

South East Queensland Football



Rules of Competition 2017

RULES OF COMPETITION

These Rules of Competition are to be read in conjunction with FIFA Laws of the Game and any relevant Football Federation Australia Codes of Conduct or associated policies.

1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

South East Queensland Football (SEQ Football) is a community based football competition focussed on good quality, fun and social football for amateur players.

SEQ Football promotes respect for team mates, the opposition and match officials above winning games. Only teams adhering to our values will be entered into the Competition.

SEQ Football teams must adhere to and promote the following qualities:

- Good sportsmanship, respect and fair play towards opposition players, own team members, Team Managers, Referees and spectators;
- Abide by all SEQ Football rules;
- Show good sportsmanship and decency towards all members on social media;
- Providing safe facilities for all participants at games;
- A commitment to fulfilling all fixtures requirements for the whole season;
- The completion of all registration forms, team sheets, games scores, scorers and yellow/red cards as required by the Competition Managers.

SEQ Football is a team based competition providing a range of Divisions suitable to all abilities. The Competition Managers will have the final decision of the composition of all Divisions, however the composition of each Division will be determined in consultation with all teams on an annual basis using a combination of each Club nominating a preference for a Division and by the final placing of the previous year's Competition.

2. RULES OF THE GAME

As per FIFA Rules, with the following amendments:

- **Dangerous Play Explanation-** Any previous rulings regarding slide tackles has been removed, and there is no longer any reference to slide tackles. There is now no link between Dangerous Play and an automatic blue card. Similar to when one player uses high feet to play the ball, our competition rules, also penalise a player, who does not play the ball whilst on two feet, and while there is an opposition player within playing distance.
- When there is an opposition player within playing distance, players must remain on two feet to play the ball, whether attacking or defending the ball. Sanction - If a player does play the ball whilst not on two feet, and there is an opposition player within playing distance, it will be considered "Careless Play" and the opposition team will be awarded an indirect free kick. If the player, in playing the ball, makes contact with an opposition player, it will be considered "Reckless Play" and the opposition team will be awarded a direct free kick. In all circumstances it will be the Referee's discretion whether he/she determines to apply a further sanction of a yellow or blue or red card.
- **Blue Card** is issued at the discretion of the referee where in the opinion of the referee, they believe the player needs time off the field in order to "cool down", 10 minutes in the "sin bin" (sideline), with a replacement player **not** permitted to take the field
- **Two Blue or Yellow Cards in any pattern**, (e.g. two blue cards, two yellow cards, or one yellow and one blue card) for the same player in the same game, means that the player must leave the field of play, and take no further part in the game. **NO REPLACEMENT PLAYER IS ALLOWED.** A mandatory one week suspension applies.

1. FIXTURES

Scheduling

SEQ Football will arrange the dates, times and venues of all fixtures, in consultation with the clubs/teams concerned. SEQ Football reserves the right to schedule or re-schedule a fixture or fixtures on any day, time and place as it deems appropriate.

Points

In all fixtures, match points will be awarded as 3 points for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss, bye, or nil result.

Team Sheets

Team Managers are responsible for supplying their own team sheet (available from the SEQ Football website), and must be given to the Referee at least 15 minutes prior to kick off. Only players listed on the team sheet may take the field of play. A maximum of 20 players can be listed on the team sheet and must be identifiable by a corresponding number. Should any listed player fail to sign the team sheet by the conclusion of the half time interval and participates in the fixture, then that player will be deemed to be in breach of the Rules of Competition and the team will be disciplined as determined by SEQ Football.

It is the team's responsibility to ensure:

- it has minimum number of seven (7) players to commence the match;
- all players taking the field are eligible to play;
- all players taking the field of play are correctly listed on the team sheet in legible writing;
- all players taking the field of play have signed the team sheet.;
- all players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time.

Referees Fees

Each team is responsible for paying the Referee \$50 at the time of submitting their team sheet 15 minutes prior to the game. In the case of the non-attendance of a team, SEQ Football will pay the Referee the \$100 match fee from the offending team's Referee's Bond. The offending team will be required to pay an additional \$100 bond before they are eligible to play their next game.

2. APPLICATION FOR ALTERATION TO FIXTURES

Any application for an alteration to scheduled fixtures shall be submitted to SEQ Football at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled fixture. If both teams agree to re-schedule the fixture, the fixture must be replayed within 14 days. SEQ Football's decision in regards to the rescheduling of fixtures will be final.

3. NON-PARTICIPATION IN A FIXTURE

In the event the home or visiting team is not ready to commence a fixture or finals match **within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time**, the match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team.

If, for any reason, a team intends to forfeit a scheduled fixture match, the team is to provide two (2) clear days written notice of the forfeit to SEQ Football. SEQ Football shall be responsible for notification to the opposition team and the Referee. The match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing' team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team.

4. WITHDRAWAL/REMOVAL FROM FIXTURES

If any team in the competition withdraws or is removed then the following will apply:

- if the team is withdrawn or removed before the competition has started and they cannot be replaced - a bye in the competition will be substituted;
- if the team is withdrawn or removed during the first round - the recorded results for that team will be deleted and a bye in the competition will be substituted;
- if the team is withdrawn or removed during the second or subsequent rounds - all points and goals acquired for completed rounds will be retained by opposing teams; the recorded results for that team in the uncompleted round will be deleted and a bye in the competition will be substituted.

5. POSTPONED MATCHES

Matches may only be postponed for reasons of ground unavailability (due to weather conditions, or unforeseen scheduling clashes). It is the responsibility of the home team to inform the Competition Managers of the closure of the field, and the Competition Managers will inform the opposition team and Match Official. Matches will not be postponed for reasons of shortage of player numbers. SEQ Football reserves the right to reschedule all postponed matches on any day, time and place as it deems appropriate, in consultation with both teams.

SEQ Football reserves the right to record any outstanding fixtures that have not been completed by **NO LATER THAN** one (1) week after the conclusion of the fixture season as a nil result.

6. ABANDONED MATCHES

Should the match official abandon an SEQ Football match, then the match result will stand, unless the matter is referred to SEQ Football for determination.

SEQ Football reserves the right to determine the match result if it is satisfied that one (or both) of the competing teams, its players, officials, members or supporters were directly responsible for the abandonment of the fixture.

If the allegation is proven, SEQ Football may decide to direct any of the following outcomes:

- the match be recorded as "NO RESULT"
- the match be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the score at the time of abandonment was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team
- impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending team(s), player(s) and official(s)

7. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS – TOP FIVE

In all Competition Divisions, the team finishing with the most points in each division at the conclusion of the "Home and Away" season will be declared League Champions. At the conclusion of the fixture season, the top five (5) placed teams in each division will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up.

If, at the end of the fixture competition, any two or more teams are equal on points, goal difference shall be taken into account in determining:

- the League Champions;
- the teams eligible to play in the Finals Series in the respective divisions;

- all other positions on the points table.

Goal difference shall be calculated by subtracting the number of goals AGAINST from the number of goals FOR in all fixture matches:

- the team with the higher or highest resultant plus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the superior goal difference and shall be the higher or highest placed team;
- in the case of goal difference being equal, the team having scored the most goals FOR shall be the higher or highest placed team.

In the case of teams having an equal goal difference and having scored an equal number of goals FOR:

- the team with the higher or highest number of points from matches played between the teams in question shall be the higher or highest placed team;
- if the number of points is equal, then the team with the superior goal difference from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team;
- in the case of goal difference being equal, the team having scored the most goals FOR from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team;
- if the goal difference and goals FOR are equal, then the team that scored the most away goals from matches played between the teams in question, shall be the higher or highest placed team.

If teams are still equal after taking into account all of the above considerations, both teams will be deemed League Champions.

8. FINALS SERIES

Format - All Competitions

Where there are more than eight teams in a Division a Top 5 Finals Series will be undertaken. If the Division has eight or less teams a Final Four Series will occur.

For all Finals matches, should the scores be equal after normal time, then a penalty shoot-out in accordance with FIFA regulations will be taken to determine the winner.

Player Eligibility

To be eligible for the Finals Series players must have played a minimum of six (6) games for that team during the season. Team Managers will be required to submit Finals team sheets before 5pm on the Wednesday prior to the game to allow for player eligibility verification.

During the Finals Series all players will be required to provide photo identification (driver's license or equivalent) to be eligible to play.

Finals Series (Four Teams)

Week 1	A	1st vs 2nd	B	3rd vs 4th (Loser Eliminated)
Week 2	C	Winner Game (A) - Week Off	D	Loser (A) vs Winner (B) (Loser Eliminated)
Week 3	E	DIVISION GRAND FINAL - Winner (C) vs Winner (D)		

Finals Series (Five Teams)

Week 1	A	2nd vs 3rd	(1st - Week Off)	B	4th vs 5th (Loser Eliminated)
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Week 2	C	1st vs Winner Game (A)	D	Loser (A) vs Winner (B) (Loser Eliminated)
Week 3	E	Winner Game (C) - Week Off	F	Loser (C) vs Winner (D) (Loser Eliminated)
Week 4	G	DIVISION GRAND FINAL - Winner (E) vs Winner (F)		

9. INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

In all Divisions, unlimited interchange will be permitted. Only player's names that appear on the team sheet are permitted to take part in the match. A player who has been interchanged may return to the field for another player. All interchanges can only occur at a break in play with the approval of the referee and must take place at the halfway line.

10. PLAYER REGISTRATION

Players must have completed the Team Registration Form and team sheet prior to being eligible to play in SEQ Football Competitions. Team Managers are then responsible to upload this information into the Competition Registration System promptly.

Players must be 16 years of age or over to compete in SEQ Football competitions.

Players are permitted to be registered at any time prior to the 30 June each winter season. Unless cancelled earlier, registration is effective from date of registration until 31 December of that year.

If a player is registered in another Competition, and is suspended in that Competition, SEQ Football will deem the player suspended in SEQ Football Competitions during the suspension.

Each team is allowed to register 22 players within their team registration cost. Additional player registrations will be charged at \$15 per player.

Protest - Playing Ineligible Player

Any team is permitted to lodge a letter of protest regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player. The protest must be in writing and be forwarded to SEQ Football. Such protests will be accepted from team officials ONLY - any protests from persons other than team officials will be disregarded. An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident will be undertaken immediately. SEQ Football's decision in regards to the protest will be final.

In the event that the protest is upheld, SEQ Football will determine an appropriate penalty. A penalty may include a warning, a suspension or forfeiture of points. The decision of the SEQ Football will be final.

Players moving between Divisions

Players who are registered in one team may also play for a higher Division team at their Club (definition of Club is determined from Team Applications). Once a player has played 6 games for the higher Division team, that player is no longer eligible to play in his/her original team and must play the remaining games in the higher Division that season.

11. TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

Facilities/Ground Arrangements

Home teams should ensure:

- the ground is correctly marked, including the technical area;
- it provides suitable goal nets, safely fastened or pegged to the ground and corner flags;
- it provides toilet facilities and dressing room facilities (where possible) that are hygienic and clean;
- it provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators;
- it provides a Referee's Room where referees can rest and leave their belongings while officiating.

Any team whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may have its home fixtures played away.

Player Identification

Each team should ensure that players listed on the *official* team sheet have in their possession some legitimate form of signed identification which should be produced at the request of the Referee or opposing Team Manager. Legitimate forms of identification may include a Driver's Licence, employment 10 card, Credit Cards or Passport.

If the player is unable to produce identification, he is still permitted to participate in the match. The referee should note this fact on the team sheet (providing details). The opposing team should then submit a protest to SEQ Football within 72 hours of the scheduled match time.

Alcohol Consumption – Participants

Players and Team Managers are not permitted to consume alcohol prior to or during any pre-season, post-season or competition game UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. Referees have a "duty of care" to all players, and will refuse to allow a player to continue to participate in a game if alcohol consumption is evident. This clause will also apply to match officials, and coaches/managers.

Alcohol Consumption - Club Facilities

Alcohol is only to be consumed in defined licensed areas at any Club. Failure of any person to adhere to rules in this regard may jeopardise that club's liquor license. SEQ Football maintains a policy of no consumption of alcohol outside of licensed areas. Team officials are responsible for ensuring persons comply with this rule.

Should persons be seen to be in breach of this rule, the home team official must advise such person to conform to the rules immediately. Should such person refuse to adhere to this request, the home team official shall be at liberty to liaise with the match referee to have the game stopped until the situation is resolved. Should this still not resolve the situation, the home team official shall be at liberty to contact the police to have such person removed.

Away teams playing at a home team's Club must not bring their own alcohol with them and should support the home team's facilities.

Match Balls

The home club shall provide the appointed match referee **at least two (2) Match Balls** (Size 5), **at least 15 minutes** prior to the commencement of the scheduled fixture. All balls shall be 'match ball' quality.

Playing Strips

All clubs must nominate a "Home" and have available an "Alternate" strip. The alternative strip (shirts, shorts & socks) should not clash with the nominated "Home" strip. All playing strips must have numbers on the back of the jerseys.

All first named clubs will be deemed the "Home" team and will play in their nominated colours. In the event there is a clash of colours, it will be the responsibility of the **visiting team** to change into an alternative strip. **Visiting teams should take their away strip (shirts, shorts and socks) to every match.** Team

managers should check the strip worn by their opponents on a weekly basis to avoid the likelihood of a clash. Goalkeepers can wear any colour provided it does not clash with either team or referees.

12. MATCH OFFICIALS' INFORMATION

Team Sheets and Send Off Incident Report Forms

At the conclusion of each match, the Referee shall complete the Team Sheet and Send Off/Incident Report Forms and once completed forward to reach the SEQ Football office no later than **two (2) days after the weekend**, i.e. by close of business, Tuesday.

In the event a team official approaches the match Referee seeking to protest the fielding of an ineligible player, the Referee should instruct the team official to lodge an official protest. The Referee should note this on the Team Sheet.

Please note that the Team Sheets & Send-Off/Incident Report Forms from the appointed match official will be accepted transcript. SEQ Football may investigate and make alterations to this transcript if it is reasonably satisfied that an error has been made.

Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official

In the event no registered match official is present to take charge of the fixture, then the designated "Home": team shall consult the visiting team and appoint a match official to take charge of the fixture. This match official has the same powers as a registered match official.

All teams are obligated to fulfil all fixtures regardless of whether an appointed match official is present to take charge. Should any team fail or refuse to participate in any fixture on the above grounds, then the following will apply:

- the match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team;
- the team may be subject to further disciplinary action

In the event both teams refuse to play, SEQ Football reserves the right to award a **NO RESULT**, fine both teams and recommend further disciplinary action.

Players' Equipment

It is the referee's responsibility to ensure all players take the field of play are wearing equipment that is safe to themselves and any other person. All players must wear shin-guards whilst on the field of play.