

# **2017 Federation Competition Regulations AFF Senior and 19<sup>th</sup> Grade Men, Masters & Senior Women General Provisions**



## **Section 1: General**

1. All Federation Senior Men's and Senior Women's Competitions shall be conducted under the current FIFA regulations except as otherwise specified in these General Provisions and/or specific competition regulations.
2. The control and management of all Federation Senior Competitions is vested in the AFF Competitions Manager, under the supervision of the Chief Executive, by the Auckland Football Federation Board.
3. Where the AFF Competitions Manager or the Federation is required to grant approval for procedures under these regulations, the terms 'Competitions Manager' and 'Federation' shall include those people or groups appointed by the AFF Competitions Manager, the CEO or the Federation Board from time to time to oversee these procedures.
4. The Federation reserves the right to amend or replace these General Provisions and/or specific competition regulations from time to time. Any such amendment or replacement shall be notified by email or in writing to all Federation clubs. The non-receipt by a club of notice of any such amendment or replacement will not invalidate the change. Prior to the start of each season the Federation shall publish on the AFF website the regulations for the forthcoming season. Within any season, it is the club's responsibility to update these regulations with any amendments. No change to these regulations shall be implemented without a minimum notice period to clubs of 30 days once the season has commenced.
5. Final decision on interpretation of these General Provisions and/or specific competition regulations shall rest with the Federation. Any decision by the AFF Competitions Manager in relation to these regulations can be appealed to the Federation Board in accordance with Section 6 of these regulations.
6. Fines for breaches of these General Provisions and/or specific competition regulations may be prescribed by the Federation in the AFF Schedule of Fees, such fines to be notified to Federation Clubs prior to the start of each season.
7. Each Club desiring to compete in Federation Senior Competitions shall, on or before a date advised by the AFF Competitions Manager, confirm in writing their acceptance of an invitation to compete in such competition in the division(s) advised.
  - a) The final composition of such divisions shall be at the discretion of the AFF Competitions Manager.
  - b) The AFF Competitions Manager shall have the power to accept further entries during the season if, in his/her opinion, it is expedient to do so.
  - c) The Federation shall have the power to increase or reduce the number of divisions and to form or discontinue sections in any division as and when the need arises.

## **Section 2: Specific Competition Regulations**

1. The Federation may set specific competition regulations governing aspects of play and procedure for each Grade or competition as it sees necessary, and shall publish such regulations under separate headings.

## **Section 3: Player Eligibility**

1. Anyone playing in a Federation Senior Competition must be registered with the participating Club and the Federation. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure the player is properly registered using their legal name as recorded on a legal document such as a birth certificate or passport, with the club's own Federation using the National registration form in Goalnet and be marked active in 2017 season, and that all necessary clearances from previous clubs are obtained from the club and via other Federations or FIFA member countries as required in the NZ Football's Regulation on the Status and Transfer of Players (including provisions for players playing under any loan agreement), *prior to taking the field in any match.*
2. Where players are taking part in age-determined grades, it is the Club's responsibility to sight a copy of proof of age of the player, such document to be a birth certificate, passport or other internationally recognised legal document. The Club is required to produce proof of age if requested by the Federation.
3. A Club may play (i.e. they take the field) a maximum of three players in any Federation Senior Competition match from a higher division team or teams who played in the higher level match immediately preceding the date of the lower level match. However, this restriction does not apply in grades designated as specific reserve competitions (if played on the same day as the first team), or where a player is playing his or her first match of the season. This restriction may also be waived by the Federation from time to time according to specific circumstances, on application from a club which has proceeded with an NRFL women's premier fixture by fielding players from lower divisions rather than seek dispensation for the higher level game to be postponed. The Federation's decision will be final in determining which players are able to return to lower divisions and in what timescale.
4. Any team playing an unregistered or ineligible player shall be penalised as determined by the Federation and indicated in specific competition regulations as applied to particular grades, and the Club shall incur any Ineligible/Unregistered Player fine per match where the player is found to be ineligible as set down in the AFF Schedule of Fees.
5. Players eligible for 15<sup>th</sup> Grade or below require dispensation to be approved by the Federation to take part in senior matches and must have a signature from their parent or guardian on the dispensation form.
6. Youth players (17<sup>th</sup> grade or below) who have been moved up to play in a senior team (19<sup>th</sup> grade or senior football) are free to return to their team in a Youth grade provided that they have played for that Youth team within the preceding two weeks, unless the Youth games in that time have been cancelled or postponed. The Youth grade game can have taken place over the *same* weekend of play as the senior game i.e. the eligibility to continue in Youth grades can be 'refreshed' each weekend.
7. Where a Club has two or more teams playing in the same division no player is eligible to move between these teams without prior approval from the Federation. Applications for movement must be made in writing to the Federation no less than three (3) working days before the match in which the transferring player wishes to play. Permission to move will only be granted once per player and that player must remain in the new team for the remainder of the season.
8. All senior competitions for women are restricted to female players only. However, senior competitions for men may include female players. *Individual* female players wishing to play in senior competitions for men (including 19<sup>th</sup> grade) may do so only with prior written dispensation from the Federation. Such dispensation shall have regard to player welfare and safety, and to the development implications for the player. Such dispensation may also be granted from time to time to women's *teams* wishing to play in a men's competition, but all players in a squad must be identified by name on the dispensation, and such dispensation shall be restricted to those named.

#### **Section 4: Transfers**

1. No player can play in Federation Senior Competition for any Club except that for which he/she is registered as a member, but he/she may transfer to another Club. All applications for transfer between Clubs within the Federation must be undertaken via the electronic club to club NZ Football National database (Goalnet) transfer system or on the approved form and submitted to the secretary or transfers officer of the Club for which the player last played. Approval of transfers may not be arbitrarily withheld by the player's previous Club. Where a player is transferring to or from a Club in a different Federation, the transfer request must come through the Federation office for clearance.
2. The Club to which an application for transfer is made shall note on the NZ Football National database (Goalnet) transfer system or forward such application, either approved or denied, to either the Federation or the new Club, in accordance with Section 4.1, within seven days of its receipt by the old Club. Default in doing so will allow the Federation, at its discretion, to approve the transfer.
3. A request to the Federation to approve a transfer not returned in accordance with Section 4.2 above must be accompanied by a copy of the transfer and proof of sending the original, or by reference to the NZ Football National database (Goalnet) transfer system.
4. The amount charged for transfers conducted through the Federation will be charged as per the AFF Schedule of Fees.
5. A Club may decline a transfer request if the player has not fulfilled any obligation he or she has to the current Club (where such obligation has been agreed in writing between the player and the Club) and/or where such obligation(s) are not older than the last year in which the player played for the Club.
6. Any player currently serving a term of suspension imposed by the Federation can be transferred but the approval of transfer must clearly show the player is under suspension and the period of suspension remaining.
7. No player may be transferred between 1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September in any year, excepting with the written authorisation of New Zealand Football or where otherwise provided for in NZ Football's Regulation for Status and Transfer of Players.

#### **Section 5: Discipline and Misconduct**

1. Teams, players, officials and spectators shall at all times behave in a manner that shall not damage the image of the game. Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators, players and coaching staff, and are required to ensure their representatives abide by any FIFA, NZ Football and AFF Codes of Conduct and uphold the spirit of Fair Play while participating in Federation Senior Competitions.
2. Youth age grade players playing in Federation Senior Competition will be subject to fines as set out for senior players.
3. Players receiving a direct or indirect red card and are sent from the field of play shall be suspended for a minimum of one playing day. All processes, fines and suspensions within the Federation are consistent with the NZ Football Disciplinary Code.
4. Where a player has received a second caution, and in addition to being sent off and receiving a suspension, the player or the player's club shall be fined as specified in the NZ Football Disciplinary Code.
5. Any team or members within a team (including team management) that receives three incident reports within the same season of proven instances of unacceptable behaviour

and/or NZ Football Code of Conduct breaches may be subject to a good behaviour financial team bond. This will be imposed by the AFF Competitions Manager and may be refunded at the end of the season if no further proven reported incidents are received. Any proven reported incidents may result in a forfeit of the financial bond.

6. Teams or members within a team who have been placed on a good behaviour financial team bond in the previous season may be subjected to a non-financial team bond in the following season. The first proven reported incident of unacceptable behaviour and/or NZ Football Code of Conduct breaches may result in a good behaviour financial team bond being imposed by the AFF Competitions Manager.
7. Any good behaviour financial team bond imposed must be paid by the club/team by the advised date. In the event of non-payment, fixtures for that team will be defaulted week by week until paid in full.
8. In instances of exceptional misconduct or where the Federation deems it necessary it shall convene a Disciplinary Committee to hold a Disciplinary Hearing to rule on an incident. The Federation may require an individual(s) to appear before the Hearing, in which case the individual(s) may be accompanied by another official of their Club to give evidence or make a plea on their behalf. If the requested person fails to attend the Disciplinary Hearing, the Disciplinary Committee may make a decision in their absence. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to impose whatever penalties it may feel appropriate depending on the circumstances. The decision of the Disciplinary Committee will be communicated to the Club in writing.

#### **Section 6: Protests, Disputes and Appeals**

1. Any Club playing in a Federation Senior Competition may submit an incident report to the Federation through the AFF Competitions Manager.
2. A protest shall be made by the Club Secretary or other recognised club official, by the Wednesday following the match or three working days of a mid-week fixture of the alleged breach, or earlier if stipulated by the rules of the specific competition. The protest must be in writing to the AFF Competitions Manager, setting out the full details of the incident or protest and must be accompanied by the prescribed Incident Report Form.
3. On receipt of the protest, AFF Competitions staff will make the necessary enquiries into the matters placed before them, including any referee and/or officials from opposing teams, and will advise the decision in writing to the party or parties concerned.
4. Any decision of the AFF Competitions Manager may be appealed to the Federation Board by any of the parties involved. Such appeal must be received at the Federation office in writing within 14 days of the date of the letter containing the decision, and be accompanied by the Administration Fee as set by the Federation from time to time and shown on the Schedule of Fees. The Board may appoint a Disciplinary Committee to deal with the appeal. The Board may convene a hearing or may choose at their absolute discretion to deal with the Appeal on the papers. Any decision of the Board or the Disciplinary Committee will be communicated to the parties involved in writing. The Board or Disciplinary Committee may further at its sole discretion refund the Appeal Fee.
5. Any decision of the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the Federation Board by the person(s) or Club(s) involved. Such an appeal must be received at the Federation office in writing within 14 days of the date of the letter containing the decision, and be accompanied by the Administration Fee as set by the Federation from time to time and listed on the AFF Schedule of Fees. The Board may appoint a Disciplinary Committee to hear the appeal. The Board may convene a second hearing or may choose at their sole discretion to deal with the Appeal on the papers. The Board or the Disciplinary Committee

may impose penalties as set out in AFF Rules and NZ Football statutes, regulations and codes, and any decision will be communicated to the person(s) and/or Club(s) in writing.

6. A club may further appeal the decision under the provisions set out in the NZ Football Disciplinary Code.

### **Section 7: Competitions**

1. The Federation shall determine times, dates and grounds for any fixture in Federation Senior Competition and shall have the right at all times to amend, postpone or cancel any fixture.
2. Where scheduling on a home ground or a neutral ground consisting of artificial turf constructed and installed to the appropriate standards, both teams shall fulfil the fixture or be deemed to have defaulted.
3. Clubs may request changes to scheduled fixtures (ground and kick-off times) for internal operational reasons, but must do so in writing to the AFF Competitions Manager no later than 10 days prior to the scheduled game, to allow other affected parties and stakeholders to receive adequate notice of the changes. After that cut-off only non-material changes (e.g. from one pitch to another on the same reserve at the same kick off time) will be considered, but not changes to kick off times or from one reserve to another, unless agreed by both teams and the AFF Competitions Manager.
4. 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 AFF Competitions Manager. However, a request for postponement will normally be approved if:
  - a. There is prior agreement of the opposition and an acceptable new time and date for the fixture has been agreed with the AFF Competitions Manager;
  - b. The team has been drawn to play in a NZ Football cup competition less than 72 hours before or after the fixture.
5. Proposed postponement/abandonment of any match prior to kick-off, for any reason, shall be reported immediately to the AFF Competitions Manager, by the referee if present, or if no referee is present, by the home club.
6. In the event of a late cancellation by the AFF Competitions Manager on the day of a fixture, but where two teams arrive at the ground unaware of the cancellation and the game is played, the AFF Competitions Manager shall at his absolute discretion determine whether the result of the game shall be included in the competition, or whether the game shall be recorded as postponed, abandoned or cancelled. The AFF Competitions Manager shall later determine whether the game shall be replayed or shall remain cancelled, in which case the result shall not be part of the determination of the overall competition.
7. When inclement weather or any other reason has meant competitions cannot be concluded within the required time-frame the Federation may close any competition and declare final placings based on, at its sole discretion, the standings at the end of the first completed round, standings at the close of the competition, or as a result of a play-off between two or more teams.
8. The Federation may at its sole discretion supply medals and/or trophies to championship or knockout cup winning sides in Federation Senior Competitions. Any perpetual trophies shall remain the property of the Federation at all times. Trophy winners are responsible for the maintenance, repair and/or replacement, and engraving of their Club name on any perpetual trophies awarded to them.

9. Shirt/short numbering is not mandatory, and is not mandatory across *all* shirts/shorts being worn in any match by either team, unless there is a specific competition regulation applying to a particular division, grade or competition. However, when *any* shirts or shorts in use in any match by a team are numbered, there shall be no duplication of any number within a team. Shorts, if numbered, must carry the *same* number as the shirt number worn by an individual player.
10. The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or drones) is prohibited under Council rules on Council parks. Any person found to be operating one of these devices over a sports field if it is in use by others, will be requested by the home club to remove the device. If this request is not complied with, the home club is to submit an incident report with all relevant details to the relevant Competitions Manager. The local Council will be notified and sanctions may be applied against the offending individual.