



SUNSHINE COAST FOOTBALL

COMPETITION RULES

These Competition Rules should be read in conjunction with FQ Return to Training and Return to Play Guidelines and State Government directives

Adopted July 2020

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It is acknowledged that the Board of Directors has the right to use its discretion in the implementation of these Competition Rules and their application in the interest of the Code. For the purposes of this document abbreviations are Sunshine Coast Football = SCF, Football Queensland = FQ and Football Federation Australia = FFA

1.0 AFFILIATION TO SUNSHINE COAST FOOTBALL

- 1.1 Clubs seeking admission to Sunshine Coast Football must complete the appropriate affiliation form which will include details of their home ground, club colours etc. SCF shall determine if such is acceptable in respect of grounds, facilities and location etc.
- 1.2 Any club wishing to participate in a competition run by SCF shall execute the Affiliation Agreement and provide information as set out in Schedules 1 and 2 and Appendix A (as amended from time to time by SCF) each year.
- 1.3 Clubs are required to participate in the FFA National Club Development Program.
- 1.4 Clubs are required to ensure **all** volunteers at their club hold a current valid blue card irrespective of their child's involvement at the club. Paid employees should also hold a current valid blue card.

Refer Blue Card services website for further information: <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/regulated-industries-and-licensing/blue-card-services>

- 1.5 Team Nominations - Clubs are required to nominate teams on the Team Nomination form by the date set each year. Fines will apply for late withdrawal and late nomination of teams (Refer Appendix A). Exemption period for fines due to COVID-19 – **May 25th 2020 to June 30th 2020**.
- 1.6 Clubs admitted to SCF are required to participate in the National Insurance Scheme provided by FFA. Insurance additional to this may be sourced by clubs and players at their own expense.
- 1.7 Clubs are encouraged to purchase clothing and equipment from recognised sport suppliers. Clubs are expected to maintain a professional appearance with regard to their uniform and equipment.

Playing shirts are to be allocated to a player for their use for the entire season and then returned by this player to the club at the end of the season. If players play in multiple teams they should use the same shirt or allocated a clean shirt when filling in if there is a number clash.

See 7.2 re: training bibs

- 1.8 Clubs are required to cover the cost of all competitive referee payments directly on the day or on invoice from SCF.
- 1.9 Clubs are required to ensure SCF holds a copy of their most recent club constitution and the most recent set of audited financial accounts (Refer Rule 23.8).
- 1.10 Clubs are required to purchase 2 x Corflutes from SCF each year. Corflutes to display Codes of Conduct / Fair Play wording as determined by SCF each year. Both corflutes to be displayed at all SCF sanctioned matches.

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- 1.11 All club playing shirts from Under 6 through to seniors **must** display a McDonald's logo on the left or right hand sleeve (unless approved in an alternate position). Sanctions throughout the season will apply for failure to comply. Teams without McDonald's logos in place on sleeves for the final series will forfeit their match to the opposition. These matches will be recorded as a 3 – 0 loss to the forfeiting team (the team without McDonald's logos) and will not be re-scheduled.

2.0 COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

- 2.1 Written communication with SCF must be submitted by a Club Executive member on Club letterhead. All communication must include Club Executive members name, position and electronic signature.

Club members directly contacting the Zone Office via phone, email or any other means of communication will be referred back to their club executive. The Club Executive can then officially contact the Zone Office as per the above method if required.

- 2.2 Clubs to direct any correspondence for Board Members through the SCF Office within office hours - Monday to Friday. Board Members are not to be contacted directly either via phone or email.

SCF Office will pass on any requests from **Club Executives** who would like to make contact with Board Members. As our Board Members are volunteers they may not respond to the SCF office or the request immediately.

3.0 MINIMUM GROUND REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 Ground markings must be clear and accurate and within the dimensions as specified in the Laws of the Game.
- 3.2 Corner posts are compulsory and must conform to regulations as per the Laws of the Game. Nets must be supported and not interfere with the goal keeper.
- 3.3 Clubs are required to take responsibility for administration of first aid at their home games.
- 3.4 **Change Rooms / Showers: Players** - Change rooms and showers are able to be used but must meet the guidelines outlined in the Return to Play Guidelines – 13th July. Clubs should closely consider what age groups should have access and prioritise use of the Change Rooms.
- 3.5 Clubs are required to provide toilet facilities to supporters following the most recent State Government guidelines in line with use.
- 3.6 Opening of canteen facilities is at the discretion of clubs who should also follow State Government directives and any additional FQ guidelines governing the operation of canteens.
- 3.7 **Change Rooms: Referees** - Referee change room and showers are able to be used but must meet the guidelines outlined in the Return to Play Guidelines – 13th July. Clubs will be responsible for regular cleaning of the referee change rooms as per the Return to Play Guidelines.

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- 3.8 Clubs are required to provide two separate covered benches for each competitive field. Coaches, Managers, personnel and named reserves are required to occupy these benches.

At the conclusion of each match the Technical area including all seating must be cleaned and disinfected before the next team can use this area – a record of the area being disinfected must be kept by the club. Hand sanitiser must be in place. Coaches and Team Managers and other team personnel must be registered in PlayFootball.

It is preferable Coaches and Team Managers and other team personnel who are not players wear FQ Coaching Accreditation tags whilst in the Technical Area. If tags are not present Coaches and Managers and other team personnel who are not players must ensure their coaching identification number is completed on the Team Sheet. (Also refer 18.5 & 19.5)

4.0 ALCOHOL

- 4.1 Licensing laws apply across most SCF affiliated clubs. Different classification of licences will apply across member clubs.
- 4.2 It is illegal to bring alcohol onto licensed premises and severe fines are applicable by the relevant state government body.
- 4.3 Alcohol must only be consumed in a designated area. Fines will apply as per liquor licensing regulations.

5.0 SMOKING

Under current state legislation smoking is not permitted unless within a properly designated area.

Refer: Queensland Government Tobacco Laws:

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/topics/atod/tobacco-laws/default.asp>

6.0 PLAYER PRESENTATION

- 6.1 All players are required to be correctly attired in club uniform for a match (also refer 1.4).
- 6.2 Players are not required to wear bibs whilst in the technical area.
- 6.3 Prior to kick off, teams are expected to enter the field of play respecting social distancing.
- 6.4 Players must respect social distancing when entering and leaving the field of play and whilst in the technical area. Players are not to shake hands, high five etc their own team mates or opposition players.
- 6.5 The wearing of undershorts / undershirts and tights must only be worn as per FIFA directives as set out in the Laws of the Game from year to year.
- 6.6 Tape applied externally must match the colour of the socks (stockings) as to that part of the socks it is applied to as per FIFA directives as set out in the Laws of the Game from year to year.

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- 6.7 Players wearing protective sports equipment must present it to the official referees prior to the commencement of the match for approval. Prior approval may be sort via the SCF Office who will refer the request to the Referee Department, however, this will not exclude the player from presenting the equipment prior to each match.

7.0 REGISTERED COLOURS

- 7.1 Each member club of Sunshine Coast Football shall submit to SCF details of their primary colours and alternate colours for approval and registration. No changes of strips, including colour, are to be made without prior approval from SCF.
- 7.2 No two teams shall play each other in same or similar colours. Junior teams may play in bibs whilst senior teams must change to an alternate strip. Bibs must not be Red Rooster bibs. All bibs must be freshly laundered and allocated to a player. The player will be responsible for washing and returning the bib to the club at the next training or available time.
- 7.3 Goal keepers colours in all cases shall be distinguishable from the colours worn by the other players and referees. The Goalkeeper may wear the same colour socks as his own team but must be different from the opposition and referees.
- 7.4 Each club should predominantly wear their Primary (Home) strip for matches. The Clash (Away) strip should **not** be worn away if it clashes with the Home teams strip. Teams, including Juniors, should travel with both their Primary (Home) and Clash (Away) strips including alternate socks. For clarification, specifically shirts and socks should not be worn that clash.
- 7.5 In the event of a clash of colours by the competing clubs in finals, carnivals or cup competitions, the top seeded team shall retain the right to play in their primary colours, unless previously otherwise specified by the Board of Directors. At the discretion of the Board of Directors fines may apply.

8.0 FIXTURES / COMPETITIONS – General

8.1 Fixtures General

- 8.1.1 The Board of Directors shall be empowered to draw up and determine the fixtures of the SCF competitions (age groups to be determined each year) as they deem fit and in the best interest of the code. The fixtures shall be drawn up and made available to all members via the Sunshine Coast Football website.
- 8.1.2 All fixtures shall belong to and be the copyright of SCF.
- 8.1.3 Any application for departure from the fixtures as laid down by the Board of Directors shall be in writing to SCF and the decision made by the Board of Directors regarding this application is final (see also 8.1.7 & 8.1.8). Re-scheduling requests for Premier Men / Premier Reserve Men and Premier Women / Premier Reserve Women fixtures originally re-scheduled due to wet weather postponements must also be directed in writing to SCF for determination by the Board of Directors. Requests to be submitted on official Match Re-schedule Request form.
- 8.1.4 Clubs cannot re-schedule, postpone or cancel matches between themselves. The SCF Office administers all fixtures.

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- 8.1.5 The Board of Directors may direct a change be made to the draw due to representative playing duties. Applications must be made at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the scheduled fixture. Where a club team has three (3) or more **players** unavailable due to representative football commitments in a recognised school state football championships or an SCF-sanctioned football event, scheduled fixture matches may be re-scheduled by SCF at the request of the club.
- 8.1.6 Applications submitted due to school commitments / functions will be assessed on their merit. All applications must be accompanied by a letter from the school Principal listing affected players and outlining how the event relates to the education curriculum. Applications must be made at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the scheduled fixture.
- 8.1.7 Request for changes in fixtures for matches scheduled during official school holidays should be made in writing to the SCF Office twenty eight (28) days prior to the date. Approval is at the discretion of the SCF Board and determined on a case by case basis. This does not apply to senior matches.
- 8.1.8 If, after the schedule of fixtures has been determined, the Board of Directors approves, at the request of a club to change a fixture from one date to another, any expenses over and above those normally associated with the scheduled fixture shall be met by the club which requests the change.
- 8.1.9 The Board of Directors shall have the power to impose such penalty as they deem fit upon clubs which they find to have brought the code into disrepute by not playing their best teams in the appropriate divisions.
- 8.1.10 The Rules of Cup competitions shall be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time and each competing club shall receive a list of the conditions of competitions prior to their commencement.
- 8.1.11 No player shall be permitted to register for more than one club in any competition conducted by SCF. A player can only be registered with one SCF club at a time. The correct de-registration / registration procedure must be followed to change clubs as per FFA Registration Regulations.
- 8.1.12 As per FFA regulations a player may be registered for a maximum of three clubs during the period from 1 January to 31 December. During this period, the player is only eligible to play in matches for two clubs. Refer FFA National Registration Regulations.
- 8.1.13 Clubs shall not arrange any matches unless permission has been granted, application for which must be completed on the appropriate match sanction form. An Inter Zone Tour Permit must also be completed for teams travelling outside the SCF Zone. These forms must be lodged with FQ at least seven (7) days prior to the match date. Clubs should take this into consideration and allow extra time when lodging forms with SCF for forwarding to FQ.
- 8.1.14 SCF will not sanction matches with other clubs / Zones on the same day as SCF scheduled home and away matches including finals.
- 8.1.15 Sunshine Coast Football will adopt the Laws of Football as laid down from time to time by FIFA and current interpretations of the same by FQ and FFA in the operation of its competitions.

8.2 Premiership Competition

- 8.2.1 Each team in each competitive division shall play its opponents on a home and away basis and in that sequence as far as is practicable according to the fixtures and field availability.

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- 8.2.2 Premiership Competition Points – Teams shall receive three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw and nil (0) points for a loss.
- 8.2.3 The leading team at the end of the last round of the competition fixtures shall be declared SCF Premiers.
- 8.2.4 Goal Difference – Goal Difference shall be taken into consideration when teams are level on points at the end of fixtures. The goal difference shall determine the Premiership team. In all cases where goal difference is to be taken into account, the manner in which it shall be arrived at is as follows:-
- a. The number of goals against is subtracted from the number of goals for.
 - b. The highest resultant figure from such subtractions shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to plus goal difference.
 - c. The lowest resultant minus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to minus goal difference.
 - d. Where a team scores through their own goal (s), such goals shall be taken as having been scored by their opponents in determining teams total goals scored.
 - e. In the case of goal difference being equal, the team scoring the greater number of goals shall be declared the winner.
 - f. Should the factors in (e) be equal, joint Premiers will be declared.
 - g. If a Premiership competition has an inequality in the number of games played during one season, the Premiership winner shall be decided (where necessary) by percentage calculated by dividing the total number of points gained for the season by the number of games played.

8.3 Uncompleted Fixtures

- 8.3.1 The result of any match which does not reach its natural conclusion for any reason outlined in the Laws of the Game shall be decided by SCF as follows:

If the second half has commenced, then the match result will stand and the match will not be replayed. If the match is abandoned before the commencement of the second half then the match will be replayed. Also refer 16.11 re: referee payments.

- 8.3.2 However, if it has been established by the Board of Directors that the game was abandoned due to a team having players sent from the field for misconduct or for any reason deemed by the Board of Directors to have been intentional to have the game abandoned, the points will be awarded to the opposing teams with the goals being recorded as in By-Law 8.4.2.

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- 8.3.3 In such cases where it can be proved beyond reasonable doubt that spectator interference causing the abandonment of a match has been inspired by a person or persons directly associated with any particular club, that club shall be deemed guilty of serious misconduct through association and shall be referred to the SCF Disciplinary Committee.
- 8.3.4 Any team which causes a match 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 misconduct against SCF and the offending club will automatically forfeit its Good Behaviour Bond.
- 8.3.5 In such cases, the team guilty of the walk off shall be deemed to have forfeited the match and the points associated with the match shall be awarded to the opponents with goals being recorded as in By-Law 8.4.2

8.4 Ineligible Players

- 8.4.1 Any club playing an unregistered (i.e. a player not active within the Play Football administration system), suspended or ineligible player shall be ineligible for any points associated with the match and subject to fines as per Appendix A and may also be referred by the Board of Directors to the SCF Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action. The SCF Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club or player. (Refer also to FFA & SCF Disciplinary regulations)
- 8.4.2 In such cases the full points associated with the match shall be awarded to their opponents with a score of 3-0. However, if the number of goals scored by the opposition team is greater than three (3), then the exact number of goals scored by the opposition will stand.
- 8.4.3 Definitions of ineligible players to which the penalty as described shall apply are:
- Playing whilst pending or inactive within the Play Football administration Program (i.e. the player is not an active player for the current season under FFA Regulations)
 - Playing whilst suspended
 - Playing under a false name
 - Playing under a false number
 - Playing whilst unregistered (not an active player in Play Football)
 - Playing whilst awaiting a clearance (ITC)
 - Playing when not listed on the team sheet
 - Playing down divisions when listed as a top 11, top 9, or top 7 junior player
 - Playing in finals with insufficient home and away qualifying matches
 - A player / coach who has been either sent from the field of play or removed from the technical area who takes the field without serving his or her sanction whether an infringement notice has been issued or not.
 - Age definition breach (including moving teams whilst awaiting re-grading)
 - Division definition breach
 - Contravention of Senior Eligibility rules / Player Age policy including juniors playing up 2+ years or down without permission (see Appendix B)
 - Contravention of Football Federation Australia's Registration Regulations
 - Any other misdemeanour as determined by the Board of Directors under the Competition Rules and Appendices of SCF
- 8.4.4 Bona Fide Players – A bona fide player for a club is one who has completed the prescribed FFA / Play Football registration process and been made an active player within the Play Football Administration program.

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- 8.4.5 **Ring in of Players** – Any club or participant found to have knowingly and wilfully engaged in the ringing in of a player or players in any SCF match shall be deemed to have been guilty of gross misconduct and will be referred to the SCF Disciplinary Committee and as a consequence disciplinary sanctions as per Appendix F will be imposed.

8.5 Forfeits

- 8.5.1 Any team failing to fulfil their fixture as scheduled shall be deemed to have forfeited. The points associated with the fixture will be awarded to their opponents with a score of 3-0.
- 8.5.2 Fines will also be imposed on clubs for forfeits, as per Appendix A.
- 8.5.3 If a suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards the execution of the suspension. If a Match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to be served if the team to which the suspended Player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture.

8.6 Postponed Fixtures

In the event of any Zone fixture not being played due to any cause over which neither club has control, or being ordered to be replayed or postponed, the match shall be played on a date approved by the Board of Directors.

8.7 Wash-outs

- 8.7.1 In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of SCF fixtures through rain rendering grounds unplayable, all such fixtures shall be played at a time and under such conditions as the Board of Directors shall determine. Re-schedules are:
- a. Friday night matches to the **following** Tuesday night
 - b. Saturday senior matches to the **following** Wednesday night
 - c. Saturday junior matches - Under 15 Boys, Under 16 Girls, Under 16 Boys and Under 18 Boys junior matches to mid week
 - d. Saturday junior matches - Under 12, Under 12 Girls, Under 13 Boys, Under 14 Girls and Under 14 Boys to Sunday week
 - e. Under 10 Kangaroos and Under 11 Kangaroos matches to Sunday week

Clubs will advise the SCF Office on affiliation if fields are not available for any of the above and alternative night (s) may be confirmed.

For Under 10 Kangaroos and Under 11 Kangaroos matches and Junior matches (Under 12 – Under 14), the home secretary may confirm to the Zone Office by Monday 9.00am immediately following the washout if there is a preference for a mid week re-schedule (i.e. Tues, Wed, Thurs of the week following the default re-schedule Sunday). Clubs should take into consideration travelling distance for opposition when requesting mid-week re-schedules and the number of games and the availability of fields.

All competitive matches must be re-scheduled and played (also refer 8.7.5 & 8.7.6 regarding final round match cancellations). Under 6 - 9, Under 10 Wallabies and Under 11 Wallabies will not be re-scheduled due to wet weather wash outs.

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In the first instance Under 10 Kangaroos and Under 11 Kangaroos matches will be re-scheduled and must be played, however, if the match is re-scheduled a second time clubs can apply for the match not to be played. Fines will apply for non-attendance at all re-scheduled matches.

- 8.7.2 **Wet Weather Replays** – Games that have not been played after three re-schedule dates set at the original venue will be re-scheduled to the away team's grounds or a neutral venue. This will not affect any following fixture matches i.e. home and away games will not be reversed.

Referee fees will be the responsibility of the originally scheduled home team. Balls are to be provided by the host club.

- 8.7.3 Where competitive matches are moved by mutual agreement of both clubs due to wet weather, the new host club will be responsible for the referee fees. Subsequent home and away matches will not be affected by this change i.e. the next fixture match involving these teams will stay as scheduled.
- 8.7.4 Junior games washed out will be re-scheduled where possible. Should the season become too congested with re-scheduling then both junior and senior games may be cancelled at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 8.7.5 Home and away final round matches washed out (excluding Premier & Premier Reserve Men, Premier & Premier Reserve Women - refer 8.7.6):
- Matches that **do not** need to be replayed will not be re-scheduled (i.e. matches have no bearing on the top 4 places)
 - Matches that **do** need to be played will be re-scheduled to the Monday or Tuesday prior to the Semi Finals depending on field availability (i.e. matches that have a bearing on the top 4 places)

These cancellations may affect qualification for finals or serving of a match suspension. In these cases where the SCF Board of Directors is responsible for the match not being re-scheduled the following applies:

- If a player was using the final home and away match of the round towards eligibility for the finals it will still count if the match was cancelled and not re-scheduled (not a bye or forfeit given)
 - If a match suspension was due to be served in a final round match cancelled by SCF then the final home and away round match will count towards a suspension. The game not re-scheduled must be for the team the disciplinary notice refers to. Note: A bye does not serve as a missed match and the advised suspension must still be served (Refer FFA Disciplinary Regulations 14.1)
- 8.7.6 Home and away final round matches washed out - **all** Premier & Premier Reserve Men, Premier & Premier Reserve Women must be played. All matches in these divisions will be re-scheduled to the Monday or Tuesday prior to the Semi Finals depending on field availability.
- 8.7.7 In the event Sunshine Coast Football declares the cancellation of a complete fixture weekend due to extreme weather events, all junior competitive fixtures only will be declared 0 - 0 draws.

Any matches which were completed during a "declared" weekend will also be declared as a 0 - 0 draw. Sunshine Coast Football may decide to play any matches from a "declared" weekend as per 8.7.5.

- 8.7.8 Finals may be re-scheduled to the following week due to any cause over which neither host clubs or SCF have any control i.e. rain renders grounds unplayable. The Grand Final may be played the first week of the school holidays.

8.8 Wet Weather Policy

Sunshine Coast Football is aware of the many varied ground conditions that may result in the need to cancel a competition or cup game. At all times the safety of players and officials is of concern. See Appendix J.

8.9 Extreme Weather Conditions - Heat

Refer to Football Queensland Heat Policy.

8.10 Byes

Where there is a bye in a Premiership Competition, there will be no points applied and the bye will not be counted as a match for qualification in the final series or disciplinary suspensions.

9.0 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- 9.1 Refer to www.playfootball.com.au for registration procedures and FFA National Registration Regulations for further information.

- 9.2 All players shall be registered with Sunshine Coast Football as either an amateur or non amateur player via the on-line FFA Registration process, exceptions occur as per 9.7. Players will only be deemed registered after acceptance by their club i.e. the club makes the player Active.

- 9.3 Amateur players are governed by FFA National Registration Regulations.

- 9.4 Non amateur players must complete the appropriate on-line process. Non amateur players may only register during one of two registration periods each year. The first period runs from 1st January to the last Wednesday before the first fixture round. The second period runs for four weeks ending the last Wednesday before the 30 June each year.

- 9.5 Players who are registered to play Junior Football with their club can also play Senior Football as per the SCF Player Age Policy Document (refer Appendix B) but only with the same club.

- 9.6 To be deemed registered, all players must have completed the FFA online Player Registration form and accepted National, State, Zone and Club conditions where applicable **and** been made active by their club. All new players competing in junior competitions (17 years and under) must also supply proof of birth which is to be sighted by the Club Official.

New senior players must also provide proof of identity. No player is considered registered until such time as their club has made them active.

- 9.7 Interzone representative teams approved to play within the local competition may call on up to 10 shadow players from their local competition. These shadow players must be named prior to the first round. Any requests for changes to named shadow players must be lodged with the Board for review.

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9.8 Clubs shall be permitted to register players as follows:

- There is no cut off date for any new player registrations or players moving to an SCF club from outside the SCF Zone.
- No player is permitted to move between SCF clubs or register with an SCF club from a National Premier League club or a Football Queensland Premier League club after the 18th September.

Even though the Play Football system will allow it to occur, any player registered outside the above deadlines and made Active for another club will be deemed ineligible.

9.9 A de-registration fee will apply each year for the de-registration of players who have taken the field for a SCF club and cancel their registration as per permitted competition rule deadlines.

9.10 Clubs must ensure players are registered as per FFA Play Football online player registration guidelines. A player is eligible to play in a team as long as they have been made active by their club at any time before taking the field. All other SCF competition rules must be complied with. Fines and penalties will apply for ineligible (not active) players.

The Play Football administration system reports accurately display the time and date of player registrations.

9.11 **Player Refunds** – Player Refund Policy is confirmed by Football Queensland at the commencement of each season and available on the FQ website.

No refunds will be issued to players who have taken the field in official SCF competitions, grading days, carnivals or fixture matches. All refund requests must be submitted as per FQ guidelines.

9.12 Refer to 19.8 for ITC (clearance) information.

10.0 FINALS SERIES – **No finals series 2020 season**

10.1 The four leading teams at the end of the last round of Premiership fixtures shall play the Semi Finals in the following order: 1 v 2; 3 v 4 Refer to 8.2.4 for the determination of placing where teams are on equal points. Refer 10.4 Re: Premier Men / Premier Reserve Men finals.

10.2 The loser of 1 v 2 shall play the winner of 3 v 4 in the Preliminary Finals.

10.3 The winner of the Preliminary Final shall play the winner of 1 v 2 from the first week in the Grand Final.

10.4 **Finals Playoff: Premier Men and Premier Reserve Men only**

The number of teams to participate in the Finals playoff for Premier Men / Premier Reserve Men will be determined by the Board of Directors each year after confirmation of teams and advised to clubs prior to the start of the season.

10.5 In the event of a match being drawn after normal playing time in any finals series matches, extra time will be played (2 x 15 minutes for Senior Men and Women; and 2 x 10 minutes for Juniors). The winner is to be determined by the team with the most goals during this period. If there are no goals scored during the extra time or the score is equal, penalties under FIFA rules will decide the winner.

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- 10.6 The winner of the Grand Final in all grades shall be declared SCF Champions.
- 10.7 **Junior Finals Eligibility** - A junior player must have played at least seven (7) matches in a particular team during the home and away season to be eligible for that team in the final series, and be a correctly registered and active player within the FFA Play Football program and as per FFA National Registration guidelines. That player will also then be eligible to play in the final series in a higher division at the same age level or at a higher age level in the same division or higher. (A combination of games over different teams will not warrant eligibility).
- As long as Junior players have satisfied their seven (7) game requirement in their junior division, they can play Finals in the senior competition with no qualification. i.e. a final series match may be their first game in a senior division (Refer Senior Eligibility rules 20.8)
- 10.8 **Senior Finals Eligibility** - A senior player must have played at least seven (7) matches in a particular team during the home and away season to be eligible for that team in the finals series, that player will also then be eligible to play in a higher division in the final series. (A combination of games over different teams will not warrant eligibility). As per eligibility ruling 20.13 / 20.14. Refer Senior Eligibility for further rulings.
- 10.9 A player may request dispensation to play in the finals when insufficient matches have been played, as per 10.7 & 10.8 eligibility.
- A medical certificate must be lodged with the Zone Office for the Board of Directors to consider the request. The Board of Directors will only consider a dispensation for a player who has sustained a serious injury or illness deeming him / her unfit to play if they have signed on prior to the 31st May. A replacement player cannot be nominated in place of an injured player.
- 10.10 Should an ineligible player be played in a Finals Series match, the team playing the ineligible player will automatically lose the match which shall be awarded to their opponents and the club will be liable to any further penalty as SCF deem appropriate.
- 10.11 **Admission Charges** – are applicable during the final series only and applied at the discretion of the Host Club. The maximum admission charges are set annually by the Board of Directors. Students and all children under the age of eighteen (18) years of age will be admitted free to all SCF final series matches.
- 10.12 A pass will be issued to all Coaches and Managers of teams competing in the SCF finals matches. Passes will be issued to all senior registered players competing in SCF Finals matches.

11.0 SCORES RECORDING – SPORTS TG

Both the home and away club for Premier Men and Premier Women matches may be requested to enter the player names, respective scores and goal scorers of their Premier Men and Premier Women teams into the Sports TG competition management system. Clubs may also be requested to enter other divisions into the system from year to year with deadlines for non Premier league teams to be confirmed separately.

12.0 TEAM SHEETS

- 12.1 Official team sheets shall be provided by each team and all information requested thereon shall be fully completed. Clubs failing to fully complete team sheets shall be fined (refer Appendix A). For season 2020 players are not required to sign team sheets inclusive of Under 6 through to Seniors.

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All team sheets must be completed by one person only i.e. the team manager **not** by individual players. Managers must mark P or DNP next to the player before handing to the referee. If nothing is marked against a player's name then it will be assumed they have played.

- 12.2 The team sheet shall be handed to the officiating referee fifteen (15) minutes prior to the designated starting time of the match.
- 12.3 Players arriving late, but who are already recorded on the team sheet, are eligible to take the field with the referee's permission providing the player's name is recorded on the team sheet. The player's name must be listed on the team sheet before the commencement of the match.
- 12.4 Players whose names are not recorded on the team sheet at the designated starting time are ineligible to take the field for the match. Fines and penalties will be incurred.
- 12.5 On completion of the game the referee is responsible for ensuring the team sheet is correctly completed including cards, substitutions, correct score indicated and scorers of the goals correctly recorded. Team sheets are then lodged in a designated box provided by the Host Club. Clubs should have a check sheet next to the box for a referee to sign that they have deposited the match team sheet in the box. Referee to use own pen. Fines apply to referees who fail to lodge team sheets immediately after the match.
- 12.6 MiniRoos team sheets **must** be completed each week. Team Sheets are to remain in the individual teams book with the book to be handed into SCF at the end of the season. Clubs are to advise prior to the first match what team MiniRoos have been allocated to as their principle team.
- 12.7 The Manager may not approach the referee. All queries should be directed to the SCF Office by the Club Executive within 48 hours on completion of the match.
- 12.8 The host club is responsible for lodging completed team sheets with SCF no later than 8.00am Monday morning following Friday and Saturday / Sunday matches. Mid-week and re-scheduled match team sheets should be delivered or emailed to the Zone Office by 8.00am the following day. Failure to lodge team sheets on time will result in a fine being imposed on the club. The preference is that team sheets are scanned and emailed with original team sheets held by the club.

13.0 TROPHIES AND PRIZE MONEY

- 13.1 All trophies and prize monies associated with SCF competitions shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 13.2 The teams declared Zone Premiers and / or Champions shall be presented with the associated perpetual trophy and clubs shall undertake to return same in the like good order and condition to the SCF Office on or before the 1st July in the year following their winning the trophy or at such a date as advised by the Sunshine Coast Office. Clubs who lose or damage trophies will be invoiced the cost of replacement or repair.
- 13.3 SCF shall present to SCF Premiers and Champions in all divisions such number of trophies / medallions as determined by the Board of Directors to be adequate for each division for distribution to players, coaches, or officials of the winning teams.

14.0 REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

- 14.1 The Board of Directors shall be empowered to enter into agreements on behalf of SCF to arrange fixtures whether interstate, intrastate or interleague etc, bearing in mind at all times the standing of the State authority in such matters and the interests of the members of SCF.
- 14.2 Where a club team has three (3) or more **players** unavailable due to representative football commitments in a recognised school state football championships or an SCF-sanctioned football event, scheduled fixture matches may be re-scheduled by SCF at the request of the club. Applications must be made at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the scheduled fixture.

15.0 SANCTIONING POLICY

Match sanctions and Inter Zone Travel Permits are required for any games that are not a normal SCF fixture competition. SCF Office will provide information from year to year on required forms.

Clubs shall not arrange any matches unless permission has been granted, application for which must be completed on the appropriate match sanction form. An Inter Zone Travel Permit must also be completed for teams travelling outside the SCF Zone.

These forms must be lodged with FQ at least seven (7) days prior to the match date. Clubs should take this into consideration and allow extra time when lodging forms with SCF for forwarding to FQ. **Refer to Football Queensland Sanctioning Policy document for further information.**

16.0 REFEREES AND REFEREE ASSISTANTS

- 16.1 Only referees who have paid Referee Registration fees and been made ACTIVE in Play Football will be appointed to official SCF Matches this also includes Junior NPL and FQPL appointments undertaken by SCF registered referees.
- 16.2 All SCF fixtures and competitions must be controlled by a registered referee or as per 16.4.
- 16.3 Referees for all SCF fixtures and competitions shall be appointed by a Referee Appointments Officer.
- 16.4 In the event the appointed centre referee does not arrive then one of the appointed assistant referees should take control of the match. In the event the appointed referee and the assistant referees do not arrive the following process will be applied.
- Unqualified officials will be appointed on agreement of both teams. If such an agreement cannot be arrived at then the home club official will make the appointment. If either team refuses to take the field a forfeit will be awarded to the other team.
- 16.5 Under 16.4 the referee's decision shall be final. If an official turns up late he will take control of the match.
- 16.6 No match shall be deferred due to the unavailability of qualified referees and / or assistant referees.

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- 16.7 Referee and Assistant Referee fees shall be determined annually by Sunshine Coast Football and communicated to the clubs.
- 16.8 All divisions, junior competitive and senior competitive will be paid through Schedules. Payment will be withheld from referees who do not lodge team sheets with host clubs. The cost of these matches to be invoiced to each club by the SCF Office on a weekly basis on a 7 day account.
- 16.9 Sunshine Coast Football will make payment to Semi Final, Preliminary Finals and Grand Finals referees on behalf of host clubs and invoice the cost of these referees to host clubs.
- 16.10 Where referees attend grounds that are then deemed unplayable prior to the commencement of the match the referee must be paid 50% of the match fee for the first game he has arrived to officiate.
- 16.11 Where a match is abandoned in the first half due to wet weather or other circumstances the referees must be paid the full match fee (100%).
- 16.12 Payment of referee fees in accordance with the current year fees shall be the responsibility of:
- a. The Host Club for all games involving that club for fixtures set by SCF
 - b. 100% to be paid by the first named team (home team) when a game is rescheduled to an alternate venue other than the home club due to wet weather, insufficient lux reading, venue unavailability etc. Referee fees to be the responsibility of the originally scheduled home team.
 - c. Finals – host venue 100%
- 16.13 Referee shirts or shorts to display McDonald's logo.
- 16.14 Referees may not be approached at half time by anyone except the designated home club Ground Official.

17.0 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 17.1 **Coaching** - Coaching from the sideline shall only be carried out by the Coach provided the information is given in a quiet, non-hysterical, non-abusive manner. A coach may only enter the field of play with the referee's permission. Standing or coaching by any person is prohibited from behind the goals.
- 17.2 Coaches may **not** approach a referee to query decisions or outcomes of matches. This is not a legitimate reason to approach a referee via the Ground Official.
- 17.3 **General** - The referee shall report to SCF misconduct or misdemeanour on the part of spectators, officials, players, named substitutes or any other persons which take place whether on the field of play or in its vicinity at any time prior to, during, or after the match in question, so that appropriate action can be taken by SCF in accordance with FFA National Disciplinary Regulations, FFA Codes of Conduct, SCF Disciplinary Regulations or SCF Competitions Rules.

18.0 GROUND OFFICIALS

- 18.1 Host clubs must provide ground officials on each playing day, wearing identification including a Ground Official vest, to which inquiries by team managers and referees may be directed.

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Each Under 10 & Under 11 MiniRoos and junior competitive teams, Under 12 through to Under 18 should be in receipt of a home (orange vest) and away (yellow vest) for kit bags from their club. The vest is to be worn by a nominated team representative at each match, home and away.

This person will be the point of contact with the Club Ground Official with regards to their team and supporters if required for any suspected or alleged code of conduct breaches including safe social distancing breaches. Clubs are still required to have an appointed Ground Official as per above and 18.2.

- 18.2 The ground officials shall introduce themselves to the referee prior to the start of the match. Sunshine Coast Football will provide a list of instructions and responsibilities, which are to be followed closely by all clubs with regard to the appointed Ground Officials for all games. Refer Appendix K
- 18.3 The referee will liaise with ground officials regarding any crowd disturbances, player send offs etc.
- 18.4 The ground official from the host club is responsible for the conduct of all players and team officials on the bench. (Refer 19.5 Technical Area)
- 18.5 Ground Officials are not allowed on the field of play during the match without the permission of the referee.

19.0 SENIOR MEN AND SENIOR WOMEN – COMPETITION RULES

19.1 Field of Play / Equipment

- 19.1.1 **Field Sizes** – The field sizes shall be of maximum and minimum dimensions as set out in FIFA Rules / Laws of the Game.
- 19.1.2 **Field Markings** – The field markings shall be clear and distinct lines (preferably white in colour) and not more than 120mm wide but must be the width of the goal posts.
- 19.1.3 **Corner Flags** - Corner flags are to be not less than 1.5m above ground level, construction of approved material, non pointed top, and must be in place prior to the start of the days play.
- 19.1.4 **Goal Nets** – The goal nets should be in good repair and properly secured to cross bars, uprights, and the ground behind the goal prior to the start of a game.
- 19.1.5 **Goal Posts** – Goal posts must comply with Australian standards and with dimensions as set out in FIFA Rules / Laws of the Game. Goals must be anchored to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.
- 19.1.6 **Match Balls** - The match ball must comply with FIFA Rules / Laws of the Game. Match balls must be provided by the Host Club. McDonald’s training balls are not considered suitable competitive match balls.
- 19.1.7 **Match Balls – Premier Men, Premier Reserve Men, Premier Women and Premier Reserve Women** – An official match ball for these divisions will be decided by the Board of Directors each year after feedback from clubs. A minimum of two (2) but preferably three (3) match balls must be supplied at all matches.

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If only two (2) designated match balls are supplied then the third ball must be of same or similar match standard. The fine for non-use of officially sanctioned match balls at the start of matches to apply as per Appendix A.

- 19.1.8 Duration of all male senior games shall be 45 minutes each half with a half time maximum of 10 minutes.
- 19.1.9 Duration of Premier Women and Premier Reserve Women's games shall be 45 minutes with a half time maximum of 10 minutes. Duration of 3rd Division Women's matches shall be 40 minutes each half with a half time maximum of 10 minutes.

19.2 Field Security – also applies to the Junior Competition

This must be read in conjunction with the most up to date Football Queensland and State Government Guidelines regarding social distancing requirements and venue number restrictions.

- 19.2.1 It is the host clubs responsibility to ensure that spectators do not encroach within at least two (2) metres from the boundaries of the playing field.
- 19.2.2 Encroachment within the two (2) metre mark by spectators and / or officials (other than those permitted on the substitution bench) shall result in a fine to the home club, the amount of the fine to be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 19.2.3 See 3.8.
- 19.2.4 Club Officials can only enter the field of play with the permission of the referee.

19.3 Night Lighting / Lux Readings

Floodlighting must comply with the Australian Standard for Football AS 2560.2.3 – 2007

The onus to supply lux readings that comply with the Australian Standard for Football is on each club. The following must be adhered to when supplying readings:

- The report must be provided by a person authorised to provide lux readings
- Reports must be supplied each year
- Reports will be valid for a period of twelve (12) months only and must be re-supplied each year prior to or on the date of expiry of the current reading
- Night matches will not be scheduled to clubs with expired lux readings.

Where a club fails a lux reading and this is not rectified prior to the commencement of the home and away season the following changes of game times will occur until sufficient Lux Reading has been confirmed:

Friday night matches will be moved to Sunday daylight hours
Saturday evening matches will be moved to earlier in the day

19.4 Starting Times

- 19.4.1 Teams must be ready on the field of play to start the game by the designated game commencement time.

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- 19.4.2 Teams not ready to commence the game by the designated starting time may be subject to a fine as determined by the Board of Directors.
- 19.4.3 In the event that a match has a delayed start then the match shall cease 5 minutes before the next scheduled game and the time of each half of the game will be reduced accordingly to ensure the following match commences at the designated time. If there is no match following the delayed game, then the full playing time may be played.
- 19.4.4 Referees must be ready on the field to start the game by the designated commencement time.

19.5 Technical Area

- 19.5.1 A maximum of seven (7) persons are permitted to be within the Technical Area at any given time during a Competition Fixture. Those persons may only include a combination of the coach and assistant coach, the team manager, the substitutes and a registered health practitioner, sports trainer or accredited first aider.
- 19.5.2 Coaches and Team Managers and other team personnel must be registered in PlayFootball. It is preferable Coaches and Team Managers and other team personnel who are not players wear FQ Coaching Accreditation tags whilst in the Technical Area. If tags are not present Coaches and Managers and other team personnel who are not players must ensure their coaching identification number is completed on the Team Sheet. All Coaches, Team Managers, Team personnel and players must be registered to be present in the technical area.
- 19.5.3 Subject to Rule 19.5.5, all persons must remain seated within the confines of the **expanded** Technical Area, except in special circumstances e.g., a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the Match Official's permission, to assess an injured player.
- 19.5.4 Players may leave the Technical Area to warm up, provided it does not interrupt the view of any Match Official.
- 19.5.5 Only one (1) person may stand up at one (1) time within the Technical Area.
- 19.5.7 The Match Official may sanction with a yellow or red card any person in the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The Competition Fixture will not recommence until a person sanctioned with a red card has left the Technical Area and field of play to the Match Official's satisfaction.
- 19.5.8 A player or Club Member who is under suspension must not be present in the Technical Area.

19.6 Competition Structure

- 19.6.1 The competition will consist of:

Premier Men, Premier Reserve Men, Under 20, 3rd Division, 4th Division, 5th Division, Over 35, Over 42, Premier Women, Premier Reserve Women, 3rd Division Women
- 19.6.2 SCF may add or delete divisions from time to time according to nominations prior to the commencement of each playing season.

19.7 Slide Tackles – Over 35 and Over 42 Competitions

In Over 35 and Over 42 competitions, Slide Tackles are not permitted

Slide Tackles

No Slide Tackles are allowed (including Goalkeepers). A Slide Tackle occurs when two or more players are challenging for the ball and any of them “slide” for the ball. Any challenge not made on two feet is to be considered a Slide Tackle. There must be a slide AND a tackle before the challenge can be penalised, but there does not have to be contact between the players.

A player is considered to be challenging an opponent for the ball if the opponent is within a radius of one (1) metre of the player. These rules apply to a goalkeeper who chooses to play or attempts to challenge for the ball with his feet. They do NOT apply to a goalkeeper playing or attempting to play the ball with his hands.

Clarifications

This is only applied when no other offence under law 12 occurs.

If the Referee determines this offence, (slide tackle) is Stopping a Promising Attack (SPA) or Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity (DOGSO) the referee applies the appropriate sanctions.

Restart of Play

For all slide tackle offences, including where a sanction for SPA and DOGSO is issued, the restart will be an indirect free kick taken from the place where the offence took place; including offences in the penalty area. If the offence takes place immediately outside the field of play, the restart will be at the nearest point on the field of play.

19.8 Player Classification

19.7.1 **Over 35** – The Over 35 Division is restricted to players who will turn thirty-five (35) years of age or older in that year. No exceptions will be made to this qualification. Refer to Senior Eligibility rules for further clarification.

19.7.2 **Over 42** – The Over 42 Division is restricted to players who will turn forty-two (42) years of age or older in that year. No exceptions will be made to this qualification. Refer to Senior Eligibility rules for further clarification.

19.9 Player transfers / Clearances

19.8.1 International clearance rules apply as per FFA regulations. If your player last played overseas, you will need to ensure the player has indicated yes in the online registration process and follow the procedures set out by FFA from year to year. Please note all requirements and the procedure for adults and minors are available on the FQ website.

19.8.2 International Transfer Certificates - On request of an ITC (clearance) a club is not permitted to make a player Active in Play Football until the physical piece of paper issued by a National Football

Association, bearing its logo and physically signed by an authorised officer of that National Body has been received by the club.

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The change in status of the player from Pending ITC to Pending (awaiting payment or approval) is not sufficient to confirm the player has received clearance. Once the official paperwork has been received a player can be made Active.

Players cannot participate in SCF / FQ or FFA official competitions until the above has occurred. Fines apply as for an ineligible player if a player takes the field whilst awaiting a clearance.

Refer FQ clearance procedures from year to year regarding player participation in other types of matches i.e. pre-season friendlies.

19.8.3 Member clubs of SCF are not permitted to register players on sporting visas.

19.8.4 Requests for players on any type of Visa must be directed to FQ for clarification.

19.10 Amateur Players

19.9.1 All registrations will now take place via the online FFA Play Football player registration system. Amateur players cannot be placed on a Retained or Open to Transfer List of any club.

19.9.2 Amateur players can therefore move from one club to another at the completion of the season.

19.9.3 If a player who has registered online as an amateur in one season wishes to de-register and re-register to another club during the season, he / she can only do so via the on-line de-registration process within cut-off deadlines (refer 9.7 for SCF rules).

19.11 Protest Procedure

19.10.1 Protests concerning ineligible, unregistered or over-age players must be lodged on club letterhead within three (3) working days.

19.10.2 The protest will be dealt with by the Board of Directors and may be referred to the SCF Disciplinary Committee.

20.0 ELIGIBILITY RULES - SENIOR

20.1 Players are taken to have played in the game if their name is on the team sheet, unless it is marked "DNP" (Did Not Play) by the referee.

20.2 A Premier Men's Player including the Goal Keeper is determined by playing 3 games in this division. Even when designated as a Premier Men's Player he can still return to Premier Reserve Men and 3rd Division but not 4th Division unless the club does not have a 3rd Division (as per rule 20.3)

20.3 Premier Men, Premier Reserve Men and 3rd Division players and goal keepers can have unlimited movement between these three (3) divisions. Where a club does not have a 3rd Division team then Premier Men, Premier Reserve Men and 4th Division players and goal keepers can have unlimited movement between these three (3) divisions.

20.4 Premier Reserve Men, 3rd Division, and 4th Division players and goal keepers can have unlimited movement between these four (4) divisions.

20.5 Premier Men's players and goal keepers (determined by rule 20.2) cannot play 4th and 5th division.

Sunshine Coast Football Competition Rules

- 20.6 4th Division and 5th Division players can play up into any division including Premier Men and still return to play 4th division (unless they fall under rule 20.5 and have been deemed a Premier Men's player with restrictions applying as per 20.2)
- 20.7 Over 35 and Over 42 players and goal keepers can play unlimited for any division and still return to Over 35 and Over 42.
- 20.8 Junior players who qualify the playing up requirements as per the Player Age Policy can play unlimited for any division and still return to Under 18's (unless they fall under rule 20.5)
- 20.9 Fair Play is a fundamental part of the game of football and the Board of Directors reserves the right to overrule any player's eligibility as per above where it is obvious fair play and the spirit of the game has not been adhered to.
- 20.10 The maximum number of players allowed on a team sheet is sixteen (16).
- 20.11 In the Premier Men and Premier Reserves Men's competition, for 2020 only, unlimited repeated substitution is permitted. Maximum of 16 players per team sheet.
- 20.12 In the Premier Men and Premier Reserve's Men competition only, one additional substitute will be allowed in extra time.
- 20.13 In all Women's divisions and Men's 3rd Division, 4th Division, 5th Division, Over 35 and Over 42, unlimited repeated substitution is permitted (maximum of 16 players on the team sheet). All substitutions must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line and must go immediately to the technical area or the dressing room as per law 3 (Laws of the Game).
- 20.14 A player must have played at least seven (7) matches in a particular team to be eligible for that team in the finals series, that player will also then be eligible to play in a higher division in the final series. (A combination of games over different teams will not warrant eligibility).
- 20.15 Once a 4th Division or 5th Division Player has played up to Premier Men (even one game) then he must play 9 games for 4th Division or 5th Division to qualify for the 4th Division or 5th Division finals.
- 20.16 Senior players playing up into a division which contains two teams from their own club, after playing three (3) games with one team must remain in that team and are ineligible to play for the other team in the same division. i.e. they cannot play three games in each team of the same division they play up into. The player may still play back in their relevant division. i.e. 4th Division player plays into 3rd Division Black three times and 3rd Division Blue two times. He is no longer eligible to play in 3rd Division Blue but can play in 3rd Division Black and return to his 4th Division team.
- 20.17 Where a club has two teams in the same division within the same age group, ALL players must be nominated in their particular team and the team given a name e.g. White / Green. Players are not permitted to change between the two teams without written permission from the SCF Board.

Players playing up from a younger age group / lower division into either of these teams – once three (3) games have been played with one of the teams the player is no longer eligible to play in the other team in the higher age group. The player is **still eligible** to play back in their own age group / division. **Refer Appendix M.**

Sunshine Coast Football Competition Rules

- 20.18 Where a split in any senior age division occurs (i.e. Over 35 (1) and Over 35(2)) and a club has a team in each age division the club must nominate top 9 players who are not permitted to play down into Division 2. Names are required in the SCF Office prior to the commencement of the season.
- 20.19 Premier Women, Premier Reserve Women and 3rd Division Women players and goal keepers can have unlimited movement between these three (3) divisions.
- 20.20 Premier Reserve Women, 3rd Division Women and 4th Division Women players and goal keepers can have unlimited movement between these three (3) divisions.

21.0 JUNIORS – COMPETITION RULES

21.1 Field of Play / Equipment

21.1.1 Field Sizes

Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 – Refer to MiniRoos Appendix D

Under 13 to Under 18 – Refer to FIFA Rules / Laws of the Game

21.1.2 **Field Markings** – The field markings shall be clear and distinct lines (preferably white in colour) and not more than 120mm wide but must be the width of the goal posts.

21.1.3 **Corner Flags** - Corner flags are to be not less than 1.5m above ground level, construction of approved material, non pointed top, and must be in place prior to the start of the days play.

21.1.4 **Goal Nets** – The goal nets should be in good repair and properly secured to cross bars, uprights, and the ground behind the goal prior to the start of a game.

21.1.5 **Goal Posts** – Goal posts must comply with Australian standards and with dimensions as set out in FIFA Rules / Laws of the Game. Goals must be anchored to the ground. Portable goals may only be used if they satisfy this requirement.

21.1.6 **Match Ball** – The match ball must comply with FIFA regulations.

Age Group	Size	Circumference	Weight
Under 6, 7, 8 & 9	Size 3	550mm min – 585 max	312 – 340 grams
Under 10, 11, 12 & 13	Size 4	600mm min – 625mm max	312 – 369 grams
Under 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18	Size 5	685mm min – 710mm max	400 – 450 grams

Match balls are to be provided by the host club. McDonald's training balls are not acceptable Junior competition match balls.

21.1.7 Duration of Games:

Age Group	Game Time
MiniRoos	
Under 6 & Under 7	2 x 20 minutes
Under 8 & Under 9	2 x 20 minutes
Under 10 & Under 11	2 x 25 minutes

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Competitive Divisions	
Under 12 Mixed	25 minutes each way
Under 12 Girls	25 minutes each way
Under 13	30 minutes each way
Under 14 Girls	35 minutes each way
Under 14	35 minutes each way
Under 15 Boys	40 minutes each way
Under 16 Girls	40 minutes each way
Under 16 Boys	40 minutes each way
Under 18 Boys	45 minutes each way

Half time shall be a maximum of five (5) minutes for Under 6 to Under 14 and ten (10) minutes for Under 15 to Under 18.

21.2 Players

21.2.1 A player's age is declared at midnight 31st December each year. Whatever age a player turns in the calendar year is the lowest age he/she may play. (Also refer Player Age Policy).

21.2.2 The minimum number of players per competitive teams for the game to take place shall be seven (7) registered players except for Under 12 Girls where the minimum number of players shall be five (5) registered players.

21.2.3 The maximum number of players allowed for any game shall be sixteen players per competitive team (Under 13 – Under 18). These players may be substituted at any time during the game with the referee's permission (refer Return Substitutions – Appendix C – rule 1).

Under 12 Mixed 9 a-side including Goalkeeper with a maximum of five players for return substitution (fourteen players in total).

Under 12 Girls 7 a-side including Goalkeeper with a maximum of five players for return substitution (twelve players in total).

21.2.4 Players who are registered to play Junior Football with their club can also play Senior Football as per the SCF Player Age Policy Document (refer Appendix B) but only with the same club.

21.2.5 Eligibility for the finals series is defined in Competition Rules: 10.7 & 10.8

21.2.6 Players are taken to have played in the game if their name is on the team sheet, unless it is marked "DNP" (Did Not Play).

21.2.7 Moulded boots are recommended for all junior players.

21.3 Teams

21.3.1 First division should comprise a minimum of six (6) and preferably eight (8) teams wherever possible.

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- 21.3.2 If, at the end of the first round of matches there is a clear imbalance between one set of teams and another within a Division, then a system of scheduling may be introduced in which rather than all teams playing all other teams an equal number of times, teams should be grouped (e.g. in to two groups of four), with teams playing other teams in the same group more often than teams in other group(s).

To facilitate this structure, it may be necessary for matches to be scheduled on available grounds (i.e. potentially on neutral grounds) rather than fitting in matches during the week because slots are not available at a team's home ground on Saturday.

- 21.3.3 Players may play in any team they are eligible for by age (subject to the Player Age Policy). Teams shall be graded by their club into appropriate divisions taking into account the previous year's results, Zone Grading Days and based on the recommendation of the Club's Junior Director of Coaching. The Board of Directors at its discretion can question the grading of teams and move teams amongst divisions as allowable by the Player Age Policy.

21.3.4 **Player Movement - Junior Competitive teams:**

Where a club has two teams in the same division within the same age group, ALL players must be nominated in their particular team and the team given a name e.g. White / Green. Players are not permitted to change between the two teams without written permission from the SCF Board.

Players playing up from a younger age group / lower division into either of these teams – once three (3) games have been played with one of the teams the player is no longer eligible to play in the other team in the higher age group. The player is **still eligible** to play back in their own age group / division. (**Refer Appendix M**)

Under 13 - Under 18

Clubs with Division 1 teams are required to register their top eleven (11) players.

These players cannot play in Division 2 or lower divisions in their own age group and can play in any division in a higher age level – subject to eligibility rule (refer Player Age Policy).

Clubs with Division 2 teams and also Division 3 teams are required to register their top eleven (11) Division 2 players. These players cannot play in Division 3 in their own age group, but can play in Division 1 at their age level and any division in a higher age level – subject to eligibility rule (refer Player Age Policy).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances (e.g. high levels of long term injuries to players, not simply lack of availability due to illness), clubs may apply to the Board of Directors for temporary variation of this rule.

Under 12 Mixed

Clubs with Division 1 teams are required to register their top nine (9) players. These players cannot play in Division 2 or lower divisions in their own age group but can play in any division in a higher age level – subject to eligibility rule (refer Player Age Policy).

Clubs with Division 2 teams and also Division 3 teams are required to register their top nine (9) Division 2 players. These players cannot play in Division 3 in their own age group, but can play in Division 1 at their age level and any division in a higher age level – subject to eligibility rule (refer Player Age Policy).

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In the event of extraordinary circumstances (e.g. high levels of long term injuries to players, not simply lack of availability due to illness), clubs may apply to the Board of Directors for temporary variation of this rule.

Under 12 Girls

Clubs with Division 1 teams are required to register their top seven (7) players. These players cannot play in Division 2 in their own age group but can play in any division in a higher age level – subject to eligibility rule (refer Player Age Policy).

- 21.3.5 The Board of Directors at its discretion, may consult with Clubs and Junior Directors of Coaching to balance age groups / divisions to ensure a viable competition.

21.4 Starting Times – Competitive Matches

- 21.4.1 Teams must be ready on the field of play to start the game by the designated game commencement time.
- 21.4.2 Teams not ready to commence the game by the designated starting time may be subject to a fine as determined by the Board of Directors (Refer Appendix A)
- 21.4.3 In the event that a match has a delayed start then the match shall cease 5 minutes before the next scheduled game and the time of each half of the game will be reduced accordingly to ensure the following match commences at the designated time. If there is no match following the delayed game, then the full playing time may be played.
- 21.4.4 Referees must be ready on the field to start the game by the designated commencement time. It is the referee's responsibility to have the teams in place to start the match at the designated starting time.

21.5 Competition Rules

- 21.5.1 The Junior Competitions will comprise non-competitive MiniRoos Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 and competitive age groups 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 (see 21.5.2)
- 21.5.2 The Board of Directors may vary competitions from time to time, prior to the commencement of the season, including once nominations have been received.
- 21.5.3 Refer Competition Rules 8 & 10.
- 21.5.4 Females may play in competitive age groups with boys up to and including Under 14.
- 21.5.5 Where a club has two (2) teams playing in the same division within an age group, the players must be nominated in their particular team to SCF Office prior to the first fixture and players will not be permitted to interchange between teams at any time during the season.
- 21.5.6 Junior Players playing up from a lower division or down from a higher division (if eligible), after playing three (3) games with one team in the same division are no longer eligible to play in the other team in the higher or lower age group /division. The player is **still eligible** to play in their own age group.

- 21.5.7 If a suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards the execution of the suspension. If a Match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to be served if the team to which the suspended Player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture.

21.6 Age Restrictions

Males and Females:

- a. Players must be turning 5 by the end of the calendar year in which they wish to register.
- b. Players playing outside their age group refer to the Player Age Policy – Appendix B

21.7 Protest Procedure – Fixtures

- 21.7.1 Protests concerning ineligible, unregistered or over-age players must be lodged on club letterhead within three (3) working days.
- 21.7.2 The protest will be dealt with by the Board of Directors and may be referred to the SCF Disciplinary Committee.

21.8 MiniRoos Carnivals - Attendance

The attendance at SCF sanctioned MiniRoos carnivals is compulsory for all teams in all age groups. Fines will apply as per Appendix A for non-attendance.

22.0 DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

SCF will follow the SCF Disciplinary Regulations (Appendix F) in conjunction with FFA National Disciplinary Regulations (Appendix G), FFA Code of Conduct (Appendix H) and Spectator Code of Behaviour (Appendix I)

23.0 FINANCE

23.1 **Club Affiliation Fee**

Each club is required to pay an affiliation fee to SCF each year.

23.2 **Team Nomination Fee**

At the discretion of the Board of Directors from year to year.

23.3 **Withdrawal of Teams / Late Nomination of Teams**

Should a club, having nominated a team for SCF fixtures in any year and such team is accepted by SCF, then elect to withdraw that team after the draw is published, a fine will be imposed on the Club. Exemption period for fines due to COVID-19 – **May 25th 2020 to June 30th 2020.**

Should a club elect to nominate a team after the draw has been published and this team nomination is accepted by SCF, then a late team nomination fee will be imposed on the Club. Refer Appendix A. Exemption period for fines due to COVID-19 – **May 25th 2020 to June 30th 2020.**

23.4 Sunshine Coast Football Finals Series

Expressions of Interest will be called for by SCF each year to host the finals series. The Expression of Interest documentation will be forwarded to all clubs mid-year. For season 2020 there will be no finals series.

23.5 Good Behaviour Bonds

Affiliated clubs are required to lodge with SCF a good behaviour bond of \$500 with initial affiliation. On forfeiture of the good behaviour bond, clubs will be required to reinstate the amount within seven (7) days.

In the event of a club refusing to play or walking off, the whole of the Bond shall be forfeited. The Board of Directors to decide whether further action will take place including disciplinary sanction.

23.6 Outstanding Accounts

Affiliated clubs must ensure amounts outstanding of 60 days or more are finalised by Semi Finals. Any clubs with outstanding amounts of 60 days or more will have their qualifying teams declared ineligible to participate in the finals and the next team on the table will be eligible to take their place in the finals. At the discretion of the Board a payment plan may be accepted regarding outstanding amounts.

Clubs with outstanding accounts from one calendar year to the next may have their ability to re-affiliate affected or other sanctions imposed by the Board of Directors from time to time. (Also refer to Application to affiliate)

23.7 Expenses of Members of the Board of Directors

Members of the Board of Directors shall be entitled to be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings of SCF, FQ or any associated meeting as deemed necessary.

23.8 Audited Accounts - Clubs are required to lodge with SCF a copy of their Audited Accounts at the end of each financial year.

24.0 CODES OF CONDUCT

24.1 Codes of Conduct as per FFA guidelines shall be followed by all member clubs and enforced by the Board of Directors or SCF Disciplinary Committee.

24.2 A Code of Conduct shall be advised by the Board of Directors to define actions which may be deemed to "Bring the Code into Disrepute". Refer Appendix E and to be read in conjunction with the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations.

24.3 A copy of the Codes of Conduct shall be included with this document and available on the SCF Website. A list of penalties is also included.

Refer to: Appendices E, F, G, H & I

25.0 VIDEO TAPING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

As per Appendix O.

26.0 APPLICATION OF COMPETITION RULES

Sunshine Coast Football Board of Directors reserves the right to change or amend these rules at its discretion. Any rule may be reviewed and amended to ensure decisions are made in the best interests of the competition.