



New Zealand  
Football

**NEW ZEALAND FOOTBALL  
GIRLS' YOUTH NATIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS  
SEASON 2024**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMPETITION REGULATIONS: GIRLS' YOUTH NATIONAL LEAGUE 2024 SEASON .....	3
1. DEFINITIONS.....	3
GIRLS YOUTH NATIONAL LEAGUE .....	6
2. GIRLS YOUTH NATIONAL LEAGUE .....	6
GENERAL PROVISIONS .....	7
3. THE PARTICIPANT.....	7
4. COMMERCIAL OBLIGATIONS .....	7
5. PAYMENT OF FEES .....	8
6. INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY .....	8
7. CONFIDENTIALITY.....	8
8. DISCRIMINATORY INCIDENTS.....	8
9. ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION .....	9
10. ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION .....	10
11. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS.....	11
12. ANTI-DOPING AND INTEGRITY .....	13
13. INCIDENTS, DISPUTES AND PROTESTS .....	13
14. EQUIPMENT .....	14
15. MATCH VENUES, DATES AND KICK OFF TIMES .....	16
16. FIELD OF PLAY .....	17
17. MATCH OFFICIALS .....	18
18. LAWS OF THE GAME .....	18
19. SUBSTITUTION RULES .....	18
20. TECHNICAL AREA.....	19
21. PLAYING OF FIXTURES.....	20
22. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS .....	21
23. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS .....	21
24. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS .....	22
25. MATCH RESULTS .....	25
26. COMPETITION FORMAT .....	26
27. TROPHY AND MEDALS .....	27
28. NON-COMPLIANCE.....	27
29. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY .....	28
30. CODE OF CONDUCT.....	28
31. MISCELLANEOUS.....	28
32. REFERENCES.....	28

## COMPETITION REGULATIONS: GIRLS' NATIONAL LEAGUE 2024 SEASON

### 1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 The terms given below denote the following:

- 1.1.1 **Away Team:** the Participant playing a match at an opponent's nominated match venue.
- 1.1.2 **Club Registration Date:** the date by which Players must be registered to a Participant which is set out in regulations 10.3.1 – 10.3.2, in order to be selected to play in the Competition for the relevant Participant, such date being 30 June 2024, subject to what is outlined within these Regulations.
- 1.1.3 **Competition Manager:** the Competition Manager as may be appointed by NZF in accordance with regulation 9.2.
- 1.1.4 **Competition Sponsor:** means a sponsor of the Competition from time to time.
- 1.1.5 **Women's Central League:** 2024 Women's Central League involving Central Football and Capital Football.
- 1.1.6 **Drug Free Sport New Zealand** means the national anti-doping organisation or other equivalent body.
- 1.1.7 **Federation:** has the same meaning as the term "Regional Association" in the NZF Statutes.
- 1.1.8 **Force Majeure:** means and includes acts of God, fire, war, earthquake, terrorism, epidemic, pandemic, strike, lockout, labour controversy, civil commotion, acts or restriction of any government or governmental agencies, orders of court, shortage or interruptions of facilities or material supply, and any other circumstances beyond the reasonable control of NZF.
- 1.1.9 **Federation Registration Date:** the date by which Players must be registered to a Participant set out in regulations 10.3.3 – 10.3.6, in order to be selected to play in the Competition for the relevant Participant, such date being 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024, subject to what is outlined within these Regulations.
- 1.1.10 **Guest Player:** a Player who is registered for another affiliated member club after 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 but eligible to play in the Competition.
- 1.1.11 **Guest Player Registration date:** the date by which Guest Players must be registered to a Participant in order to be selected to play in the Competition for the relevant Participant, such date being 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024, subject to what is outlined within these Regulations.
- 1.1.12 **Home Match:** a match played at a Participants own nominated match venue.

- 1.1.13 Home Team:** the Participant playing a match at their own nominated match venue.
- 1.1.14 Host Participant:** the Participant responsible for the matches played at their own nominated match venue.
- 1.1.15 LOTG:** IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 1.1.16 Match Coordinator:** means a person who is responsible for running all the relevant Participant's Home Matches.
- 1.1.17 Match Official:** the appointed Referee, assistant Referees, fourth official or match assessor to a Competition match.
- 1.1.18 Match Week:** a period between Tuesday-Monday following, when Competition matches take place.
- 1.1.19 National League Club License:** shall have the same meaning given to that term in the NZF Club Licensing Regulations 2023.
- 1.1.20 National Registration System:** the national registration system that NZF uses from time to time, which at the date of these Regulations is COMET.
- 1.1.21 GYNL and/or Competition:** 2024 girls' Youth National League.
- 1.1.22 NL Contingencies Framework:** means any framework put in place by NZF at its discretion, from time to time to deal with logistical impediments for Competition as a result of Covid-19 or other matters of Force Majeure.
- 1.1.23 GYNL Season:** the period of time starting with the first official match of the Competition and ending with the last official match of the Competition.
- 1.1.24 NRFL:** LOTTO Northern Regional Football League Women's Premier League Competition 2024
- 1.1.25 NRF Youth League:** U18 Girls National Youth League Qualifiers
- 1.1.26 NZF:** New Zealand Football Incorporated.
- 1.1.27 NZF Brand Guidelines:** means branding guidelines or other branding direction in relation to the Competition given to Participants by NZF from time to time.
- 1.1.28 NZF Statutes:** means the Statutes of NZF, including any schedules and other annexures to these statutes.
- 1.1.29 NZF Regulations** means any regulation made by NZF, however the regulation is described.

- 1.1.30 Operations Manual:** the Competition operations manual, or respective manuals, relating to operational requirements as published by NZF from time to time.
- 1.1.31 Participant(s):** are those entities as referred in regulation 3.1 and set out in further detail in regulation 10.3.
- 1.1.32 Postponement Protocols:** means protocols put in place by NZF from time to time, to deal with any matters relating postponement of any fixtures (necessarily, in NZF's sole opinion) which may include but are not limited to Covid-19 Pandemic.
- 1.1.33 Player:** any footballer, including outfield players, goalkeepers and substitutes, selected to play for a Participant who, pursuant to the Competition Regulations, may be required to be notified to NZF on the Named Squad.
- 1.1.34 Playing Day:** the day of the week on which any Competitions match takes place.
- 1.1.35 Regulations:** means these Regulations for the Competition.
- 1.1.36 Start List:** the list of all starting and substitute Players and Team Officials selected from a Participant to compete in any Competition match within the National Registration System.
- 1.1.37 TDP License:** means Talent Development Programme License.
- 1.1.38 Team Official:** any member of a Participant who operates a non-playing capacity role.
- 1.1.39 WNL and/or Competition:** 2024 women's National League.
- 1.1.40 WNL Regulations:** 2024 women's National League Competitions Regulations

- 1.2** The following shall apply unless the context requires otherwise:
- 1.2.1** headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation;
  - 1.2.2** the singular includes the plural and the converse;
  - 1.2.3** where any word or phrase is given a defined meaning in these Regulations, any other part or speech or other grammatical form in respect of such word or phrase has corresponding meaning;
  - 1.2.4** a reference to a legislation includes all regulations under and amendments to that legislation and any legislation passed in substitution for that legislation or incorporating any of its provisions to the extent that they are incorporated;
  - 1.2.5** “including” and similar words do not imply limitation;
  - 1.2.6** Reference to a party includes their respective permitted assignees, successors, executors and administrators;
  - 1.2.7** Every right, power and remedy of a party remains unrestricted and may be exercised without prejudice to each other at any time.

## **GIRLS YOUTH NATIONAL LEAGUE**

### **2. GIRLS YOUTH NATIONAL LEAGUE**

- 2.1** The GYNL is a Competition established by NZF.
- 2.2** NZF shall have the right to add to or change the Competition name to reflect the name of a sponsor if it so desire.
- 2.3** Participation in the Competition is available to the Participants and any other entity that is approved by NZF from time-to-time following consultation with the Federations duly qualified to put forward a Participant to participate in the Competition according to these Regulations.
- 2.4** These Regulations regulate the rights, duties, and responsibilities of all in the Competition. These Regulations, Operations Manual, Club Licensing Regulations, NZF governing regulations and NZF Statutes are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation, and hosting of the Competition.
- 2.5** The NZF Statutes and NZF Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and all FIFA Regulations in force shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to the NZF Statutes and Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and FIFA Regulations refers to the Statutes, Rules and Regulations valid at the time of application.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 3. THE PARTICIPANT

- 3.1** Each entity who competes in the Competition shall be deemed a “Participant”. Each Participant shall comply with these Regulations, Operations Manual, Postponement Protocols, along with other circulars and documentation, failure to do so shall be deemed a non-compliance of these Regulations.

### 4. COMMERCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- 4.1** The Participant shall provide such rights, facilities, and services as are required to enable NZF to fulfil NZF’s commercial obligations with third parties (**Commercial Contracts**). If doing so, would result in the Participant being in breach of contractual obligation entered into before the date of NZF entering into the conflicting Commercial Contract, the Participant must immediately notify NZF of such conflict and NZF may waive the requirement to comply in its absolute discretion.
- 4.2** The Participant shall permit NZF or any of its commercial partners or agents to use the Participants’ club badge or logo, as applicable, for any commercial and/or promotional purposes related to the Competition. The Participant shall obtain any consents required (if any) to permit NZF or any of its commercial partners or agents to use the Participant’s club badge or logo.
- 4.3** NZF encourages sponsorship at all levels and authorises the Participant to obtain sponsorship subject to the provisions of these Regulations, the NZF Statutes, the Operations Manual, the NZF Brand Guidelines, and/or any other NZF policies or NZF Regulations. In the event of any conflict between the documents recorded in this clause 4.3 NZF retains discretion to determine priority.
- 4.4** NZF owns all audio visual rights of matches within the Competition but may allow Participants to live stream Home Matches, provided such prior approval is granted to the relevant Participant by NZF in writing. Any rights passed to the Participants for the purposes of live streaming are at the sole discretion of NZF as outlined to Participants via the Operations Manual and/or other documentation issued by NZF from time to time. The Participant shall obtain any consents required from the Players, Coaching Staff, and any volunteers.
- 4.5** Without limiting the scope of provisions referred to in regulation 4.3 the Participant acknowledges that the Competition Sponsor may be entitled to specific sponsorship rights and benefits that the Participant will be required to provide, including:
- a. Displaying the Competition Sponsor’s logo, banner and/or signage board on the Participant’s playing strip, official website and/or within the Participants stadium (including on the playing field) as the case may be and as directed by NZF from time to time;
  - b. Having a playing strip that does not include the logo of, or carry any reference to, any particular competitor of the Competition Sponsor;

- c. Having ground signage (all signage between ground level and 1.2m above) that does not include the logo of, or carry reference to, any particular competitor of the Competition Sponsor;
- d. Ensuring that the promotional/digital materials and platforms of the Participant and/or Participant do not include any reference to any particular competitor of the Competition Sponsor where such references imply a direct link to the Competition;
- e. Not permitting activations of any particular competitor of the Competition Sponsor during the Competition.

## **5. PAYMENT OF FEES**

- 5.1** The Participant is required to pay a participation fee of \$4,500, plus GST, for participation in the Competition. In the absence of an earlier consent in writing by NZF in its absolute discretion to an alternative payment proposal, the fees are payable in accordance with a schedule notified to Participants by NZF, in cleared funds and must be paid as directed by NZF from time-to-time (time being of the essence) and in its absolute discretion. For certainty, the participation fee set out in this regulation 5.1 is reviewable seasonally by NZF in its absolute discretion.

## **6. INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY**

- 6.1** The Participants shall at all times have all required insurance in place which shall include such, if any, types and minimum levels of insurance to cover as may from time to time be prescribed in the Operations Manual.
- 6.2** The Participants will indemnify and keep NZF indemnified from and against all claims, proceedings, damages, losses, liabilities, costs (including all legal costs on a solicitor/client basis) and expenses of any nature concerning any breach by the Participant of its obligations under or pursuant to these Regulations or any breach by the Participant of any warranties or representations expressed or implied which it may make or have made to NZF, or for any injury to any person or damage to any property arising from the act or omission of the Participant or any of its players or personnel and from all its debts and expenses.

## **7. CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 7.1** The Participants shall not and shall procure that its officers and personnel do not disclose or use for any purpose other than that for which it was disclosed or allow or acquiesce in such disclosure or use, any information provided by NZF or relating to the Competition which is expressly or impliedly confidential in nature. The Participants will not copy confidential information, nor permit it to be copied, and if required shall immediately return it to NZF without retaining any copies.

## **8. DISCRIMINATORY INCIDENTS**



- 8.1** In the case of critical and/or continuing discriminatory incidents occurring from spectators during a match, the Match Officials can apply the FIFA directed three-step procedure based on Law 5 of the LOTG.
- a. In the first instance the Referee shall decide to stop the game to inform the nominated Home Teams Match Coordinators so that an announcement may be made to the spectators by the Home Team, urging the spectators to cease the discriminatory behaviour. Any announcement or address to the spectators shall include a warning that any further discriminatory behaviour would see the game suspended.
  - b. In the second instance, if the discriminatory behaviour continues once the match has resumed, the Referee may instruct the teams to return to their dressing rooms while the match is suspended and until the behaviour stops. The Home Team shall, again, make an announcement or directly address the spectators, that the discriminatory behaviour is to stop before play can resume.
  - c. In the third instance, should the discriminatory behaviour continue, after the suspended match has resumed play and following consultation with all relevant parties, including both teams, the Referee and the Match Coordinator, the Referee shall abandon the match in line with regulations 5 and 12 of the NZF Disciplinary Code. Following the abandonment of the match the Home Team may be required to make an announcement stating that the match has been abandoned due to the ongoing discriminatory behaviour.
- 8.2** Should the Referee have to enact any of the steps outlined in 8.1 then they shall submit an incident report to the Competition Manager.

## **THE COMPETITION**

### **9. ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION**

- 9.1** Unless otherwise determined by these Regulations, the entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in NZF. NZF shall have the power to do all other things necessary to ensure the progress of the Competition through all its stages and may take appropriate action to bring about such results. All or any of the powers vested in NZF may be delegated to a nominee.
- 9.2** NZF may appoint a Competition Manager or similar who shall be responsible for administration of the Competition. All references to the exercise of a power or discretion by NZF in these Regulations shall include reference to the exercise of a power or discretion by the Competition Manager's position. The Competition Manager is authorised to determine the imposition and duration of the suspensions and fines pursuant to these regulations and NZF Disciplinary Code. The Competition Manager shall also retain the discretion to refer any disciplinary matters to the NZF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 9.3** Each Participant in the Competition shall be primarily responsible for the organisation and control of their own Home Matches in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Competition in accordance with the Regulations, and in accordance with any instructions as

may from time to time be issued by NZF, in particular the Operations Manual, Postponement Protocols, along with other circulars and documentation.

## **10. ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION**

**10.1** NZF shall determine the number of Participants that may compete in the Competition. The decision of NZF as to the composition of the Competition shall be final and binding. NZF retains the ability to increase or decrease the number of Participants at its sole discretion.

**10.2** Entry into, and continued participation in, the Competition shall be determined by NZF in respect of;

**10.2.1** The Participant satisfying criteria established from time-to-time by NZF on a continuing basis.

**10.2.2** The criteria established by NZF shall include, but not be limited to stadium facilities, match day protocols and financial performance and shall otherwise be at the sole discretion of NZF.

**10.2.3** Compliance with the Operations Manual, NZF Club Licensing Regulations, NZF Statutes and NZF Regulations and other NZF governing regulations, Postponement Protocols, along with other circulars and documentation.

**10.2.3.1** Participants set out in 10.3.1 will be required to hold, a valid TDP License.

**10.2.3.2** Participants set out in 10.3.2 to 10.3.6 must meet the B Grade criteria set out in Article 18, Article 19, Article 24 and Article 25 of the NZF Club Licensing Regulations 2023.

**10.3** Subject to regulations 10.2, 10.3.1 and 10.4, there shall be a total of nine (9) Participants in the Competition season and each Participant shall enter one team in the Competition (each a "Participant"). The Participants shall be as follows:

**10.3.1** Top four (4) placed Clubs (each being a Participant) from the NRFL Regional Qualification Competition;

**10.3.2** Wellington Phoenix FC;

**10.3.3** Central Football Federation;

**10.3.4** Capital Football Federation;

**10.3.5** Mainland Football Federation; and

**10.3.6** Southern Football Federation

**10.4** In the event of any Participant not continuing in the Competition for whatever reason, including failing to meet the NZF criteria, resulting in their removal from the Competition,

then the filling of the consequential vacancy shall be determined by NZF, which may in its sole discretion choose not to fill the vacancy.

## **11. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

**11.1** Disciplinary incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Disciplinary Code. To the extent that there is any conflict between the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations, then these Regulations shall apply.

**11.2** The Participants, their Players and Team Officials, agree to comply with the LOTG and with the FIFA Statutes and Regulations, in particular the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Code of Ethics (in particular matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism and match fixing), the FIFA Code of Conduct and Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and NZF Statutes and Regulations, in particular the NZF Disciplinary Code, the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations, the NZF Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Regulations, the NZF Code of Ethics, and the NZF Code of Conduct.

**11.3** In addition, the Players agree to:

**11.3.1** Respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence;

**11.3.2** Behave accordingly;

**11.3.3** Refrain from doping as defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

### **Referee's Report**

**11.4** Reference to Referee's report for the purposes of the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations shall include reference to the match report.

### **Offence Codes**

**11.5** Citation by the Referee of the relevant offence code shall be deemed to also be citation of the nature of the offence and the LOTG for the purposes of the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations.

### **Misconduct, Suspension and Fines**

**11.6** The schedule of suspensions and fines in respect of misconduct by a Player or Team Official in the Competition shall be:

**11.6.1** All cautionary misconduct (indirect Red Card) shall incur an automatic one Playing Day suspension, unless otherwise stipulated in the NZF Disciplinary Code.

**11.6.2** All serious infringements and misconduct against Match Officials (direct Red Card) shall incur an automatic one Playing Day suspension. Including the automatic suspension incurred, the overall suspension imposed on any Player receiving a direct Red Card shall be in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code.

### **Cautions Accumulated by a Player or Team Official**

- 11.7** The schedule of suspensions imposed in respect of misconduct by a Player or Team Official in the Competition shall be:
- 11.7.1** Four (4) single cautions shall result in one (1) Playing Day suspension;
  - 11.7.2** A further two (2) single cautions (six in total) shall result in one (1) additional Playing Day suspension; and
  - 11.7.3** A further two (2) single cautions (eight in total) shall result in a further Playing Day suspension.
- 11.8** In addition to the penalties outlined above, where the Player or Team Official accrues nine (9) single cautions or more during the Competition season, NZF will require the Player or Team Official and the relevant Participant to attend a meeting of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee to determine if any additional penalty should be imposed against the Player or Team Official and/or their team.

### **Serving of Suspensions**

- 11.9** The Competition and the WNL are separate Competitions and for clarity a Player or Team Official serving a suspension in one Competition cannot play in the other Competition until such time as the Participant in which the Player or Team Official was playing at the time they received the penalty that led to the suspension has played the requisite number of games in that relevant Competition in which the suspension was given.
- 11.10** All Players and Team Officials enter the Competition without any accumulation of cautions, which have been cleared at the completion of their club's winter season.
- 11.11** Any Player or Team Official with an outstanding suspension upon the completion of their club's winter season may participate in the Competition as that suspension must be served with the club duly affiliated to a Federation that the Player next plays for unless the Player's suspension has been imposed by a judicial process over and above the automatic sanctions under NZF Disciplinary Code or relate to serious or violent misconduct and misconduct towards Match Officials.
- 11.12** For clarity, for any team that qualifies into the Competition from the NRF Youth League, if a Player or Team Official still has time to serve on an outstanding suspension from the club's winter season then this outstanding suspension must be served in the Competition before the Player or Team Official can participate in the Competition.
- 11.13** Under no circumstances may any suspended Player or Team Official occupy a position, in any capacity, in or in the vicinity of the Player's entrance, substitutes bench, Technical Area or playing arena.
- 11.14** A match that is abandoned does not count as a completed match in terms of a Player or Team Official serving a suspension.

- 11.15** The clean slate rule shall apply for those yellow cards a Player or Team Official incurs during the Championship, so that a “clean slate” is again created at the conclusion of the Championship, unless a suspension has been incurred, in which case the suspension is carried over to be served in the following NL Season, unless the Player or Team Officials suspension has been imposed by a judicial process over and above the automatic sanctions under the NZF Disciplinary Code.

## **12. ANTI-DOPING AND INTEGRITY**

- 12.1** Players may be subject to drug testing by Drug Free Sport NZ. For the sake of clarity, this shall comprise in Competition and out of Competition testing for all Players.
- 12.2** Drug Testing is specifically covered by the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations. It is the responsibility of each Participant, and Player to ensure they are conversant with the appropriate Regulations.
- 12.3** All Participants will have a compulsory education seminar presented by Drug Free Sport NZ, to Players and Team Officials prior to the commencement of GYNL season, or Players and Team Officials must complete this education seminar via the Drug Free Sport NZ online portal before they take part in the Competition. It is each Participant’s responsibility to arrange the seminar or complete the course online with Drug Free Sport NZ.
- 12.4** All Participants must go through integrity training in respect of the NZF Anti-Match Fixing Regulations and organise this education session with their respective Federation .
- 12.5** Any Participant breaching this regulation 12 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$1,000 and an education seminar arranged within the agreed timeframes between the Participant and NZF.

## **13. INCIDENTS, DISPUTES AND PROTESTS**

- 13.1** Any Participant in the Competition may bring a dispute or protest to the Competition Manager who shall make a decision or refer to the appropriate Judicial Body according to the NZF Statutes and Regulations, and advise the party or parties concerned accordingly.
- 13.2** For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, match equipment, eligibility of Players, venue installations and match balls.
- 13.3** Unless otherwise stipulated in these regulations , protests shall be submitted in writing to the Competition Manager within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match in question.
- 13.4** Protests regarding the eligibility of Players shall be submitted in writing to the Competition Manager either within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match in question or 48 hours after information relating to Player eligibility is known to the party submitting the protest, whichever is the later. Notwithstanding anything in the regulation, protests regarding eligibility of Players cannot be submitted after the date which is seven (7) days following a Participant’s final match within a phase of the Competition.

- 13.5** Protests regarding the pitch, its surroundings, markings or accessory items shall be made in writing to the Referee before the start of the match by a senior Team Official of the Participant lodging the protest.
- 13.6** Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the Referee by the Participant's captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team. The protest shall be confirmed to the Competition Manager in writing no later than 48 hours after the match.
- 13.7** No protests may be made about the Referee's decision regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code.

#### **Disputes**

- 13.8** Neither the Participant, nor any of its Players or Team Officials shall bring before a Court of Law any dispute with NZF or between any of the other Participants or any of their members or officers or officials.
- 13.9** All differences and disputes which shall arise between the Participants and other Participants shall first be referred for resolution to NZF and shall be resolved in accordance with the NZF Statutes. In the first instance the relevant official at NZF shall determine the difference or dispute or alternatively, in NZF's discretion, shall refer the matter to the NZF Appeals Committee or NZF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee. Decisions made by NZF (aside from the decision to determine the difference or dispute, or to refer the difference or dispute to an NZF Committee) are subject to a right of appeal to the NZF Appeals Committee.

### **14. EQUIPMENT**

- 14.1** Each Participant shall comply with the National League Playing Strip Regulations as attached in Appendix One.

#### **Playing Strips**

- 14.2** Each Participant shall inform the Competition Manager of playing strips with two different and contrasting colours (one predominantly dark and one predominantly light) for its First Choice and Alternate strips (shirt, shorts, socks). In addition, each Participant shall select two contrasting colours for goalkeepers. These goalkeeper strips must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the First Choice and Alternate strips. A goalkeeper may, at the discretion of the Referee, wear tracksuit trousers provided the colour of such tracksuit does not conflict with the provisions of this regulation. Only these colours may be worn during matches.
- 14.3** Each Participant shall wear its First-Choice strip in their Home Matches, and all other matches where there is no clash of colours with the Home Team. In the event of any match being played at a neutral match venue, it will be the responsibility of the Competition Manager to ensure that there will be no clash of colours and to determine which Participant is to change, if necessary. Where possible the team listed first will be given priority to wear their First-Choice strip.

- 14.4** Where the strips of the two Participants are alike or similar, the Away Team shall wear their Alternate strip as long as that does not contain any of the basic colours of the Home Team and is approved by the Referee, on most occasions it may only be necessary for Participants to change their shirts. However, on others they may also be required to change shorts and/or socks.
- 14.5** It is the responsibility of the Home Team to notify the Competition Manager and Away Team of any changes to their registered colours no later than 48 hours prior to the day of the match.
- 14.6** It will be the responsibility of the Away Team to carry their alternate strip with them at all times, to ensure that on match day the Away Team has sufficient flexibility to change its strip as necessary to avoid any clash of colours with the Home Team.
- 14.7** If, in the opinion of the Competition Manager, a clash of colours will occur to the detriment of the match, the Competition Manager may direct either or both Participants to change or vary their strip.
- 14.8** A Participant breaching this regulation 14.2-14.7 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$250.00 for each breach.

#### **Numbers**

- 14.9** A Player must wear the shirt with the corresponding number that is listed in any Start List. The number must be displayed on the back of their playing shirt and, where possible, on the front of the shorts. The same number may, at the Participants discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt. The number must be clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance for all Players, Match Officials, spectators and media from the colours used for the respective playing equipment. This distinction may be achieved by displaying the numbers on a single-coloured patch. The number may be surrounded by a border or shadow outline.

#### **Official Match Balls**

- 14.10** Only Puma or such other brand footballs, as determined and supplied by NZF from time to time, will be used in Competition matches (Official Match Balls), unless otherwise approved by NZF in advance.
- 14.11** Host Participants shall ensure that three (3) Official Match Balls in a good, clean condition are made available to the Referee no NZF than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time, subject to regulation 14.10.
- 14.12** Participants are not permitted to accept any sponsorship involving match balls other than the Official Match Balls.
- 14.13** Participants should ensure that only the footballs referred to as Official Match Balls are used in all promotional, news or team photographs, and television interviews.
- 14.14** Any Participant breaching these Regulations 14.10-14.14 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500 per breach.

## **15. MATCH VENUES, DATES AND KICK OFF TIMES**

- 15.1** NZF shall publish a fixture list including the match venues, dates and kick-off times for the GYNL Season by 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024 All matches shall be played at the match venues and on the dates and times agreed and confirmed by NZF and the Participants, and shall not be varied without the prior written approval of NZF.
- 15.2** The Host Participant shall be responsible for booking match venues for their Home Matches as per the fixture list provided and these match venues must be notified to NZF no later than 14 days after the publication of the fixture list.
- 15.3** Prior to the commencement of the Competition, each Participant shall nominate its match venue(s) to allow for inspection and approval by NZF.
- 15.4** If any Participant wishes to change any match date or kick-off time, they must advise both the opposing Participant and NZF in writing at least four weeks prior to the scheduled match, setting out in full their reasons for requiring the change. In the event of both Participants agreeing to the change of time, NZF shall take that into account when giving its decision. Any additional cost incurred in changing a previously agreed match date or kick-off time shall be borne by the Participant making the request.
- 15.5** In the event of a Participant wishing to play at a match venue other than its Participant's nominated match venue, it must give NZF three weeks' notice in writing setting out the reasons for the change of venue, with full particulars of the new match venue and facilities available for Players, spectators and officials. The decision of NZF as to the acceptability of the proposed match venue change will be final.

### **Floodlight Matches**

- 15.6** A match may be played wholly or partially under floodlights subject to the floodlight installation having been approved by NZF as being suitable.
- 15.7** Any match played wholly or partially under floodlights shall require an electrician or electrical engineer to be on standby at the match venue for the duration of the match. A Participant breaching this Regulation 15.7 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500.00 for each breach.

### **Safety & Security**

- 15.8** The Host Participant shall be responsible for taking all practicable measures to ensure:
- 15.8.1** That all facilities and equipment comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and related regulations (as amended from time to time). Certificates of compliance as required must be current.
- 15.8.2** That a dedicated security and safety officer is operating for all Home Matches. This person is to be clearly identifiable and in contact with the Host Participant at all times.



- 15.8.3** The orderly behaviour of the crowd and safety of the Match Officials, Players and officials of the teams and all spectators.
- 15.8.4** The availability of the Host Participants Officials and where appropriate, security or police personnel.
- 15.9** All Participants will be held responsible for the behaviour of their spectators, whether playing at home or away or at a neutral match venue. A Participant must forthwith give notice in writing to the Competition Manager of any unruly behaviour of their spectators.
- 15.10** Each Participant will ensure the Code of Conduct of NZF is communicated and made available to its staff, Players, Coaches, volunteers, and spectators.
- 15.11** Any Participant breaching Regulations 15.8-15.10 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500.00 per breach.
- 16. FIELD OF PLAY**
- 16.1** All Host Participants are to ensure that their grounds comply with the LOTG, Law 1 – The Field of Play.
- 16.2** Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf.
- 16.3** In compliance with the provisions of the LOTG, the Technical Area shall be marked out in front of the seated area for substitutes and technical staff.
- 16.4** The Technical Area shall be of sufficient size to include the maximum number of persons authorised to be on the substitutes bench and be located one metre either side of the substitutes bench, to one metre from the touchline.
- 16.5** All Host Participants are required to have the field of play of their home grounds maintained in a satisfactory condition.
- 16.6** In the event of inclement weather, the Host Participants shall be obliged to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that scheduled fixtures proceed.
- 16.7** In the event of inclement weather, Host Participants shall be obliged to arrange the re-mark of all or portions of the ground or request this to the venue owner, at the request of the Match Officials.
- 16.8** No unauthorised ground markings shall appear on any match venue. For the avoidance of doubt, the Competition Manager has the absolute discretion to determine whether markings are acceptable on match venues, subject to Club Licensing.
- 16.9** Any Host Participant breaching regulation 16 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500.00 per breach.

## **17. MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 17.1** The NZF Appointments Panel shall make appointments for all Competition matches from Match Officials selected to the national league panel.
- 17.2** An approved match fee for Referees and other Match Officials shall be met from Participant's entry fees.
- 17.3** Each Referee shall upon the conclusion of each match, forward to NZF a Referee's report on the prescribed form. These should arrive to the NZF office no later than 3 working days after the match has been played. Should a Match Official fail to furnish any required report within the prescribed time limit then the following shall apply:
- 17.3.1** On the first occasion the Match Official shall forfeit the match fee to NZF, and be given a warning by NZF.
- 17.3.2** On the second occasion the Match Official shall forfeit the match fee and be suspended from refereeing any Competition matches for two Playing Days.
- 17.3.3** On the third occasion the official shall forfeit the match fee and be suspended from the panel for the balance of the season, for such period as shall be determined by the chairperson of the Referees committee, in conjunction with NZF.
- 17.4** Match Officials may, after thirty (30) minutes of the final whistle of the Competition match, allow a meeting with one (1) nominated Team Official of a Participant to discuss match related issues.
- 17.5** Each Referee shall attend the match venue at least one (1) hour before the scheduled kick-off time and shall wait one (1) half-hour after the scheduled kick-off time, before abandoning the match for any reason.
- 17.6** The Referee's decision shall be final as to the condition of the field of play.
- 17.7** NZF shall allocate an amount of money to meet approved travel expenses for Match Officials.

## **18. LAWS OF THE GAME**

- 18.1** All matches shall be played in accordance with LOTG.
- 18.2** The minimum number of Players a Participant must have to play in any Competition match is seven (7). If a Participant team during any Competition match is reduced, for whatever reason, to less than seven (7) Players, the Referee shall abandon the relevant match, subject to the provisions of the LOTG.

## **19. SUBSTITUTION RULES**

### **Number of Substitutes**

- 19.1** A maximum of five (5) Players may be listed as substitutes on the Start List.
- 19.2** A maximum of five (5) Players may be replaced at any time during the match, up until the conclusion of normal playing time from a maximum of three opportunities and during the half-time break. Any replacement Players used must be one of the five (5) listed on the Start List.
- 19.3** Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each Participant.

### **Substitution Procedures**

- 19.4** The procedure for substitutions shall be in accordance with the LOTG.
- 19.5** Participants wishing to make a substitution shall complete the NZF substitution slip and pass it to the fourth official if present. The shirt number of the Player to be replaced shall be written in the OFF boxed area, and the shirt number of the Player listed as a substitute in the ON boxed area.
- 19.6** Substitutes may warm-up during the match subject to the dimensions of the match venue but may not use a ball. A goalkeeper is permitted to use a ball to warm-up. Substitutes when warming up may be accompanied by one official from the Technical Area.

## **20. TECHNICAL AREA**

- 20.1** No Team Official, outside of listed medical personnel, shall be able to occupy the Technical Area for more than one (1) Participant in the Competition in a single Match Week.
- 20.2** Each Host Participant shall provide adequate seating for each person authorised to be in the Technical Area at each match it is host of during the Competition Season.
- 20.3** The occupants of the technical area shall be identified to the Match Officials prior to the commencement of the match and reflect what has been selected and confirmed in the National Registration System within the specified match on the Start List.
- 20.4** Only one person has the authority to convey technical instructions and that person must return to their seated position immediately after giving any instructions, to the intent that only one person at any time is standing.
- 20.5** Team Officials must remain within the confines of the Technical Area except in special circumstances, for example, a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play with the Referee's permission to treat an injured Player.
- 20.6** The coach and other occupants of the Technical Area must conduct themselves at all times, with particular regards to foul language, in a responsible manner.

- 20.7** The Match Officials shall police the Technical Area and forthwith give notice in writing to the Competition Manager of any breach. Any Participant breaching regulation 20 shall be liable for a fine of \$500.00 per breach.

**21. PLAYING OF FIXTURES**

- 21.1** Participants must take all reasonable steps to arrive at a match venue on time. Any Participant breaching this regulation shall be liable for a fine of up to \$1,000 per breach, unless there is a valid reason outside the control of the Participant.
- 21.2** In the event of a match being postponed at late notice due to aborted travel arrangements or adverse weather, it shall be the responsibility of the two Participants concerned to immediately confer, in conjunction with the Competition Manager, with a view to playing the match at the earliest possible time, unless otherwise authorised by NZF. Should no agreement be reached by the two Participants by a date stipulated by the Competition Manager then the Competition Manager will determine the date, time and venue for the replay of the match at their sole discretion.
- 21.3** In the event of a match being postponed due to the scheduling of any official NZF National Cup, OFC or FIFA match it shall be the responsibility of the two Participants concerned to immediately confer, in conjunction with the Competition Manager, with a view to playing the match at the earliest possible time, unless otherwise authorised by NZF, within the relevant phase, unless otherwise authorised by NZF. Should no agreement be reached by the two Participants by a date stipulated by the Competition Manager then the Competition Manager will determine the date, time and venue for the replay of the match at their sole discretion. For the avoidance of doubt all NZF National Cup, OFC or FIFA matches involving Participants take priority over the Competition.
- 21.4** In the event of a change of match venue being necessary because of unforeseen weather or field of play conditions, the Host Participant shall take all reasonable steps to give adequate notice to NZF and the Away Team as to the new match venue. In the event of any dispute arising as to the suitability of the match venue, NZF shall make the final decision, which will be binding on all parties.

**Suspended or abandoned matches**

- 21.5** In the event of adverse weather conditions occurring during a match, which in the view of the Referee endangers the Players or Team Officials, the Match Officials may at their sole discretion suspend play for a period of up to thirty (30) minutes to allow time for conditions to improve to a point that will allow the match to recommence.
- 21.6** Where weather conditions preceding a fixture raise doubts as to whether play shall take place, the Match Official and the Host Participant shall meet at the ground to consider whether the ground is fit for play. This meeting and discussion shall be held in sufficient time to enable the Away Team travelling on the day of the match to be notified prior to the departure, of any abandonment. If the Match Officials decides that play can take place provided that no further rain falls, then the Match Officials shall further decide whether or not any other scheduled activities prior to the match are to be postponed.

- 21.7** Before any decision is made as to whether the match should be abandoned, the Host Participant shall discuss the situation with the Competition Manager. The Competition Manager may arrange for an alternate match venue to be used for the completion of the match, at their sole discretion.
- 21.8** If there is doubt as to whether or not a fixture is to be played because of uncertainty about weather conditions, the Match Officials shall immediately notify the Competition Manager following the field of play inspection and the Host Participant shall advise the Away Team.
- 21.9** If the Away Team has been notified that a match is to be played provided no further rain falls, then all reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that the match proceeds, provided that the Match Officials nominated for the match shall have sole discretion as to whether or not it shall be played.
- 21.10** If for any reason the Referee cannot make or does not attend the match venue, and if there is doubt about whether the field is fit to play, then the Host Participant shall be responsible for advising the Competition Manager on the condition of the field of play as well as notifying the Away Team.
- 21.11** If for any reason a match is abandoned, that match shall be replayed at the direction of the Competition Manager, who shall first discuss the matter with the two affected Participants.

## **22. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

- 22.1** NZF shall be responsible for the organisation of pre-determined travel and accommodation arrangements. Travel and accommodation shall be provided on the basis of a party of eighteen (18) persons, including Team Officials. NZF shall not be responsible for the costs for any additional persons.
- 22.2** All pre-determined and approved travel and accommodation shall be paid for by NZF with the exception of additional costs incurred by the Away Team, which must be paid in full by the due date.
- 22.3** The Host Participant shall be responsible for the organisation and any costs of return transfers from the airport to the match venue and/or accommodation, and can invoice NZF the associated costs/ The transport if applicable, should have sufficient space for team and luggage, ice, massage table, pre-match and half-time liquid refreshments (water as a minimum), and a post-match meal. The Host Participant shall also be responsible for a local, suitably qualified Physiotherapist at the request and cost of the Away Team.

## **23. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

- 23.1** A Player is eligible to play in the Competition provided that:
- 23.1.1** The Player is duly registered to the Participant in the National Registration System, in accordance with regulation 24 and

- 23.1.2** The Player is duly registered with a Participant in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, and NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, except:
- a. Where the Players last registration was held with a member association other than NZF the Player must have received an International Transfer Clearance (ITC) to an NZF affiliated club prior to either the Club or Federation Registration Date;
  - b. Where the Player is a replacement Player in accordance with 24.4.1 and 24.4.2 and the Players last registration was held with a member association other than NZF the Player must have received an International Transfer Clearance (ITC) to an NZF affiliated club prior to 12:00pm on the last business day before the match in which the replacement Player is eligible to play in the Competition.
- 23.2** A Player who is eligible to play in the WNL in accordance with the WNL Regulations, whether on account of ability, injury or otherwise, may at any time be called to and play for their Participant in the WNL.
- 23.2.1** Guest Players in the Competition are not eligible to play in the WNL.
- 23.2.2** A Player may not exceed 120 minutes of playing time across both the Competition and WNL in any one Match Week, with the exception of:
- 23.2.2.1** A Player may not exceed 240 minutes of playing time across the Competition and WNL Competition when there is a;
- i. Double header Match Week;
  - ii. Rescheduled fixtures causing more than one (1) fixture for the Competition and or GYNL in one Match Week
- 23.3** All Players in the Competition must hold amateur status as defined in the RSTP.
- 23.4** Each Participant shall be responsible for fielding eligible Players. Any Participant found guilty of fielding an ineligible Player for whatever reason shall be subject to the penalties as determined pursuant to the NZF Disciplinary Code.

## **24. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

- 24.1** The registration of Players for Participants outlined 10.3.1 – 10.3.2 shall begin 1 January 2024 and end on the Club Registration Date.
- 24.2** The registration of Players for Participants outlined 10.3.3 -10.3.6 shall begin on 1 August 2024 and end on Federation Registration Date.
- 24.3** A Start List shall consist of Players registered to the Participant on the National Registration System, subject to regulation 24.4.

**24.4** No Player may participate in the Competition where they have registered to a Participant after either the Club Registration Date or Federation Registration Date, as the case may be (each a Registration Date). For the sake of clarity, a Player must hold at least an “entered” status in the National Registration System on or before 11:59PM on the applicable Registration Date. Players who are registered to the Participant by the applicable Registration date can be selected in a Start List in the Competition at any time after the applicable Registration date, except where:

**24.4.1** A Player who has been listed as a goalkeeper in the Start List at least once during the GYNL Season for a Participant may be replaced at any time, with another goalkeeper, on a permanent or temporary basis as determined by the Competition Manager, on account of illness or injury which prevents the relevant goalkeeper from playing, where:

- a. A certificate from a medical doctor is provided; and
- b. The replacement Player is listed as a Goalkeeper.

Where an NRFL Youth League qualified Participant needs to replace a goalkeeper, they may replace the goalkeeper with one that was registered to another NRFL team as at the Club Registration Date, subject to satisfying the criteria in 24.4.1 a and b above.

**24.4.2** A Player (Player Y) has been registered with the New Zealand based A-League Club as a professional Player named in their A-League squad (including as a short-term injury replacement) or received an International Transfer Clearance (ITC) request to register with another professional football team (excluding as a short-term injury replacement). In such circumstances, Player Y must be replaced prior to 12:00pm on the Friday before the final round of the Competition, unless Player Y’s referred registration/ or ITC takes place after the league, in which case Player Y may be replaced at any time provided such Player satisfies eligibility requirements set out under these Regulations. Where Player Y is a goalkeeper, they may only be replaced by a goalkeeper and where Player Y is an outfield player, they may only be replaced by an outfield player. No Participant may replace Player Y with a Player from another Participant who has qualified for the Competition.

**24.5** A Participant breaching regulation 24.4 shall be liable for the following fines for each breach:

**24.5.1** An initial fine in relation to the NZF Disciplinary Code, plus a loss of three (3) Competition points in respect of the current GYNL Season; and

**24.5.2** Should any fine not be paid within 48 hours from the original due date, the relevant Participant may be excluded from the current GYNL season.

**24.5.3** In all cases the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players in respect of the number of registrations a Player may hold in a single season apply

- 24.6** Where a Participant who qualifies into the Competition from the NRFL Youth League may register an additional three (3) Guest Players, who are deemed eligible to compete for the Participant, as an exception to regulation 27.3. For the avoidance of doubt no Participant is able to register these additional Guest Players from another Participant who qualifies for the Competition.
- 24.7** For the Wellington Phoenix FC, their Players will consist of Players who were registered to the Participant as at the Club Registration Date, however they may name up to a maximum of three (3) Guest Players who weren't registered to the Participant as at the Club Registration Date. In the event the Player has played by virtue of taking the field at any point throughout the Women's Central League season for any Participant in that Competition such player will not be eligible as a Guest Player.
- 24.7.1** As an exception to Regulation 24.7, when the Wellington Phoenix FC needs to replace a goalkeeper, they may replace the goalkeeper with one that was registered to Women's Central League team after June 30, 2024, subject to satisfying the criteria in 24.4.1.
- 24.8** Any Player may be replaced at any time if the Player registers with another club as a Professional. However, in such circumstances the Player must be replaced prior to 12:00pm on the last business day before the first week of the Competition. For clarity, a Player may only be replaced once they have registered and their ITC has been processed for their new club.

#### **Starting List and substitutes bench**

- 24.9** Each Participant shall ensure that its team shall be "full strength", unless some satisfactory reason is given to NZF. Failure to do so will constitute a breach of the Regulations.
- 24.10** A Start List must be confirmed at least sixty (60) minutes before the fixed time for the kick-off of a match by a Participant by entering and saving their line-up in the NZF National Registration System with a maximum number of Players which:
- 24.10.1** In the case of the League, will be 16 Players (11 selected Players and up to five substitutes) for each match.
- 24.11** The Start List will be selected from Players registered to the Participant in the National Registration System, subject to 24.3. For clarity, the Wellington Phoenix FC may only select amateur players.
- 24.12** The Start List may include eligible Players registered to the Participant in the WNL.
- 24.13** Any Player listed in the Start List must be at least fourteen (14) years old on the date on the match. Any Player aged thirteen (13) on the date of the match may be listed on the Start List if they have received written dispensation from NZF.
- 24.14** Any Player listed in the Start List must be a maximum of eighteen (18) years old by the end of the calendar year in which the Competition is played i.e all Players of each Participant were born on or after January 1 2006 .



- 24.15** Each Participant is responsible for ensuring that they correctly name their Start List by selecting their line-up in the National Registration system by 12pm on the Friday prior to any match, with changes that can be made up until sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled kick-off. The numbers on the Player's shirts must correspond to the numbers on the Start List. Any Player in the named starting eleven may be replaced by another Player in the Start List in the case of injury during warm-up only, up to ten (10) minutes before the kick-off with notice to the Match Officials. Where a game is played mid-week, each Participant must name their Start List by 12pm the day prior to the match.
- 24.16** Match Officials shall report any breaches of this regulation, including but not limited to any Participant who fails to provide an accurate Start List by sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled kick-off, or who requires changes to the Start List after this point for reasons not listed, is liable for a sanction of up to \$500.00 per breach at NZF at its sole discretion.
- 24.17** For all matches in the Competition, a maximum of eleven (11) people are entitled to sit in the Technical Area during a match, being comprised of no more than 5 substitutes and no more than six (6) Team Officials. All occupants of the Technical Area must wear different coloured tops to those worn by the team they are associated with. For every match, Participants shall submit the names on the Start List of all people sitting in the Technical Area.
- Coaching Staff**
- 24.18** Each Participant must name a minimum of one (1) female as a member of the coaching staff (head coach, assistant coach or goalkeeping coach) for their Participant and match day squad.
- 24.19** Participant head coaches must have a minimum OFC/NZF C License coaching qualification or international equivalent.
- 24.20** All Participant head coaches must be appointed and communicated to NZF by 30 July 2024 for the Competition.
- 24.21** Any Participant breaching Regulations 24.17-24.19 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500 or a deduction of Competition points, at the sole discretion of NZF.
- 24.22** Participants may seek dispensation from NZF in advance of any potential breach with respect to Regulations 24.17-24.19. Any such dispensation granted or otherwise will be at the sole discretion of NZF.

## **25. MATCH RESULTS**

- 25.1** Within thirty (30) minutes of the final whistle the Match Officials must enter the result of the match and within sixty (60) minutes of the final whistle enter the respective match events for each team in the National Registration System.
- 25.2** A Team Official of each Participant shall, within two hours (120) minutes of the final whistle, confirm the match result and match events as a true and accurate record of the match by ticking the relevant check box in the 'other tab' of the relevant match report in the NZF National Registration System.

**25.3** A Team Official of each Participant shall complete a Match Report and Referee Assessment Report in the National Registration System by Monday 5pm following the fixture, or at a date determined by the Competition Manager, whichever is earlier.

**25.4** Any Participant breaching regulation 25 shall be liable for a fine of \$500.00 per breach.

## **26. COMPETITION FORMAT**

**26.1** The Competition shall consist of the league. NZF may, at its discretion, produce an official NL Contingencies Framework prior to the start of the NL Season that covers matters of disruption, such as, by way of example only, Covid-19. NZF shall retain sole discretion to amend the format of the Competition with notice to Participants following good faith discussions with affected Participants.

**26.2** Should a game be postponed, without the ability to be replayed (at the sole discretion of NZF), then NZF reserve the right to declare the fixture a nil-all (0-0) draw.

**26.3** Each match in the Competition shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes with an interval of not more than 15 minutes, whistle to whistle, in between.

### **The League**

**26.4** The League will consist of a single league match played between the nine (9) Participants, where each Participant shall play one match against the other Participants.

**26.5** Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw.

**26.6** No extra time shall be played during the League in the case of a drawn match between teams.

**26.7** In the playoff fixtures within the regional phase to determine a qualifier for the League and the result be a draw at the end of normal time, the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty spot in accordance with LOTG. For clarity, extra time will not be played during any playoff games.

**26.8** The results of the matches during the League will be recorded in a League Table. The ranking of each Participant shall be determined as follows:

**26.8.1** Greatest number of points obtained in all League matches;

**26.8.2** Goal difference in all League matches;

**26.8.3** Greatest number of goals scored in all League matches.

**26.8.4** Least number of goals conceded in all League matches.

**26.8.5** The head-to-head results between the teams equal on points.

**26.9** If, after applying the above criteria, any two or more teams are still equal, their respective positions on the League table shall be determined as follows;

**26.9.1** For each yellow card received, a Participant will accrue one (1) penalty point;

**26.9.2** For each red card received, a Participant will accrue three (3) penalty points;

**26.9.3** Where an individual Player has received two (2) yellow cards in the same Competition match, a Participant will accrue three (3) penalty points (the same as for a red card).

**26.10** NZF reserves the right to determine the Match Venue, Date and Kick-off Time for any match in the League, at its sole discretion.

## **27. TROPHY AND MEDALS**

**27.1** The Competition trophy will be presented to the winner at the conclusion of the Grand Final.

**27.2** The Competition trophy is the property of NZF and shall be insured by NZF. The winner of the Grand Final is responsible for the loss and any damage done to the trophy. The holder shall return the trophy to NZF in good order and condition two months prior to the commencement of the Competition.

**27.3** In addition to the trophy, NZF shall present thirty-five (35) medals to each of the Participants in the Grand Final, plus four (4) to the Match Officials of the day.

## **28. NON-COMPLIANCE**

**28.1** If a Participant is in breach of these Regulations, and/or any part of the Operations Manual, the following procedure will be undertaken to remedy the breach:

**28.1.1** In the first instance of a breach, NZF shall notify the Participant in writing of the breach, and the Participant will be given a reasonable period of time to rectify the breach. It is the Participants responsibility to undertake remedial action within the timeframe set and to keep NZF informed of progress, including any possible delays due to circumstances beyond its control.

**28.1.2** If the breach is not rectified within the timeframe prescribed, NZF shall issue a second written notice to the Participant, outlining the breach and a timeframe for rectification, and imposing a fine. The level of fine will be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending upon particular matters if the breach. It is the Participant's responsibility to undertake remedial action within the timeframe set and to keep NZF informed of progress, including any possible delays due to circumstances beyond its control.

**28.1.3** If the breach is not remedied within the prescribed timeframe after the issuance of the second notice of breach, the Participant will be deemed to be in default, and NZF is entitled to expel the Participant from the Competition upon 10 days written notice to the Participant.

## **29. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- 29.1** For the purposes of this regulation, "Intellectual Property " shall mean the intellectual property of NZF in the Competition including but not limited to all copyright, trademarks, design rights and all rights whether registered or unregistered, the format of the Competition, the rules and regulations of the Competition, the name and logo of the Competition, all broadcasting, media and production and reproduction rights of any matches in the Competition in any form whatsoever, all operational information including the Operations Manual, all promotional and advertising material in relation to the Competition and all internet and website based information on the Competition.
- 29.2** A Participant shall ensure that the ownership by NZF of the Intellectual Property is protected at all times and that any breach of it or unauthorised or unlicensed use of it is reported to NZF promptly.
- 29.3** Any unauthorised or unlicensed use of the Intellectual Property by a Participant or any such unauthorised or unlicensed use permitted by a Participant shall be deemed a breach of these Regulations and enforceable under the non-compliance provisions of these Regulations.

## **30. CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 30.1** No person is entitled to bring the Competition, NZF, the game or any related issue into disrepute. In particular Participants, including coaches and Players are not entitled to communicate negative comments to the media, aimed at any official, which results in disrepute. Any person who breaches this regulation 30.1 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500 per breach, at the sole discretion of NZF.

## **31. MISCELLANEOUS**

- 31.1** Matters not provided for in these regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by NZF. All decisions shall be final.

## **32. REFERENCES**

- 32.1** IFAB Laws of the Game: <http://www.theifab.com/laws>
- 32.2** FIFA Disciplinary Code: <https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/fifa-disciplinary-code-500275.pdf?cloudid=koyeb3cvhxnwy9yz4aa6>
- 32.3** FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players: <https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/regulations-on-the-status-and-transfer-of-players-2018-2925437.pdf?cloudid=c83ynehmkp62h5vgwg9g>

## **APPENDIX ONE - NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYING STRIP REGULATIONS**

### **1. NUMBERS**

- 1.1** The numbering of the Players shall be regulated by the relevant Competition Regulations to be issued by NZF.
- 1.2** The Player's number must be displayed on the back of the playing shirt and, where possible, on the front of the shorts. The same number may, at the Participant's discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt. The number must be clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance for all Players, Match Officials, spectators and media from the colours used for the respective playing equipment item. This distinction may be achieved by displaying the numbers on a single-coloured patch. The number may be surrounded by a border or shadow outline.
- 1.3** The size of the number on the back of the shirt must be between 25cm and 35cm in height and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt. The number must be entirely visible when the Player's shirt is tucked into the shorts. The stroke width of the figure of the numbers on the back of the shirt used by the Players must be between 3cm and 5cm.
- 1.4** The number on the front of the shirt must be positioned at chest level, and the size of the number must be between 10cm and 15cm in height.
- 1.5** The number on the front of the shorts may be positioned on either leg. The size of the number must be between 10cm and 15cm in height.

### **2. ADVERTISING**

- 2.1** Player's strips may carry advertising subject to the following conditions:
  - 2.1.2** There is no conflict with the interests of the sponsors of the relevant Competition.
  - 2.1.3** The sponsorship does not conflict with the aims and objectives of NZF;
  - 2.1.4** The strip design has been submitted for approval to NZF;
  - 2.1.5** NZF has approved the strip design in writing; and
  - 2.1.6** The dimension of the proposed advertising does not exceed those outlined in these Regulations.
- 2.2** The only advertising and logos permitted on Players shirts shall be as follows:
  - 2.2.1** Competition Logo - One example of the Participant emblem having an area not exceeding 100cm<sup>2</sup>;

- 2.2.2** Sponsor Badge (Logo) - One example of the Competition sponsor emblem having an area not exceeding 100cm<sup>2</sup>;
- 2.2.3** Participant Badge (Logo) - One example of the Participant emblem having an area not exceeding 100 cm<sup>2</sup>;
- 2.2.4** Makers Trademark - One example of the trademark or name of the manufacturer of such clothing, having an area of not more than 20 cm<sup>2</sup>;
- 2.2.5** Participant Sponsor – Participants are limited to one registered sponsor on the front and two registered sponsors on the back of the shirt, albeit one sponsor may appear in more than one place. The location of the name or logo of the Participant sponsor or sponsors must be as follows:

**a.** *Front of Shirt - One name or logo giving recognition to only one sponsor, which:*

- i.** Shall be the same sponsor on all the Players and goalkeepers shirts;
- ii.** Shall be the same name message or logo on all of the shirts;
- iii.** Shall not be of a luminous or reflective material;
- iv.** Shall not use up an area greater than 450cm<sup>2</sup>;
- v.** Shall not exceed 30cms in width and 15cms in height.

**b.** *Back of Shirt, Above the Shirt Number – One name or logo giving recognition to only one sponsor, which:*

- i.** May be a different sponsor on each of the Players and goalkeepers shirts;
- ii.** Shall not be of a luminous or reflective material;
- iii.** Shall not use up an area greater than 150cm<sup>2</sup>;
- iv.** Shall not exceed 30cms in width and 5cms in height; and
- v.** Shall appear above the Players and goalkeepers respective numbers.

**c.** *Back of Shirt, Below the Shirt Number – One name or logo giving recognition to only one sponsor, which:*

- i.** Shall be the same sponsor on all the Players and goalkeepers shirts;
- ii.** Shall be the same name message or logo on all of the shirts;

- iii. Shall not be of a luminous or reflective material;
- iv. Shall not use up an area greater than 300cm<sup>2</sup>;
- v. Shall not exceed 30cms in width and 10cms in height; and
- vi. Shall appear below the Players and goalkeepers respective numbers.

**2.3** The only advertising and logos permitted on Players shorts shall be as follows:

- 2.3.1** Competition Logo – One example of the Competition logo having an area not exceeding 105cm<sup>2</sup>, 7cm in height or 5cm in width, and being located on the front of either leg, but not on the same leg as the number.
- 2.3.2** Participant Badge (Logo) – One example of the Participant emblem having an area not exceeding 50cm<sup>2</sup> and being located on the front of either leg, but not on the same leg as the number.
- 2.3.3** Makers Trademark – One example of the trademark or name of the manufacturer of such clothing, having an area of not more than 20cm<sup>2</sup> and being located on the front of either leg, but not on the same leg as the number.
- 2.3.4** Participant Sponsor – One example of the name or logo of a Participant's sponsor or sponsors on the front of the shorts, having an area not exceeding 105cm<sup>2</sup>, 7cm in height or 15cm in width, and being located on either leg, but not the same leg as the number.
- 2.4** The respective advertising area is to be calculated by measuring around the outline of the advertising and to include the space between the words if more than one word is carried, or between words and emblem, if both are carried.
- 2.5** Nothing that may be regarded as distasteful, ethically or morally undesirable, must be carried on any item of clothing or equipment.
- 2.6** No advertising that may be deemed to have any connection with the cigarette or tobacco industry will be permitted.
- 2.7** No colour or design may be used in advertising, which might create problems of identification. This means that the colour and design of the clothing of opponents, goalkeepers and Match Officials must be taken into account.