

Orange & District Football Association Soccer Inc.

Policy Meeting 27.10.25 - MINUTES

Attended onsite: ...Tony M, Brett H, Wayne C, Robyn C..... Attended on Zoom: D Rogerson (Millth Snrs), Kym CYMS Jnrs.

Meeting Open:.....7:33.....pm

Apologies: ...none ,...Apologies Accepted: MovedSecond:All those in Favour: CARRIED

Chaired:Tony Mileto..... Minute Taker:Brett Hazzard.....

Zoom: Dave (Millth Snrs), Emma & Rachel (Molong). Rosemary (Tahs Jnrs), Dave (Millth Jnrs) Kym (CYMS Jnrs) Tim (Barnies) Sarah

On site: TM, BH, M Lewis, W Cowan, R Churchland

Current ODFA info & issues: # Rep teams, Coaches & trials

Team	Coach	Trials	Selected	
U10 Girls	Kate Wright	2 complete	Yes squad done	
U12 Girls	Erin Gibson	2 scheduled		Possible 2 teams
U14 Girls	John Tink	1 st complete, 2 nd scheduled		
U16 Girls	Tabitha Jones	2 complete	Yes trial no's = squad	Outstanding shirts from this yr
U10 Boys	Andrew Vogler, Brad Apps	2 complete	NO	Been weeks since 2 nd trial & no corro to parents
U11 Boys	Daniel Howard	2 complete	Selection taking place	
U12 Boys	Rachel Clarke	2 complete	Squad selected	
U13 Boys	No Coach yet	n/a	n/a	Coach search
U14 Boys	Brenden May	2 scheduled		Coach deciding trial dates
U15 Boys	Michael Gaeta	2 scheduled		Coach deciding trial dates
U16 Boys	John Kuntze	Not yet		Need more players

U12 Girls - 2 trials -Friday 31/10 4:15 to 5:45pm and 07/11 5 to 6:30 pm at JBP Huntley Rd side.

U14 Girls team – 2nd trial on Sunday 2nd November. 4pm to 5.15pm. JBP Huntley Rd side.

U14 Boys – 2 trials on (Sunday 16th November 4pm to 5.30pm & Sunday 30th November 4pm to 5.30pm) both at JBP Huntley Rd side

U15 Boys 2 trials on (Sunday 2nd November 4pm to 5.30pm & Tuesday 11th November 5.30pm to 7pm) both at JBP Huntley Rd side.

Play Football Training

Football NSW will be delivering Play Football Training for the 2026 Season. All trainings will be conducted Online with sessions tailored to new & returning registrars.

Training will be delivered on the following dates.

	Session 1	Session 2
Training New Registrars	Thursday 6 th November	Wednesday 19 th November
Training Refresher (Returning Registrars)	Wednesday 12 th November	Thursday 4 th December

All trainings will commence at 6:30pm and will last approx. 2 hours. Meeting invite links sent closer to the training dates.

Summer Football update

Summer Football: Teams slow to form & regos slow with 4 weeks till start. Currently cant form Junior age groups with current numbers.

Regos previous yrs @ 21st Oct 2024 - 20 off – U8 to U9s (40) & 56 off – U10&U11&U12s, (66) Opens 132 off (190) (2023_24 in red)

20th Oct 2025 - Regos Summer 2025_26

(9 yrs 6 off. 10yrs 7 off, 11yrs 10 off U12 yrs 30 off) = 53 (9yrs to 12yrs)

37 x U13 to U18s (20 being 13yr olds) 68 x 19yrs + Opens

Local Football News

Millth Jnrs nomination for Community Club of the Year – FNSW Club Changer suggestion & ODFA endorsed & nominated. *Announced as winner of the award Sat 25th Nov at State Award Dinner.*

Rosemary Bargwanna achieved Life Membership of Waratah Football club at their recent meeting.

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ODFA proposed rule changes

Below are major proposed rule changes. Please refer to full rules document for smaller “one/two word” changes.

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Rule 5. Player De-Registration

- 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.
- 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.
- A player and/or club, may still be responsible for the payment of registration fees should that player **fall outside the refund policies of FA, FNSW or ODFA at the time of registration OR the competition start date has passed OR the player has** played at least one game for that club OR if the player has been made active in the National Registration System OR is regarded as a billable registration by FNSW OR remains pending in the system after 30th June.

Reason – Refunds have changed with the introduction of Play Football 2.0 (FA & FNSW refunds policy state no refunds after start of the competition. In the past various criteria has been used “played one game” “30th April” “30th June”. Now it is start of competition.

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Rule 6. Dual Registrations

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 by **ODFA created online form** or if no form is available, via email to the competition secretary at administrator@orangefootball.org.au and **must be ODFA Executive approved and appear in the CMS before a player can play in a game. at the next ODFA Meeting.**
- e) Dual Registrations are permitted until 30th June each year.
- f) See Rule 30 for registration of Western FC / **Central West FC** players in the ODFA Competition.

Reason: *now using online form, so we are now providing both options, so one or the other can be used in the future.*

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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 displayed 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 a **"cancelled washed out"**, no points shall be allocated, (including BYE and forfeit points) **When unless** the executive decides to replay the round at a later date **it will be designated "Forfeit Postponed"**. Forfeits in any washout round (Postponed) are reset to games "to be played". Forfeits will be regarded as teams not being able to play on a particular day but could play on the replay day. See Rule 15(b). **The only exception being forfeiting teams who do not inform the ODFA of a forfeit request by 8pm Thursday prior to the game. If after this time the forfeit will stand and not replayed. See Rule 15 for Forfeit procedure.**
- f) In all other cases, the match official shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the grounds. The Match official's decision is final, unless both teams agree to a deferment & replay. In this case both teams will still be liable for the Match official fees. Refusal to play by one team will be classed as an abandonment & forfeit by that team.
- g) If there is no official referee, it shall be up to the managers or coaches to decide. If no Coach/Manager agreement is reached, then no game will be played.
- h) In cases of thunderstorms the "home senior ground official" (**role shown in Rule 16**) in consultation with the Referee Exec or Referee at smaller grounds, shall decide if lightning has been sighted and if the game/s will be delayed. The participants should be sent to their cars or another safe place with the intention to restart the match a minimum of 30 minutes from the delay. The actual start time will be decided and relayed to the Referee at larger grounds. Coaches & Managers should consult the Referee for the actual start time at the field 20 minutes after the delay, only if it is safe to do so.
- i) See Rule 36 for wet weather arrangements for Semi-Finals, Preliminary Finals and Grand Finals.

Reason: *This interpretation has been used for years but needed some more detail in the rule.*

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Rule 14. Deferments

- a) ~~NO DEFERMENTS ARE ALLOWED FOR GAMES SCHEDULED ON THE LAST TWO 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 (~~TWO for including~~ Open Female Comp) 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 dates & times for the game to be replayed. At least ONE of these must be either a Friday night or Sunday timeslot. 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 preferable (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~~

Reason: *We have found over the last few years that deferring in the last couple of rounds leaves no time to replay the game at a time that suits the non-deferring team & can put them at a disadvantage which is not the intent of the rule.*

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Rule 16. Ground Officials

f) Senior Ground Official (SGO) – For each venue in use, the Home Club must appoint one Senior Ground Official (SGO) who is at least 18, not playing/coaching at that time, and present for the venue’s fixtures, until relieved by another SGO (See 16h). If no separate SGO is named, the Ground Official for the highest age group or grade (playing at the time) is deemed the SGO by default. The SGO must be readily identifiable (e.g., high-vis vest)

g) Duties of the SGO include:

- (i) making weather/safety decisions delegated by ODFA (e.g., lightning holds under Rule 13(h));
- (ii) coordinating with the Competition Secretary, Referee Executive, and Match Officials;
- (iii) communicating delay/restart/cancellation timings to team officials

h) Delegation – The SGO may temporarily delegate duties to a substitute SGO (who meets the criteria in 16(f)), including another Ground Official, but must hand over in person and ensure the substitute is identifiable and known to teams and officials.

- a) i) **Non-compliance –** Where a field has no SGO (or default Ground Official acting as SGO), it is treated as a breach of Rule 16 and subject to the same graduated sanctions as Ground Official breaches
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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.

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-over** 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.** 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. **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.**

Reason: In the past there is some confusion if the 5th or 6th game locked the player to the higher grade. There was no distinction what grade a C grade player would be “locked” to if they played 3 A Grade games & 2 B Grade games. The U18 rule needed some words of clarification.

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 **without written approval from parent/guardian. This form can be provided by contacting the ODFA**

Reason: We now have a parental consent form for anybody wishing to play more than 2 years above their age.

Additional Notes:

Rule 25 – Suspension - Suspended players Reason: Is what is sent out during the season

"Any suspended players must remain at least 15m from either technical area & 8m back from the sideline (eg 5m back from the fenceline of BSF) & remain at least 10m from any other person who was involved in the incident which led to the suspension. Any participant receiving a red card during a match should also adhere to the before mentioned distance limits.

FNSW Rule 15.6 (ii) provides the ODFA scope to enforce a greater distance limit on the suspended player if it is found to be necessary.

Spectators / suspended players / club & team officials can & will be removed from the venue, if deemed necessary, if they get involved in any incident during the game.

Matches can be abandoned by Match Officials, ODFA Executive and Senior Ground Officials if participants are involved in incidents which delay the game or participants do not follow directives of the Match Officials, ODFA Executive and Senior Ground Officials (ODFA Rule 15)

FNSW 15.6 *(was correct numbering in 2025. Numbering might be different in following years).*

(i) While serving a Fixture Suspension, a Participant must not, on the day of a Fixture, act in any manner or role for which they have been suspended.

(j) For the purposes of section 15.6(i), a Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension as a Player or Official must not:

- i. enter the Field of Play, its surrounds, the Technical Area, Players' race or dressing rooms;
- ii. enter any other place within a stadium, venue, ground or Centre where Players and/or Officials are likely to assemble;
- iii. be seated in an area in a stadium, venue, ground or Centre normally reserved for Players and/or Officials;
- iv. have any contact with a Match Official;

Rule 28 – Eligibility of Players in Championship Series Fixtures - (Semi Finals, Preliminary Finals & Grand Finals). Reason: More explanation & expanded ruling if a team only has 9 available.

B) Lower grade players MUST not interchange with any player. They are old style "substitutes"

If a team has 13 players for a Championship game they cannot use any lower grade players on the bench.

If a team has 12 players for a Championship game, these 12 players can interchange as per normal, the ONE allowed lower grade player can only substitute for a player once the team is about to fall below 11 players. No interchange is then allowed as the player who left the field is permanently substituted.

If a team has 11 players for a Championship game, the TWO allowed lower grade players can only substitute for a player once the team is about to fall below 11 players. No interchange is then allowed as the player who left the field is permanently substituted.

If a team has 10 players for a Championship game, the THREE allowed lower grade players can only substitute for a player once the team is about to fall below 11 players. No interchange is then allowed as the player who left the field is permanently substituted.

AND SO ON

Rule 29 – General Eligibility Rules Reason: Happened this season so more explanation needed

If the need arises a Lower grade player can play the 2nd half in a higher grade when the 2 games are on at the same time as long as they were entered in both Match Sheets before the cutoff (half way through the first half).

Discussion Items from Clubs:

Could we get rid of the option to defer a game. We feel that our club has been on the receiving end of deferred games which puts pressure on teams as it means often that teams play twice in a weekend.

ODFA: Over the years we have found that there are always some teams that struggle for player numbers & deferments are important to keep them involved in the comps. With Referee numbers being tight & our games spread over Friday, Sat & Sunday teams require the deferment option to remain.

ODFA Meeting of clubs: Deferments are seen as necessary to keep teams involved mainly from our smaller clubs & schools who don't have lower grades to bring players from or have holidays during the season.

The filming policy for games we would like to be using the veo camera at games so just clear rules as to what's involved with other clubs etc.

ODFA: We spoke about this a few meetings ago & there are no rules around filming it's what is done with the video after that can be a problem. If a club wants to film throughout the season, it would be great if they confirmed this at an early season meeting.

ODFA Meeting of clubs: No rules necessary yet, but common courtesy says other teams & Referees should be informed. Referees have said some inexperienced Refs will/might avoid games to be filmed, which is understandable, as our players or coaches would also not like somebody highlighting any mistakes they make during a game.

1. Yellow Card Infringements Rule 23 should be changed. It should be brought in line with Football NSW rules i.e. the accumulation of 5 yellows should result in a one-match ban, not the accumulation of 4 yellow cards resulting in a 2-match ban. After that, the accumulation of an additional 3 yellows will result in a two-match ban.

ODFA: With the abuse of Match Officials, a leading reason for Referees dropping out, we do not believe any reduction would be wise.

Not always, but generally the people caught up by this rule have some infractions because of Referee dissent and are generally the players that are well known as making Refereeing harder than it should be. .

Season	4 yellow cards	6 yellow cards
2023	4	0
2024	3	1
2025	7* (* 1 in 2025 GF, so no 2025 suspension) (will be in 2026)	0

Only one player in the last 3 seasons has been caught up by the 6 yellow rule, so no good reason to change that.

ODFA Meeting of clubs: Discussion finished at 1 match suspension for 4 yellow cards. 6 yellow remains the same.

2. We believe the grades should be renamed to 1st Grade, 2nd Grade and 3rd Division

ODFA: Either / or. Unless huge reasons we would keep as is.....

ODFA Meeting of clubs: The changes to trophies/ DRIBL are not seen as worth it.

* Juniors registered in a lower grade can play up in a higher grade with no game limit, i.e. not limited to the 5-game rule.

ODFA: The alternative opinion says that if a player plays that many games in a higher grade they probably should be in that grade.

ODFA Meeting of clubs: Discussion had many points of view but it was decided to leave as is.

* Goalkeepers can play in a higher grade and are not limited to the 5-game rule playing in a higher grade (provided they are playing goalkeeper in the higher grade)

ODFA: In principle a possible option but DRIBL cannot handle different rules for GKs so would need to be communicated to ODFA each time a GK wants to play a higher grade.

ODFA Meeting of clubs: Discussion had many points of view but it was decided to allow lower grade GKs to play in a higher without a limit. The club must inform the ODFA when a GK has

played their 4th game in the higher grade & before any other games in the higher grade so DRIBL can be adjusted. The ODFA Executive will have right of refusal if the rule is being abused.

* Each registered team is limited to one deferral per year; after this, they can only forfeit.

ODFA: This is the current rule for everybody apart from Open Women's. If we believe the comp is mature enough after 3 yrs to reduce to one deferral this can be looked at.

ODFA Meeting of clubs: Open Women will be reduced to one game.

we believe that the deferment rules need to be changed, the whole deferment situation adds a level of uncertainty to the comp as well as stress to volunteers within clubs, referees and yourself.

we believe a simple play or forfeit rule should be in place.

ODFA: Over the years we have found that there are always some teams that struggle for player numbers & deferments are important to keep them involved in the comps. With Referee numbers being tight & our games spread over Friday, Sat & Sunday teams require the deferment option to remain.

ODFA Meeting of clubs: As previous request further up these notes.

To assist with this I would suggest relieving the play up play down rules within the comp. My suggestion (also just brainstorming) would be to incorporate a play down rule and create a max games say 3 games (excludes higher grade players from finals in lower grades) and perhaps only a 1 grade jump eg A Grade player can play B but not C that way the jump in possible skill is not significant.

ODFA: A play down is not supported for many reasons, some teams don't have a team in higher grades to use, so at a big disadvantage, higher grade players playing down can effect an important game that a team needs to win to make semis etc. Also DRIBL wont allow play up & play down as you have to set the movement of players one way or the other.

ODFA Meeting of clubs: No

I think the playing up rule allows for particularly juniors to experience some higher grade soccer if they deserve it without being stuck. And it can also assist in more games getting played without players worrying if they will get stuck.

ODFA: The alternative opinion says that if a player plays that many games in a higher grade they probably should be in that grade.

ODFA Meeting of clubs: As previous request further up these notes.

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Coach Training.

Can you please promote this amongst your Rep Coaches and Clubs.

C Diploma

Saturday October 25th/ Sunday October 26th

Saturday November 15th/Sunday November 16th of November

9:00am - 4:00pm each day

Proctor Park, Gormans Hill Rd, Bathurst NSW

\$950 at time of registration

Register Here

<https://learn.footballaustralia.com.au/training/index.cfm?event=event.assessment.view&eventId=682fd447f7a6fc001aa1109e>

Coaches must have a Foundation Of Football (current or historical) to register for the C Diploma.

Any request for payment plans must be sent to andrew@footballnsw.com.au

Thanks.
Ricky Guilot

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We have an exclusive webinar opportunity coming up on Monday the 3rd of November at 7pm.

We have taken on feedback and designed a webinar to support grassroots club administrators, so they are able to support their community coaches.

Supporting grassroots coaches!

Date: Monday, 3rd of November

Time: 7pm

We've created a **Grassroots Coach Enrolment Presentation** to help community clubs:

- *Understand coaching course options (MiniRoos & Foundations of Football)*
- *Learn how to enrol & meet prerequisites*
- *Explore workshops and other learning opportunities*
- *Connect coach education with building club capability*
- *Clubs can use this resource to strengthen their administrators, support their coaches, and prepare for the 2026 grassroots season.*

[Register HERE](#)

We're excited to announce that at the end of the webinar, x5 clubs will be drawn at random to receive a free sports session planner licence kindly donated by Football NSW's coach education partner - sport session planner.

The meeting link will be sent 48 hours in advance of event.

Meeting Closed:8:40pm.....

Next Meeting: ODFA AGM Monday 10th Nov