



2026 METRO LEAGUE CUP RULES OF COMPETITION

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1 COMPETITION DETAILS

1.1. General Information

- a) These rules must be read in conjunction with the Football Queensland 2026 Statewide Rules of Competition. In the event of an omission or inconsistency between these Regulations and the Football Queensland Statewide Rules of Competition, Football Queensland will determine and rule on the interpretation.
- b) This document is specific to the following competitions:
 - i) Men's Metro League Cup
 - ii) Women's Metro League Cup
- c) Clubs may nominate one team per club to participate in each of the above-mentioned competitions. The team entered will be deemed to be the highest eligible Metro Senior League team within that club. Invitational teams or teams that do not play in a season long Football Queensland sanctioned competition are not eligible for entry.
- d) A nomination fee of \$120 per team is required for entry into the competition to account for the administration and facilitation of this tournament.

1.2. Scheduling of Fixtures

- a) Football Queensland's SEQ Competitions Team will schedule all matches in collaboration with Clubs and their preferences.
- b) Football Queensland reserves the right to schedule matches on any day, time and venue in alignment with the best interests of the Cup competition and club operations. Football Queensland reserves the right to reschedule matches if required in its absolute discretion.

1.3. Rescheduling of Fixtures

- a) In the event of a clash with other scheduled fixtures, Football Queensland will determine which fixtures take priority and reschedule any required fixtures at its discretion.
- b) In the event of a washed-out Cup fixture, this will be rescheduled to the next available mid-week date based on venue and team availability.

2 PLAYER REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1. Registrations

- a) All players must be registered and active in a Football Queensland Metro Competition in Squadi in order to participate in any fixture.

2.2. Borrowing Players

- a) Any player who is graded into any higher ranked competition than the highest ranked Metro Community Senior team within a club is ineligible to play in the Men's or Women's Metro League Cup. Players must be graded to a Metro Community team to be eligible to participate.
- b) Any player registered with that club that is age eligible including any Metro League players from that club are eligible to participate in the Metro League Cup.
- c) Players are only eligible to play for one club during the competition, therefore if a player changes clubs after playing in a Metro League Cup match, they cannot play for their new club in the Men's or Women's Metro League Cup.
 - i) If a club is ever in doubt over a player's eligibility, please contact the Football Queensland SEQ Competitions Team, PRIOR to adding players onto a Squadi Team Sheet.
- d) The Metro League Cup does not contribute to a player's borrowing tally. A player's borrowing limit will not be affected if borrowed from a lower age group/division.

2.3. Player Suspensions

- a) Any player who is required to serve a suspension as a result of a direct red card in a League competition fixture, must serve their suspension in the next League or Cup fixture in which that player's team plays in, whichever occurs first, until that suspension is served in full. If a player receives a yellow card accumulation suspension in a regular season competition fixture and is subsequently required to serve a suspension, they will be permitted to play in the Metro League Cup and will need to serve their suspension in their next regular season competition fixture.
 - i) **NOTE:** Any Red Card suspension incurred in a League competition fixture MUST have been incurred in the highest graded Metro Leagues team applicable to that club to be eligible for fixtures to be served in the Metro League Cup.
 - ii) For the avoidance of doubt, if a club nominates teams for multiple divisions of the Metro Leagues, only Red Card suspensions incurred in matches involving the club's highest graded team will be eligible for fixtures to be served in the Metro League Cup. However, no player may participate in any fixture whilst still under a red card suspension.
- b) Any player who receives a direct red card in a Metro League Cup Match will need to serve their suspension in the player's next competitive match in accordance with the FQ & FA Disciplinary Regulations.
- c) Yellow cards received in the Metro League Cup do not count towards the player's regular season accumulation. A player who accumulates three (3) yellow cards in a Cup, must serve a mandatory match suspension of one (1) Cup fixture.

3 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

3.1. Competition Format

- a) **Round of 64: 27th April – 7th May**
 - (i) Up to 64 teams.
 - (ii) Teams will be randomly drawn to play knockout matches. The first drawn team in each match will be the designated home team.
 - (iii) Note, if less than 64 teams nominate for the competition, then some teams will receive a BYE in this round.

- (iv) The number of matches drawn will be determined by the number of teams and will ensure that 32 teams progress to the Round of 32.
- (v) The winners of these matches and the remaining teams who were not drawn to play in the Round of 64 will progress to the Round of 32.

b) Round of 32: 18th – 28th May

- (i) Up to 32 teams
- (ii) The thirty-two (32) teams that progressed from the Round of 64 will be randomly drawn to play sixteen (16) matches.
- (iii) The first drawn team in each match will be designated as the home team.
- (iv) Please note, if less than 32 teams nominate for either competition, then that competition will begin at the Round of 32. The number of matches drawn will be determined by the number of teams, with some teams to receive BYES, and will ensure that 16 teams progress to the Round of 16.
- (v) The winners of these matches will progress to the Round of 16.

c) Round of 16: 8th – 18th June

- (i) 16 teams
- (ii) The sixteen (16) teams that progressed from the Round of 16 will be randomly drawn to play eight (8) matches. The first drawn team in each match will be designated as the home team. The winners of these matches will progress to the Quarter Finals.

d) Quarter Finals: 29th June – 2nd July

- (i) 8 teams
- (ii) The eight (8) teams that progressed from the Round of 16 will be randomly drawn to play four (4) matches. The first drawn team in each match will be designated as the home team. The winners of these matches will progress to the Semi-Finals.

e) **Semi Finals: 27th – 30th July**

- (i) 4 teams
- (ii) The four (4) winners from the Quarter Finals will be randomly drawn to play two (2) matches. The first drawn team in each match will be designated as the home team. The winners of these matches will progress to the Final.

f) **Final: 14th – 16th August**

- (i) 2 teams
- (ii) The final is to be played at a venue to be determined by Football Queensland. The winner of the first Semi Final (as drawn) will be designated as the “Home” team in the event of a clash of colours.
- (iii) The final of the Metro League Cup will be scheduled for the weekend of 15th – 17th of August.
- (iv) If either team is participating in a regular season fixture across this weekend, the regular season fixture will be rescheduled to mid-week, and the Cup Final will take priority over the weekend.

3.2. Fixture Requirements

- a) For all matches, a result must be obtained. Games will be played in 2 x 45-minute halves. If the score is level after regular time, penalty kicks in accordance with FIFA regulations will be taken to determine the winner. No extra time will be played.

4 CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. Kit Clashes

- a) In the event there is a clash of colours, it will be the responsibility of the away team to change into an alternative strip.

4.2. Substitutions

- a) Each team can make unlimited Return Substitutions in any given match, with a maximum of five (5) substitutes permitted to be named on the Team Sheet.

4.3. Venue Requirements

- a) For midweek matches, If the designated home team (first drawn) does not have the facilities to play night matches or is unable to provide an alternative venue, the match will be played at the ground of the second drawn team. If neither team has the facilities to play night games, the match will be played at

a neutral venue.

- b) Club venues are required to be of an adequate standard inclusive of field markings, change rooms and referee room.
- c) The **home team** is responsible for providing a Ground Official for the duration of the match, who must be aware of their responsibilities. For further information regarding the responsibilities of a Ground Official, refer to the 2026 Statewide Rules of Competition.

4.4. Match Official Fees

- a) Match Officials' fees will be shared equally by the two competing teams for all matches, except the final where Football Queensland will pay the fees. Each club will be invoiced accordingly.
- b) Fees will be calculated at the top level (Metro Division 1) for all matches.