



**FOOTBALL  
WEST**

# Competition Rules

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

## FIFA Documents

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

## FA Documents

- National Registration Regulations
- National Disciplinary Regulations
- National Grievance Procedure By-Law
- National Judicial Bodies By-Law
- National Arbitration Tribunal Regulations
- National Club Identity Policy
- National Code of Conduct
- National Member Protection Policy
- National Privacy Policy
- National Anti-Doping Policy
- National Spectator Code of Behaviour

## Football West Documents

- Football West Competition Rules Annexures
- Football West Match Scheduling Policy
- Football West Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations
- Football West Competition Management Regulations
- Football West Code of Conduct
- Football West Spectator Code of Behaviour

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

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

A club that affiliates with FA and enters a Team or Teams into Football West competitions is deemed to accept these Competition Rules.

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## Article 1 - General

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1. The Rules contained within this document are valid for all Football West competitions with the exception of the National Premier Leagues unless otherwise specified. For clarity this includes, but is not limited to, the Men's and Women's Community Competitions, consisting of their respective State Leagues, Amateur Leagues and Senior Sunday Competitions, and the Community Junior Competitions.
2. Where a rule in this document appears to conflict with a rule in an Annexure, the rule in the Annexure takes precedence.
3. The Definitions set out in the Disciplinary and Grievance Regulations apply to this document and all of its annexures.
4. Football West may alter, add to, clarify or delete any of these Rules at its discretion. Any changes to these Rules will be communicated to Clubs.
5. Notwithstanding any other Rule in any Competition, Football West may investigate any alleged breach of these Rules regardless of the source of the alleged breach. Whether a matter is investigated or not is entirely at the discretion of Football West.
6. A participant breaching any of these Rules or those of the accompanying Annexures is liable to a Penalty. Whether a Penalty is imposed or not, or whether a Penalty is reduced or varied is at the sole discretion of Football West. Football West reserves the right to issue a warning for any breach of a competition rule prior to the imposition of any penalties, but whether a warning is issued is at the sole discretion of Football West. A Penalty may not be appealed to the Tribunal on the basis that the party is seeking an exercise of this discretion.
7. Where a Penalty is not specified in these Rules, Football West reserves the right to use its discretion to determine and impose a Penalty.
8. In the case of a rule being interpreted in two or more different ways, Football West reserves the right to determine which interpretation is valid. Any such determination is final.
9. In the case of a circumstance not being governed by these Rules, Football West reserves the right to make a ruling on that circumstance. Any such ruling is final.
10. A club may apply for an exemption to these Rules where it can demonstrate that exceptional circumstances exist. Football West will consider any application and determine whether or not the circumstances are exceptional. Any such determination is final and not subject to any further challenge.
11. Football West reserves the right to request the removal of any national flags, slogans or emblems at any time. Refusal to comply with any such request may result in disciplinary action.
12. Football West may, from time to time, organise Matches outside the normal league and cup season between the winning Team of any division and another Team from Western Australia, another Member Federation or another National Association. It is a condition of entry of Football West competitions that if such a Match is organised, the Team chosen MUST participate in that Match.  
**Penalty for Breach: \$1,000**
13. Should a vacancy occur in any division for any reason prior to the commencement of the season the vacancy will be filled through a process to be determined by Football West in consultation with the relevant standing committee. For the avoidance of doubt the right to enter a Team in a certain division belongs to the club rather than the Players of that Team.
14. In the event any competition season, including the NPL seasons must be cancelled for any reason at any point Football West has complete discretion to declare a Team the winner of that

- competition or declare that there is no winner for that season.
15. In the event any Competition Season, including the NPL seasons must be modified for any reason at any point Football West has complete discretion to declare that the Competitions are to be conducted under a modified set of Rules.
  16. Clubs are not entitled to rely upon a Match Official's interpretation of these Rules.

## Article 2 - Matches

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1. Football West Matches must be played in accordance with these Rules, the accompanying Annexures and the Football West Match Scheduling Policy.
2. All Football West Matches must be played on grass or an artificial surface that has been approved in writing by Football West.
3. The venues, dates and times of Matches will be fixed and published by Football West as soon as practicable prior to the commencement of each season, and except as otherwise provided in these Rules, Matches will be played at those venues and on those dates thus fixed.
4. A club is required to participate in its allocated Matches unless otherwise specified in these Rules.

**Penalty for Breach:** **Forfeit**

5. Football West reserves the right to change the date, time and venue of any Match. Football West may consult with and take into account any representations made by the Clubs participating in the Match in question, and with any other club or Clubs which may be affected thereby before doing so.
6. In the event that a Team is not ready to commence the Match within 15 minutes following the scheduled kick-off time, the Match may not proceed.

**Penalty for Breach:** **Forfeit**

7. A Match may be played wholly or partly under floodlights if the floodlight installation has been approved by Football West as suitable for the conduct of Matches.
8. In the event of inclement weather, Clubs are obliged to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken in order that the scheduled Matches may proceed.
9. In the event that a Match is ended in a manner inconsistent with the Competition Rules, for example by extra time rather than proceeding directly to kicks from the Penalty mark, or vice versa, Football West reserves the right to allow the Match result to stand, as long as the Match was concluded in a manner consistent with the FIFA Laws of the Game. If allowing the Match result to stand would result in unfairness, the entire Match will be replayed. The decision of Football West in these circumstances is final and cannot be challenged.
10. It is the responsibility of the home club to enable the ground inspection to be carried out by the Referee.
11. Nets affixed to goalposts must be used in all Football West Matches. The Referee must not allow the Match to proceed without nets.
12. The club named first in any Match is deemed to be the home Team regardless of the venue at which the Match is played.

## Article 3 - Postponed, Delayed or Abandoned Matches

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1. A Match may not be postponed, delayed or abandoned except:

- a) on the instructions of the Referee; or
  - b) by order of the police or other authority exercising its statutory powers to that effect; or
  - c) on the instructions of or with the prior written consent of Football West.
2. If the appointed Referee postpones, delays or abandons a Match, he must, within 30 minutes of making such a decision, inform:
- a) The home club;
  - b) The visiting club; and
  - c) The Referee Allocator.

If a Match does not commence for any reason on the scheduled date of the Match, without having been rearranged with the approval of Football West, it is the responsibility of the allocated Referee to notify Football West. Should no Referee be allocated by Football West, the responsibility rests with the home club.

3. A Match postponed in accordance with paragraph 1 may only be replayed at a date and time mutually agreed by both Clubs except in the circumstances specified in paragraphs 6 and 7. The details of the rearranged Match must be communicated to Football West at least 3 business days prior to the Match.
4. If a club requests the postponement of a Match, Football West reserves the right to require that an alternative date, time and venue are agreed before any such request is granted.
5. If a Match is postponed in accordance with paragraph 1, and the Clubs involved are not able to reach an agreement as to when the Match will be played, Football West will determine the date, time and venue of the Match and any such decision is final. If the rescheduled Match incurs a cost, Football West may pass on that cost to either one or both Clubs depending on the circumstances which led to the postponement.
6. If a postponed Match cannot be rescheduled in accordance with paragraph 6, or cannot be completed for any other reason, Football West reserves the right to declare the Match a 0-0 draw.
7. A club or participant found to have caused the abandonment of any Match, will be sanctioned in accordance with the Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations and will forfeit that Match.
8. If a Match is abandoned prior to half time, then the Match will be replayed in accordance with paragraph 13, unless, in the opinion of the Referee, one of the participating Teams caused the abandonment of the Match or unless otherwise specified in these Rules or accompanying Annexures.
9. If a Match is abandoned at half time or after the commencement of the second half, then the score at the time of the abandonment of the Match will be deemed to be the Match result, unless, in the opinion of the Referee, one of the participating Teams or a club associate from one of the participating Teams caused the abandonment of the Match. If the Referee does not express an opinion on the party responsible for the abandonment, Football West may make a decision about which party or parties are responsible for the abandonment.
10. Paragraphs 8 and 9 do not apply to the MiniRoos League. Abandoned Matches in the aforementioned league will not be replayed under any circumstances. Where results are recorded by Football West, the result will stand as it was at the time of the abandonment.
11. If a Match is abandoned, and that Match is one in which the outcome must be that one of the Teams must be declared a winner on the day, for example a knock out cup Match, and at the time of the abandonment scores are level, then that Match will be replayed in full, unless in the opinion of the Referee, one of the participating Teams or a club associate from one of the participating Teams caused the abandonment of the Match. If the Referee does not express an opinion on the party responsible for the abandonment, Football West may make a decision about which party or parties are responsible for the abandonment.

12. An abandoned Match that is to be replayed may be arranged at a mutually convenient time and venue by the participating Clubs. Football West must be notified in writing of the date, time and venue of the rescheduled Match within 10 business days of the original fixture. After 10 business days have passed, Football West will determine the date, time and venue for the Match and this Match may not be rescheduled.
13. If an abandoned Match cannot be rescheduled through mutual agreement, Football West will determine the date, time and venue of the Match and any such decision will be final. If the rescheduled Match incurs a cost, Football West may pass on that cost to either one or both Clubs depending on the circumstances that led to the abandonment.
14. If an abandoned Match cannot be rescheduled in accordance with paragraph 13, Football West reserves the right to declare the Match a 0-0 draw. If the abandoned Match is one in which the outcome must be that one of the Teams must be declared a winner, Football West reserves the right to determine the outcome of the Match using any method it chooses.
15. A Match that is normally played between Teams of 11 Players may not continue if either Team is reduced to fewer than 7 Players.

## Article 4 - Forfeited Matches

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1. A Team that forfeits a Match may be sanctioned with the following Penalty at the discretion of Football West:
  - a) Mens State League, Mens Amateur League & Women's State Leagues
 

(i) Written notice to Football West with at least one business day's notice:	\$200
(ii) With no notice or notice on a non-business day:	\$400
  - b) FA Cup
 

(i) Written notice to Football West with at least one business day's notice:	\$150
(ii) With no notice or notice on a non-business day:	\$300
  - c) Metropolitan, Masters & Women's Amateur and Metropolitan Leagues
 

(i) Written notice to Football West with at least one business day's notice:	\$100
(ii) With no notice or notice on a non-business day:	\$200
  - d) Junior Boys, Junior Girls & MiniRoos Leagues
 

(i) Written notice to Football West with at least one business day's notice:	\$50
(ii) With no notice or notice on a non-business day:	\$100
  - e) Cup competitions
    - (i) In accordance with the level of competition and length of notice.
2. The result of a forfeited Match will be awarded to the opposition club by a margin of 3-0, unless that score disadvantages the non-offending Team.
3. A Team which forfeits three consecutive Matches or any four Matches may, at the discretion of Football West, be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition.
4. In circumstances in which both Teams participating in a Match commit offences which carry the sanction of a forfeit, Football West reserves the right to declare the Match played, and award each Team zero points and zero goals, or if that Match occurs in a knockout competition, disqualify both Teams from that competition.
5. In circumstances in which a Team is retrospectively penalised with forfeiting a Match, all Match data resulting from the Match will be retained. These data include, but are not limited to:
  - a) Goals scored;
  - b) Fairest and Best votes;
  - c) Substitutions;

- d) Yellow cards;
- e) Red cards.

This does not apply for Match data directly related to the infringement. For example, if a Player who is under suspension scores a goal in a Match, that goal will not be counted towards his season's goals tally.

## Article 5 - Playing Strip

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1. Each Player's shirt must display on its back a unique number clearly distinguishable from a reasonable distance. The number must be a whole number between 1 and 99. The number 1 may only be worn by a goalkeeper.  
**Penalty for Breach:** \$50
2. No part of the Player's attire or the uniform worn by a Club Official may incorporate national flags, slogans or emblems.
3. The home Team will wear its designated home strip unless an exemption is granted by Football West in writing or if otherwise provided for in these Rules.
4. Advertising on a strip is permitted except for advertisements which contravene state or federal laws (such as tobacco advertising), Football West Rules, Regulations and By-Laws, advertise products, brands or companies which are in direct conflict with Football West protected sponsors or damage the reputation of the league or Football West. No advertising relating to alcoholic beverages may appear on the playing strip of any Player under the age of 18. Football West reserves the right to require that sponsorship advertising is removed from a playing strip if it deems the advertisement breaches this rule.

## Article 6 - Match Officials

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1. Clubs are responsible for the payment of Match Official fees in accordance with these Rules. A club may not refuse to pay an officially appointed Referee regardless of whether payment is due on the day or by invoice from Football West.
2. A Referee arranged by the home club in accordance with these Rules in the absence of an officially appointed Referee assumes the same powers and responsibilities as an official Referee for the duration of the Match. Any Match Official who was not officially appointed to a Match by Football West is not entitled to payment, but may request payment from the club(s) that are normally responsible for the payment of Match Officials. It is at the discretion of the club(s) involved as to whether to make such requested payment.
3. With the exception of the Masters and Over 45s competitions, a Match Official arranged by the home club in accordance with these Rules in the absence of an officially appointed Referee, must be at least as old as the youngest eligible Player for the competition. For example, in senior men's competitions, he must be at least 16 years old in the year of competition. For Masters and Over 45s competitions, he must be at least 18 years old in the year of competition.
4. Participants must identify themselves to the Match Officials upon request.  
**Penalty for Breach:** \$100
5. Players and Team Officials must comply with any lawful instruction given to them by a Match Official officiating at a Football West Match.  
**Penalty for Breach:** \$100
6. Match officials must not perform their duties in cases with an existing or potential conflict of

interest. Any such conflict must be immediately disclosed to Football West. If there is any doubt as to whether or not any such conflict exists, the Match Official must declare it.

7. While performing their duties, Match Officials must avoid any situation that could lead to actual or perceived conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest arise if officials have, or appear to have, private or personal interests that detract from their ability to perform their duties as Match Officials with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Private or personal interests include gaining any possible advantage for himself, his family, relatives, friends or acquaintances.
8. A club which believes that a Match Official has an actual or perceived conflict of interest may report the matter to Football West and if the club chooses to report it, must detail the reasons for the alleged conflict. Any reports of alleged conflict which do not contain the reasons for the allegation will be dismissed immediately.
9. In the event that a conflict of interest, either actual or perceived, comes to the attention of Football West, Football West will decide on whether that conflict of interest exists, and what action is to be taken.
10. Neither Players nor Team Officials may approach a Match Official before, during or after a Match has ended unless invited to do so by the Match Official in question.
11. The decisions of the Referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the Match, are final, even if the decision(s) of the Referee represents a technical error in the Laws of the Game.

## Article 7 - Match Documentation

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1. Electronic Match Sheets and Electronic Match Cards will be used in the 2021 season.
2. All competitions except for Under 5s, Under 6s and Under 7s will use Electronic Match Sheets and Electronic Match Cards.
3. The Rules governing Electronic Match Sheets and Electronic Match Cards are set out in the relevant annexure for each competition.

## Article 8 - Broadcasting and Livestreaming

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1. Football West may designate Matches to be livestreamed by Football West or by a third-party with approval from Football West.
2. The livestreaming of any Match must be approved by Football West at least 5 business days before the Match takes place.
3. A Football West watermark must be displayed in the top-right corner of the broadcast, formatted as specified by Football West.
4. All footage supplied to Football West post-streaming must not include the Football West watermark or any other graphical overlays.
5. Advertising visible during the Broadcast must not promote unhealthy dietary choices or conflict with the interests of current Football West sponsors.
6. Commentary used in any livestream must not conflict with the Football West or FA Code of Conduct.

## Article 9 - Players

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1. A Player must be registered with FA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations to be considered eligible to participate in any competitive Match approved by Football West.

2. A Player may register if he was born on or before 31 December 2016.
3. A registered Player may not participate in any Match approved by Football West if he is suspended or otherwise deemed ineligible by Football West, another Australian Member Federation, FA, AFC or FIFA.
4. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that a Player participating in a Match is eligible to do so.
5. The first time a Player is registered the club must sight a proof of age document and must be satisfied that the Player is registering for the correct age group and with the correct date of birth.
6. The authorised representative of each club participating in the Match is responsible for satisfying himself that the opposition Players are properly registered with Football West.
7. A Player who has previously been validly registered on Play Football in the current season may register for a subsequent club in the current season before 5pm WST on 28th August 2021 in accordance with the National Registration Regulations.
8. The movement of Players between Clubs as described in paragraph 7, does not apply to MiniRoos, 12's, Junior League and Junior Girls League.
9. Professional Players may only participate in the National Premier Leagues
10. Players may register until the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2021.

## Article 10 - Ineligible Players

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

## Article 11 - Proof of Registration

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1. Play Football must be used to generate proof of registration including a Player photograph for every Player participating in a Match with the exception of MiniRoos.
2. Evidence of registration without a valid Player photograph is not acceptable as proof of

registration. The Player must be able to be identified from the Player photograph. A registration without a valid Player photograph renders the Player ineligible until a valid Player photograph is added.

3. All coaches must be registered on Play Football registration system before the start of their respective competition or as soon as practicable if they are appointed during the season.

**Penalty for each occurrence of breach:      \$50.00**

4. Each Team must produce proof of registration for any or each of its Players on request from the opposition club prior to kick-off.
5. If a club is unable to produce proof of registration for any Player prior to kick-off after being requested to do so by the opposition club, the Match may proceed. However, the proof of registration requested must be produced before the end of the Match for that Player(s) to be deemed eligible to participate. If the club is unable to produce the proof by the end of the Match, the Player(s) will be deemed ineligible.
6. The failure of a club to produce proof of registration to the opposition club must be reported to the Referee who must note that failure on the Team List.
7. Proof of registration MAY NOT be requested after the Match has commenced.
8. If a club has complied with all necessary requirements and wishes to subsequently lodge a protest based on Player eligibility, it must do so in accordance with the conditions specified in the Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations.

## Article 12 - Representative Teams

1. Players must be released for training, preparation and participation for representative Matches when requested in writing to do so by Football West.
2. Football West may be empowered to call upon the services of a Player for possible selection into a State Representative Team. A Player who misses a State Representative Team session without a valid medical certificate (or other extenuating circumstances) will be suspended from his/her club Team's next game. Football West reserves the right to determine the validity of any extenuating circumstances and any such decision is final.

## Ineligibility Penalties

The following table describes the sanctions associated with fielding an ineligible participant during a Football West Match.

Type of Ineligibility	Sanction
Plays or is listed on a Team sheet while not registered in accordance with the National Registration Regulations	Forfeit State League \$500 Amateur & Women's State Leagues \$300 Metropolitan, Women's Metropolitan, Masters & Over 45s Leagues \$200 Junior and MiniRoos Leagues \$100
Plays or is listed on a Team sheet without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required	Forfeit (club) State League \$500 Amateur & Women's State Leagues \$300 Metropolitan, Women's Metropolitan, Masters & Over 45s Leagues \$200 Junior and MiniRoos Leagues \$100 Suspension of 1 Match (Player) – Players in senior Teams only
Plays or is listed on a Team sheet within a stand-down period due to a change of status	Forfeit (club) State League \$500 Amateur & Women's State Leagues \$300 Metropolitan, Women's Metropolitan, Masters & Over 45s Leagues \$200 Junior and MiniRoos Leagues \$100 Suspension of 1 Match (Player) – Players in senior Teams only
Plays or is listed on a Team sheet or coaches while under suspension	Forfeit and a fine of: State League \$500 Amateur & Women's State Leagues \$300 Metropolitan, Women's Metropolitan, Masters & Over 45s Leagues \$200 Junior and MiniRoos Leagues \$100

Enters the field of play, its surrounds of the field of play, the technical area, the Players' race or any other area within a venue where Club Associates are likely to assemble to prepare for a Match within 15 minutes of the beginning of a Match and 15 minutes after the Match has finished while under suspension.	Deduction of 1 championship point and a fine of: State League \$300 Amateur & Women's State Leagues \$200 Metropolitan, Women's Metropolitan, Masters & Over 45s Leagues \$100 Junior and MiniRoos Leagues \$50
Does not have proof of registration (but is otherwise validly registered and eligible to play), or presents proof of registration which does not include a photograph.	Forfeit and a fine of: State League \$300 Amateur & Women's State Leagues \$200 Metropolitan, Women's Metropolitan, Masters & Over 45s Leagues \$100 Junior Leagues \$50 Fine increases by the same amount for each subsequent offence by the same Team in the same season.
Plays or is listed on a Team sheet for a Team or in a Match when not permitted to do so under Competition Rules but would otherwise be eligible to play for the club in a different Match (for example if he is "cup tied")	Forfeit. State League \$500 Amateur & Women's State Leagues \$300 Metropolitan, Women's Metropolitan, Masters & Over 45s Leagues \$200 Junior and MiniRoos Leagues \$100
Plays in a Match when not listed on a Team list but would otherwise be eligible to play	A fine of: State League \$500 Amateur & Women's State Leagues \$300 Metropolitan, Women's Metropolitan, Masters & Over 45s Leagues \$200 Junior and MiniRoos Leagues \$100
Plays or is listed on a Team sheet in a Match in which his name has been added to the Team list after the Match has commenced but would otherwise be eligible to play	A fine of: State League \$500 Amateur & Women's State Leagues \$300 Metropolitan, Women's Metropolitan, Masters & Over 45s Leagues \$200 Junior and MiniRoos Leagues \$100

Plays for a Team which causes the maximum number of Players allowed to be listed on a Team list is exceeded	Forfeit and a fine of: State League \$500 Amateur & Women's State Leagues \$300 Metropolitan, Women's Metropolitan, Masters & Over 45s Leagues \$200 Junior and MiniRoos Leagues \$100
Plays using an assumed identity	As per the Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations
Plays while not eligible to do so for any other reason	At the discretion of Football West