



# **Football Queensland Academy Winterfest**

2026 Rules of Competition

## Version Control

Date	Version	Details	Author
1/5/2026	2026.0.1	Annual Review	Competitions

### **Approval**

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

*Approving Officer*

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**Position:** Chief Executive 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 Winterfest and supplement the broader IFAB Laws of the Game. They are intended to provide clarity as to the playing format for the FQ Winterfest 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

- (c) The Competition Administrator for the FQ Winterfest is Football Queensland. FQ will appoint an operations contact at venue for the whole duration of the tournament. FQ will prepare the schedule and fixture list for all matches. Each team's officials will be responsible for their own game day operations.
- (d) The Competition Administrator is authorised to suspend, reprimand, caution or otherwise penalise any players, teams or officials whom they consider have breached the rules of the games and/or tournament, or have by their action, brought the game into disrepute.
- (e) Football Queensland reserves the right to rule on any interpretation of the Rules of Competitions (RoC) if any dispute arises. FQ Winterfest Managers/Coaches are advised to seek clarification from FQ if in doubt as to the meaning, interpretation, or delivery of the RoC. Football Queensland retain the ability to amend or alter the Rules of Competition at its absolute discretion as required.

### Eligibility of Teams

- a) The FQ Winterfest is an invitational carnival only.
- b) Teams are limited to a maximum of fourteen (14) players, two (2) coaching staff and (1) manager. (Unless cleared by FQ)

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- 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 Winterfest 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;

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Age Eligibility</b>
Under 11	Players born in 2015
Under 10	Players born in 2016
Under 9	Players born in 2017

- (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 in and attending the FQ Winterfest, 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.

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- (b) Size 4 match balls for U10 & U11. Size 3 match balls for U9

#### **Strip Colours & Player Equipment**

- a) All teams competing in the FQ Winterfest 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 Away listed 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 is 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 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.

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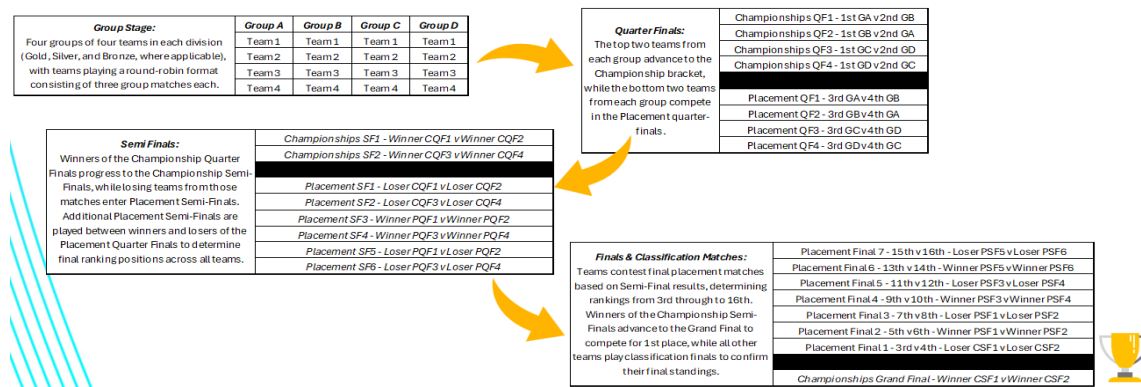
### Tournament & Playing Format

- (a) All matches will be played at University of the Sunshine Coast & Buderim Football Club, as per the fixture list prepared by Football Queensland. Unless a wet weather contingency venue is needed.
- (b) FQ will provide all participating teams with the fixture list prior to the FQ Winterfest through Squadi.
- (c) All Fixtures will be played as per the IFAB Laws of the Game, as outlined in the following Academy Playing Format:
- (d) The only exceptions to these regulations are as follows:
  - i. If a player is offside and it is clear and obvious to the referee, an offside call will be made, and an indirect free kick shall be awarded.
  - ii. An indirect free kick will be awarded for all acts of handball or foul and misconduct. Opponents must be at least five (5) metres away from the ball when the indirect free kick is taken.
  - iii. Goalkeepers may handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area however to restart play the ball may be thrown, rolled from hands or played from the ground (not bouncing) by their feet. Once the ball is in the possession of the keeper, the ball is only live and in play once the GK kicks the ball on the ground or it leaves the GK hands. The referee will give a 5 second count for GK to either kick or throw ball back into play. Opponents must be at least 10 metres outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

### Competition Format

**U9 Boys and U9/10 Girls will be non-competitive and will not play for points or ladders**

U10 and U11 Boys and girl's teams begin the tournament in group stages with progression to finals as per below



## Competition Points

(a) The following points will be awarded for all FQ Winterfest 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

(a) Football Queensland will use the following criteria when determining the ranking of Teams within each Competition:

- a. Highest number of points accumulated during the Group Stage.
- b. 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:
  - a. Highest Goal Difference
  - b. Highest Goals For

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- 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.

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Match Duration</b>	<b>Half Time Interval</b>
All Competitions	2 x 10 Minute Halves	5 Minutes

- (b) There will be no injury/additional time added to any matches during the tournament.
- (c) There will be no extra time or penalties in matches during the Group Stage of the competitions in the event of a draw at the conclusion of normal time.
- (d) In the event of a draw at the conclusion of normal time for Finals Stage matches, alternate kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken to determine the winner, in accordance with the procedures described in the Laws of the Game, however three (3) kicks will be taken instead of five (5) in the shootout. If, after both teams have taken three (3) kicks, the scores are level, kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.
- (e) For clarification, no extra time will be played in the event of a draw at the end of normal time.

### Substitutions

- (a) In all FQ Winterfest fixtures, substitutions will only be allowed at half-time, unless a substitute is required for an injured player.

### Red Cards/Expulsions

- (b) 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.

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- (b) 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:

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Eligible to Participate in the Following Match</b>
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

- (e) The default position for the FQ Winterfest 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.
- (e) 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.
- (e) Any match suspension/s are to be served in the team's next FQ Winterfest match/es. The suspended player/team official is ineligible to participate until the suspension has been served in full.
- (e) Should the sanction exceed the remaining number of matches available in the FQ Winterfest, 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) A player will be sent from the field for a minimum of five (5) minutes if issued with a Sin bin yellow card. The player can be replaced.

### Appeals

- (a) A player or team official cannot appeal against a mandatory match suspension, except in the case of alleged mistaken identity.
- (b) All appeals will be lodged with and handled by the Football Queensland Disciplinary Committee, who will attend the tournament.
- (c) There will be no appeal fee payable by the teams.

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### **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 tournament.
- (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**

- (a) 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.

### **Abandoned Matches**

- (a) In the event of a match being abandoned before full-time due to adverse weather or any other cause which neither team nor the match officials have control, the match result at the time of the abandonment will be declared the result.

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- (b) Any team who is found to be responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the abandonment or forfeit of a fixture may be subject to sanctions. The match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team.

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