



2023

Orange and District Football Association Competition Rules

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Document Version Control

Version Number	Approved by	Approval date	Comments
2023-1			Policy Meeting rewrite of 2022 Rules for 2023 season.

Section 1- Competition Organisation

Rule 1. Scope & Application

- a) These competition rules are made under the constitution of the Orange and District Football Association Soccer Inc. (the ODFA)
- b) These competition Rules can be varied by the ODFA executive in the event of circumstances unforeseeable,
* at the time of adoption of these Rules, * or the commencement of the season.
- c) These competition Rules apply to Participants in the following competitions (the Competitions) unless stated otherwise:
 - 1. Under 6 to Under 12
 - 2. Under 13 to Under 16
 - 3. All Age A Grade
 - 4. All Age B Grade
 - 5. All Age C Grade
 - 6. Over 35's
 - 7. 4th Division
 - 8. Open Women's
- d) Competition rules for the Under 13 to Under 16 competition can either be found on the ODFA website at www.orangefootball.org.au/competition-rules, using the ODFA /BDFA Rules when a Joint Orange/ Bathurst Competition is being run, or if the Competition in these ages is a solely Orange District Competition, these rules should be used.
- e) The Competitions shall be arranged annually by the ODFA Executive. & may be altered at the time of team nominations by the Executive.
- f) ODFA member clubs must attend ODFA Monthly Meetings. Any club missing two consecutive meetings will be levied \$50 for each breach.
- g) Junior clubs will be required to pay a bond of \$200 which will be maintained at this amount each year. The bond will be invoiced as part of the Rego Deposit Payment. Senior clubs are not included in this bond as they already maintain a bond payment as per Rule 3 (d) and this will be used for any fee levied against them.

Rule 2. Consequences for Rule Breaches

- a) The rules set out in this document must be adhered to or penalties may be imposed (see Rule 44).
- b) Any matters not covered by these rules must be referred to the ODFA Executive for resolution & the latest version of the FNSW Competitions Regulations & Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations may be adopted for use in dealing with matters not covered in these rules

Section 2- Team Nomination & Player Registrations

Rule 3. Team Nominations

- a) A club must complete the required team nomination form and submit it to the competition secretary by the required due date. The grade or age group that a team is nominated in, is a preferred grade or age group only and may be altered by the ODFA Executive at any time as per Rule 17c
- b) Where a club enters more than one team in any age group each team must be given an individual name.
- c) Following the closing date for team nominations, additional teams may be accepted into the competition at the convenience of the ODFA Executive.
- d) As part of nominating teams in senior all age grades and Over 35's, clubs need to provide:
 - 1. A Forfeit & Referee Fee of \$300 per team nominating (up to a club maximum of \$500). This will cover any fines levied against that team during the season. The unused balance will be returned

to the club at the end of the season Or alternatively held as part or full payment of the next years Fee.

- e) Any club, who has outstanding fees to the ODFA at the beginning of the competition each year, shall be deemed non-financial and that club shall not be entitled to nominate teams in any competition until that club is financial.
- f) Any club, who has outstanding fees to the ODFA as at 20th July each year, shall be deemed non-financial and that club shall not be entitled to take further part in the competition until that club is financial.
- g) Each club, must set up each team that they have nominated for the competition, in the National Registration System to allow players to be allocated to that team when registered. This must be completed by Round three (3) of the competition as per Rule 7.
- h) A maximum of Twenty (20) players per team shall be registered in any Senior competition , unless approved by the ODFA Executive. See Rule 18 for a full list of allowed interchange players.
- i) The only Senior team exception to Rule 3 (h), being competitions spelt out in Rule 18 d) where a maximum of Twenty Two (22) players may be registered in a team
- j) To constitute an Over 35 team all players must meet the age eligibility Rule 31 (e). If O35's is combined with another Grade (ie C Grade) younger players can play for that team, but if there are exclusively O35 games (such as an O35 final series) these younger players cannot play in the O35 team.
- k) The ODFA Executive reserves the right to accept or reject team nominations.

Rule 4. Player Registration

- a) All Players must be registered via the National Registration system and for players turning 11 years and older, in that calendar year, a passport style photo (head and shoulders ONLY) is to be uploaded into the players' profile. Clubs should provide all players with an individual photo card for use during the season.
- b) The registration of a Player with a Club is effective from the date the individual is made active by the Club and allocated to a team within the National Registration system.
- c) The registration can be affected through the player self-registering via the National Registration system and the Club accepting the Player's registration.
- d) If a Player is registering for the first time, that Player must provide the Club with evidence of name and age, by producing an original birth certificate, passport, drivers licence or similar form of identification.
- e) Players should ensure that their contact details, including name, address, mobile, email and emergency contact details are correct at the start of the competition.
- f) Registrations are permitted until 30th June each year. To be able to register another player after 30th June, enough players must be De-Registered from your National Registration system team list so that your team only has 14 players registered. These De-Registered players are not allowed to Re-Register for that season. (Eg players who have left town or have season ending injuries.) The newly registered player must not have played 5 games for any other ODFA team, WPL or Western FC team & must still abide by Rule 28a to qualify for the Championship Series. Any request for registration after this date will have to go the ODFA executive for consideration who may seek approval from FNSW in special circumstances.
- g) If players are not registered and approved to play, they are deemed to be ineligible players as per rule 27(b) and will not covered by insurance.

Rule 5. Player De-Registration

- a) A player may be de-registered by applying to de-register via the National Registration System, which will notify the Club and ODFA of the player's intention to de-register.
- b) If a Club no longer wants a player to play for the Club, that Club needs to apply to deregister that Player via the National Registration System, which will notify the player and the ODFA of the Clubs intention to deregister the player.
- c) A player and/or club, may still be responsible for the payment of registration fees should that player have played at least one game for that club or if the player has been made active in the National Registration System or remain pending in the system after 30th June.

Rule 6. Dual Registrations

- a) Junior players playing in the Junior Competition are allowed to Dual Register into any single Senior All Age team ,(except for Over 35's) and are not restricted to the Senior teams from their Junior Club.
- b) Players registered in the Over 35s competition are eligible to Dual Register into either All Age A, B and C Grades. Unless the O35 is combined with another grade. If this takes place the normal rules for that All Age grade apply. (eg the All age grade is the one that O35's combines with). Players aged Over 50 years of age may dual register into a second team from the same club without being forced into the higher grade after five games as per Rule 29 (b). The second team cannot be in the same grade or division.
- c) Once a dual registration is approved, player eligibility Rules 28 (a), Rule 29 (a) and Rule 29 (b) apply.
- d) Applications for dual registration must be made via email to the competition secretary at administrator@orangefootball.org.au and must be approved at the next ODFA general meeting.
- e) Dual Registrations are permitted until 30th June each year.
- f) See Rule 30 for registration of Western FC players in the ODFA Competition.

Rule 7. Team allocation and player transfers

- a) Clubs are permitted the first three (3) rounds to finalise player allocations into each team. During this period, player eligibility Rule 29 (c) applies.
- b) Upon completion of round three (3), all registered players must be allocated to a team within the National Registration system. An audit of teams U11's & above will take place in the days after Round 3 & any club that has not adhered to this rule will be fined \$50 per Junior team & \$100 per Senior team, per week until completed.
- c) Players wishing to be reallocated into a new team after the completion of round three (3) must apply in writing to the competition secretary at administrator@orangefootball.org.au and must be approved at the next ODFA general meeting.
- d) Players must have a clearance from their previous club before transferring to another club.
- e) All player transfers are permitted until 30th June each year.
- f) All Senior teams entered into the National Registration System must have at least 12 players entered.
- g) The ODFA Executive reserves the right to move any team (at any time) between any Senior Grade or Junior Age Group in the interests of keeping the competition fair. See Rule 17 (c).

Section 3 – Competition Technical Regulations

Rule 8. Matches Played In Accordance With The Laws of The Game

- a) All Fixtures will be played in compliance with these rules in force at the time and in accordance with FIFA laws of the game except when varied by:
 - 1. Football NSW
 - 2. Football NSW Western Branch
 - 3. The articles of the constitution of Competition Rules of the Orange and District Football Association soccer Inc. amended November 2022
- b) MiniRoos Rules will be used for games involving teams U5 to U11's.
- c) Games involving teams in the U12 age group will use the 8m corner rule. ie the corner kick is taken 8m out from the edge of the penalty box.

Rule 9. Duration of Matches

- a) Duration of Matches will be as follows for the respective age groups of the Competitions:

Age Group	Duration of Match	Half Time Break	Ball Size
Under 6/7	2 x 20 minute halves	5 mins	Size 3
Under 8/9	2 x 20 minute halves	5 mins	Size 3
Under 10/11/12	2 x 25 minute halves	5 mins	Size 4
Under 13	2 x 30 minute halves	5 mins	Size 4
Under 14	2 x 30 minute halves	5 mins	Size 5
Under 15/16	2 x 35 minute halves	5 mins	Size 5
All Age & Over 35's	2 x 45 minute halves	10 mins	Size 5

- b) There will be no extra time played in normal competition matches in the event of a draw at the conclusion of normal time, except for games played in the championship series – See Rule 35 (h).

Rule 10. Match Fixtures

- In principle, all competition matches will be played on a home and away basis except as directed by the competition secretary.
- All fixtures, having been decided, shall be strictly adhered to by Clubs. Alterations shall only be allowed under exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of the competition secretary.
- The competition secretary shall have the right to vary times and grounds as circumstances arise.
- Consideration will be given by the competition secretary when doing any draw involving teams in any age group over 13 to be played at a suitable time to allow players from these teams to be available to referee junior games.
- In the event of eight or more teams being entered in a competition they shall be played in a division at the discretion of the executive each year.
- Where possible, full rounds are to be played in each age division. If there are any weeks or rounds remaining after a fully completed round these games will be determined by the ODFA Executive.
- Senior games may be scheduled for Friday nights and Sundays at the discretion of the competition secretary.
- Should a Referee fail to appear within five (5) minutes of the stipulated starting time, of a Junior game, the Coaches of both teams shall each referee one half (1/2) of the match or agree to appoint a suitable person to referee that game. This rule shall also apply where no Referee has been appointed to the game. Where a registered Match Official cannot be appointed to, or officiate in a Match, the appointed unregistered and/or unqualified Match Official will carry the same powers and duties of an appointed registered Match Official for the purpose of that match. In Senior grades, if a qualified & registered Referee does not attend the game or is not appointed, the game must be deferred & a new time & date will be determined by the ODFA Executive.

Rule 11. Technical Areas

- Only currently registered and eligible Players, Coaches and Team Officials are allowed in the technical area during Matches
- All Team Officials in the technical area must wear clothing that contrasts with the kit of the Players and Match Officials on the pitch. Should their clothing clash they are required to wear a bib that does not clash with the colours of the Players and Match Officials
- The Home Club will occupy the left-hand side bench as viewed from the Team bench toward the field of play

- d) All substitutes in the technical area must remain seated (where practical & the field allows) unless moving to and from warm-up
- e) Only one (1) person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions from the technical area

Rule 12. Competition Points

- a) Points shall be allocated as follows for all competition matches (except for Under 6 to Under 11):

Result	Points
Win	Four (4) points
Draw	Two (2) points each team
Loss	One (1) point
Bye	Four (4) points
Forfeit Win	Four (4) points to the team receiving the forfeit, plus three (3) goals for goal difference
Forfeit Loss	Zero (0) points to the forfeiting team, minus three (3) goals for goal difference

- b) If both teams decide not to play a game, and the game does not constitute a forfeit or a deferment, both teams will be recorded with a loss result ie 1 point.

Rule 13. Wet Weather Policy

- a) In the event of inclement weather, the relevant City Council, Competition Secretary or other Executive Member shall inspect the fields on the morning of the fixture to determine their condition.
- b) Should games be cancelled due to wet weather, the decision will be announced between 7.30am and 8.00am via the following channels;
 1. The ODFA Facebook page - www.facebook.com/OrangeDistrictFootball
 2. The ODFA Website - www.orangefootball.org.au
 3. an email sent to odfaclubs
 4. Signage erected on day at Sir Jack Brabham Park.
- c) For other grounds, apart from Sir Jack Brabham Park, the clubs involved must notify the ODFA of any grounds that are unplayable before 7.30am on the morning of the games.
- d) Should a complete round be cancelled in any age division, the ODFA executive shall have the right to determine when, where or if the round shall be replayed.
- e) Where a round is washed out, no points shall be allocated, unless the executive decides to replay the round at a later date.
- f) In all other cases, the match official shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the grounds. If there is no official referee, it shall be up to the managers or coaches to decide. If no agreement is reached, then no game will be played.
- g) See Rule 36 for wet weather arrangements for Semi-Finals, Preliminary Finals and Grand Finals.

Rule 14. Deferments

- a) Should a team wish to request a deferment, the team shall email the competition secretary at administrator@orangefootball.org.au, at least 7 days prior to the scheduled match. Deferments will be accepted for special circumstances only. As part of the deferral process, the **non-deferring team** must provide (within a week of the deferred game), 3 possible dates & times for the game to be replayed. At least two of these must be either a Friday night or Sunday timeslot. All three must be within four weeks of the deferred game & no later than the last Saturday home & away round game. Both teams should take responsibility to reschedule the replaying of these games. To claim a forfeit in these games (**as the non-deferring team**) your team must be able to show you have provided 3 dates as per 14 (a) and these have been refused. To claim a forfeit in these games (**as the deferring team**) your team must be able to show you have accepted a proposed time & date as per 14 (a) and this has then been refused or the games proposed did not meet the requirements of 14 (a).
- b) Team requesting that matches be deferred due to team player shortages within the 7 day period will not be accepted, unless agreed to by the opposition captain.
- c) The Competition Secretary will liaise with the non-deferring team to organise the deferred match at a suitable time, taking into account the three dates provided as per Rule 14a.
- d) Teams from Boarding schools have the right to defer any games during scheduled school holidays. However, they must have informed the Competition Secretary of the scheduled holidays for that year, at the closing date for Team Nominations as per Rule 3 (a). Both teams should take responsibility to reschedule the replaying of these games. To claim a forfeit in these games (**as the non-deferring team**) your team must be able to show you have provided 3 dates as per 14 (a) and these have been refused. To claim a forfeit in these games (**as the deferring team**) your team must be able to show you have accepted a proposed time & date as per 14 (a) and this has then been refused or the games proposed did not meet the requirements of 14 (a) .
- e) All three deferral replay time & dates mentioned above must be no later than the Sunday on the weekend of the last home & away round game.

Rule 15. Forfeits & Abandoned games.

- a) Teams unable to field a team of at least seven (7) players, or be unable to provide a Ground Official as per Rule 16(a) shall be allowed ten (10) minutes grace after the official starting time, after which time they shall forfeit the match. If the game then goes ahead, after a delayed start, the referee is the sole judge of game timing. Keeping in mind, if a game is to be played directly after the delayed game, the delayed game should finish before the allocated start time of the game after.
- b) Teams forfeiting games without notifying the competition secretary and the other team prior to Thursday 8pm shall be fined \$50.00 plus the referee's fee, (to be paid by their club), except where a reasonable excuse exists. Reasonable excuse to be determined by the ODFA executive and be submitted in writing no later than 24hrs after the scheduled time of the match
- c) In cases where a Fixture has been abandoned by the referee, the Executive may investigate the circumstances of the abandonment and impose such penalties as it deems fit on Clubs, Club Officials, Players and/or Spectators adjudged to be associated with the abandonment
- d) In the event of any Fixture or Match not being played owing to weather or other causes over which neither Club has any control, on being ordered to be rescheduled or completed, it shall be played within Twenty Eight (28) days of the first postponement or no later than the last competition Round weekend.
- e) When a Match is abandoned for any reason other than stated in Rule 14 (d) the match may only be replayed by the authority of the Executive
- f) Should a Club, Club Official, its Players or Spectators be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Club to the opposition
- g) Should both Clubs be found to have caused the abandonment of the match the match will not be replayed and no match result will be applied.

- h) After the commencement of a Match, should play be postponed due to injury, poor weather, failed lighting, state of the pitch or any other reason as determined by the referee, and the Match cannot be completed in full, and ODFA has approved the rescheduled match, it will recommence at the minute at which play was interrupted rather than being replayed in full.
- i) The following principles will apply to the recommencement of the Match:
 - i. The Match will recommence with the same Players on the pitch and substitutes available as when the Match was initially postponed unless a player has received a Suspension in matches conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match. The original (abandoned or postponed) match card should be referenced for commencement of the rescheduled match.
 - ii. Should a player have received a Suspension in a match conducted between the postponed match and the rescheduling of that match that player:
 - a. Will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled match
 - b. Will not be able to count the match as a stand down in relation to any fixture Suspension
 - c. The club will not be permitted to replace the player on the team sheet
 - d. If the player was on the field of play at the time of the postponement the player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the team sheet as long as the team has available substitutions as per the Regulations
 - e. If the Player was a substitute the number of available Players to substitute will decrease as the player cannot be replaced
 - iii. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the team sheet
 - iv. Players sent off during the abandoned Match cannot be replaced
 - vi. ODFA & ODFRA will endeavour to appoint the same Match Officials to the completion of the Match, however may appoint replacements should any or all of the Match Officials be unavailable
 - vii. The referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged against the actual elapsed time as recorded by the referee
 - viii. Should a Match be abandoned due to the fault of one (1) Team, or should it be determined by ODFA that one (1) Team / Club is responsible for the delay to the Match, the remaining minutes will not be rescheduled for completion, and the Match will be determined as a forfeit against the Team / Club that is deemed guilty of the abandonment or responsible for the delay

Rule 16. Ground Officials & Team Captains

- a) All competitive teams must supply a ground official for their own Match, Ground officials must print their name and club on the back of the official match card at both half and full time. The teams nominated Ground Official can be anyone over the age of 18 years who is not playing or coaching that game.
- b) All ground officials are to wear clothing that easily identifies them as Ground Officials. (i.e. brightly coloured bibs).
- c) Ground Officials must have read and be familiar with the Ground Officials – Roles and Responsibilities document, which can be found on the ODFA website at <https://www.orangefootball.org.au/codes-of-conduct>
- d) Failure to supply ground officials will result in: . **1st offence – warning, 2nd Offence – loss of 2 points to the team, 3rd offence – loss of 2 points & \$50 club fine, 4th offence - loss of 4 points & \$100 club fine**
- e) All teams must have a player in a Captains armband. The nominated Captain remains the Captain for that game unless leaving the grounds & taking no further part in the match. The Captain has no special privileges under the rules of the game. But may be called upon to bring his players into line with the Referees expectations. He is the only player who can approach the Referee with any questions & this must be done without breaching any rules & must be done at a time allowed for by the Referee & the code of conduct.

Rule 17. The Promotion and Relegation Process

- a) The Senior competitions will be named as follows;
 - 1. All Age A Grade
 - 2. All Age B Grade
 - 3. All Age C Grade
 - 4. Over 35's
 - 5. 4th Division
 - 6. Open Women's

When the team nomination deadline has passed the ODFA Executive will form a Grading Sub Committee & this Committee will choose 6,7 or 8 teams to form the A Grade competition, then 6, 7 or 8 teams to form the B Grade competition & so on. The team numbers mentioned are a guide only & may be altered as the Grading Sub Committee decides. The onus will be on the teams / clubs to show cause why the team should not be in that particular grade. A comprehensive up to date team list would be required to show cause why the grading should be altered.

- b) Promotion & Relegation, for the following seasons competition, will be considered by the Executive for any team that finishes in the top or bottom three positions on the competition tables at the end of the completion of the Premiership (home & away) games.
- c) The ODFA Executive reserves the right to move any team (at any time) between any Senior Grade or Junior Age Group in the interests of keeping the competition fair,

Rule 18. Interchange Players

- a) For all Mini Roos age divisions (Under 6 to Under 11), interchange players shall be allowed. The number & use of interchange please see MiniRoo Rules <https://www.playfootball.com.au/miniroos>
- b) For Under 12's to Under 16's (if an ODFA competition), 5 unlimited interchange players shall be allowed, provided the players name appear on the match card. For Under 13 to Under 16's, (if a Joint ODFA/BDFA Competition) please read the ODFA/BDF competition rules which can be found on the ODFA website at www.orangefootball.org.au/competition-rules
- c) All Age A, B & C Senior grades, 9 unlimited interchange players shall be allowed provided the players name appear on the match card.
- d) In Over 35s, 4th Division & Open Women's competitions 11 unlimited interchange players shall be allowed provided the players name appear on the match card.

Section 4 – Equipment Regulations

Rule 19. Authority and Scope

- a) The wearing of any clothing or apparel onto the field of play is subject to the approval of the Match Officials regardless of any article contained in these rules stating otherwise. The Match Official may request any item that breaches any article of these rules, to be removed.

Rule 20. Players Equipment

- a) Player's basic equipment includes shirts, shorts, socks, shin guards and boots. Players are required to wear all items of basic equipment for each Match.
- b) Players may wear an under shirt, under short tights or full length under tights. The colour of these items should be the predominate colour of the playing strip or alternatively can be black.
- c) Goal keepers only are permitted to wear a cap and/or tracksuit pants.

- d) Modern protective equipment such as headgear, face masks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted.

Rule 21. Team Kit Colours & Numbering

- a) All Players of the same team must wear an ODFA approved strip in club colours consisting of same coloured shirts. The goal keeper must wear a different colour shirt to his team to distinguish him from the players and must be numbered.
- b) All players must wear the same colour shorts and socks, socks must be worn over shin pads.
- c) In the event of both teams having the same coloured shirts, the away team shall change. The change strip must be a different colour and distinguish the players from the other team and Referee. Shirts must be correctly numbered. Numbered bibs may be worn.
- d) All players, with the exception of Mini Roos teams, must wear unduplicated numbered shirts that coincide with the numbers listed on the match card.

Rule 22. Jewellery and Glasses

- a) The only jewellery that is permitted to be worn by players is a medical alert bracelet or necklace. The bracelet or necklace must be taped or bandaged to the body, covered by a wrist band, or otherwise appropriately padded.
- b) Players are permitted to wear sports goggles, sports glasses and sports sun glasses as long as, in the Match Official's opinion, the glasses pose no danger to the player wearing the glasses or to any other player on the field of play

Section 5 – Yellow Cards, Red Cards, Suspensions and Appeals

Rule 23. Yellow Cards

- a) The following suspensions will apply to players who receive yellow cards throughout a season;
 - 1. Any player who receives two (2) yellow cards in a match, shall receive a one (1) match suspension, except in the case of Rules 23 (a) 2 and 3.
 - 2. Any player receiving 4 yellow cards in a season shall receive a two (2) match suspension.
 - 3. Any player returning from a suspension for continued Yellow card infringements, and then receives a further two (2) yellow cards in the remainder of the season, will again receive a two (2) match suspension.

Rule 24. Red Cards

- a) Any player receiving a direct red card in a match shall receive a two (2) match suspension. A one (1) match reduction to this rule is allowed when players receive a direct red card for “denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity” only if the Executive ascertains the action of the offending player did not constitute “playing in a dangerous manner”. Clubs must apply to the Executive for this potential reduction (it is not automatically applied).
- b) As per Rule 23 (a) 1, an indirect Red Card (Two yellow cards in a game) will result in a one match suspension.
- c) If in the opinion of the ODFA executive the red card offence warrants more severe punishment, the following may occur;
 - 1. The player may be called to attend a Protests & Disciplinary Committee meeting at the earliest opportunity, whereby a player may face additional sanction or suspension, or

2. The ODFA executive may decide that the offence is serious enough to bypass the need for a Protests & Disciplinary Committee meeting and take sanctions or suspend the player immediately.

Rule 25. Suspensions

- a) Where further suspension beyond Rules 23 and 24 is required, the ODFA Executive or Protests & Disciplinary Committee will use the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations – Table of Offences as a guide to issuing such suspensions.
- b) Suspensions will be from all competitions sanctioned by Football NSW.
- c) Suspension notices will be served directly to players via their email address listed in National Registration system, with a copy to their club. A player cannot use the defence that they did not receive their suspension notice due to an incorrect email address.
- d) The suspension will be served in the players respective registered team in FNSW sanctioned 11 v 11 games (full time period games eg 90min games for Senior men) and the player will not be permitted to play for any other team until the suspension has been served. Games forfeited by the suspended players team or washed out do not count as games served BUT games forfeited by the opposition team will be counted as games served.
- e) As per FIFA directive, any player sent from the field of play must serve a minimum of one match suspension.

Rule 26. Appeals

- a) No appeal is allowed on first match suspension on any send off.
- b) No appeal is allowed for suspensions resulting from Yellow Card Infringements.
- c) A player may lodge a Notification of Appeal in the following circumstances
 1. For the 2nd match of a Red Card Suspension
 2. For a suspension determined at a Protests and Disciplinary Committee Hearing
 3. For a suspension handed down directly by the ODFA Executive
- d) The Notification of Appeal must be made via email to the Competition Secretary at administrator@orangefootball.org.au and is subject to payment of appeals fee of \$100.00. If the appeal is successful the \$100.00 fee will be refunded.
- e) A 72-hour time limit for Notification of Appeal & payment of the appeal fee, will be allowed once the player has been notified of their suspension. Outside of this time limit no appeal will be allowed. Being shown a red card is regarded as notification of the suspensions in Rule 25.

Section 6 – Player Eligibility

Rule 27. Eligibility and Ineligibility of Players General

- a) Eligible Players includes:
 1. An eligible player is one that meets all registration requirements within these Rules and is not ineligible according to any article of these Rules.
- b) Ineligible Players include:
 1. Unregistered players
 2. Suspended players
 3. Non-financial players (All non-financial players must be identified and submitted to the Administrative Secretary before the ODFA Annual General meeting)
 4. A player who does not have clearance from a previous club
 5. A player who is deemed ineligible due to any article of these Rules.

- c) Any team that fields an ineligible player will automatically lose that Match on forfeit and the club may be fined \$250.

Rule 28. Eligibility of Players in Championship Series Fixtures - (Semi Finals, Preliminary Finals & Grand Finals).

- a) To be eligible to play for a team in a Championship Series Fixture (semi-final, preliminary final or grand final), a player must be an eligible player as per Rule 27, and also be registered or dual registered in that team (or a team from the same club in a lower age group) and must have played for that team on no less than five (5) occasions during the competition. The onus of proof rests with the club. Clubs may apply to the ODFA Executive in the case of special circumstances. Junior players from teams in younger age groups can only be used to bring the team to 13 players in a Junior Championship Series game. *(this rule was adopted by the ODFA clubs to ensure teams did not qualify too many players from a younger age group that could drastically reduce the game time for players already in a team).*
- b) Should a team in the Championship series be unable to field a team of 11 players they may draw on players within the same club from a lower grade or age group to make up to 11 players, without the need for the 5-game restriction in Rule 28 (a)
- c) An underage Junior player who meets Rule 28 (a) & Rule 6 (a) criteria may play in a Senior Final Series.

Rule 29. General Eligibility Rules

- a) For All Age competitions, players (Registered or Dual Registered) in higher graded teams cannot play in lower graded teams. See Rule 6b for exceptions.
- b) If a (Registered or Dual Registered) lower graded Senior player plays 5 games (see 29e) in a higher grade, (for the WPL this figure is 8 games, in line with the WPL rules). Any players over these limits are then deemed as being a higher graded player and cannot then play for the lower grade team anymore that year. See Rule 6b for exceptions. ODFA games played in the first three (3) rounds, whilst teams are being finalised, are not counted towards the eligibility criteria for this rule. Registered players who are Under 18 & younger can move freely between the WPL & the ODFA's highest competition without the restriction of the 8-game limit, unless limited by a WPL rule. These players must be registered or dual registered in a particular ODFA team. Junior players may play in any number of games for a Junior team, from their club, in a higher age group than their registered team. Female players playing in the Open Women's competition can dual register with another Senior team to play in any of the mixed All Age grades. Players playing mid-week "Safe Soccer" can dual register into another team & club in the mixed All Age grades (or vice versa).
- c) Where there are two (2) teams from the same club in the same Senior grade, players are NOT allowed to play for two (2) different teams on the same weekend. See Rule 7(a) & Rule 6(b)
- d) Players registered or dual registered in a team in any Junior age group or Senior grade must not play for a team from the same club in that age group or grade without a formal transfer. The only exception being in Over 35's, where players from the same club may play for another team from their clubs to make up the full complement of 11 players. This exception is not allowed during the Final Series. (For Rule 28(d) the wording "Junior age group" will include any combined age group). Eg when a combined U15/U16 competition is being run, then any underage players filling in must come from the Under 14 age group, as an U15 player playing for the U16's would be in breach of this rule.
- e) A player whose name appears on a referee's card shall be deemed a member of that team for that game.
- f) All Age players must not play for another Club unless given prior approval by the ODFA Executive.
- g) NO Western Premier League registered players who turn 19 & over in that calendar year are able to play in the ODFA Competition.

- h) ODFA competition registered Goalkeepers may play across into the WPL competitions without restriction from returning to the ODFA Competition. (unless restricted by the WPL rules). WPL registered Goalkeepers are included in ODFA Rule 29 (g) & have the same restrictions as outfield players

Rule 30. Western FC Players

- a) Western FC players must apply in writing to the ODFA for permission to play in ODFA competitions. The player must be sanctioned by Western NSW Football before applying to the ODFA.
- b) The ODFA will only allow TWO SAP Western FC players to Register in any ONE team.
- c) Western FC players (18 years & over) playing in ODFA All Age Comp must play for an A Grade team & the ODFA will only allow ONE such Western FC player to Register in any ONE team
- d) These player eligibility rules for Western FC SAP players can be varied in special circumstances by the ODFA executive by application from an affiliated club eg. club has only one team in that age group.

Rule 31. Age Eligibility

- a) Age determination will be 1 January of each calendar year to the 31 December of each calendar year example: if a player turns 14 years old between 1 January and 31 December then the player is eligible for under 14yrs for that year.
- b) Overage players must apply to the Executive for permission to play down – decision determined by the members of Association. (Maximum of 3 players per team).
- c) Players who are registered in a higher age group than their current age are NOT eligible to come back or to play in their respective age division.
- d) Players must not play any more than 2 years above their age division.
- e) To be eligible to play in Over 35s, the player must be over the age of 35 or turn 35 years of age in the competitions calendar year

Section 7 – Match Cards, Team Identification Sheets & E-Score Dribl rules to be added here as the system is developed during the off season.

Rule 32. Match Cards

- a) Home teams shall be mentioned first in the draws and they are responsible for providing a match card. The card is to be presented to the opposition team at least ten (10) minutes prior to the set time for the match to commence.
- b) Both teams are responsible for providing an official match ball of approved brand by Football NSW.
- c) Names of all players and reserves shall be filled in on the match card prior to the commencement of the match up to and including half time. The coach, manager or captain of each team at the completion of each game shall sign the card.
- d) In competitive age divisions, the players FFA Id No is to be inserted in place of the players signature on the match card. Signatures are not required unless a player's eligibility is in question, and then they should sign the match card.
- e) Player's names are to be completed in block letters with their initial of their First name, or a typed label affixed to the match card.
- f) Where the surnames of any players are the same, the given or First name is to be printed in block letters.
- g) Players must wear numbered shirts to correspond with their numbers on the referee's card or team sheet.
- h) Failure to comply with Rules 32 a, b, c, d, e, f or g shall render the team liable to a penalty of a loss of 4 four competition points following the issue of a written warning by the ODFA Executive.

- i) If the match card is not filled out correctly detailing both team's full correct names entered on the correct side of the card, the age division, the correct date, and the venue played then this game will be classed as unofficial and no points or goals will be awarded.
- j) It is the responsibility of both coaches to ensure match cards are filled out correctly and the scores are correctly recorded (It is NOT the referee's responsibility to fill out team information on the match card.)
- k) Any teams that are utilising under age players due to player shortages must have these players identified on the match card with (UA) next to their name. ALL dual registered players must be identified on the match card with (DR) next to their name. This is the responsibility of their manager/coach. Failure to do so will be referred to the executive.
- l) The winning team shall be responsible for the return of the match card to the Competition Secretary by placing it in the match card box in the referee's room at Jack Brabham Park prior to closure of the Referees Room. In the event the referee's room is locked the match cards may be placed in the door slot of the referee's room no later than 8:00pm the day after the match, except where the winning team is from a club not based in Orange. The winning team MUST take a photo of the card after a match in case the card is lost before submission.
- m) The home team is responsible for the return of match cards to the competition secretary as above if the match is drawn. The home team MUST take a photo of the card after a drawn match in case the card is lost before submission.
- n) In the event of a team not based in Orange which has won a match not played in Orange or Drawn match on its home ground, the team coach or manager shall post the match card to the competition secretary on the first working day after the matches are played.
- o) The teams mentioned in Rule 31 (l), (m) & (n) must also take a photo of the match card at the completion of the match and this photo should be sent to the Competition Secretary by email to administrator@orangefootball.org.au
- p) Failure to comply with Rule 31 (l), (m), (n) & (o) by Thursday 8pm of that week will result in an initial nil all result be recorded. Any dispute to be referred to the ODFA Executive.

Rule 33. Team Identification Sheets

- a) Player identification sheets are to be made available to the opposing Team manager for perusal prior to the commencement of the Match, and it will be his / her duty to return the sheets to the Club after checking that they are in order.
- b) Players for any Team that are not included on the player identification sheets are not permitted to take the field of play, unless the player meets the eligibility requirements as set out in these rules. (mainly but not limited to Section 6 – Player Eligibility). Underage Players or lower graded players who do not appear on the team sheet MUST have their individual Photo Card to be shown on request.
- c) Any Team who cannot produce at least seven (7) Players that do not meet the criteria set out in Rule 33 b) for any Match will not have enough eligible Players to commence the Match and will be deemed to have forfeited the Match.
- d) The referee is to report the reason for the forfeit on the team sheet and submit it to ODFA, signed by both Team managers
- e) Opposing Team managers are responsible for sighting the Player identification sheets prior to the Match. Should a Team suspect the opposition of replacing any Player between the initial identification sheet check and the commencement of either the first or second half, the following procedure must be followed:
 - i. The manager of the Team suspecting a breach informs the Manager of the opposing Team that he / she wishes to check the identity of the specific Player/s.

- ii. The Team managers of both Teams, along with the referee and 4th Official (should a 4th Official be appointed) check the identity of the Player/s in question against the player identification sheet and the team sheet, on the field of play before the Player/s leaves the field of play at either the half time interval or conclusion of the Match. The player whose eligibility is in question, should sign the match card as mentioned in Rule 32 (d).
- iii. Should it be suspected or in fact determined that the Team has fielded an ineligible Player, the match should proceed (under protest) and the match officials &/or non-offending team are to submit incident reports post-match through the incident reporting procedure.
- iv. Should it be determined that both teams fielded an ineligible player ODFA will determine whether the match is to be replayed, void and if any sanction should be imposed on the Clubs, Club Officials and / or Players involved
- v. Should any Team Official or Player refuse to follow the above procedure the Match will immediately be forfeited to the opposing Team to the Official or Player that has refused to co-operate
- vi. In all cases the referee will report the incident to ODFA
- f) Any Club, Team Official and / or Player that is found to have breached this article may be sanctioned pursuant to Rule 44 of these Rules.
- g) Failure of Teams to produce player identity sheets on request will result in a club fine of \$100 & the game will be played under protest for possible forfeit by the offending team

Rule 34. E-Score Card

- a) E-Score results are to be submitted by both the home and away teams for all Age Groups from Under 12 up to All Age and Over 35s.
- b) E-Score results must be submitted by 8pm the day after match day, through the E-score page from the ODFA website at <https://www.orangefootball.org.au/e-score-card>
- c) Should there be a discrepancy between submitted E-score results, the result as listed on the match card will always be used.
- d) For the last round game & during the final series, results must be submitted on e-score by 8pm on the day of the game. Failure to do so may mean the final series participants will be decided on the Points Score table as of 8pm that night.
- e) Match Cards are still required to be submitted as per Rule 32.

Section 8 – Championship Series

Rule 35. Technical Rules for the Championship Series

- a) The team leading on points at the end of the competition rounds shall be deemed the Premiership winners.
- b) In the event of two or more teams being equal, the Premiership and all positions on the table shall be decided by goal difference.
- c) In the event of goal differences being equal, then the matches between the respective teams shall be referred to. The team gaining the most competition points in these matches shall be deemed the Premiership Winners or listed higher on the table.
- d) If the teams gained equal points in matches against each other, then the Premiership or position on table shall be decided by goal differences in these matches.
- e) In the event of goal differences between the teams being equal, then a replay at a time and place nominated by the executive shall decide table positions.
- f) Champions shall be decided by semi-finals, preliminary finals and a grand final (unless changed by the Executive through unforeseen circumstances at the time when the rules are adopted).

- g) The following format shall be used for the Championship series (unless changed by the Executive through unforeseen circumstances at the time when the rules are adopted).

Match Number	Title	Teams
1	Major Semi-Final	1 st (Premiership Winners) v 2 nd
2	Minor Semi-Final	3 rd v 4 th
3	Preliminary Final	Loser Match 1 v Winner Match 2
4	Championship game & Grand Final	Winner Match 1 v Winner Match 3

- h) In all grades, semi-finals, preliminary finals and grand finals shall be played for the allotted time: extra time will be 10 minutes each way. Should teams be on an equal score at the end of extra time, then a penalty shootout will take place.
- i) Semi-finals will be played at the home ground of the team placed higher on the competition table. Unless otherwise determined by the Competition Secretary.
- j) All Preliminary finals and Grand finals are to be played at Sir Jack Brabham Park.
- k) The ODFA will endeavour to play B or (B and C) Divisions in the Final Series.
- l) Should clubs or teams not wish to play in the B or C Division Finals Series, they must advise the competition secretary before the commencement of the last round of competition via email at administrator@orangefootball.org.au
- m) Teams who are listed to play in B or C Division Final Series games and forfeit such games without notifying the competition secretary and the other team prior to Thursday 8pm shall be fined \$50.00 plus the referee's fee, except where a reasonable excuse exists. Reasonable excuse to be determined by the ODFA executive and be submitted in writing no later than 24hrs after the scheduled time of the match.
- n) If the season is unable to be completed the ODFA Executive will have the discretion to consider if the season will be regarded as incomplete, and whether any trophies etc will be awarded.

Rule 36. Wet Weather Rules for the Championship Series

- a) ODFA Under 12 to U16 - Wash outs occurring during the Finals series will be re-scheduled by ODFA to be played on the following Tuesday or Wednesday. In the event that the Semi Finals and Preliminary Final re-scheduled game(s) are still unplayable then the team which is higher on the competition ladder will proceed to the next stage.
- b) All B division games in U12 age group - In the event that any of the B Division Semi Finals and Preliminary Final game(s) are unplayable, then the team which is higher on the competition ladder will proceed to the next stage
- c) All B division games in U13 to U16 age groups - In the event that any of the B Division Semi Finals and Preliminary Final game(s) are unplayable, then the team which is higher on the competition ladder will proceed to the next stage
- d) **In the event that any of the ODFA All Age Senior Semi Finals game(s) are unplayable**, then the Senior Semi Final schedule will be rescheduled on the following Saturday and the Preliminary Final will be moved from the Saturday to the Sunday. If the rescheduled Saturday is washed out the team which finished higher on the competition ladder will proceed to the next stage. For Junior grades see Rule 36 (a)

PLEASE NOTE: ABOVE ONLY APPLYS TO Semi Finals & below for Preliminary Finals BUT in both cases any midweek games must be completed by Wed night to allow scheduling of the next games & referee appointments.

In the event that any of the ODFA All Age Senior Preliminary Final game(s) are unplayable, then all games will be rescheduled on Sunday afternoon or Monday evening (weather permitting) A Grade – A Division games will be given priority with field availability & referee appointments. Further priority will be worked out by the ODFA Executive. Once the schedule is published any team unable to play will forfeit the match unless both teams agree to play on Tuesday or Wednesday. Tuesdays & Wednesdays can only be used for Senior games if referees & fields are available after the Junior games are scheduled. If any of the rescheduled games are unplayable, the team which finished higher on the competition ladder will proceed to the next stage. For Junior grades see Rule 36 (a) For Junior grades see Rule 36 (a).

In the event that any ODFA Grand Final game(s) are unplayable, the ODFA Executive will decide if any titles will be awarded.

Rule 37. Awards & Trophies

- a) The ODFA executive may award cash prizes winners and runners up of Senior Grand Finals.
- b) The ODFA executive may award trophies to winners and runners up of Junior Grand Finals.
- c) If any age group should be split into divisions for the final series, the division may be entitled to an award as decided by the executive.
- d) Individual player of the Grand Final Awards will be awarded to players in the All Age A, B, C, Open Women's & Over 35 competitions. This award will be adjudicated by the match official of the Grand Final game.
- e) Perpetual Trophies remain the property of the ODFA and must be returned to the ODFA one month prior to the Grand Final.

Section 9 – Rep teams & Tournaments

Rule 38. ODFA Representative Teams

- a) Written nominations will be called each year for representative coaches to be voted and approved at a General meeting. Nominations will close at the ODFA July Monthly Meeting of the relevant year. It is recommended coaches must have a minimum of a current National Junior coaching license to apply and should hold the Game Training Certificate or be willing to attend the Certificate Course during the upcoming season. The Game Training Certificate is the highest level of Course required to Coach Association teams, therefore any monetary or organisational assistance given by the Association will be kept to this level & below Only TWO approved and nominated club delegates may vote for each position.
- b) A maximum of 16 players may be selected for each representative side.
- c) All sponsorship or fundraising for Orange representative teams to be supplied in writing to the Association executive for prior approval.
- d) Players are to trial for their own respective age group, unless approved by the members of association.
- e) The Association will hold a minimum of three trials for the respective age groups. All players will be notified in writing of the outcome of Representative Team trials.

Rule 39. Champion of Champions Tournament

- a) The ODFA will nominate teams that are leading the competition 2 weeks prior to the commencement of Round one of The Champions of Champions or at the time when Football NSW require the nominations, which ever may be earlier.

- b) A Champions of Champions Coordinator to be appointed by the ODFA Executive at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the tournament.
- c) The Coordinator for the Champion of Champions, will ensure that all players are to be allocated into Champion of Champion Teams in the National Registration system
- d) All players must already be registered for the current Outdoor Season in the National Registration system for the club to be eligible to participate in the Champion of Champions team.
- e) All teams participating in the Champion of Champions tournament, will be bound by the Football NSW Champion of Champion Competition Regulations.

Rule 40. Other tournaments or knockouts

- a) Knockout competitions and other tournaments must be sanctioned by the ODFA Executive. The executive shall decide upon all Rules relating to these competitions.
- b) A committee shall be formed comprising of one member from each club with the responsibility of coordinating and running knockout competitions, Youth League competitions, State Titles and other competitions granted the Orange Association eg: Sir Frank Broughton Cup etc.

Section 10 – Incidents, Protests, Code of Conduct & Rule Breaches

Rule 41. Protests & Incidents

- a) All protests and complaints from players, teams or spectators must firstly be submitted to the complainants Club.
- b) The club then submits the protest to the ODFA only if the club supports the Protest.
- c) When a team wishes to lodge a protest of any kind for any match or incident said protest shall be forwarded by the Complainant's Club to the Administrative Secretary IN WRITING WITHIN (72 hrs) THREE DAYS of the incident or match for the ODFA Executive to deliberate. No protest will be accepted if this rule is not followed.
- d) A Club may submit the protest and complaint as an Agenda item at the next Association Meeting (if 41(a),(b) & (c) have been adhered to & if the matter has not been dealt with before this time.
- e) Any decision of an Association Meeting or ODFA Executive can only be rescinded by more than a two-thirds majority of club delegates eligible to vote.
- f) All decisions of the ODFA can be appealed to Football NSW Western Branch.

Rule 42. Media

- (a) A Member Club or Player must not make public or media comment (including via social media) which is detrimental to ODFA, ODFRA, Football NSW, FFA, their commercial partners or to the interests of the game, until such time as appeals have been heard & decided at ODFA & Western Branch levels.
- (b) After these appeals have been heard & decided a Member Club or Player must not make public or media comment (including via social media) which is detrimental to ODFA, WFNSW, Football NSW, FFA, their commercial partners or to the interests of the game, where any part of the statement is found to be nonfactual;
- (c) Without limitation, a Member will breach these Regulations and be deemed to be making comment detrimental to the interests of the game if, in making any public or media comment (including via social media), the Member:

- i. denigrates or criticises ODFA, ODFRA, WFNSW or Football NSW (including any of its staff and Board), FFA or any of their commercial partners, where any part of the statement is found to be nonfactual;
- ii. denigrates or criticises another Member, whether in relation to incidents that have occurred in a Match/Fixture or otherwise, where any part of the statement is found to be nonfactual;
- iii. denigrates or criticises a Participant by inappropriately commenting on any aspect of their performance, abilities or characteristics;
- iv. refers to the likely outcome of a matter being investigated by ODFA, WFNSW, Football NSW or a matter or hearing before a Body;
- v. criticises the outcome of an ODFA, WFNSW & Football NSW investigation;
- vi. criticises the decision of a Body;
- vii. criticises a Body or any of its members; or
- viii. criticises any evidence, submission or other comment made by any person at or in relation to a matter or hearing before a Body.

(c) ODFA may, in its absolute discretion, deal with such matters pursuant to Rule 43(Rule Breaches).

(d) Where there is evidence that a Member has made a public or media comment (including via social media) in breach of Rule 41 of these Regulations, the Football NSW Social Media Policy or the FFA Rules and Regulations, that Member will be presumed to have made the comment and the onus will be on the Member to satisfy the Executive or the Tribunal, as the case may be, that the Member did not do so. For example, if the offending comment is made on the Member's social media account, that Member will be presumed to have posted the comment and the onus will be on that Member to satisfy the Executive or the Tribunal that the Member did not do so.

(e) Members are responsible for their own social media and email accounts and must ensure they keep the usernames and passwords by which they access their own social media and email accounts confidential and secure at all times. Members must ensure computers and mobile devices are not left unattended and/or without password protection.

Rule 43. Codes of Conduct

- a) All coaches, managers, players, spectators and club officials will abide by competition codes of conduct as found on the ODFA website at <https://www.orangefootball.org.au/codes-of-conduct>

Rule 44. Rule Breaches

- a) Breaches of any of the rules or above clauses will be referred to the ODFA Executive for determination of any penalties to be imposed and could result in the following penalties being applied;
 - 1. Loss of Competition Points & Goals
 - 2. Individual player or team suspensions
 - 3. Opposing teams awarded Points & Goals
 - 4. Fines
 - 5. Continued Breaches could lead to player de-registration or team disqualification from the Competition.