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# **2025 KAPPA PRO SERIES RULES OF COMPETITION**

## Version Control

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## Approval

**Delegation required for approval:** Chief Executive Officer

**Approving Officer Name:** Robert Cavallucci

**Position:** Chief Executive Officer

**Dated:** 7/11/2024

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

In 2025, Football Queensland (FQ) will run the Kappa Pro Series, alongside all Football Queensland sanctioned and administered competitions. All Clubs participating in the Kappa Pro Series are bound and required to adhere to Football Queensland's 2025 Advanced Rules of Competition as communicated by Football Queensland. These Kappa Pro Series Supplementary Regulations shall apply to all Kappa Pro Series fixtures administered by Football Queensland and may be amended by Football Queensland at any time.

Entry into the Men's Competition is mandatory for all 12 NPL Men's clubs and all 12 FQPL 1 Men's clubs and all affiliated clubs are automatically entered into the draw.

Entry into the Women's Competition is mandatory for all 10 FQPL 1 Women's clubs and all 10 FQPL 2 Women's clubs and all affiliated clubs are automatically entered into the draw.

A combination of weekend and midweek matches will be played throughout the 2025 Season, per the Season Calendar and at Football Queensland's sole and absolute discretion.

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# **1 GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 1.1 These Regulations are to be read in conjunction with the Football Queensland 2025 Advanced Rules of Competition, relevant Football Queensland Regulations, Policies and By Laws and FA's Statutes and Regulations (including National Disciplinary Regulations, National Registration Regulations and Football Queensland Disciplinary Regulations). In the event of an omission or inconsistency between these Regulations and the 2025 Advanced Rules of Competition, Football Queensland will determine and rule on the interpretation.
- 1.2 For the 2025 Kappa Pro Series competitions, a pool draw filmed by Football Queensland will determine the composition of the teams in each Pool for the group stages of the tournament. The top two qualifying teams from each pool will then progress to the Quarter Final stage

# **2 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- 2.1 Players are only eligible to play for one club/team during the Kappa Pro Series. In the event a player changes clubs, they will be cup-tied to their previous club. A player shall only be deemed to have played in a Cup match if he takes the field of play. Football Queensland reserves the right to determine the outcome in the event of any confusion or exceptional circumstances pertaining to a player's eligibility.
- 2.2 To be eligible to participate in the Kappa Pro Series, male players must be turning at least 16 years old in 2025, female players must be turning at least 15 years old in 2025, unless an application to Football Queensland is made by the player's club on behalf of the player and has been approved by Football Queensland.
- 2.3 Clubs participating in the Kappa Pro Series Men (NPL and FQPL1 Men's clubs) must comply with the Player Points System & Player Roster requirements, including Visa Player restrictions as prescribed in the 2025 Advanced Rules of Competition.
- 2.4 All players participating in the Kappa Pro Series Men must have registered before or during the Men's Professional Registration windows. Any player who is not ordinarily eligible for League fixtures due to their registration date being after a Registration Window, will also not be eligible for any Kappa Pro Series Men fixtures.
- 2.5 Clubs participating in the Kappa Pro Series Women must comply with the Player Roster requirements, including Visa Player restrictions as prescribed in the 2025 Advanced Rules of Competition.

### **3 SUBSTITUTION REGULATIONS**

- 3.1 The competition will be played under the Substitution Rule. Teams may only list a maximum of 17 players on the Squadi teamsheet.
- 3.2 Each team can make up to five (5) substitutions in any Kappa Pro Series match, with no more than six (6) substitutes listed on the Match Sheet (inclusive of the reserve Goalkeeper).
- 3.3 To reduce disruption, each team will have a maximum of three (3) opportunities to make substitutions during the game. Substitutions may also be made at half-time without it counting as one of the 3 opportunities.
- 3.4 In the Finals Series the following substitution rule will apply. Should the match proceed to extra time in the Finals Series (in conjunction with rule 6) teams are permitted to utilise one additional substitution opportunity (whether or not the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes or substitution opportunities).

### **4 FIXTURING & MATCHDAY REQUIREMENTS**

- 4.1 Football Queensland will fixture the Kappa Pro Series group stages as required, with clubs in each pool to play each other once.
- 4.2 Football Queensland may at its sole and absolute discretion deem that a fixture be played at a neutral venue or regionally. If a fixture is played regionally, Football Queensland will converse with both clubs involved in the fixture regarding any travel arrangements & associated costs on a case by case basis.
- 4.3 Football Queensland will pre determine the Quarter Final & Semi Final matchups which will be based on final standings in each Pool. This will be communicated to clubs at the time of the Pool draw.
- 4.4 Football Queensland will be responsible for the final determination of the scheduling of all fixtures at its sole and absolute discretion.
- 4.5 There will be no extra time played in the pool stages of the Competition in the event of a draw at the conclusion of normal time.

- a. Games are to be 2 x 45-minute halves in conjunction with IFAB Laws of the Game.
  - b. After normal time in each half, the match official may add on Injury/Stoppage Time as they see fit/as is required.
- 4.6 A result must be obtained in the Quarter Final, Semi Final and Final. In addition to rule 5, if the scores are equal at full time, then:
- a. 2 x 15-minute extra time periods will be played in full.
  - b. Should the scores remain even after extra time, penalty kicks in accordance with IFAB regulations will be taken to determine the winner.

## 5 MATCH BALLS

- 5.1 Clubs **must** use Mitre branded Match Balls for all fixtures in the Kappa Pro Series competition (minimum level of Mitre Delta match balls).

## 6 RESCHEDULING MATCHES

- 6.1 Any applications to reschedule a fixture outside of wet weather must be made in accordance with the 2025 Advanced Rules of Competition. Football Queensland will make the final decision on the rescheduling of any fixture in its sole and absolute discretion.
- 6.2 All matches that are called off due to adverse weather, will be automatically rescheduled by Football Queensland.
- a. Weekend Fixtures will be automatically rescheduled to the immediately following Tuesday. If venue availability or the match schedule of either club does not facilitate this, the match will be rescheduled to a date at the discretion of Football Queensland.
  - b. Midweek fixtures will be rescheduled based on Regular Season fixtures and venue availability.

## 7 DISCIPLINARY

- 7.1 A player who accumulates three (3) Yellow Cards in the Group Stages of the Kappa Pro Series, must serve a mandatory match suspension in one (1) fixture, being the next Kappa Pro Series fixture (including Quarter Final if applicable).

Refer to section 10.5 Accumulation of Yellow Cards – Tournaments in the 2025 Disciplinary Regulations.

- 7.2 Yellow Cards received during the group stage of a Tournament do not accumulate through to the finals stage of the Tournament. Mandatory Match Suspensions incurred in the Group Stage are NOT however cancelled for Finals Series fixtures.
- 7.3 A player who accumulates two (2) Yellow Cards in the Finals Series of the Kappa Pro Series, must serve a mandatory match suspension in one (1) fixture, being the next Kappa Pro Series fixture. Refer to section 10.6 Accumulation of Yellow Cards – Finals in the 2025 Disciplinary Regulations.
- 7.4 Yellow Cards received during the Kappa Pro Series that do not result in a Mandatory Match Suspension do not carry into the League, League Finals Series, Australia Cup, Queensland Cup, the next Tournament or any other matches or competitions.
- 7.5 Per section 10.9 of the 2025 Disciplinary Regulations, it remains a club’s responsibility to monitor the card accumulation of their players and ensure players serve a Mandatory Match Suspension where appropriate. Clubs must notify Football Queensland as soon as practicable if there are any discrepancies between their records and the official match records on Squadi. Football Queensland may in its sole and absolute discretion retrospectively amend a match record should sufficient evidence become available to do so.
- 7.6 Any player who incurs a red card suspension in the Kappa Pro Series will need to serve their suspension in the player’s next competitive match in accordance with the Football Queensland & Football Australia Disciplinary Regulations.

## 8 REFEREE FEES

- 8.1 In the Pool stages of the Kappa Pro Series, where the level of the two competing teams is different, the referee fees for the highest competing team will apply.
- 8.2 Referee Fees in the Finals Series will be the same regardless of Competition.
- 8.3 Match Officials Fees for the Kappa Pro Series are as below:

### Men:

Round	Referee	Assistant Referee 1	Assistant Referee 2	4 <sup>TH</sup> Official
Pool stages (NPL vs. FQPL 1)	\$230	\$115	\$115	-
Pool stages	\$200	\$200	\$200	-



(FQPL 1 vs. FQPL 1)				
QF	\$240	\$120	\$120	-
SF	\$240	\$120	\$120	-
GF	\$250	\$125	\$125	\$112.50

**Women:**

Round	Referee	Assistant Referee 1	Assistant Referee 2	4 <sup>TH</sup> Official
Pool stages (FQPL 1 vs. FQPL 2)	\$170	\$85	\$85	-
Pool stages (FQPL 2 vs. FQPL 2)	\$140	\$70	\$70	-
QF	\$180	\$90	\$90	-
SF	\$180	\$90	\$90	-
GF	\$200	\$100	\$100	\$90