

EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION INC.

JUNIOR LEAGUE

RULES

AND

REGULATIONS

March 2008

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Junior League Rules and Regulations 2008

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document Purpose

This document is intended to be used as the Rules and regulations of all Junior League Competitions

Distribution Control

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VERSION CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION

Version Number	Date Issued	Issued To	Reason for Issue/ Description of Update	Author/Revision
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1.1	27.2.08		Review	Chief Executive
1.2	28.2.08		Review	Junior League Chair
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

'Member' means an organisation described under clause 1.2 of the ESFA Incorporated Constitution.

'Board of Directors' comprises the persons elected pursuant to clause 11 of the ESFA Incorporated Constitution.

'ESFA' means the Eastern Suburbs Football Association Incorporated.

'ESFRA' means the Eastern Suburbs Football Referees Association Incorporated

'FIFA' refers to Federation Internationale De Football Association (FIFA).

'Football Management Committee' means the committee constituted pursuant to by-laws enacted in accordance with clause 14 of the ESFA Incorporated Constitution to administer and control the Junior League competition

'Operations Manager (OM)' means the ESFA staff member responsible for providing administrative and secretarial support to the Football Management Committee

'Junior Club' means a Member participating in Junior League competitions.

'Junior League Council'(JLC) means any meeting of the Members of the Junior League as convened under these rules

'Junior League' means the Members participating in Junior competitions as organised and structured by the Football Management Committee.

'FNSW' means Football New South Wales

COMPETITION TERMINOLOGY

For the purpose of these rules the following expressions shall apply:

- The area within these rules referred to, as the "Eastern Suburbs" shall be the area controlled by ESFA as directed and approved by FNSW
- Fixtures "sanctioned" by the FMC shall refer to fixtures approved by or under the direct control of the FMC.
- Where the terms "team" or "teams" are used, it is implied that the team or teams involved are under the control of and are the responsibility of their club, and therefore any sanctions or penalties applied to a team or teams may also be applied against their club.
- Where the word "round" is used it refers to a full cycle of fixtures where each team plays each other once. There may be one, two, three or four rounds as determined by the FMC

1 CLUB MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATIONS

1.1 MEMBERSHIP

(A) All clubs participating in competitions conducted by ESFA shall be required to be a current member of ESFA

(B) Legal Status. All Clubs must be incorporated or undertake to become incorporated at the request of the Football Management Committee.

1.2 NOMINATIONS

(A) Each year the Football Management Committee shall call for nominations for all Junior League competitions for the following season. They shall also set the closing date for these nominations.

(B) All nominations shall be made upon the official nomination form provided to clubs by the ESFA.

(C) Nomination forms shall include the following information:

- o division for which the nomination is being submitted;

- o preferred home ground and training ground;

- o colours of the playing strip (shirts, shorts and socks) and alternate strip for all teams nominated.

(D) All nominations shall be inspected and vetted by the Football Management Committee two (2) weeks prior to the next scheduled Football Management Committee meeting. Clubs that have provided inadequate information or information not in accordance with these rules on the official nomination form shall be informed of such irregularities and shall be given seven (7) days in which to resubmit their nomination.

(E) The Football Management Committee reserves the right to determine the appropriate league of each nomination, by taking into account the previous season's results, playing strength of the club and the formation of the division.

(G) Nominations received after the closing date will only be accepted at the discretion of the Football Management Committee and placed into Leagues as determined by the Football Management Committee.

1.3 MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATION AND CAPITATION FEES

(A) The participation and registration fees will be determined annually by the Board of Directors.

(B) Team or player registration fees are to be invoiced in two installments on or before the following dates

- o 1 February

- o 30 March.

2 COMMITTEES

2.1 FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- (A) The operation of the Junior League in the Eastern Suburbs, shall be managed by the Football Management Committee
- (B) The day-to-day administration of the Junior League competitions shall be vested in the Operations Manager who will be responsible to the FMC and the CEO of ESFA
- (C) Subject to the Constitution and these rules, the FMC shall have the power to determine and enforce decisions regarding the control, administration or organization of the Junior League competitions.
- (D) The FMC shall meet on a monthly basis.
- (E) The FMC at a meeting prior to the start of the season determine the Schedule of Penalties for the impending season for the approval of the Board, such changes will not come into force until two (2) weeks after approval.
- (F) The Operations Manager shall have authority to:
- Administer the tasks of the FMC;
 - Administer the day-to-day tasks relating to the running of the Junior League Competition;
 - Act on behalf of the FMC in accordance with FMC directions;
 - Refer issues relevant to the FMC for their deliberation;
 - Ensure that clubs are complying with ESFA's Constitution and Junior League Rules and Regulations, and where they are not, refer the issue to the FMC.
- (G) The FMC shall have the authority to refer to the Judiciary Committee any issue that the FMC may think is appropriate which relates to the discipline (including fining and/or sanctions) of players or clubs.

2.2 THE JUNIOR LEAGUE COUNCIL (JLC)

- (A) The Junior League Council shall consist of:
- The chairperson of the Junior League competitions; and
 - Two delegates from each participating club of the Junior League
- (B) A delegate may only represent one club at a meeting of the JLC
- (C) The order of business for the JLC shall be:
- Attendance,
 - Apologies,
 - Minutes of Previous Meeting,
 - Business Arising,
 - Referees Report,
 - Other Reports,
 - General Business,
 - Correspondence with which due notice has been given
- (D) Items to be placed on the JLC meeting agenda should be forwarded to the Operations Manager in writing five days prior to the meeting. Urgent matters may be added to the agenda at the consent of the meeting.

2.3 INDEMNIFICATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(A) Members of Committees/Tribunals shall be indemnified against costs of, or any payment required to be made pursuant to, or as a result of, or any settlement of, any legal proceedings that may be instituted against them in consequence of the performance of their duties.

3 COMPETITIONS

3.1 COMPETITION RULES

(A) All matches must be played in accordance with the laws of the game as approved by FIFA except where specifically stated in these rules.

3.2 FINES AND SANCTIONS IMPOSED FOR BREAKING JUNIOR LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

(A) Teams, players, clubs, club officials or supporters found guilty of breaking the Junior League Rules and Regulations may have penalties and/or sanctions imposed upon them.

Such penalties and/or sanctions may include:

- o financial penalties in the form of fines, bonds or other such guarantees, sureties or payments;
- o deduction of competition points;
- o suspension and/or expulsion from any competition.

3.3 APPROVAL OF OTHER COMPETITIONS AND/OR MATCHES

(A) Clubs shall not play or be involved in or give approval for any player, official and/or team to participate in any other matches within the control of a Football NSW sanctioned competition unless they have first received approval from ESFA.

(B) Such requests shall be made in writing no less than seven (7) days prior to the scheduled date of each match and where appropriate the ESFA visitor policy should be adhered to.

(C) Any club or player found to be in breach of section 3.3 (A) may result in such action as determined by the Judiciary Committee.

3.4 MATCH CARDS

(A) The Match Card must be correctly completed, in a legible manner by both teams. The team sheets must contain the names of the players taking part in the match, including the names of the nominated substitutes and their registration numbers.

(B) The completed match cards shall be signed by both managers and handed to the referee no later than ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time of the match.

(C) Each match card shall contain the following information which shall be supplied by the team RTO's:

- o name of the club;
- o home or away team;
- o name, initials, registration number, and shirt number of all players (or non competitive age groups (6-9) a shirt number is not necessary)

o date, division, grade and venue of each match;

o Names of club officials as required under Regulation

(D) The match card shall indicate the number that each player will wear on the field of play. This number must be worn by that player throughout the match except where the player changes uniform in which case the captain/manager of the team shall notify the referee immediately;

(E) Under no circumstances shall two players playing in the same team at the same time be permitted to have the same shirt number;

(F) Players who are registered in a team other than the one for which they are playing, shall note on the Card or Sheet for which team they are registered with. (eg. A lower graded or under age player must be noted).

(G) Where any club causes a match to be delayed due to the incorrect completion of a match card, late production of a match card, Player Identification or similar administrative matters, the delay shall be reported by the referee to the Football Management Committee. The Football Management Committee upon investigation of such a report shall impose penalties and/or sanctions as determined by the Football Management Committee;

(H) No alteration to the match card may be made after it has been handed to the referee without the consent of the opposing team RTO.

(I) At the completion of each match the referee shall enter the following information on the match card:

o names of the appointed referee and linesman;

o the result of the match;

o goal scorers; and

o cautions and send-offs.

(J) The referee will then submit the completed match card to the winning team RTO or in the case of a draw the home team RTO.

(K) All Team Sheets must be sent by the winning team, or in the case of a draw the home team, to the Registered Office of ESFA, by post or delivered by hand, to arrive no later than 5pm Tuesday following a weekend fixture, or forty eight (48) hours following a mid week fixture. Faxed or electronic copies may also be submitted by said deadlines; however the original copy must be submitted to ESFA within 7 days of the match. Failure to submit a team sheet will result in a \$100 fine and loss of 3 points.

(L) When a match is forfeited, then the team sheet shall be endorsed accordingly by the Referee.

(M) Any Player, Team Manager, Team Coach or Club Official supplying false information shall be dealt with as determined by the Football Management Committee

(N) Failure by teams to complete a match card will result in a \$20 penalty for each occurrence that is found on a match card, up to a maximum of \$50.

3.5 NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND INTERCHANGE

(A) The following team sizes apply per age group:

o 6 and 7 year old mixed Comp – 4 Players on the field

o 8 and 9 year old mixed Comp – 9 Players on the field with a maximum of 3 interchange players

o 10 years and up mixed Comp – 11 Players on the field with a maximum of 5 interchange players

(B) All competitive teams (10 years old and above) will have not less than eleven (11) eligible players for team registration purposes and no more than sixteen (16) registered players

(C) An interchange is only permitted from the half way line, when the ball is out of play and when the referee has indicated that a change can be made.

(D) The RTO is to mark 'Did Not Play' or 'DNP' on the match card next to the names of any players who is listed on the match card but does not take part in the match.

(E) Any club who breaches section 3.5 will forfeit the match resulting in a 3 – 0 result.

3.6 MATCH BALLS

(A) The following match balls shall be available for use during each match in ESFA competitions:

- o each home team shall provide one (1) match ball.
- o each away team shall provide one (1) match ball.
- o Breach of Regulation 3.6 will result in a fine of \$25 for each offence.

(B) The following ball sizes will be used per age group:

- o 6 – 9 year olds Size 3: not less than 560mm (22") nor more than 585mm (23") in circumference.
- o 10 – 13 year olds Size 4: not less than 635mm (25") nor more than 660mm (26") in circumference.
- o 14 year olds and above Size 5: not less than 685mm (27") nor more than 710mm (28") in circumference.

3.7 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

(A) The Home Clubs shall appoint a results registrar who shall email/fax the complete results of all Junior fixtures through to the ESFA office no later than 10:00am the day after the Fixture.

(B) Failure to comply with this regulation will result in a fine of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per club on the first occasion.

(C) Each additional breach of this regulation will result in a fine of forty dollars (\$40.00) per club.

3.8 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

(A) The eligibility of Players shall be defined by ESFA from time to time.

(B) A qualified or Bona-Fide Player is one who has signed a Registration Form or Re-Registration Form and is registered as per the Rules and Regulations.

(C) It is the responsibility of the club to check with ESFA that all their players are qualified or Bona-Fide players.

(D) Any Club playing an ineligible Player shall be ineligible for any points affiliated with the Match and shall be subject to any Disciplinary action as imposed by the Football Management Committee. Full points allocated for the Fixture shall be forfeited to their Opponents and goals recorded according to three (3) goals scored by the Team getting the points to nil (0) by the Team who has infringed the Regulations. The Club shall also be fined a minimum of (\$100) plus costs associated with the match or a greater amount as determined by the Football Management Committee in addition to any other disciplinary action imposed.

(E) Registration and transfer of players will end on the 30th June in the current season.

(F) Once a player is nominated for a particular team, they shall be considered a permanent member of that team.

(G) A player may never play in a team graded lower than that to which they are registered in both age group and division.

(H) Properly registered players aged 5 – 12 years shall be eligible to play for their nominated team within the club within a higher age group of not more than one (1) year above real age group, not their registered team age (exception for combined competitions).

(I) Players aged 13 years and older may play for their nominated team within the club within a higher age group of not more than two (2) years above real age group, not their registered team age

(I) No team registration can consist of more than three (3) under age players, up to and including 12 year olds. An application for exemption to this rule can be made to the FMC in writing by a Club Official. No restriction applies to the number of under age players in teams 13 years and older or girls only competitions.

(J) Players are permitted to participate in higher age groups or grade, on three (3) occasions. On the 4th occasion the said player will have their ID card returned to the Administration Office for re-registration.

(K) Once players have registered in a particular age group (eg. An 8 year old in the 9 year old age group) they are not eligible for the lower age group nor are they allowed to play up in the age group up (eg: an 8 year old in the 9 year old age group cannot play up in the 10 year old age group)

(L) Application for player regrading must be submitted to the FMC for approval.

(M) Clubs fielding more than one (1) team in a given age division cannot transfer players between teams within that division.

(N) No Dual registration is allowed under any circumstances. Eg. Players registered with another Association/Club, within or outside the Associations boundaries.

3.9 RING-INS

(A) A "ring-in" is an ineligible player, either because he or she is not registered, belongs to another team, is unable to play in that grade due to various reasons including age restraints, but who has been asked by a club, team or another player to fill a spot on a team and knowingly plays when they are ineligible to do so.

(B) Any Team/Club found guilty will be punished at the discretion of the Football Management Committee and/or Judiciary Committee

(C) Any player who 'knowingly' plays as a 'ring-in' will be suspended for a minimum of six (6) matches and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

(D) Any Member or Office holder of any such club or any Player or Coach affiliated with any such club who is found to have knowingly participated in any practice of "Ring-in" may be disqualified for life from ESFA or be subject to such other punishment as may be determined by the Judiciary Committee to be appropriate, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

3.10 MATCH COMMENCEMENT

(A) Matches shall commence at the appointed time, or in the event of a match whose commencement is dependent upon the completion of the previous match, within ten (10) minutes of the conclusion of the previous match.

(B) Kick off times of all Official Matches shall be as determined by the Football Management Committee and shall be detailed in the Official Fixture List.

(C) Failure to commence fixture at the set times will result in a fine of \$50.00 to the offending Club.

(D) ESFA, in setting down kick off times, may start matches after 8:30am for any daytime fixture which may include Saturday, Sunday or any Public Holiday.

3.11 DURATION OF FIXTURES

The duration of Matches shall be as follows.

- 6 and 7 year old, two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes and half time break of 5 minutes
- 8 and 9 year old, two (2) equal periods of twenty (20) minutes and half time break of 5 minutes
- 10 years old – 12 years old, two (2) equal periods of twenty five (25) minutes and half time break of 5 minutes
- 13 and 14 years old, two (2) equal periods of thirty (30) minutes and half time break of 5 minutes
- 15 and 16 years old, two (2) equal periods of thirty five (35) minutes and half time break of 5 minutes
- 17 years and above, two (2) equal periods of forty five (45) minutes and half time break of 10 minutes

3.12 COMPETITION POINTS

(A) Points shall be allocated as follows for all Junior League Competition matches:

Win - Three (3) points

Draw - One (1) point each team

Bye - No points

Loss - No points

Forfeit - Three (3) points to the team receiving the forfeit

3.13 MATCHES AFFECTING FINAL SERIES

(A) Any rescheduled match affecting the final series position must be played prior to the final scheduled competition round.

(B) If a rescheduled match is not played prior to the final round, it will be deemed a no result and no points will be allocated.

(C) In the event of unforeseen circumstances affecting a match in the final round, the Football Management Committee shall determine if the match is to be replayed.

3.14 CLUBS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWING FROM COMPETITIONS

(A) In the event of any Member Club withdrawing or being removed from ESFA's Competitions, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered Competitions to proceed to a conclusion.

- o Removed or withdrawing before Competition has started:

- Bye result will apply in Competitions

- o Removed or withdrawing during first rounds:

- All opposing Teams that have played the removed or withdrawn Teams (for the complete first round). Points and goals deleted from their records and shall be credited with a bye result. Teams that have not played the removed or withdrawn Team will obtain a Bye result.

- o Removed or withdrawing during the second or subsequent rounds:

- All points and goals acquired will be retained by opposing Teams (for the completed first round). Points and goals acquired against such disaffiliated Team shall be lost and Bye results shall be credited for the second half of the Competition.

- o Where appropriate, the Football Management Committee may also fine and/or sanction the club.

3.15 DETERMINATION OF POSITIONS FOR FINAL SERIES AND CHAMPIONS

(A) Should two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition, having completed their Competition, possess the same number of points that Team with the better goal difference shall be considered to be the higher

(B) In all cases where goal differences are taken into account the following will be used:

- o Number of goals against subtracted from the number of goals for.

- o The highest resultant positive figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to be the best goal difference.

(C) Where goal differences are equal, the team having scored the greater number of goals shall be considered the higher placed team.

(D) If two (2) or more Teams in the same Competition, have the same goal difference, and have scored the same number of goals, then the team which has the better head to head aggregate results during the regular season will be considered the higher.

(E) If the above is still equal, a 'play off' game will be played with the winner determined to be higher.

3.16 JUNIOR FINAL SERIES FOR AGE GROUPS 10 AND ABOVE

(A) At the completion of the Home and Away regular season the Team which scores the highest number of points shall be declared League Champions.

(B) Upon the completion of the Championship Competition, the top four placed teams in each Junior Division will participate in a Final Series.

(C) The format to be used for the Final Series will be determined by the Football Management Committee, and where possible after consultation with the Junior League Council.

(D) The winner of the Grand Final shall be deemed the Grand Final Winner for their Division.

(E) At the discretion of the FMC and relevant Council a "pennant competition" should be organised for those teams missing out on the semi-finals.

3.17 FINAL SERIES VENUES

The Football Management Committee shall determine the venue for all Final Series matches.

3.18 DRAWN FINAL SERIES MATCHES

(A) If at the conclusion of a Semi-Final Match or of a Final or Grand Final Match the scores are level, the Teams shall play extra time of five (5) minutes each way for 10 to 12 year olds, and ten (10) minutes each way for 13 years and above.

(B) If the scores are still level at the conclusion of extra time, the match shall be determined by the Penalty Kick method as prescribed by the International Football Association Board.

(C) The Golden Goal Rule will apply

(D) For 10 to 12 year old age groups, only one RTO can come onto the centre circle and direct the players in the correct procedure for "Penalty Kicks".

(E) For 13 year old age groups and up, prior to the Penalty Shoot Out, one (1) RTO is permitted to come onto the field of play to organise Penalty takers and then leave.

3.19 FINALS SERIES PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

(A) Only players registered and playing a minimum of four (4) competition matches in the nominated team (forfeits, byes gala days not included) before the semis may qualify for the nominated team in the finals series. Exceptions (eg due to unforeseen circumstances eg injury) to be adjudicated by the FMC.

(B) Players from a lower age group in the same club who have played with the nominated team in a competition game during the season may play and then only to replace injured players. As long as an application has been made to the FMC and approved.

3.20 UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

(A) Nothing in the Rules and Regulations shall prevent the Football Management Committee of ESFA from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered, but not limited to, the Regulations concerning Promotion, Relegation, Number of Divisions and composition of Teams in each Division.

3.21 INDUCEMENT - MATCH RESULT

(A) Any club official or player offering or receiving payment or any form of inducement to or from any member or an official or player of any member, or any club official or

player receiving or seeking any payment or other form of inducement from any other person or organisation to wrongfully affect the result of any Competition match shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and liable to such penalty as the Football Management Committee determine, including possible life suspension.

3.22 SPECIAL RULES FOR EACH AGE GROUP

- (A) Non Competitive age groups are as follows: 6s, 7s, 8s and 9s.
- (B) 6's coaches are allowed on the field of play, but must remain outside the penalty area.
- (C) There shall be NO on-field coaching, and no coaching of the team from the sideline other than by the team coach.
- (D) 6 and 7 year old teams to play in the Small Sided Games Program as approved by the FFA
- (E) 8 and 9 year old teams to play on a $\frac{3}{4}$ pitch
- (F) 8's to 9's (non competitive) matches, offside play will only be penalised where the Referee considers it to be blatant or deliberate.
- (G) 8's to 9's (non competitive) goal kicks will be taken from the edge of the penalty area.
- (H) 8's to 9's (non competitive) penalty kicks shall be taken from a point six (6) metres from the goal line, in front of the centre of the goalmouth.
- (I) 8's to 12's corner kicks shall be taken on the goal line seven (7) metres (approximately 8 yards) from the edge of the penalty area.
- (J) 10's goal kicks shall be taken from an imaginary line drawn through the penalty spot.
- (K) 8's to 10's any free kicks to the defending team inside the penalty area, that are between the defenders goal line and the penalty spot, shall be taken from an imaginary line drawn through the penalty spot.
- (L) Clubs must insure that the short corner (ie. The seven (7) metre mark) is clearly marked on the field.
- (M) For 8's to 9's, free kicks shall be indirect and all opposing players will stand five (5) metres away from the kick off, free kicks, goal kicks or corners.
- (N) Blatant fouls are to be penalised. Also careless tackles which disadvantage the ball carrier should be penalised.
- (O) An incorrect throw in (in non-competitive) may be taken again at the Referees discretion. The second throw in shall be deemed a correct throw in for 6's and 7's only.
- (P) No spectators, coaches or managers are permitted behind either goal line whilst a game is in progress.

4 FIXTURES, FORFEITS AND TOURS

4.1 DRAWS

- (A) The Football Management Committee shall provide the final Competition draw five (5) days prior to the first round of the Championship competition.

4.2 FORFEITS/ WALK OFFS

- (A) Any club that, without just cause, fails to fulfill an engagement to play the fixture/s or any of them on the appointed date, time or venue/s shall for each and every offence forfeit that fixture/s. The offending club shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses

incurred by its opponents relative to that fixture or fixtures. The offending club may then be dealt with by the Football Management Committee or Judiciary Committee.

(B) Matches must start within ten (10) minutes of the stipulated starting time. Any team that refuses to begin a match after this period shall have forfeited the match. When a match starts later than the stipulated time, short time shall be played. Two (2) equal halves shall be played at all times.

(C) Teams must field a minimum number of players at any time in a match as follows:

- 8 – 9 years old five (5) players
- 10 years and above seven (7) players

Failure to do so shall result in the offending team forfeiting the match.

(D) In the event of a match being called off due to insufficient numbers of players on one team as per FIFA Regulations then the team responsible for the match being called off shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.

(E) If a team fails to enter the field of play or has insufficient players for the match to proceed after ten (10) minutes of the scheduled starting time the referee shall inform team officials present that the game has been called off. The team responsible for the match being called off shall be deemed to have forfeited the match (Regulation 4.2).

4.3 PENALTIES FOR FORFIETS

(A) In the event of any team forfeiting its match, the following procedure shall take effect:

(i) Full points allocated for the match shall be forfeited to its opponents and the goals recorded according to three (3) goals scored by the Team getting the points to nil (0) by the Team who has infringed the regulation.

(ii) Clubs who advise ESFA in writing that they will be forfeiting a match 48 hours prior to the scheduled kick off will not be fined

(B) If a club fails to provide sufficient notice as set out in 4.3A, the following penalties will be imposed: -

(i) The offending club will be fined \$75.00

(ii) pay all appropriate Referees and Assistant Referees fees and ground hire costs.

(C) Teams forfeiting on three (3) occasions without an explanation satisfactory to the Football Management Committee shall be removed from the Competition and may lose membership to ESFA. Clubs may also be fined up to \$250 at the discretion of the Football Management Committee.

(D) In the event of a walk-off by one club prior to the completion of a match the team will be considered to have forfeited the match, and the club shall be liable to penalties under Regulation 4.3, in addition to other penalties and/or sanctions as the Football Management Committee sees fit.

4.4 HOW FORFIETS AFFECT SUSPENSIONS

(A) When the forfeiting club has a player suspended in that division, the match forfeited by his club, will not count as a match served on his suspension.

(B) When a club receives a forfeit, any player under suspension in that division will have one match deducted from their suspension.

4.5 FIXTURES

(A) All Divisional Championship Fixtures to be played between Clubs in each season shall be prepared and arranged as soon as practicable in accordance with 4.1 and advised to Member Clubs. Notification of fixtures shall hereafter be called the Official Fixture List.

(B) Any disputes between two (2) or more clubs as to the arrangement of fixtures shall be referred to and decided by the Football Management Committee.

(C) Dislocation of any fixtures for any cause whatsoever shall be immediately reported to the ESFA by the clubs concerned.

(D) All re-arrangements of fixtures shall be determined by the Football Management Committee and at no time may clubs organize and agree between themselves to change fixtures.

(E) A fixture may be played wholly or in part under floodlights. Provided that any alteration to starting times shall have been given due approval. Provided also that the standard of lighting shall meet the requirements of the Football Management Committee.

(F) Fixtures shall be played on the date and times as nominated in the Official Fixture List, and these dates could include any weekday evening or night fixtures, any daytime, evening or night fixtures on Saturday, Sunday or Public Holidays.

(G) Notwithstanding any other Regulation on the same subject matter, the Football Management Committee reserves the right to alter or amend any fixture after it has been nominated in the Official Fixture List. The alterations could be to the date, or venue or kick-off times, or a combination of all providing the clubs involved are given seven (7) days prior notice to such happenings being undertaken by the Football Management Committee.

(H) Any request to change a fixture must be made in accordance with the Associations "Special Considerations Policy".

4.6 POSTPONED MATCHES/ WET WEATHER CONDITIONS

(A) In the event of any match not being played owing to weather either due to ground closure or a decision taken by the Referee under Law 5 of the game, or other causes over which neither club has any control, on being ordered to be replayed, it shall be within twenty one (21) days of the first postponement or prior to the final round of the regular season whichever is earlier.

(B) If the grounds are closed by Friday by the council, the ESFA Office shall notify the clubs via email and the referees of the cancellation of those Junior League games.

(C) In the event of all games in the Junior League round being cancelled, they shall be replayed on the first available wet weather allowance weekend. If however no wet weather allowance is available, and an alternative date for these games cannot be supplied by either the Clubs or the Football Management Committee, no points shall be awarded to any team and the games will not be replayed.

(D) In the event of some games being played and others not the Football Management Committee will reschedule only those un-played games to a later date, even at the expense of already scheduled rounds.

4.7 AUTHORITY TO ABANDON FIXTURES AND COMPETITIONS

(A) The Football Management Committee shall have the power to abandon any fixtures, or any competition and organise any other fixture or competition if it deems such action necessary in the interests of the Association. Notice must be provided to the Junior Council.

4.8 RECOMPENSE FOR DEFERRAL OF A FIXTURE

(A) Should an opposing club be unable to recoup expenses resulting from any deferral, the Football Management Committee shall decide the amount of compensation to be paid. Such compensation shall be the responsibility of the club granted the deferral.

5 HOME GROUNDS, COLOURS AND PRESENTATION OF HOME GROUNDS

5.1 CLUB COLOURS

(A) Except by express permission of the Football Management Committee, clubs may only play in their registered club colours.

(B) Each Club in ESFA shall submit to ESFA a full colour front and back photograph of their regular colours and alternate colours (including socks), for approval and registration.

(C) No Clubs shall be permitted to use a colour, which clashes with the official uniform of the referees.

(D) The colour of the official uniform of the referees shall be black.

(E) No two teams shall play each other in the same colours.

(F) Goalkeepers' shirts in all cases shall be distinguishable from colours worn by all the other players including the match officials.

(G) Failure of any team to play in their registered colours may result in their club being fined \$100.00

5.2 PROVISION OF ALTERNATE STRIP

(A) In the event of a club fielding a team in colours similar to those of the opposing team, and where the home team is of the opinion that confusion may arise, the home team may raise the issue with the referee, the referee may order that the visiting club change its colours and refuse to allow the match to commence until a satisfactory change is made.

(B) In the event of a club fielding a team in colours similar to those of the opposing team, and where the referee is of the opinion that confusion may arise, the referee may order that the visiting club change its colours and refuse to allow the match to commence until a satisfactory change is made.

(C) Failure to observe Regulation 5.2 will result in a fine of \$50.00

5.3 CONTROL OF SPECTATORS

(A) It shall be the duty of both clubs to maintain control of spectators, to prevent any disturbance amongst its spectators and to generally assist the Football Management Committee, Match officials or ESFA staff in the preservation of order and good discipline

at any match. Failure to do so shall result in the imposition of penalties and/or sanctions as the Judiciary Committee sees fit.

(B) In the event of a report being made to ESFA that the misbehaviour of spectators has had a material effect on the result of a match, being upheld, the Judiciary Committee may declare the match and result void and order the match to be replayed on such ground and on such date and on such conditions as the Judiciary Committee shall think proper or deduct a maximum of up to three (3) points from the offending club and/or to impose such other sanctions as the Judiciary Committee shall think proper.

(C) In the event of a match being abandoned due to field invasion the Football Management Committee or Judiciary Committee shall have the power to have the match replayed, to allow the result to stand or award a forfeit if it so determines.

(D) Any such report shall be lodged with ESFA in writing no later than 5.00pm on the second (2nd) working day following the day of the match and shall only be considered if made by the Referee or a Club participating in such match.

5.4 CLUB RTO's

(A) At any fixture both clubs must have an RTO, who are readily identifiable by wearing an RTO card and these RTO's must report to the Match Referees five (5) minutes prior to the kick off time of the Matches.

(B) All RTO's must have their name correctly entered on the Match Card.

(C) All RTO's must wear the RTO card allocated to them.

(D) All RTO's shall be responsible for:

(i) The RTO must check the oppositions Player ID Cards in the centre of the field FIVE (5) minutes before kick off. If there is any doubt as to a players identity the RTO must mark this clearly on the match card and submit a written report to the ESFA Office within 48 hours. If an RTO is found to have not checked the oppositions Player ID Cards in any age group the offending team will be recorded to have forfeited the match and the Club will be fined fifty dollars (\$50).

(ii) Provision of adequate security for the protection of Players and the public.

(iii) Welfare of the officiating Referees and Assistant Referees from the time they arrive at the Ground until the time they depart from the ground. Failure to carry out this requirement shall render both Clubs liable to a penalty as decided by the Judiciary Committee.

(iv) Further offences of such nature will result in a heavier penalty being imposed.

(v) Referees will be obliged to report any club who fails to provide the required number of RTO's as required by this regulation.

5.5 DRESSING THE GROUND

(A) The HOME team (that being the team listed on the left hand side of the draw) dress the field with: two (2) nets, four (4) corner posts (minimum height 1.75m – 5ft above the ground) and two (2) crowd control rope from 18 yard box to 18 yard box minimum.

(B) All Clubs must ensure that all the grounds are left clean and tidy after completion of their matches, otherwise a fine will be imposed.

(C) Where any club fails to provide such equipment or causes any delay to the commencement of any match due to the late provision of such equipment or even abandonment, the Club shall received a minimum fine of \$100 and/or sanctions as determined by the Football Management Committee.

5.6 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

(A) Any club found guilty of causing damage to property at any ground shall be required to pay the total cost of repairing such damage or the total cost of replacement of such property and shall be subject to other such penalties and/or sanctions as the Football Management Committee sees fit.

5.7 CLEANING UP/ COLLECTION OF RUBBISH

(A) Home clubs or other such clubs designated by ESFA must collect litter and leave grounds, spectator areas, dressing rooms, toilets and pavilions in a satisfactory condition or shall pay the cleaning costs as demanded by the competent authority.

5.8 PROHIBITED ITEMS

(A) Clubs, official(s), spectators and/or players under the jurisdiction of ESFA are prohibited from using and/or displaying in logos, letterheads, clothing, programs and/or newsletters, any of the following items: -

- o National Flags other than the Australian Flag
- o Emblems or symbols which promote a political objective or movement
- o Maps other than a map of a geographic area of Australia or parts thereof
- o Any slogan or message of a political nature

(B) At any fixture under the jurisdiction of ESFA the following items are prohibited:

- o Flares
- o Fireworks
- o National Flags other than the Australian Flag
- o National or Political Emblems other than the Australian Emblem
- o Loudhailers
- o Banners or placards displaying political messages or slogans
- o Instruments prohibited by law

Failure to comply with Regulation 5.8 may result in such action as determined by the Football Management Committee.

(C) No club shall be admitted to ESFA where such clubs name consists in whole or in part the name of:

- o a foreign country place or state
- o a province state, county, town or city of a foreign country, place or state.
- o an organization or the abbreviation for an organization that is associated or synonymous with a political movement
- o a denomination which is descriptive of a race or ethnic group

6 PLAYERS

6.1 PLAYER AGE – JUNIOR LEAGUE

(A) All players must be turning the age specified for their competition in that calendar year, except in circumstances as outlined in 3.8.

(B) The minimum playing age is a player turning 5 in the calendar year.

(C) All new players must provide proof of age, which being a photocopy of birth certificate or passport.

6.2 MISCONDUCT OF PLAYERS

(A) A Referee who has been appointed by ESFA to a match, shall without delay, report to ESFA any instance or instances of misconduct or foul play during the progress of the match which led to the dismissal of a player or players from the field of play. Any reports received by ESFA pursuant to this Regulation shall be dealt with by the Judiciary Committee.

(B) A Referee, Assistant referee or Match Inspector who has been appointed to a match by ESFA must report any instance of misconduct by a player or players irrespective of whether such misconduct occurred before, during or after such match, and whether it shall have led to the player or players being ordered from the field of play or not.

(C) All Junior players who receive a red card must appear before the Judiciary Committee before they can participate in any further match.

(D) Where ESFA receives a complaint from a member of ESFA or a club concerning the conduct of a player registered with ESFA in the course of or immediately subsequent to a match in which the player registered with ESFA takes part, and such conduct has not been the subject of a report to ESFA by the Referee in charge of the match pursuant to Regulation 6.2A, the Football Management Committee, may call on the player concerned to appear before the Judiciary Committee, to answer a charge that the conduct complained of constitutes conduct contrary to the policy or prejudicial to the interests, welfare or image of ESFA or the Game. A complaint under this Rule must be left at the registered office of ESFA no later than 72 hours following the date of the match in which or after which the conduct complained of is alleged to have occurred.

(E) The Football Management Committee may at any time call on a player registered with ESFA to appear before the Football Management Committee or Judiciary Committee to answer a charge, that conduct, which he shall specify in such charge, by that player in the course of or immediately subsequent to a match which the player took part constitutes conduct contrary to the policy or prejudicial to the interest, welfare or image of ESFA or the Game.

6.3 PLAYER IDENTITY CARDS

(A) Any player who fails to produce their Player ID card at a game will be regarded as an unregistered player, even if they are able to produce such ID at a later time. Players have until half time of a game to supply their ID Card but must not take to the field until their ID Card has been inspected by the opposing team's RTO.

(B) An identity number shall be included on all ID cards. This ID number shall be retained by a player for the duration of the players playing career within Eastern Suburbs Football Association Inc. The responsibility lies with the individual Clubs for the correct current updated information for the ID records.

(C) Loss of an identity card will incur a fee for replacement to be determined each year by the Football Management Committee.

6.4 PLAYERS EQUIPMENT – ALL GRADES

(A) Players in all matches must appear in their proper registered club uniform colours.

- (B) Footwear to comply with current soccer rules requirements, (to be noted prior to the commencement of the season) or as prescribed by the Association.
- (C) Shin pads are COMPULSORY for ALL players.
- (D) No jewellery or other accessories, which the Referee could deem to be dangerous, can be worn by a player during any match.
- (E) ALL players from the age Under 10 and upward must wear number tops.
- (F) Goalkeepers are permitted to wear tracksuit bottoms.

7 REFEREES

7.1 APPOINTMENT OF REFEREES

- (A) The appointment of all match officials will be made by an ESFRA Referees Appointment Officer, who may utilise such other persons, as deemed necessary to assist in the carrying out these responsibilities.
- (B) For all Championship and Cup Finals or games, which are, in the opinion of the ESFA or the ESFRA, of special importance, the Football Management Committee have the right to challenge the appointment of referees by the ESFRA. In such a case the appointment shall be subject to a vote taken by the Football Management Committee.

7.2 PAYMENT OF REFEREE FEES

- (A) For all Junior competition matches clubs will be invoiced 50/50 by the ESFA Office for the cost of Referees Fees.
- (B) For other matches, but not limited to, Final Series and Cup matches an account for referee's fees will be sent by ESFRA to ESFA.
- (C) Fees for referees and assistant referees shall be determined annually by Football NSW

7.3 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES

- (A) The ESFA will endeavor to provide changes to match details to the ESFRA Appointments Officer a minimum of five (5) days prior to the scheduled match.

7.4 KICK – OFF TIMES

- (A) Referees shall at all times abide by the scheduled kick-off time for all matches as determined by the ESFA Football Management Committee.

7.5 GAMES CALLED OFF/ TEAMS FAILING TO ENTER THE FIELD OF PLAY

- (A) If a team fails to enter the field of play, or has insufficient players for the match to proceed, after ten (10) minutes of the programmed starting time, the referee shall inform both teams RTO's that the game has been called off, and will notify ESFA Office in writing by way of incident report.
- (B) The Referee shall be the sole arbiter as to whether a game will proceed, having regard to the condition of the ground, the weather at the time of inspection and the projected weather forecast.

(C) Abandoned matches will be replayed at a time, date and place to be determined by the ESFA Football Management Committee.

7.6 LATE STARTS

(A) Where a game commences later than the scheduled start time, the match shall be reduced to ensure that the game finishes no later than the programmed starting time of the next game. The match will be played in two equal halves. The referee will advise both team captains of the time to be played in each reduced half.

7.7 ARRIVAL TIMES FOR MATCH OFFICIALS

(A) All match officials shall arrive at the venue a minimum of ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time for the match. Where this does not occur, club officials shall report this occurrence to the ESFA office within 72 hours of the completion of the match.

7.8 ASSISTANT REFEREES

(A) Where possible there shall be two assistant referees. If no ESFA appointed assistant referees are available each Club shall appoint one person to act as an Assistant Referee. If one assistant referee only is present the home club shall appoint a second person to run the line. Club assistants shall act strictly in accordance with the direction of the referee.

7.9 NON ARRIVAL OF REFEREES

(A) In the event of the non-arrival of a referee the most senior assistant referee present shall referee the match unless the referee is not qualified to referee that level of match.

(B) If a referee or assistant referees are not present the home team will be responsible for organising a referee. The match must be played or the result will be recorded as a nil result and no points will be awarded for the match.

7.10 CLUB REFEREE

(A) It is recommended by the ESFA that the club referee should have successfully completed a referee's information course within the last three (3) years or at the very least have read the FIFA Laws of the Game.

(B) A club referee will have the power to caution or send off a player if warranted in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

(C) Should a club referee caution or send off a player and not have any cards available the referee should inform that player's team captain and RTO of the offence and action. In the event of a send off the club referee is required to complete a send off report (available on the ESFA web site) and submit to ESFA office by 5pm on the Tuesday following the match.

7.11 PRESENTATION OF MATCH OFFICIALS ON THE FIELD

(A) The officiating referee and their assistant shall present themselves at the centre of the field not later than five (5) minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

7.12 ENTERING THE FIELD OF PLAY

(A) No person may enter the field of play for the purpose of rendering first aid or medical assistance, or any other reason until summoned by the referee. Officials, or any

other person found guilty by the Judiciary Committee of breaching this rule shall be subject to penalties as the Judiciary Committee sees fit.

7.13 ADMINISTRATION OF MATCH CARDS

(A) At the completion of the match the referee should complete the match card in accordance with the Rules and Regulations.

(B) It will be the responsibility of the winning team, or in the case of a draw, the home team to submit the match card and match report, if any, to ESFA office within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

7.14 APPROACHING A REFEREE

(A) Before, during or after the completion of the match no person, other than both designated RTOs, may approach the referee and then only with the referee's consent.

7.15 RESPONSIBILITY FOR REFEREE SAFETY

(A) The Home Club shall be solely responsible for the welfare of the officiating referee and assistant referees from the time they arrive at the ground until the time they depart from the ground.

(B) Failure to carry out this requirement shall render the Home club liable to a penalty, as decided by the Judiciary Committee.

7.16 REFEREE EVALUATION REPORTS

(A) All Junior clubs across all the Divisions will have the option to complete an official evaluation report for each referee of their Club's matches (report available on ESFA web site).

(B) Such reports should not be completed until a period of 24 hours has elapsed since the completion of the fixture. Reports are to be dispatched through the club Secretary to ESFA. Evaluation reports must be submitted not more than 96 hours after the completion of the fixture.

(C) All reports received by ESFA shall be regarded strictly confidential between the person and club making the report and ESFA.

(D) The prime function of these reports shall be the recording of an evaluation into the performance of the referee or assistant referees throughout each of their appointments during the season.

(E) Prior to the commencement of the regular season, each club shall send 1 person to a meeting organised by ESFA in relation to the correct completion of evaluation reports.

8 TROPHIES – 10 YEARS AND OVER

8.1 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES

(A) The Clubs declared Association Champions of their respective Grades shall be presented with a trophy or plaque.

(B) ESFA shall present to each ESFA Champion team 18 medallions to be distributed to the players, coach, etc., of the respective teams as the club shall care to nominate.

8.2 FINAL SERIES TROPHIES

(A) The Clubs declared ESFA Final Series Winners of their respective Grades, having won the Grand Final shall be presented with a trophy or plaque.

(B) ESFA shall present to each ESFA Final Series Winning team 18 medallions to be distributed to the players, coach, etc., of the respective teams as the club shall care to nominate.

(C) ESFA shall present to each ESFA Final Series Runner-up team 18 medallions to be distributed to the players, coach, etc., of the respective teams as the club shall care to nominate.

8.3 PERPETUAL TROPHIES

(A) Perpetual Trophies awarded to Clubs are to be returned to the ESFA Office by the ESFA Annual General Meeting. This Rule also includes pre-season competitions.

Failure to do so will result in a \$200.00 fine.

(B) Clubs that fail to return a perpetual trophy by the cut off date will be required to pay for a replacement.

9 FINES AND BONDS - GENERIC

9.1 BONDS

(A) Any monetary bond placed upon any member Club by the Football Management Committee, Judiciary Committee, or any other body of ESFA should be for a specified period of time and that period of time is decided upon by the Football Management Committee or Judiciary Committee or Board

9.2 PAYMENT OF FINES

(A) That all fines imposed by these Regulations must be paid within thirty (30) days of invoicing, except for fines dealing with individual suspended players. These fines must be paid either before the 30 days or before the player can play, whichever is sooner.