

2024 RULES OF COMPETITION – SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Operations Team

BENDIGO AMATEUR SOCCER LEAGUE



2024 Rules of Competition – Summary of Changes

Bendigo Amateur Soccer League Inc
info@basl.com.au

OVERALL GENERAL UPDATES

Rules of Competition	Subject Matter	Addition/Amendment (in RED)
Multiple Sections	Multiple Sections	Updates to Rules of Competition format is separate senior and junior specific rules.
Multiple Sections	Multiple Sections	Update all references from 2023 to 2024.
Multiple Sections	Multiple Sections	Updates to Multiple Reference Points within the Rules of Competition.

1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

Rules of Competition	Subject Matter	Addition/Amendment (in RED)
1.4.	Registration, Forfeits, Abandonment and Match Protests	Section moved from GDT (Section 9) to Rules of Competition (See Below – Attachment A)
1.4.8 (New)	Registration of Coaches and Team Managers	<p>1.4.8.1 Clubs are required to submit Registration for all Coaches and Team Officials whom they appoint to teams including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Coaches (Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Goalkeeper Coach etc.) (b) Technical Directors; (c) Team Managers <p>1.4.8.2 The Registration can be completed by each person Self-Registering via Play Football, and the club accepting the Registration.</p>



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1. GENERAL MATTERS APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS

Rules of Competition	Subject Matter	Addition/Amendment (in RED)
1.15	Player Contracts/Agreements	<p>An Amateur Player may not be paid, or re-imbursed for any expenses, to play football other than those below, without affecting their Amateur Status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Legitimate travelling expenses to participate in Matches and attend training. (b) Hotel expenses (namely necessary meals and overnight accommodation during necessary absence from home for the purpose of playing in a Match). (c) A Player’s equipment (excluding footwear and goalkeeping gloves). (d) A Player’s insurance. (e) any other expenses or amounts allowable under the NRR’s, as amended from time to time. <p>The cap on these payments and full details are contained within the Football Australia National Registration Regulations (NRR’s).</p> <p>Clubs must keep complete records of all payments made to Amateur Players and provide these records to BASL Upon Request. This right of Audit and Inspection is contained within the National Registration Regulations.</p>
1.15	Player Contracts/Agreements	<p>Where a club had a paid coach (at any level within the club who is also a player, full disclosure is required to BASL of the payment including):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Amount paid to coach (b) Team the payment as coach is being made for



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		<p>(c) Components of monetary return associated to Coaching and Playing</p> <p>(d) Advice to BASL of paid coaches is required by no later than 14 days prior to the commencement of the Senior Season (for Senior Coaches) and 7 days prior to the commencement of the Junior Season (for Junior Coaches). Failure to disclose this information to BASL will result in sanction under the Grievance, Discipline and Tribunal By-Laws.</p> <p>In addition, and in line with section 1.4.8 of the Rules of Competition all coaches must be registered within Play Football and accepted by the club for all teams the club fields.</p>
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3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

Rules of Competition	Subject Matter	Addition/Amendment (in RED)
3.3	Match Records	3.3.3 Both teams must ensure the Match Official completes a Match Record immediately after the game
3.3.3	Match Records	3.3.3(d) The original match record must be retained by the match official and submitted electronically to matchresults@basl.com.au . If the match official is a club appointed official, the home club must submit the required copies to matchresults@basl.com.au .
3.12	Results of Match	3.12.1 Subject to this rule results of each Match must be communicated to BASL by the time and method as directed below BASL. (This is for both Seniors and Junior Competitive Competitions)
		(a) Official appointed Referee's must enter the following information of each match by no later than midnight on the Sunday following the match using the online results system.
3.12	Results of Match	3.12.1 Note: Where a club appointed referee is used, they will require a club nominee/official with appropriate access to enter this information and send a copy of the official match records to matchresults@basl.com.au.



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3. FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS		
Rules of Competition	Subject Matter	Addition/Amendment (in RED)
3.12.1(b) (New)	Results of Match	(b) Official appointed referees must send a copy of the match records to matchresults@basl.com.au by no later than midnight on the Sunday of the weekend of the fixture.
3.5.2	Grounds Marshal	3.5.2 Details of the role of a Grounds Marshal are available at the following link: Role of a Grounds Marshal
4. FIXTURE DETAILS		
Rules of Competition	Subject Matter	Addition/Amendment (in RED)
4.3	Postponed/Rescheduled Fixtures	4.3.1 Competition Fixtures may only be postponed or rescheduled by BASL. This section relates to BASL’s need to re-schedule competition fixtures (i.e., Unplayable Conditions, Unavailable Venues etc and not player availability) and is not related to clubs agreeing to a fixture date and or time request as per section 4.7 of these regulations.
4.3 (New)	Postponed/Rescheduled Fixtures	4.3.5 Any requirement to a mid-week fixture will consider the following minimum requirements. (a) Where the home team does not have match quality lights the fixture will be scheduled at a venue where appropriate lighting exists. The venue can be sourced by the home team (within 7 days of the need to re-schedule), but BASL reserves the right to determine the final venue where no venue can be sourced by the home team.



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		(b) Kick-Off times for any re-scheduled mid-week fixture can be no earlier than 5.30pm and no later than 7.30pm unless agreement has been reached between the two competing clubs. This agreement is to still follow the deadlines as set out in section 4.7 of these regulations.
4.3	Postponed/Rescheduled Fixtures	4.3.6 Any Club Associate or Club found guilty of rearranging a Competition Fixture or requesting the appointment of Match Officials outside an approved kick-off time or date or not in line with the process for requesting a fixture change in section 4.7 below will be subject to Misconduct under the GDT. BASL may also record the final score of any such Competition Fixture as a ‘No Result.’
4.7	Venue/Fixture Requests By Clubs	4.7.2(a). BASL will consider a fixture change request by a Club if the request is received no less than 5 business (i.e., 5.00pm the second Friday before the Fixture) prior to the fixture with written consent provided to BASL by Club Officials of both Clubs.
4.7	Venue/Fixture Requests By Clubs	<p>b. Scheduled BASL competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.</p> <p>c. Exemption from Rule 4.7.2.b may only be made if.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a request is made in accordance with Rule 4.7.2.a; and (ii) five (5) days prior to the catch-up or Cup Fixture round neither Club participates in any other Competition Fixture being played in that catch-up or Cup Fixture round. (iii) BASL will generally take the position of not granting approval under section 4.7.2(c) as these rounds are designated for the need to schedule abandoned and necessary re-scheduled fixtures (i.e., Unplayable conditions, Unforeseen Circumstances etc.) (iv) Only exceptional circumstances will be considered in these requests and not those relating to day-to-day operational issues at clubs (i.e., Player Availability etc).



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5. MATCH OFFICIALS		
Rules of Competition	Subject Matter	Addition/Amendment (in RED)
5.1		<p>NOTE: This section is still currently under review with the referee department to introduce OSKO/EFTPOS payments on the day.</p> <p><i>5.1.2 (a) Payment of all fees for Match Officials (Including Assistant Referees) will be made on the day (by cash or cheque) by the home team (except where BASL has agreed to pay the fee's (i.e., Cup Finals)). For avoidance of doubt the home team is the first name team in the fixture, regardless of venue. (Except for pre-season cup were the hosting club pay the referee's)</i></p>
5.5	Pitch and Facility Inspection Reports	<p>5.5.1 Prior to the commencement of each Match, the Match Official must complete a Pitch Inspection and ensure all subsequent match documentation is lodged with BASL by COB Monday. Where a pitch inspection reveals issues or facilities are a concern, the referee (either appointed officially or club appointed), must complete the pitch inspection report and follow the process for a fixture to be abandoned due to un-playable conditions.</p>
8. MINIMUM FACILITY REGULATIONS		
Rules of Competition	Subject Matter	Addition/Amendment (in RED)
8	Facility Requirements	<p>*Note for Under 12 and Under 13 Juniors – Please refer to section 11 for any differences to below.</p> <p>*Note: All clubs are required to submit a Pitch Facility report prior to the commencement of the season by set dates are determined by BASL. This information will be used to ensure that the minimum requirements for all types (both competitive and non-competitive) of soccer being played at the facility are in fact being met. Where these are not, BASL at its discretion may schedule fixtures to other venues.</p>



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10. BASL SENIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

Rules of Competition	Subject Matter	Addition/Amendment (in RED)
10	Multiple	All Senior Competition only regulations have been moved to a specific section for rules only applying to seniors.
10.	Player Movement	<p>Where Two Teams from the same club are entered into a single League 2 (or League 3) Men’s or Women’s championship (where they are not in League 1 Competitions).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (e) Two (2) senior age players (18+) and Two (2) Youth age players can be nominated to be able to move between the two teams within a single League 2 Men’s and Women’s Competition. These nominated players must be notified to BASL by the Wednesday prior to the commencement of Round 3 of the competition and cannot be changed once submitted. (Except Under the Dispensation Rule Below) (f) One (1) Floating Player (anyone on the playing list) can move between each team week to week. (i.e. A different player each week can move between the teams each week, however it can only be a single player) (g) Any nominated player can still only qualify to play in one of the club’s League 2 Men’s teams in any finals series and this will be determined based on which team the player plays the most games during the championship season (Regardless of whether that team makes the finals or not). If equal the club must advise which team they will play in for the finals prior to commencement of the Super Cup (if necessary). <p>Nominated Players - Dispensation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (h) Clubs requesting dispensation to change any of the nominated players in point (a) above must submit their request in writing 10 days prior. (i) Dispensation may be sought for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Long Term Injury o Long Term Availability due to other reasons (to be specified when submitted) (j) BASL may request evidence of club’s reasons for a dispensation to switch nominated players, which must be provided prior to any final answer.



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11. BASL JUNIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS

Rules of Competition	Subject Matter	Addition/Amendment (in RED)
11	Multiple	All Junior Competition only regulations have been moved to a specific section for rules only applying to juniors.
11.5	Regrading and Late Team Entries	No Change - Added to the Rules of Competition instead of a separate document for reference.
11.6	Default Playing Days and Times	<p>11.6.2 Default Playing Times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Juniors (Under 12 to Under 18) – No Default (Fixtures will be scheduled starting as early as 9am). <p>Note: Clubs are responsible to provide un-restricted ground availability for the default playing day and times for fixtures to be developed. Any restrictions on access to grounds is covered in section 4.8 of these Rules.</p>

12. BASL JUNIOR NON-COMPETITIVE AND MINI-ROO REQUIREMENTS

12.	Multiple	All Junior Non-Competitive and Mini-Roo only regulations have been moved to a specific section for rules only applying to juniors.
12.2	Default Playing Days and Times	<p>12.2.1 Default Playing Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-Competitive and Mini-Roo's – Saturday <p>12.2.2 Default Playing Times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-Competitive (Under 8 to Under 11) – No Default (Fixtures will be scheduled starting as early as 9am). ○ Mini-Roo's (Under 6 and Under 7) – Kick-off times commencing at 9.00am with no fixture to commence later than 11.00am.



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		<p>Note: Clubs are responsible to provide un-restricted ground availability for the default playing day and times for fixtures to be developed. Any restrictions on access to grounds is covered in section 4.8 of these Rules.</p>
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ATTACHMENT A

1.4. Registration, Forfeits, Abandonment and Match Protests

1.4.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this clause:

- **Change of Status** has the same meaning as in the FFV Registration Regulations.
- **Dual Registration** has the same meaning as in the FFV Registration Regulations.
- **Field** means to record a player's name on the Match Record and "Fields" and "Fielded" shall have corresponding meanings.
- **Ineligible** means a player who is one of the following:
 - Playing for the wrong Club or Team;
 - Playing within a stand-down period due to Change of Status;
 - Playing while registered for two clubs at the same time without a Dual Registration exemption to do so;
 - Playing while not Registered;
 - Playing while under Suspension;
 - A player who has been shown a Red Card earlier in a fixture that is still being played;
 - Playing while Ineligible to do so for any other reason determined by BASL;
 - A Player or Players in breach of the relevant clauses within the Rules of Competition
- **MiniRoos or equivalent player registrations** refers to players playing competitions from Under 10 downwards.
- **Offence** means when BASL has found upon investigation, audit, processing or notification there has been a breach of this clause including any of the previous fixtures in which an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) has participated.
- **Registered** means a player who is registered in accordance with the applicable FFV Registration Regulations, and/or FFA National Registration Regulations, including without limitation seeking an International Transfer Clearance (ITC) where applicable.
- **Request for information** from time to time BASL may request that a Club provide to it information in relation to player registration matters or otherwise as reasonably requested in order to ensure the integrity of football.
- **Unregistered** means a player who is not Registered.

1.4.2 Registration and Match Eligibility – scope and penalties

- (a) All Clubs and Teams must Register all Players in accordance with the FFV Registration Regulations.
- (b) BASL may find Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) through random audits, processing or upon investigation following notification of a breach of this clause.
- (c) Where a Club or Team Fields an Unregistered or Ineligible Player in a Fixture, including Finals Series or Play-Off Fixtures, the following applies:
 - (i) A Team that is found to have fielded an Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) during a Fixture(s), the score for the respective Fixture(s) shall be as follows:
 - A. where that Team loses the Fixture, the result shall be the greater of the actual score or a 3-0 result;
 - B. where the score is a draw that Team shall be deemed to have lost the Fixture 3-0; or
 - C. where that Team wins the Fixture, the result shall be a 3-0 win to the non-infringing Team.



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- (ii) Notwithstanding clause 1.4.2(c)(i), where BASL finds that a Club or Team has Fielded Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in multiple Fixtures over a period of time, such that the automatic imposition of a penalty under clause 1.4.2(c)(i) would, in BASL's opinion, cause undue hardship or would result in an extraordinary penalty situation, BASL may in its sole discretion:
- A. deduct competition points from the Team, capped at 12 points, without altering any of the corresponding individual Match results; or
 - B. reverse such Match results 3-0 as necessary, or issue a Warning and Reprimand; or
 - C. refer the matter to the Tribunal.

Matters that BASL may take into account in making a decision under clause 1.4.2(c)(ii) include, but are not limited to, whether or not in BASL's opinion the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) was intentionally or inadvertently Fielded; whether a genuine administrative error occurred; whether the Club made any enquiries to BASL about the Player(s) prior to the Fixture; any remorse shown; the experience of the Team or Club administrator; the age-group affected; and any other factors BASL may consider relevant in the circumstances.

By way of example: where BASL learns in round 9 of a season that an U14 Team has inadvertently failed to correctly register a Player, rather than automatically deduct 27 points from that Team and reverse 9 Fixtures, FFV may either deduct up to 12 points from the Team and not reverse any individual Fixtures, reverse such Fixtures as necessary, or refer the matter to Tribunal for determination, in its sole discretion.

- (d) Where BASL learns of Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) via internal audits, and no Club or Team has raised a Protest within time, BASL may deal with the matter via a Warning and Reprimand for the first occasion in its sole discretion. The matter shall then be considered finalised (see Additional Notes section below).
- (e) The time limit for a Club or Team to Protest is three (3) weeks from the date of the relevant Fixture, after which the result of the Fixture is considered finalised.

Note on clause 1.4.2(e): it is important for the integrity of the competition and league that the results of Matches are considered final. The intention of this clause is to prevent teams from "saving up" suspicions of Unregistered or Ineligible Players in other teams until shortly before finals, in order to make a last effort to accrue points for finals. Legitimate concerns by a team should be notified to BASL promptly.

- (g) There shall be no appeal mechanism to the Tribunal or Appeals Board for any determinations made by the BASL in relation to Ineligible or Unregistered Player(s) in accordance with Clause 1.4.2, unless BASL in its sole discretion refers the matter for consideration to the Tribunal.

Additional notes on clause 1.4.2: in junior football for U12s to U15s inclusive, the focus is on participation. Where Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in these leagues are identified, BASL may favour an interpretation of a genuine administrative error unless it can be shown that the Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) were played intentionally. (Multiple un-intentional breaches could see the more stringent application of penalties) However in Senior's (Men and Womens), Youth, Under 18 and Under 16, BASL's expectation is for greater administrative compliance by Clubs, and participation by Unregistered or Ineligible Player(s) in these competitions may be interpreted against the Club or Team more stringently.

1.4.3 Forfeits and Abandoned Fixtures

- (a) BASL shall determine the Game Score of any Abandoned Fixture due to Misconduct in accordance with the Rules of Competition.



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- (b) Where an Abandoned Fixture is referred to the Tribunal due to a breach of a relevant Misconduct Offence Penalty, the Tribunal may determine only the question of the alleged Misconduct and shall have no power to determine the Game Score or order a full or partial replay of that Fixture.
- (c) Notwithstanding clause 1.4.3(b), BASL may direct an Abandoned Fixture to be replayed in BASL's sole discretion if the circumstances so warrant.
- (d) Where a Team Forfeits a Match, the relevant Team may be penalised subject to the Rules of Competition and this By-Law.
- (e) In all cases where a Team forfeits a Match the score shall be recorded as 3-0 to the non-offending Team, and the forfeiting Team shall be Fined as follows: where notification of the forfeit to BASL:
 - (i) before 9:00am, on the Wednesday prior to the scheduled to the Match, no fine shall apply;
 - (ii) after 9:00am, on the Wednesday prior to the Match, a fine of 1 Penalty Units; and
 - (iii) after 9:00am, on the day of the Match, a fine of 2 Penalty Units.

1.4.3.1 Any Team which fails to participate in three (3) Competition Fixtures within a Regular Season will be issued with a show cause notice. The club must respond in writing as to why it should not be removed from the league within 7 days of receipt of the notice. The final decision to remove a team is at BASL's sole discretion.

To avoid doubt section 1.4.3 shall not apply to Mini-Roo's,

1.4.4 False or Misleading Information

The provision of false or misleading information by a Player, Club or Club Associate on a Prescribed Registration Form or document, or via the on-line Registration System (Play Football), during the player registration process shall constitute Misconduct, and a 2 Match Automatic Suspension on the Player may be imposed, and the matter may be referred to the BASL Tribunal at the discretion of BASL for the determination of any further sanctions which are to be applied.

1.4.5 System or Technical Error

- (a) To avoid doubt, if there is a system or technical error in processing a registration, the above sanctions will be imposed until such system or technical error is proven by the Club or Team or Player, save that:
 - (i) Only those system or technical errors that occur on weekdays up until 5.00pm on a Friday, (excluding Public Holidays) will be taken into account; and
 - (ii) Should a Club or Team decide to process registrations on non-business days (Weekends and/or Public Holidays) or after 5.00pm on a Friday, the Club or Team is responsible for ensuring all registrations are successfully processed and valid for all Club and team fixtures.

1.4.6 Request for Information

- (a) Where BASL requests a Club to provide information in relation to a Club's registration matters, or otherwise as reasonably requested in order to ensure the integrity of football, the Club must comply within 7 days (or as otherwise reasonably requested by the BASL).
- (b) A failure to comply with clause 1.4.6(a) shall result in all of that Club's teams playing for no points until the requested information is provided. Should a Club subsequently comply with Clause 1.4.6(a), any games which were



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played for no points during the non-compliance period shall not be replayed, and any points potentially lost shall be deemed as forfeited.

1.4.7 Registration of Players under the age of 12

- (a) All Clubs are to ensure that all of their Players under the age of twelve are registered in accordance with the FFV registration requirements as published from time to time.
- (b) A failure to comply with point 1.4.8(a) above shall in the first instance result in a warning given to the Club, at which point they shall be given 7 days (or as otherwise reasonably requested by the FFV) to rectify the situation without any further penalty. Should the matter not be satisfactorily resolved, or should a Club commit further offences, they may be subjected to a Fine of 3 Penalty Units for this and every subsequent offence.

1.4.8 Registration of Coaches and Team Officials

1.4.8.1 Clubs are required to submit Registration for all Coaches and Team Officials whom they appoint to teams including but not limited to:

- (a) Coaches (Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Goalkeeper Coach etc.)
- (b) Technical Directors
- (c) Team Managers

1.4.8.2 The Registration can be completed by each person Self-Registering via Play Football, and the club accepting the Registration.