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

NEW RULE 2

Rule 2. Compliance, Rule Breaches and Application of Football NSW Regulations

a) All clubs, Members and Participants to whom these Rules apply must comply with these Rules and any applicable ODFA Constitution, By-Laws, Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, and other applicable regulations or policies. A breach may result in disciplinary action or another penalty in accordance with Rule 44 and the applicable ODFA rules and regulations.

b) These Rules must be read and applied consistently with the ODFA Constitution and, to the extent applicable to and binding upon ODFA, its Affiliated Clubs, Members or Participants, the constitutions, regulations, policies and directives of Football Australia and Football NSW. Where ODFA applies or adopts a Football Australia or Football NSW provision that is not otherwise binding, it must do so consistently with the ODFA Constitution and applicable law.

c) Where a matter is not expressly provided for in these Rules, the Management Committee or the Executive Committee, as applicable under the ODFA Constitution and any delegated authority, may determine the appropriate course of action. Any such determination must be consistent with the ODFA Constitution, applicable law, any binding Football Australia or Football NSW requirements, and the requirements of procedural fairness. Where practical for a Regional Association and appropriate, relevant Football Australia or Football NSW regulations may be applied to assist in determining the matter.

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Rule 14. Deferments

Rule 14 (a) to (f) only relate to Junior teams in the U12s to U16s competitions.

a) NO DEFERMENTS ARE ALLOWED FOR GAMES SCHEDULED ON THE LAST TWO **THREE** WEEKENDS OF ANY COMPETITION, (including Friday scheduled games), AS IT DOES NOT ALLOW ENOUGH TIME FOR OPPOSITION TEAMS TO ORGANISE THE REPLAY - - - - - - - - Should a team wish to request a deferment, the team shall email the competition secretary at administrator@orangefootball.org.au, at least 4 days prior to the scheduled match. ONE deferment per season will be accepted per team only for a deferment outside the ~~4~~ day time limit. Any request inside the ~~4~~ day period or the team has used their one deferral, please refer to Rule 15 for the Forfeit process. (unless the opposition requests the game go ahead). ### As part of the deferral process, the **non-deferring** team must provide (within a 72 hours of the deferred game), TWO possible **(different)** dates & times for the game to be replayed. At least ONE of these must be either a Friday night or Sunday timeslot **(and for Junior teams ONE date must be a midweek afternoon and outside of NSW school holidays). Neither of the 2 proposed replay dates can be before the deferral itself (unless the non-deferring team approves it), if you wish to add an earlier date it must be a 3rd date.** Both dates 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. The deferring team then has 72 hours to accept one of the dates & times. To claim a forfeit in these games **(as the non-deferring team)** your team must be able to show you have provided 2 dates as per 14 (a) plus met the timing required 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) plus met the timing required and this has then been refused or the games proposed did not meet the requirements of 14 (a). The deferring team will generally play AWAY in any catchup game unless the Comp Sec deems it preferrable (ie Lights, Referees) to schedule the game at HOME or if there is agreement between the teams. (If the agreed upon date is washed out the process starts again at ### (i) For any deferment request inside the 4 day limit, that the non-deferring team has agreed to play. The non deferring team is still able to claim the forfeit if the replay is then washed out within 3 weeks of the final home & away Saturday and another date is not agreed upon. In this situation only - win points are given to the non-forfeiting team & loss points are given to the "forfeiting" team. (as they have made a reasonable attempt to get the game played).

b) Team requesting that matches be deferred due to team player shortages within the 4 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 two dates provided as per Rule 14a.
d) Teams from private schools and Universities have the right to defer any games during scheduled school holidays and placements periods. However, they must have informed the Competition Secretary of the scheduled holidays/placements 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 2 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 TWO deferral replay time & dates mentioned above must be no later than the Sunday on the weekend of the last home & away round game.
f) Any team who has 4 or more WYL Representative players are able to defer the second game of any ODFA double header, scheduled for the Saturday, before they play a Sunday WYL round.

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SENIOR DEFERMENTS. NO DEFERMENTS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR TEAMS IN SENIOR GAMES.
The Competition Secretary will schedule games between two school teams where possible in the holidays so these games can be caught up whenever possible and will schedule other games around the school holidays where possible for school or university-based teams.
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Changes in RED in above rule rewrite

==== **Rule 16 provided although a club based change is proposed rather than rule change** =====

Rule 16. Ground Officials & Team Captains

a) All competitive teams must supply a ground official for their own Match, Ground officials must be added to the Competition Management System prior to submitting the Match Sheet The teams nominated Ground Official can be anyone over the age of 18 years who is not playing or coaching that game.

========== **Changes in RED in below rule rewrite** ==========

Rule 24. Red Cards

a) Any player /participant 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 /participant may be called to attend a Protests & Disciplinary Committee (General Purpose Tribunal) 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 /participant immediately by sending an Interim Suspension Order &/or Notice of ~~Charge~~ **Suspension** to the participants/ player's club delegates.

Replace c with below

c)If in the opinion of the ODFA executive **or Disciplinary Committee** the red card offence warrants more severe punishment, the following may occur;

1. The ODFA executive **or Disciplinary Committee** may decide that the offence **may warrant a sanction beyond the automatic suspension** ~~is serious enough to bypass the need for a Protests & Disciplinary Committee meeting~~ and take sanctions or suspend the player /participant immediately **under the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations** by sending an Interim Suspension Order &/or Notice of ~~Charge~~ Suspension to the participants/ player's club delegates**. (by adopting parts of FNSW Section 7 to deal with these matters).or**
2. **Under the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations** The player /participant may be called to attend a ~~Protests & Disciplinary Committee (~~General Purpose Tribunal) meeting at the earliest opportunity, whereby a player may face additional sanction or suspension,
3. **Qualification of Body Members for all Disciplinary matters.**

(a) Each member of a Body must have:

(i). the ability to exercise independent judgment;

(ii) the requisite knowledge and/or experience of football, FA Rules and Regulations and the Football NSW Rules and Regulations appropriate for membership of the relevant Body.

(iii) An ODFA Body Member does not require the strict work experience provisions included in the FNSW Regulations.

(b) Conflict of Interest – Disciplinary Body or Tribunal Members

(i). A person appointed to sit on a Tribunal must act impartially and determine the matter fairly, on the evidence and applicable regulations.

(ii). Before the hearing, each Tribunal member must disclose any actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest concerning the matter or any party involved.

(iii). A Tribunal member must not participate in a hearing or determination where the member has a conflict of interest that could reasonably affect, or appear to affect, their impartiality. The member must withdraw from the matter and be replaced where necessary.

(iv) A party may raise a reasonable objection to a Tribunal member on the grounds of a conflict of interest. The objection must be considered and determined by an appropriate person who is independent of the issue, before the hearing proceeds where practicable.

(v). The disclosure of a conflict, any objection raised and the decision made about it must be recorded in the Tribunal's record.

4. **Charges of Misconduct. The ODFA refers to and adopts all of the section on Misconduct in the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations. The Executive may investigate any matter which in its opinion is relevant to whether or not a charge of Misconduct ought to be laid. Such investigation may be initiated on the basis of a written report or complaint of a Member, a Match Official Report, or on the basis of any other evidence which, in the opinion of the Executive, is credible. (Please see all of Misconduct section for full information).**

7. RED CARD OFFENCES

7.1 Jurisdiction

(a) Football NSW has jurisdiction to:

i. issue Suspensions in respect of Red Card Offences (section 7.2); and

ii. adjudicate on any challenge to the attribution of a Yellow Card or Red Card on a team sheet or to a Suspension resulting from a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report on the basis of mistaken identity (section 7.3).

(b) The Executive has jurisdiction to adjudicate on any claims of Obvious Error (section 7.6).

7.2 Determination

(a) Subject to section 7.2(b) and section 9.2 (Charges of Misconduct), Football NSW must, within a reasonable time following the completion of a Match, review any Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report disclosing a Red Card Offence, the Participant's Disciplinary History and any other material Football NSW determines, in its absolute discretion, is relevant to the matter.

(b) Where any Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report discloses a Red Card Offence which carries a Minimum Suspension of twelve (12) months or greater, or the Executive determines that, in its absolute discretion, the Red Card Offence should not be dealt with in accordance with this section 7, the matter must be dealt with by the Executive in accordance with section 9.2 (Charges of Misconduct).

(c) Football NSW must determine Suspensions based on the material referred to in section 7.2(a) and by applying the Range at the Table of Offences as set out in Schedule 3. For the avoidance of doubt, Football NSW must not impose Suspensions below the applicable Minimum Suspension.

(d) Football NSW must, as soon as is practicable, set out any Suspension in a Notice of Suspension and issue same to the Participant's Club. That Club must, as soon as is practicable, advise the Participant of the Suspension and provide the Participant with a copy of the Notice of Suspension. Failure by the Club to do so is deemed to be a breach of these Regulations and will result in a $250 fine against the Club.

(e) A Participant may only challenge a Suspension issued in accordance with this section 7.2 on the following bases:

i. in accordance with section 7.3 (Challenge on the basis of mistaken identity on a team sheet or in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report); or

ii. in accordance with section 8.2 (Challenging a Notice of Suspension).

9.2 Charges of Misconduct

(a) The Board or the Executive may investigate any matter which in its opinion is relevant to whether or not a charge of Misconduct ought to be laid. Such investigation may be initiated on the basis of a written report or complaint of a Member, a Match Official Report, or on the basis of any other evidence which, in the opinion of the Board or the Executive, is credible.

(b) Such investigation may be carried out by the Board or the Executive as it sees fit and Members are required to cooperate fully with Football NSW in the conduct of that investigation and must do so within the timeframe specified in any correspondence issued by Football NSW. A Member agrees that any information provided to Football NSW may be used as evidence in bringing a charge under this section 9.2 and may be provided to any party so charged.

(c) A Member who fails to comply with section 9.2(b) will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 16.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Member pursuant to this section 9.2.

(d) At any time, the Board or the Executive may determine whether:

i. a Notice of Charge is to be issued in respect of the matter; or

ii. the matter is to be dealt with in any other manner,

and such determination will be at the absolute discretion of the Board or the Executive and not be capable of review.

(e) A Member issued with a Notice of Charge by Football NSW may either:

i. ***accept*** the charge(s) and the penalty(ies) proposed (as applicable) by submitting to Football NSW a completed and signed Notice of Response (**Prescribed Form 10** – click here); or

ii. ***refer*** the charge(s) to the General Purposes Tribunal for hearing in accordance with section 9.2(g).

The Executive may also refer the charge(s) to the General Purposes Tribunal for hearing in its absolute discretion at any time (in which case, the Member will not be required to pre-pay the Application Fee but may be ordered by the General Purposes Tribunal to pay a similar amount at the conclusion of the matter in addition to any other costs that the General Purposes Tribunal may award under section 13.17).

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. If in the opinion of the ODFA executive any offence warrants punishment, the following may occur;~~

~~i)The person may be called to attend a Protests & Disciplinary Committee (General Purpose Tribunal) meeting at the earliest opportunity, whereby the person may face sanction or suspension, or~~
~~ii) The ODFA executive may decide to bypass the need for a Protests & Disciplinary Committee meeting and take sanctions or suspend the person immediately by sending an Interim Suspension Order &/or Notice of Charge to the person's club delegates.~~

Rule 25 a) Disciplinary charges, hearings, findings and sanctions shall be dealt with in accordance with the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations. For Body members see Rule 24. The Table of Offences and applicable sanction ranges in those Regulations shall be applied as required. Official suspension notices from the ODFA take priority over anything written in the Additional Notes section of these rules.

========== **Changes in RED in above rule rewrite** ==========

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========== **Changes in RED in below rule rewrite** ==========

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 (General Purpose Tribunal
    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 $200.00. If the appeal is successful the $200.00 fee will be refunded.
e) A 72-hour time limit for Notification of Appeal & payment of the appeal fee, will be allowed once the players club delegates have been notified of their players 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.

Rule 26. Appeals

a) No appeal is allowed on first match suspension on any send off. No appeal is allowed for suspensions resulting from Yellow Card Infringements. Being shown a red card is regarded as notification of the suspensions in Rule 25.
b) Appeals against disciplinary decisions, including any appeal concerning liability or the severity of a sanction, may only be lodged where permitted by the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations and these Rules.
c) Any appeal must be lodged by an eligible appellant, on permitted grounds and within the applicable time limit, using the prescribed procedure. Any appeal fee and refund shall be governed by the applicable ODFA Rules, subject to the Football NSW Regulations.
d) Where an appeal is permitted under ODFA procedures, the Notification of Appeal must be emailed to the Competition Secretary at administrator@orangefootball.org.au and accompanied by the applicable appeal fee of $300.00. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is fully successful, subject to the applicable rules.
e) The applicable Football NSW Regulations prevail to the extent of any inconsistency with these Rules.
f) A Party may only appeal a final determination of the Association to Football NSW if they have fully exhausted all internal grievance, disciplinary, and appeals processes provided under these Regulations. No dispute, grievance, or disciplinary matter may be escalated to Football NSW until the Association's internal appeals mechanisms have entirely run their course.

========== **Changes in RED in below rule rewrite** ==========

Rule 29. General Eligibility Rules

a) For Senior All Age competitions, players (Registered or Dual Registered) in higher graded teams cannot play in lower graded teams. See Rule 6b for exceptions. If a Senior grade or Junior age group is split into two or more Divisions it does not change the fact that a player cannot play in two different teams. So "borrowing" is not allowed between 2 teams in this situation.
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). The 5th & 8th game mentioned locks the player out of their previous lower grade team. Any players who hit these limits are then deemed as being a higher graded player and cannot then play for the lower grade team anymore that year. (eg If a player plays 3 games in higher grade (A Grade) & 2 games in higher grade (B Grade) the player is then deemed an A Grade player. **If a player is forced into a higher grade through this rule, they are eligible to play the Championship Series even without the requirement of 5 games played before this Series**. Lower grade registered Goalkeepers, playing Senior Competitions, can play higher grades without restriction but the club must contact the ODFA if a GK is about to play their 5th game in a higher grade. The ODFA Executive will have the right of refusal if it is thought the intent of the rule is being abused. See Rule 6b for other exceptions. ODFA games played in the first three (3) rounds, **(of the lower grade team)** whilst teams are being finalised, are not counted towards the eligibility criteria for this rule. ODFA Registered players who are Under 18 & younger (or 45 yrs & over) 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. Please note "ODFA registered" is an important distinction whereas WPL registered players cannot move freely.
……Junior competition 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). Female players can dual register between All Age grades and Open Female (either direction) with the same club. Blay Jnrs & Snrs will be regarded as the same club in this scenario.

========== **Changes in RED in below rule rewrite** ==========

Rule 30. Central Weste~~rn~~ FC Players

a) Central Weste~~rn~~ 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~~ Central Weste~~rn~~ FC before applying to the ODFA.
b) The ODFA will only allow TWO JDL ~~SAP Western FC~~ Central Weste~~rn~~ FC players to Register in any ONE ODFA team in the players age group. If a team has more than TWO JDL ~~SAP~~ players, of that age group, they can nominate in the age group above their actual age group.
c) Central Weste~~rn~~ 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 Central Weste~~rn~~ Western FC player to Register in any ONE team
d) These player eligibility rules for Central West ~~Western~~ FC SAP JDL players can be varied in special circumstances by the ODFA executive by application from an affiliated club NOT the team themselves. eg. The club must support the request and forward it for consideration.
Exceptions may be made if the club has only one team in that age group or a younger ~~SAP~~ JDL player wants to play "up" an age group or two.

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========== **Changes in RED in below rule rewrite** ==========

Rule 35. Technical Rules for the Championship Series

h) In all grades, **age groups and Divisions formed at the start of a season, their** 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. Injury time will be allowed for, in Championship games, for any injury that causes a game delay of three minutes or more. The accumulated time of (any 3 min + injuries) should be allowed for up to the limit of 5 minutes. **If a grade, age group or Division is formed during the season the above will apply except extra time will be eliminated and the game will go directly to penalties.**

========== **Changes in RED in below rule rewrite** ==========

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 club 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/incident 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 rewrite in red below** ==========

Rule 41. Protests, Complaints, Grievances and Incidents

a) Initial submission

Except where these Rules or applicable Football NSW regulations provide otherwise, a player, team, spectator or other person wishing to raise a protest, complaint or grievance concerning an ODFA match, competition or football-related incident should initially raise the matter with their Club.

b) Submission by a Club

Where a Club supports a protest, complaint or grievance that falls within ODFA's jurisdiction, the Club may submit it to the ODFA Administrative Secretary in writing, setting out the relevant facts, the nature of the concern and the outcome sought.

A Club's decision not to support a matter does not prevent a person from reporting a matter directly to ODFA or Football NSW where permitted or required by applicable regulations, policies or procedures. Please refer to the FNSW website to find information on complaint handling. Complaints & Complaint Handling - Football NSW

c) Time limit

Unless a different period is prescribed by these Rules or by applicable Football NSW regulations, a formal protest concerning a match, a grievance or competition matter must be submitted in writing by the relevant Club to the ODFA Administrative Secretary within seventy-two (72) hours of the match or incident.

A protest or grievance submitted outside that period may be rejected, subject to any applicable regulation, discretion or exception governing the matter.

The seventy-two (72) hour period does not override any separate reporting procedure or time limit prescribed by Football NSW or another competent authority. Serious misconduct, safeguarding concerns and other matters requiring referral under applicable policies or regulations must be handled in accordance with those requirements.

d) Consideration at an Association Meeting

A Club may request that a matter be listed as an agenda item for the next Association Meeting, provided the matter has been submitted in accordance with this Rule (and the constitution) and has not already been determined, unless reconsideration is permitted under the applicable Rules or procedures.

An Association Meeting is not to replace or circumvent any prescribed grievance, disciplinary, protest or appeal process.

e) Rescission of decisions

A decision made at an Association Meeting or by the ODFA Executive or Management Committee may only be rescinded by a Special Resolution (under the constitution).

This provision does not authorise an Association Meeting to overturn or vary a decision where that power is reserved to a tribunal, appeal body or other decision-maker under applicable Football NSW regulations.

f) Appeals and review

A decision of ODFA may be appealed or reviewed only where a right of appeal or review is provided by the applicable ODFA Rules, Football NSW regulations or other governing instrument.

Any appeal or review must be lodged by an eligible person or Club, on the permitted grounds and within the applicable time limit, and must follow the prescribed procedure.

A Party may only appeal a final determination of the Association to Football NSW if they have fully exhausted all internal grievance, disciplinary, and appeals processes provided under these Regulations. No dispute, grievance, or disciplinary matter may be escalated to Football NSW until the Association's internal appeals mechanisms have entirely run their course.

g) Applicable procedures

Where a matter is governed by the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations or another applicable Football NSW policy or regulation, that procedure takes precedence over any inconsistent requirement in this Rule. Nothing in this Rule removes any reporting obligation or right available under those instruments.

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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 subjective or 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 subjective or 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 subjective or 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 rewrite in red below** ==========

Rule 42. Media, Video Footage and Online Conduct

(a) General prohibition

A Member Club, Player or other person subject to these Regulations must comply with the applicable Football Australia Rules and Regulations, Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, Football NSW Social Media Policy and any applicable ODFA policy concerning public comment, social media, video footage and online conduct.

A Member Club, Player or other person subject to these Regulations must not make, publish, upload, livestream, distribute or repost public or media comment, including through social media, websites, video-sharing platforms or other online services, in breach of those applicable requirements or in a manner that constitutes misconduct under these Regulations.

(b) Detrimental public comment

Without limiting paragraph (a), a person may breach these Regulations by making public or media comment that:

i. denigrates or inappropriately criticises ODFA, ODFRA, Western Branch, Football NSW, Football Australia, their respective staff, boards, officials or commercial partners;

ii. denigrates or inappropriately criticises another Member or Participant, whether in relation to a Match, Fixture, incident or otherwise;

iii. inappropriately targets a Participant in relation to their performance, abilities or personal characteristics;

iv. comments inappropriately on the likely outcome of an ongoing investigation or disciplinary proceeding;

v. comments on an investigation, hearing, determination or evidence in a manner prohibited by applicable regulations or confidentiality requirements; or

vi. otherwise constitutes prohibited detrimental public comment, harassment, bullying, intimidation, discriminatory abuse or other misconduct under the applicable football rules.

(c) Video footage, photographs and recordings

A person subject to these Regulations must not publish, upload, livestream, distribute, edit or repost video footage, photographs, audio recordings or other material relating to an ODFA Match, Fixture, training session or other football activity where the publication or use:

i. constitutes or facilitates abuse, harassment, bullying, intimidation, threats, discriminatory conduct or other misconduct;

ii. is used to target, ridicule, humiliate or encourage others to abuse an identifiable Player, Match Official, Team Official or other Participant;

iii. is materially misleading because of editing, omission of relevant context, captions, annotations or other presentation, in circumstances that constitute misconduct under the applicable rules;

iv. discloses confidential disciplinary material, protected personal information or other material whose publication is prohibited by law or an applicable football regulation;

v. exposes a child or other Participant to an unreasonable safeguarding risk or otherwise breaches applicable child-protection or image-use requirements; or

vi. otherwise breaches these Regulations or an applicable Football Australia or Football NSW rule or policy.

(d) Criticism and complaints

Concerns about refereeing, player conduct, match incidents or the administration of a competition should be raised through the relevant Club Official, ODFA or Football NSW complaint or review process, as applicable.

Nothing in this Rule authorises conduct prohibited by an applicable Football Australia or Football NSW rule or policy. A person may submit relevant video footage, photographs, recordings or other material confidentially to ODFA, Football NSW or an authorised Tribunal for the purpose of making a complaint, reporting an incident or assisting an investigation, subject to the applicable rules and confidentiality requirements.

(e) Ongoing investigations and proceedings

A person must not publish material concerning an ongoing ODFA or Football NSW investigation, or a matter before a Tribunal or other authorised Body, where that publication breaches an applicable regulation, confidentiality requirement or other enforceable restriction.

A person must not use public or social media commentary to intimidate a witness, improperly influence a proceeding, disclose protected evidence or otherwise interfere with the fair determination of a matter.

(f) Directions concerning published material

Where ODFA reasonably considers that material published or distributed in connection with an ODFA Match, Fixture or football activity may breach this Rule, ODFA may, to the extent permitted by its Regulations and applicable law, direct a Member Club or person subject to its authority to remove, restrict access to, correct or cease distributing the material.

Any direction must identify the material concerned and the basis for the direction. The person or Club must be given a reasonable opportunity to comply, except where urgent action is reasonably necessary to address a serious safeguarding, safety or ongoing-harm concern.

(g) Disciplinary action

A suspected breach of this Rule may be referred and dealt with under Rule 44 (Rule Breaches) and Rule 43 (Code of Conduct) any applicable Football Australia or Football NSW disciplinary procedure. Disciplinary action is open to both the person actively posting or allowing the material to be shown and the club who have provided access.

Any allegation must be dealt with under the applicable procedure, including its requirements concerning notice, evidence, opportunity to respond, determination and sanction. Any penalty imposed must be authorised by the applicable Regulations.

(h) Attribution of online material

In determining whether a person has made, published or distributed material in breach of this Rule, the decision-maker may consider all relevant evidence, including account ownership, access, admissions, platform records and other surrounding circumstances.

The attribution of a post or publication, and any applicable evidentiary presumption or burden of proof, must be determined in accordance with the governing Football Australia or Football NSW Regulations and the applicable ODFA disciplinary procedure.

(i) Preservation of evidence

A person must not knowingly destroy, alter or conceal relevant video footage, recordings or other evidence for the purpose of frustrating an ODFA or Football NSW investigation or disciplinary proceeding, where the person is subject to a lawful preservation requirement or an applicable regulatory obligation.

(j) Interpretation and precedence

This Rule must be read consistently with the applicable Football Australia and Football NSW Rules and Regulations, including the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations and Social Media Policy. In the event of inconsistency, the applicable higher-level requirements prevail.

Rule 45. Electronic Ballots

How an electronic ballot must be conducted

a) Check the Constitution and resolution. Confirm who is entitled to vote and whether the resolution is one that can be decided by ballot under the applicable rules.
b) Appoint a returning officer. The Management Committee appoints a returning officer to conduct the ballot.
c) Prepare the ballot statement. The Committee must set out the matter to be decided and state whether the proposal is intended to be a special resolution.
d) Prepare the eligible-voter list. The returning officer prepares a list of all members entitled to vote on the proposal.
e) Notify eligible members and provide voting access. At least 14 days before the ballot closes, each eligible member must receive the required ballot information and access to the electronic ballot paper. For a proposed special resolution, this period is at least 21 days.

f) Allow members to vote electronically. Voting may be conducted by email, a voting website or another electronic method determined by the Committee. The ballot must state the question, explain how to record a vote and specify the closing date and submission instructions.

g) Protect ballot secrecy where applicable. If it is a secret ballot, the member's identity must not be ascertainable from the ballot paper. Electronic ballot papers must be securely stored until the votes are counted.

h) Count and record the result. The returning officer reviews the electronic voting records, rejects informal votes, signs a statement of the result and gives it to the Secretary. The result must be recorded in the Association's minutes. Ballot records must be securely retained for at least eight weeks after closing.

Suggested rule changes NOT supported by ODFA Executive

Request to call Senior grades 1st Grade, 2nd Grade etc	**Came up last year and was defeated as it was seen as "change for the sake of change" and**	**DRIBL setup would need to be redone plus trophies etc. for what was seen as not an issue.**	
Juniors have different Disciplinary Regulations because they are Juniors	**FNSW does not separate Jnrs & Snrs in Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations and we should not. It should be left to the Tribunal to work with the FNSW Regulations and the scope built into it.**	• **Protecting young participants:** the fact that a player is a minor may be relevant to how a matter is handled, but it does not automatically excuse misconduct or remove the need to protect referees and other participants	•**Applying the regulations:** junior and senior players are both covered by the disciplinary framework. • **Determining the sanction:** a tribunal may need to consider the individual circumstances of the participant, the seriousness of the conduct, and any relevant mitigating factors. .
ODFA should have separate Disciplinary Regulations on Participant Notification	**ODFA works with the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations as its base document and what is required in that document is already extensive.**	**See FNSW 9.2 Charges of Misconduct**	

9.2 Charges of Misconduct

(a) The Board or the Executive may investigate any matter which in its opinion is relevant to whether or not a charge of Misconduct ought to be laid. Such investigation may be initiated on the basis of a written report or complaint of a Member, a Match Official Report, or on the basis of any other evidence which, in the opinion of the Board or the Executive, is credible.

(b) Such investigation may be carried out by the Board or the Executive as it sees fit and Members are required to cooperate fully with Football NSW in the conduct of that investigation and must do so within the timeframe specified in any correspondence issued by Football NSW. A Member agrees that any information provided to Football NSW may be used as evidence in bringing a charge under this section 9.2 and may be provided to any party so charged.

(c) A Member who fails to comply with section 9.2(b) will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 16.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Member pursuant to this section 9.2.

(d) At any time, the Board or the Executive may determine whether:

i. a Notice of Charge is to be issued in respect of the matter; or

ii. the matter is to be dealt with in any other manner,

and such determination will be at the absolute discretion of the Board or the Executive and not be capable of review.

Meeting Closed:……9:45pm……

Next Meeting: ODFA AGM Monday 9th Nov @ JBP Meeting Room & online.