all non-attendance of Referees and this information shall be included in a report to the Referees Appointments Committee.
- (e) In the event of a Club Referee being appointed, he/she shall be paid the appropriate Referee Fee should payment be requested by the Appointed Person.
- (f) Failure by a Member Club to comply with Regulation E 37 (a) & (b) may also result in a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations being imposed on the Club.

E 38 REFEREEING

- (a) Where possible a Referee should attend the ground at least fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled starting time of his/her Fixture.
- (b) The Referee shall wait for a minimum of ten (10) minutes after the time arranged for the commencement of the Fixture before abandoning the Fixture because of the absence of a Team.
- (c) The Referee shall decide as to the fitness of the ground for play in all Fixtures.
- (d) When the Referee finds it necessary to stop play owing to inclement weather or other cause, he/she shall wait a reasonable length of time before deciding to abandon the Fixture.
- (e) The Referee shall record the result of the match and the goal scorers in the appropriate places, provided on the front of the Official Team Sheet, in a clear and legible manner.
Failure to comply with this Regulation shall result in the Referee being Fined a sum as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.
- (f) The Referee is to record each Player Caution and/or Send-Off on the back of the Official Team Sheet as per the Regulations covering these incidents. The Referee and Assistant Referee(s) will be required to submit a written report and to attend a Disciplinary Committee Hearing upon request by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).
Failure to comply with this Regulation shall result in the Referee being Fined a sum as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.
- (g) A Club Official and/or Team Official may send in a report to the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary on the performance of a Referee during a Fixture. Such a report shall be written on Club letterhead and shall be received by the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of the Fixture. Notice of such complaint should be phoned in to the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator on the day of the Fixture.

E 39 MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES

Match Officials' Fees shall be negotiated between Northern NSW Football and the Referees Standing Committee and shall be determined prior to the commencement of the Zone Football League Registrations and Competitions.

- (a) It is the Home Club's responsibility to pay the Match Officials on the day of the Fixture or pay in accordance with Zone Association policy.. A Home Club that fails to pay Match Officials the appropriate Fees for the Fixture(s) on the day or in accordance with the Zone Association policy shall be fined DOUBLE the respective amount (unless there has been prior arrangement between the Zone Association and the Referees Association).
- (b) The Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator shall pay the Match Officials' Fees for any Finals Series Fixture or a Special Competitions Fixture.
- (c) The Home Club shall not pay Match Officials' Fees for forfeited Fixtures. The Match Officials should submit claims for fees through their Referees' Association to the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator for payment.

E 40 MASS WALK-OFFS

A Team causing a Fixture to be terminated before its natural conclusion through a 'Mass Walk-Off' or refusal to allow play to continue shall be deemed to have committed serious misconduct against the Zone Association. As a result, the full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to the Team's opponents and the scores shall be recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed this Regulation. The offending Club shall be liable to such further penalty as shall be determined by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary and a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

E 41 REFUSAL TO START A FIXTURE

A Team refusing to start to play a Fixture shall be deemed to have committed serious misconduct against the Zone Association and the full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to the opponent Team and the score recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team getting the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed this Regulation. The offending Team's Club shall be liable to such further penalty as shall be determined by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary and a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

E 42 RING-INS

A 'Ring-In' Player is defined as:-

1. A Player playing under another name.
2. An unregistered Player.
3. A Player under suspension.
4. A Player deemed to be ineligible to play by the Zone Association.

A Team or Club found to have knowingly or willfully engaged in the 'Ring-In' of a Player or Players in any Fixture shall be deemed to have been guilty of gross misconduct against the Zone Association and the full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to their opponents and the scores recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Team receiving the points to nil (0) by the Team which has infringed this Regulation.

The offending Team's Club shall be liable to such further penalty eg suspension and/or Fine as determined by the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary.

E 43 WASHED OUT OR DOUBTFUL FIXTURES

In all instances where inclement weather or other incidents preceding a Fixture raise fair doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the following rules are to apply, so that Players, Team Officials, Match Officials and the Public can be given correct notice of intentions:-

- (a) A Home Club Official is to inspect the ground on the day of the Fixture and decide whether play can take place during the day; such decision is to be given to the Zone Association's ZFL Appointed Wet Weather Officer no later than 9.00am for Saturday / Sunday Fixtures and 4.00pm for Week Night Fixtures. This information must be phoned in by direct conversation between the two persons involved – it must NOT be left as a recorded message although it may be e-mailed but only as a back-up to the direct conversation.
The Home Club Secretary (Official) shall also notify the Visiting Team's Club Secretary that the ground is closed and the Zone Association ZFL Appointed Wet Weather Officer has been notified of the closure.
Failure of a Home Club to advise the Zone Association ZFL Appointed Wet Weather Officer by the stipulated time shall render the offending Club liable to a Fine and/or forfeiture of the Fixture.
- (b) Information re washed out / postponed Fixtures ie Grounds Open /Grounds Closed details shall be recorded on the appropriate 1900 number (**1900 920 219**) as soon as possible after 9.00am for Saturday/Sunday Fixtures and 4.30pm for Week Night Fixtures. Such information shall also be posted on the Internet website. The Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator will notify Referees of ground cancellations.
- (c) In the event of a Ground being declared unfit for play (CLOSED), that Ground shall not be used for any Fixtures during that day.
- (d) A Club shall advise the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator of the Names, Addresses and Telephone Numbers of each of its Club Officials who has the authority to declare a Ground unfit for play. This list for each Club shall be provided to the Zone Association ZFL Appointed Wet Weather Officer. The Club person ringing in Club Ground Closures to the Zone Association ZFL Appointed Wet Weather Officer must clearly identify himself/herself as one of the notified listed Club Officials who has the authority of the Club to close Grounds when necessary.
- (e) Where a Club has two (2) or more Home Grounds and only one (1) Home Ground has been declared unfit for play (CLOSED), then the other Home Ground(s) shall be deemed playable (OPEN). In such cases the separate Grounds must be clearly identified by number or name, as in the Fixtures Draw, so that there is no confusion about games that are on or off.
- (f) Any Ground that has been declared fit for play (OPEN) shall have its scheduled Fixtures played on it.
- (g) In the event of a Fixture being washed out, the Fixture may be reversed at the discretion of the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator.
- (h) In the event of a Fixture being washed out, it shall be the responsibility of the Home Club in agreement with the Visiting Team Club to reset the Fixture. Once the Clubs have agreed on the date, the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator must be notified of the re-scheduled arrangement; and he/she must approve the arrangement and shall arrange for Referees to be appointed to the re-set Fixture.
- (i) **Refer to Rule E 24 (f). A Washed-out Fixture MUST BE RESET within one (1) week of the Fixture being washed out and MUST BE PLAYED within three (3) weeks of the Fixture being washed out.**
If the Clubs cannot reach agreement on the re-scheduled Fixture by the end of the one (1) week period from the original washout, the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator shall re-set the Fixture; in such a case the Fixture shall be played (or forfeited) under this arrangement.
- (j) Re-scheduled Week Night Fixtures are subject to the condition that the latest time for such a Fixture to kick-off is 8.00pm. No later times are permitted.
- (k) Any washed-out Fixture not re-set and played by the end of the Final Competition Round shall be declared a 1 – 1 result.

E 44 BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS

Each Member Club shall be responsible for the behaviour of its Players, Team Officials and Supporters at all times. A person or persons found guilty of misconduct, thus bringing the Code and his/her Club and/or Team into disrepute, shall receive penalties / Fines as determined by the Competition Administrator -Disciplinary.

E 45 OFFICIAL TABLE

An Official Table (or a Designated Place) shall be provided by the Home Club. This Official Table is to be centrally located adjacent to the playing field and shall be large enough to lay out the Official Team Sheets required for the day's events.

Not later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled Kick-Off Time of a Fixture, the Official Team Sheet for the Fixture shall be available at the Official Table. The Official Team Sheet shall have ALL required details completed in full by the Home Club. Any breach of this Regulation by the Home Club shall result in a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

The Official Team Sheet must remain at the Official Table with the only exception that the Referee for the Fixture has the authority to remove the Official Team Sheet immediately prior to the start of the Fixture. Official Team Sheets MUST NOT be taken to change rooms or other places for completion by either Team.

E 46 GROUNDS

F.I.F.A. Rules apply for all Ground markings, fixtures and fittings.

E 47 BORROWED PLAYERS' QUALIFICATIONS – COMPETITION AND FINAL SERIES

For both ZFL Zone Association Competitions and Finals Series the following shall apply:-

- (a) The name and grade of any registered Player(s) temporarily playing in a higher grade (referred to as BORROWED PLAYER(S)) shall be recorded on the Official Team Sheet. The Age and Division of the source Team of the Borrowed Player **MUST** be shown above the Borrowed Player's printed name on the Official Team Sheet.
- (b) A MAXIMUM OF FOUR (4) Players borrowed from other Teams registered in the same Club shall be permitted in a ZFL Team that is short of some of its own registered Players but these are eligible for the lowest grade Team only (ie ZFPL, ZFL1 – Third Grade only; ZFL2, ZFL3 – Reserve Grade only).**
- (c) A BORROWED PLAYER is one who is not registered for ZFL Competition but is registered by the Member Club in any of that Club's Teams competing in the Zone Association (InterDistrict) Competition.
- (d) A BORROWED PLAYER can only play in the starting eleven if there is no ZFL registered Player on the Bench (ie: named as a Substitute or Interchange Reserve on the Official Team Sheet); otherwise such Borrowed Player must start from the Bench.
- (e) A BORROWED PLAYER may not take the field of play (as a Substitute or Interchange) in precedence of a Registered ZFL Player if that Registered ZFL Player is named on the Official Team Sheet.
- (f) Failure to comply with Rule E 47 (a), (b), (c), (d) and/or (e) by the Team's Club shall result in loss of Match points and/or a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.
- (g) There is no restriction on the number of games in which a borrowed Player may participate provided that Rule E 47 (a),(b),(c),(d),(e) is always followed.**

E 48 TEAM CAPTAIN

The Captain of each Team shall wear a distinguishing Arm Band to indicate his status. Failure to observe this Regulation may result in a Fine as determined annually by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations.

E 49 PLAYER PHOTO IDENTITY

Player Photo Identity is required of ALL Players in Zone Football Competitions; this includes Players aged 18 or less who will be playing in such Competitions.

When such Player registers on-line, he/she must also download his/her photograph as part of the on-line registration process. The photograph must be a high definition, clear, coloured photograph taken in 'passport style' ie showing full face, front on, from top of head to top of shoulders, not wearing sunglasses or any headwear. The photograph must be of a quality acceptable to the Zone Association, which reserves the right to reject any sub-standard photographs and to require another suitable photograph to be submitted.

The registration of a Player registering 'on-line' remains 'pending' and is completed only when

- (a) the Club has accepted the Player registration;
- (b) the Zone Association has accepted the Player's downloaded registration photograph and Player registration.

Any Player who plays in ZFL Competition before completion of the above will be classed as an INELIGIBLE PLAYER and the appropriate Regulations shall apply.

The Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator will maintain, for each ZFL registered squad, a set of Team Sheets showing the details and identification photograph of each Player registered in the ZFL registered squad. This may be used by the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary in checking Player identity, checking submitted protests on Player eligibility, resolving disputes on alleged 'ring-in' Players; and may also be used in checking Players taking to the field in Matches, either on a random or specific basis.

Where a Club/Team detects any abnormality or breach of the Rules and Regulations, particularly where this involves the true identity of a Player participating in a Fixture, the Club shall

- (a) advise the opposing Club of its intention to report the matter to the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary; and
- (b) sign the Disputes Box on the Team Match Sheet; and
- (c) submit a written report **by e-mail** to the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary (disciplinary@macquariefootball.com) **within two (2) days/forty –eight (48) hours** of the incident (**Refer to Regulation E 33 (f)**).

The Competition Administrator -Disciplinary shall investigate the matter and determine whether to deal with it directly or refer it to the Disciplinary Committee.

E 50 MULTIPLE COMPETITIONS REGISTRATION

A Player MAY NOT 'DUAL REGISTER' ie register for more than one Team across more than one Club. Dual Registration is banned by FFA.

A Player may **MULTIPLE REGISTER for more than one (1) Team WITHIN the one (1) Club** by completing the appropriate Zone Multiple Competition Registration form (including signing and having it certified by a Club Official), submitting it to the Zone Association, and paying the appropriate Multiple Registration Fee (currently \$20-00 Junior, \$40-00 Senior) to the Zone Association.

The PRIMARY Registration is to the Club Team with which the Player first registers; the Player must pay the full Registration Fee applicable to this Club Team; the Player's first priority and obligation is to this Primary Club Team.

The SECONDARY Registration is to the Club Team with which the Player registers second; the Player must pay the Zone Multiple Registration Fee (currently \$20-00 Junior, \$40-00 Senior) to the Zone Association; the Player's second priority and obligation is to this Secondary Club Team. In the event of a clash of Fixtures of the Primary and Secondary Club Teams, the Player MUST play in the Primary Club Team (unless the Player is surplus to this Primary Club Team's requirements at this time).

The Primary Registration MUST be the lower graded Club Team; the Secondary Registration MUST be with the higher graded Club Team.

Since ZFL is the highest graded competition conducted by the Joint Board of the Zone Associations, this means a Player seeking to Multiple Register with the ZFL Squad as one of the multiple registrations **MUST HAVE THE ZFL SQUAD AS THE SECONDARY REGISTRATION.**

For example, a Player MAY Multiple Register with Primary Registration All Age Division G Team and Secondary Registration ZFL Squad (within the same Club); but a Player MAY NOT Multiple Register with Primary Registration ZFL Squad and Secondary Registration All Age Division G Team (within the same Club).

The Primary Registration Club Team is unrestricted on the number of Multiple Registered Players it uses in any one Match.

The Secondary Registration Club Team (in the case of ZFL this MUST be the ZFL squad) is restricted to the use of a MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) Multiple Registered Players in any one Match – such Players must be clearly marked as 'MR' or 'M' on the Official Team Sheet. Any of the total number of Multiple Registered Players in the Club may be used in the Secondary Registration Club Team but only to a maximum of three (3) Players in any one Match.

E 51 FINAL SERIES PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- (a) (1) A Player who has been in the Starting Eleven of a Higher Grade for two thirds (2/3rds) or more within a season is Ineligible to be in the Starting Eleven of a Lower Grade.
- (2) Such a Player described in Part (1) above is Eligible to be on the Bench (for Substitution or Interchange, whichever is applicable) for a Lower Grade.
- (3) A Player is permitted to be on the Bench as described in Parts (1) and (2) above **ONLY FOR THE GRADE IMMEDIATELY BELOW THE PLAYER'S PRIMARY GRADE.**
- (4) A Player's Primary Grade will be determined by the Grade in which the Player has been in the Starting Eleven for the greatest number of Matches.

- (5) In the event of Part (4) above not clearly defining a Player's Primary Grade, the Zone Football League Competition Administrator will make a determination on the Player's Primary Grade.
- (6) Each Club will be responsible for determining the eligibility of its Registered ZFL Players and must maintain a system of tracking each of its Players for the full Competition Season by recording from Team Match Sheets the Players in the Starting Eleven (11) for each Grade for each Competition Match. This will allow the Club to list Players who qualify for each Grade by meeting requirements as set out in Parts (1) – (5) above. Tracking can be carried out by using the FoxSP program.
- (b) Suspended Players are not eligible to play in ANY Competition or Finals Series Fixture until the complete suspension has been served. Such suspended Players are not eligible to have Competition Matches (whilst on such suspension) credited to their eligibility for participation in Finals Series Matches.
- (c) A Player may only be in the Starting Eleven (11) Players in one (1) Semi-Final, one (1) Final and one (1) Grand Final; or one (1) double leg Semi-Final and one (1) Grand Final in any one year. The only exception to this Rule is for Designated Goalkeepers.
- (d) A Designated Goalkeeper is a Registered Zone Football League Player who has played for the majority of the Season in this specialist position and who must be named as a Designated Goalkeeper prior to the commencement of the Finals Series. Such Player will be exempt from these qualifying Regulations.
- (e) A Team playing an INELIGIBLE Player (see Rule C 03 (e)) in the Finals Series may be fined and/or the Team removed from the Finals Series and/or have further penalties imposed following referral to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).
- (f) For purposes of Player eligibility in a Finals Series, playing in two (2) Grades on the one day in Qualifying Rounds is evaluated as playing in the higher Grade.
- (g) A NON PLAYING Substitute or Interchange Player ie a Player who has been listed on the Official Team Sheet for a Match but has not actually taken to the field of play for that Match is deemed not to have participated in that Match for the purposes of eligibility.

E 52 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

A Club shall be promoted or relegated by the following means:-

- (a) The last placed Team (based on First Grade Competition Premiership Points) shall be relegated for the next season; the first placed Team (based on first grade Competition Premiership Points) shall be promoted for the next season.
- (b) Promotion and Relegation shall be COMPULSORY between ZFL Leagues 1,2,3.
- (c) Promotion and Relegation between ZF League 1 and ZFL Premier League will be based on Premiership and the Club's ability to suit ZPL criteria. This will be determined by the Joint Board Panel and the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator each season.

- (d) In the event of a Club withdrawing from the Competition the Joint Board may seek to replace that Club by promoting a Club on the basis of:-
 - (i) Position on Competition Points Table of previous Season.
 - (ii) Calling for nominations to fill the position with criteria as determined by the Joint Board Panel of the Zone Associations and the Zone Association ZFL Competition Administrator being used to select a suitable replacement.
- (e) The Joint Board of the Zone Associations reserves the right to vary or change the number of Clubs participating in the ZFL Division Competitions on the basis of criteria, performance, applications, discipline or any other reasons it believes are valid, fair and equitable.

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