



**Auckland Football Federation  
Northern Regional Football League  
Regulations  
2018**

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## **2018 NORTHERN REGIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

### **1 DEFINITIONS**

The terms given below denote the following:

- 1.1 Away Team: the Club playing a match at an opponent's nominated match venue.
- 1.2 Club: an affiliated member club of NZF or of the Federation that enters at least one team in a Competition.
- 1.3 Competition: any competition, tournament or league administered by the Federation including pre-season, season proper, finals series and any post season tournament or knockout cup competition.
- 1.4 Competition Manager: means the official appointed by the Federation from time to time to administer the Competition.
- 1.5 Federation: Auckland Football Federation.
- 1.6 Fines and Fees Schedules: means the schedule attached to these regulations.
- 1.7 National Registration System (NRS) refers to the national football database - COMET
- 1.8 Health and Safety Regulations: the Health and Safety Act 2015 and all other relevant regulations.
- 1.9 Home Club: the Club responsible for the organisation and management of matches played at their own nominated match venue.
- 1.10 Home Team: the Team named first on the Competition fixture.
- 1.11 Home Venue: a match played at a Club's own nominated match venue.
- 1.12 The line-up within the National Registration System: the official match record.
- 1.13 NZF: New Zealand Football Incorporated.
- 1.14 NZF Disciplinary Committee: the Disciplinary Committee of NZF.
- 1.15 Player: any football player registered as such with a Club, and Players shall be construed accordingly.
- 1.16 Playing: means taking the field of play. Being named in the line-up within the National Registration System and not taking the field of play does not constitute as playing.
- 1.17 Regulations: means these Competition regulations.
- 1.18 NRFL Disciplinary Committee: The Disciplinary Committee of the NRFL Competition

- 1.19 Season: the period of time starting with the first official match of the Competition and ending with the last official match of the Competition.

## **2 COMPETITION**

- 2.1 Participation in the Competition shall be open to invited clubs within the boundaries of Auckland Football (AFF), Northern Football (NFF) and WaiBOP Football Federations.
- 2.2 The Federation recognizes the shared responsibility for the Competition, and the need for shared decision making between the Federation, NFF and Waibop. For the purposes of these regulations, where it is indicated the Federation has sole discretion in decision making it should indicate prior discussion and consultation with NFF and WaiBOP where required will have taken place.
- 2.3 Final decisions on interpretations of any part of these regulations shall rest with the Federation. A decision by the Competition Manager in regards to these regulations can be appealed to the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee as per the NZF Disciplinary Code.
- 2.4 The Federation shall have the right to amend or replace these regulations from time to time. No change to these regulations will be implemented without a minimum notice period to clubs of 30 days.
- 2.5 The Federation shall have the right to change the Competition name to reflect the name of a sponsor if it so desires.
- 2.6 These Regulations regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all Clubs in the Competition. These Regulations are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition.
- 2.7 All matches shall be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- 2.8 The NZF Statutes and 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.
- 2.9 Clubs are obliged to release players selected for National Team Duty as per FIFA Regulations via NZF directives. Clubs releasing players under these directives will not be able to request a postponement of their Competition matches for players not available for their club fixtures.

## **3 ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION**

- 3.1 Unless otherwise determined by these Regulations, the entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Federation. The Federation 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 the Federation may be delegated to a

nominee.

- 3.2 The Federation shall determine the number of teams that may compete in the Competition. The decision of the Federation as to the composition of the Competition shall be final and binding. The Federation retains the ability to increase or decrease the number of teams at its sole discretion.
- 3.3 The Federation may appoint a Competition Manager or similar who shall be responsible for administration of the competition.
- 3.4 Each Club competing in the Competition shall be primarily responsible for the organisation and control of each of their own home matches in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Competition, in accordance with any instructions as may from time to time be issued by the Federation.
- 3.5 At the time of accepting entry to the Competition, each Club shall nominate its match venue(s) to allow inspection and approval by the Federation.

#### **4 ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION**

- 4.1 Each club wishing to compete in the Competition shall, on or before a date advised by the Competition Manager, confirm in writing their acceptance of an invitation to compete in said Competition.
  - 4.1.1 Written confirmation is to be submitted on the Federation confirmation of entry form by the due date.
- 4.2 Entry to, and continued participation in, the Competition shall be determined by the Federation having regard to:
  - 4.2.1 The Clubs satisfying criteria established from time to time by the Federation on a continuing basis.
  - 4.2.2 The criteria established by the Federation shall include, but not be limited to Registration of players, stadium facilities, and financial performance and shall otherwise be at the discretion of the Federation.
- 4.3 In the event of any Club not continuing in the Competition for whatever reason, including, failing to meet the aforementioned criteria, resulting in their removal from the Competition, then the filling of the consequential vacancy shall be determined by the Federation, which may in its sole discretion choose not to fill the vacancy.
- 4.4 Each club competing in the Competition shall, pay the Competition costs as directed by the Federation
  - 4.4.1 In the event of any Club not paying the relevant competition costs as required, then, without prejudice to any other remedies available to the Federation, and at the sole discretion of the Federation, the Club may be subject to:

(a) A suspension from participation in the Competition or any further iteration of the Competition.

(b) The collection of unpaid costs being directed to a collection agency.

4.5 From time to time the Federation may set costs of participation above and beyond the normal federation and NZF levies which shall be payable to the Club's own Federation.

## **5 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

5.1 Disciplinary incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Disciplinary Code. Where there is any conflict between the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations, then these Regulations shall apply.

5.2 The Competition Manager is authorised to determine the imposition and duration of the suspensions and fines pursuant to the NZF Disciplinary Code. The Competition Manager shall also retain the discretion to refer any disciplinary matters to the relevant NRFL Disciplinary Committee.

5.3 The Clubs, their Players and Officials, agree to comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game 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 in matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism and match-fixing), the FIFA Code of Conduct and NZF Statutes and Regulations, in particular the NZF Disciplinary Code, the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations, the NZF Code of Ethics, the NZF Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Regulations and the NZF Code of Conduct.

5.4 In addition, the Players agree to:

5.4.1 Respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence;

5.4.2 Behave accordingly;

5.4.3 In the interests of competition integrity, refrain from doping as defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

### **Referee's Reports**

5.5 Reference to a referee's report for the purposes of the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations shall include reference to the line up in the National Registration System.

5.6 Citation by the Referee of the relevant offence code shall be deemed to also be citation of the nature of the offence and the IFAB Laws of the Game for the purposes of the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations.

## **6 DISPUTES AND PROTESTS**

6.1 Any Club in the Competition may bring a dispute or protest to the Federation who shall make a decision or refer to the appropriate Judicial Body according to NZF Statutes or Regulations, and advise the party or parties concerned in accordance with the relevant regulations providing that;

6.1.1 The protest must be in writing to the Competition Manager, setting out the full details of the incident or protest and must be accompanied by the prescribed Incident Report Form.

6.1.2 A protest shall be made by the Club Secretary or other recognised club official, by the Wednesday following the match or within three working days if a mid-week fixture of the alleged breach

6.1.3 Clubs or players may appeal a decision through the process set out in the NZF Disciplinary Code.

## **7 EQUIPMENT**

### **Playing Strips**

7.1 Each Club shall inform the Federation of playing strips with a minimum of two different and contrasting colours for its home colours and alternate strips (shirt, shorts, and socks). In addition, each Club 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 Club colours and alternate strips.

7.2 Each Club shall wear its home colours 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, the named Home Team will wear their Home colours.

7.3 Where the strips of the two Clubs 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. Subject to Referee approval, it may be necessary for Clubs to change any perceived clashing strip item(s).

7.4 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 so as to avoid any clash of colours with the Home Team.

7.5 If, in the opinion of the Referee, a clash of colours will occur to the detriment of the match, the Referee may direct either or both Clubs to change or vary their strip.

### **Numbers**

7.6 Each Player shall wear the number assigned to them on the line-up within the National Registration System.

7.7 There shall be no duplication of numbers within a team. 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.

Where shorts are numbered, the same number must be displayed on the back of their playing shirt and on the front of the shorts. Shorts may have numbers positioned on either leg. The number must be between 10 cm and 15 cm in height and clearly legible.

The same number may, at the Club's discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt in any position at chest level. The number must be between 10 cm 15 cm in height, clearly legible and of the same colour as the number on the back of the shirt. The number(s) 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.

### **Official Match Balls**

- 7.8 The Federation reserves the right to make the use of certain match balls compulsory within the scope of these specific competition regulations. Where official match balls are assigned, it is each Club's responsibility to ensure such match balls are procured, used and presented in good, clean condition with a minimum of three for each home match.
- 7.9 Clubs should ensure that only the match balls referred to as official match balls are used in all games, promotional, news or team photographs, and television interviews.

## **8 MATCH VENUES, DATES AND KICKOFF TIMES**

- 8.1 The Competition Manager shall publish a final fixture list on the website including the match venues, dates and kick-off times for the season. All matches shall be played on the dates and times as published by the Federation, and shall not be varied without the prior written approval of the Federation. See below No 8.4.4.
- 8.2 The Competition Manager shall determine times, dates and grounds for any fixture in the competition and shall have the right at all times to amend, postpone or cancel any fixture.
- 8.3 Games may be scheduled on grass or artificial surfaces.
- 8.4 Matches shall be played at such time and on such grounds as directed by the Competition Manager;
- 8.4.1 In the event of a late start for any reason, if it is known or can be ascertained prior to kick-off that there is no later match scheduled for the pitch which would be disrupted by doing so, the match shall be extended to its normal duration in two equal halves.
- 8.4.2 If there is a match scheduled to follow on the same pitch, the match should be transferred to another available field or postponed. The Competition Manager may;

(a) Confirm the match is postponed, or

(b) Reschedule the match.

- 8.4.3 Standard match playing days and kick-off times shall be as per the Appendix sections of these regulations.
- 8.4.4 If any Club wishes to change the match date or kick-off time, they must advise both the opposing club and the Federation no less than 15 days prior to the scheduled game, setting out in full their reasons for requiring the change. In the event of both Clubs agreeing to the change, the Competition Manager shall take that into account prior to giving its decision which it shall give in its sole discretion
- 8.4.5 In exceptional circumstances postponements may be proposed by Clubs through the Club Secretary or other recognised club official. Such proposed postponements must be received by the Federation no less than 24 hours before the scheduled time of kick-off, and will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the Competition Manager.
- 8.5 Any additional cost incurred in changing a previously agreed match date or kick-off time shall be borne by the Club making the request.
- 8.6 All rescheduled games must be played prior to the final scheduled round of the relevant competition as published in the final fixture list prior to the current competition. Failure to do so will mean the requesting team will incur the game as a default.
- 8.7 In the event of a Club wishing to play at a match venue other than it's nominated match venue, it must give the Competition Manager 15 days' notice in writing setting out the reasons for the change of match venue, with full particulars of the new match venue and facilities available for players, spectators and officials. The decision of the Competition Manager as to the acceptability of the proposed match venue change will be final.

### **Floodlight Matches**

- 8.8 A fixture may be played wholly or partially under floodlights subject to the floodlight installation having been approved by the Federation as being suitable. Floodlight requirements are included Schedule 3.

### **Cost of Floodlights**

- 8.8.1 Any costs of night matches scheduled at the request of a club shall be borne by the club making the request.
- 8.8.2 Any costs of night matches scheduled by the Federation shall be borne by the Federation.

- 8.8.3 Any match re-scheduled at the request of a club, costs shall be borne by the club making the original request.

## **Security**

- 8.9 The Home Club shall be responsible for taking all practicable measures to ensure:
  - 8.9.1 All facilities and equipment comply with the Health and Safety Regulations. Certificates of compliance as required must be current;
  - 8.9.2 The orderly behaviour of the crowd and safety of the match officials, players and officials of the teams and all spectators; and
- 8.10 Each Club must make every effort to ensure that the NZF Code of Conduct is communicated and made available to its staff, Players, coaches, volunteers and spectators.

## **9 FIELD OF PLAY**

- 9.1 All Home Clubs are to ensure that their grounds comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game, Law 1 – The Field of Play. All competitions covered by these specific competition regulations require field dimensions to be no less than 97m x 65m and not more than 120m x 90m and nets are compulsory.
- 9.2 Matches may be played on natural hybrid or approved artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf.
- 9.3 In compliance with the provisions of the IFAB Laws of the Game, the technical area shall be marked out in front of the seated area with lines or cones for substitutes and technical staff.
- 9.4 The technical area shall be of sufficient size to include the maximum number of eleven (11) persons authorised to be on the substitute's bench, and be located one metre either side of the substitute's bench, to one metre from the touchline.
- 9.5 All Home Clubs are required to have the field of play of their home grounds maintained in a satisfactory condition.
  - 9.5.1 In the event of inclement weather, the Home Club shall be obliged to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that scheduled fixtures proceed.
  - 9.5.2 In the event of inclement weather, the Home Club shall be obliged to re-mark all or portions of the ground, at the request of the Referee.

## **10 REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS**

- 10.1 The Federation shall make appointments for all Competition fixtures.

- 10.2 Each Referee shall attend the ground at least one hour before the scheduled kick-off time; and shall wait one half-hour after the scheduled kick-off time, prior to abandoning the game for any reason.
- 10.3 If a Referee is unable to start a match or continue in a match the senior assistant referee takes over.
- 10.4 Should a Referee not be appointed to a match or if a Referee fails to arrive then it shall be the responsibility of the coach or manager of each team to decide a suitable person to referee the match.

In the event that the parties cannot agree upon a suitable person to referee then a person appointed by the home team shall referee the first half and a person appointed by the away team shall refer the second half.

## **11 SUBSTITUTION RULES**

### **Substitution Procedures**

- 11.1 The procedure for substitutions shall be in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game. Refer to the relevant Appendix section of these regulations for individual competition substitution regulations.
- 11.2 Substitutes may warm-up during the game subject to the dimensions of the ground 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.

## **12 TECHNICAL AREA**

- 12.1 Each Home Club shall provide adequate covered seating for each of the eleven (11) persons authorised to be in the Technical Area at each game it is host of during a Competition season.
- 12.2 All occupants of the Technical Area shall be recorded in the line up in the National Registration System prior to the commencement of the match.
- 12.3 Only one person at a time has the authority to convey technical instructions from the technical area.
- 12.4 The coach and other 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.
- 12.5 The coach and other occupants of the Technical Area must conduct themselves at all times, in a responsible manner, and in particular refrain from using offensive, insulting, abusive language and or gestures.
- 12.6 The Match Officials shall monitor the Technical Area. Any breach maybe sanctioned by the match official and reported by way of the line up in the National Registration

System and/or NZF Incident Report Form to the Competition Manager.

- 12.7 For all matches, a maximum of eleven (11) people are entitled to sit in the technical area during a fixture, being comprised of no more than 5 substitutes and no more than 6 others. All occupants of the technical area must wear different coloured tops to those worn by the team they are associated with and the opposition.
- 12.8 The use of any communication equipment and/or systems between and/or amongst the Players, Substitutes and/or technical staff is not permitted.

### **13 PLAYING OF FIXTURES**

- 13.1 Clubs must take all reasonable steps to arrive at a match on time.
- 13.2 Any team having seven (7) or more players present must be ready to commence its match within ten (10) minutes after the published start time. Any team that does not comply shall forfeit the match.
- 13.3 The minimum number of Players a Club's team must have to commence in any Competition match is seven (7). If a team during any Competition match is reduced, for whatever reason, to less than seven (7) Players, the game cannot continue the referee shall abandon the match. Refer 13.14.
- 13.4 Matches will only be postponed due to any of the reasons given below. Should a match be postponed, the Federation will work with the clubs involved and reschedule the match to be played within seven (7) days of the originally scheduled fixture.
  - 13.4.1 Aborted Travel arrangements
  - 13.4.2 Adverse or unforeseen weather
  - 13.4.3 Any official NZF Cup Competition fixture
  - 13.4.4 Field of play conditions or;
  - 13.5.5 Any other reason preventing the commencement of the game

#### **Unforeseen Changes**

- 13.5 In the event of a change of match venue being necessary prior to a match because of unforeseen weather or field of play conditions, all parties will adhere to the process outlined in the NRFL Game Day Travelling Wet Weather Process which is binding for all parties where teams are travelling from outside of the federation hosting the match

#### **Defaults**

- 13.6 Any default will be recorded as a 3-0 win to the non-defaulting team.

- 13.7 Notification of a team's default must be made in writing to the Competition Manager by the Club secretary no later than 12 noon on the Friday preceding the weekend fixture or 12 noon on the day preceding the weekday fixture. A team shall not be fined should they adhere to this clause.
- 13.8 A team which Defaults either two (2) matches in succession or a total of three (3) matches in the season may be expelled from the Competition at the discretion of the Competition Manager or the Federation.
- 13.9 If both teams are deemed to have defaulted, a 'no result' of 0-0 shall be recorded with no points attached.
- 13.10 Where a team claims a match by default on the day of the match, the Referee will present the facts substantiated by the completion of the fixture details in the National Registration System, or if not and if otherwise possible, by an official or member of the opposing club.

#### **Suspended or abandoned matches**

- 13.11 The Referee's decision shall be final as to the condition of the ground for play.
- 13.12 In the event of adverse weather conditions occurring during a match, which in the view of the Referee endangers the Players or Officials, the Referee 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 where the match is able to recommence.
- 13.13 Where weather/ground conditions preceding a fixture raise doubts as to whether play shall take place, NRFL Game Day Travelling Wet Weather Process which is binding for all parties where teams are travelling from outside of the federation hosting the match
- If the Competition Manager decides that play can take place, then the Competition Manager shall further decide whether or not any other scheduled activities prior to the match are to be cancelled.
- 13.13.1 In these circumstances, if the Away Team has been notified that a match is to be played, then all reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that the match proceeds in accordance with regulation(s)
- 13.13.2 If in the opinion of the Competition Manager, the lack of timely action contributed to an away team incurring unnecessary costs, the home club may be fined an amount commensurate with those costs and the fine be diverted to the away club to offset those costs.
- 13.14 Any match abandoned after kick-off, for any reason, shall be reported directly to the Competition Manager, by the Referee if present and the Home Club (if no Referee is present, by the Home Club only.) Upon review the Competition Manager may decide that:
- 13.14.1 The score at the time of the abandonment shall stand, or

13.14.2 The match shall be awarded to one of the teams as a forfeit win with a recorded score line of 3-0, or

13.14.3 The match shall be rescheduled by the Federation

13.15 If at least 80 minutes of the match has been played and the match is abandoned for any reason, the Competition Manager may deem that the score at the time of the abandonment shall stand.

## **14 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

14.1 The Federation has no financial provisions for teams in the Competition.

## **15 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

15.1 A Player is eligible to play in the Competition provided that that they are duly registered in accordance with Regulation 16.

15.2 Each Club shall be solely responsible for fielding only eligible players. Any club found guilty of fielding an ineligible player will be subject to the sanctions provided in Clause 34 of the NZ Football Disciplinary Code.

15.3 For the avoidance of doubt:

15.3.1 any players registering with or transferring to a Club after June 30th are not eligible to play in the Competition

15.3.2 players who have had a registration process or transfer started within the National Registration System prior to midnight June 30 will be eligible to play if the transfer is completed after June 30 date

15.4 Any club found guilty of fielding an ineligible player will be subject to the sanctions provided in clause 34 of the NZ Football Disciplinary Code. As per clause 4 of these Regulations, the Competition Manager is authorised to determine the imposition and duration of the suspensions and fines pursuant to the NZF Disciplinary Code.

15.3.3 A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the match by 3-0. If the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than 3 in favour of the opposing team the result on the pitch is upheld.

15.3.4 Where a club repeatedly infringes this regulation the Federation may increase the sanction to be pronounced as deemed appropriate for the infringement.

15.5 For the avoidance of doubt there is no time bar or any other restriction regarding penalties referred in Regulation 15.4.

15.6 All international transfer clearances (ITC) must be processed and completed as per the NZF Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players.

- 15.7 The competition for women is restricted to female players only.
- 15.8 The competition for men may include female players. Females wishing to play in the competition for men may do so only with written dispensation from the Federation.
- 15.9 There is no restriction on movement between first and reserve teams.

## **16 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

- 16.1 All players must be duly registered in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 16.2 A player can only be registered for one (1) Club at any one time and can only play for that Club.

## **17 THE LINE UP IN THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM**

- 17.1 Each team shall name a Start List in the line-up in the National Registration System with a maximum number of 16 Players (11 selected Players and up to 5 substitutes) for each match, and up to six (6) technical staff.
- 17.2 Substitutes not named on the line up may not take part in the match. An un-named player taking the field during the match results in the player being ineligible.
- 17.3 Each team is responsible for ensuring that the line up in the National Registration System is completed correctly.
  - 17.3.1 The starting eleven may be adjusted in case of an injury during the warm-up, prior to kick off at the discretion of the referee.
  - 17.3.2 The numbers on the Player's shirts and shorts if numbered must correspond to the numbers in the line up in the National Registration System.
- 17.4 The line up in the National Registration System is the official document of the match.

## **18 COMPETITION FORMAT**

- 18.1 The Competition shall normally be played on a double-round robin basis, with each team facing all others once at home and once away.
- 18.2 Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two equal halves of 45 minutes, with a maximum interval of 15 minutes whistle to whistle in between.
- 18.3 Three (3) points are awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw, Nil (0) points for a loss.



- 18.4 No extra time shall be played during the Competition in the case of a drawn match between teams.
- 18.5 The results of Competition matches will be recorded in a Competition table. The ranking of each team shall be determined as follows:
- 18.5.1 Greatest number of points obtained in all matches in the Competition; then
- 18.5.2 Greatest goal difference in all matches in the Competition; then
- 18.5.3 Greatest number of goals scored in all matches in the Competition
- 18.6 If for any reason the Competition cannot be completed within the required time-frame the Competition Manager may close the Competition and declare the final placings at their sole discretion.
- 18.7 In the event of a team being withdrawn from any division at any round during the Competition, then results, points and goal statistics shall be adjusted as though the club concerned was never involved in that division.

## **19 NON-COMPLIANCE**

- 19.1 Unless otherwise specified, if a Club is in breach of this Regulation the Federation shall notify the Club in writing of the breach, and the Club will be given a reasonable period of time to rectify the breach. It is the Club's responsibility to undertake remedial action within the timeframe set & to keep the Federation informed of progress, including any possible delays due to circumstances beyond its control.

## **20 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- 20.1 For the purposes of this clause, "Intellectual Property " shall mean the intellectual property of NZF or the Federation including but not limited to all copyright, trademarks, design rights and all rights whether created before or after the date of this regulation and whether registered or unregistered, the name and logo of the Federation, all broadcasting, media and production and reproduction rights of any games in the Federation in any form whatsoever, all operational information including all promotional and advertising material in relation to the Federation and all internet and website based information, including competition.
- 20.2 A Club shall ensure that the ownership by NZF or the Federation 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 or the Federation promptly.
- 20.3 Any unauthorised or unlicensed use of the Intellectual Property by a Club or any such unauthorised or unlicensed use permitted by a Club shall be deemed a breach of these Regulations and enforceable under the non-compliance provisions of these Regulations.

## **21 CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 21.1 No person is entitled to bring the NZF, the Federation, the game or any related issue into disrepute. In particular, coaches and players are not entitled to communicate negative comments including the use of social media which results in such disrepute. Any person who breaches this clause will be liable to a fine and may be suspended at the sole discretion of NZF or the Federation, as appropriate.

## **22 MISCELLANEOUS**

- 22.1 Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by the Federation. All decisions shall be final.

## **23 REFERENCES**

- 23.1 IFAB Laws of the Game  
[http://static-3eb8.kxcdn.com/documents/274/092646\\_180517\\_LotG\\_17\\_18\\_FINAL\\_EN.pdf](http://static-3eb8.kxcdn.com/documents/274/092646_180517_LotG_17_18_FINAL_EN.pdf)
- 23.2 FIFA Disciplinary Code  
[http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/administration/50/02/75/fifadisciplinarycode2017eng\\_neutral.pdf](http://resources.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/administration/50/02/75/fifadisciplinarycode2017eng_neutral.pdf)
- 23.3 FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players  
<http://www.nzfootball.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/NZF-Regulations-on-the-Status-and-Transfer-of-Players-a17022016.pdf>
- 23.4 NZF Disciplinary Code:  
<http://www.nzfootball.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/NZF-Disciplinary-Code-2017.pdf>
- 23.5 NZF Licensing Criteria  
<http://www.nzfootball.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/NZF-Club-Licensing-Regulations-2017.pdf>

## APPENDIX

### 1 PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

- 1.1 The Federation reserves the right to inspect any Club's grounds and facilities prior to the acceptance of any team into the competition. If a club fails to provide a suitable ground or acceptable facilities, or has not met their obligations pursuant to these Regulations then the team may be refused entry into the Competition.
- 1.2 Clubs must enter a second team in the appropriate Reserve competition.
- 1.3 It is recorded that Clubs participating in the competition are expected to have a higher standard of ground and facilities than those participating in a lower competition.
  - 1.3.1 There shall be adequate public toilet facilities.
  - 1.3.2 There shall be a public refreshment / canteen facilities.
  - 1.3.3 The venue must be equipped with adequate car parking and must be able to accommodate at least 1 coach parking.
  - 1.3.4 There shall be clubrooms at the match venue or other approved facility in close proximity to host visiting teams, supporters and other spectators.

#### NZ Football Licensing Criteria

- 1.4 The 2018 season will be the first year NZ Football's Licensing Criteria will apply in the Men's and Women's Premier Leagues only. The following Regional (C) License Criteria are required to be met in order to participate in the 2018 Men's and Women's Premier League competitions:
  - 1.4.1 Registration of First Team All players must be registered with NZF.
  - 1.4.2 The Club must appoint a first team Head Coach that has a minimum NZF Senior Level 2 coaching qualification or international equivalent.
  - 1.4.3 All Head Coaches must be accredited on the NZF Coaches Network.
  - 1.4.4 The Head Coach must attend an 11+ Injury Prevention workshop.
  - 1.4.5 The Club must have a written player development programme approved by the Federation.
- 1.5 Schedule 4 of these regulations outlines the process required to comply with Licensing Criteria requirements and also applicable sanctions against non-compliance for Men's and Women's Premier League participation in 2018.

## **2 GROUNDS**

- 2.1 All Home Clubs are to ensure that their grounds comply with the IFAB Laws of the Game, Law 1 – The Field of Play, and be either:
  - 2.1.1 Natural Grass; or
  - 2.1.2 Artificial Turf (according to FIFA quality Standards)
- 2.2 All grounds shall be roped around the full perimeter of the field.
- 2.3 All grounds shall have unlocked and unblocked access to enable an ambulance to gain access to the ground and to the playing area.

## **3 STANDARD MATCH PLAYING DAYS AND KICK-OFF TIMES**

- 3.1 Standard playing days and kick off times are as follows;
  - 3.1.1 Men's Premier, Division 1, Division 2: Saturday at 3pm or Sunday 3pm
  - 3.1.2 Men's Premier, Division 1, Division 2 Reserves: Saturday at 12.30pm or Sunday 12.30pm
  - 3.1.3 Women's Premier: Sunday at 1.00pm
  - 3.1.4 Women's Premier Reserves: Sunday at 10.45am
- 3.2 Sunday fixtures - if the match is so scheduled, any mirrored reserve grade match shall also be moved to Sunday, unless agreed by both teams and the Federation.
- 3.3 Saturday late afternoon/evening fixtures - if the match is so scheduled, any mirrored reserve grade match shall also be moved to the game preceding the first team fixture, unless agreed by both teams and the Federation.
- 3.4 Friday evening fixtures - if the match is so scheduled, any mirrored reserve grade match shall not be moved.

## **4 SUBSTITUTES**

- 4.1 All substitutes must be named in the line up in the National Registration System and require the permission of the referee to enter the field of play.
  - 4.1.1 Men's and Women's Premier, Men's Division 1, Men's Division 2: Up to 3 substitutes may be used from up to 5 players named in the line up in the National Registration System
  - 4.1.2 Men's Reserve League: Up to 5 substitutes may be used from up to 5 players named the line up in the National Registration System

- 4.1.3 Women's Reserves: Up to 5 substitutes may be used from up to 5 players named the line up in the National Registration System, with unlimited interchange of players at any time in the match

## **5 CHANGING FACILITIES**

- 5.1 Clubs must adhere to the following criteria with respect to the Home Team's changing facilities;
  - 5.1.1 Teams shall have exclusive access to the designated changing rooms (1) hour prior to the match;
  - 5.1.2 The venue must contain a separate lockable dressing room for each team and include;
    - a. One seat per player
    - b. Showers with hot and cold running water (Ideally minimum 5 showers)
    - c. Minimum of 1 working toilet
  - 5.1.3 The venue must contain a separate dressing room for officials and include;
    - a. One seat per person (ideally 5 seats)
    - b. Minimum 1 shower with hot and cold running water
    - c. 1 working toilet
- 5.2 Changing facilities are to be cleaned to a good standard prior to every match.

## **6 GENERAL MATCH DAY REQUIREMENTS**

- 6.1 Each team must have an easily identifiable Match Day Manager present at each game.

## **7 OFFICIAL MATCH BALLS**

- 7.1 A minimum of three specified official size 5 match balls shall be provided by the home team, fit for play as determined by the referee.
- 7.2 The match balls must be delivered to the referee not less than 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.
- 7.3 2018 Official Match Balls;
  - a. LOTTO IPER VTB; or
  - b. LOTTO FB100LZG

7.4 Using any other ball other than the balls referred to in 7.3 will result in a fine.

## **8 AGE DISPENSATION**

8.1 Players aged 15 years or below require age dispensation from the Federation in order to be eligible for the Competition.

8.2 Applications for age dispensation must be in writing on the relevant form. A signature of a parent or guardian of the player showing support for the dispensation request is required on the same form.

8.3 An approved dispensation must be notified to the Club prior to the Player taking the field. Any player requiring but having not received dispensation is ineligible to play.

## **9 DECLARATION OF WINNER**

9.1 At the completion of the Competition the highest team in the Competition ladder, as per Regulation 18.5, is declared the winner. If any two or more teams are still equal, then the team with the superior disciplinary record in the Competition (by virtue of having the fewest penalty points accrued during the Competition) shall be declared the winner. Penalty points shall be accrued as follows:

- a for each yellow card received, a team will accrue 1 penalty point
- b for each red card received, a team will accrue 3 penalty points;
- c and where an individual Player receives 2 yellow cards in the same Competition game, a team will accrue 3 penalty points (the same as for a red card).

If any two or more teams are still unable to be separated, the Competitions Manager shall arrange a playoff match, at its sole discretion, to determine the winner.

## **10 PROMOTION / RELEGATION**

The following will determine Promotion / Relegation for all leagues:

10.1 At the conclusion of the Men's Premier, Men's Division 1 and Men's Division 2 season the two lowest placed teams in each Competition will be relegated to the next applicable lower league. The associated Reserve sides will also be relegated regardless of finishing position in their competition.

10.2 The two highest placed teams from the next applicable Men's lower league are entitled to apply to the Federation for promotion subject to meeting set NZF Licensing Criteria where required.

10.3 At the conclusion of the Women's Premier season the lowest placed team is relegated to the relevant Federation competition for the following season. The associated Reserve side will also be relegated regardless of finishing position in their

competition.

- 10.4 At the conclusion of the Women's Premier season the team finishing in eighth position will contest a playoff against the winner of the playoff between AFF/NFF Conference winner and the winner of WaiBOP Football's top Women's League for the final place in the 2019 Women's Premier League competition. Should one team not wish to enter either the AFF/NFF v WaiBOP winner playoff or the NRFL promotion/relegation playoff then the other shall be deemed to have won said playoff(s).
- 10.5 The teams promoted to Men's Division 2 will be the winner of the AFF/NFF Men's Conference along with the winner of a two-leg playoff between the second placed team in the AFF/NFF Men's Conference and the winner of WaiBOP Football's top Men's League.
- 10.6 For the avoidance of doubt the highest and lowest placed teams are determined by having reference to the Competition ladder as per Regulation 18.5. Where two or more teams are tied on the Competition ladder then the criteria outlined above in Appendix One, 9.1 shall be used to determine the final placings.

## **11 SPONSORSHIP**

- 11.1 Clubs must not enter into an agreement with a company that is part of the cigarette or tobacco industry, nor anything connected to those two industries, nor anything which may be regarded as distasteful or ethically or morally undesirable.
- 11.2 Players (including Goalkeepers) shirts may carry the same advertising subject to the following;
  - 11.2.1 There is no conflict of the sponsors of the competition.
  - 11.2.2 The sponsorship does not conflict with aims and objectives and the interests of NZF and Federations. (Where necessary the Federation will consult with NZF and other federations).
  - 11.2.3 The dimensions of the advertising do not exceed those outlined below. Area shall be calculated measuring around the outline of the advertising including spaces between words and between elements of the logo and wording.
    - a One competition logo if such is designed and in use, not exceeding 100 sq cms
    - b One logo of the competition sponsor, not exceeding 100 sq cms
    - c One club badge or emblem, not exceeding 100 sq cms
    - d One example of the manufacturers trademark or name, not exceeding 20 sq cms

11.2.4 The name or logo of the club sponsor or sponsors, which must be on the front and / or back of the shirt.

- a Front – Not more than 450 sq cms in area, and max width 30 cm x height 15cm
- b Back – Not more than 300 sq cms in area, and max width 30 cm x height 10 cm

11.2.5 One sponsor may appear on the front and back, or two different sponsors, one in each place.

11.2.6 The colour and design of advertising may be taken into account by referees in determining any colour clash, and may enforce a change of strip in their discretion where advertising is a factor.

## **12 TROPHY, AWARDS & MEDALS**

12.1 The Competition trophy will be presented to the winner of the Competition at the conclusion of the Competition.

12.2 The Competition trophy is the property of the Federation and shall be insured by the Federation. The winner of the Competition is responsible for the loss of and any damage done to the trophy. The winner of Competition shall return the trophy to the Federation in good order and condition by July 1 the following year.

12.3 In addition to the trophy, the Federation may present (25) medals to each of the Clubs that place 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of the competition.

12.4 At the conclusion of the Competition the Golden Boot will be awarded to the Premier Player who scores the most goals in the Competition. Defaulted or Forfeited match goals will not be eligible for Golden Boot calculation. Players found to have played ineligibly will have any goals scored in the match expunged from the Golden Boot standings in the competition. If two or more Players score the same number of goals, the total games played in the Competition will be taken into account, with the Player playing fewer games being awarded the Golden Boot. If two or more players still remain tied, the award will made jointly to all tied players.

## **13 NRFL MEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE TRIAL INITIATIVES 2018**

The 2018 season will see the following trials instituted on behalf of NZ Football solely in the Men's Premier League Competition:

### **13.1 Temporary Dismissal (Sin-bin) Trial**

13.1.1 A 10-minute period temporary dismissal will be applied for players deemed to have committed Y5 and Y6 offences (dissent towards match officials). Temporary dismissal will not apply to all other caution offenses.

13.1.2 All other cautionable offences are punished by caution



- 13.1.3 A Player who has been temporarily dismissed then receives a caution continues playing
- 13.1.4 A Player who receives a caution then a temporary dismissal continues playing after the end of temporary dismissal period
- 13.1.5 A player who receives 2 temporary dismissals serves the second dismissal then takes no further part in the match. The player can be replaced by another player from the named substitutes if the team has not used its maximum number of substitutions where a maximum number of substitutions applies
- 13.1.6 A player who receives a second caution will be sent off and takes no further part in the match and may not be replaced/substituted

## 13.2 Increased Captaincy Responsibility Trial

The FIFA Fair Play programme highlights that the following could be implemented immediately:

- 13.2.1 The Captain is the main point of communication with/for the referee
- 13.2.2 The Captain is the only player allowed to approach the referee in a controversial situation
- 13.2.3 Help the referee to calm flashpoint situation/players

## 14 NRFL MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE VIDEO FOOTAGE AND LEAGUE EXCHANGE

- 14.1 All teams competing in NRFL Men's and Women's Premier League competitions are required to digitally video record their home matches from an elevated vantage point for the purposes of:
  - 15.1.1 Upload to a league directory where all teams and match officials can access and download footage for technical analysis
  - 15.1.2 Use of footage in promotion and marketing initiatives as determined by the Federation

## **SCHEDULE 1 - NORTHERN REGIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - FEES AND FINES**

### **1 MISCONDUCTS**

- 1.1 Fines for misconducts are charged to the club as per the New Zealand Football Disciplinary Code, clubs in turn may recover the amounts from individual players.
- 1.2 The Competition Manager will enforce Clause 31 of the NZF Disciplinary Code and impose a fine of \$250.00 (no GST) against teams which have five or more players sanctioned by the referee

### **2 APPEALS**

- 2.1 Appeal Fee as per the New Zealand Football Disciplinary Code, Section 89:
  - 2.1.1 For Appeals to the NRFL Disciplinary Committee \$125.00 plus GST
  - 2.1.2 For Appeals to the Disciplinary Committee (NZF fee) \$250.00 plus GST
  - 2.1.3 For Appeals to the Appeals Committee (NZF fee) \$500.00 plus GST

### **3 ADMINISTRATION**

- 3.1 Not using the Official Match Ball as referred to in 7.3. \$150.00 (No GST) per ball per match
- 3.2 Playing in strip other than Club registered home or alternate strip or failure to provide alternate strip \$100.00 each time (No GST).
- 3.3 Not having an easily identifiable Match Day Manager present. \$50.00 (No GST) per match

### **4 LATE DEFAULTS**

- 4.1 Late Defaults shall be charged at \$250.00 (no GST).

### **5 PLAYING INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

- 5.1 As per the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players there will be a loss of match points. A fine of \$250.00 (no GST) per player may also apply for each offence.

### **6 BREACH OF REGULATIONS**

- 6.1 A breach of any of following competition Regulations may incur a sanction of \$50.00 (No GST) per match per breach
  - a. Technical Area. Refer 12.1

b. Field of Play. Refer 9.3

## **7 WITHDRAWING FROM THE COMPETITION**

7.1 Applicable after confirmation of entry or at any stage during the season; Clubs may also be subject to further sanctions at the sole discretion of the Federation. All withdrawal fees are subject to waiver by the Federation.

7.1.1 First team \$5000.00 + GST

7.1.2 Reserves team \$1000.00 + GST

7.1.3 Both first team and reserves \$6000.00 + GST

## **SCHEDULE 2 - NORTHERN REGIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE – APPROVED FLOODLIT MATCH VENUES**

- 1.1 Health and safety considerations have been taken into account where competition matches are played at night. No fixtures will be scheduled to play at night without the federation having received confirmation that lighting meets the below criteria.
  - 1.2 The following will set the standard for Approved Floodlit Match Venues.
    - 1.2.1 Event pitch shall be glare free with a minimum of six poles
    - 1.2.2 A minimum of 200 lux
- NRFL Competition: Minimum Lux (200). Uniformity 0.6
- All illuminance (lux) values indicated are maintained values.
  - Illuminance uniformity shall not exceed than 30% every 10 metres.
  - Primary player view angles must be free of direct glare. This glare rating is satisfied when the player view angles are satisfied.
- 1.3 Providing a glare-free environment for the players, officials and media is the most important design requirement. The following two areas are defined as “no floodlight zones” for all five categories of competition:
    - 1.3.1 Corner goal-line area: In order to maintain good visual conditions for the goalkeeper and attacking players in the corners, lighting equipment shall not be placed within an area of 15 degrees on either side of the goal line.
    - 1.3.2 Behind the goal line: In order to maintain good visual conditions for the attacking players in front of the goal and the goalkeeper, lighting equipment shall not be placed within 20 degrees behind the goal line and 45 degrees above the horizon from the goal line.

**Illuminance (Lux):** The total amount of visible light illuminating a point on a surface, from all directions above the surface. The standard unit for illuminances Lux (lx).

**Uniformity ratios:** Describes the uniformity of light levels across an area.

**Tests:** tests must cover the entire field of play within the marked lines. Measured Horizontal illuminance level is tested at 0.00 metres.

### **SCHEDULE 3 – NRFL GAME DAY TRAVELLING WET WEATHER PROCESS**

In the event of severe or unforeseen weather conditions on match day which could impact the condition of grounds for play, the following process shall be implemented where the away team is travelling from outside the federation in which the game is being played:

- 1.1 Where weather and ground conditions status are such that in the opinion of the home team officials the game may be in threat of postponement, the home team will contact via phone both the Competition Manager and the away team before they depart for the fixture
- 1.2 The Competition Manager will arrange for the scheduled ground to be assessed by an appointed match official, or a suitable replacement from an agreed list of contacts developed by the Competition Manager, as soon as practical and advise status of the ground for play and advise both teams
- 1.3 If the scheduled ground is ruled unfit for play, the club's nominated secondary ground will also be assessed by the same match referee or nominated official prior. If declared fit for play, the match will proceed on the secondary ground.
- 1.4 If the secondary ground is declared unfit for play, the Competition Manager will work along with appropriate contacts at related federations to find a suitable alternate ground to play both the first team and reserve matches if possible. If only one match can be played, it will be the first team game only.
- 1.5 If a suitable alternate venue cannot be found the match(es) will be postponed and rescheduled within seven (7) days either by agreement of the two clubs involved or by instruction of the Competition Manager.
- 1.6 This process has been created in attempt to avoid teams travelling from long distance, incurring costs in doing so, and arriving and then subsequently not playing. Please action this process in a timely manner guided by the circumstances of the situation to achieve that outcome

## **SCHEDULE 4 – NRFL MEN’S AND WOMEN’S PREMIER LEAGUE LICENSING CRITERIA PROCESS 2018**

### **2018 Licensing Criteria requirements**

The following NZ Football Licensing Criteria for Regional “C” License are in place for participation in the 2018 Lotto NRFL Men’s and Women’s Premier League competitions only:

- 21.11 - Registration of First Team - All players must be registered with NZF
- 21.12 - First Team - Head Coach - The Club must appoint a first team Head Coach that has a minimum NZF Senior Level 2 coaching qualification or international equivalent
- 21.13 - Network Registration - All Head Coaches must be accredited on the NZF Coaches Network
- 21.14 - Injury Prevention - The Head Coach must attend a 11+ Injury Prevention workshop
- 21.15 - Player Development - The Club must have a written player development programme approved by the Regional Association or NZF as relevant.

### **Processing**

To fulfil the Licensing Criteria requirements for the NRFL Men’s and Women’s Premier Leagues in 2018, the relevant clubs must provide the NRFL League Manager the following in accordance with the timelines set below:

- a. Written evidence of and/or confirmation that all players to play in the competition are registered in the National Registration System
- b. The name of the team’s Head Coach and a copy of his or her relevant coaching qualification or written evidence demonstrating they are accredited to NZF Senior Level 2 or international equivalent level
- c. Written evidence of and/or confirmation that the Head Coach is registered in the National Registration System
- d. Written evidence of and/or confirmation that the Head Coach has completed a 11+ Injury Prevention Workshop
- e. A copy of the club’s written player development programme document

*Please note: Where written evidence is required, this can simply take the form of an email advising appropriate National Registration System registration has been completed*

### **Final deadlines for submission**

Men’s Premier League: Midday, Wednesday 21 March, 2018

Women’s Premier League: Midday, Wednesday 4 April, 2018

### **Sanctions against non-compliance**

The following sanctions will apply in 2018 to clubs who fail to comply with any of the Licensing Criteria requirements outlined above:

1. April 20, 2018: caution letter and request for any outstanding confirmation or information not submitted
2. After July 15, 2018:
  - a. If any appointed or duly nominated club Head Coach does not hold the NZF Senior Level 2 qualification or approved international equivalent after July 15, 2018 and is listed in the match line up in the National Registration System and present in technical area on match day, in any capacity, in any competition match after that date, a 2-point deduction will be assessed against the team in the competition standings.
  - b. If a club’s team line up (technical area listed staff) in the National Registration System does not include anyone who holds the NZF Senior Level 2 qualification or approved international equivalent, a 2-point deduction will be assessed against the team in the competition standings
  - c. A 2-point deduction will also be applied if any other elements of the above Licensing Criteria requirements remain unfulfilled