



NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES

Competition Rules

National Premier Leagues - WA

This document must be read in conjunction with the following documents.

FIFA Documents

- FIFA Laws of the Game
- FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
- FIFA Disciplinary Code

FFA Documents

- National Registration Regulations
- National Disciplinary Regulations
- National Grievance Resolution Regulations
- National Member Protection Policy
- National Premier Leagues Player Points System

Football West Documents

- National Premier Leagues Participation Agreement
- Football West Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law
- Football West Competition Management By-Law
- Football West Code of Conduct
- Football West Spectator Code of Behaviour

All matches will be played in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game in force at the time of publication of these rules and as laid down by the International Football Association Board, unless otherwise stated in these rules.

References to the male gender are for simplification and apply to both males and females.

A club which affiliates with FFA, signs the National Premier Leagues Participation Agreement and enters teams into the National Premier Leagues is deemed to accept these Competition Rules.

Part 1 – Common Rules

Article 1 - General

1. Football West may alter, add to, clarify or delete any of these rules at its discretion. Any changes to these rules will be communicated to clubs.
2. For the purposes of these rules, the term “Senior Teams” refers to the first team, the Under 20s team and the Under 18s team. The term “Junior Teams” refers to teams in the Under 12s to Under 16s age groups inclusive.
3. Football West may investigate any alleged breach of these rules regardless of the source of the alleged breach. Whether a matter is investigated or not is entirely at the discretion of Football West.
4. A participant breaching any of these rules is subject to a penalty. Whether a penalty is imposed or not is at the sole discretion of Football West.
5. Where a penalty is not specified in these rules, Football West reserves the right to use its discretion to determine and impose a penalty.
6. In the case of a rule being interpreted in two or more different ways, Football West reserves the right to determine which interpretation is valid. Any such determination is final.
7. In the case of a circumstance not being governed by these rules, Football West reserves the right to make a ruling on that circumstance. Any such ruling is final.
8. A club may apply for an exemption to these rules where it can demonstrate that exceptional circumstances exist. Football West will consider any application and determine whether or not the circumstances are exceptional. Any such determination is final and not subject to any further challenge.
9. Clubs may not display any national flags, slogans or emblems (except for the Australian flag) in any areas outside the clubrooms.
10. Football West reserves the right to request the removal of any national flags, slogans or emblems at any time. Refusal to comply with any such request may result in disciplinary action.
11. Football West may, from time to time, organise matches outside the normal league and cup season between the winning team of any division and another team from Western Australia, another Member Federation or another National Association. It is a condition of entry into the NPL that if such a match is organised, the team chosen MUST participate in that match.

Maximum Penalty for Breach

\$1,000

Article 2 - Competition Points

1. Three points will be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a defeat.
2. If two or more teams are equal on points on completion of the season, the following criteria are applied in order to determine the higher ranking team.
 - a) the team with the superior goal difference
 - b) the team with the higher number of goals scored

- c) the number of points gained in matches between the teams concerned
- d) the superior goal difference in matches between the teams concerned
- e) the team that scored the greater number of goals away from home in matches between the teams concerned
- f) the team with the lower number of red cards
- g) the team with the lower number of yellow cards
- h) the drawing of lots

Article 3 - Matches

1. All NPL matches must be played on grass or an artificial surface which has been approved in writing by Football West.
2. The venues, dates and times of matches will be fixed and published by Football West as soon as practicable prior to the commencement of each season, and except as otherwise provided in these rules, matches will be played at those venues and on those dates thus fixed.
3. A club is required to participate in its allocated matches unless otherwise specified in these rules.

Penalty for Breach

Forfeit

4. Football West reserves the right to change the date, time and venue of any match. Football West may consult with and take into account any representations made by the clubs participating in the match in question, and with any other club or clubs which may be affected thereby before doing so.
5. In the event that a team is not ready to commence the match within 15 minutes following the scheduled kick-off time, the match may not proceed.

Penalty for Breach

Forfeit

6. A match may be played wholly or partly under floodlights if the floodlight installation has been approved by Football West as suitable for the conduct of matches.
7. In the event of inclement weather, clubs are obliged to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken in order that the scheduled matches may proceed.
8. It is the responsibility of the home club to enable the ground inspection to be carried out by the referee.
9. Nets affixed to goalposts must be used in all NPL matches. The referee must not allow the match to proceed without nets.
10. The club named first in any match is deemed to be the home team regardless of the venue at which the match is played.
11. A match may not continue if either team is reduced to fewer than 7 players.

Article 4 - Postponed, Delayed, Suspended or Abandoned Matches

1. A match may not be postponed except with the prior written consent of Football West.
2. A match may not be suspended except:
 - a) on the instructions of the referee; or
 - b) by order of the police or other authority exercising its statutory powers to that effect.

3. A match may not be delayed or abandoned except on the instructions of the referee.
4. If the appointed referee delays, suspends or abandons a match, he must, within 30 minutes of making such a decision, inform:
 - a) The home club;
 - b) The visiting club; and
 - c) The Referee Allocator.
5. A postponed match may only be replayed at a date and time mutually agreed by both clubs except in the circumstances specified in paragraphs 7 and 8. The details of the rearranged match must be communicated to Football West at least 3 business days prior to the match.
6. If a club requests the postponement of a match, Football West reserves the right to require that an alternative date, time and venue are agreed before any such request is granted.
7. If a match is postponed and the clubs involved are not able to reach an agreement as to when the match will be played, Football West will determine the date, time and venue of the match and any such decision is final. If the rescheduled match incurs a cost, Football West may pass on that cost to either one or both clubs depending on the circumstances which led to the postponement.
8. If a postponed match cannot be rescheduled in accordance with paragraph 7, or cannot be completed for any other reason, Football West reserves the right to declare the match a 0-0 draw.
9. If a match is abandoned prior to half time, then the match will be replayed, unless, in the opinion of the referee, one or both of the participating teams caused the abandonment of the match.
10. If a match is abandoned at half time or after the commencement of the second half, then the score at the time of the abandonment of the match will be deemed to be the match result, unless, in the opinion of the referee, one or both of the participating teams caused the abandonment of the match.
11. If a match is abandoned, and that match is one in which the outcome must be that one of the teams must be declared a winner on the day, for example a knock out cup match, and at the time of the abandonment scores are level, then that match will be replayed in full, unless in the opinion of the referee, one or both of the participating teams caused the abandonment of the match.
12. An abandoned match which is to be replayed may be arranged at a mutually convenient time and venue by the participating clubs. Football West must be notified in writing of the date, time and venue of the rescheduled match at least 3 business days prior to the rescheduled kick-off time.
13. If an abandoned match cannot be rescheduled through mutual agreement, Football West will determine the date, time and venue of the match and any such decision will be final. If the rescheduled match incurs a cost, Football West may pass on that cost to either one or both clubs depending on the circumstances which led to the abandonment.
14. If an abandoned match cannot be rescheduled in accordance with paragraph 13, Football West reserves the right to declare the match a 0-0 draw. If the abandoned match is one in which the outcome must be that one of the teams must be declared a winner, Football West reserves the right to determine the outcome of the match using any method it chooses.

Article 5 - Forfeited Matches

1. A team which forfeits a match will be sanctioned with the following penalty:
 - a) Senior Teams
 - (i) Written notice to Football West with at least one business day's notice \$300
 - (ii) With no notice or notice on a non-business day \$500
 - b) Junior Teams
 - (i) Written notice to Football West with at least one business day's notice \$100
 - (ii) With no notice or notice on a non-business day \$200
2. The result of a forfeited match will be awarded to the opposition club by a margin of 3-0, unless that score disadvantages the non-offending team.
3. A team which forfeits three consecutive matches or any four matches may, at the discretion of Football West, be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition.
4. In circumstances in which both teams participating in a match commit offences which carry the sanction of a forfeit, Football West reserves the right to declare the match played, and award each team zero points and zero goals, or if that match occurs in a knockout competition, disqualify both teams from that competition.

Article 6 - Playing Strip

1. Each player's shirt, including the goalkeeper's shirt, must display on its back a unique number clearly distinguishable from a reasonable distance. The number must be a whole number between 1 and 99.
2. The number 1 may only be worn by a goalkeeper. A substitute goalkeeper must have a unique number on the back of his shirt. That is, where a team has a substitute goalkeeper, the substitute goalkeeper may NOT have the same number as the starting goalkeeper.
3. Each player's shirt must display the NPL Logo on the left sleeve in accordance with the instructions issued by Football West. For the avoidance of doubt, this requirement applies to both the home strip and the change strip.
4. Nothing may be placed on a player's shirt that covers any part of the NPL Logo. This particularly applies to captain's armbands or black armbands.
5. No part of the player's attire or the uniform worn by a club official may incorporate national flags, slogans or emblems.
6. The home team will wear its designated home strip unless an exemption is granted by Football West in writing or if otherwise provided for in these rules.
7. Advertising on a strip is permitted except for advertisements which contravene state or federal laws (such as tobacco advertising), Football West Rules, Regulations and By-Laws, advertise products, brands or companies which are in direct conflict with Football West protected sponsors or damage the reputation of the league or Football West. No advertising relating to alcoholic beverages may appear on the playing strip of any player under the age of 18. Football West reserves the right to require that sponsorship advertising is removed from a playing strip if it deems the advertisement breaches this rule.

Article 7 - Match Officials

1. A referee arranged by the home club in accordance with these rules in the absence of an officially appointed referee assumes the same powers and responsibilities as an official referee for the duration of the match.
2. A referee or assistant referee arranged by the home club in accordance with these rules in the absence of an officially appointed referee, must be at least as old as the youngest eligible player for the competition.
3. Participants must identify themselves to the match officials upon request.
Maximum Penalty for Breach **\$100**
4. Players and team officials must comply with any lawful instruction given to them by a match official officiating at a NPL match.
Maximum Penalty for Breach **\$100**
5. Neither players nor team officials may approach a match official after a match has ended unless invited to do so by the match official in question.
6. Match officials must not perform their duties in cases with an existing or potential conflict of interest. Any such conflict must be immediately disclosed to Football West. If there is any doubt as to whether or not any such conflict exists, the match official must declare it.
7. While performing their duties, match officials must avoid any situation that could lead to actual or perceived conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest arise if match officials have, or appear to have, private or personal interests that detract from their ability to perform their duties as match officials with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Private or personal interests include gaining any possible advantage for himself, his family, relatives, friends or acquaintances.
8. A club which believes that a match official has an actual or perceived conflict of interest may report the matter to Football West and if the club chooses to report it, must detail the reasons for the alleged conflict. Any reports of alleged conflict which do not contain the reasons for the allegation will be dismissed immediately.
9. In the event that a conflict of interest, either actual or perceived, comes to the attention of Football West, Football West will decide on whether that conflict of interest exists, and what action is to be taken.

Article 8 - Match Documentation

1. A team list is required for all matches.
2. A player whose name appears on a team list is deemed to have participated in the match as either a player or a named substitute.
3. Each club is required to present the completed team list not less than fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the match to an authorised representative of the opposing club participating in the match. The team list must be presented to the referee once it has been signed by the authorised representatives of both clubs not less than ten minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

4. Team sheets for first team matches must be presented to the opposing club and referee not less than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.
5. The team list must be signed by the authorised representative of each club and the referee.
6. A match may not commence until the team list for each club is in the possession of the referee.
7. The team list received by Football West from the referee will be accepted as the facts relating to the match.

Article 9 - Player Registration & Eligibility

1. An amateur player may register with any club before 5pm WST on Friday 27 June 2014 in accordance with the National Registration Regulations.
2. A player must be registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations to be considered eligible to participate in any competitive match.
3. A registered player may not participate in any match approved by Football West if he is suspended or otherwise deemed ineligible by Football West, another Australian Member Federation, FFA, AFC or FIFA.
4. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that a player participating in a match is eligible to do so.
5. Football West reserves the right to allow elite female players to participate in any male competition appropriate to their skill level regardless of age or normal eligibility criteria otherwise described in these rules. In such cases, the Football West Technical Director will determine the most appropriate competition for those players on a case by case basis.
6. An ineligible player is a player who:
 - a) is not registered in accordance with the National Registration Regulations; or
 - b) plays for a club with which the player is not registered; or
 - c) plays without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required; or
 - d) plays within a stand-down period due to a change of status; or
 - e) plays while under suspension; or
 - f) does not have proof of registration as described in these rules; or
 - g) plays for a club, team or in a competition when not permitted to do so under these rules; or
 - h) plays in a match when not listed on a team list; or
 - i) plays in a match in which his name has been added to the team list after the match has commenced; or
 - j) plays for a team which causes the maximum number of players allowed to be listed on a team list is exceeded; or
 - k) plays under a fictitious name; or
 - l) plays while not eligible to do so for any other reason.
7. If a player plays in a match while ineligible, the club will be liable for a sanction as described in Appendix A of this document. In certain circumstances, the player may also be sanctioned.

Article 10 - Professional Player Registration Deadlines

1. Professional players may only be registered during the two prescribed registration periods as follows:
 - a) Between 9am on 3 January 2014 and 5pm on 28 March 2014; and
 - b) Between 9am on 3 June 2014 and 5pm on 27 June 2014.
2. A professional player may be registered outside a prescribed registration period if the player is a goalkeeper and the club can supply evidence from a certified medical practitioner declaring that the usual goalkeeper is unfit to play at the time of the registration.

Article 11 - Non-Player Registration

1. All coaches, assistant coaches, goalkeeper coaches and team managers of all NPL Clubs in all age groups must be registered on MyFootballClub.
2. All Sports Trainers, Physiotherapists or other medical staff of all NPL Clubs must be registered on MyFootballClub.
3. Other team officials who sit in the technical area during any NPL match must be registered on MyFootballClub. Where no technical area is marked (ie in junior matches), team officials who are actively involved in any NPL match must be registered on MyFootballClub.

Article 12 - Proof of Registration

1. MyFootballClub must be used to generate proof of registration including a player photograph for every player participating in a match.
2. Evidence of registration without a player photograph is not acceptable as proof of registration.
3. Each team must produce proof of registration for any or each of its players on request from the opposition club prior to kick-off.
4. If a club is unable to produce proof of registration for any player prior to kick-off after being requested to do so by the opposition club, the match may proceed. However, the proof of registration requested must be produced before the end of the match for that player(s) to be deemed eligible to participate. If the club is unable to produce the proof by the end of the match, the player(s) will be deemed ineligible.
5. The failure of a club to produce proof of registration to the opposition club must be reported to the referee who must note that failure on the team list. If the failure of a club to produce proof of registration is not communicated to the referee, then no protest based on the ineligibility for that player(s) will be entertained under any circumstances.
6. Proof of registration MAY NOT be requested after the match has commenced.
7. If a club has complied with all necessary requirements and wishes to subsequently lodge a protest based on player eligibility, it must do so in accordance with the conditions specified in the Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law.

Article 13 - Individual Awards

1. A Fairest and Best prize will be awarded to the best player in each division of the First Team, the Under 20s and the Under 18s.
2. The referee for each match will award votes. Three votes will be awarded to the best player, two votes to the next best player and one vote awarded to the third best player.
3. The player who receives the most votes over the course of the season will win the Fairest and Best prize for his division.
4. If two or more players tie for the highest number of votes, then a prize will be awarded to each of those players, except in the circumstances described in paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8.
5. If two or more players tie for the highest number of votes in the NPL First Team division, and a car is available as an additional prize, only one car will be awarded, and it will be awarded to the player who received 3 points in a match on the most occasions during the season.
6. If two or more players receive the same number of votes and they cannot be separated under the provisions of paragraph 5, the car will be awarded to the player who received 2 points in a match on the most occasions during the season.
7. If two or more players receive the same number of votes and they cannot be separated under the provisions of paragraphs 5 or 6, the car will be awarded to the player who received the fewest yellow cards during the season.
8. If two or more players receive the same number of votes and they cannot be separated under the provisions of paragraphs 5, 6 or 7, each of the players in question will receive a car.
9. If a player receives a suspension as a result of being shown a red card, or as a result of a sanction imposed by the Disciplinary & Grievance Tribunal during the regular season, he will be ineligible to win the Fairest and Best Award for that season. For the avoidance of doubt, if that player receives a red card which is subsequently rescinded as a result of mistaken identity, the player will be eligible to win the Fairest and Best Award.
10. An award will be presented to the player who scores the most goals in his division in league matches throughout the season. If two or more players score an equal number of goals, an award will be presented to each of those players.
11. An award will be presented to the best first team goalkeeper of the year based on votes cast by the referees at each game in the first team of the NPL. If two or more goalkeepers have an equal number of votes, an award will be presented to each of those players.

Article 14 - Representative Teams

1. Players must be released for training, preparation and participation for representative matches when requested in writing to do so by Football West.

Part 2 – Senior Teams

Article 15 - Competition Ranking

1. Teams will be ranked in their divisions according to the number of competition points they accrue over the season as specified in Article 2.
2. The teams which occupy the highest 4 positions in each division will compete in the NPL Finals Series.
3. The club whose first team finishes in 1st place at the end of the regular 22 round home and away season will qualify for the NPL Champions Tournament. Should Perth Glory finish in first place at the end of the regular 22 round home and away season, the club whose first team finishes in 2nd place will qualify for the NPL Champions Tournament.

Article 16 - Venue

1. The home venue of NPL clubs must meet the criteria set down by Football West from time to time.
2. Four parking spaces inside the venue must be specifically reserved and clearly so designated for match officials on match day for all matches.
3. A club may request to change its home ground venue but may do so only by written application to Football West. Football West reserves the right to refuse any application if the facilities do not meet the criteria as specified by Football West.
4. The home club, at its own expense, must ensure that a nominated groundskeeper is on duty during all scheduled matches at its home ground, from at least one hour prior to the first scheduled match.
5. Football West reserves the right to require that its sponsors' signage, and that of the FFA and NPL, is prominently displayed at all matches.
6. Football West reserves the right to take whatever action is deemed necessary in the event that NPL Matches are affected by changes to the availability of any venue or venues.

Article 17 - Technical Areas, Substitutes and Non-Playing Officials

1. A technical area must be clearly marked for each senior match in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Each technical area must have seating for ten (10) people.
2. All substitutes, substituted players and non-playing officials MUST remain in the technical area while the match is in progress with the exception of substitutes who are warming up. For the avoidance of doubt, any person who is named on the team list as either a player or a non-playing team official is required to occupy the technical area unless directed otherwise by the referee.
3. Substitutes who are warming up must:
 - a) warm up inside the confines of the perimeter fence;
 - b) wear a bib which is a different colour to both teams and the match officials; and
 - c) NOT warm up with a football.

4. Each team may nominate a maximum of five (5) substitutes of which a maximum of three (3) may be used in any one match.
5. Each team may nominate a maximum of five (5) non-playing team officials.

Article 18 - Senior Matches

1. With the exception of abandoned matches, each period of a match must last for a minimum of 35 minutes in order that a result may be recorded.
2. The duration of the half time interval is to be 15 minutes.
3. The referee must adjust the duration of an Under 18s or Under 20s match when necessary to ensure that the first team match commences at the scheduled kick-off time.
4. When a match is shortened in accordance with paragraph 3, each match official is entitled to receive the full amount of his normal match fee.
5. In the event that a club does not have sufficient players to field an Under 20s and a first team, the first team will take priority.
6. In the event that a club does not have sufficient players to field an 18s and an Under 20s team, the Under 20s team will take priority.
7. Spectators are not permitted inside the barrier which separates the field of play from the rest of the venue while the match is in progress.
8. Once matches have been published, no changes may be made unless otherwise provided for in these rules. A club may request a match change if it can demonstrate exceptional circumstances, in writing, not less than six weeks prior to the scheduled kick-off date. This request may or may not be approved by Football West in its discretion. Any request for a match change must be accompanied by written consent from the opposition club.
9. A club which has been granted a match change in accordance with paragraph 8 is responsible for all costs associated with the rearranged match.
10. The home club must provide one stretcher which is to be placed between the technical areas in a safe and accessible position. The stretcher must be in position before the commencement of the first match of the day until the conclusion of the final match of the day unless being utilised.

Maximum Penalty for Breach

\$100

11. Football West reserves the right to instruct home clubs to increase the minimum security arrangements for any match at any time. The cost of any additional security arrangements is to be borne by the home club.
12. Football West may appoint a match commissioner at any NPL match as its representative.
13. The match commissioner must submit a report to Football West following each match attended. Should the match commissioner report that a club has breached any rules or regulations of Football West, then the club may be sanctioned accordingly. A match commissioner is classified as a match official with the same status as a referee, assistant referee, fourth official and referee inspector.

Article 19 - Ground Marshals

1. The home club must appoint ground marshals whose duties are:
 - a) to provide an escort for the match officials to and from the field of play at the start and finish of each playing period.
 - b) to liaise with club officials and emergency services if required; and
2. The home club must provide at least two ground marshals for each Under 18s and Under 20s match.

Maximum Penalty for Breach **\$100**
3. The home club must provide at least four ground marshals for each first team match.

Maximum Penalty for Breach **\$100**
4. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that the ground marshals are fully briefed on their responsibilities.
5. All ground marshals must have access to all areas of the ground at all times. Ground marshals may not be limited to a specific location (for example, the person collecting gate fees may not be a ground marshal).
6. Ground marshals must be visible at all times.
7. The ground marshals may not smoke or drink alcohol while on duty.
8. All ground marshals must identify themselves to the appointed referee at least fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of each match.

Article 20 - Player Roster and Player Points System

1. Every club must submit a player roster by 9:00am on Monday 24 February 2014.
2. A player roster must comprise at least twenty (20) players. Rosters which do not comprise a minimum of 20 players will not be accepted and will be deemed invalid. Clubs are encouraged to submit the details of both their planned first and Under 20s team players.
3. A player must be registered on MyFootballClub in accordance with the National Registration Regulations before he can be named on a Player Roster.
4. Each player on the player roster will be assigned a points value in accordance with the Player Points System as promulgated by Football Federation Australia from time to time.
5. A player roster is not valid until it has been approved by Football West.
6. For each non-Visa Player on the player roster, the club must provide a copy of either:
 - a) Australian Passport; or
 - b) Foreign Passport and permanent residency visa; or
 - c) Certificate of Australian Citizenship.
7. Other forms of proof of citizenship or permanent residency status may be accepted by Football West in its absolute discretion.

Article 21 - Visa Players

1. A Visa Player is a player who is not a citizen of Australia and does not have a permanent resident visa.
2. Each club may name a maximum of four (4) Visa Players on its match day team list (see Article 22) but may submit more than four (4) Visa Players on its Player Roster.
3. For each Visa Player on the player roster, the club must provide a copy of:
 - a) Foreign Passport with the player's entry visa into Australia.

Article 22 - Match Documentation

1. Each club must submit a team list to the referee on match day. A copy of the team list should be retained by the club. Copies of the Team List must also be provided to:
 - a) Opposition Club; and
 - b) Home Club Media Officer.
2. The team list must contain the names of players and non-playing officials who intend to occupy the technical area. For the avoidance of doubt, a player or non-playing official whose name does not appear on the team list may not enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play or the technical area while the match is in progress.
3. Non-playing officials who sit in the Technical Area during any NPL match MUST be registered on MyFootballClub.

Penalty for Breach

\$300 fine per unregistered official

4. The team list must comprise exactly 20 names. These 20 names must be designated as:
 - a) Players starting the match (11 players);
 - b) Substitutes (5 players); and
 - c) Non-playing players which complete the player roster (4 players).
5. A club may elect not to name 5 substitutes on its team list. In such cases, the number of non-playing players must be increased so that the total number of names on the team list totals 20 in all circumstances.
6. A team list that does not comprise exactly 20 names will be deemed invalid.

Penalty for Breach

Forfeit

7. The total points value of all players on the player roster must not exceed 250.

Penalty for Breach

Forfeit

Article 23 - Players

1. To be eligible to be named on the team list for an NPL Club's first team, a player must be listed on that club's player roster.

Penalty for Breach **Forfeit**
2. To be eligible to play in the NPL for any club except Perth Glory, a player must meet the following age criteria:
 - a) Under 18s – born between 1 January 1996 and 31 December 1999;

- b) Under 20s – born between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1998 (subject to paragraph 2);
 - c) First Team – born on or before 31 December 1998.
3. An Under 20s team may include a maximum of five (5) players who were born on 31 December 1993 or earlier on the team list for any match. Each of these players must be so denoted on the team list with an asterisk next to each overage player’s name.
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| Penalty for Breach (no denotation) | \$200 |
| Penalty for Breach (6 or more overage) | Forfeit |

Article 24 - Perth Glory Players

1. To be eligible to play in the NPL every Perth Glory player must meet the following age criteria.
 - a) Under 18s – born between 1 January 1996 and 31 December 1999;
 - b) Under 20s – born between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1998;
 - c) First Team – born between 1 January 1990 and 31 December 1998.
2. The first team may include a maximum of two (2) players who were born on 31 December 1989 or earlier on the team list for any match provided that:
 - a) The player has been transferred to the Perth Glory Hyundai A-League Long Term Injury List; or
 - b) The player was not on the Perth Glory Hyundai A-League or National Youth League player roster in the previous season, and is being trialled by Perth Glory;
3. For the purposes of paragraph 2:
 - a) No such player may compete in the NPL after Round 17; and
 - b) No such player may play in more than five (5) NPL matches in any one season.
4. The first team may also include a maximum of one (1) goalkeeper who was born on 31 December 1989 or earlier on the team list for any match provided that:
 - a) That goalkeeper has not started more than two (2) Hyundai A-League games in the previous season.
5. Each of these players must be so denoted on the team list with an asterisk next to each player’s name.

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| Penalty for Breach (no denotation) | \$200 |
| Penalty for Any Other Breach | Forfeit |

Article 25 - Playing Strips

1. All clubs must nominate a “home” and “alternate” playing strip. The colours of the home strip’s shirts and socks must be significantly different from those of the alternate strip.
2. In any match, if the shirts or socks of the participating teams are alike or similar, or are in the opinion of the referee likely to cause confusion, then players of the away team will be required to change its shirts or socks or both. In the event of any dispute with regard to the strip to be worn by either team, the referee's decision is final.

Article 26 - Match Balls

1. The home club will provide the referee with a minimum of three match balls no later than ten minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

All matches must use the FIFA approved Select “Super” match ball. Six match balls will be provided free of charge to each NPL Club for use by its senior teams.

Maximum Penalty for Breach **\$200**

Article 27 - Match Officials

1. The home club is responsible for the payment of all match official fees. Football West will determine the fees payable and publish the rates prior to the commencement of each season.
2. The allocation of match officials will be determined by Football West. No club may request the attendance or non-attendance of any particular match official.
3. A club may not refuse to allow an allocated match official to officiate at that allocated match.
4. In the absence of one or both assistant referees, each team will provide a club assistant referee to assist the referee. If either club does not comply, then the match may not proceed.
5. When a match is forfeited by a club, the match officials are entitled to receive 100% of the prescribed match fee to be paid by the club which forfeited the match, unless the forfeiting club informed Football West in writing at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off.
6. When a match is abandoned, the match officials are entitled to receive 100% of the match fee.

Article 28 - Admission

1. A maximum of 63 people from the visiting club must be provided with free entry to the venue for any one match day for use by the players, club officials or a club’s official guests. The visiting club must inform the home club in writing the names to be granted free entry by noon on the last working day prior to the match.
2. Any person, including a match official who is not appointed to the match, who produces an official Football West pass must be granted free entry into any venue for any match.
3. All Football West passes are valid only for Football West matches and may be revoked by Football West at any time.
4. General entry admission fees may be charged to the maximum amounts listed below:
 - a) General Entry - \$10
 - b) Students, Pensioners or concession holders with evidence of status - \$5
 - c) People under the age of 15 – Free
5. Holders of Football West Sponsors Discount Entry Programme Tickets (as advised by Football West from time to time) must be granted access to grounds at the pre-determined discounted admission price. No club is permitted to refuse entry on these conditions under any circumstances.

Maximum Penalty for Breach **\$50**

Article 29 - Prize Money

1. The club whose first team finishes in first position will receive \$12,000 prize money.
2. The club whose first team finishes in second position will receive \$5,000 prize money.
3. The club whose first team finishes in third position will receive \$2,000 prize money.
4. The club whose first team finishes in fourth position will receive \$1,000 prize money.
5. Perth Glory FC is not eligible to win prize money. In the event that Perth Glory FC finishes in one of the top 4 positions, the prize money will be redistributed to include the 5th placed team.

Article 30 - Fair Play Award

1. Football West will present a Fair Play Award to the clubs whose NPL first teams receive the fewest number of penalty points during the regular season. Penalty points are accrued according to the following:
 - a) Each single yellow card issued 1 point
 - b) Each indirect red card issued (two yellow cards to a single player) 3 points
 - c) Each direct red card issued 5 points
 - d) Each non-playing official expelled from the technical area 5 points
 - e) Five or more players cautioned or sent off in a single match 5 points
 - f) Three or more players sent off in a single match 10 points
2. In the event that two or more clubs receive the fewest penalty points, each club will receive an award.
3. The winner of the Fair Play Award will receive \$2,000.

Article 31 - Representative Teams

1. If a club has 4 or more players from one team participating in a representative match, it may seek the postponement of any club match which clashes with the representative match.
2. To be considered as a qualifying player under paragraph 1, and subject to the conditions of paragraph 3, the player must have been recorded on that team's team lists for a minimum of 80% of all matches up to and including the date of the request to postpone.
3. If the player is required to participate in a representative match prior to round six of the season, Football West will determine the team of a player from the team sheets available. Football West's decision in determining the team of a player is final.

Part 3 – Junior Teams

Article 32 - Competition Format

1. Teams will be ranked in their divisions according to the number of competition points they accrue over the season. The order in which teams finish the competition will be determined by the criteria specified in Article 2.
2. The teams which occupy the highest 4 positions in each division will compete in the NPL Finals Series.

Article 33 - Venue

1. The home venue must meet the criteria of a Class D venue as specified in the Football West Competition Management By-Law.
2. A club may request to change its home ground venue but may do so only by written application to Football West. Football West reserves the right to refuse any application if the facilities do not meet the criteria as specified in the Football West Competition Management By-Law.
3. Football West reserves the right to require that its sponsors' signage is prominently displayed at all matches.
4. Football West reserves the right to take whatever action is deemed necessary in the event that Junior Teams matches are affected by changes to the availability of any venue or venues.

Article 34 - Junior Matches

1. Junior matches will be initially scheduled at fixed times as determined by Football West. However, clubs may apply to Football West to change the time of specific matches if mutually agreed by both clubs.
2. The home club must provide one stretcher per venue which is to be placed in a safe and accessible position. The stretcher must be in position before the commencement of the first match of the day until the conclusion of the final match of the day unless being utilised.
3. Each team must have a first aid kit available at the venue on the date of the match.
4. Spectators may only watch the match from behind the touch line. For the avoidance of doubt, the home club must ensure that no spectators are situated behind the goal line while the match is in progress.

Article 35 - Modifications to the Laws of the Game

1. Matches in the Under 12s age group will be played over two equal periods of 25 minutes. With the exception of abandoned matches, each period must last for a minimum of 15 minutes for a result to be recorded.
2. Matches in the Under 13s and Under 14s age groups will be played over two equal periods of 30 minutes. With the exception of abandoned matches, each period must last for a minimum of 20 minutes for a result to be recorded.

3. Matches in the Under 15s age group will be played over two equal periods of 35 minutes. With the exception of abandoned matches, each period must last for a minimum of 25 minutes for a result to be recorded.
4. Matches in the Under 16s age group will be played over two equal periods of 40 minutes. With the exception of abandoned matches, each period must last for a minimum of 25 minutes for a result to be recorded.
5. Substitutes in junior matches are not bound by the condition in Law 3 of the Laws of the Game forbidding further participation in the match. All substitutes in junior matches are able to be substituted on and off the field of play on multiple occasions. All such substitutions must take place at the halfway line.
6. The duration of the half time interval will be 5 minutes.
7. No more than five named substitutes may be listed on the team list of which a maximum of five may be used in any one match.
8. Matches in the Under 12s and Under 13s age group must use a size 4 football.
9. The referee MUST adjust the duration of a match to ensure that a following match on the same field of play commences at the scheduled kick-off time.
10. When a match is shortened in accordance with paragraph 9, each match official is entitled to receive the full amount of his normal match fee.
11. No time may be added to the end of each period for stoppages or injuries.

Article 36 - Ground Marshals

1. Each club must appoint ground marshals whose duties are:
 - a) to liaise with club officials and emergency services if required; and
 - b) to ensure the security of the venue, players, match referees and club officials.
2. If the club is using one field of play on a match date, the club must appoint at least one ground marshal.
3. If the club is using more than one field of play on a match date, the club must appoint at least two ground marshals.
4. Neither the coach nor manager of a team involved in a match may act as ground marshal for that match.
5. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that the ground marshals are fully briefed on their responsibilities.
6. All ground marshals must have access to all areas of the ground at all times. Ground marshals may not be limited to a specific location (for example, the person working in a canteen may not be a ground marshal).
7. Ground marshals must be visible at all times.
8. The ground marshals may not smoke or drink alcohol while on duty.
9. All ground marshals must identify themselves to the appointed match referee, if present, at least five minutes prior to the commencement of each match.

Article 37 - Match Documentation

1. A player whose name appears on a team list is deemed to have played in the match. For the avoidance of doubt, a pre-printed squad list which has been stuck to a match card will be deemed to be the official team list, and no concession will be given to any inaccuracies in that pre-printed list.
2. At the conclusion of the match, the referee will ensure that the team list is signed by representatives of both clubs.
3. The referee must ensure that the completed team list is delivered to Football West within 2 days of the completion of the match.
4. The referee must complete a match report according to the instructions dictated by the Referees Technical Committee. Such reports are to be lodged with Football West within 2 business days of the completion of the match.

Article 38 - Players

1. A player is eligible to play in the Under 12s age group if he was born between 1 January 2002 and 31 December 2004. A female player is eligible to play in the Under 12s age group if she was born between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2004.
2. A player is eligible to play in the Under 13s age group if he was born between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2003. A female player is eligible to play in the Under 13s age group if she was born between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2003.
3. A player is eligible to play in the Under 14s age group if he was born between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2002. A female player is eligible to play in the Under 14s age group if she was born between 1 January 1999 and 31 December 2002.
4. A player is eligible to play in the Under 15s age group if he was born between 1 January 1999 and 31 December 2001. A female player is eligible to play in the Under 15s age group if she was born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2001.
5. A player is eligible to play in the Under 16s age group if he was born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2000. A female player is eligible to play in the Under 16s age group if she was born between 1 January 1997 and 31 December 2000.
6. A request for a player to participate in an age group other than that for which he is eligible on the basis that he is too young, must be made in writing to Football West. Any such request must be accompanied by a letter signed by the club secretary and at least one of the player's parents or guardians. Such a request may be granted after the player has been assessed by Football West. The player is ineligible to participate in the requested age group until written approval has been received from Football West.
7. A male player may not compete in an age group other than that for which he is eligible on the basis that he is too old under any circumstances.
8. Once a player has taken the field of play in nine fixtures of the NPL in the Under 18s, Under 20s or open age groups, he is no longer eligible to participate in both the NPL and the Junior Boys League during the same season. These nine NPL or State League fixtures may comprise any combination of First Team, Reserves Team and 18s Team matches as long as no more than nine Under 18s fixtures, no more than five Under 20s fixtures and no more than one first team

fixture is played. Following the ninth fixture for the NPL team, a player must choose to play in either the NPL or the Junior Boys team(s) for which he is eligible.

9. Once a player has taken the field of play in a fixture of the NPL, he is not eligible to participate in the Junior Boys League for a team below 15s Division 1 during the same season. A club may apply for an exemption to this rule if its highest placed team is below the 15s Division 1 competition, but any such ruling is entirely at the discretion of Football West.
10. A maximum of two players may play in the next lowest ranked team in a lower division to that in which those players normally play including the case where a player's normal team is in the NPL. If there is disagreement about the team in which any such player normally plays, Football West will make a determination and any such determination is final. For the avoidance of doubt, a player may not play in a team which is below the club's next lowest ranked team under any circumstances.
11. A player may not play in any age group of the NPL and any age group of the Junior Boys League on the same weekend. A player will be deemed an NPL player if he has appeared on the match card of his club's NPL teams on at least 50% of matches.

Penalty for Breach

Forfeit of Second Match

12. An NPL player may not play in any division below Division 3 under any circumstances.

Article 39 - Playing Strips

1. All clubs must nominate a "home" and "alternate" playing shirt.
2. In any match, if the shirts of the participating teams are alike or similar, or are in the opinion of the referee likely to cause confusion, then players of the home team will be required to change its shirts. In the event of any dispute with regard to whether there is a clash, the referee's decision is final.

Article 40 - Match Balls

1. The home club will provide the referee with two match balls no later than 5 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.
2. All junior matches must use the Select "Contra" match ball. Two match balls will be provided free of charge to each Junior Team. Additional balls may be purchased from Evolution Sports Imports Pty Ltd.

Article 41 - Match Officials

1. Each club is responsible for 50% of match official fees. Football West will determine the fees payable and publish the rates prior to the commencement of each season.
2. Match official fees are payable in cash to the match official(s) on the day.
3. The allocation of match officials will be determined by Football West. No club may request the attendance or non-attendance of any particular match official.
4. In the event that a referee is not allocated to the match by Football West, or that none of the match officials allocated to a match is ready and able to commence the match within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, then the home club will allocate a referee.

5. If a referee is appointed by the home club in accordance with paragraph 4, that referee must be at least two years older than the age group of the match in the year of competition.
6. In the absence of one or both assistant referees, each team will provide a club assistant referee to assist the match referee. If either club does not comply, then the match may not proceed.
7. If the appointed referee suspends or delays any match that is not completed on the scheduled day, he must submit a report in writing to Football West within 3 business days of the scheduled conclusion of the match outlining the reasons for his actions. The appointed referee is entitled to 50% of the prescribed match fee for a suspended or delayed match and 100% of the match fee for a suspended or delayed match which is subsequently completed or abandoned.
8. When a match is forfeited by a club, the referee is entitled to receive 100% of the prescribed match fee to be paid by the club which forfeited the match, unless the forfeiting club informed Football West in writing at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off.
9. When a match is abandoned, the match officials are entitled to receive the full amount of their normal match fees.

Article 42 - Representative Teams

1. If a club has 3 or more players from one team participating in a representative match, it may seek the postponement of any club match which conflicts with the representative match.
2. If a match is postponed in accordance with paragraph 1, the postponed match may not be played within 72 hours of the representative match if that match was played in Western Australia, or 7 days if the representative match was played outside Western Australia.
3. To be considered as a qualifying player under paragraph 1, and subject to the conditions of paragraph 4, the player must have been recorded on that team's team lists for a minimum of 80% of all matches up to and including the date of the request to postpone.
4. If the player is required to participate in a representative match prior to round six of the season, Football West will determine the team of a player from the team lists available or from prior history. Football West's decision in determining the team of a player is final.

Part 4 – Finals Matches

Article 43 - Competition Format

1. The teams which occupy the highest 4 positions of each NPL division following the completion of the regular season will compete in the NPL Finals Series.

2. The matches of each division of the NPL Finals Series will be structured as follows:

Week 1

Match A Team finishing 1st vs Team finishing 2nd

Match B Team finishing 3rd vs Team finishing 4th

The winner of Match A proceeds directly to the Grand Final

The loser of Match B is eliminated

Week 2

Match C Loser of Match A vs Winner of Match B

Losing team is eliminated

Week 3

Grand Final Winner Match A vs Winner Match C

3. Senior finals matches will be played at the home ground of the first team of:

- a) Match A – the team finishing 1st
- b) Match B – the team finishing 3rd
- c) Match C – the loser of Match A
- d) Grand Final – the winner of Match A

Junior finals matches will be played at a centralised venue(s) as determined by Football West.

4. For all matches except the first team match, should scores be level at the full-time whistle, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game in order to determine the winner.

5. In the first team match, should scores be level at the full-time whistle, extra time of two equal periods of 15 minutes will be played in accordance with the procedures to determine the winner of match as described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.

6. If the scores remain level after the second period of extra time, kicks from the penalty mark will be taken in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game in order to determine the winner.

7. The NPL champion club in each division will be the team which wins the Grand Final in each division.

8. The club whose first team wins the Grand Final will receive \$10,000 prize money.

9. The club whose first team loses the Grand Final will receive \$4,000 prize money.

10. The club whose first team loses Match C will receive \$2,000 prize money.

11. The club whose first team loses Match B will receive \$1,000 prize money.

12. Perth Glory FC is not eligible to win any prize money. Should Perth Glory qualify for the finals, Prize money will be distributed in a manner stipulated by Football West. Football West's decision on the redistribution of prize money under this paragraph is not subject to challenge.
13. A club is only eligible to win one prize for competing in the finals.

Article 44 - Players

1. A player must have played in a minimum of 5 matches for a club in the current season to be eligible to play in any of that club's teams in the NPL Finals Series, subject to other eligibility criteria.
2. A player who has played in 10 or more matches for a particular NPL team in his club is ineligible to participate in any NPL finals matches in a lower grade or age group than the team for which he has played those 10 matches.

Penalty for Breach

Forfeit

3. A player is exempt from the restrictions specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 if that player is a goalkeeper, and the club can establish to the satisfaction of Football West that no other eligible goalkeeper is available to participate. Absence due to injury must be accompanied by a medical certificate at least 2 business days before the match. Football West's decision on any application is final.
4. In Senior Matches, an unused substitute is deemed NOT to have played.
5. In Junior Matches, a player listed on a team list is deemed to have played.

Article 45 - Match Officials

1. The host club will pay the match official fees for all Senior Matches.
2. Match official fees for Junior Matches will be paid by the competing teams on the basis of 50% each per club.

Article 46 - Match Balls

1. The host club will provide the match balls for all Senior Matches except the Grand Finals. Football West will supply all match balls for the Senior Grand Finals.
2. The first named club will provide the match balls for all Junior Matches including the Grand Finals.

Article 47 - Admission

1. A maximum of 21 people from each visiting senior team will be provided with a free entry pass to the venue for any one match day for use by the players, club officials or a club's official guests only. The visiting clubs must inform the host club in writing the names to be granted free entry by noon on the last working day prior to the match.

Article 48 - Squad Lists

1. Football West reserves the right to request a squad list for each competing team in a match. If requested, such a list must be provided in writing 4 business days prior to the match.

Ineligible Players

The following table describes the sanctions associated with fielding an ineligible player during a Football West match.

| Type of Ineligibility | Sanction |
|--|--|
| Not registered in accordance with the Registration Regulations | Forfeit and a fine of: Senior Teams \$300 Junior Teams \$100 |
| Plays without an ITC (International Transfer Certificate) where one is required | Forfeit and a fine of: Senior Teams \$300 Junior Teams \$100 Suspension of 1 match (player) |
| Plays within a stand-down period due to a change of status | Forfeit and a fine of: Senior Teams \$300 Junior Teams \$100 Suspension of 1 match (player) |
| Plays or coaches while under suspension | Forfeit and a fine of: Senior Teams \$500 Junior Teams \$300 |
| Enters the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play, the technical area, the players' race or any other area within a venue where Club Associates are likely to assemble to prepare for a match within 15 minutes of the beginning of a match and 15 minutes after the match has finished while under suspension. | Deduction of 1 championship point and a fine of: Senior Teams \$500 Junior Teams \$300 |
| Does not have proof of registration (but is otherwise validly registered and eligible to play), or presents proof of registration which does not include a photograph. | Forfeit and a fine of: Senior Teams \$300 Junior Teams \$100 Fine increases by the same amount for each subsequent offence by the same team in the same season. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Plays for a team or in a knockout match when not permitted to do so under Competition Rules but would otherwise be eligible to play for the club in a league match (for example if he is “cup tied”) | Forfeit and a fine of: Senior Teams \$300 Junior Teams \$100 |
| Plays in a match when not listed on a team list but would otherwise be eligible to play | A fine of: Senior Teams \$300 Junior Teams \$100 |
| Plays in a match in which his name has been added to the team list after the match has commenced but would otherwise be eligible to play | A fine of: Senior Teams \$300 Junior Teams \$100 |
| Plays for a team which causes the maximum number of players allowed to be listed on a team list is exceeded | Forfeit and a fine of: Senior Teams \$300 Junior Teams \$100 |
| Plays under a name other than his own | As per the Disciplinary & Grievance By-Law |
| Plays while not eligible to do so for any other reason | At the discretion of Football West |