



Rules of Competition

(Junior Competitions - Under 12 to Under 17)

2012

Table of Contents

1	COMPETITION STRUCTURE	- 4 -
1.1	Age Competitions	- 4 -
1.2	Other Competitions / Play-off Matches	- 4 -
2	FIXTURES	- 4 -
2.1	Scheduling	- 4 -
2.2	Duration	- 5 -
2.3	Points	- 5 -
3	APPLICATION FOR ALTERATION TO FIXTURES	- 5 -
3.1	Application for Alterations	- 5 -
3.2	School Football	- 5 -
3.3	School Commitments	- 5 -
4	NON-PARTICIPATION IN A FIXTURE	- 6 -
5	WITHDRAWAL/REMOVAL FROM FIXTURES	- 6 -
6	POSTPONED MATCHES	- 6 -
7	ABANDONED MATCHES	- 7 -
8	GOAL DIFFERENCE	- 7 -
9	FINALS SERIES	- 8 -
9.1	Participating Teams	- 8 -
9.2	Format	- 8 -
9.3	Scheduling	- 8 -
9.4	Rules	- 8 -
9.5	Player Eligibility	- 8 -
10	INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS	- 9 -
11	PLAYER IDENTITY	- 9 -
11.1	Player Identity – Borrowed Players	- 9 -
12	GRADING OF PLAYERS	- 9 -
12.1	Competition	- 9 -
12.2	Player Transfers Mid-Season	- 9 -
13	BORROWING PLAYERS AND REGRADING	- 10 -
13.1	Borrowing - Competition	- 10 -
13.2	Re-grading	- 10 -
14	ELIGIBILITY/NON-ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS	- 10 -
14.1	Registration of Players	- 10 -
14.2	Ineligible Players	- 11 -
14.3	Protest – Playing Ineligible Player	- 11 -
14.4	Penalties and Outcomes	- 11 -
15	CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES	- 12 -
15.1	Facilities/Ground Arrangements	- 12 -
15.2	Wet Weather Procedure	- 12 -
15.3	Field Lighting	- 13 -
15.4	Referees Fees	- 13 -
15.5	Match Sheets	- 13 -
15.5.1	Procedures following a Match	- 13 -
15.6	Results of Fixtures	- 13 -
15.7	Ground Officials	- 14 -
15.8	Match Balls	- 14 -
15.9	Playing Strips	- 14 -
15.10	Team Officials	- 15 -
16	TECHNICAL AREA	- 15 -
17	MATCH OFFICIALS	- 15 -
17.1	Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official	- 15 -
17.2	Extreme Weather Conditions	- 16 -
17.3	Blood Rule	- 16 -

18 DISCIPLINARY - 16 -
19 PLAYER AGE RULES - 16 -
 19.1 Competitions grades..... - 17 -
 19.1.1 Girls..... - 17 -
 19.1.2 Composite Team Definition..... - 17 -
 19.1.3 Exceptional Circumstances Definition..... - 17 -
20 APPLICATION FOR VARIANCES - 17 -

1 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Should Football Brisbane engage a sponsor, a condition of entry into a Football Brisbane competition is that clubs are required to uphold any requirements stipulated in the sponsorship contract. Such requirements may include signage, the display of logos on club websites etc.

Football Brisbane will endeavour to ensure that any requirement by a sponsor has minimal financial impact on clubs and will not impact existing sponsorship contracts. At all times Football Brisbane will negotiate with clubs to minimise any disadvantage to a clubs existing sponsorship.

1.1 Age Competitions

Football Brisbane will arrange age restricted competitions for junior players as per the following table. Competitions may be mixed or gender specific as determined by Football Brisbane.

Under 17	Player born in the years 1996 and 1995
Under 15	Player born in the year 1997
Under 14	Player born in the year 1998
Under 13	Player born in the year 1999
Under 12	Player born in the year 2000

Football Brisbane will conduct pre-season competitions, fixture competitions and final series competitions.

The composition of each division will be determined on an annual basis.

In the Under 12 years age group the divisions will be determined on a geographical basis.

In the Under 13 years to Under 17 age groups the highest division in each age group will be known as the Brisbane Junior League (BJL). Teams will be invited to nominate into these divisions on the basis of the previous year's results and will participate across the Brisbane zone. Other nominations may be requested should Football Brisbane see fit. All other teams in these age groups will play in geographical competitions.

In 2012 the U17 Division 1 (Cross River) competition will be formed to accommodate for the change in age groupings.

1.2 Other Competitions / Play-off Matches

1.2.1 Other Competitions

Football Brisbane may, from time to time, also schedule other competitions within the zone. Rules for these competitions shall be set prior to the commencement of any competition.

1.2.2 Play-off Matches

Football Brisbane may, if deemed appropriate, schedule play-off matches in order to establish the composition of a competition. Rules for the play-off matches shall be set prior to the commencement of these matches and will be read in conjunction with all Football Brisbane Rules and Policies.

2 FIXTURES

2.1 Scheduling

Football Brisbane will arrange the dates, times and locations of all matches. These scheduled matches will be advised to participating teams prior to the commencement of the season. Listed below is the day on which each age group will be scheduled.

	Under 12	Under 13	Under 14	Under 15	Under 17
North	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
South	Saturday	Saturday	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday

NOTE: Some fixtures may be scheduled on a Friday night. In the event that a fixture is scheduled for Friday night the U12 age group will not kick off later than 7pm, the U13 age group will not kick off later than 7:30pm, the U14 age group will not kick off later than 8pm, while the U15 & U17 age groups will not kick off later than 8:30pm.

Fixtures for the female only competitions will be determined by the “home” club.

2.2 Duration

The duration of matches for each age group are outlined in the table below. After normal time in each half, the referee may add on injury/stoppage time as he/she sees fit. The referee has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

Competition	Duration	Interval
Under 17	2 x 45 mins	10 mins
Under 15	2 x 40 mins	5 mins
Under 14	2 x 35 mins	5 mins
Under 13	2 x 30 mins	5 mins
Under 12	2 x 25 mins	5 mins

2.3 Points

In all competition fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

WIN	Three (3) Points
DRAW	One (1) Point
LOSS	Nil (0) Points
BYE	Nil (0) Points
NO RESULT	Nil (0) Points for either team

3 APPLICATION FOR ALTERATION TO FIXTURES

3.1 Application for Alterations

Any application for an alteration to scheduled fixtures shall be submitted, using the appropriate form, to Football Brisbane at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the scheduled fixture.

Each request will be determined on its merits. Applications for alterations due to “social functions” (e.g. weddings, christenings, confirmations or other social and religious events) will not be considered.

Football Brisbane’s decision in regards to the rescheduling of fixtures will be final.

3.2 School Football

Applications due to involvement in Inter-School sport will not be considered.

Any competition team with three or more players unavailable due to representative outdoor football duties, at Football Brisbane approved tournaments, may be entitled to have their fixture rescheduled upon application. Applications must be made at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the scheduled fixture.

3.3 School Commitments

Applications due to school commitments / functions will be assessed on their merits. All applications must be accompanied by a letter from the school Principal outlining how the event relates to the education curriculum.

4 NON-PARTICIPATION IN A FIXTURE

Any member club or affiliated club that fails to fulfil any of its fixture or finals obligations arranged by Football Brisbane, may be fined per offence, and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

In the event the home or visiting team is not ready to commence the fixture **within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time**, the match may be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team as a forfeit.

Should any team claim such a forfeit they must forward a completed Official Match Sheet, signed by the appointed referee, or a club official, if one is not appointed noting the circumstances of the non-playing of the fixture to Football Brisbane.

The team deemed to have forfeited may submit a report, within three (3) working days, to Football Brisbane should they believe the forfeit was caused by exceptional circumstances.. Where Football Brisbane finds that exceptional circumstances caused the forfeit, the match may be deemed as Postponed and be subject to the rules of Postponed Matches.

Where any listed player on the team sheet in a forfeited match was to play out of his/her graded age group or division, then the fixture shall **NOT** be counted towards the player's tally of matches played up.

If, for any reason, a team intends to forfeit a scheduled fixture match, the Club is to provide two (2) clear working days written notice of the forfeit to the office of Football Brisbane. Football Brisbane shall be responsible for notification to the opposition team and the appointed referees. The match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team.

A Club that fails to provide sufficient notification of a forfeit may be fined and will be responsible for any referee fees in relation to the match.

A team, which persistently forfeits matches, may, at the discretion of Football Brisbane, be withdrawn from that competition.

5 WITHDRAWAL/REMOVAL FROM FIXTURES

If any team in the competition withdraws or is removed from fixture competitions then the following will apply:

- (a) if the team is withdrawn or removed before the competition has started - a bye in the competition will be substituted;
- (b) if the team is withdrawn or removed after the competition has started - the recorded results for that team will be deleted and a bye in the competition will be substituted;

The club involved may be subject to disciplinary action.

6 POSTPONED MATCHES

Matches may only be postponed by the appointed match official or by Football Brisbane.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to reschedule all postponed matches on any day, time and place as it deems appropriate.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to record any outstanding fixtures that have not been completed by **NO LATER THAN** one (1) week after the conclusion of the fixture season as a 0-0 DRAW.

7 ABANDONED MATCHES

Should the match official abandon a Football Brisbane match, **then the match result will stand at the time of abandonment**, unless;

- (a) one or both of the competing clubs request the match to be replayed, or
- (b) the matter is referred to Football Brisbane for determination.

Replay requests must be made in writing within five (5) working days of the match being abandoned. The decision of Football Brisbane regarding the request for a replay shall be final.

Football Brisbane shall take into consideration the following factors when considering a request for a replay:

- reasons why the match was abandoned
- result of the match at the time of abandonment
- the impact on the final league standing of a fixture
- the impact on the finals series of a finals match

Football Brisbane reserves the right to determine the match result if it is satisfied that one (or both) of the competing teams, its players, officials, members or supporters were directly responsible for the abandonment of the fixture. This includes the abandonment of a match due to a team having less than seven (7) players. Football Brisbane's determination shall be final.

If the allegation is proven, Football Brisbane may decide to direct any of the following outcomes:

- the match be recorded as "NO RESULT"
- the match be recorded as 0-0 draw
- the match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the score at the time of abandonment was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team
- impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club(s), player(s) and official(s).

8 GOAL DIFFERENCE

If, at the end of the fixture competition, any two or more teams are equal on points, goal difference shall be taken into account in determining:

- the Premiers;
- the team or teams eligible for promotion to a higher division or relegation to a lower division;
- the teams eligible to play in the Finals Series in the respective divisions;
- all other positions on the points table.

Goal difference shall be calculated by subtracting the total number of goals AGAINST from the total number of goals FOR in all fixture matches:

- the team with the higher or highest resultant plus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the superior goal difference and shall be the higher or highest placed team;
- the team with the lower or lowest resultant minus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the inferior goal difference and shall be the lower or lowest placed team;
- in the case of goal difference being equal, the team having scored the most goals FOR shall be the higher or highest placed team.

In the case of teams having an equal goal difference and having scored an equal number of goals FOR:

- the team with the higher or highest number of points from matches played between the teams in question shall be the higher or highest placed team;
- if the number of points is equal, then the team with the superior goal difference from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team;
- in the case of goal difference being equal, the team having scored the most goals FOR from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team;
- if the goal difference and goals FOR are equal, then the team that scored the most away goals from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team.

If teams are still equal after taking into account all of the above considerations, the following will apply:

- to determine Premiers and team(s) eligible for promotion to a higher division or relegation to a lower division - the clubs concerned shall play off one or more deciding matches on neutral grounds, the format, timing and venue(s) of which shall be determined by Football Brisbane;
 - to determine all other positions on the table - an official of each team will be required to meet with an official of Football Brisbane and lots will be drawn.
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9 FINALS SERIES

9.1 Participating Teams

Following the completion of all fixtures the top four placed teams in each division shall play in a Finals Series. Football Brisbane will announce the relevant kick-off times and a venue for all Finals Series matches.

9.2 Format

The Finals Series will involve two Semi-Finals and the Grand Final.

The Semi-Finals will consist of 1st v 4th and 2nd v 3rd. The winner of each Semi-Final will advance to the Grand Final.

9.3 Scheduling

Football Brisbane will arrange the dates, times and venues of all Finals Series matches. Football Brisbane reserves the right to schedule or re-schedule matches on any day, time and place as it deems appropriate.

9.4 Rules

All finals matches will be played in accordance with the competition game duration for each age group. After normal time in each half, the referee may add on Injury/Stoppage Time as he/she sees fit. The referee has the right to abandon any match if, in his/her opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

Should the scores for a Semi-Final be level at full time, a five (5) minute break will be followed by 2 x 10 minute periods to be played in full. Should the scores still be equal after extra time the following methods will be used to determine who advances to the Grand Final:

Under 12 – Under 13: The team which finished in the higher position after the fixture season will advance to the Grand Final.

Under 14 – Under 17: A penalty shoot-out, in accordance with FIFA regulations, will be taken to determine the winner.

For the Grand Final, if the scores are equal after normal time, a five (5) minute break will be followed by 2 x 10 minute periods of extra time to be played in full. Should the scores still be equal after extra time, the two participating teams will be declared joint winners.

9.5 Player Eligibility

To participate in a finals match, a player must be graded into that team five (5) working days prior to the conclusion of the fixture season. Should teams be required to borrow players during the finals series an application must be submitted to Football Brisbane outlining why the team in question is required to borrow player/s. Applications will be assessed on a case by case basis.

10 INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

In all competitions, unlimited interchange will be permitted, with no more than sixteen players permitted to be listed on the Match Sheet.

Only players' names listed on the Match Sheet are permitted to take part in the match. A player who has been interchanged may return to the field for another player.

All interchanges can only occur at a break in play with the approval of the referee and must take place at the halfway line.

11 PLAYER IDENTITY

Managers are entitled to check the Player Identity of the opposing team. This challenge may be satisfied by the production of an I.D. such as a valid student card. If this can not be provided and a club wishes to challenge the identity of a player or players, the players in question must sign the Match Sheet and the matter is to be referred to Football Brisbane for investigation.

11.1 Player Identity – Borrowed Players

Borrowed players participating in junior matches are required to sign the Match Sheet.

A borrowed player must have noted in the "Substitutes" column their regular team.

It is the responsibility of the Club official challenging a borrowed players eligibility to make a note (e.g.: "challenge") in the "Substitutes" column on the match sheet and the matter is to be referred to Football Brisbane for investigation.

12 GRADING OF PLAYERS

12.1 Competition

All players participating in competitions must be graded into a specified team by their clubs and a listing for each team forwarded to Football Brisbane no later than five (5) working days prior to the first fixture.

Players can only be graded into one team at any one time.

Players registered after the first fixture of the season must be graded into a team and a Junior Grading form must be forwarded to Football Brisbane with his/her registration or no later than three (3) working days prior to the first fixture he/she intends to participate in.

In the instance that a club has more than one (1) team in a particular division, players in those teams, once graded, may NOT interchange between the teams.

12.2 Player Transfers Mid-Season

There is no restriction on what division a player is able to take part in should they change clubs during the fixture season subject to the Rules of Competition.

13 BORROWING PLAYERS AND REGRADING

13.1 Borrowing - Competition

Registered competition players may be borrowed to play in equal or higher divisions and age groups provided that they have completed the appropriate Player Age Assessment Forms (PA-01), but may only do so for a maximum of four (4) matches. The maximum number refers to the total number of games played up and not to each team they may play in. Wherever possible, borrowing should occur from a team within the same age group.

A team playing in a fixture shall be permitted to borrow an unlimited number of players from a lower division in that particular age group, or an equal or lower division in a lower age group (e.g. an U13 Div 3 team can borrow from an U12 Div 3 or lower team). In the event that a club does not have a younger age team in an equal or lower division, but does have a younger age team in a higher division, the club may apply for dispensation to allow a certain number of players to be borrowed. However, should dispensation be granted the match will be awarded as a 3-0 win to the opposition team.

Players in Under 11 teams participating in the Komodo Dragons grouping are NOT permitted to be borrowed by teams in U12 Division 2 or lower. Teams in U12 Division 2 and lower are able to borrow from teams from the Under 11 Geckos and Goannas groupings.

BJL and Division 1 teams are NOT permitted to borrow players from a lower age group. In the event that a club does not have a team in the same age group as the BJJ or Division 1 team, the club may apply for dispensation to allow a certain number of players to be borrowed.

Players can not be borrowed between gender specific teams and mixed teams.

Borrowing a player or players should not advantage the borrowing team's performance when compared with its usual squad.

13.2 Re-grading

If a player will be playing more than four (4) matches for any higher age group or division, that player MUST be re-graded prior to participating in a fifth (5) match. This re-grading is NOT automatic, and must be initiated by the player's club as a formal regrading, also refer to section 19 on Player Age Rules.

A player may be re-graded into a higher age group or division at any time during the fixture season, provided the re-grading is performed prior to the last fixture of the season played by that player's original graded team and subject to competition rules around player age (see section 19).. In the event that the re-grading is downwards, an application must be made to Football Brisbane and this will be considered on its merits.

Once a player has been re-graded, that player shall not play any further matches with their original team.

A player may be re-graded only once during the fixture season.

Where a player is re-graded to satisfy the above requirements, the "four matches up" count does not restart (i.e. if a player has played three (3) matches in a higher age group or division, and is re-graded, that player may still play one (1) more match in a higher age group or division before the end of the season.

14 ELIGIBILITY/NON-ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

14.1 Registration of Players

Amateur players who have not previously registered for the 2012 season are permitted to be registered up until the last Wednesday before 31 July each year. Amateur players who have previously registered in the Football Brisbane Zone for the 2012 season are not permitted to re-register with another club within the Football Brisbane Zone after the last Wednesday before 30 June each year.

Amateur players who have registered outside the Football Brisbane Zone for the 2012 season may apply to Football Brisbane to allow an exemption to register within the Football Brisbane Zone after the last Wednesday before 30 June each year. The decision of Football Brisbane will be final in considering any such application.

Unless cancelled earlier, registration is effective from date of registration until 31 December of that year.

14.2 Ineligible Players

Any player not registered as per FFA National Registration Regulations and Football Brisbane Registration Procedures and Guidelines for the current season is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in any Football Brisbane competition.

Any player under suspension by Football Brisbane or any other Federation is considered ineligible, and is not permitted to participate in any fixture until that suspension is served. This includes automatic suspensions for yellow and red cards along with penalties determined by a Disciplinary Committee.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player who participates in any Football Brisbane competition.

A player whose name is not listed on the Match Sheet prior to the commencement of any Football Brisbane competition match is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in that match.

The Player Age section outlines the guidelines and process for any player to be assessed to play above or below their age group. Players playing without the correct assessment will be deemed ineligible.

A team must not list more than sixteen (16) players on a Match Sheet for a match. If a team does so, then any player(s) over and above the sixteen players first listed is (are) considered ineligible.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player participating in any competition.

14.3 Protest – Playing Ineligible Player

On match day, any team may ask to check the identity of any opposing player.

Should the identity of a player be challenged, at any match in which they are participating, the player must sign the Match Sheet. No player can refuse the request for such a signature. The referee and team managers should note the challenge on the Match Sheet.

No club official shall have the power to refuse to allow an opposition player to take the field for any reason.

Any club is permitted to lodge a letter of protest regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player. The protest must be in writing under club letterhead and be forwarded to Football Brisbane, within three working days of the match. An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident will be undertaken immediately.

In the event that the protest is upheld, the Penalties and Outcomes as stated below will apply. In the event that the protest is dismissed, then the match result will stand.

14.4 Penalties and Outcomes

If it is established that a player competing in any Football Brisbane competition fixture was ineligible to play, then the following will apply:

- the club found guilty shall forfeit any goals scored and points gained in that match and the points and match will be awarded to the opposing team;
- the game will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the final result was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team;
- Football Brisbane may impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club or player.

In the event that it is established that both clubs competing in any Football Brisbane competition fixture fielded players who were ineligible to play, then the following will apply:

- the match will be deemed as a **NO RESULT**, whereby, no points will be awarded;
- Football Brisbane may impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending clubs or players.

If a Finals Series match is declared a “No Result”, Football Brisbane may determine that the match be replayed.

15 CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

15.1 Facilities/Ground Arrangements

The home club must ensure:

- the ground is correctly marked, including the technical area;
- it provides suitable goal nets, safely fastened or pegged to the ground and corner flags;
- it provides toilet facilities and dressing room facilities that are hygienic and clean;
- it has adequate refreshment/canteen facilities open to the public;
- it provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators;
- it provides a Referee's Room where referees can rest and leave their belongings while on the park.

Any club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be fined, suspended or have its home fixtures played away.

15.2 Wet Weather Procedure

Friday night cancellations – When closing fields clubs must contact Football Brisbane no later than 1:00pm on that Friday afternoon. Contact the Junior Competition administrator on 3347 0005 or juniors@footballbrisbane.com.au.

Clubs can advise if their fields are unplayable for Saturday and Sunday matches up to the end of business hours on the preceding Friday by contacting the FB Office or via the following process after that time:

- 1) FB will receive an SMS notification of field unavailability from the affected club **by 7am**. If a club has not closed their fields by 7am then it will be a Referees call, as to whether games are played or cancelled.
- 2) FB will collate information for release at 7:15am, 9am, 10am, and 11am Saturday and Sunday.
- 3) After the designated times, FB will issue a club wide SMS message indicating the fields that are unavailable. **(DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SMS MESSAGE)**
- 4) FB will also update our website with the information on ground closures through out the day.

It is therefore essential for clubs to do the following:

- 1) Ensure your Contacts for Parent Organisation list is up to date in Results Vault (under the Organisation menu)
- 2) Ensure the contact(s) has a mobile phone number listed within the Results Vault
- 3) Ensure the receive SMS messages box for the contact(s) is ticked.
- 4) Should this contact be unavailable, has the club an alternative contact listed.
- 5) The club is only responsible for notifying their own club members of field closures impacting their own teams.

Do NOT email any cancellation information after 1.00pm Friday.

In the event that Football Brisbane declares the cancellation of a complete fixture weekend due to rain, all fixtures will be declared a 0-0 draw.

In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of a junior fixture due to rain, the following process will occur:

- a) The home club will advise Football Brisbane of at least two (2) reschedule dates/times/venue options within seven (7) days of the cancelled/abandoned match.
- b) The away club will provide a response to Football Brisbane within seven (7) days of receiving the options from Football Brisbane.

If a home club fails to provide the options within the designated time, the game will be declared a forfeit and the points awarded to the away club.

If an away club will not accept any of the options given, and does not provide a reasonable explanation as to why, the game will be declared a forfeit and the points awarded to the home club.

Football Brisbane will rule as to what is reasonable and the decision will be final.

NOTE: In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of a junior fixture due to rain in the final four weeks of the season the club response timeframes, outlined in rescheduling process, will be reduced to three (3) days.

15.3 Field Lighting

Clubs wishing to host night fixtures during the season must submit field lighting audits as requested and have approval for competition play by Football Brisbane.

Recommendations for football field lighting detailed in the Australian Standard AS2560 Part 2.3 "Lighting for Football" includes: Minimum Service Luminance Lux (Average) 100 and Minimum Uniformity Ratio (Min: Ave) 0.5 for competition matches. To achieve this level for the whole season, the Minimum Service Luminance (Average) at the commencement of the season should be 110 Lux.

15.4 Referees Fees

The payment of referees' fees shall be shared **equally** by competing teams. Each manager is required to supply the correct fees to the referees at least 15 minutes prior to the match together with their Match Sheet.

15.5 Match Sheets

On match day, both teams participating in a competition match are required to complete a Football Brisbane Match Sheet prior to the commencement of any match. Both teams must ensure they have the minimum number of players to commence the match (Under 12 to Under 17 competitions – 7 players).

A Match Sheet must:

- list all match details (age group, division, date, fixture number, participating teams, and venue);
- list all players taking part in the match with first name, surname and corresponding shirt numbers;
- not list more than 16 players for any fixture;
- list all Team Officials;
- be supplied to the match referee **at least 15 minutes** prior to the scheduled kick-off.

The referee is responsible for ensuring the names of all Match Officials are listed and signed on the sheet.

Players participating in junior matches are not required to sign the Match Sheet unless borrowed or having their identity challenged. Refer to the Player Identity section of these Rules.

15.5.1 Procedures following a Match

Following the match, each team Manager and Referee should sign off the Match Sheet after verifying the accuracy of final result, game details (red cards, cautions, goal scorers and times) and players listed.

The home club is to forward the original copies of the completed Match Sheets for both teams (home and away) to reach the Football Brisbane office no later than two (2) working days after the weekend.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to impose penalties and or fines on clubs that fail to forward the original copies within the stated timeframe without justification. Furthermore if the match sheets are not received by Football Brisbane by the close of business fourteen (14) days after the scheduled date of the match in question may result in the home team having a 3-0 result awarded against it.

15.6 Results of Fixtures

The results of fixtures must be communicated to Football Brisbane by both participating teams.

Match results must be communicated as follows:-

Online: football.resultsvault.com

Junior competitions results have forty-eight (48) hours, from the completion of the game, to be entered. Football Brisbane reserves the right to impose a fine on clubs that fail to register their full-time scores as required.

15.7 Ground Officials

It is the responsibility of the home club to provide at least one ground official who must be in clearly identifiable uniform and must identify themselves to the appointed match official prior to the match.

Ground officials are to be visible at all times and must be designated to provide an escort to all match officials before kick-off, at half time and full time.

A ground official cannot be the coach or manager whose game is in progress on the park, nor can the ground official be the canteen supervisor.

The ground official should:

Before the Match

- Check the referees' room and make sure it is clean and comfortable.
- Upon arrival of the referees, make known to them that you are the ground official in case they need assistance.
- If an official referee is not present, ensure that a referee is arranged either by the club or by consent of the two teams playing.
- Check with the equipment officer that an alternate strip is available if required.
- Ensure payment of referee fees **before the commencement of the game**.
- Ensure that two (2) appropriate match balls are available for referee.
- Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees to the field of play.

During the Match

- Ensure that the spectators' behaviour is orderly and is not abusive to the referee or his assistants, players or other spectators.
- Direct and assist any ambulance if called to attend a player or any other person.
- Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees to and from the field of play at the half-time break.
- Be of assistance wherever possible.

After the Match

- Ensure the referees' safety at all times.
- Ensure that both teams leave the grounds in a proper and orderly manner.
- Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees from the field of play.

15.8 Match Balls

The host Club shall provide two footballs of correct size and in good order and condition for each match.

Under 12 and 13 shall play with a size four (4) match ball and Under 14 to 17 shall play with a size five (5) match ball.

15.9 Playing Strips

All clubs must nominate a "Home" and have available an "Alternate" strip, compliant with the Football Queensland Marketing Agreement. The alternative strip (shirts, shorts & socks) should not clash with the nominated "Home" strip.

All playing strips (with the exception of socks) must have the "Q" logo attached by the manufacturing company. This must be requested when ordering. All playing strips must have clearly visible numbers on the back of the jerseys.

Where club colours are similar the HOME team will be required to wear their registered alternate strip.

Junior teams are not permitted to advertise any alcohol or tobacco related products on their respective playing strips.

Goalkeepers shall wear any colour provided it does not clash with either team or referee/assistants.

NB - Goalkeepers MUST wear licensed strips (i.e. no replica strips allowed).

15.10 Team Officials

Clubs are accountable for their appointed team officials (coaches, managers, and medical staff) and they should be made aware that they are governed by a Code of Conduct. Penalties including suspension of team officials, fines, and good behaviour bonds, can be levied upon such persons and clubs, where it is found that team officials have breached the Code of Conduct.

1. Team officials must remain within the technical area and are required to wear a Football Brisbane Identification Card at all times in the technical area. Failure to do so may incur a disciplinary fine.
 2. Team officials are responsible for trying to keep players behaving in an appropriate manner at all times before, during and after any game.
 3. Team officials are not to argue or address any disagreements or comment direct to a referee. Any complaints should be directed to Football Brisbane on club letterhead.
 4. A team official can only enter the field of play when the referee indicates to do so.
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16 TECHNICAL AREA

Each club must have Technical Areas clearly marked as stipulated by FIFA guidelines and provide sufficient seating to allow all personnel to be seated during the match.

1. A maximum of ten (10) persons are permitted to be within the confines of the technical area. They may include the coach, assistant coach, the substitutes and either the trainer or medical staff.
 2. Team Official Identification Cards shall be worn at all times by the team coach, assistant/s, the team manager and the team sports trainer. Only persons with such identification or designated players as listed on the match sheets shall be in the technical area.
 3. Only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions to the players during the match.
 4. The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area, except in special circumstances, for example, a team sports trainer or doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player.
 5. All substitutes must be seated within the technical area. They must wear bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to their and the opposition team strip. Substitutes are permitted to warm up outside of the technical area, provided they are wearing bibs or an alternative coloured uniform to their and the opposition team strip. When warming up, substitutes are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.
 6. All occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner. The match official has the right to expel 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 the playing field to the match official's satisfaction.
 7. Smoking or the consumption of alcohol within the confines of the playing barrier fence is strictly prohibited. This includes the team bench within the technical area and all of its occupants, including players, coaching staff, and officials.
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17 MATCH OFFICIALS

Wherever possible, registered officials shall be appointed to control fixture matches.

17.1 Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official

Should the appointed match official fail to honour his appointment, then, if qualified, the next most senior match official will be appointed to take charge of the fixture. In the event the appointed match official is late arriving, then a replacement match official will take charge of the fixture until the appointed match official is ready.

In the event no registered match official is present to take charge of the fixture, then the designated "Home" club shall consult the visiting team and appoint a match official to take charge of the fixture. This match official has the same powers as a registered match official.

All clubs are obligated to fulfil all fixtures regardless of whether a match official is present to take charge.

Should any club fail or refuse to participate in any fixture on the above grounds, then the following will apply:

- the match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team;
- the club will be fined per offence, and will be subject to further disciplinary action

In the event both teams refuse to play, Football Brisbane reserves the right to award a **NO RESULT**, fine both clubs and recommend further disciplinary action.

In circumstances where only one assistant referee has been appointed, **the home team is obliged to provide a club assistant to assist the match referee**. In circumstances where no assistant referees have been appointed, both **the home and the away teams are obliged to provide one club assistant each to assist the match referee**. If either the away or the home team are unable to provide an assistant, then both assistants may come from the same team. Please note, the game should not start without 2 assistants, however this decision will be at the Referees discretion.

17.2 Extreme Weather Conditions

In extreme weather conditions, Football Brisbane or the appointed match official reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture. If the appointed match official postpones, delays or abandons any fixture due to extreme weather conditions, he/she must outline the reasons in writing to Football Brisbane.

All clubs, players, and match officials are requested to please note the following;

- 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 course of the game; *and*
- If conditions are considered extreme by the match referee, he or she has discretion to allow a 2-minute break during the course of each half.

17.3 Blood Rule

In the event a player suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood, the match official will request that the injured player receive attention outside the field of play and only when he /she is satisfied that the injury or wound is safely covered and contained, will the player be permitted to rejoin the game.

In the event the player's uniform or attire is splattered with blood, the referee will instruct that player to change his attire before being permitted to rejoin the game. Should the injured player be required to change his uniform, then the appointed match official will show discretion in allowing the player to wear an alternative numbered shirt if necessary.

18 DISCIPLINARY

Please refer to the current year Football Brisbane Disciplinary policy.

19 PLAYER AGE RULES

Players must play in their designated age group as determined by date of birth.
See Table below

Year of Birth	Age attained in 2012	Participation Age Group
2000	12	U12
1999	13	U13
1998	14	U14
1997	15	U15
1996	16	U17
1995	17	

All players are classified as 'junior' players until they attain the age of eighteen (18) years.

19.1 Competitions grades

In all BJJ and Division 1 competitions, players must attain the appropriate age for the competition they wish to play in during the Year of Competition.

Players will not be permitted to play up into these competitions unless they qualify for and have been granted "Exceptional Circumstances" status.

Prior to competing out of the correct Participation Age Group, a PA01 must be completed by a player's parent or guardian.

In Division 2 and below, players are permitted to play one year up into these competitions, subject to the 'composite team' rules, with parental/guardian approval.

A player from the U15 age group must attain 15 years of age to play up 3 times up into U17 in a season.

19.1.1 Girls

Football Brisbane recognises that, because of numbers, the "girls only" competition requires special consideration. Accordingly there are minor variations to the age requirements/restrictions for "girls only" competitions.

U/17

As for Boys, although girls may play one year up into this competition, with parental/guardian consent and upon application to, and approval from Football Brisbane. Football Brisbane's decision on all applications will be final.

U/12 to U/15 inclusive

Girls may play one year up into these competitions with parental/guardian approval.

19.1.2 Composite Team Definition

Where clubs have to combine age groups in Division 2 or below the following restrictions apply.

The majority of players in the squad should come from the older age level (50% + 1). Where this is not the case application should be made to Football Brisbane for permission to vary this rule. Football Brisbane's decision on any such application will be final.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to withdraw from competition any team found in breach of these rules.

19.1.3 Exceptional Circumstances Definition

The definition of Exceptional Circumstances in relation to the Player Age Rules includes identification of players to participate at state or national levels of competition, excellence in high performance programs and excellence in the highest level of the players designated age group. (Juniors = Junior Premier League (JPL), not School teams at any level or Brisbane Junior League (BJL))

20 APPLICATION FOR VARIANCES

Applications for variances to these rules should be lodged from the Club Secretary to the General Manager Football Brisbane with all supporting documentation.

Football Brisbane reserves the right to change or amend these rules at its absolute discretion
