



2021

Rules of Competition

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1.0 Organisation and Administration

1.1 Scope and Application

- (a) Football Queensland reserves the right to review the Rules of Competition (RoC) on an annual basis. Football Queensland may amend, change, or modify the RoC provided due notice (7 days) of any changes is given to all competing Clubs and participants.
- (b) Football Queensland maintains the right to amend, change or modify the RoC should, in its discretion, there be a requirement to do so, during the season (season as stipulated in the FQ Competitions Season Calendar). The changing of the RoC throughout the season would only occur in extraordinary circumstances and any affected parties, Clubs, stakeholders, and Competitions would be informed in due course. The purpose of this is ensure transparency, consistency, and best practice.
- (c) The Rules of Competition (RoC) apply to all Clubs and participants in the 2021 National Premier Leagues Queensland Men (NPL Men's), National Premier Leagues Queensland Women (NPL Women's) Football Queensland Premier League Men 1 (FQPL1), Football Queensland Premier League 2 Men (FQPL2), Football Queensland Premier League Women (FQPLW), FFA Cup Preliminary Rounds (2-7), Kappa Women's Super Cup, NPL Junior Boys (Academy and Development), NPL Junior Girls and Skill Acquisition Phase (SAP) Competition fixtures and sanctioned matches, inclusive of all age groups that comprise each competition (e.g. U18, U23, First Team), herein referred to as the 'Competitions'. These RoC apply to any or additional future competitions delivered under the authority of Football Queensland and can be considered supplementary to any Zone competition and the relevant RoC.
- (d) Football Queensland (FQ) will interpret and apply all sections and provisions of the RoC and any such interpretation, ruling or application will be final and binding on all parties. FQ's determination on any matter is final. There is no avenue for appeal.
- (e) The RoC govern the Leagues as set out in Section 1.5 (a) and are also to be used supplementary to each Football Queensland Zone administered Competitions where applicable and required.
- (f) Clubs, Players, Team Officials and Match Officials must comply with and agree to abide by the regulations of Football Australia and Football Queensland, including but not limited to;
 - i. [Football Australia National Registration Regulations](#).
 - ii. [Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations](#).

- iii. [Football Australia Code of Conduct.](#)
- iv. [Football Australia Grievance Resolution Regulations](#)
- v. [Football Australia Member Protection Framework](#) and Football Queensland Member Protection Policies
- vi. [Football Queensland By-Laws](#)
- vii. 2021 Football Queensland Disciplinary Regulations
- viii. 2021 Media Operations Manual
- ix. NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2 Licensing Agreement (supplied on request of Club)
- x. NPL Women's Licensing Agreement (supplied on request of Club)
- xi. SAP Licensing Agreement (supplied on request of Club)

(g) If any part of the RoC, or relevant Regulations, Policies, By-laws or Statutes is void, that specific part shall be severable and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining sections of these RoC.

1.2 Administration of Competitions

- (a) Football Queensland is responsible for the administrative control, delivery and conduct of the Competitions as listed in Section 1.5 (a)
- (b) Participation in Competitions is awarded to successful applicants for a period as specified in the NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2 or NPL Women's Licensing Agreement providing all aspects of the licensing agreement are adhered to and met. Football Queensland maintains the right to amend, change and modify the Competition structures annually to ensure competitive integrity, competition viability and competitive/technical outcomes, and inform Clubs of any changes prior to the season commencement.

1.3 Consequences for Breach

- (a) Any breach of these RoC or any failure to comply with any direction given by Football Queensland may result in the imposition of a penalty or penalties issued by Football Queensland under the RoC and any other relevant penalties pursuant to the Football Queensland Disciplinary Regulations.

Any breach or failure to meet or adhere to the NPL Men's, NPL Women's, FQPL1 and FQPL2 Licensing Agreement or Club Assessment Criteria, may also result in further penalties (as stipulated below). These include but are not limited to;

- i. Inability to field teams in all required competitions as per license
- ii. Nonparticipation of any/all aspects of the Club Assessment Criteria

Furthermore, if Football Queensland determines a Club/Team/Team Official to be in breach of the RoC or Licensing Agreement, FQ are permitted to take any reasonable action as required to ensure the breach does not affect the integrity or viability of its Competitions and product.

The penalties may any or all (but not limited to) of the following;

- i. Monetary Fine/Financial Penalties
- ii. Deduction of Points
- iii. Suspension of the Club/Participant/s from any/all Competitions
- iv. Removal of team/club from the Competition/s

1.4 Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

- (a) All Competitive matches (and all under the auspice of Football Queensland throughout the state) under the jurisdiction of these RoC will be played in accordance with the IFAB/FA Laws of the Game.
- (b) The Football Queensland RoC outlined within are in addition to those stipulated in the [IFAB/FA Laws of the Game](#).

1.5 Confirmation of Leagues/Age Division

- a) Football Queensland will conduct Competitions in the following Leagues and Age Divisions:

League	Age Divisions
National Premier Leagues Men's	U18, U23, First Team
National Premier Leagues Women's	U23, First Team
Football Queensland Premier League 1 Men's	U18, U23, First Team
Football Queensland Premier League 2 Men's	U23, First Team
Football Queensland Premier Leagues Women's	U23, First Team
National Premier Leagues Junior Boys	U13, U14, U15, U16
National Premier Leagues Junior Girls	U14, U16
Skill Acquisition Program - Girls	U9-10, U11-U12
Skill Acquisition Program - Boys	U9, U10, U11, U12

- b) Composition of the Leagues, including maximum number of teams per Age Division/Competition/Format, will be determined by Football Queensland on an annual basis and Football Queensland's determination on the number of Clubs is final.
- c) Football Queensland (FQ) may conduct Cup Competitions for any League or Age Division. Notification and invitation for participation in these Competitions will be made prior to any

Competitions commencing, should they be conducted.

- d) In 2021, FQ will be launching the Kappa Women's Super Cup, open for nomination for any Eligible Women's team across QLD.

1.6 Contact Information

In the first instance of any communication with the Football Queensland Competitions department, please send an email to competitions@footballqueensland.com.au. If it is an urgent inquiry, please call the Football Queensland office number on 07 3208 2677. For urgent/emergency out of hours queries, please call the Competitions and wet weather **mobile phone on 0428 760 622**.

The following staff and information are the relevant Football Queensland Competition Department contacts:

Dan Birrell (Senior Manager- Participation, Clubs and Community)	FQ Office – 07 3208 2677 Email: competitions@footballqueensland.com.au
Maria Tenenwurcel (Senior Officer- Competitions)	FQ Office – 07 3208 2677 Email: competitions@footballqueensland.com.au
Kim Henderson (Officer- Competitions Support)	FQ Office – 07 3208 2677 Email: competitions@footballqueensland.com.au
Zac Gilmour (Officer- Competitions Support)	FQ Office – 07 3208 2677 Email: competitions@footballqueensland.com.au
Charisse Wildman (Officer- Competitions & Administration)	FQ Office – 07 3208 2677 Email: competitions@footballqueensland.com.au

1.7 Player Insurance

- a) Player Injury and Associated Liability Insurance cover is taken out by Football Queensland. Policy details and claims procedures are available on the Gow-Gates [website](#). If you require further assistance or guidance, please contact Football Queensland Competitions.

1.8 Travel Policy

- a) Clubs must comply with the Travel Policy as specified in the Competition Policies and Procedures – League Travel. All NPL Men's and FQPL1 Clubs are required to pay the Travel Levy as stipulated in their License Agreements.

1.9 Commercial Arrangements

- a) If Football Queensland (FQ) enters into a sponsorship or commercial agreement, a condition of entry into all FQ Competitions is that a Club is required to comply with any conditions imposed by Football Queensland arising out of the sponsorship agreement. Such requirement may include, but are not limited to; signage, the display of logos on Club websites, jerseys, the use of designated balls etc.

Football Queensland where possible will attempt to ensure that any requirement by a sponsor has minimal financial impact and not impact on Clubs' existing sponsorship contracts.

1.10 Outstanding Debts

Subject to the Special Considerations as stipulated in 1.11

- a) Treatment of outstanding debts will be as per the NPL Men's, FQPL1, FQPL2, NPL Women's and SAP License Agreement (Section 2. Condition Precedent – Page 7).
- b) Clubs competing in Football Queensland Competitions are required to be financial (without debt) no less than 7 days prior to the commencement of any FQ Competition or Competition Fixture (inc. FFA Cup). A failure to adhere to this stipulation may result in any or all (but not limited to) of the following;
 - i. Financial Penalties
 - ii. Deduction of Points
 - iii. Suspension of the Club from any/all Competitions
 - iv. Removal from the Competition/s
- c) This Section applies to all Competitions, Competition Fixtures and Cup Matches conducted by Football Queensland and the participating clubs and participants therein.

1.11 Special Consideration

- a) Football Queensland has the right to consider individual circumstances outside the prescribed limits of these RoC should it be clear those special considerations are in the best interests of the game. Nothing in these Regulations will prevent the Football Queensland Board from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by these RoC.
- b) The decision by Football Queensland to review and consider contextual circumstances under this section is not subject to appeal or review.
- c) Football Queensland may waive the payment of any amount payable to it at any time.

2.0 Code of Conduct and Registrations

2.1 Code of Conduct

- a) All Players, Club Officials and Match Officials are bound by and must comply with all FA Statutes and Regulations, including without limitation the FA Code of Conduct.
- b) The Code of Conduct aims to promote and strengthen the reputation of football in Australia by establishing a standard of performance, behaviour, and professionalism for its Members (as defined in the Code of Conduct) and stakeholders. In addition, it seeks to deter conduct that could impair public confidence in the honest and professional conduct of matches or in the integrity and good character of its members.

2.2 Eligibility

- a) Eligible Players include:
 - i. One that has been registered in line with Football Federation Australia National Registration Regulations and Football Queensland Registration Procedures and Guidelines.
 - ii. One that has been given written consent from Football Queensland to participate.
 - iii. One that is playing within their designated age group/s in accordance with these Regulations or unless otherwise approved by Football Queensland.
- b) Ineligible Players include:
 - i. Unregistered Players
 - ii. Suspended Players - suspended by Football Queensland or any other Federation.
 - iii. Player who participates in the match but is not listed on the team sheet prior to the match commencing.
 - iv. A Player who is suspended for receiving the requisite number of yellow card accumulations.
 - v. They have been expelled from a match on the day/s prior to the match (or day of the match) but before an infringement notice has been issued.
 - vi. They are deemed ineligible due to any section of the RoC, FA/FQ Regulations, Statutes or Policies and/or Football Queensland By-Law 11.

2.3 Consequences of Playing an Ineligible Player

- c) A team will lose a match on forfeit and be fined in accordance with these RoC, if an ineligible player participates in the match or, if at the time of the match, the team is in breach of the Player Points System (PPS) Maximum or Visa Players as set out in these RoC.
- d) Additionally, the Club, Team Officials and/or Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the 2021 Football Queensland Disciplinary Regulations. For the avoidance of doubt, it is the Clubs absolute responsibility to ensure that it fields eligible players in any match.
- e) Ineligible Player protests must be directed to Football Queensland via email to competitions@footballqueensland.com.au.

2.3 Age Eligibility

- a) The following table details the year of birth applicable to the age-eligible divisions of the Competitions. Players must be within these ranges to be eligible for registration.

Age Division	Birth Date
U23 (Men/Women)	For Players born 1998, 1999, 2000 (or any other player as required born between 2001-2005) Applications for Exceptional Circumstances on an individual basis for FEMALE only 2006 born players are permissible however approval is at the discretion of Football Queensland
U18 (Men-NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2)	For Players born 2003 and 2004 (or 2005 as required)
U16	For Players born 2005 (or 2006 as required) For Players born 2005 and 2006 (U16 NPL Women's Junior Girls). Applications for Exceptional Circumstances on an individual basis for 2007 born female players only are permissible however approval is at the discretion of Football Queensland
U15	For Players born 2006 (or 2007 as required)
U14	For Players born 2007 (or 2008 as required) For Players born 2007 and 2008 (Females)
U13	For Players born 2008 (or 2007 only if required due to team viability)
U12 (SAP)	For Players born 2009 (Boys) For Players born 2009 and 2010 (Girls)
U11 (SAP)	For Players born 2010 (Boys)
U10 (SAP)	For Players born 2011 (Boys) For Players born 2011 and 2012 (Girls)
U9	For Players born 2012

- b) The QAS Girls may, field teams in the Competitions in which they participate exempt from Section 2.2, Article a). Football Queensland will determine in their sole discretion the Competitions that apply.

2.4 Registration Period

- a) Any Amateur or Professional (NPL Men's, NPL Women's, FQPL1, FQPL 2) Player Registration to a Club may occur at any time during the Registration Periods. For 2021, the registration periods will be:

Competition	Opening Date (Registration Period 1b)	Closing Date (Registration Period 1b)	Opening Date (Registration Period 2)	Closing Date (Registration Period 2)
NPL Juniors (Boys/Girls) U13-U16 including SAP	4 th January 2021	30 th June 2021	N/A	N/A
NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2 U18s/U23s	4 th January 2021	10 th May 2021	N/A	N/A
NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2 First Team (Pro Comps)	16 th February 2021	15 th March 2021	12 th April 2021	10 th May 2021
NPL Women's U23	4 th January 2021	27 th April 2021	21 st June 2021	19 th July 2021
NPL Women's First Team (Pro Comp)	31 st March 2021	27 th April 2021	21 st June 2021	19 th July 2021

- i. Players may register without restriction at any time up until 11:59pm on the Closing Date of each Registration Period.
- ii. Clubs can apply to sign players who have not been registered to another Club in Football Queensland Junior competitions in 2021 to fill shortages in squads outside of the registration period outlined above.
- iii. Special exemption to the above registration periods may be applied at the discretion of Football Queensland, for intra-competition movement (i.e. NPL Junior to NPL Junior or NPL Women's to NPL Women's).
- iv. Special exemption to the above registration periods may be applied at the discretion of Football Queensland, for ex-professional players returning from A-League/W-League or overseas (subject to ITC) after their contract expires or is terminated to

assist in providing elite athletes year-round playing opportunities and raising NPL Men's/NPL Women's/FQPL1/FQPL2 competition standards.

2.5 Reacquisition of Amateur Status

- a) A Player registered as a Professional Player cannot register or re-register as an Amateur Player until at least thirty (30) days after his or her last Match as a Professional Player (see FA Registration Regulations).
- b) A Player registered to a Standard Player Contract with a W-League Club in the 2020/2021 season may re-register as an Amateur Player immediately after their last match as a Professional Player, subject to the Club/Player submitting a written request to Football Queensland and Football Queensland approving that request in its absolute discretion.

2.6 Registrations Outside of Registration Periods

2.6.1 Amateur Player Registrations

- a) Football Queensland may allow (at FQ discretion) a club to register a Player outside of the Registration Periods if:
 - i. That Player is a goalkeeper and Football Queensland is satisfied that the Club has justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence.
 - ii. Exceptional Circumstances exist (at FQ discretion)

2.6.2 Professional Player Registrations

- a) Football Queensland may register a Professional Player outside the Registration Periods only if:
 - i. That Player is a goalkeeper and Football Queensland is satisfied that the Club has a justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence.
 - ii. Football Queensland is satisfied in its absolute discretion that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a Player is seeking registration arising out of the termination of a Participation Agreement of his or her former Club or he or she has terminated his or her Standard Player Contract for 'Just Cause'.
- b) Players participating in the National Youth League (NYL), A-League or W-League Regular Season and/or finals series for Season 2020/21 may be provided a Player Exemption by FQ to register outside of the NPL Men's, NPL Women's and FQPL1/FQPL2 Registration Period due to the overlap of these seasons with the beginning of the NPL Men's/NPL Women's and FQPL1/FQPL2 Season.

- c) Football Queensland shall determine applications made under this clause with discretion and such determinations are not subject to appeal whether under these RoC or otherwise.

2.6.3 Professional Player Registrations

- a) The registration of a Goalkeeper or Professional Player, outside of the registration periods must not cause the Club to exceed the maximum points allocated in the Player Points System (If applicable).

2.7 Visa Players

- a) If a Club registers a Visa Player as a Professional, that Club must ensure it meets all the legal requirements pertaining to the obtaining and maintaining of a valid visa or work permit for that Visa Player, including where applicable, a letter of endorsement from FA, the payment of any minimum salary and any sponsorship requirements.
- b) The number of Visa Players allowed in each First Team Competition is:
 - i. NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2 – Maximum of two (2) visa players
 - ii. NPL Women's – Maximum of three (3) visa players
- c) Clubs will be required to submit documentation to FQ showing the residential/citizenship status of Visa players. FQ may also request documentation of additional players at their discretion.
- d) In Men's First Team Competitions, Visa Players found to be participating in First Team matches that are not listed on the PPS will be deemed ineligible and offending Clubs will be dealt with under these RoC. A player not appearing on the PPS however not an Australia citizen (U18/U23 player), will only be deemed a Visa Player in the event they take the field for a Club's first team.

2.8 Process for Registration of Team Managers and Coaches

- a) All Coaches, Team Managers' and Volunteers must be registered to be involved in any capacity with a Club participating in Football Queensland Competitions.
- b) All coaches that coach within Football Queensland Competitions must hold the recognised minimum level of coaching accreditation required as stipulated in the NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2 and NPL Women's Licensing Criteria.
- c) All coaches and team staff that have regular interaction with Minors (U18 and below) are required to hold a current and approved Blue Card/Working with Children check.
- d) All coaches, team managers and relevant team staff are required to wear and have on display the Football Queensland Coach's badge/lanyard (inclusive of their blue card and FFA number

on the lanyard) whilst in the technical area or any Match Day capacity. Clubs/team officials without a lanyard from May 5th onwards, or who do not have a current Blue Card may be liable to a disciplinary action as described in [Clause 1.3](#) (breach of RoC).

2.9 Submission of Registrations

- a) All registrations are to be processed, approved, and completed via the Play Football system no less than 48 hours prior to participating in any match.
- b) All Clubs must submit approved registrations for all players and officials on the 'Player Roster' (Senior) as listed in these RoC.

2.10 Professional Player Transfer Fees and Disputes

- a) Football Queensland will recognise complaints made by Players against Clubs, or Clubs against Players, with respect to the terms and conditions as stipulated in NRR05 Professional Contract between both parties which has been lodged with Football Queensland. Complainants should refer to the FA National Registration Regulations.

2.11 Player Rosters

- a) During the NPL Men's, FQPL1, FQPL2 NPL Women's and SAP seasons, Clubs are required to have a minimum number of active players registered in the National Registration System (Play Football) at all times. Refer to schedule below for the 2021 requirements:

Teams/Age Division	Min Squad Size	Max Squad Size
NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2 First Team/U23	28	43
NPL Women's First Team/U23	28	43
NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2 Men's U18	15	20
NPL Junior Boy's/Girl's Teams (U13-U16)	15	20
SAP U10/11/12	10	12
SAP U9	8	10

- b) All Clubs must maintain a Player Roster for each First Team/U23, listing all currently registered players, which is to be updated and sent to Football Queensland as changes occur. Junior teams are not required to submit rosters.

3.0 Player Movement

3.1 Age Policy

3.1.1 Senior Men's – U18/U23 Boys and First team

- a) All registered age-eligible players included on a Club's First Team, U23 and U18 Player Roster are eligible for selection in matches, unless suspended or otherwise ineligible for inclusion.
- b) At any point time, the First Team can have a maximum of two (2) Visa players on the PPS. U18/U23 [Visa](#) (see Definitions) players are not available for selection into the First Team, if the Club has reached the maximum number of Visa players on the PPS (2). However, if a club has not filled the maximum number of Visa players, an U18/U23 Visa player may play in the First Team if required (up to the maximum 2 players).
- c) Four (4) overage players (born 1997 or earlier) including three (3) outfield players plus one (1) goalkeeper are permitted to play down in the club's U23 Men's team only (not U18).
- d) Football Queensland will monitor the use of overage players and Clubs found to be abusing these rules, by stacking any age-eligible team below will be dealt with under these RoC or the Disciplinary Regulations; and
 - i. Offending Clubs will incur a three (3) point deduction from their First Team results/ladder.
- e) Age eligible players from a Club's U18 and U23 Men's team may play across multiple age divisions in their respective FQ Competition, provided;
 - i. No more than six (6) players who have participated (taken to the pitch) in a competition level above, may participate in any age-eligible team below that level in the same round and/or weekend (for clarity, it is required to be the same 'match day' e.g. Friday night First Team/Sunday U18 fixtures would be considered the same round/weekend). Players turning the age of 16 in 2021 (2005 born) are eligible to play in the Men's Senior Competitions (U18, U23 and First Team) without restriction.
 - ii. A maximum of three (3) U16 players can play up at any time into the Senior Men's Competitions (U18/U23/First Team) without restriction.

3.1.2 Women's First Team and U23 Girls

- a) At any point time, the First Team can have a maximum of three (3) Visa players listed within their squad. U16 (if age eligible for Senior Women's) and U23 [Visa](#) (see Definitions) players

are not available for selection into the First Team, if the Club has reached the maximum number of Visa players in their squad (3). However, if a club has not filled the maximum number of Visa players, an U16/U23 Visa player may play in the First Team if required (up to the maximum 3 players).

- b) Players turning the age of 16 in 2021 are eligible to play in Women's Senior Competitions without restriction. Players who have turned the age of 15 are eligible to play in the NPL Women's U23 Competition with the approval of Football Queensland. Those who have been identified in an established player pathway (see definitions) and are yet to turn 15 are eligible to apply for dispensation to Football Queensland to play up into the NPL Women's U23.
- c) Football Queensland's (FQ) determination on any dispensation is final and FQ reserve the right to revoke any approved dispensation, at any time.
- d) A maximum of three (3) U16 players can play up at any time into the Senior Women's Competitions.
- e) Four (4) overage players born (1997 or earlier), including three (3) outfield players and one (1) goalkeeper are permitted to play in the U23 NPL Women's team at any one time.
- f) Football Queensland will monitor the use of overage players and Clubs found to be abusing these rules, by stacking any age-eligible team below will be dealt with under these RoC or the Disciplinary Regulations; and
 - i. Offending Clubs will incur a three (3) point deduction from their First Team results/ladder.

3.1.3 NPL Junior Boy's/Girl's (U13 to U16 Boys and U14/U16 Girls) Competitions

- a) Clubs may permanently register up to 18 players in each age-eligible team.
 - i. Only 16 Players can be listed on the match record (Junior) at any one time; and
 - ii. No Shadow and/or Invited Players are permitted.
- b) If 13 players or less are available on match days, Clubs may use three (3) players from the age group directly below, provided they are born in the age group below (e.g. U13- 2008 born player can be borrowed into U14 if required).
 - i. Players participating in matches above their own age division cannot take the place of fully registered team members. For the avoidance of doubt, these players cannot, start a match ahead of a permanent team member.

- ii. A Player may only fill match day shortages, in the age division above their own age group for a maximum of ten (10) matches during the Regular Season.
- iii. Due to not all Clubs having SAP Licenses, 1.3 (c) excludes U13 Boys Competitions.

Clubs with shortages in this age division may apply to Football Queensland for exemption due to exceptional circumstances.

3.1.4 SAP

- a) Clubs are permitted to have four (4) Shadow Players, who will train with their Club one (1) night per week. These players are not permitted to play in the Football Queensland SAP League unless the player registers or player numbers drop below the minimum requirement and exemption is sought and approved by Football Queensland.

3.2 Relative Age Effect (RAE)

- a) The relative age effect (RAE) principle allows flexibility for players who may be physically challenged by allowing them to play down an age group. It is primarily available for players who were born Oct-Dec of the previous year and/or are physically challenged to play down into a younger age group (e.g. November 2006 born player may request to play U14s and can only play if approved).
- b) Consideration may be given to players who may be adversely affected developmentally.
 - i. Each applicable team in a Club is limited to three (3) approved RAE Players, including a maximum of two (2) outfield players and one (1) goalkeeper, unless a special exemption is provided by Football Queensland on a case-by-case basis.
- c) Club Technical Directors may make application to Football Queensland Competitions team for RAE consideration. The following supporting documentation is required before an assessment can be made:
 - i. Player's Date of Birth, Height and Weight.
 - ii. Player Assessment completed by the Club Technical Director; and
 - iii. A full body length photo of the player requesting approval.
- d) Football Queensland shall make a determination on the application. The decision of Football Queensland is final.
- e) Any approved RAE Player must be accommodated in the team's maximum squad numbers.
- f) All players approved under 'Relative Age Effect' may be re-assessed by Football Queensland

during the season to ensure that the principles are being maintained. Upon reassessment, Football Queensland reserves the right to withdraw the approval under RAE.

3.3 Playing Across Competitions

- a) The following conditions apply to player movement between competitions.
- i. Players registered to a community Club are not eligible to play for any Club in the NPL Men's, FQPL1, FQPL2 and NPL Women's Competitions, unless approval is given from Football Queensland under 'Exceptional Circumstances'.

In assisting with the transition of the U23 Competition in FQPL2 as well as the introduction of U18 in the FQPL2 Competitions in 2022, applications to use U18 (only) community players in the U23 competition will be considered. Players may play into the U23 FQPL2 competition up to a maximum of 7 games. On the 8th occasion, the player is ineligible to go back to Community Club Football (Football Gold Coast/Football Brisbane).

- ii. Regional NPL Men's and FQPL1 Clubs may apply to FQ under 'Exceptional Circumstances' to use local or Community players intermittently throughout their NPL Men's/FQPL1 season.
- iii. SAP Clubs may also apply under 'Exceptional Circumstances'.

3.4 Long Term Injury Replacement Players

The Long-Term Injury Replacement Rule from 2020 will not be applicable in the 2021 season in any Football Queensland Competitions.

4.0 Competition Structures and Regulations

4.1 Structures and Competition Format

- a) The 2021 Season will comprise of teams licensed or operating under a Participation Licence Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as approved by Football Queensland.
- b) Clubs must have competing teams in each age division unless exemption is obtained from Football Queensland. In 2021, in conjunction with the Licence Agreement in place with NPL Women's clubs and fostering the long-term growth and development of the Girls/Women's NPL Women's competitions, Brisbane City FC, Virginia United FC, Olympic FC, and Peninsula Power FC are not mandated to field U16 NPL Women's teams.
- c) Football Queensland determines the number of teams in each age group/competition each season.
 - i. For 2021, Male competitions shall be represented by 14 Clubs (NPL Men's Seniors), 25 Clubs (NPL Junior Boys Clubs + QAS), 11 Clubs (FQPL1) and 8 clubs (FQPL2) with a single team in each relevant and applicable age division/competition with exception of:
 - (a) Mackay & Whitsundays Magpies Crusaders are not required to enter U23, U18, U16, U15, U14, U13 teams in the NPL Men's/NPL Junior Boys competitions. For clarification, Mackay & Whitsundays Magpies Crusaders will enter one (1) team into the following competition: NPL Men's Senior (First Team only).
 - (b) FQPL2 comprises the First Team and U23 age group only, for the 2021 season, with U18 to be included in 2022.
 - ii. For 2021, Female competitions shall be represented by 16 Clubs (NPL Women's) and additionally QAS with a single team in each age divisions with exception of:
 - (a) QAS (Queensland Academy of Sport) in the U14 and U16 teams in the NPL Women's competitions. For clarification, QAS will enter one team each into the following competitions: NPL Women's Senior First team and U23. QAS (Girls) will also enter teams into the Competition Phase and Tournament Phase of the U13 and U14 NPL Junior Boys.
 - (b) Brisbane City FC, Virginia United FC, Olympic FC, and Peninsula Power FC in the U16 NPL Women's competitions and Olympic FC in the U14 age division.

- d) All NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2 (inc. U18's/U23's) and the NPL Women's First Team will consist of two (2) stages;
- i. Premiership, consisting of home and away matches.
 - ii. Finals Series.
- e) All NPL Junior Boy's, NPL Junior Girl's and NPL Women's/FQPLW U23 Competitions will consist of;
- i. Premiership, consisting of home and away matches.
 - ii. In the instance of the U23 NPL Women's, for 2021 only they will be required to follow their First Team when the NPL Women's and FQPLW competitions enter the 2nd cycle of fixtures (no Finals Series).
 - iii. For the avoidance of doubt, the NPL Junior Boy's Premiership, will be award to the team in 1st place at the conclusion of the Tournament Phase, in each of the Cup, Shield and Plate competitions.
- f) The 2021 NPL Junior Boy's competition structure will consist of twenty-five (25) Clubs (including Brisbane Roar and QAS) competing in two (2) competitions- Academy League and Development League.

NPL Junior Boys Academy	NPL Junior Boys Development
Brisbane City FC	Capalaba FC
Brisbane Roar	Holland Park Hawks
Brisbane Strikers FC	Ipswich Knights FC
Eastern Suburbs FC	Mitchelton FC
Gold Coast Knights	Olympic FC
Gold Coast United FC	QAS
Lions FC	Redlands United
Logan Lightning FC	Souths United
Moreton Bay United	Southside Eagles
Peninsula Power FC	Sunshine Coast Wanderers
Rochedale Rovers	SWQ Thunder
Sunshine Coast Fire SC	Western Pride FC
	Wolves FC

- g) The NPL Junior Boys competition will consist of two (2) phases;

i. Competition phase

- a) The scope of the competition phase will be two leagues, the NPL Academy and the NPL Development. Twelve (12) clubs will be allocated to the Academy League, while thirteen (13) Clubs will be allocated to the Development League, for the competition phase.

ii. Tournament phase

- b) The tournament phase is the second phase of the 2021 NPL Junior Boy's Competition, designed to deliver a higher intensity end to the season and playing against clubs in a like v like format.
 - c) For the tournament phase, Clubs will be split into three additional leagues based on their finishing rank (aggregated points across all relevant age groups) at the end of the Competition phase. The 3 leagues will be comprised of 8 clubs, 8 clubs and 9 clubs.
 - d) The teams in each competition will play for the Cup, Shield and Plate, with all accumulated points counting towards the following year's grading process.
 - e) The tournament phase will have Clubs playing each team within their competition twice.
- h) The Football Queensland Skill Acquisition Program will consist of a League format supported by Gala days and Carnivals administered by Football Queensland. SAP League matches will reflect the FA Small Sided Football format.

4.2 Promotion and Relegation

- a) If the 2021 NPL Men's/NPL Women's/FQPL1/FQPL2 competition structures change due to unforeseen circumstances post the commencement of the 2021 Regular Season, Football Queensland retains the right to review and amend these RoC in its sole and absolute discretion.
- b) Promotion and relegation forms part of NPL Men's, FQPL1 and FQPL2 First Team Competitions for 2021.
- c) Promotion forms part of the NPL Women's First Team Competitions for the 2021 season. At the conclusion of the first full cycle (17 Rounds) of fixtures, the Top 7 clubs (and additionally QAS) will form a Top 8, to be known as the NPL Women's. The remaining 9 clubs will form the FQPL Women's.

Both the NPL Women's and FQPL Women's competitions will then play a further 8 rounds. At the conclusion of the second cycle of fixtures (7 rounds- NPL Women's, 9 rounds- FQPL Women's), the team finishing first in the FQPLW after the second cycle of fixtures will be eligible for promotion into the NPL Women's for the 2022 season. Their U23 team will also follow the First Team into NPL Women's, if the club meets the minimum criteria and is eligible for promotion (fields teams in both First Team and U23).

- d) Should a Club be relegated from the NPL/FQPL1/FQPL2 competitions, the Club's U23's and U18's (Senior Men's) will follow the First Team and be given a position in the relevant FQ Competition for 2022, should they meet the criteria as outlined in the NPL Men's/NPL Women's/FQPL1/FQPL2 Licensing Agreement.

4.2.1 Relegation from NPL Men's

- a) Clubs will be relegated based on the final standings of the NPL MEN'S Club's First Team ([see Clause 4.5- Competition Placings](#)) at the conclusion of the Regular Season. Final Series matches and the associated results will have no effect on the promotion or relegation of any Club under this section.
 - i. Those Clubs positioned in last place, 2nd last place and 3rd last place on the NPL Men's ladder at the end of the NPL Men's Regular Season will be relegated for the following Regular Season.
- b) Clubs relegated from NPL QLD will be placed into the FQPL1 for the following Regular Season, should they meet the criteria as outlined in the NPL/FQPL1/FQPL2 Licensing Agreement.
- c) Should a Club be relegated from the NPL QLD competition, the Club's Under 18's and Under 23's (if applicable) will be given a position in the relevant FQPL1 Competition for 2022, should they meet the criteria as outlined in the FQPL1/NPL Licensing Agreement and in accordance with Section 5.2, Article d).
- d) Football Queensland retains the right to determine the final Clubs relegated from the NPL Competition in their sole and absolute discretion as to the interpretation of this Section 5.

4.2.2 Relegation from FQPL1

- a) Clubs will be relegated based on the final standings of the FQPL1 Club's First Team ([see Clause 4.5- Competition Placings](#)) at the conclusion of the Regular Season. Final Series matches and the associated results will have no effect on the promotion or relegation of any Club under this section.

- ii. Those Clubs positioned in last place, 2nd last place and 3rd last place on the FQPL1 ladder at the end of the FQPL1 Regular Season will be relegated for the following Regular Season.
- e) Clubs relegated from FQPL1 QLD will be placed into the FQPL2 for the following Regular Season, should they meet the criteria as outlined in the NPL/FQPL1/FQPL2 Licensing Agreement.
- f) Should a Club be relegated from the FQPL1 QLD competition, the Club's Under 18's and Under 23's (if applicable) will be given a position in the relevant FQPL2 Competition for 2022, should they meet the criteria as outlined in the FQPL2/FQPL1/NPL Licensing Agreement and in accordance with Section 5.2, Article d).
- g) If there is any dispute as to which club should be relegated, Football Queensland retains the right to determine the final Clubs relegated from the FQPL1 Competition in their sole and absolute discretion.

4.2.3 Promotion from FQPL1

- a) The Club who finishes 1st in FQPL1 ([see Clause 4.5- Competition Placings](#)) will be promoted to the NPL Men's QLD, subject to the Club meeting the standards as outlined in the FQPL1/NPL Licensing Agreement.
- b) If there is any dispute as to which club should be relegated, Football Queensland retains the right to determine the final Club promoted from the FQPL1 Competition in their sole and absolute discretion.

4.2.4 Promotion from FQPL2

- c) The Club who finishes 1st in FQPL2 ([see Clause 4.5- Competition Placings](#)) will be promoted to the FQPL1 subject to the Club meeting the standards as outlined in the FQPL1/NPL Licensing Agreement.
- d) If there is any dispute as to which club should be relegated, Football Queensland retains the right to determine the final Club promoted from the FQPL2 Competition in their sole and absolute discretion.
- e) Football Queensland will endeavour to confirm the NPL QLD and FQPL1/FQPL2 Competition structures, twenty-eight (28) days from the conclusion of the NPL/FQPL1/FQPL2 Competition, whichever competition concludes last.

4.3 Removal of Team/s from Competitions

- a) In the event of any team withdrawing or being removed from the Competitions, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered Competitions to proceed to a conclusion.
- i. Removed or withdrawing before Competition has started; A bye may be added, or the Competition may be redrawn to accommodate the vacant position in the competition.
 - ii. Removed or withdrawing after the Competition has commenced; for all opposing teams that have played the removed or withdrawn team (for the complete round) points and goals against the withdrawn team will be deleted from their records and will be credited with a bye result. Any Cautions (Yellow Cards) will be rescinded. Teams that have not played the removed or withdrawn team will obtain a bye result. If all Clubs have played one full cycle of fixtures against the withdrawn team, those results can be retained, and any additional results removed.

4.4 Competitions Points

- a) Teams will play in Competition Fixtures as scheduled by Football Queensland.
- b) The following points will be awarded for all Competitive competition matches during the Regular Season:

Result	Points Accumulated
Win	3 Points
Draw	1 Point
Loss	0 Points
Forfeit	3 Points and a 3-0 result (To team receiving the forfeit)
Bye	0 points

- c) Points will not be attributed to the result of any match in the SAP Game Phase. For the avoidance of doubt, in all Football Queensland SAP Leagues, there will be no ladder or results recorded.

4.5 Competition Placings

- a) The position of each Club at the end of the Regular Season will be determined based on the following criteria for NPL Men's/FQPL1 (U18, U23, First Team), NPL Women's (U23/First Team) and FQPL2 (U23/First Team):

- i. Highest number of points accumulated during the Regular Season.
 - ii. If two (2) or more Clubs are level on points accumulated, the following criteria will be applied, in order, until one (1) of the Clubs can be determined as the higher ranked:
 - iii. Highest goal difference.
 - iv. Highest number of goals scored.
 - v. Highest number of points accumulated in matches between the Clubs concerned.
 - vi. Highest goal difference in matches between the Clubs concerned.
 - vii. Lowest number of red cards accumulated.
 - viii. Lowest number of yellow cards accumulated; and
 - ix. Toss of a coin in the event of a tie of two (2) Clubs or drawing of lots in the event of a tie of three (3) or more Clubs.
- b) The position of each Club at the end of the Competition Season will be determined based on the following criteria for NPL Juniors:
- i. Highest number of points accumulated during the Regular Season.
 - ii. If two (2) or more Clubs are level on points accumulated, the following criteria will be applied, in order, until one (1) of the Clubs can be determined as the higher ranked:
 - iii. Highest goal difference.
 - iv. Highest number of goals scored.
 - v. Highest number of points accumulated in matches between the Clubs concerned.
 - vi. Highest goal difference in matches between the Clubs concerned.
 - vii. Lowest number of red cards accumulated.
 - viii. Lowest number of yellow cards accumulated; and
 - ix. Toss of a coin in the event of a tie of two (2) Clubs or drawing of lots in the event of a tie of three (3) or more Clubs.
- c) Consistent with the MiniRoos Guidelines, league tables will not be kept during the 2021 SAP Competition.

4.6 Finals Series

- a) The format and schedule of the Finals Series for each Football Queensland competition will be determined at Football Queensland's sole and absolute discretion.
- b) The top four (4) teams in the Men's NPL First Team, U23 and U18 competitions, FQPL1 First Team, U23 and U18, FQPL 2 First Grade and U23 and NPL Women's First Grade, at the conclusion of the Regular Season will participate in a Finals Series.
- c) The Final Series for the teams listed in Section 4.15, Article b) will be played over a two (2)

week period in the specified Finals Series format outlined below:

Round	Match Number	Title	Teams
1	1	Semi-Final 1	1 st v 4 th
	2	Semi-Final 2	2 nd v 3 rd
2	3	Grand Final	Winner of Match 1 v Winner of Match 2

- d) The Club who wins each respective Grand Final will be crowned Grand Final Winners and will be awarded the Grand Final Winner's Trophy as Champions.
- e) To be eligible to play for a team in the NPL Finals Series, a player must have been listed on match records and taken to the field for a minimum of 1/3 of the number of competition rounds (9 games).
- f) To be eligible to play in the NPL Women's Finals Series, a player must have been listed on match records and taken to the field for a minimum of 1/3 of the number of competition rounds (8 games- 17 rounds in first cycle of fixtures/7 in the second cycle= 24).
- g) To be eligible to play in the FQPL1 Finals Series, a player must have been listed on match records and taken to the field for a minimum of 1/3 of the number of competition rounds (7 games).
- h) To be eligible to play in the FQPL2 Finals Series, a player must have been listed on match records and played a minimum of 1/3 of the number of competition rounds (7 games).
- i) In competitions where interchange rules apply, all players listed on the team sheet will be for the purpose of Section 4.15 be deemed to have taken to the field of play.
- j) If a player does not meet the minimum number of games required to be eligible to play in the Finals Series of any of the above competitions, Clubs are eligible to submit a dispensation request for approval for players to participate in the Finals Series under exceptional circumstances, not limited to but including;
 - i. Injury
 - ii. Date of Registration Date
 - iii. Player availability
 - iv. Circumstances that prevented the player from playing the requisite number of matches

5.0 Match Day Procedures

5.1 Duration of Matches

a) The following will apply to all scheduled matches:

League	Time per Half
SAP Under 9	20 Minutes
SAP Under 10 to Under 12 (U9/10 Girls inclusive)	25 Minutes
Under 13	30 Minutes
Under 14 (Boys/Girls)	35 Minutes
Under 15	40 Minutes
Under 16 (Boys/Girls)	40 Minutes
Under 18	45 Minutes
Under 23	45 Minutes
First Team	45 Minutes

- b) For all SAP matches there will be an interval of five (5) minutes between the whistle ending and the first period to the whistle starting, the second period and subsequent periods.
- c) For all matches consisting two (2) periods of 35/40 minutes there will be an interval of ten (10) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.
- d) For all matches consisting two (2) periods of 45 minutes there will be an interval of fifteen (15) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.

5.1.1 Added Time

- a) Match Officials will play additional 'injury and stoppage time' at the conclusion of each half in Senior men's (U18, U23 and First Team) and Senior Women's (U23 and First Team) Matches of the Leagues governed by these RoC.
- b) In a First Team Match, should delay be experienced (e.g. Serious injury to a Player that requires suspension of play while the player is treated or transported from the Venue) the referee will record the lapsed time and ensure it is added to the match duration. If the elapsed time between the suspension of play and recommencement of play is longer than 45 minutes the referee will abandon the match and it will be replayed at a date in accordance with these RoC.
- c) Should a delay be experienced in a junior match, the referee will continue to keep the official

time of the match and blow full time when the match duration has expired. The match result will stand.

- d) The referee shall be the sole keeper of time in all matches.

5.1.2 Extra Time

- a) There will be no extra time played in matches during the Regular Season in the event of a draw at the conclusion of normal time.
- b) Extra time may be played in Finals Series matches.

5.1.3 Extra Time in Finals

- a) The following will apply to all scheduled matches:

Age Groups	Extra Time
Under 18	Two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes
Under 23	Two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes
First Team	Two (2) periods of fifteen (15) minutes

- b) For all matches there will be an interval of five (5) minutes before the commencement of extra time.
- c) For all matches there will be an interval of two (2) minutes between the whistle ending the first period of extra time to the whistle starting the second period of extra time.

5.2 Penalties in Finals Series

- a) If at the conclusion of the regular period in any Match in the Finals Series, the scores between the two (2) Clubs are tied, then extra time of two (2) equal periods will be played. The conditions of the Laws of the Game will apply.
- b) If scores remain equal at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken, in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game. Penalty kicks will be taken from the penalty mark in the following order to determine the winner of the match.

- 1st kick – Team A 2nd kick – Team B
- 3rd kick – Team A 4th kick – Team B
- 5th kick – Team A 6th kick – Team B
- 7th kick – Team A 8th kick – Team B and so on

5.3 Substitution and Interchange

5.3.1 Substitution- Senior (not including U23 NPL Women's & U18 NPL Men's/FQPL1)

- a) For First Teams in the NPL Men's, NPL Women's and FQPL1/FQPL2 Men's Regular Season matches, each team will be permitted to use a maximum of five (5) substitutes;
 - i. 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;
 - ii. If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one (1) of the three (3) opportunities for each team;
 - iii. First Teams in the NPL Men's, NPL Women's and FQPL Men's will be permitted to have up to a maximum of 17 players listed on the match sheet, with the Reserve Goalkeeper (RGK) handwritten and listed as the 17th Player on the Match Sheet
- b) For U23 Teams in the NPL Men's and FQPL1/FQPL2 Men's Regular Season matches, each team will be permitted to use a maximum of five (5) substitutes;
 - i. 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;
 - ii. If both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as one (1) of the three (3) opportunities for each team;
 - iii. First Teams in the NPL Men's, NPL Women's and FQPL1/FQPL2 Men's will be permitted to have up to a maximum of 17 players listed on the match sheet, with the Reserve Goalkeeper (RGK) handwritten and listed as the 17th Player on the Match Sheet

- a) Once a player is substituted, they cannot return to the field of play to participate in the match.
- b) Only Players that take the pitch are deemed to have participated in the match.

5.3.2 Interchange- including U23 NPL Women's, U18 NPL Men's/FQPL1 and Juniors (U13-16 NPL Junior Boy's, U14/U16 NPL Junior Girl's)

- c) Unlimited interchange of players is permissible at any time during the game in all U13 to U16 NPL Junior Boy's, U14 and 16 NPL Junior Girl's, U18 NPL Men's/FQPL1 and U23 NPL

Women's age groups. The maximum number of players to be used for interchange is five (5) players for all relevant age groups.

- d) An interchange can only occur when the ball is out of play.
- e) The number of interchanges made during a match is unlimited. A player who has been replaced may return to the field for another Player.
- f) Interchange players cannot be used to replace any Player who has been dismissed from the match by the referee.
- g) Any player listed on the team sheet is deemed to have participated in the match unless 'DNP' is written beside the name/s of those players who did not take the field of play.

5.3.3 General Interchange/Substitution

- a) A Match Official may decline the interchange and/or substitution of Players in the last ten (10) minutes of a competition fixture if in his or her opinion the change is being made to deliberately delay play.
- b) Only players listed on the match record before the match commences are permitted to take part in the match.
- c) All interchange and/or substitute players must be seated within the Technical Area.

5.3.4 Substitution and Interchange- Finals Series

- a) For all NPL Men's, NPLW Women's, FQPL1, FQPL2 First Team matches played during Finals Series, the following Substitution Rules will apply:
 - i. Up to a maximum of five (5) Players (including a goalkeeper) may be replaced at any time during a match, up until the conclusion of normal playing time or time lost, if played. The replacement Player must be one of the substitutes selected on the Team Sheet. As per the regular season, each club can list 5 substitute players and a reserve goalkeeper (or 6 players as desired).
 - ii. One (1) additional Player (outfield Player or goalkeeper) may be replaced during Extra Time of a match up until the conclusion of Extra Time (whether the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes). The replacement Player must be one of the substitutes selected on the Team Sheet.
- b) For all Men's U23 matches played during Finals Series, the following Substitution Rules will apply:

- I. Up to a maximum of five (5) Players (including a goalkeeper) may be replaced at any time during a match, up until the conclusion of normal playing time or time lost, if played. The replacement Player must be one of the substitutes selected on the Team Sheet. As per the regular season, each club can list 5 substitute players and a reserve goalkeeper (or 6 players as desired).
 - II. One (1) additional Player (outfield Player or goalkeeper) may be replaced during Extra Time of a match up until the conclusion of Extra Time (whether or not the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes). The replacement Player must be one of the substitutes selected on the Team Sheet.
- c) For all age grades during Finals Series, substitution and interchanges rules will remain as applied through the Regular Season.

5.4 Technical Area

- a) Only registered Players and registered Team Officials are permitted in the Technical Area.
- i. Players not participating in the match are not permitted to occupy the Technical Area. Only players and team officials listed on the team sheet and are appropriately registered/accredited are permitted in the Technical Area.
 - ii. A player or Team Official who is under suspension must not occupy a seat in the Technical Area.
 - iii. All Players in the Technical Area must wear a bib that contrasts with the colours worn by players of both teams, Match Officials, and bibs of the opposing team.
 - iv. All Players must remain seated unless moving to and from warm-up.
 - v. One (1) person in the Technical Area is authorised to convey tactical instructions from the technical area.
 - vi. The Coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the Technical Area, except in special circumstances, for example, a team physio or doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player.
- b) In any First Team (NPL Men's, NPL Women's, FQPL1/FQPL2) or Men's U23 Competition a maximum of eleven (11) persons are permitted to occupy the Technical Area for each Club during any Match. This includes the six (6) named substitute Players and up to five (5) named registered Team Officials, including the Club Technical Director.
- c) In any U23 NPL Women's, U18 (NPL/FQPL1) or Junior match, a maximum of ten (10) persons are permitted to occupy the Technical Area for each club during any Match. This includes the five (5) named substitute Players and up to five (5) registered Team Officials.

- d) For SAP, a maximum of eight (8) persons are permitted to occupy the Technical Area for each Club during any match. This includes three (3) named interchange players and up to five (5) registered Team Officials, including Club Technical Director.
- e) All occupants of the Technical Area must behave in a responsible manner. The Match Referee has the right to eject any person from the Technical Area at any time as he or she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left to the Match Official's satisfaction.
- f) Smoking and consuming alcohol within the confines of the player barrier/fence is strictly prohibited. This includes the team bench within the Technical Area and all its occupants.

5.5 Playing Strips and Clash of Colours

- a) All Clubs are required to submit their main and alternate kit colours to Football Queensland prior to the Competition commencing. The Kit Colours will be recorded and published in a central location for Clubs to access.
- b) All Home Clubs must wear their nominated main kit for all matches.
- c) In the case of a colour clash, the Away Club will be required to wear their alternate kit or a combination of the alternate playing kit and their main playing kit to resolve any clash of colour. Failure to supply the alternate kit will result in a fine per match they are not supplied.
- d) During any fixture, the teams of the same Club must wear the same colour playing kit unless otherwise expressly ordered by the referee to resolve the clash with the Match Officials kit.
- e) Unless already determined and communicated by Football Queensland, the referee will be the sole decision maker of a clash of colours.
- f) In the case of goal keeper's colours clashing with either the opponent's field players, goalkeeper or the Match Official's kit, the referee will determine which keeper will change, always keeping in mind the principle that the visiting team should change.
- g) In the case of a combination of main and alternate kit colours of both teams clashing with the Match Officials, the referee will determine the final colours to be worn by all players and Match Officials.

5.6 Match Balls

- a) Each Club must use the official match ball in its promotional and advertising activities in relation to all Football Queensland Competitions and ensure that the logo of the Leagues match ball supplier featured on the ball is not obscured, altered, or deleted when used in any

such Club promotions or advertising.

- i. For NPL and NPL Women's First Team Matches, the Home Team shall provide the Match Official with three (3) Nike Flight match balls no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.
 - ii. For FQPL1 and FQPL2 First Team Matches, the Home Team shall provide the Match Official with three (3) Nike Merlin match balls no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.
 - iii. For all NPL Men's/NPL Women's/FQPL1/FQPL2 U23 and U18 (where applicable) matches, the Home Team shall provide the Match Official with three (3) Nike Elite match balls no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.
 - iv. For all NPL Junior Boys and NPL Junior Girls matches, the Home Team shall provide the Match Official with three (3) Nike Academy Team match balls no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled Competition Fixture.
 - v. For all Skill Acquisition Phase Programs Nike Academy Team balls will also be used. Match balls are to be provided to instructing referees and/or Game Leaders 15 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled League match.
- b) Failure to supply the appropriate **Nike** match balls may result in a fine of \$200 per match they are not supplied.
- c) Football Queensland will provide footballs for all Grand Finals matches.
- d) The following sizes of footballs are applicable to the different age divisions:
- i. SAP Under 9 matches, Size 3 match balls must be provided.
 - ii. SAP Under 10 to 12 matches, Size 4 match balls must be provided.
 - iii. NPL Junior Boy's U13 13 matches, Size 4 match balls must be provided: and
 - iv. For all other age divisions, Size 5 match balls must be provided.

5.7 Match Officials

5.7.1 Appointments

- a) The appointment of Match Officials will be made by Football Queensland for all NPL, FQPL1, FQPL2 and NPL Women's Competitions. Where Match Officials are not appointed to a match, the Home Club is responsible for providing a replacement 'Match Official' for the match.
- b) The 2021 SAP will implement the Game Leader model as identified in the MiniRoos Guidelines. It is each licensees' responsibility to appoint Game Leaders to their home SAP matches. For the avoidance of doubt, a Game Leader can be either:

- i. Club Officials
- ii. Capable Parent
- iii. Older child or player; or
- iv. Beginner Referee

5.7.2 Fees

- a) Match Officials' fees will be paid by Football Queensland for all NPL Men's, FQPL1, FQPL2 and NPL Women's competitions. Clubs will be invoiced in advance, in three (3) instalments per annum; April 1, June 1 and August 1. Refer to the schedule below for the 2021 Match Official Fees.
- i. Football Queensland is not responsible for the payment of Match Officials for any pre-season competition matches. Clubs participating in these matches are to make cash payments directly to the Match Officials prior to kick off. Football Queensland will undertake a review of this process in 2022 to ensure a streamlined and where possible, cashless system is used for referee payment.
 - ii. Where teams fail to pay match officials for Pre-season Friendlies, Football Queensland will pay in the first instance and the Club will be recharged match fees, plus an administration charge of \$20.00 per match.
- b) There is no requirement for Clubs to remunerate Game Leaders for officiating SAP matches, however, should a Club choose to, it will be at the expense of the Club and not Football Queensland.

Match Official Fees:

Competition	Referee	AR 1	AR 2
NPL 1 st Grade	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
NPL U23	\$120.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
NPL U18	\$90.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
NPL U16	\$68.00	\$34.00	\$34.00
NPL U15	\$63.00	\$31.50	\$31.50
NPL U14	\$57.50	\$28.75	\$28.75
NPL U13	\$52.50	\$26.25	\$26.25
NPL Women's			
NPLW 1 st Grade	\$130.00	\$65.00	\$65.00
NPLW U23	\$80.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
NPLW U16	\$53.00	\$26.50	\$26.50
NPLW U14	\$42.50	\$21.25	\$21.25

Competition	Referee	AR 1	AR 2
FQPL 1 st Grade	\$175.00	\$87.50	\$87.50
FQPL U23	\$105.00	\$52.50	\$52.50
FQPL U18	\$80.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
FQPL2			
FQPL2 1 st Grade	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
FQPL2 U23	\$90.00	\$45.00	\$45.00

5.7.3 Responsibilities and Obligations

- a) The Match Officials are charged with all duties, responsibilities and obligations contained within the [IFAB Laws of the Game \(LOTG\)](#).
- b) Unless otherwise stated, the Referee shall be the sole arbiter as to whether a game will proceed, having regard to the condition of the ground, the weather at the time of inspection and the projected weather forecast.
- c) If the Referee finds it necessary to stop play for whatever reason, he/she/they should wait a reasonable time (approximately 30 mins unless conditions are unlikely to change) before deciding to abandon the match.
- d) Match Officials may abandon, postpone, or forfeit a match in accordance with any relevant articles of these RoC.

5.7.4 Welfare to Match Officials

- a) The Home Club will be solely responsible for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the venue, until the time they depart the venue.
- b) All Clubs are required to provide water for Match Officials.

5.8 Match Record

- a) All team sheets are to be completed online via SportsTG.
- b) For First Team Men's and Women's matches, both the Home and Away Team must make their player selection in SportsTG no later than 2.00pm on the Friday prior to the scheduled weekend fixture, or 2.00pm on the day prior to a midweek fixture (e.g., A Monday if a Tuesday catchup fixture).
 - i. For all other age divisions, Clubs must make team selections in SportsTG, no less than an hour ahead of any scheduled matches.
- c) Clubs are required to note the shirt number of each Player in SportsTG. This information appears automatically next to the Player's name on the match record.
- d) Each Club will be responsible for printing and providing two (2) copies of the match record, from SportsTG on match day.
- e) Any changes to Player selections post entry in SportsTG, must be manually noted on the printed copy of the match record.

- f) The printed match records must be handed to the Match Officials at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time. The Match Referee will write 'Refs Copy' on the top right corner of the original match record.
- g) A Match Record must include:
 - i. List all match details (age group, division, date, participating teams, and venue).
 - ii. List all players taking part in the match with first name, surname, shirt number and FA number.
 - iii. Not list more than 17 players for any Senior fixture (First Team/U23 NPL Men's, FQPL1, FQPL2 or First Team NPL Women's) or 16 players for any U23 NPL Women's, U18 Men or junior fixture.
 - iv. List all Team Officials; and
 - v. Indicate the team Captain with a 'C' beside the relevant person's name in all First Team Men's and Women's Competition matches only.
- h) The Match Referee is responsible for ensuring the names of all Match Officials are listed on the match record.
- i) Changes to the match record will be permitted any time until ten (10) minutes prior to kick off.
- j) Clerical errors by either team on the match record may result in a fine under these RoC. Clerical errors may include but are not limited to; duplicate shirt numbers, incorrect shirt numbers, team Captain and failing to sign off on the match record.

5.8.1 Confirming Match Records

- a) Following a match, a Team Official from both the Home and Away Club, together with the Match Referee are required to sign the official match record to confirm that the information is correct. By signing the match record, Team Officials acknowledge that the data recorded, including but not limited to; Players and Match Officials listed, players cautioned or expelled, goal scorers and the half time and full-time scores are all correct.
- b) For the avoidance of doubt, by signing the match record, Team Officials acknowledge that the data recorded, including but not limited to; Players and Match Officials listed, players cautioned or expelled, goal scorers and the half time and full time scores are all correct and as such there will be no appeal against the score line shown, goal scorers or the recipients of yellow and red cards issued on a match record once it has been signed post-match by all relevant parties.
- c) Alterations to the official match record, must be initialled by each team official, plus the Match

Referee.

- i. If the official match record is altered post the Referee sign-off, Clubs may be fined and at the discretion of Football Queensland be cited to appear before a General Purposes Tribunal under Football Queensland By- Law 11.

5.8.2 Collection of Match Records

- a) It is the Host Clubs responsibility to collect one (1) home and one (1) away match sheet (marked 'Refs Copy') for all games played at the Home Clubs Venue.
- b) The second copy should be retained by each Club's Team Manager for their own records.
- c) Clubs requiring additional copies, are to arrange for Team Officials to take a photograph of match record/s required. For the avoidance of doubt, Match Officials will only transcribe the match information on to two (2) copies of each Clubs Match Record.
- d) For all Football Queensland Competitions, the results must be entered by the Home Club in the Competition Management System, SportsTG.
 - i. For Senior Men's (U18/23 and First Team) and Women's First Team/U23 matches, the match data must be entered by the Home Club team as soon as possible but no later than *90 minutes post-match*; and
 - ii. In all Junior Competitions, the match data must be entered by the Home Club team as soon as possible, but no later than *90 minutes post end of day's play*.
 - iii. As a minimum, Host Clubs are required to enter the following match record information in to SportsTG for respective age divisions;
 - (a) Captains (First Team Men's and Women's) where possible and available.
 - (b) Halftime and Fulltime Score (All Competitions).
 - (c) Goal Scorers and the time in which goals were scored (for all competitions).
 - (d) Infringements (Yellow and Red Cards) Issued (for all competitions); and
 - (e) Substitutions and the time any players were substituted (U23 and First Team Men's and Women's competitions).
- e) Football Queensland will impose a fine on any Home Club who fails to enter the match data as outlined above without appropriate justification.
- f) Referees are to submit all match records to Football Queensland via the provided Microsoft Forms link, no later than 10am on Monday following the weekend fixtures and no later than 10am, on the day following any scheduled mid-week fixture. This is integral in ensuring Match

Official payment. Football Queensland reserves the right to withhold referee payment until this information is received in conjunction with a referee's stipulated role and responsibility.

5.9 Match Commissioners

- a) Football Queensland may appoint Match Commissioners, to scheduled matches, in conjunction with the Football Australia Disciplinary Regulations and Football Queensland Disciplinary Policy.
- b) A Match Commissioner is required to submit a report to Football Queensland on the Club/venue compliance with the Football Operations Manual and Match Day Minimum Standards.
- c) Should a Match Commissioner report non-compliance, a Breach Notice and/ or fine may be issued to the Club who must address and remedy the issues raised within a timeframe agreed upon after consultation with Football Queensland.

5.10 Ground Officials

- a) It is the responsibility of the Home Club to provide a minimum of two (2) Club volunteers to act in the role of 'Ground Official'. Failure to provide the required number of Ground Officials within fifteen (15) minutes of the nominated kick off time will result in the offending Club/Team being fined.
- b) Match Officials must not leave their dressing room to enter the field of play or return to their rooms from the field of play until the identifiable Ground Official is present.
- c) Football Queensland may vary the minimum Ground Official requirements for any Competition Fixture at any time.
- d) The duties of appointed Ground Officials are as below:
 - i. Ground Officials must ensure that FQ competitions are run in a safe and secure environment accordingly to FQ and FA Regulations.
 - ii. General Requirements
 - (a) All Ground Officials must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
 - (b) The Ground Officials must wear an official Ground Official shirt/vest which can be easily identified.
 - (c) Appointed Ground Officials should not be involved in any other duties whilst acting in this capacity (not refereeing, coaching, canteen, or bar duties, etc).

- (d) The Ground Officials must be impartial and consistent when making decisions.
- (e) Ground Officials may be required to submit a report upon request from FQ.

iii. Match Officials Support

- (a) The Ground Official is required to arrive at the Match Officials room 10 minutes prior to kick off.
- (b) If a Ground Official is not present to escort Match Officials to the field, then Match Officials are permitted to stay in the referee room until such time as a Ground Official arrives.
- (c) If a Ground Official is not present to escort the Match Officials by 15 minutes after the scheduled kick off time, the game will be abandoned, and the match may be declared a forfeit.
- (d) The Ground Official will ensure that Match Officials are safely escorted into and from the field of play (Prior to game, half time, full time).
- (e) The Ground Official should work closely with the appointed Match Officials to ensure that the day's activities are completed in the best possible atmosphere for player, spectators, coaches, officials, and match officials.

iv. Spectators/Crowd Control

- (a) The Ground Official must condemn unsporting behaviour ensuring safety and welfare of players, referees and spectators.
- (b) The Ground Official must ensure that spectators are not in prohibited area (i.e. too close to the sidelines, behind the goals, near or on the player benches etc.).
- (c) The Ground Official is to ensure that spectator's behaviour is acceptable in accordance with the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour (no foul language, abusive comments etc.).
- (d) The Ground Official must condemn unsporting behaviour ensuring safety and welfare of players, referees, and spectators.

5.11 Medical Coverage

- a) All Clubs must provide spectator and player medical support service during match days in compliance with the minimum standards contained in the following table:

Age Grades	Responsibility of Coverage
SAP and Girls SAP (U9-U12)	Home Club to Provide
NPL Junior Boy's/NPL Junior Girl's (U13-U16)	Home Club to Provide

NPL Men's/NPL Women's /FQPL1/FQPL2 Seniors (U18/U23)	Home Club to Provide
NPL Men's/NPL Women's /FQPL1/FQPL2 Seniors (First Team)	Both Clubs to Provide

- b) Clubs will not be required to appoint separate individuals to each U9-U16 age division within a League. The requirement is to ensure adequate medical coverage is provided, which by way of example, could be provided by a 'team' of sports trainers shared across all U9-U16 age divisions at a Club.
- c) All Sports Trainers and Physiotherapists must be registered with the Club through the Play Football System.
- d) Minimum standards for NPL Men's, NPL Women's, FQPL1, FQPL2 and SAP Competitions are:

League	Requirements
NPL / FQPL1/FQPL2/NPLW – First Teams	SMA Level 2 Sports Trainer
NPL / FQPL1/FQPL2/NPLW- U23 and U18	SMA Level 1 Sports Trainer
NPL Junior Boy's/Girl's Teams	SMA Level 1 Sports Trainer
SAP	First Aid Certificate (Recommended)

5.12 Media Operations

- a) Due to obligations to Football Queensland partners and rights holders, each Club must ensure that they comply with the 2021 Match Day Deliverables and 2021 Media and Marketing Guidelines, which have been provided by Football Queensland. If you require further information on Media Operations and the Deliverables/Guidelines, please email media@footballqueensland.com.au.
- b) Failure to comply with any article of the 2021 Match Day Deliverables and 2021 Media or Marketing Guidelines will be dealt with under these RoC as per the Table of Offences and/or [Clause 1.3](#).

5.13 Host Venues

- a) The venue for the matches in the Competition will be nominated upon entry and provided by each Club upon their licence agreement stipulations and are subject to inspection and confirmation by Football Queensland.

- b) Should a Home Club's first choice venue not be available for scheduled matches for whatever reason, it is the Home Club's responsibility to secure an alternate venue that meets the Minimum Venue Standards for any affected matches. If required, Football Queensland will inspect and approve this venue for Match Day.
- c) Football Queensland reserves the right to set the most appropriate course of action to conclude the Season, including but not limited to rescheduling matches to the 'Away Club' venue, or to a neutral venue or deeming the fixture a forfeit against the club unable to host.
- d) In all instances any costs incurred in the rescheduling of matches will be the responsibility of the original Home Club.
- e) Venue and field inspections for perspective Final Series hosts will be performed by Football Queensland prior to approval for hosting rights for a match. Any decision to move venues following this inspection will be at the absolute discretion of Football Queensland and not open to appeal.
- f) The selection of venues for all Finals Series matches, including Semi and Grand Finals, will be at the absolute discretion of Football Queensland. A decision to allocate finals series matches will be made based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to venue availability, venue, and field condition, commercial, marketing, and financial considerations.

5.14 Extreme Weather Events

5.14.1 Adverse Weather - Rain

- a) All correspondence by Football Queensland sent to Clubs in relation to wet weather (email/message/phone call) shall be deemed to have been received by Clubs. It is therefore essential for Clubs to do the following:
 - Ensure your Contacts for the Club is up to date with Football Queensland's Club Contacts and in Play Football (under the Organisation menu)
 - Ensure the contact(s) has a supplied a mobile phone number with their contact details to Football Queensland.

Each Club is only responsible for notifying their own Club members of field closures.

- b) On the days prior to the scheduled match day (inclusive of friendlies/sanctioned fixtures), the Home Club is to inspect their venue to ascertain whether the ground will be fit for play as per the schedule. If the field has been closed, the Home Club is to immediately contact Football Queensland, who will then notify the Away Club and the Referee Appointments Officer.

- c) The Home Club is responsible for obtaining and monitoring the weather leading up to and including match day. Weather forecasts can be obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au
- d) On the day of the scheduled match/s, the Home Club is to inspect their venue at **6:00am** or the earliest possible time and decide whether play/fixtures can take place. If the decision is made to cancel the match because of the condition of the field, the HOME Club is required to text Football Queensland on the Mobile Number (**0428 760 622**) no less than three (3) hours prior to the kick-off time, of the first scheduled match of the day. In the event of an 8:30am kick off, the home club is required to advise Football Queensland by 6:30am.
 - i. In the case of matches between Clubs from different geographical zones (e.g., Brisbane v Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast v Toowoomba), the Home Club will be responsible for conveying the relevant information to Football Queensland no later than 3 hours prior to kick-off for any fixtures on match days.
- e) **Matches postponed will be listed in the Ground Closures section on the Football Queensland website. Clubs will NOT be advised by SMS unless there are late postponements.**
- f) If any HOME Club does not abide by the Wet Weather Procedures, they may be deemed to have forfeited the match.
- g) Clubs are advised that Match Official Payments will be paid in full, should match/s be postponed after Match Officials have commenced travel to the venue, so it is imperative that an early decision is made.
- h) Compensation may also be payable to the affected travelling team, as determined by FQ in their sole and absolute discretion.

5.14.2 Adverse Weather - Heat

- a) When high temperatures occur on match day, the Match Referee and/or the Football Queensland delegate may determine:
 - i. To play the match under standard conditions.
 - ii. To play the match with provision for extra breaks for consumption of fluid; or
 - iii. To delay or postpone the match.
- b) The decision to invoke these provisions should be based primarily on an assessment of the potential medical risk of playing in the heat to both Players and Match Officials.

- c) All Clubs, Players and Match Officials are requested to note the following when high temperatures occur on match day;
 - i. If the temperature is 32° or above, water bottles should be made available and placed along the sidelines to enable any player to take a drink during the game; and
 - ii. If conditions are considered extreme by the Match Referee, he or she has discretion to allow a two (2) minute break during each half.
 - iii. Any decision to play a match under altered match conditions can only be made with reference to these published Competition Rules and the Match Day procedures.
- d) To read the full Hot Weather Guidelines refer to the Football Queensland [website](#).

5.14.3 Delayed, Suspended, Abandoned Postponed & Cancelled Matches

- a) If no decision is made as per Section 6, Article 9.1 and one or both Teams and the Match Officials have arrived at the venue, the Match Referee will inspect the field of play and decide whether play can take place:
 - i. At all; or
 - ii. Providing no further rain falls.
- b) The following alternatives apply to matches in relation to severe adverse weather conditions and/or major injury issues;
- c) **Suspend** – a fixture may be suspended but not for an unreasonable length of time;
 - i. Once a match has commenced, the Match Referee has sole responsibility to determine if the match should be suspended or abandoned due to severe adverse weather conditions. The Match Referee has the discretion to confer with the key match day stakeholders prior to the decision being taken.
 - ii. A suspended match may be restarted in accordance with the provisions of Section 5, Article 9.3 (b) (a) (i). This decision will be made at the match venue by the Match Referee.
- d) **Abandoned** – a fixture may be abandoned post commencement with the result to be determined in accordance with Section 5, Article 9.3 (c) (i/ii);
 - a. In the event of a match being abandoned at half-time or during the second (2nd) half of the match due to adverse weather or any cause over which neither Club nor Match Referee has control, the match result at the time of abandonment will be declared the final result.

- b. In the event of a match being abandoned before half-time due to weather conditions or any cause over which neither the Club or Match Referee has control, the match will be declared a postponed match and rescheduled in accordance with Section 5, Article 9.4, 9.4.1 or 9.4.2.
 - c. Any Club who is found to be responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the abandonment of a fixture may be subject to further penalties. In the case of loss of points, the opposing team will be deemed to have won the match by a score of three (3) goals to nil (0), or the actual goal difference, whichever is greater.
- e) **Postponed** – a fixture may be postponed and rescheduled in accordance with Section 4.17.
- f) **Cancelled** – a fixture may be cancelled in accordance with Section 4.20.

5.15 Rescheduling Matches

5.15.1 SAP, Under 13 – Under 16 NPL Junior Boys, Under 14 – Under 16 NPL Women's, U18/U23 NPL Men's, FQPL1, FQPL 2 and U23 NPL Women's

- a) Rescheduling of affected matches will be arranged by the relevant Clubs in the first instance.
- b) SAP fixtures are not required to be rescheduled as they are non-competitive.
- c) Matches are to be rescheduled within forty-eight (48) hours of the postponement, and subject to ground availability and weather conditions must be played within fourteen (14) days of the original scheduled date;
 - i. Where matches involve Gold Coast United, Gold Coast Knights, Sunshine Coast FC, Sunshine Coast Wanderers and SWQ Thunder are to be rescheduled, in consultation with Football Queensland these matches may be moved to a designated catch-up weekend (if available).
 - ii. Matches involving two (2) Sunshine Coast teams or two (2) Gold Coast teams will be rescheduled as per b) listed above.
 - iii. If all catch up weekends have already been exhausted, Football Queensland will determine when and where the affected match/s will be rescheduled.
- d) Once the match details have been agreed upon by both Clubs, the Host Club must submit a Fixture Alteration Form to Football Queensland for approval
 - i. If the rescheduled match details are approved by Football Queensland, affected Clubs will receive confirmation from Football Queensland.
- e) Failure to comply with Section 5.17 may result in Football Queensland rescheduling the match

at a time and place of their choosing

- i. If either Clubs refuses to play a rescheduled match, it may be declared 'cancelled' and dealt with as per 2021 FQ RoC.
- f) Should an entire round of matches be postponed, all matches may be rescheduled to the nearest designated catch-up round.
- i. Should all designated catch up weekends be exhausted, the entire round may be cancelled at the discretion of Football Queensland.
- g) Football Queensland retains the right to make the final decision regarding the rescheduling of all matches.

5.15.2 NPL/NPL Women's/FQPL1 and FQPL2 – First Teams

- a) All First Team matches to be rescheduled will be automatically rescheduled to be played on the on the Tuesday immediately following the originally scheduled match date.
- i. It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that their nominated venue (or another Football Queensland approved venue) is available for the match.
 - ii. In the event, NPL/FQPL1/FQPL2 and NPL Women's First Team are cancelled on the same weekend with the same host Club, Football Queensland will determine which game will be played on Tuesday. The other match will be scheduled on Wednesday.
- b) Football Queensland at its discretion may determine that due to certain circumstances (such as distance between Clubs) that a match may be rescheduled to the nearest designated catch-up weekend or another date as determined by FQ.
- i. If all designated catch-up weekends are exhausted, Football Queensland will determine when and where the affected match/s will be rescheduled.
- c) If the designated Home Club does not have a venue to play night matches or is unable to provide another Football Queensland approved venue to play the match, the match will be played at the nominated venue of the Away Club.
- i. If neither Club has a venue to play the scheduled match, the match will be played at a neutral venue.
- d) If a Club refuses to play a rescheduled match as per these Competition Rules, the match may be declared a forfeit and awarded to the opposition Club as a win with a 3-0 score line.

5.16 Requests to Defer Matches

- a) A Club may seek Football Queensland's permission to have scheduled SAP, Junior and U18/23 Men's matches deferred in the following cases;
 - i. When more than four (4) Players of the same Team are involved in representative outdoor football duties at Football Queensland/Football Federation Australia approved tournaments including state-wide school representative tournaments.
 - ii. At Football Queensland's discretion, other requests deemed 'Exceptional' by Football Queensland may be approved. Deferral requests will be considered on their merit and on a case-by-case basis.
- b) Clubs seeking to defer matches must submit their request for a deferment on the Fixture Alteration Form. Clubs seeking to defer matches must submit their request for a deferment along with details of the rescheduled match date, **giving a minimum 14 business days'** notice of the date on which deferment is being sought.
- c) If Clubs are unable to provide rescheduled match details, Football Queensland will determine the details for the rescheduled match.
- d) Deferred matches not rescheduled and played for whatever reason, before the final round of the regular season will result in the match being cancelled and the result recorded as a nil all draw (0 – 0).

5.17 Forfeited Fixtures

- a) Teams will be deemed to have forfeited a match when:
 - i. They fail to fulfil an engagement to play a match on the appointed date, time or venue;
 - ii. They field less than seven (7) of their registered Players at the start of any match;
 - iii. At any point during the match they cannot field at least seven (7) of their registered Players; or
 - iv. An ineligible Player as defined in these Competition Rules participates in the match.
- b) In the event of any Team forfeiting its match, the following procedure will take effect;
 - i. Full points allocated for the match will be forfeited to the opponent Team and the goals recorded as 3 goals by the Team receiving the points and 0 by the Team who has infringed the regulation, unless the goal difference for the Team receiving the forfeit is

greater than 3, in which case they will receive the number of goals scored for in the match, with the forfeiting Team receiving nil. Any club who elects to forfeit a fixture will also be liable for a forfeit fine/fee on the first instance, and any further instance thereafter.

- ii. Clubs forfeiting on the day of scheduled matches will pay all appropriate Match Officials fees, irrespective of whether the Match Officials were in attendance and pay compensation to the opposing Club. Compensation will be determined by Football Queensland.
 - iii. On a second forfeit, the Club involved will be required to Show Cause as to why they should not be expelled from the Competition, and the Team will, in addition to any fine imposed will forfeit match points should the result have been a win in their favour or a draw.
- c) Should a Team forfeit its last scheduled Premiership match without prior written advice from Football Queensland permitting the match to be rescheduled, the Club that causes the forfeit will be ineligible to win the Premiership.
- d) If a match is forfeited after the scheduled kick-off, the match record will be endorsed accordingly by the Match Referee.

5.18 Decision to Cancel

- a) The decision to cancel and not reschedule a Regular Season match will be made by Football Queensland in its sole and absolute discretion.

A cancelled Regular Season match that is not rescheduled will be recorded as a nil-all draw with both Clubs awarded one (1) point.

6.0 Trophies, Medals and Awards

Football Queensland reserves the right to alter or cancel any and all awards in exceptional circumstances. Should it be determined at any point in time in the opinion of Football Queensland that the conduct or behaviour (including such matters as criminal convictions) of an award winner is such that it is not in the interests of Football Queensland or the sport of Football to allow that person to retain the status of being an award winner, Football Queensland in its discretion may withdraw the award.

- a) Football Queensland will present the following medals and trophies at the conclusion of the 2021 Season for all Senior Competitions of NPL Men's, NPL Women's, FQPL1, FQPL2 (U18, U23, First Team):
 - i. Premiership and Championships Winners:
 - (a) Perpetual Trophy – First Team NPL Men's/NPL Women's/FQPL1/FQPL2 Competitions
 - (b) Replica Trophy or Plaque – All Age Groups/Competitions
 - (c) 25 Medals for All Age Groups/Competitions
 - ii. Runners-Up
 - (a) 25 medals for All Age Groups/Competitions
 - iii. Match Officials
 - (a) 1 Medal per Match Official appointed to the Grand Final (excluding the Referee Assessor, up to 4 medals total- 4th official)
- b) Football Queensland will present the following medals and trophies at the conclusion of the 2021 Tournament Phase for all Junior Competitions of NPL Junior Boys (U13, U14, U15, U16) and NPL Junior Girls (U14, U16):
 - i. Premiership Winners for NPL Junior Girls:
 - (a) Replica Trophy or Plaque – All Junior Age Groups
 - (b) 20 Medals for All Age Groups
 - ii. Premiership (Tournament Phase) for NPL Junior Boys:
 - (a) Replica Trophy or Plaque – All Junior Age Groups
 - (b) 20 Medals for All Age Groups
- c) Other awards for NPL/NPL Women's/FQPL1/FQPL2 First Team include; Golden Boot, Goalkeeper of the Year, Player of the Year, Young Player of the Year, Coach of the Year and Referee of the Year.

- i. A Player is ineligible to win any Individual Awards if the Player is suspended due to receiving a Direct Red Card in a match or due to a Disciplinary Committee Hearing or Match Review Panel into their conduct.
 - ii. A Player may still be included in the Team of the Season if suspended due to receiving a Red Card (Direct or Indirect) in a match or due to a Disciplinary Committee Hearing or Match Review Panel, **subject to the discretion of Football Queensland.**
 - iii. A Player is ineligible to win if they have played, (defined as taken to the field of play), in less than ten (10) First Team matches at the conclusion of the Regular Season.
- d) In 2021, Coaches are required to vote for their own team's best players in a 3-2-1 format. Club Media Managers are responsible for submitting their team's 3-2-1 votes after each match (home and away). Votes must be submitted via the NPL Men's, NPL Women's, FQPL1 and FQPL 2 Coach Votes Submission Form by 9am on the Monday following the weekend's fixtures (or the day following a midweek fixture).
- e) Criteria – Individual Player Awards
- i. The Golden Boot is awarded to the highest goal scorer at the conclusion of the Regular Season.
 - ii. The Goalkeeper of the Year award is awarded to the Goalkeeper who polls the highest number of votes in the Player of the Year voting
 - iii. Player of the Year is awarded to the Player who through the following combination of criteria:
 - (a) Referee 3-2-1 Votes;
 - (b) Team of the Season Votes
 - (c) Any other reasonable justification as determined by Football Queensland. Such as disciplinary record or overall team performance
 - (d) Is determined by Football Queensland as their respective Competitions Player of the Season at the conclusion of the Regular Season.
 - iv. Young Player of the Year is awarded to the Player, aged 21 years or younger (at the conclusion of the Regular Season), who finishes highest in their respective competitions voting for the Player of the Season at the conclusion of the Regular Season.
- f) Criteria – Team of the Season
- i. At the conclusion of the Regular Season, Football Queensland will determine a Team

of the Season for the NPL, NPL Women's, FQPL1 and FQPL2 First Team Competitions. The Team of the Season will be selected through the following criteria:

- ii. A Team of the Season will be cast by the Head Coach of each Club immediately following the conclusion of the Regular Season.
- iii. Should Players be tied on votes in certain positions, Football Queensland may utilize other statistics or highlights available to determine the final Team of the Season.

g) Additional Criteria – Individual Player Awards and Team of the Season

- i. Football Queensland will review all Individual Player Awards and the Team of the Season once voting has been completed and results compiled.
- ii. The top ten vote getters in each award will be brought forward to a panel to review and determine the final winners of each category.

h) The Coach of the Year is awarded to the best NPL, NPL Women's, FQPL1/FQPL2 First Team Coach during the Regular Season.

- i. Votes are cast on a 3-2-1 basis by the Head Coach of each Club immediately following the conclusion of the Regular Season.
- ii. Head Coaches are prohibited from voting for themselves.
- iii. Coach of the Year is awarded to the Coach who through the following combination of criteria:
 - (a) Coaches 3-2-1 Votes.
 - (b) Any other reasonable justification as determined by Football Queensland. Such as overall team performance.

iv. The Coach of the Year Award will be presented to the winner at the conclusion of the Finals Series.

v. A Head Coach is ineligible to win the Coach of the Year if the Head Coach has been suspended as a result of being sent from the Field of Play during a match or as the result of a Disciplinary Committee Hearing. A coach is also ineligible for the award if they have been the Head Coach for less than ten (10) Regular Season matches

i) The Referee of the Year is awarded to the Referee who is judged as the best Referee for the Regular Season:

- i. The award is judged by Football Queensland's State Referees Manager in consultation with the State Referee's Committee

- ii. The Referee of the Year will be presented the award at the conclusion of the Finals Series.
- j) Criteria – Fair Play Awards
 - i. At the conclusion of the Regular Season, Football Queensland will tally the number of yellow cards and red cards received by a Club across their NPL/FQPL1/FQPL2/NPL Women’s teams
 - ii. Yellow Cards will be worth one (1) point and a Red Card will be worth three (3) points. The Club with the lowest point for each competition will be given the Fair Play Award
- k) All perpetual trophies remain the property of Football Queensland.
- l) The Champions/Premiers may retain the Championship/Premiership trophy at the Club premises for three (3) months. Each Championship/Premiership Club is to return the trophy to Football Queensland no later than 5pm on Wednesday 1st September 2021.
- m) Should a perpetual trophy be lost or damaged whilst under the care of the Club, the Club responsible for the loss or damage will be financially responsible for the repair and/or replacement of the trophy.

7.0 Player Points System Rules – Football Queensland

7.1 Scope and Application

- a) These additional rules are to read in conjunction with the National Player Points System Guidelines as distributed by Football Australia (inclusive of FQPL1/FQPL2).
- b) The purpose of these additional rules is to provide clarity to all competing NPL FQPL1 and FQPL2 Clubs when it comes to the Player Point System and the affect it has on competing Queensland Clubs.
- c) Due to the unique nature of the competition structure (NPL Men's/FQPL1/FQPL2) in Queensland, these additional rules will be utilised by FQ as the Competitions Administrator to assist in determining the final point totals for all Clubs throughout the 2021 NPL QLD and FQPL1/FQPL2 seasons.
- d) All Clubs are afforded the opportunity, under the player points system, to submit playing rosters to Football Queensland for review and comment.
- e) Football Queensland will be the final arbiter in relation to the application of the player points system, including the provisions of this section 7 additional player points system rules – Football Queensland. The decision of Football Queensland, in relation to a player point allocation, shall be final and binding. There shall be no appeal from the decision of Football Queensland.

7.2 General Rules

- a) The Player Points System for NPL Men's, FQPL1 and FQPL2 Competitions is as detailed in:
 - i. Player Points System Guidelines – Appendix 1
- b) The above listed documents have been implemented and administered by Football Queensland in conjunction with Football Federation Australia for the National Premier Leagues Queensland and Football Queensland Premier League Competitions.
- c) The Player Points System only applies to NPL and FQPL1/FQPL2 First Teams only.
- d) The maximum points cap for NPL Men's, FQPL1 and FQPL2 First Team Men's Competitions in 2021 is 200.

- e) If a First Team participates in a Competition match whilst over the 200 point limit the match will be awarded as a 3-0 win to the opposition.
- f) Breach of the PPS during the season, either via fielding an ineligible player, falling below the minimum player roster requirement of 20, or upgrading players that result in First Team players more than the maximum, will result in a forfeit against the offending team.
- g) Players can only be added to the Club's roster during the registration windows set out in Section 2. Football Queensland and FA reserve the right to alter the Player Points System to cope with unforeseen circumstances.

7.3 New/Promoted Clubs

- a) Football Queensland has determined that the following Clubs are eligible for the new/promoted Club point deduction in 2021:
 - i. Logan Lightning
- b) This point deduction is only applicable for the 2021 NPL season.
- c) FQPL2 clubs are not eligible for any points deduction as all eight (8) clubs begin the season and PPS with the same number of points.

7.4 Switching Players

- a) Under the Player Points Systems, Players who switch Clubs from either 2020 to 2021 or during the 2021 season will incur Switching Player Point additions as per the PPS.
- b) Below is a list of the possible Switching Player Point scenarios in the NPL QLD and FQPL Competitions in 2021:
 - i. Inter Competition
 - (a) If a Player switches from an FQPL Club to an NPL Club or vice versa for the 2021 season or during the 2021 season that Player will not be subject to the Switching Player Point category under the Player Points System.
 - ii. Interstate NPL to NPL QLD
 - (a) Any Player who moves from an interstate NPL Competition (i.e., NPL NSW), regardless of division, to the NPL, FQPL1 or FQPL2 for the 2021 Season or during the 2021 Season will be subject to the Switching Player Points category under the Player Points System.

- (b) If a Player comes from an interstate Club that is not classified as a National Premier Leagues competition (i.e., Football Federation South Australia State League 1), that Player will not be subject to the Switching Player Points category.
- iii. Other Competitions to NPL/FQPL
 - (a) Any Player who comes from outside the NPL or FQPL for the 2021 Season or during the 2021 season (and is not covered by another section of these additional rules or further definitions of the Player Points System) may be subject to the Switching Player Points category under the Player Points System. This includes professionally registered players previously playing in an overseas/international competition.
- iv. Intra Competition
 - (a) Any Player who changes Club for the 2021 Season or during the 2021 Season within the same Competition (FQPL to FQPL or NPL to NPL) will be subject to the Switching Player Points category under the Player Points System, provided the Player has taken the field in at least one (1) First Team NPL or FQPL match.
- v. New Clubs to NPL
 - (a) Any Player who switches from Logan Lightning to another NPL QLD Club before the 2021 Season will not be subject to the Switching Player Points category.
- c) If the Player switches from Logan Lightning to another NPL QLD Club after having registered for the 2021 Season, that Player will be subject to the Switching Player Points category, provided the Player has taken to the field in at least one (1) First Team NPL match.

8.0 Table of Offences and Penalties

- a) Set out below are the range of penalties which may be imposed by Football Queensland in relation to breaches of the official Rules of Competition (RoC).
- b) The table sets out the minimum and maximum sanction.
- c) The decision of Football Queensland shall be final. There shall be no right of appeal from such decision.
- d) Football Queensland may exercise such discretion as it deems fit in relation to the imposition of the penalty.

Section	Rule	Minimum Sanction	Maximum Sanction
2 - Code of Conduct and Registration	Pertaining to any element of eligibility, ineligible players, code of conduct breach or forfeit	\$500 per forfeit - SAP, U13-U23 Boys, U13-U23 Girls \$2000 per forfeit – First Team Men’s and First Team Women’s	\$5000 per team, expulsion of team from competition, or any other penalty as FQ sees fit
3 – Player Movement	Section 3	\$100	\$1000
5 –Match Day Procedures	Technical Area	\$50	\$1000
5 –Match Day Procedures	Match Balls	\$200 Per Match	
5 –Match Day Procedures	Match Official Welfare	\$50	\$5000
5 –Match Day Procedures	Match Records	\$50	\$200
5 –Match Day Procedures	Match Commissioners	\$50	\$2000
5 –Match Day Procedures	Ground Officials	\$50	\$500
5 –Match Day Procedures	Medical Coverage	\$100	\$500
5 –Match Day Procedures	Media Operations	\$50	\$500

9.0 Definitions and Interpretation

Abandoned Match means a Competition Fixture which has commenced but was stopped by the Match Official prior to its conclusion.

Accreditation Pass means a pass distributed by Football Queensland to Accredited Coaches, Team Managers and any other person as determined by Football Queensland.

Away Club means the Club not playing the match at its home ground and / or appearing second on the fixture list in the event a match is conducted at a neutral venue.

Board means the Directors of Football Queensland appointed or elected from time to time.

Cancelled Match means a match that has been deferred, postponed, abandoned, or suspended and is unable to be rescheduled before season's ends.

Championship means the final series conducted at the completion of the Premiership in accordance with the Football Queensland RoC.

Club means a Club that has been accepted to participate in the Competition and holds a current Participation Licence or Memorandum of Understanding.

Club Official means any person involved with the administration, management, or organisation of a Club (whether paid or unpaid), including employees, contractors, directors, representatives, and volunteers. All Key Personnel are Club Officials.

Coach Any person with the required qualifications registered with Football Queensland to control a football teams training and match performance.

Competitions means any or all the football matches or competitions conducted by Football Queensland.

Cup Fixture means any knock-out cup match, fixture or other event organised and/or administered by Football Queensland or FA before, after or in conjunction with a Regular Season and includes but is not limited to the FA Cup.

Deferred Match means a match that is not able to be played as scheduled and is deferred 15 days prior to the scheduled match day.

Division means a particular age group or level within all Football Queensland competitions.

Eligible Women's Team means a team playing in a sanctioned FQ or Zone level Senior Competition

and as approved by Football Queensland.

FA means Football Australia Limited, the governing body for football (soccer) in Australia.

Field of Play (FOP) means:

At an enclosed pitch, the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or at an open pitch, the entire area within three (3) metres of the boundary line of the football pitch.

FIFA means Federation Internationale de Football Association, its successor or assignee.

Final means a competitive match played to determine a winner of a match that forms part of a Finals Series administered by Football Queensland.

Finals Series means a set of competitive fixtures played separate to the Regular Season to determine the winner of the Championship as administered by Football Queensland.

First Team see NPL Men's/NPL Women's First Team or FQPL1/FQPL 2 First Team where relevant.

Fixture Suspensions means a suspension imposed on a participant that prevents them from being involved in subsequent match/s.

Forfeit means the definition given in these RoC.

FQ means Football Queensland as the governing body.

FQ By-Law 11 means the Football Queensland Grievance, Discipline and Tribunal By-Law (as amended from time to time).

FQPL1 means all Football Queensland Premier League competitions participated in by Queensland Clubs and is specific to the first tier of FQPL1.

FQPL2 means all Football Queensland Premier League 2 competitions (First Team and U23) participated in by Queensland Clubs.

FQPL Club has the same meaning as 'Club' in the Football Queensland Constitution, however, is specific to a Club that has signed a Participation Licence and in competing in the Football Queensland Premier League Competitions and comprises FQPL1 and FQPL2.

FQPL1/FQPL2 First Team means the top tier of senior men's FQPL Competitions.

Goal Difference means the difference between goals scored by a Club/Team (Goals For) and goals scored against a Club/Team (Goals Against) in a match or season.

Home Club means the Club playing the fixture or match at its home ground and/or appearing first on the fixture list in the event a match is conducted at a neutral venue.

Host Club means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at its home venue, whether that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals Series matches or not.

IFAB means International Football Association Board, its successor or assignee.

Illuminance (Lux) means the total amount of visible light illuminating at a point on a surface from all directions above the surface. The standard unit of luminance is Lux (lx). For a lamp it normally refers to the total-light emitted irrespective of the directions in which it is distributed.

Invited Player/s means Players registered to a Regional based Club participating in a Football Queensland administered Competition.

ITC (International Transfer Certificate) is a certificate provided from one national association to another to facilitate the transfer of a player between countries.

Laws of the Game (LOTG) means the official laws of the game of football and futsal as endorsed by IFAB and FIFA.

League means a competition conducted by Football Queensland comprised of specific gender and age divisions, as declared by the Football Queensland Board.

Match means any match played in a Football Queensland Competition, Cup, other event, or tournament under Football Queensland's control.

Match Commissioner means an independent person of the two (2) participating Clubs appointed by FQ, as also defined in the FQ By Laws and FA National Disciplinary Regulations where required.

Match Official means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by FA, Football Queensland, a Referee's Body or a Club to assume responsibility in connection with a match.

Match Record means the official log (hard copy) of the Competition Fixture recording all match details including participants and results.

Misconduct is defined as unsporting, rude, offensive, or aggressive behaviour against officials, competitor players, coaches, or fans.

No Result means recording a nil all score line in a Competitive Fixture with no points or goals awarded to either team. A 'No Result' is recorded as a Competition Fixture played.

Non-Participation in a Fixture means a player listed on the official Competitive Fixture (Match Record) who did not take to the Field of Play (FOP) during the match.

Normal Time means the maximum length of two (2) equal periods not including added time as specified in Section 5 unless any time reduction is otherwise determined by Match Officials.

NPL means all National Premier League's competitions participated in by Queensland Clubs.

NPL Juniors means all teams as represented by clubs in the U13-U16 NPL Junior Boys and NPL Junior Girls competition structures.

NPL Men's/NPL Women's First Team means the top grade of the senior Men's and Women's NPL Competitions.

NPL National Finals Series means the national playoff competition administered by FA in the post season.

NPL Club has the same meaning as 'Club' in the Football Queensland Constitution, however, is specific to a Club that has signed a Participation Licence and in competing in National Premier Leagues Competitions.

Participation Licence means the non-exclusive licence agreement acquiesced by a Club and Football Queensland for the Club to enter teams into the NPL, NPL Women's, FQPL1, FQPL2 and SAP Competitions/Leagues.

Playoff Match means a Competitive Fixture played to determine the final standings of a League or the eligibility for promotion/relegation of a Team between Leagues.

Played means the same as defined in the RoC.

Player Pathway Program means the Football Queensland/Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) program for Youth (Junior) Girls and the Talent Support Program for Youth (Junior) Boys (if determined) or any equivalent interstate or overseas programs (girls/boys).

Player Points Cap means the total number of points permitted for each Club under the Player Points System.

Player Points System (PPS) means the Player Points System as distributed by Football Federation Australia and interpreted and administered by Football Queensland.

Postponed means a Competition Fixture that does not commence as scheduled.

Premiership means the round robin matches (both home and away) that a team competes in during

a Regular Season in accordance with the Football Queensland RoC.

Professional Player means a player registered with a football Club under a written NRR05 Professional Player Contract to play football for reward other than payment for sundry expenses such as travelling to and from a football activity. Every other player is an Amateur Player.

Regional means a Club or Participant registered to a Football Queensland Member Zones (not inclusive of Football Brisbane, Football Queensland South West, Sunshine Coast Football and Football Gold Coast, or clubs that fall within those geographical boundaries i.e. they do not constitute a 'Regional' club or participant.

Registered means a Player or Club Official who is registered in accordance with the applicable Football Queensland Registration Regulations, and/or FA National Registration Regulations, including without limitation seeking an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) where applicable.

Regular Season means the time and Competition Fixtures the first and last round of the relevant competition and does not include Finals Series.

Regulations means the Football Queensland Disciplinary Regulations or any applicable FQ/FA Regulations.

Rules of Competition (RoC) means these Football Queensland Rules of Competition which apply to the National Premier Leagues Men's, National Premier Leagues Queensland Women's, Football Queensland Premier League Men, Football Queensland Premier League 2 Men, NPL Junior Boys, NPL Junior Girls, FFA Cup, Kappa Women's Super Cup or relevant competitions and SAP competitions and/or Leagues, administered by Football Queensland for Men's Football, Women's Football and Junior Football, as amended and updated by Football Queensland from time to time.

SAP Licence means a licence granted to a Club to participate strictly in the 2021 SAP competition as administered by Football Queensland.

Sanctioned Match means any match/s Football Queensland approves to be played in accordance with the Football Queensland Sanctioning Policy. This includes matches to which Football Queensland does not appoint Match Officials to.

Team means a Football Team entered by a Club to play in Football Queensland Competitions.

Team Official means any person involved with the management, preparation, or participation of a team (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff, other support staff or any other person acting for or on behalf of a Club.

Technical Area is as defined in the LOTG and Venue Standards Minimum Requirements document.

Tribunal means the specialist, independent panel of appointed members that hears and determines allegations of Misconduct. Tribunal cases may include on- field Misconduct, Suspensions and Member Protection matters, and /or other Misconduct offences as warranted by Football Queensland to the jurisdiction as prescribed by the Football Queensland By-Law 11.

Unregistered means a player or Club Official who is not registered in the National Online Registration System

Visa Player means a player who is not an Australian Citizen, Permanent Resident of Australia and/or resident in Australia on a 'permanent' Visa Class issued by the Australian Government.

Appendix 1 – NPL Men’s/FQPL1/FQPL2 Player Points System Guidelines



NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES

PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM | 2021

Football Australia – National Premier Leagues (and Professional)

A key outcome of the National Competitions Review (**NCR**) conducted in 2012 was the introduction of the Player Points System (**PPS**) to complement the Club Licensing framework for the National Premier Leagues (**NPL**) and below. The objectives of the PPS are to:

- Provide greater opportunities to Australian Players;
- Promote a greater focus on the importance of youth development;
- Ensure Player salaries remain at levels which ensure the long-term sustainability of NPL Clubs;
- Promote Players through the Club youth development structures;
- Increase the stability of NPL Club Player Rosters;
- Maintain competitive balance and parity amongst the NPL Clubs;
- Incentivise Players progressing through to national elite pathway teams (**National Elite Pathway Team**) to return to their original NPL Clubs; and
- Reward Clubs who develop Players that progress through to a National Elite Pathway Team.

The PPS encourages NPL Clubs to simultaneously promote greater focus on youth development whilst delivering the outcomes and objectives of the NCR.

The PPS distinguishes between two distinct types of **NPL Club** teams: those upon which an age restriction is placed (e.g. U16s, U18s, U23s) (**NPL Club Age-Eligible Team**) and the NPL Club’s senior team, being the **First Team**.

The PPS points cap (**Points Cap**) applies to each NPL Club’s First Team Player Roster (**First Team Player Roster**) and this First Team is required to remain within the Points Cap at all times.

The Points Cap for the 2021 season will be set by each Member Federation, in consultation with FFA, up to a maximum of 200 points.

Each Player is, as a starting point, attributed a points value of 10 points, after which his points value is adjusted depending on certain characteristics which result in points being added to or deducted from the Player's points value. A Player's points value cannot be less than 0 points.

Promoting Players from the NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams onto the First Team Player Roster is permitted in limited circumstances as outlined further in the Explanatory Notes and Guidelines under First Team Player Roster Requirements.

PLAYER POINTS SYSTEM

Category	Points Adjustment	Criteria
Youth Player	-1 for each year the Player is under 23 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Youth Player is 22 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season. • In relation to a Player's age, one (1) point is deducted from the Player's points value for each year the Player is under 23 years of age. • The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points.
Visa Player	+10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Visa Player is any Player who is not an Australian Player. • Ten (10) points is added to a Player's points value if that Player is a Visa Player. • A Visa Player will only incur a maximum of 20 points on a First Team Player Roster and will not otherwise be subject to the Switching Player category. • A Visa Player may still benefit from the other categories of the PPS (e.g. Youth Player). • A NPL Club can have a maximum of two (2) Visa Players on their First Team Player Roster at any one time.
Homegrown Player	-1 for each season registered with the NPL Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Homegrown Player is a Player that has been registered for any period during a season with his NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams. • One (1) point is deducted from the Player's points value for each season the Player was registered with his NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams. • The maximum adjustment to a Player's points value under this category is minus five (5) points.
Loyalty Player	-1 for each continuous season with the NPL Club's First Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Loyalty Player is a Player that has registered for his NPL Club's First Team for at least five (5) continuous seasons. • One (1) point is deducted from a Player's points value for each season, starting from his fifth continuous season, in which the Player is registered for the NPL Club's First Team.

Switching Player	+5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five (5) points is added to a Player's points value if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> he was registered as a professional with his previous Club (this does not apply to the nominated Australian Marquee Player(s) or to a National Elite Pathway Loan Player); or he was registered in the NPL as an amateur with his previous NPL Club and he played ten (10) or more games in that NPL Club's First Team in the most recent NPL season (unless the Player's last registration was with a National Elite Pathway Team).
	+3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three (3) points is added to a Player's points value if he was registered in the NPL as an amateur with his previous NPL Club and played in less than ten (10) games in that NPL Club's First Team in the most recent NPL season (unless the Player's last registration was with a National Elite Pathway Team).
	+2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two (2) points is added to a Player's points value if he is an Australian Player and his last registration was as an amateur with an overseas Club.
	+1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One (1) point is added to a Player's points value if the Player was last registered as an amateur with a National Elite Pathway Team and registers for a NPL Club other than their NPL Club of origin (i.e. the NPL Club he was registered with prior to that National Elite Pathway Team).
National Elite Pathway Loan Player	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Player will not incur Switching Player points if they are loaned to an NPL Club from a National Elite Pathway Team, provided they are an Australian Player 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.
Pathway Player	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No points are added to, or deducted from, a Player's points value only by virtue of that Player having left an NPL Club to join a National Elite Pathway Team and having returned to the same NPL Club.
Australian Marquee Player	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Australian Marquee Player is an Australian Player that was registered as a professional Player for an A-League Club or an overseas Club immediately prior to registering with the NPL Club. The Australian Marquee Player will only incur a maximum of ten (10) points on a First Team Player Roster and will not otherwise be subject to the Switching Player category. The Player can benefit from the other categories of the PPS (i.e. Homegrown Player). An NPL Club can have a maximum of two (2) Players on its First Team Player Roster nominated as Australian Marquee Players at any one time. If an NPL Club has two (2) Australian Marquee Players on its First Team Player Roster, at least one (1) of these Players must be 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.

Points Deductions

An NPL Club's Points Total can be decreased in accordance with the following provisions:

Category	Points Bonus	Criteria
Youth Player Advancement	-3 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is permanently transferred to a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's Age-Eligible Teams. • The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season.
First Team Player Loan	-3 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is subsequently registered on Loan to a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster. • The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season.
First Team Player Advancement	-8 per Player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight (8) points may be deducted from a NPL Club's Points Total for each registered Player that is permanently transferred to a National Elite Pathway Team from the NPL Club's First Team Player Roster. • The points deduction will only apply for one (1) NPL season, which must be applied in either the NPL season that the relevant Player moves to the National Elite Pathway Team, or the next NPL season.
Promoted Club	-20 per Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Promoted Club will receive a deduction of 20 points from their Points Total. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first season following promotion into, or being granted a licence to participate in, the NPL.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

The general definitions are provided for ease of reference.

The following discussion points and examples are intended to provide Member Federations and NPL Clubs with further clarity with respect to each of the PPS categories.

General Definitions

First Team

First Team means the NPL Club's senior team participating in the NPL.

First Team Player Roster

First Team Player Roster means the roster of Players for a NPL Club's First Team maintained in accordance with the Player Points System and any other NPL, FQPL1, FQPL2 Rules of Competition provided by the applicable Member Federation.

Loan

Loan means the temporary transfer of a Player's registration from the Parent Club to the Loan Club, effected in accordance with the FFA National Registration Regulations.

Loan Club

Loan Club means the Club to which the registration of a Player subject to a Loan is, will be, or has been temporarily transferred from a Parent Club for the term of a Loan.

National Elite Pathway Team

A National Elite Pathway Team is a team which participates in the National Elite Pathway, as determined by the FFA Technical Department and the Member Federations from time to time. Points are credited for the movement of Players through the National Elite Pathway.

For the purposes of the PPS, a team is a National Elite Pathway Team if they are one of the following:

- A-League Club including Academy team's participating in the NPL and or, the A-League Team;
- Foxtel Y-League team; or
- National Training Centre team (full-time programs only).

NPL

NPL means the national men's second tier club competition staged in each Member Federation in Australia and includes the NPL Finals Series.

NPL Club Age-Eligible Teams

NPL Club Age-Eligible teams are the teams that sit below the NPL Club First Team as determined by each Member Federation.

For clarity:

- where NPL Competitions commence from Under 12s, these include Under 12s through to Under 23s
- where NPL Competitions commence from Under 13s, these include Under 13s through to Under 23s

NPL Club

NPL Club means any entity admitted by a Member Federation to field a team in the NPL.

NPL Finals Series

NPL Finals Series is the national eight (8) team knockout competition staged by, or under the control of, FFA between the State Premiers of each Member Federation's National Premier League and is comprised of the Elimination Finals, Semi Finals and Grand Final or any other configuration as determined by FFA from time to time.

Parent Club

Parent Club means the Club from which the registration of a Player subject to a Loan is, will be, or has been temporarily transferred to a Loan Club for the term of a Loan.

PPS or Player Points System

PPS or Player Points System means the system for calculating NPL Club's player points as set out in Schedule C of the NPL Finals Series – RoC and in this document.

Points Cap

Points Cap means the permitted total value of a NPL Club's Points Total, as determined by the Member Federation, in consultation with FFA, up to a maximum of 200 points.

Points Total

Points Total means the sum of all points attributed to all Players on a NPL Club's First Team Player Roster at any given time.

Promoted Club

A Promoted Club means:

- (a) a club promoted into the NPL from a lower tier competition, including a lower division of
- (b) the NPL or, is an entity granted a licence to participate in the NPL for the first time.

State Premiers

State Premiers means the NPL Club who is premier of the relevant Member Federation's NPL Regular Season by being top of the table at the end of the NPL Regular Season.

Explanatory Notes

NPL Club First Team Player Roster Requirements

- At all times during a NPL season, a NPL Club must include a minimum of 20 Players on its First Team Player Roster and may include a maximum of 23 Players on its First Team Player Roster.
- All Players must be registered to the appropriate age-category (where applicable). Any Player who during the NPL 2021 Season exceeds the age-limit for the oldest NPL Age-Eligible Team at an NPL Club (e.g. U20), must be included on his NPL Club's First Team Player Roster.

Youth Player

Please refer to the table below in respect to the relevant point deductions in the Youth Player category:

<i>Player's Age as at 31 December in current NPL season</i>	<i>Points Deduction</i>
22 years old (1999)	-1
21 years old (2000)	-2
20 years old (2001)	-3
19 years old (2002)	-4
18 years old (2003)	-5

Australian Player

An Australian Player is any Player

- (c) who is: a citizen of Australia;
- (d) a Permanent Resident of Australia (where Permanent Resident means a person residing in Australia on a "permanent" visa class issued by the Australian Government, evidenced by either the person's Visa Grant Notice or as a listed entitlement on the person's online Visa Entitlement Verification); or
- (e) the holder of a refugee visa, humanitarian visa or protection visa issued by the Australian government. For further details see: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.

Visa Player

- Member Federations and NPL Clubs are encouraged to refer to the following website for further clarification regarding visas: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.
- For the purposes of the PPS, a New Zealand Citizen is classified as a Visa Player unless he satisfies the definition of an Australian Player. Please refer to the Department of Home Affairs for further clarification regarding the visa status of New Zealand Citizens in Australia: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>.
- Any Player participating in the NPL with a A-League Club who has been permitted to play in the Foxtel Y-League as an “FYL Australian Player” will, for the purposes of the PPS, be deemed an Australian Player.

Homegrown Player

- A Player does not need to register in continuous seasons in a NPL Club’s Age-Eligible Teams to be eligible for Homegrown Player points.
- Example: For a Player who was registered for the NPL Club in the U14s and U16s but was not registered with the NPL Club in the U18s to U23s, a total of two (2) points will be deducted from his points value for the current season.
- A Player is eligible for Homegrown Player points at the same time as being eligible for Loyalty Player points.
- For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is eligible to receive a points deduction as a Homegrown Player where that Player was registered to the NPL Club’s Age Eligible Teams, prior to that NPL Club being granted an NPL licence.
- Example: Prior to Club A being granted a licence to participate in the NPL, John Smith is registered to the age-eligible teams of Club A between 2011 and 2014 in the state league competition. On that basis, a total of four (4) points will be deducted from his points value for the current season.

Loyalty Player

- Example: A Player is registered with a NPL Club’s First Team in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (continuous seasons). If also registered in 2021, he will be eligible to receive his first point reduction of one (1) point as a Loyalty Player in the 2021 season.
- If a Player is not registered with any Club for a season and subsequently returns to his last NPL Club, the number of continuous seasons of registering for that NPL Club will be deemed to be continuous.
- Example: A Player was registered with the same NPL Club in 2017, 2018 and 2019 (continuous seasons), however was not registered with any Club in 2020. If the Player registers with that NPL Club in 2021, it will be deemed to be his fourth continuous season with that NPL Club.
- Should a Player move into a National Elite Pathway Team, the determination of the continuous seasons of service will not be deemed to have ceased if he returns to his previous NPL Club. During the Player’s time in the National Elite Pathway Team, the calculation of continuous seasons of service will be suspended.
- Example: Player John Smith of NPL Club A has been part of the First Team squad for three (3) continuous seasons. He then moves to an A-League Club for two (2) years and then at the completion of his stint with that A-League Club, he returns to NPL Club A. This season with NPL Club A will be deemed his fourth continuous season.

Switching Player

- In the event that a Player is a Switching Player, he can only be classified in one (1) category (e.g., a Player cannot incur Switching Player points in two (2) different categories).
- For the purposes of Switching Player points, played means taking the field of play (i.e. part of the starting eleven or taking the field as a substitute).
- Where a Player was registered with a NPL Club (**Former NPL Club**) and subsequently:
 - registers with a Club that does not participate in the NPL, A-League or FYL (**non-NPL Club**); and
 - having not played for the non-NPL Club in a competitive match seeks to register with a subsequent NPL Club (**Subsequent NPL Club**);
 - the Member Federation or FFA may attribute Switching Player Points for that Player upon registration with the Subsequent NPL Club as if the Player had transferred directly from the Former NPL Club to the Subsequent NPL Club.
- The Subsequent NPL Club may apply to FFA or the Member Federation (whichever is applicable) to justify the reasons as to why Switching Player points should not apply.
- The Member Federation has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply where the Member Federation is the Competition Administrator.
- FFA has the right to determine in its sole and absolute discretion as to whether Switching Player points will apply in the event that the NPL Club qualifies for the national NPL Finals Series.
- Switching Player points also apply for mid-season registrations and transfers, including a Player promoted from a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Team.
- Where a Player is promoted from a NPL Club's Age-Eligible Team (or equivalent) to a NPL Club's First Team Player Roster during the season, Switching Player Points will be applied where the Player's registration immediately prior (e.g. earlier in the 2021 season) or in the previous NPL season was with another NPL Club.
- A Player will not incur Switching Player points if they are on Loan to an NPL Club from a National Elite Pathway Team, provided the Player is 23 years of age or younger as at 31 December of the current NPL season.

National Elite Pathway Loan Player

- A National Elite Pathway Loan Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (other than the Switching Player category). For example, a National Elite Pathway Loan Player is eligible for Loyalty Player points and Homegrown Player points.

Pathway Player

- A Pathway Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (other than the Switching Player category). For example, a Pathway Player is eligible for Loyalty Player points and Homegrown Player points.
- A Player who departs a NPL Club for a National Elite Pathway Team and returns to the same NPL Club will be classified as a Pathway Player provided the Player has remained within the National Elite Pathway for the duration of their absence from the relevant NPL Club.

Example A: *Player history of John Smith – Eligible Pathway Player*
2018 - *Registered with United FC (NPL Club)*
2019 - *Registered with Perth Glory (FYL)*
2020 - *Registered with Brisbane Roar (A-League)*
2021 - *Registered with United FC (NPL Club)*

Example B: *Player history of Mark Jones – Ineligible Pathway Player*
2018 - *Registered with United FC (NPL Club)*
2019 - *Registered with Perth Glory (FYL)*
2020 - *Registered with Thailand FC (Overseas)*
2021 - *Registered with United FC (NPL Club)*

Australian Marquee Player

An Australian Marquee Player is subject to all other categories of the PPS (e.g. Homegrown Player) but will not be subject to the Switching Player category:

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b) below, a Player may only be categorised as an Australian Marquee Player in his first season with the NPL Club and for one (1) season only in his career for that NPL Club. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player is not able to be an Australian Marquee Player in his second season in the NPL with that NPL Club.
- (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) immediately above, if a Player is categorised as an Australian Marquee Player for an NPL Club, he then transfers as a professional to an A-League Club or overseas Club and then subsequently returns to the NPL and seeks to register for an NPL Club (either the same or different NPL Club), he is eligible to be categorised as an Australian Marquee.

Points Deduction – Youth Player Advancement

Example: A NPL Club has an U14 team Player and an U20 team Player signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have:

- (a) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from this season's Points Total;
- (b) three (3) points deducted (-3 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total;
- (c) Total; or six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from next season's Points Total.

Points Deduction – First Team Player Loan

Example: A NPL Club has two (2) First Team Players signed on Loan this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to have

- (a) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from this season's Points Total;
- (b) three (3) points deducted (-3) from this season's and next season's Points Total; or
- (c) six (6) points deducted (-6 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total.

Points Deduction – First Team Player Advancement

Example: A NPL Club has two (2) First Team Players signed this season by a National Elite Pathway Team. The NPL Club can choose to

- (a) have sixteen points deducted (-16 points) from this season's Points Total;
- (b) eight (8) points deducted (-8 points) from this season's and next season's Points Total;
- (c) Total; or sixteen points deducted (-16 points) from next season's Points Total.

Points Deduction – Promoted Club

This category applies to Clubs promoted into the NPL or an entity granted a licence to participate in the NPL for the first time. This points deduction only applies for the Promoted Club's first season following promotion into, or being granted a licence to participate in, the NPL.