

Annexure 1

Men's State League 2025

Part 1 – State League Competition Rules

References within this document to the State League refers specifically to the Men's State League.

Article 1 - Competition Format

1. The State League competition will comprise of 2 Divisions, being Division 1 and Division 2.
2. All Clubs participating in the State League competition are required to field a First Team, a Reserves Team and an Under 18s Team. A Club that fails to field a Team in 3 consecutive Matches in any State League division as set out above, or any 4 Matches in any State League division as set out above in a Regular Season will be considered to have breached this rule.

Penalty for Breach Deduction of 10 competition points from the First Team and the Club to which that Team belongs is ineligible for promotion in the current season.

3. Participating Teams will be ranked in their respective Divisions in accordance with the number of Competition Points that Team accrues over the relevant season as specified in Article 2.
4. A Club whose First Team finishes in first place of Division 2 at the end of the season will be promoted to Division 1 in the following season.
5. The Club whose First Team finishes in last place in Division 1 at the end of the season will be relegated to Division 2 in the following season.
6. Should a vacancy be created in any Division of the State League before the commencement of the relevant season, then that vacancy may be offered to another Club chosen by Football West in consultation with the State League Standing Committee.
7. Should a club withdraw during the league season creating a vacancy in any division of the State League that club will be ranked in 12th position in Division 2 for that season and will be relegated to the Men's Amateur Premier League for the following season.
8. Football West reserves the right in its absolute discretion not to fill any such vacancy.
9. The Club whose First Team finishes in first position of Division 1 will receive \$4,000 as prize money.
10. The Club whose First Team finishes in second position of Division 1 will receive \$1,000 as prize money.
11. The Club whose First Team finishes in first position of Division 2 will receive \$2,000 as prize money.
12. The Club whose First Team finishes in second position of Division 2 will receive \$500 as prize money.

Article 2 - Competition Points

1. Three (3) points will be awarded to the Team who win a Match, one (1) point for Teams who end a Match in a draw and no points are awarded to a Team for a defeat.
2. If two or more Teams are equal on points on completion of the Competition Season, the following criteria are applied in order to determine the higher-ranking Team in the following order:
 - a) the Team with the superior goal difference;
 - b) the Team with the higher number of goals scored;
 - c) the number of points gained in Matches between the Teams concerned;
 - d) the superior goal difference in Matches between the Teams concerned;
 - e) the Team with the lower number of Red Cards;

- f) the Team with the lower number of Yellow Cards; or
- g) the drawing of lots

Article 3 - Promotion to the National Premier Leagues WA-M

1. There are two (2) opportunities for promotion to the NPLWA Competition, outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3.
2. One (1) automatic promotion position will be awarded to the team finishing in first place in State League Division 1. This team will replace the last-placed team in the NPLWA-M, who will be relegated to State League Division 1.
3. A second opportunity for promotion is available through a play-off tournament as detailed in Article 4.
4. If a Club's First Team is promoted or relegated, this applies to the First Team, Under 20s/Reserves and Under 18s age groups.
5. Promotion via these methods is subject to a Club's eligibility to be promoted or participate in the NPLWA Competition, in accordance with the Football West Competition Management Regulations.
6. The NPL Eligibility Criteria, and the date by which each criterion must be met, are listed in the Football West Club Licencing Manual.
7. Football West will in its sole discretion determine whether a Club meets the NPL Promotion Eligibility Criteria.
8. In the event that a Club's First Team attains promotion to the NPLWA-M Competition through sporting merit but does not fulfill the NPL Promotion Eligibility Criteria, a vacancy will arise. This vacancy will be addressed in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 16 of the NPLWA Competition Rules.

Article 4 - Promotion and Relegation Play-Off

1. The Club whose First Team finishes in second last position in the NPLWA-M and the Clubs whose First Teams finish in second, third and fourth positions in State League Division 1 will compete in a Play-Off tournament to determine which Club will play in the NPLWA-M in the following season.
2. Two semi-final ties (Play-Offs) will be played over two Matches. One semi-final Match will be played between the Team that finished second last in the NPLWA-M and the Team that finished fourth in State League Division 1. The other semi-final Match will be played by the Team that finished second in State League Division 1 and the Team that finished third in State League Division 1.
3. The losing Team from each semi-final Match will play in State League Division 1 in the following season.
4. The winners of each semi-final Match will play each other in the Final Match, which is to take place over a single leg at a venue determined by Football West.
5. The winning Team of the Final Match will play in the NPLWA-M the following season. The losing Team of the final Match will play in State League Division 1 in the following season.
6. The Play-Off Competition Format is as follows:
 - a) Each Play-Off Semi Final will comprise of two Matches – one Match at each Club's home venue. Should a Club's home venue not be available, that Club will be responsible for sourcing an alternative venue at its own cost.

- b) The dates and times of the Matches will be determined by Football West and may not be challenged by either Club.
- c) The highest ranked team in the Semi Final play off tie will be offered the choice of playing their home match first or second.
- d) The Play-Off Final will be held at a venue determined by Football West at its sole discretion.
- e) A Player Roster must be provided to Football West at least three (3) Business Days prior to each scheduled Play-Off. If a new roster is not provided the previous roster will be deemed still in effect.
 - (i) a Player Roster must comprise at least 16 Players and no more than 25 Players. Player Rosters that do not comprise a number of Players in this range will not be accepted and will be deemed to be invalid.
 - (ii) to be eligible to play in First Team Matches a Player must be on the Club's Player Roster or have played five (5) competitive matches for the club during the Regular Season.
 - (iii) a Player must be registered on Play Football in accordance with the National Registration Regulations before he can be named on a Player Roster;
 - (iv) a Player Roster is not official until it has been approved by Football West;
 - (v) For each non-Visa Player on the Player Roster, the Club must provide a copy of either:
 - 1. Australian Passport; or
 - 2. foreign Passport and permanent residency visa; or
 - 3. certificate of Australian Citizenship

7. The winner of the Play-Off Semi Final will be:

- a) The Club that scores the most goals over the two legs.
- b) Should both Teams score an equal number of goals over the two legs, the winner of the tie will be the Club that scores the most goals in its away leg. For the avoidance of doubt, the Club playing its away leg is the second-named Club in the Match, regardless of the venue at which the Match is played.
- c) If a winner cannot be determined in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b), then two periods of extra time of 15 minutes per period will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game at the conclusion of the second leg.
- d) At the end of the second period of extra time, the provisions of paragraph (a) will be applied to determine the winner of the tie. The provisions of paragraph (b) do not apply once the Match moves into extra time.
- e) If a winner cannot be determined through the application of paragraph (d) after extra time, the winner of the tie will be decided by kicks from the penalty mark as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

8. The winner of the Play-Off Final will be:

- a) The Club that scores the most goals.
- b) If a winner cannot be determined in accordance with paragraph (a), then two periods of extra time of fifteen (15) minutes per period will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- c) If a winner cannot be determined through the application of paragraph (b) after extra time, the

winner of the Play-Off Final will be decided by a penalty shootout as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Article 5 - State League Inter-Divisional Promotion Play-Off Matches

1. The Club whose First Team finishes in second last position in State League Division 1 and the Clubs whose First Teams finish in second, third and fourth positions in State League Division 2 will compete in a Play-Off tournament to determine which Club will be promoted to and play in State League Division 1 in the following season.
2. Two semi-final ties (Play-Offs) will be played over two Matches. One semi-final Match will be played between the Team that finished second last in State League Division 1 and the Team that finished fourth in State League Division 2. The other semi-final Match will be played by the Team that finished second in State League Division 2 and the Team that finished third in State League Division 2.
3. The losing Team from each semi-final Match will play in State League Division 2 in the following season.
4. The winners of each semi-final Match will play each other in the Final Match, which is to take place over a single leg at a venue determined by Football West.
5. The winning Team of the Final Match will play in State League Division 1 the following season. The losing Team of the final Match will play in State League Division 2 in the following season.
6. The Play-Off Competition Format is as follows:
 - a) Each Play-Off Semi Final will comprise of two Matches – one Match at each Club’s home venue. Should a Club’s home venue not be available, that Club will be responsible for sourcing an alternative venue at its own cost.
 - b) The dates and times of the Matches will be determined by Football West and may not be challenged by either Club.
 - c) The highest ranked team in the Semi Final play off tie will be offered the choice of playing their home match first or second.
 - d) The Play-Off Final will be held at a venue determined by Football West at its sole discretion.
 - e) A Player Roster must be provided to Football West at least three (3) Business Days prior to each scheduled Play-Off. If a new roster is not provided the previous roster will be deemed still in effect.
 1. a Player Roster must comprise at least 16 Players and no more than 25 Players. Player Rosters that do not comprise a number of Players in this range will not be accepted and will be deemed to be invalid.
 2. to be eligible to play in First Team Matches a Player must be on the Club’s Player Roster or have played five (5) competitive matches for the club during the Regular Season.
 3. a Player must be registered on Play Football in accordance with the National Registration Regulations before he can be named on a Player Roster;
 4. a Player Roster is not official until it has been approved by Football West;

5. For each non-Visa Player on the Player Roster, Football West may request a copy of either:

1. Australian Passport; or
2. foreign Passport and permanent residency visa; or
3. certificate of Australian Citizenship

7. The winner of the Play-Off Semi Final will be:

- a) The Club that scores the most goals over the two legs.
- b) Should both Teams score an equal number of goals over the two legs, the winner of the tie will be the Club that scores the most goals in its away leg. For the avoidance of doubt, the Club playing its away leg is the second-named Club in the Match, regardless of the venue at which the Match is played.
- c) If a winner cannot be determined in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b), then two periods of extra time of 15 minutes per period will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game at the conclusion of the second leg.
- d) At the end of the second period of extra time, the provisions of paragraph (a) will be applied to determine the winner of the tie. The provisions of paragraph (b) do not apply once the Match moves into extra time.
- e) If a winner cannot be determined through the application of paragraph (d) after extra time, the winner of the tie will be decided by a penalty shoot-out as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

8. The winner of the Play-Off Final will be

- a) The Club that scores the most goals
- b) If a winner cannot be determined in accordance with paragraph (a), then two periods of extra time of fifteen (15) minutes per period will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- c) If a winner cannot be determined through the application of paragraph (b) after extra time, the winner of the Play-Off Final will be decided by a penalty shootout as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Article 6 – Relegation to Amateur Premier League

1. Subject to the paragraphs mentioned below, the Club whose First Team finishes in last place in Division 2 will occupy a relegation position and may be relegated to the Men's Amateur Premier League. The Club whose First Team finishes in second last position in Division 2 will Play-Off against the Club whose First Team finishes in second position the Men's Amateur Premier League.
2. The Club whose First Team finishes in first position in the Amateur Premier League may, but is not compelled to, exercise its option to have its Team promoted to Division 2 of the State League provided they have met State League eligibility requirements.
3. Should the Team that finishes in first position in the Men's Amateur Premier League choose not to exercise its option of promotion to the State League or not be eligible. The Team that finishes in second position in the Men's Amateur Premier League will compete in a Play-Off with the last placed Team in State League Division 2.
4. Subject to paragraph 3, the second last placed Team in State League Division 2 will compete against the third placed Team in the Men's Amateur Premier League.

5. Amateur Premier League clubs who wish to be considered for promotion to the State League will be required to indicate their interest in being considered for the promotion eligibility process to Football West in writing by **10:00am WST on the 15th of April.**
6. Clubs that have indicated their interest in the promotion eligibility process will be informed of a list of criteria by Football West which must be completed by **10:00am WST on the 16th of June.**
7. At the completion of the promotion eligibility process Football West will publish a list of all teams eligible for promotion to the State League.
8. If a club wishes to withdraw their application for promotion eligibility after the list as per paragraph 6 has been published the below penalty will be enforced:
Penalty for breach: \$1000
9. Subject to paragraph 3 and 4 above, should the second and/or third placed Teams be ineligible for promotion to State League Division 2. Byes will be awarded to the highest ranked Team scheduled in the Play-Offs.
10. The dates, times and venue of the Matches will be determined by Football West and may not be challenged by either Club.
11. The order of the Matches will be determined by Football West.
12. The winner of the Play-Off Final will be
 - a. The Club that scores the most goals
 - b. If a winner cannot be determined in accordance with paragraph (a), then two periods of extra time of fifteen (15) minutes per period will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
 - c. If a winner cannot be determined through the application of paragraph (b) after extra time, the winner of the Play-Off Final will be decided by a penalty shootout as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Article 7 - Awards

1. Football West will present a Fair Play Award to the Clubs whose State League First Teams in each division receive the fewest number of Penalty points during the regular season. Penalty points are accrued according to the following scale:

• Each single Yellow Card issued	1 point
• Each indirect Red Card issued (two Yellow Cards to a single Player)	3 points
• Each direct Red Card issued	5 points
• Each Club official expelled from the technical area	5 points
• Five or more Players cautioned or sent off in a single Match	5 points
• Three or more Players sent off in a single Match	10 points
2. The Fair Play Award Winning Club will receive prize money of \$1,000. In the event that two or more Clubs receive the fewest Penalty points, the prize money will be shared between those two Clubs.
3. A Fairest and Best prize will be awarded to the best Player in Division 1 and Division 2 In each of the First Team, Reserves Team and Under 18s competitions.
4. The Match Official for each Match will award votes. Three votes will be awarded to the best Player, two votes to the next best Player and one (1) vote awarded to the third best Player.
5. The Player who receives the most votes over the course of the Competitive Season will win the Fairest and Best prize for that Player's Division.

6. If two or more Players tie for the highest number of votes, then a prize will be awarded to each of those Players.
7. If a Player or Coach receives a suspension as a result of being shown a Red Card, or as a result of a sanction imposed by the Disciplinary & Grievance Tribunal or Football West during the Regular Season, he will be ineligible to win the Fairest and Best Award for that Competitive Season. For the avoidance of doubt, if that Player receives a Red Card which is subsequently rescinded as a result of mistaken identity or as an obvious error, the Player will be eligible to win the Fairest and Best Award.
8. An award will be presented to the Player who scores the most goals in their Division and age group in State League Matches throughout the Competitive Season. If two or more Players score an equal number of goals, an award will be presented to each of those Players.
9. Subject to paragraph 7, an award will be presented to the best First Team goalkeeper of the year based on votes cast by the Match Officials at each Match. If two or more goalkeepers have an equal number of votes, an award will be presented to each of those Players.

Article 8 - Venue

1. The home venue of each Club must meet the criteria as set down by Football West in the Football West Competition Management Regulations (as amended from time to time).
2. Three parking spaces inside the venue must be specifically reserved for Match Officials on Match Day for all Matches.
3. A Club may request to change its home ground venue but may do so only by written application to Football West. Football West reserves the right to refuse any application if the facilities do not meet the specified criteria as set out in the Football West Competition Management Regulations.
4. Football West reserves the right to reject any application for a change of venue if the proposed new venue is within 5 kilometres of another State League Club.
5. The home Club, at its own expense, must ensure that a nominated Groundskeeper is on duty during all scheduled home Matches at its home ground, commencing at least one (1) hour prior to the first scheduled Match.
Penalty for breach: \$100 per Match in which the Groundskeeper is not on duty during the scheduled home Match.
6. Football West reserves the right to require that its, FA and NPL's sponsors' signage is prominently displayed at the venue at which any Football West Matches are played. A Club and each Team must comply with any lawful direction given by Football West in connection with this paragraph.
7. Football West reserves the right to take whatever action is deemed necessary in the event that State League Matches are affected by changes to the availability of any venue or venues. A Club and each Team must comply with any lawful direction given by Football West in connection with this paragraph.

Article 9 - Technical Areas, Substitutes and Non-Playing Officials

1. A Technical Area must be clearly marked for each senior Match in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Each technical area must have seating for Twelve (12) people.
2. All substitute Players and non-playing officials must remain in the Technical Area while the Match is in progress with the exception of substitutes who are warming up. For the avoidance of doubt, any

person who is named on the Team List as either a Player or a non-playing Team Official is required to occupy the technical area unless directed otherwise by the Match Official or unless warming up if that person is a substitute.

3. Substitutes who are warming up must:
 - a) warm up inside the confines of the perimeter area;
 - b) wear a bib which is a different colour to both Teams and the Match Officials; and
 - c) not warm up with a football.
4. Each Team may nominate a maximum of seven (7) substitutes.
5. The Men's State League Competition Season will be conducted under temporarily amended version of the Laws of the Game allowing for 5 substitutes to be made. In Men's State League Matches:
 - a) Each Team will be permitted to use a maximum of five (5) substitutes.
 - b) To reduce disruption to the match, each Team will have a maximum of three (3) opportunities to make substitutions during the game; substitutions may also be made at half-time.
 - c) If both Teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one of the three opportunities for each Team.
 - d) Unused substitutions and opportunities are carried forward into extra time.
 - e) Where competition rules allow an additional substitution in extra time, Teams will each have one additional substitution opportunity; substitutions may also be made before the start of extra time and at half-time in extra time.
6. Each Team may nominate a maximum of five (5) non-playing Team Officials.

Article 10 – Matches

1. A schedule of Matches which comprise the State League in each Division will be developed and published by Football West on its website. Football West will not review or consider any dispute in relation to a Match schedule which arises by virtue of a Club making a claim of perceived unfairness.
2. With the exception of abandoned Matches, each period of a Match must last for a minimum of 35 minutes in order for a result to be recorded.
3. Subject to paragraph 4 the duration of the half time interval will be 15 minutes.
4. The Match Official must adjust the duration of an Under 18s or Reserves Match when necessary to ensure that the First Team Match commences at the scheduled kick-off time. The half time interval must first be shortened before playing time is adjusted. The half time interval must be at least 8 minutes long.
5. When a Match is shortened in accordance with paragraph 4, each Match Official is entitled to receive the full amount of their normal Match fee.
6. In the event that a Club does not have sufficient Players to field a Reserve and First Team, the First Team will take priority.
7. In the event that a Club does not have sufficient Players to field a Reserve and Under 18s Team, the Reserves Team will take priority.

8. Spectators are not permitted inside the barrier which separates the field of play from the rest of the venue while the Match is in progress. If the barrier in place is only in place around part of the field of play, spectators may only watch the Match from behind that partial barrier. For the avoidance of doubt, there must be a barrier between a spectator and the field of play. It is the responsibility of the home Club to enforce this rule.
9. Once Matches have been published, changes may only be made in accordance with the Football West Match Scheduling Policy.
10. A Club that requests and has been granted a Match change is responsible for all costs associated with the rescheduled Match.
11. On days in which the temperature is expected to be high, the Match Official may use their discretion to allow Players to take more frequent drink breaks. During any such break, all Players must remain on the field of play.
12. The home Club must provide one (1) stretcher which is to be placed between the Technical Areas in a safe and accessible position. The stretcher must be in position before the commencement of the first Match of the day until the conclusion of the final Match of the day unless being utilised.
Penalty for Breach \$50
13. Football West reserves the right to instruct home Clubs to increase the minimum-security arrangements for any Match at any time. The cost of any additional security arrangements is to be borne by the home Club.

Article 11 - Ground Marshals

1. The home Club must appoint ground marshals who are at least 18 years of age whose duties are:
 - a) to provide an escort for the Match Officials to and from the field of play at the start and finish of each playing period; and
 - b) to liaise with Club Officials and emergency services if required.
 - c) to supervise the conduct of ball persons if provided;
2. The home Club must provide at least two (2) ground marshals for each Under 18s and Reserves Match.
Penalty for Breach \$100
3. The home Club must provide at least four (4) ground marshals for the First Team Match.
Penalty for Breach \$100
4. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that the ground marshals are fully briefed on their responsibilities during a Match.
5. All ground marshals must have access to all areas of the ground, at all times. Ground marshals may not be limited to a specific location (for example, the person collecting gate fees may not be a ground marshal).
6. Each ground marshal must wear the vests which have been supplied by Football West. Ground marshals must be present and visible at all times for the duration of the match.
7. Lost vests may be purchased from Football West
8. Ground marshals may not smoke or drink alcohol while on duty.
9. If no ground marshals are present or the number of ground marshals are not met in relation to

paragraphs 2 & 3 the Match Official has sole discretion not to commence the match. Home clubs will have 15 minutes following the scheduled kick-off time to appoint the required ground marshals or the match may not proceed. In such cases clubs will be penalised in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 6 of the Community Competition Rules.

10. In the case a match proceeds without the required number of Ground Marshals, penalties set out in Appendix B, in the Community Competition Rules, will apply at the discretion of Football West.

Article 12 - Match Documentation

1. An Electronic Match Card is the online form which is used to enter the details of a Match.
2. All State League competitions will use Electronic Match Cards to record details of each Match.
3. An Electronic Match Card must be completed accurately no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of the Match. The following penalties apply to a breach of this requirement:

- a. If no Electronic Match Card is submitted:

Penalty for Breach: Forfeiture of the Match and a \$200 Fine.

- b. If any of the following are not completed accurately:

- i. all Player names;
- ii. all Players assigned a correct shirt number;
- iii. all Team Officials listed;
- iv. eligible overage Players denoted; and
- v. starting Players assigned.

Penalty for Breach: \$100 Fine

4. If there are technical difficulties with the Electronic Match Card system a Team must email Football West Club Support (clubsupport@footballwest.com.au) with the details of the participants in the Match prior to the Match's scheduled kick off time and Football West may at its discretion accept this as a valid Electronic Match Card. The Team must also advise the Match Official and present proof to the Match Official that a Match Card has been emailed to Football West.
5. The Nothing in Paragraph 3 prevents Football West from issuing sanctions in relation to Players that are ineligible or for any other breach of the Competition rules.
6. A Player whose name appears on an Electronic Match Card is deemed to have participated in the Match as either a Player or a named substitute. Players that are named substitutes but do not take the field are still participants but do not count as having taken the field for the purposes of any other competition rule.
7. The Team List received by Football West will be accepted as the facts relating to the Match.
8. All Team Officials who wish to sit in the Technical Area during any Match must be registered on PlayFootball as a coach or related role.

Penalty for Breach: \$100 Fine

9. The Match Official is responsible for entering the final score of the Match into the Competition Management System.
10. A Club may contact Football West if it believes that the details on the Match documentation have misidentified a goal scorer or substitute.
11. Goal scorer(s) for a particular fixture cannot be contested following the commencement of a subsequent round.
12. Any protest in relation to goal scorers or substitutes should be submitted in writing to Football West and accompanied by evidence of video footage which must include the following details:
 - a) fixture details;
 - b) time of goal scored/substitution;
 - c) name and shirt number of misidentified goal scorer/substitute;
 - d) name and shirt number of alleged goal scorer/substitute; and
 - e) must be submitted by the Club.
13. Each Club must make available a Team List to the Match Official on Match Day. A copy of the Team List should be retained by the Club. Copies of the Team List must also be made available to:
 - a) the opposition Club;
 - b) the home Club Media Officer;
 - c) Football West's Match Reporter; and
 - d) Football West's Videographer.

Article 13 - Players

1. To be eligible to play in the State League, a Player must meet the following age criteria.
 - a) Under 18s – born in 2007, 2008, 2009 or 2010;
 - b) Reserves & First Teams – born in 2009 or earlier

An Under 18s Team may include a maximum of three (3) Players who were born in 2006 on the Team List for any Match. Each of these Players must be marked on the Team List with an asterisk next to each overage Player's name.

Penalty for Breach (failing to mark Team list):	\$200
Penalty for Breach (4 or more overage Players):	Forfeiture of the Match
2. The following restrictions apply to Players moving between teams unless a written exemption is issued by Football West:
 - a) Once a Player has taken the field in three (3) State League First Team games, they are ineligible to participate in either Amateur League, Metropolitan League or Masters League in the same season.
 - b) Once a Player has taken the field in ten (10) State League Reserve Team games, they are ineligible to participate in either Amateur League, Metropolitan League or Masters League in the same season, unless they play as a goalkeeper only.
3. If any Player in a State League Division is a Professional, then the league's registration rules will be conducted in accordance with Professional Registration requirements.

Article 14 – Player Rosters

1. Every Club must submit a valid Player Roster no later than **10:00am WST on Monday 10 February 2025**.
Penalty for Breach: \$300 per day
2. A Player Roster must comprise at least 16 Players and no more than 25 Players. Player Rosters that do not comprise a number of Players in this range will not be accepted and will be deemed to be invalid.
3. All Players who have signed a professional contract must be placed onto the First Team roster.
4. All players on the First Team roster who have not signed a professional contract, will need to have the club return a signed Amateur Declaration (Football West Prescribed form 18) and as per Article 13 paragraph 3, will need to be signed within the National Registration Window.
5. To be eligible to play in First Team Matches a Player must be on the Club's Player Roster, subject to the exemptions in paragraph 12,13 and 14.
6. A Player must be registered on PlayFootball in accordance with the National Registration Status and Transfer Regulations before they can be named on a Player Roster unless an exemption is given by Football West. For clarity, a Player must be registered before they can play.
7. A Player Roster is not official until it has been approved by Football West.
8. Once submitted and approved by Football West, no Players may be added to a Club's Player Roster except:
 - a) before **5:00pm WST Monday 10 February 2025**;
 - b) between **24 June and 3 July 5:00pm WST**
 - c) in the case a Player originally listed on the Player Roster is removed in accordance with Paragraph 9 the Club may replace the Player with another Player registered for the Club's Reserves or Under 18's as long as the replacement Player is already registered with the same Club and was born in 2001 or later.
9. Once a submitted and approved by Football West, no Players may be removed from a Club's Player Roster except:
 - a) before **5:00pm WST on Monday 10 February 2025**;
 - b) between **24 June and 3 July 5:00pm WST**
 - c) in the case of a Player who is unable to play in the State League due to a change in work or personal circumstances accompanied by evidence acceptable to Football West
10. A Player removed from a Club's Player Roster in accordance with paragraph 9(c) may not be added onto any Club's Player Roster later in the same season.
11. No Player may be added to a Club's Player Roster outside of the transfer windows if their previous registration is with another State League WA or NPLWA Club, regardless of any exemptions.

12. Amateur Players born in 2002 or later may play for the First Team even if they are not on the Player Roster for an unlimited number of games during the 2024 season. Subject to other age requirements.
13. An Amateur Player born in 2001 or earlier who has not been registered with another Club in the same season can play a maximum of eight (8) Matches without being added to the Player Roster. Subject to other age requirements.
14. A Player born in 2001 or earlier who has been registered with another Club in the same season can play a maximum of three (3) Matches without being added to the Player Roster.

Article 15 - Playing Strips

1. All Clubs must nominate a home and an alternative playing strip.
2. Each Club must ensure that they have access to both a home and an alternative playing strip prior to the commencement of every Match.
3. In any Match, if the shirts or socks of the participating Teams are alike or similar or are in the opinion of the Match Official likely to cause confusion, then Players of the away Team will be required to change its shirts or socks or both. In the event of any dispute regarding the strip to be worn by either Team, the Match Official's decision is final.
4. If the shirts or socks of the participating Teams are alike or similar or are in the opinion of the Match Official likely to cause confusion, and the away Team is unable to change that part of its attire which is causing that confusion, then the Match Official may elect for the Match not to proceed.
5. A Match that has been postponed in accordance with paragraph 3 may be rescheduled in accordance with Article 3 of the Community Competition Rules and the away Team will bear any costs associated with rescheduling that Match.
6. If the relevant Teams involved are not able to reach an agreement as to when the Match will be replayed within a time period determined by Football West, Football West may impose a sanction on the away Team by way of a forfeit of that prior Match.

Article 16 - Match Balls

1. The home Club will provide the Match Official with three (3) Match balls no later than ten minutes prior to the commencement of the Match.
2. All Matches must use the Match ball designated by Football West. Three (3) Match balls will be provided free of charge to each State League Club.

Penalty for Breach \$100

Article 17 - Match Officials

1. The home Club is responsible for the payment of all Match Official fees. Football West will determine the fees payable and publish the rates prior to the commencement of each season.
2. The allocation of Match Officials will be determined by Football West. No Club may request the attendance or non-attendance of any particular Match Official.

3. A Club may not refuse to allow an allocated Match Official to officiate at that allocated Match.
4. In the event that none of the Match Officials allocated to a Match are ready and able to commence the Match within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, then the Match may not proceed.
5. In the absence of one or both assistant Match Officials, each Team will provide a Club Assistant Match Official to assist the Match Official. If either Club does not comply, then the Match may not proceed.
6. If the appointed Match Official postpones or delays any Match, he must submit a report in writing to Football West within 72 hours of the scheduled conclusion of that Match outlining the reasons for their actions. The appointed Match Officials are entitled to 50% of the prescribed Match fee for a postponed Match and 100% of the Match fee for a delayed Match which is subsequently completed or abandoned.
7. When a Match is forfeited by a Club, the Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of the prescribed Match fee to be paid by the Club who forfeited the Match, unless the forfeiting Club informed Football West in writing at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off.
8. When a Match is abandoned the Match Officials are entitled to receive 100% of the Match fee.

Article 18 - Admission

1. A maximum of 69 people from the visiting Club must be provided with free entry to the venue for any one Match Day for use by the Players, Club Officials or a Club's Official guests. The visiting Club must inform the home Club in writing the names to be granted free entry by 7pm on the day before the Match. For the avoidance of doubt this is 23 people from each team participating.
2. Any person, including a Match Official who is not appointed to the Match, who produces an official Football West pass must be granted free entry into any venue for any Match.
3. All Football West passes are valid only for Football West Matches and may be revoked by Football West at any time.
4. The maximum general admission fees, that can be charged are:
 - a) Division 1 - \$10
 - b) Division 2 - \$10
 - c) Students, Pensioners, or concession holders with evidence of status - \$5
 - d) People under the age of 16 – Free entry.
5. If a Match is being played as a "double-header" with an NPLWA Match, then the lower price of admission must be charged until at least half time of the game for which the admission price is lower.
6. Football West reserve the right to charge an admission fee for any matches and competitions at the State Football Centre at a rate determined by Football West.

Article 19 - Representative Teams

1. Football West may nominate Players from any Club of its choosing to participate in representative Matches during a Competition Season.
2. If a Club has 4 or more Players from one Team participating in a representative Match, it may seek the postponement of any Club Match which clashes with the representative Match.

3. To be considered as a qualifying Player under paragraph 2 and subject to the conditions of paragraph 4 the Player must have been recorded on that Team's Electronic Match Cards for a minimum of 80% of all Matches up to and including the date of the request to postpone.
4. If the Player is required to participate in a representative Match prior to round six of the Competition Season, Football West will determine the Team of a Player from the Electronic Match Cards available. Football West's decision in determining the Team of a Player is final.

Part 2 – State League Reserves and Under 18s Top 4

Article 20 – Competition Format

1. The teams that occupy the highest four (4) positions of each State League Division (First Team and Under 21s) following the completion of the league season will qualify to compete in the Top Four Cup.

The matches for each division of the Top Four Cup will be structured as follows:

Semi Finals

- **Match A:** Team finishing 1st vs Team finishing 4th.
- **Match B:** Team finishing 2nd vs Team finishing 3rd.

Grand Final

- Winner of **Match A** vs Winner of **Match B**.

Semi Finals			
Match A	Team finishing 1 st	vs	Team finishing 4 th
Match B	Team finishing 2 nd	vs	Team finishing 3 rd
Grand Final			
Grand Final	Highest Ranked Winner	vs	Lowest Ranked Winner

Home Team Designation

The designated home team for each match is as follows:

- **Match A:** The team finishing 1st.
- **Match B:** The team finishing 2nd.
- **Grand Final:** Highest ranked winner of Semi Finals

2. For all matches in the Top Four Cup, if scores are level at the full-time whistle, the outcome will be decided by a penalty shootout, as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.
3. Semi-final matches will be hosted by the club with the highest-ranking team in the corresponding age group. For example, the club with the highest-ranked team in the State League Division 1 Reserves will host both State League Division 1 Reserves fixtures.
4. Grand final matches will be hosted by the club with the highest-ranking team in the Reserves age

group. For example, the club with the highest-ranked Reserves team in State League Division 1 will host both the Reserves and Under-18s grand finals for State League Division 1.

Article 21 – Players

1. A Player must have played in a minimum of five (5) Matches for a Club in the current season to be eligible to play in any of that Club's Teams in the Top Four Cup, subject to other eligibility criteria.
2. A player who has played in multiple age groups for a particular NPL team in their club is ineligible to participate in any Top Four Cup matches in a lower age group than the highest age-group team for which they have played, unless:
 - a. 50% or more of the matches they have played are for a lower age group; or
 - b. They have played fewer than five (5) matches for a higher age group.
3. A Player will be exempt from the restrictions specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 if that Player is a goalkeeper, and the Club has applied in writing to Football West prior to the commencement of the Match and can establish in that application to the satisfaction of Football West that no other eligible goalkeeper is available to participate. Absence due to injury must be accompanied by a medical certificate at least 2 Business Days before the Match. Football West's decision on any application is final.
4. Once a Player has started for a Team in the Top Four Cup, they are no longer eligible to play in a lower age group Team other than the Team for which they have played for in the Top Four Cup.
5. In Senior Matches, an unused substitute is deemed not to have played.

Article 22 – Match Officials

1. The host Club will pay the Match Official fees for all the Matches in the Top Four Cup.

Article 23 – Match Balls

1. The host Club will provide the Match balls for all Matches in the Top Four Cup.

Article 24 – Admission

1. A maximum of 23 people from each Team will be provided with a free entry pass to the venue for any one Match Day for use by the Players, Club officials or a Club's official guests only. The visiting Club must inform the host Club in writing the names to be granted free entry by 12:00pm on the last Business Day prior to the Match.

