



FQ Academy State Championships

2026 Rules of Competition

Version Control

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Approving Officer

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Scope and Objective

- (a) The Rules of Competition (RoC) are set by Football Queensland (FQ) as the administrator of the FQ Academy State Carnival and supplement the broader IFAB Laws of the Game. They are intended to provide clarity as to the playing format for the FQ Academy State Carnival fixtures as well as the matchday procedures and disciplinary processes, if required and to be read and delivered supplementary and in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by IFAB.
- (b) These Regulations are to be read in conjunction with the relevant FQ Regulations, Policies and By Laws and FA's Statutes and Regulations (including National Disciplinary Regulations, National Registration Regulations and FQ Disciplinary Regulations). In the event of an omission or inconsistency between these regulations and other FQ policies, Football Queensland will determine and rule on the interpretation.

Competition Administrator

- (a) Football Queensland (FQ) serves as the Competition Administrator for the FQ Academy State Carnival. FQ will appoint an operations contact at the venue for the entire duration of the tournament. FQ will also prepare the schedule and fixture list for all matches. Each team's officials are responsible for their own game day operations.
- (b) The Competition Administrator has the authority to suspend, reprimand, caution, or otherwise penalize any players, teams, or officials who are deemed to have breached the rules of the game and/or tournament, or whose actions have brought the game into disrepute.
- (c) Football Queensland reserves the right to interpret the Rules of Competitions (RoC) in the event of any dispute. FQ Academy State Carnival Managers and Coaches are advised to seek clarification from FQ if they have any doubts regarding the meaning, interpretation, or application of the RoC. Football Queensland retains the right to amend or alter the Rules of Competition at its absolute discretion as needed.

Eligibility of Teams

- (a) The FQ Academy State Carnival is an invitational carnival only.
- (b) Teams are limited to a maximum of sixteen (16) players, two (2) coaching staff and (1) manager. (Unless cleared by FQ)
- (c) Teams are required to submit a Team Sheet prior to each match ensuring numbers are allocated to each player for talent identification

Eligibility of Players

- (a) All players participating in the FQ Academy State Carnival fixtures must be registered in Playfootball. Additionally, they must have competitions access in Squadi for the 2026 outdoor season to ensure appropriate insurance coverage.
- (b) All players must be age-appropriate for each age group, for clarity please see the table below.

Age Group	Eligible Years of Birth
Under 17	Players born in 2009
Under 16	Players born in 2010
Under 15	Players born in 2011
Under 14	Players born in 2012
Under 13	Players born in 2013

- (c) Younger or older players may be permitted to play in these age groups in exceptional circumstances only through application to Football Queensland. Football Queensland

reserves the right to approve or deny applications and rescind them at any time throughout the tournament.

Photography of Players

- (a) By participating and attending the FQ Academy State Carnival, participants and spectators give permission for their images to be used by Football Queensland and approved photography personnel on media platforms to report on the event and promote future events.

Match Scores

- (a) The match official (referee) is responsible for inputting scores directly into Squadi at the conclusion of every match
- (b) Should the match official not be able to enter scores they must report directly to the main desk and a Football Queensland competitions representative will input into Squadi

Match Balls

- (a) Football Queensland is responsible for providing three (3) match balls for each field in operation. The match officials will remain in charge of these match balls throughout each day.
- (b) Size 4 match balls will be used for all U13 games and size 5 balls for all U14-U17 games.

Strip Colours & Player Equipment

- (a) All teams competing in the FQ Academy State Carnival are required to confirm their strip colours to Football Queensland prior to the tournament commencing.
- (b) Teams may not vary from their nominated strip colours. The referee and tournament directors are asked to rule on any misinterpretation or strip clashes and seek an alternate option (strip change)
- (c) In the case of a colour clash, the team listed as 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.
- (d) As regional FQ Academy teams only have one (1) strip the opposition in these matches will be responsible for changing to their alternate kit to avoid a clash
- (e) A kit register will be available on the Football Queensland website to assist.
- (f) Player Equipment must conform to Law 4 – The Players Equipment in the IFAB Laws of the Game. This covers the safety of equipment including but not limited to undershirts, sock colours, sports spectacles, shin pads and jewellery.

Technical Area & Ground Officials

- (a) Football Queensland staff will be available throughout the day if issues arise.
- (b) For all matches played during the tournament, a maximum of eight (8) people are permitted to occupy the technical area for each team. This includes the five (5) substitutes and up to three (3) registered team officials.
- (c) Injured players may occupy the bench with approval from competition organiser.
- (d) Suspended players or officials cannot occupy the technical area.
- (e) All substitutes must be seated in the technical area. Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside the technical area, provided they are wearing bibs or an alternative-coloured uniform to both team strips. Balls are not to be used in warm-ups throughout the duration of the match.
- (f) Under the FIFA Laws of the Game, all occupants of the technical area who are behaving in an irresponsible manner may be expelled from the technical area by FQ competition staff,

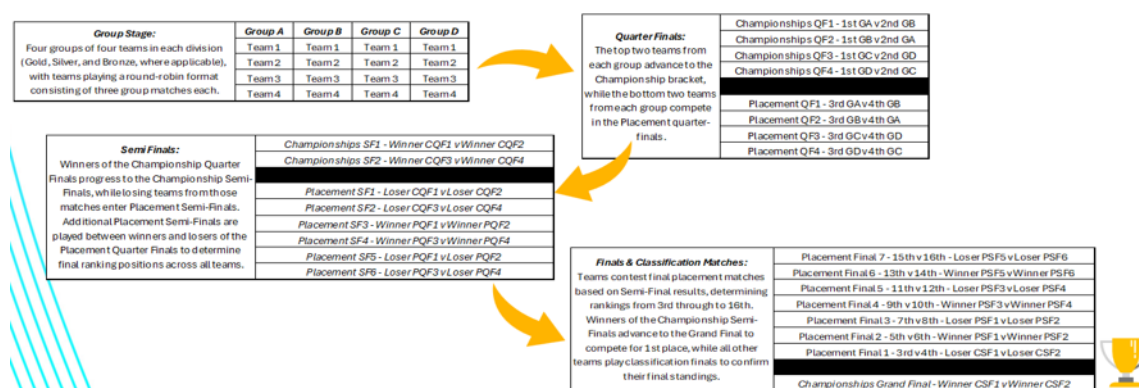
the match officials and/or referee coaches. The match will not commence until such time as the match officials deem that the individual is an adequate distance from the field of play.

Tournament & Playing Format

- All matches will be played at **South Pine Sports Complex (Boys) and Moreton Bay Sports Complex (Girls)** as per the fixture list prepared by Football Queensland.
- FQ will provide all participating teams with the fixture list prior to the FQ Academy State Carnival.
- All Fixtures will be played as per the FIFA Laws of the Game, as outlined in the following Academy Playing Format:

Competition Format

All teams begin the tournament in group stages with progression to finals as per below



Competition Points

- The following points will be awarded for all FQ Junior Cup fixtures during the Group Stage of the competitions:

Result	Points Accumulated
Win	3 Points
Draw	1 Point
Loss	0 Points
Forfeit Given	0 Points and a 0-3 Losing Result
Forfeit Received	3 Points and a 3-0 Winning Result
Bye	0 Points

Competitions Placings

- Football Queensland will use the following criteria when determining the ranking of Teams within each Competition:
 - Highest number of points accumulated during the Group Stage.
 - If two (2) or more Teams are equal on points accumulated, the following criteria will be applied, in order, until one (1) of the Clubs can be determined as the higher ranked:
 - Highest Goal Difference
 - Highest Goals For

- c. Highest number of points accumulated in the Group Stage Matches between the Teams concerned (head-to-head)
- d. Highest number of goals scored in the Group Stage Matches between the Teams concerned (head-to-head)
- e. Lowest number of red cards accumulated; and
- f. Toss of a coin in the event of a tie of two (2) teams or drawing of lots in the event of a tie of three (3) or more teams

Duration of Matches

(a) The duration of matches for each age group is outlined in the table below.

Competition	Match Duration	Half Time Interval
FQA1 U15/16 Boys U15/17 Girls Fixtured League Matches	Refer to 2025 Advanced ROC	
State Championship Match Ups	2 x 25 Minute Halves	5 Minutes

- (b) There will be no injury/additional time added to any matches during the carnival.
- (c) There will be no extra time or penalties in any matches during the carnival in the event of a draw at the conclusion of normal time.

Substitutions (Interchange)

- (a) In all State Championship/Metro Cup fixtures only, substitutions will only be allowed at half-time, unless a substitute is required for an injured player.
- (b) An additional substitution may be utilised in Finals and playoffs only, midway through the 2nd half

Red Cards/Expulsions (State Championship & Metro Cup Only)

- (a) **State Championship & Metro Cup only:** If a red card or send off is issued throughout the FQ Academy State Carnival, the sent off player may not play any further part in that fixture but may be replaced by another player.
- (b) **State Championship & Metro Cup only:** Any Player sent from the field during a match, may only be permitted to play the next match in accordance with the sanctions outlined in the following table:

Offence	Eligible to Participate in the Following Match
R1 – Serious Foul Play	Yes
R2 – Violent Conduct	No
R3 – Spits at an opponent or any other person	No
R4 – DOGSO - Handball	Yes
R5 – DOGSO - Foul	Yes
R6 – Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	No
R7 – Second Caution	Yes

- (a) The default position for the FQ Academy State Carnival will be that participants will serve a Mandatory Match Suspension for any offence code requiring the player to miss matches pursuant to the above table.

- (b) The Football Queensland Disciplinary Unit will review all send off reports from the Carnival and may apply an additional disciplinary sanction pursuant to the Football Queensland Disciplinary Regulations in its sole and absolute discretion.
- (c) Any match suspension/s are to be served in the team's next FQ Academy State Carnival match/es. The suspended player/team official is ineligible to participate until the suspension has been served in full.
- (d) Should the sanction exceed the remaining number of matches available in the FQ Academy State Carnival, Football Queensland may rule in its sole and absolute discretion that the participant be required to serve the remaining suspension in the next available competitive club fixtures.
- (e) The Sin Bin rule will not apply to fixtures in the FQ Academy State Championships
- (f) **NOTE: The above provisions do not apply to FQA1 U15 & U16 Boys and U15 & U17 Girls competitive games being played at the FQ Academy State Carnival,** these fixtures will be played under the 2026 FQ Advanced Rules of Competition and associated 2026 Disciplinary Regulations.

Appeals

- (a) A player or team official cannot appeal against a mandatory match suspension, except in the case of alleged mistaken identity.
- (b) Any appeals for additional disciplinary sanctions issued beyond the Mandatory Match Suspension shall be made in accordance with Section 15 of the 2026 Football Queensland Disciplinary Regulations.

Borrowing (Regional FQA Only)

Due to a limited playing pool for regional FQ Academies, injured players may be replaced by another player from another region in the event a squad only has the minimum number of players (or less) to field a starting team.

Misconduct

- (a) All instances of players, spectators, officials, or teams conducting themselves in a manner contravening the rules of the competition or behaving in an unseemly manner likely to bring the game into disrepute, shall be immediately investigated by Football Queensland for consideration and subsequent action.

Match Officials

- (a) Football Queensland will be responsible for the allocation of a match official to each match throughout the carnival.
- (b) No payments are to be made to the match officials throughout the course of the tournament. Football Queensland will coordinate any referee payments if required.
- (c) In the event of referee injury or misadventure, FQ will determine whether the fixture is abandoned, delayed, or postponed. Whichever is most applicable.

Trophies, Medals and Awards

- (b) All medals and trophies will be presented after the Grand Final in each competition.
- (b) Football Queensland will present the following awards in each Competition:
 - Grand Final Winners
 - Grand Final Runners Up

Wet/Adverse Weather Procedure

- (a) In the event of wet or adverse weather, FQ representatives along with the appointed match official will determine in their sole and absolute discretion whether the match is to take place.
- (b) In the event of extreme wet weather FQ will implement a revised contingency draw based on the availability of fields and all weather pitches.