

# TOWNSVILLE FOOTBALL

Senior

Rules of Competition

2012

February 2012

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## **RULES OF COMPETITION**

### **1. COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

**Participation in any level of competition is subject to the payment of a nomination fee to be notified by Townsville Football. Townsville Football will not accept nominations to participate in any competition if the Club is un-financial with Townsville Football.**

**No affiliated club shall be permitted to commence playing in the Townsville Football competition for the 2012 season if they are un-financial with Townsville Football at the commencement of competition.**

### **Promotion and Relegation**

#### **Men's Premier League**

There will be no promotion and relegation process for this division.

#### **Men's Reserve Division**

There will be no promotion and relegation process for this division.

#### **Men's Second Division**

There will be no promotion and relegation process for this division.

#### **Women's League**

There will be no promotion and relegation process for this division.

#### **Youth Divisions – Colts (Males) Fillies (Female)**

There will be no promotion and relegation process for these divisions.

#### **Men's Premier League Composition**

The Premier League Competition shall comprise of nine (9) club teams and one (1) North Queensland U19 team. All participating clubs are required to field a Premier League and Reserve Division team. This Competition shall be contested over Eighteen (18) fixture rounds on a "Home and Away" basis. It should be noted that the North Queensland U19 team is eligible to win the league competition and all matches it participates in are played for points.

The team finishing top of the Premier League at the conclusion of the "Home and Away" season will be crowned League Champions. At the conclusion of the fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up. The North Queensland U19 side is eligible to participate in the finals series should it finish in the top four (4) placed teams in the league competition. (Refer to finals series rules)

#### **Reserve Division Composition**

The Reserve Grade Competition shall comprise of nine (9) club teams and one (1) North Queensland U17 team. All clubs nominated and accepted into the premier league must have a Reserve Division side. (See premier league above) North Queensland Football will participate in the Reserve Division competition with an U17 Youth team. The NQ U17 Youth team will be permitted to field a maximum of three (3) U19 players at any one time. It should be noted that the North Queensland U17 team is eligible to win the league competition and all matches it participates in are played for points.

The team finishing top of the Reserve Division at the conclusion of the "Home and Away" season will be crowned League Champions. At the conclusion of the fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up. The North Queensland U17 side is eligible to participate in the finals series should it finish in the top four (4) placed teams in the league competition. (Refer to Finals Series Rules).

### **Division 2 Composition**

The composition will be determined on an Annual Basis, by a club nominating to participate in this division and acceptance by the C.A. For the 2012 competition season the Second Division will consist of a first round, round robin with all nominated teams. For the second round of competition the nominated teams will be split into two pools determined by finishing places in the first round.

The team finishing top of each pool in the Second Division League at the conclusion of the season (with Pool A consisting of the top six teams playing "Home and Away" in the second round, and Pool B consisting of the remaining seven teams to play each other once in the second round) will be crowned League Champions in the respective pools. At the conclusion of the 2011 fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams in each pool will participate in a Final Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up.

### **Women's League Composition**

The composition will be determined on an Annual Basis, by a club nominating to participate in this division and acceptance by the C.A. For the 2012 competition season the Women's division will consist of a first round, round robin with all nominated teams. For the second round of competition the nominated teams will be split into two pools determined by finishing places in the first round, round robin.

The team finishing top of each pool in the Women's League at the conclusion of the "Home and Away" season will be crowned League Champions in the respective pools. At the conclusion of the 2012 fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams in each pool will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up.

### **Youth Divisions (Colts Males & Fillies Female) Composition**

The composition will be determined on an Annual Basis, by a club nominating to participate in this division and acceptance by the C.A.

The team finishing top at the conclusion of the "Home and Away" season will be crowned League Champions. At the conclusion of the fixture season, the top four (4) placed teams in each Division will participate in a Finals Series to determine the Grand Final Winners and Runners Up. (Refer to Finals Series Rules).

North Queensland Zone Junior Premier League teams and the North Queensland U19 and U17 teams participating in senior competitions are eligible to play for their respective premierships and finals series.

### **All Matches to be Sanctioned**

Clubs shall not arrange matches other than Townsville Football fixture matches unless special permission is granted by the C.A.

### **Withdrawal of Teams**

Should a Club, having nominated a team for competition in any year and such team is accepted by the C.A., then elect to withdraw that team prior to two (2) weeks before the commencement of the season in the year of nomination, that Club **may be** fined to a maximum of \$500.

Should a Club withdraw an accepted team after two (2) weeks of the commencement of the season in the year of nomination that Club **may be** fined to a maximum of \$750.

In both cases mentioned above the nomination fee is forfeited on withdrawal of a team.

In determining a penalty the C.A. will take into account all circumstances surrounding the withdrawal of a team.

## 2. INSURANCE

Player Accident and Associated Liability insurance cover is taken out by Football Queensland on behalf of all participants with an appointed insurer.

The policy details and Claims Procedure will be advised to all clubs as soon as finalised each season.

## 3. ELIGIBILITY / NON-ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

### Eligible Players

A Player is eligible to play in his / her team, provided he / she has been registered in line with the C.A. and National Registration and Transfer Procedures and Registration Guidelines, and is not under suspension by Townsville Football or other Federation.

### Minimum Age – Colts & Fillies Players

Male - Players to be eligible to play in these divisions shall be fifteen (15) years and over, prior to the commencement of the season.

Female - Players to be eligible to play in these divisions shall be fourteen (14) years and over, prior to the commencement of the season.

### Minimum Age - Open Men & Women Players

Male - Players to be eligible to play in these divisions shall be sixteen (16) years and over, prior to the commencement of the season.

Female - Players to be eligible to play in these divisions shall be fifteen ((15) years and over, prior to the commencement of the season.

Special circumstances may be considered by Townsville Football upon written application.

### Ineligible Players

(a) Any player not registered as per the C.A. and National Registration and Transfer Procedures and Registration Guidelines for the current season is considered ineligible and is not permitted to participate in any Competition.

(b) Any player under suspension by the C.A. or any other Federation will be deemed ineligible, and is not permitted to participate in any C.A. fixture until that suspension is served. This includes automatic suspensions for yellow and red cards along with penalties determined by the C.A. Disciplinary Committee.

(c) Where a player is listed as a reserve and does not take the field, he/she is deemed **not** to have played.

### Youth Competitions

The C.A. has no restriction on the use of the participation of youth players in other Townsville Football competitions. A youth player is eligible to play in any other C.A. competition on the same weekend regardless of his / her participation in a Youth Division fixture. Please note the qualifying requirements for finals eligibility under the Player Eligibility – Finals Series clause.

A youth player must be 18 years of age or under as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December for that playing year.

### **Player Eligibility – Divisional Replacement**

A Club who plays in their team four (4) or more Players, who have all participated in the two (2) immediately prior consecutive fixture matches in a higher TF division, shall be deemed guilty of stacking that team.

Such Players shall be deemed ineligible. The match shall be awarded to the opponents with the goals recorded 3 - 0 in their opponents favour.

The NQ Under 19 players will be administered according to the QSL rules regarding casual availability to play in the QSL, and will be monitored by Townsville Football. (Refer QSL rules for further clarification).

For the purpose of determining the status of divisions.

- (a) National Competition – Football Federation Australia A-League deemed to be higher than Queensland State League
- (b) State Competition – Queensland State League deemed to be higher than Premier League
- (c) Premier League deemed to be higher than Reserve Division
- (d) Reserve Division deemed to be higher than Second Division
- (e) Second Division deemed to be higher than Third Division

The above ruling does not apply to the Youth Divisions (Colts and Fillies)

### **Protest – Playing Ineligible Player**

Any club is permitted to lodge a letter of protest regarding the alleged fielding of an ineligible player. The protest must be in writing under club letterhead detailing match and player details and be forwarded to the office of the C.A.

An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident will be undertaken immediately.

### **Penalties and Outcomes**

In the event that the protest is proven, then the following will apply:

- The club found guilty shall forfeit any goals scored and points gained in that match and the points and match will be awarded to the opposing club.
- The game will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the protesting club, unless the final result was of a greater margin in favour of the protesting club.
- The C.A. may impose a fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club or player.

In the event that the protest is dismissed, then the match result will stand.

### **Player Eligibility – Final Series**

To compete in the Finals Series for all divisions (including youth – Colts and Fillies) players must have played a minimum of 50% of the eligible fixture games for that division.

If a player is suspended for any period of time during the season, he/she will be deemed to have participated in the fixtures in the division which he/she incurred the suspension.

Where a player is listed as a reserve and does not take the field he/she is deemed **not** to have played. Substitutions must be noted on the team sheet – should no substitutions be recorded, then each player listed as a reserve will be deemed as having taken the field.

Special circumstances may be considered by the C.A.

A written appeal detailing all matches played and reasons for appeal must be submitted to the C.A. at least 14 days prior to the final series commencing.

#### **4. REGISTRATION & TRANSFERS - refer National Registration Regulations**

To ensure football is regulated in a consistent & coordinated manner, clubs are required to follow the National Registration Regulations.

A player may register with one Club only of his/her choice. A Club must not allow a player to participate in football until he/she has registered by completing the Registration through My Football Club.

##### **Re-registering of an Amateur Player:**

Players cannot move from a Club without completing and producing a Cancellation of Amateur Player (NRR08) Form. This form is required to be signed by the Player, Club & Competition Administrator before a player can re-register with another Club. The new club completes a Supplementary Registration (NRR11) Form with use of the Players FFA Identification number.

Grievance Process begins if a Club refuses to release a player by not signing the Cancellation form for legitimate grounds.

##### **Priority of Registration**

In the event of a Player registering for more than one Club, priority of registration shall be the deciding factor, the Management Committee shall investigate the circumstances under which the registration took place and, having made their determination, shall notify the Club submitting the latter registration of the prior registration.

Any Player found to have wilfully registered for more than one Club, or a Club found to have knowingly induced a registered Player of another Club to register, shall be dealt with by the Management Committee in such manner as they shall think fit.

##### **Registration Fees**

Clubs will be billed 50% of the registration fees on the 31st March 2012, a further 30% on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 and the balance of 20% on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

Any new registrations after July 31 must be accompanied with the prescribed registration fee.

##### **De-Registration Fees**

The following player de-registration fees will apply for each season:

###### **1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> April –**

No fee (if a registered player is de-registered in this period)

###### **1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> June –**

\$40.00 fee (if a registered player is de-registered in this period)

###### **1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> December –**

Full Townsville Football registration fees will apply to any de-registrations in this period.

## 5. FINAL SERIES FORMAT

No Club will be permitted to participate in the Finals Series if they are un-financial in the current season with Townsville Football. Townsville Football prior to the commencement of the finals series will advise all clubs as to their respective financial status with regard to participating in the finals series.

The C.A. will announce the relevant kick-off times and a venue for all Finals Series matches.

The final series will be contested by the top four teams as follows:

Week 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Semi Final 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semi Final	1 <sup>st</sup> placed team vs. 2 <sup>nd</sup> placed team 3 <sup>rd</sup> placed team vs. 4 <sup>th</sup> placed team
	Winner 1 v 2 progresses straight to Week 3 Grand Final Winner 3 v 4 progresses to Week 2 Preliminary Final Loser 3 v 4 is eliminated	
Week 2	Preliminary Final	Loser 1 v 2 plays winner of 3 v 4
	Winner progresses to Week 3 Grand Final Loser is eliminated	
Week 3	Grand Final	Winner of Week 1, 1 v 2 plays winner of Week 2 Preliminary Final

**NOTE:** North Queensland teams playing in the senior competitions will be eligible to participate in the final series.

### Final Series Rules

The games will consist of 2 x 45 minute halves for all divisions (male and female).

For the Semi Finals and Grand Final, should the scores be equal after normal time, then 2 x 15 minute periods of extra time shall be played in full. Should the result still be equal after extra time, a penalty shoot-out shall apply.

### Goal Difference

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

- The League Champions;
- The team or teams eligible for promotion to a higher division if applicable;
- The team or teams to be relegated to a lower division if applicable;
- The teams eligible to enter the Semi-Finals in the respective divisions.

In all cases where goal difference is taken into account the manner in which it shall be arrived at shall be as follows:

- The number of goals AGAINST subtracted from the number of goals FOR.
- The HIGHEST resultant plus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to plus goal difference; *or*
- The LOWEST resultant minus figure from such subtraction shall be deemed to have the best goal difference and shall take precedence in determining positions in respect to minus goal difference.
- In the case of goal difference being equal the team scoring the greater number of goals FOR shall be declared the winner.

In the event of teams being equal as determined in the foregoing paragraphs, the teams shall play a one (1) game off to determine their respective positions. The final series rules will apply.

## 6. DECISIONS OF THE MATCH OFFICIAL

All decisions of the match referee are final and binding as far as the result of a match is concerned, and no protest can be lodged.

## 7. SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS

### **Premier League, Reserve Grade, Division 2**

Each team can make **UP TO** Four (4) Substitutions in any given fixture, with **NO MORE THAN** Five (5) Substitutes permitted to be named on the Team Sheet.

### **Women's League**

Each team can **only** make three (3) interchanges per half. Six (6) interchanges in total, in any given fixture, with no more than five (5) interchange players to be named on the team sheet. Note: Unused first half interchanges do not carry in the second half. In the case of finals series matches going into extra time, any unused second half interchanges can be carried into the extra time period.

### **Youth Divisions – Colts & Fillies**

Each team can make unlimited interchanges in each half of the match. There will be no interchange permitted in the last ten (10 Minutes of each half of the match). A maximum of five (5) interchange players per team can be named on the team sheet.

All substitute / interchange players must be seated within the Technical Area. Substitute / interchange players are permitted to warm up outside of the Technical Area, provided they are wearing an alternative coloured uniform to the team strip. When warming up, substitute / interchange players are requested to choose an area furthest from the opposing team.

### **FINALS:**

**Colts and Fillies:** Each team can make unlimited interchanges in each half of the match. There will be no interchange permitted in the last ten (10 minutes of each half of the match). There will be no interchange in the last five minutes of each half of extra time. A maximum of five (5) interchange players per team can be named on the team sheet,

## 8. TECHNICAL AREA

Each club must clearly mark out the Technical Area as stipulated by FIFA guidelines.

1. The Technical Area shall extend no further than One (1) Metre either side (left or right) of the substitute's bench, and forward up to One (1) Metre from the touchline.
2. A maximum of ten (10) persons are permitted to be within the confines of the Technical Area. They include the Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, the substitute / interchange players and either the Team Trainer or Medical Staff.
3. A team official may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match but must return to his/her position after doing so.
4. All team officials must remain within the confines of the technical area and they must behave in a responsible manner. The appointed Match Official reserves the right to eject any person from the technical area at any time as he or she sees fit. The game will not recommence until that person has left the playing field to the referee's satisfaction.
5. Provision is made for the Regional Directors of Coaching and appointed Referees Inspectors to enter and be present in Technical Areas to offer assistance to coaching staff and for assessment purposes.

## 9. FIXTURE POINTS

In all fixtures, match points will be awarded as follows:

*WIN Three (3) Points*

*DRAW One (1) Point*

*LOSS Nil Points*

## 10. DURATION OF FIXTURES

All male Division matches (Colts, 3<sup>rd</sup>s, 2<sup>nd</sup>s, Reserves & Premier) shall be 45 minute halves in duration with a 10 minute half time break

All Women's League matches (Fillies & Premier) shall be 45 minute halves in duration with a 10 minute half time break

After normal time the appointed Referee may add on Injury / Stoppage Time as he/she sees fit. The appointed match official reserves the right to curtail any match if, in the referee's opinion, playing conditions compromise player safety.

## 11. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

**Please note the distinction between the roles of Team Officials and Ground Officials.**

### Facilities/Ground Arrangements

The home club must ensure:

- the ground is correctly marked, including the technical area;
- the ground markings (by-lines) are set a minimum of 3 metres from the playing field fence (in all directions);
- it provides suitable goal nets and corner flags safely fastened or pegged to the ground;
- it provides toilet facilities and dressing room facilities that are hygienic and clean;
- it has adequate refreshment / canteen facilities open to the public;
- it provides a safe environment for players, officials and spectators;
- it provides a Referee's Room where referees can rest and leave their belongings while on the park. This area must contain seating and be lockable.

Any club whose facilities do not meet the requirements specified may be fined, suspended or have its home fixtures played away.

### Team Officials

Clubs are responsible for their appointed Team Officials (Coaches, Managers, and Medical Staff) and they should be made aware that they are governed by a Code of Conduct. Penalties or suspension of team officials, fines, and good behaviour bonds, can be levied upon such persons and clubs, where it is found that Team Officials have breached the Code of Conduct.

1. Team Officials are only covered by insurance provided the Club has appointed and registered them. With regards to Team Trainers or Medical Staff, Clubs should not use the services of any other person to treat players in regard to injuries, unless such persons have their own insurance coverage to safeguard themselves if any legal action is implemented as a result of treatment of injuries.
2. Team Officials must remain within the technical area
3. Team Officials are responsible for keeping all players behaving in an appropriate manner at all times before, during and after any game.
4. Team Officials are not to argue or address any disagreements or comment direct to a referee. Any complaints should be advised to the club who should then advise the C. A. on Club letterhead.
5. A Team Official can only enter the field of play when the referee indicates he may.

## Team Sheets

On match day, both teams are required to complete an official C.A. Team Sheet NOT LESS THAN Thirty (30) Minutes prior to the commencement of any match. The team sheet must list **all players** taking part in the fixture.

Where possible, all players must ensure that they have signed the Team Sheet before it is handed to the match referee. In the event a player is unable to sign the team sheet prior to the commencement of the fixture, it is the responsibility of the club official to ensure that player is listed on the team sheet. **That player then has until the conclusion of the half time interval to sign the Team Sheet and must do so in front of the match referee.**

Should any listed player fail to sign the Team Sheet by the conclusion of the half time interval and participates in the fixture, then that player will be deemed to be in breach of the Rules of Competition and the club will be disciplined as follows:

1. If it is established that the player **was** legitimately registered and eligible to play, then the club will be fined for each offence, and the match result will stand.
2. If it is established that the player **was not** legitimately registered or ineligible to play, then the club and player will be charged with Misconduct and summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee. If the club and/or player are found guilty of the charge, the C.A. reserves the right to fine, suspend, expel or take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary against the offending club or player. The game will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the protesting club, unless the final result was of a greater margin in favour of the protesting club.

It is the club's responsibility to ensure:

- It has minimum number of seven (7) players to commence the match,
- That it does not list more than 16 players on the Team Sheet.
- All players taking the field are eligible to play.
- All players taking the field of play are correctly listed on the team sheet in legible writing.
- All players taking the field of play have signed the Team Sheet.
- All players are ready to commence the fixture at the scheduled kick-off time.
- All players wear the appropriate licensed apparel, before taking the field of play.

Players shall keep tidy on the field of play, shirts hanging out; socks rolled down will be subject to action by the match referee where appropriate.

Should it be found that a club failed to list and therefore fielded an ineligible player in a Townsville Football fixture the club will be subject to disciplinary action. In the event that both clubs are found to have listed and/or played ineligible players in the same fixture, the C.A. will deem the match a **NO RESULT**, whereby, no points will be awarded. In addition, both clubs will be disciplined.

## Ground Officials

It is the responsibility of the Home Club to provide at least one (1) Ground Official for all sanctioned matches, who must be clearly identifiable by way of uniform, official's armband or vest and must identify themselves to the appointed Match Official prior to kick-off of each fixture.

Ground Officials are to be visible at all times and one must be designated to provide an escort to all Match Officials, if requested, along with an official from the away team before Kick-Off, at Half Time and Full Time.

The ground official cannot be a Team Official whose game is in progress on the park, nor can the Ground Official be the canteen supervisor.

The duties of the club ground official, on match days, are many and varied. The smooth running of the day calls for an efficient and vigilant ground official ready for whatever comes along. The ground official should:

#### **Before the Match**

1. Check the referees' designated area and make sure it is clean and comfortable.
2. Check the Dressing Rooms and make sure they are clean and comfortable.
3. Upon the arrival of the referees, make known to them that you are the ground official in case they need assistance.
4. If an official referee is not present, ensure that a referee is arranged by the club.
5. Ensure that 3 licensed match balls are available for the referee.
6. Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees to the field of play, if requested.

#### **During the Match**

1. Ensure that the spectators' behaviour is orderly and is not abusive to the referee or his assistants, players or other spectators.
2. Direct and assist any ambulance if called to attend a player or any other person.
3. Escort Referee and Assistant Referees, if requested, to and from the field of play at the half-time break.
4. Be of assistance where possible.
5. Ensure at all times that the Laws of the Game and the C.A. rules, governing the technical area are adhered to.

#### **After the Match**

1. Ensure the referees' safety at all times.
2. Ensure that both teams leave the grounds in a proper and orderly manner.
3. Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees from the field of play, if requested.

**Note: If no ground official is available the match referee should record the fact of no Ground official on both team sheets.**

#### **Alcohol Consumption**

Alcohol is only to be consumed in defined licensed areas at any club. Failure of any person to adhere to rules in this regard may jeopardise that club's license. Townsville Football maintains a policy of no consumption of alcohol outside of licensed areas. The designated ground official is responsible for ensuring all persons comply with this rule.

Should persons be seen to be in breach of this rule, the ground official must advise such person to conform to the rules immediately. Should such person refuse to adhere to that request, the ground official shall be at liberty to contact the police to have such person removed.

Clubs registered with Townsville Football and who operate a licensed bar are required to provide Townsville Football with a copy of their licence prior to the commencement of the current years competition.

#### **Match Balls**

The Home Club shall provide the appointed Match Referee **Three (3) Licensed Match Balls** (Size 5), **NO LATER THAN** Thirty (30) Minutes prior to the commencement of the scheduled fixture. At the conclusion of the fixture, the Home club official shall request the return of the match balls. **In the case of all finals matches, the Home Club is the first named team in the draw.**

All C.A. fixtures must use a licensed match ball of 'match ball' quality from one of the following licensed ball manufacturers:

Licensed Suppliers for 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013 as follows:

- Attack
- Gorilla
- Veto
- Mitre
- SSI
- Uhlsport
- Alanic Group
- NSB Sports
- Only Sport
- Living Edge Designs
- Nike
- Adidas

Referees will report breaches of the match ball licensing arrangement to the C.A. Failure to use any of the prescribed brands will result in the club being fined.

### **Playing Strip**

Each Club by **December 31** each year shall submit to the C.A. in writing on club letter head, details including photographs of their primary colours for playing shirts, shorts & socks for both home & away strips. The C.A. will approve and register all strips if appropriate. A schedule of all registered club colours and strip format for Home and Alternate strips will be distributed to all clubs.

Failure to comply may incur a sanction to be determined by the C.A.

All players (field players & goal keepers) must wear numbered playing shirts which correspond with player numbers against each player's name on the team sheet. In the case of a goal keeper being substituted by a field player the replacement goal keeper may use the substituted goal keeper's shirt. Team officials must notify the referee of the change.

All clubs must nominate a "Home" and have available an "Alternate" strip. The alternative strip (shirts, shorts & socks) should not clash with the nominated "Home" strip. All gear worn must have the "Q" logo attached by the manufacturing company. This must be requested when ordering.

All first named Clubs in the draw will be deemed the "Home" team and therefore will play in their nominated colours. In the event there is a clash of colours with the visiting team, **it will be the responsibility of the visiting team** to change into an alternative strip. Team managers are urged to check the apparel worn by their opponents on a weekly basis to avoid the likelihood of a clash of strips. Goalkeepers shall wear any colour provided it does not clash with either team or referee.

Borrowing opposition club strips either in part or full to fulfil an away team alternate strip is strictly forbidden and may result in disciplinary action.

Referees will report breaches of the licensing arrangement to the C.A. Office. Football Queensland regulations provide that any clubs that breaches the apparel licensing requirements will be liable to a **fine of up to a maximum of \$1,000.00** for each breach.

### **Field Lighting**

Clubs wishing to host night fixtures during the season must submit certified field lighting audits when requested to do so by the C.A. The clubs will have one (1) calendar month from the date of the C.A. request to submit a certified field lighting audit. On submission and confirmation of the certified audit the C.A. will grant approval for the club to host night fixtures. If a certified audit is not submitted within one (1) calendar month of the C.A. request, approval for night fixtures will not be granted. The certified field lighting audit shall be less than 24 months old.

Recommendations for Football field lighting detailed in the Australian Standard AS2560 part 2.3 "Lighting for Football" includes; Minimum Service Illuminance Lux (Average) 100 and Minimum Uniformity Ratio (Min:Ave) 0.5 for Competition.

For match practice that involves risk of full body contact, lighting values for competition play are recommended.

### **Water Bottles**

Due to health concerns, buckets and sponges are banned, and water bottles or individual cups are recommended. For safety reasons, under no circumstances are water bottles to be thrown either on or off the field.

### **Results of Fixtures**

The Results of fixtures must be conveyed to the C.A. office, or nominated person, by no later than 6.30pm Sunday. Failure to telephone the match result by 6.30pm on Sunday will result in an automatic fine of \$50.00. (For matches with a start time of 5.00pm the deadline is 7.30pm) The C.A. will advise all clubs prior to the commencement of the competition fixtures the contact details for the supply of results.

### **First Aid**

All clubs should endeavour to provide that a person trained in first aid is available during matches.

If any player is deemed to have suffered an injury which is determined by Match and/or Club Officials to warrant calling an ambulance to transport the injured player to hospital or medical facility, the player should not be moved until assessed by ambulance personnel.

### **Teams - Appropriate Representation**

The C.A. shall have the power to impose such penalty as they deem fit upon Clubs which they find to have brought the Code into disrepute by not playing their best teams in the appropriate divisions in which they are engaged.

## **12. REFEREE'S INFORMATION**

### **Appointment of Referees**

Referees for all C.A. fixtures shall be appointed by the Referees appointments board in conjunction with the C.A and all such appointments shall be in accordance with a grading system of Referees and fixtures where practicable.

Referees appointments are to be supplied by the Referees Body to Townsville Football by 4pm on Thursday of each playing week to ensure timely distribution to all clubs.

### **Team Sheets and Send Off/Incident Report Forms**

At the conclusion of each match, the Referee shall consult and confirm with his/her assistants prior to completing Team-Sheets and Send Off / Incident Report Forms. Referees must complete all aspects of the form and Player of the Year votes as submitted by the Club delegate.

Once completed, the Referees must hand both sets of the Team Sheet back to the clubs. The Referees are to ensure any Send Off / Incident Report Forms are forwarded to the C.A. **Match referee's are required to have completed Team Sheets, Red Card reports and Incident reports submitted to Townsville Football by no later than thirty-six hours after the conclusion of the match.**

In the event a club official approaches the match referee seeking to protest the fielding of an ineligible player, the referee should instruct the club official to lodge an official protest. A referee can also lodge a report alleging a club has used an ineligible player.

The Referee must ensure clubs DO NOT LIST more than 16 players on team sheet for any fixture.

Please note that the Team-Sheet & Send-Off / Incident Report Forms from the appointed match official will be accepted transcript.

### **Referees Fees**

Both competing Clubs shall be responsible for the payment of Referees' fees in accordance with the scale as laid down by the C.A. In the event of a forfeit the forfeiting club is responsible for all match fees.

### **Non-Attendance or Unavailability of Match Official**

Should the appointed match official fail to honour his / her appointment, then the next most senior match official will be appointed to take charge of the fixture.

Failure by Referees to meet their appointments will result in the Referees Body being asked to show cause why the referee/s should not be fined.

In the event the appointed match official is late on arrival, then the replacement match official will take charge of the fixture until the appointed match official is ready to take over.

In the event no registered match official is present to take charge of the fixture, then the designated "Home" club shall appoint a match official to take charge of the fixture. This Match Official has the same powers as a registered Match Official.

All clubs are obligated to fulfil all C.A. fixtures regardless of whether the appointed match official is present to take charge. Should any club fail or refuse to participate in any fixture on the above grounds, then:

1. the match will be awarded to the opposing team (as a 3-0 result),
2. the club will be **fined** per offence, and will be subject to further disciplinary action,
3. in the event both teams refuse to play, the C.A. reserves the right to award a NO RESULT, fine both clubs and recommend further disciplinary action.

In circumstances where a referee's assistant has not been appointed, each team is obliged to provide a club linesperson to assist the match referee.

### **Extreme Weather Conditions**

In extreme weather conditions, the C.A. or the appointed match official reserves the right to postpone, delay or abandon any fixture. If the appointed match official postpones delays or abandons any fixture due to extreme weather conditions, he / she must outline the reasons in writing within 48 hours of the decision.

All clubs, players, match officials and appointed C.A. Match Official are requested to please note the following:

- If the temperature is 32° or above, water bottles should be made available and placed along the sidelines to enable any player to take a drink during the course of the game; *and*
- If conditions are considered extreme by the match referee, he or she has discretion to allow a 2-minute break during the course of each half.

For weekend fixtures, if the home club considers a ground inspection is required, they are to ring the appointed C.A. Match Official before **8.00am**. The name and contact details for the appointed C.A. Match Official is advised at the commencement of the season.

The appointed C.A. Match Official is to meet with a Senior Club Official who will then jointly inspect the field to ascertain a number of factors, which will include:

1. Is the ground considered safe for the players and the match to proceed?
2. If so, how many matches can be played, taking into account all factors including the likely weather conditions and the expected state of the ground?

The appointed C.A. Match Official and Club Official will then reach a decision regarding the schedule of matches, with the Club being responsible for advising the opposition and C.A. in the event matches are to be postponed.

Early morning inspections are ONLY to be organised with the appointed C.A. Match Official when conditions are such that there is doubt as to the safety of the ground. In cases of light rain only, the match referee will inspect prior to the match itself. Ground inspections for mid week matches will be co-ordinated via the C.A.

In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of a C.A. Fixture through rain rendering grounds unplayable, all such fixtures shall be played or replayed at a time and under such conditions as the C.A. shall determine, provided however, that any such fixture shall be played or replayed on the home team's ground where possible.

### **Player's Equipment**

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

### **Jewellery**

In accordance with FIFA 'Laws of the Game', a player is forbidden to wear any jewellery.

### **Blood Rule**

In the event a player suffers an injury or wound which results in the loss of blood, the match official will request that the injured player receive attention outside the field of play and only when he /she is satisfied that the injury or wound is safely covered and contained, will the player be permitted to rejoin the game.

In the event the player's uniform or attire is splattered with blood, the referee will instruct that player to change his/her attire before being permitted to rejoin the game. Should the injured player be required to change his/her uniform, then the appointed match official will show discretion in allowing the player to wear an alternative numbered shirt if necessary.

## **13. PLAYER OF THE YEAR VOTES**

For all senior competitions in the 2012 competition season the Player of the Year votes will be based on the respective games and **one player** for each vote (3, 2 & 1) from **the game** will be selected by the referee, who will then record the votes on the respective team sheets. In the event that no official referee is appointed to the game, it is the responsibility of the Club referee to select and record votes. The name of the Club referee must be recorded on the team sheets. Clubs/officials will be warned three times before a fine of \$300 will be imposed if this process is not adhered to.

**Player of the Year votes are not recorded during finals series fixtures.**

#### **14. APPLICATION FOR DEPARTURE FROM FIXTURES**

Any application for departure from fixtures as laid down by the C.A. shall be in writing to the C.A. The application must be submitted fourteen (14) working days prior to the scheduled fixture.

A departure from fixture will only be reviewed if a team has three (3) or more players on representative duties during the allocated fixture time. Classification of representative duties will be decided by the CA. If fixtures are deferred or postponed, that fixture must be played within two (2) weeks from the deferred date. If both teams can't agree to a playing time then the CA will make the decision for them.

A determination will be made on each request on its merits.

#### **15. NON-PARTICIPATION OR INTERRUPTION IN A FIXTURE**

Any member club or affiliated club that fails to fulfil any of its fixture obligations arranged by the C.A., shall be fined per offence, and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

In the event the home or visiting team is not ready to commence the fixture within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, the match will be awarded to the opposing team, and the score will be recorded as a 3-0 result. The offending club may be subject to further disciplinary action.

The result of any match which does not reach its natural conclusion for any reason outlined in the Laws of the Game (Law 5) shall be decided by the C.A. either by allocation of points according to the result of the game at the time of stoppage or by ordering a full replay.

#### **FORFEITS**

- (a) In the event of a forfeit the following fines will be imposed automatically.
- (b) Premier Division fined \$500.00 per forfeit, any other division \$300.00 per forfeit . 70% of the fine will go to their opponent and 30% will go to the CA.
- (c) Townsville Football will not accept a club signifying its intent to not play other club sides from the commencement of the season as a notice of forfeit.
- (d) Any club which forfeits more than three (3) matches in any one division will be required to attend a Show Cause hearing as to why the team should not be withdrawn from the competition immediately.
- (e) In the event of inter town travelling expenses being involved they will be awarded at discretion of the C.A. against the offending Club.
- (f) In the event referees attend a match to officiate and it is forfeited, fines equivalent to the referees fees will be awarded at the discretion of the C.A against the offending Club.
- (g) Part or the entire fine may be waived at the discretion of the C.A.
- (h) Refusal to play or walk-off: The Club will be cited to appear before C.A. to show cause why it should not be subject to a fine or suspension from the competition for the remainder of the season.
- (i) Any team failing to fulfil their fixture as scheduled shall be deemed to have forfeited and shall be liable for any expenses incurred by their opponents (relative to the fixtures). In addition the match points shall be awarded to their opponents and the goals recorded as three - nil in their opponents favour.

The offending club may also be subject to further disciplinary action by the C.A.

## 16. POSTPONED FIXTURES

Fixtures may only be postponed after consultation with C.A. officials. Should any matches be deferred on any given match day, it is the responsibility of the home club to notify the C.A. by the next working day. Early notification to the C.A. will ensure that the fixture is rescheduled at the earliest date.

## 17. INCENTIVE PACKAGES FOR CLUBS

All clubs participating in the Men's Premier League competition will be levied \$200.00 towards a prize pool for the top four finishing teams in the men's premier league premierships. The C.A. will also contribute to the prize pool. Allocation of the prize pool will be as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> place	50%
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	25%
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	15%
4 <sup>th</sup> place	10%

Incentives for all other Divisions will be discretionary and subject to funding.

## 18. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

**Decisions of the disciplinary committee and penalties for playing offences will be distributed electronically or by nominated other means to club contacts as advised to the C.A.**

### Disciplinary Committee

- (a) The C.A. shall annually (January) in accordance with National Grievance Resolution Regulations appoint the Disciplinary Committee consisting of four members. (Chairman, 2 committee members and 1 referee's representative). The C.A. shall nominate alternate members to fill in when required.  
This Committee shall meet as required on Tuesday evening each week to consider disciplinary matters during the playing season.
- (b) A member of this Committee can only be removed by two (2) weeks notice of motion by the C.A., which motion shall require two-thirds majority to be passed.
- (c) A member of the Disciplinary Committee shall not arbitrate on matters involving a member of his own Club.
- (d) Quorum for the Disciplinary Committee shall be three, but in the event of Committee Members and alternates not being available the Chairman of the Committee can call upon a member of the C.A. to make up the Quorum.

### **General – refer National Disciplinary Regulations and National Grievance Resolution Regulations**

All Disciplinary Matters in this Competition will be dealt with under the powers and jurisdiction of the C.A. who reserve the right to recommend matters relating to Misconduct to the Disciplinary Committee.

Any suspensions incurred by players in this competition shall be served consecutively, until such time as those suspensions are completed. If at the conclusion of the competition season, a player was still under suspension, the suspension will carry over and shall be served in the next fixture(s) that player would normally be eligible to play.

Should a Player be suspended for an offence incurred in another Competition (excluding International and Representative Teams), the Player **will not** be permitted to play until that suspension has been served.

The C.A. reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any player who participates in the C.A. competition. The C.A. may take whatever disciplinary action it deems necessary, which may include one or a combination of the following; a fine, loss of points, a bond, expulsion or suspension, or other.

The Competition Administrator must ensure a disciplinary hearing is heard in a timely fashion to enable a player or club to have the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of the infringement and sanction before the next applicable match.

Clubs, players and other parties summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee will be advised by the issue of the Disciplinary Hearing Notice via appropriate means (email, letter or facsimile) notification prior to the hearing.

All club representatives summoned to appear must attend when advised, otherwise the charges will be determined in their absence. The Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to fine clubs that fail to appear.

Players summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee must attend either in person or by telephone. Players can write to the C.A. indicating that they have a valid reason for not attending and would like the charge(s) to be determined by the Committee in their absence. In this situation, the player must present his / her plea (guilty or not guilty) and detail his / her defence to the charge. If the player is not satisfied with the Committee's decision, they can lodge an appeal to the Board of Appeal.

## **Player Discipline**

### **The Zone System**

During the playing season the C.A. operates a "3 Zone" system in relation to caution and suspensions.

1. Pre-Season and Inter City Friendlies to include all Pre-Season and authorised trial matches and Inter City friendlies.
2. Fixture season to include all Premiership Fixtures and Cup games.
3. Finals Series to include all Finals Series games.

### **Minor Infringements – Yellow Card Accumulation**

In Zone 1 and 3, two cautions accumulated automatically means the player will be suspended for 1 match. This suspension is to take place in the next match in which this player would be involved.

In Zone 2 a player accumulating Five (5) yellow cards during the competition equates to a one (1) match suspension. A player accumulating Eight (8) yellow cards during the competition equates to a two (2) match suspension. For every three Yellow Cards thereafter, a two (2) match suspension. (For example, two (2) match suspension for 11 Yellow Cards and 14 Yellow Cards)

A Player who accumulates three (3) Yellow Cards during the course of the Finals Series, must serve a mandatory one (1) match suspension.

### **Serious Infringements – Red Card Accumulation**

In addition to the standard match suspension for the relevant offence a Player who accumulates the following number of direct Red Cards during the Regular Season or Finals Series, must serve the following mandatory match suspension:

- (a) 1st occasion, equates to a one (1) match suspension;
- (b) 2nd occasion, equates to a two (2) match suspension;
- (c) 3rd occasion, equates to a three (3) match suspension; and
- (d) 4th occasion, equates to a four (4) match suspension.

Any player that is consistently a repeat offender, may be asked by the Disciplinary Committee to Show Cause why the player should not be suspended until the duration of the season, or until advised by the disciplinary committee.

### **Minor Infringements - Yellow Card (Caution) Codes**

- Y1** is guilty of unsporting behaviour
- Y2** shows dissent by word or action
- Y3** persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- Y4** delays the restart of play
- Y5** fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- Y6** enters or re-enters the field of play without the Referee's permission
- Y7** deliberately leaves the field of play without the Referee's permission

Referees must clearly indicate the offence code on the Team-sheet before submitting to club officials for a final sign off. A player may **only** appeal against a caution on the grounds of mistaken identity. No other appeals against a caution will be considered.

### **Serious Infringements - Red Card (Expulsion) Codes**

- R1** is guilty of serious foul play
- R2** is guilty of violent conduct
- R3** spits at an opponent or any other person
- R4** denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area)
- R5** denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- R6** uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- R7** receives a second caution in the same Match

**See Annexure A Table of Offences of the National Disciplinary Regulations for detail of offences and for the range of recommended match suspensions for all Red card codes. Annexure A also includes an expansion on offences and penalties which can be applied by the CA disciplinary committee. There are Specific Offences against a Match Official and penalties listed which will be applied by the CA disciplinary committee.**

### **Serious Infringements - Red Card (Expulsion) Townsville Football Standard Minimum Suspensions**

- R1** **Mandatory 1 match suspension plus 1 additional match**
- R2** **Mandatory 1 match suspension plus 2 additional matches**
- R3** **Mandatory 1 match suspension plus 5 additional matches**
- R4** **Mandatory 1 match suspension**
- R5** **Mandatory 1 match suspension**
- R6** **Mandatory 1 match suspension plus 1 additional match**
- R7** **Mandatory 1 match suspension**

A Red Card is regarded as indirect if it is the result of the accumulation of two (2) Yellow Cards in the same Match and as direct in all other cases. Where a Player receives an indirect Red Card, he will serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Match.

Townsville Football has set the above penalties as the minimum standard penalty for each offence. As minimum standard penalties they are not subject to appeal other than on the basis of a claim of mistaken identity. If a penalty greater than the minimum standard penalty is applied by the disciplinary committee then the additional penalty only may be appealed.

The standard minimum suspensions will automatically be applied to offenders. If the match official indicates that the nature of the offence committed warrants a greater or lesser penalty than the standard minimum suspension the matter will be referred to the disciplinary committee for action.

Any player expelled from the match who fails to leave the field of play and return to the Club house/dressing room or who uses foul and abusive language towards the match official(s) after being expelled from the match, will incur **at least an additional One (1) week suspension**, in addition to any suspension handed down by the Disciplinary Committee.

A disciplinary infringement notice will be sent by email to the players club advising of the penalty following receipt of the Red Card report from the match officials.

### **Team Officials – Mandatory Match Suspension**

A referee may take action against a Team Official who fails to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may expel the Team Official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitutes' bench.

A team official who has been expelled from the field of play by a Referee must serve a mandatory match suspension of one (1) match.

### **General**

- (a) It should be noted that -
- (i) The number of matches specified in these Standard Suspensions relate to the Division of the competition in which the player incurred the suspension. Therefore a player under suspension is not allowed to play in that or any other division, whether senior or junior, until **the day after** the team in which he/she was playing when he/she was given a Red Card has played the relevant number of matches for which he/she was suspended.
  - (ii) If a player or team official disputes the disciplinary committee's determination, that player or team official must provide the Competition Administration with an appeal notice within **7 days after the date on which the written determination was received**, specifying the relevant facts and the reason for the dispute.
  - (iii) All decisions of a Disciplinary Committee remain in force unless reversed by the Appeals Committee.
  - (iv) Appeals against a Standard Suspension can only be made on the grounds of mistaken identity.
  - (v) If the offender does not wish to lodge an appeal the suspension commences from the next match after the offence.

### **Incident Reports**

Should a referee or assistant referee have a need to report an incident that occurred and is not covered by one of the above offences, he / she must lodge a written Incident Report with the C.A. as soon as possible after the event. The C.A. will refer such reports to the Disciplinary Committee for consideration.

### **Suspensions for Registered Players**

Where a player is eligible to play both Senior and Junior fixtures for the one club and is suspended in either competition he/she must serve their suspension in both competitions and cannot participate in either, until the suspension has been completed. As an example a player is suspended by the Disciplinary Committee of the C.A. for a period up to and including a certain date, then only after that date can they recommence playing in either the Senior or Junior competitions.

## **Disciplinary Committee**

The Disciplinary Committee has jurisdiction over breaches of the C.A. Code of Conduct for Players/Coaches, Club Officials, and Referees and is the initial arbitrator on all Disciplinary Matters. The Management Committee of the C.A. may also refer any matter to the Disciplinary Committee for investigation and adjudication.

The Disciplinary Committee is independent of the Management Committee of the C.A. but shall report all its findings to the Management Committee of the C.A. for ratification.

The Disciplinary Committee shall conduct Hearings into

- (i) Appeals against suspensions
- (ii) Incident reports
- (iii) Misconduct reports/complaints

All Appeals/Report/Complaints must be lodged within seven (7) days after the offence and hearings to commence no later than fourteen (14) days after the offence.

## **Club Discipline**

### **General**

In addition to Standard Suspensions and/or Mandatory Additional Suspensions, fines shall be levied against Clubs on the following basis -

#### **(a) Accumulated Yellow Cards**

- (i) Five Yellow Cards accumulated by a player **\$20**
- (ii) Eight Yellow Cards accumulated by a player **\$40**
- (iii) Eleven + Yellow Cards accumulated by a player **\$60**

#### **(b) Red Cards**

- (i) Second Red Card incurred by same player/official **\$50**
- (ii) Third Red Card incurred by same player/official **\$100**
- (iii) Fourth Red Card incurred by same player/official **\$150**

#### **(d) Incident Reports/Misconduct**

Reports on misconduct shall be accepted from referees, club members and/or spectators. These Reports must be factual (i.e. not based on supposition and/or third party allegations).

- (i) Referees shall submit Incident Reports on assault or harassment experienced during and/or after a match and such other matters as come to their notice.
- (ii) Club/Team Officials' Reports shall be submitted on Club letterhead.
- (iii) Spectators' Reports/Complaints shall be submitted in any hard copy medium and must provide the Name, Address and Contact Phone No. of the person filing the Report. On lodgement, the complainant shall be contacted to ascertain if they are prepared to attend the Disciplinary Committee Hearing and if not, the reasons for not attending.

#### **(e) Penalties for Misconduct**

Clubs shall be ultimately responsible for the behaviour of their Club Members and Supporters.

Should a Club Member or Supporter be the subject of an Disciplinary Committee Hearing to answer an allegation/s of behaving in a manner which brings the game into disrepute, then the Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to impose upon the Club whatever penalty they see fit (whether it be censure, fine, loss of points or other) which is in accordance with the C.A. Disciplinary Code.

**19. APPEAL PROCESS - Refer to National Grievance Resolution Regulations**

**All matters relating to an appeal arising from decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be dealt with under the jurisdiction of the National Grievance Resolution Regulations 2008.**

**20. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS – GENERAL**

**(a) It should be noted that**

- (i) Disciplinary Committee Hearings shall be conducted where practicable within 14 days of the date on which the incident occurred.
- (ii) All representatives at a Disciplinary Committee Hearing shall only address the Hearing with the permission of the Chairman.

**(b) Hearing of an appeal against a penalty imposed by a Club**

Persons entitled to attend shall be -

- \* Appellant and Representative
- \* Witness (1)
- \* Club Representatives/Officials (2)

Fee to be lodged with appeal \$250.00 fully refundable only if the appeal is upheld.

**(c) Hearing of an appeal against a Standard Suspension on the grounds of mistaken identity**

Persons entitled to attend shall be -

- \* Player accompanied by a Club Representative
- \* Player's Witness (1)
- \* Appointed Match Officials accompanied by Referee's Representative

Fee to be lodged with appeal \$250.00 fully refundable only if the appeal is upheld.

**21. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE HEARING of an Incident Report or Misconduct Report**

A disciplinary hearing is dealt with in accordance with the National Grievance Resolution Regulations 2008.

- (i) The hearing is held in accordance with clause 10 **Procedures at a Hearing** of the National Grievance Resolution Regulations 2008.
- (ii) **Submissions and Evidence** must be in accordance with clause 8 of the National Grievance resolution Regulations 2008.

When determining any appropriate sanction the Disciplinary Committee may consider:

- (i) The recommended sanctions as specified
- (ii) The nature and severity of the infringement
- (iii) The offenders past record and whether or not this is a repeated offence
- (iv) The culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless)
- (v) Any reasons prompting a player to commit an infringement
- (vi) The remorse of the offender
- (vii) Any extenuating circumstances

## **22. NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS**

If there is any inconsistency between a term of the National Disciplinary Regulations and term of any Competition Rules, the term of the National Disciplinary Regulations will govern to the extent of that inconsistency and the inconsistent term is void and of no effect.

## **23. RACIAL & RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION CODE**

C.A. has endorsed a Racial and Religious Vilification Code for all clubs and its players.

Under the operation of the Code, clubs will be required to ensure that players, officials and supporters do not engage in Racial and Religious Vilification against any person. Racial and religious vilification includes any act, otherwise than in private, which:

- is reasonably likely, in all circumstances, to offend, insult, humiliate, or intimidate another person or a group of people; *and*
- is done because of the race, colour or national or ethnic origin of the other person or of some or all of the people in the group.

Clubs will be required to commit to a number of responsibilities under the code, as follows:

- to continuously educate their players and officials;
- to publish information on the subject of racial and religious vilification to players, officials and spectators; *and*
- to use their best endeavours to ensure that all spectators associated with the club act in a manner which is consistent with the objectives of the Racial and Religious Vilification Code.

Any player, club or match official wishing to lodge a letter of complaint under this code, must address their correspondence to the C.A. within seven (7) days after the date of the alleged offence. A conciliation hearing will then be convened to discuss and resolve the matter. In the event, conciliation is not achieved, then the C.A. is obligated to lay charges of Misconduct against the individual(s) responsible and have the matter heard by the C.A. Disciplinary Committee.

## **24. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS, COACHES, CLUB OFFICIALS & REFEREES**

This Code of Conduct shall apply to all Players/Coaches, Club Officials and referees currently under the direct control of the C.A. and should be read in conjunction with FIFA FAIR PLAY STATEMENTS below. A breach of this Code of Conduct could be seen as bringing the game into disrepute and could result in disciplinary action by the C.A.

### **Code of Conduct – Bringing the game into Disrepute**

No Club, Player or Official shall make any statement for publication or contribute to any article or interview which might be published in any newspaper, magazine or other publication and which is or is likely to :-

- Reflect adversely on policy decisions of the C.A.
- Be detrimental to the C.A., its member Clubs, Sponsors, or the game in general, or
- Reflect adversely on the performance of Match Officials, or
- Relate to any matter set down for hearing by, any decision of, or appeal to any Committee of Inquiry, Disputes Committee, or other Tribunal.

Players and Officials shall:-

- Accept and obey all reasonable directions given by C.A. Officials, Match Officials and Ground Officials, and
- At all times behave in public in a manner which does not reflect adversely on the C.A., it's member Clubs, Sponsors or the game as a whole, and
- Not do anything by act or omission, which in the normal course of events is likely to incite spectators or others to violence or disorderly acts.

Failure to comply with any of these directions shall be an offence and shall be deemed as "Bringing the Game into Disrepute".

Offenders will be liable to the penalties as defined by the C.A.

### **Administration/Sponsorship**

Players and Officials of Member Clubs and Affiliates shall not enter into any individual sponsorship or advertising agreements without the prior written approval of their Club, provided that such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld in the absence of conflict with this Code of Conduct.

No member Club shall:-

- Grant approval to any Player or Official of that Club to enter into any sponsorship or advertising agreements involving any company or product which conflicts with the aims and objectives of the C.A. or it's sponsors, or
- Be obliged to grant approval to any Player or Official of that Club to enter into any Sponsorship or Advertising agreement involving any company or product which conflicts with the aims and objectives of the Club or its sponsors.

### **Code of Conduct Penalties**

Detrimental statements to the media \$1,000.00 and/or suspension or both.

Detrimental statements in public (non-media) \$500.00 and/or suspension or both.

Wearing or utilisation of non-licensed products up to \$1,000.00 and/or suspension or both.

### **Other Offences**

Non wearing of armbands/vests by club officials	\$100.00
Team-sheet being incorrectly filled out	\$100.00
Supply of incorrect team-sheet	\$100.00
Players wearing incorrect shirt number	\$100.00
Non supply of club linesman	\$100.00

**Note:** A second offence in the same year shall provide for an increased penalty commensurate with the offence.

The C.A. reserves the right to vary the penalty if circumstances are warranted.

## 25. NATURAL JUSTICE

The procedures to be undertaken are procedures to ensure maximum fairness to an Official, Players and persons before the C.A.

In all cases, adequate notice of a protest, dispute, or charge must be given:-

1. The notice must be sufficient to allow the parties affected to prepare answers to the matters arising.
2. The notice must detail the protest, dispute of charge and include the particular matters with which the C.A. is to preside over.
3. At the hearing, each party should be afforded the opportunity to provide their case, and be allowed representation.
4. The Members of the C.A. must have no personal interest in the matter. If an individual has an interest, then he / she should immediately disqualify him / her.

## 26. FIFA FAIR PLAY STATEMENTS

### **Play to Win**

Winning is the object of playing any game. Never set out to lose. If you don't play to win, you are cheating your opponents, deceiving those who are watching, and also fooling yourself. Never give up against stronger opponents but never relent against weaker ones. It is an insult to any opponent to play at less than full strength. Play to win, until the final whistle.

### **Play Fair**

Winning is without value if victory has been achieved unfairly or dishonestly. Cheating is easy, but brings no pleasure. Playing fair requires courage and character. It is also more satisfying. Fair Play always has its reward, even when the game is lost. Playing fair earns you respect, while cheats are detested. Remember, it's only a game. And games are pointless unless played fairly.

### **Observe the Laws of the Game**

All games need rules to guide them. Without rules, there would be chaos. The rules of football are simple and easy to learn. Make an effort to learn them, so you understand the game better. This makes you a better player. It is just as important to understand the spirit of the rules. They are designed to make the game fun to play and fun to watch. By sticking to the rules, you will enjoy the game much more.

### **Respect Opponents, Team-mates, Referees, Officials and Spectators**

Fair Play means respect. Without opponents there can be no game. They have the same rights as you have, including the right to be respected. Your team-mates are your colleagues. You form a team in which all members are equal. Referees are there to maintain discipline and Fair Play. Always accept their decisions without arguing, and help them to help you enjoy the game more. Officials are also part of the game and must be respected accordingly. Spectators give the game atmosphere. They want to see the game played fairly, but must also behave fairly themselves.

### **Accept Defeat with Dignity**

Nobody wins all the time. You win some, you lose some. Learn to lose graciously. Don't seek excuses for defeat. Genuine reasons will always be self evident. Congratulate the winners with good grace. Don't blame the referee or anyone else. Determine to do better next time. Good losers earn more respect than bad winners.

## **Promote the Interests of Football**

Football is the world's greatest game. But it always needs your help to keep it as Number One. Think of football's interest before your own. Think how your actions may affect the image of the game. Talk about the positive things in the game. Encourage other people to watch it or play it fairly. Help others to have as much fun from football as you do. Be an ambassador for the sport.

## **Players Code of Conduct**

- Play by the rules.
- If you disagree with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the officials' judgement or honesty in public.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit – so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are by your team, opponent or the other team.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.
- Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Play for the "fun of it" and not just to please parents and coaches.
- Avoid the use of derogatory language based on gender.

## **Coaches Code of Conduct**

- Be reasonable in your demands on player's time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Teach your players that rules of the sport are mutual agreements that no one should evade or break
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of your players.
- Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender.

## **Club Officials Code of Conduct**

- Ensure equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all regardless of ability, size, shape, sex, age, disability or ethnic origin.
- Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate.
- Ensure that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials, capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, administrators, officials, physicians, and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles.
- Ensure that your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sporting behaviour. Actions speak louder than words.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Complement all participants on their efforts.
- Distribute Code of Conduct to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, players, and media.
- Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender.

### **Referees Code of Conduct**

- Compliment and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of the game rather than errors.
- Encourage and promote rule changes that will make participation more enjoyable.
- Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating.
- Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.

### **Breaches of the Code of Conduct**

The Codes of Conduct clearly define the behaviour expected by all parties involved, and any breach of the Codes will be dealt with by an independent judiciary in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act and its rules of Natural Justice.

# TOWNSVILLE FOOTBALL INC.

ABN 98 532 387 674

Amalgamating Townsville Junior Soccer Assoc. Inc. & North Queensland Soccer Federation Inc

PO Box 1052 Aitkenvale BC Qld 4814 Telephone: 07 4778 2955 Fax: 07 4778 3447

Email: townsvillefootball@nqfootball.com.au Website: www.nqfootball.com.au



([Date])

(Club Name)  
(Email Contact)  
(Club Address)

Re: (Player Name)

Dear [First name]

## RE: Disciplinary Infringement Notice

Townsville Football advises that in accordance with clause 10.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations, your player, (Player Name) has been sanctioned for the following infringement as follows:

This alleged incident occurred during Round (xx) of the (name of competition) match between (xx) and (xx) on (insert date and time).

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### Details of the Offence

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- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>R1</b> | is guilty of serious foul play  |
| <b>R2</b> | is guilty of violent conduct  |
| <b>R3</b> | spits at an opponent or any other person  |
| <b>R4</b> | denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area) |
| <b>R5</b> | denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick                              |
| <b>R6</b> | uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures   |
| <b>R7</b> | receives a second caution in the same Match   |
- 

### Notice of Sanction Imposed

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Your player is suspended for <<INSERT NUMBER OF FIXTURES>> in accordance with the standard penalties applicable under the Townsville Football Rules of Competition. Your player is therefore ineligible to play in any division, up to and including <<INSERT DATE>>. If any fixture to which a suspension is applicable is not played for whatever reason, then the suspension period will automatically be extended to the next applicable fixture.

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### Right to Appeal

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The above penalty is a standard penalty for the offence listed. Appeals against a standard suspension can only be made on the grounds of mistaken identity.

---

Regards

[name]  
[title]

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Email: townsvillefootball@nqfootball.com.au Website: www.nqfootball.com.au



(Date)

(Club Name)  
(Email Contact)  
(Club Address)

Re: (Player Name)

Dear (First name)

## RE: Disciplinary Infringement Notice

Townsville Football advises that in accordance with clause 10.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations, your player, (Player Name) has been sanctioned for the following infringement as follows:

This alleged incident occurred during Round (xx) of the (name of competition) match between (xx) and (xx) on (insert date and time).

---

### Details of the Offence

---

- R1** is guilty of serious foul play
- R2** is guilty of violent conduct
- R3** spits at an opponent or any other person
- R4** denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area)
- R5** denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- R6** uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- R7** receives a second caution in the same Match

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### Notice of Sanction Imposed

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### Right to Appeal

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Under clause 11.3 of the National Disciplinary Regulations you may appeal against the imposition of the above sanction by notifying us within 7 days after the date on which this Disciplinary Infringement Notice was received using the Application Form in accordance with the Grievance Resolution Regulations.

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Regards

(Name)  
(Title)

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ABN 98 532 387 674

Amalgamating Townsville Junior Soccer Assoc. Inc. & North Queensland Soccer Federation Inc

PO Box 1052 Aitkenvale Qld 4814 Telephone: 07 4778 2955 Fax: 07 4778 3447

Email: townsvillefootball@nqfootball.com.au Website: www.nqfootball.com.au



[Date]

[Club Name]  
[Email Contact]  
[Club Address]

Dear [First name]

## RE: Disciplinary Hearing Notice

Townsville Football advises that in accordance with clauses 3 & 4 of the National Disciplinary Regulations, you are cited to appear before the Disciplinary Committee on a charge of [xxx] in relation to an alleged serious infringement.

This alleged incident occurred during Round [xx] of the [name of competition] match between [xx] and [xx] on [insert date and time].

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### Details of the Alleged Offence

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### Notice of Possible Sanctions

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1. Reprimand;
2. Imposition of a fine;
3. Place the individual on a bond;
4. Suspension from participation in a Match or Matches;
5. Termination of registration or playing contract;
6. Ban from the dressing rooms and / or substitute bench;
7. Ban on taking part in any football related activity;
8. Such other disciplinary sanction as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in FFA Statutes

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### Disciplinary Hearing Details

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[Date]  
[Time]  
[Place]

You may attend this hearing (either by phone or in person) if you so choose. As such, could you or your nominee please advise [CA contact person, name & number] no later than 5.00pm on [Date] of whether you will be attending, along with the name/s of any persons you may choose to represent you.

Please note that the procedures specified in the Grievance Resolution Regulations apply to the hearing and determination of this matter.

Regards

[Name]  
[Title]