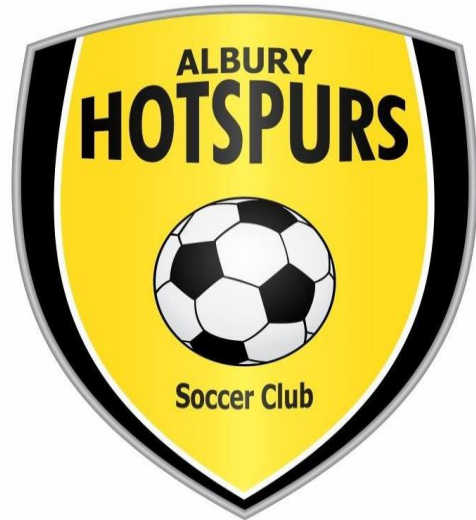




**FOOTBALL  
NSW**



**Competition Regulations  
2023/24 Summer Football**

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## SECTION 1: ORGANISATION AND ADMISSION

### 1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- a) These Regulations apply to Participants in the following competition (**the Competition**) unless stated otherwise:
  - i. **Over 45s Summer Sevens Soccer**
- b) Where these Regulations are silent on any particular aspect, then all Clubs, affiliated bodies, and organisations will first have regard to the Constitution, By-Laws, Football Australia rules and regulations and, where applicable, the rules and regulations of the Asian Football Confederation (**AFC**) and FIFA.
- c) If any part of these Regulations is void that part shall be severable and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining sections of these Regulations.
- d) The Competition Administrator will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties.

### 2. REFERENCE

Where these Regulations refer to a “Club” that reference is to a team that is entered into the Competition.

### 3. CAPITALISED TERMS

Any capitalised terms used in these Regulations will have the meaning given to them in Schedule 3.

### 4. ALTERATION

The Competition Administrator will have the ability to vary or expand on these Regulations and make additional rules which will be set out in Schedule 2.

### 5. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

All Clubs, Players, Team/Club Officials, Match Officials, Spectators or any person participating in any manner at a Competition Fixture, Match, training or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Summer Football Disciplinary Regulations and the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

### 6. UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCE

Nothing in these Regulations will prevent Football NSW from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by the Regulations.

### 7. CONTROL OF COMPETITIONS

The administrative control and conduct of the Competition is vested with the Competition Administrator endorsed by Football NSW.

## SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

### 1. MATCHES PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE GAME

All Fixtures will be played in compliance with the Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with Football Australia and Football NSW By-Laws, regulations, codes and directives, and under the FIFA Laws of the Game where applicable.

### 2. RECOMMENDED AGE GRADES

The Competition Administrator may determine the age groups for which it will conduct competitions but competitions below the U6 age group are not permitted under any circumstances. For the avoidance of doubt, players who do not turn 5 or older in 2023 are not permitted to participate in Summer Football competitions.

### 3. MATCH FORMAT

- a) The Competition Administrator may determine which of the following formats it wishes to deliver its competition in:
- 5 v 5;
  - 6 v 6; or
  - 7 v 7.

For age groups U12 and upwards, the Competition Administrator may conduct competitions with competition tables and/or points and with a finals series.

### 4. DURATION OF MATCH

- a) Match duration will be at the discretion of the Competition Administrator. This flexibility is provided given different constraints at various venues, including numbers of teams, age grades, players per team, and length of venue hire.
- b) The following table details Football NSW's preferred Match durations:

Age Grade	Match Duration
U6 and U7	Two 10-minute halves
U8 – U11	Two 12-minute halves
U12 – U16	Two 15-minute halves
U17 and older	Two 20-minute halves

### 5. ADDED TIME

It will be at the discretion of the Competition Administrator if added time is played.

### 6. EXTRA TIME

It will be at the discretion of the Competition Administrator if extra time is played during the Championship of the Competition.

## **7. DETERMINING THE WINNER BY PENALTY KICKS**

- a) If the result of a Match in the Championship is a draw (including after extra time where applicable) alternate kicks from the penalty mark will be taken to determine the winner, consistent with the principles described in the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- b) If the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond the control and not the direct result of actions by either Team, the result will be decided by the drawing of lots by the Match Official in the presence of the two (2) Team captains.
- c) If, through the fault of a Team / Club (as determined by the Competition Administrator, in its absolute discretion), the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, the Match will be deemed forfeited against that Team / Club.
- d) If, through the fault of both Teams / Clubs (as determined by the Competition Administrator, in its absolute discretion), the taking of kicks from the penalty mark cannot be completed, the Match will not be replayed and no match result will be applied.
- e) A determination made by the Competition Administrator under Rule 7(b), (c) or (d) is final and not subject to any challenge, appeal or review.

## **8. FOOTBALLS**

- a) The Competition Administrator is responsible for either providing the match balls or communicating to the Clubs that they are required to provide the match balls.

## **9. PREMIERSHIP RANKING**

The following process applies when determining the ranking of Teams within each grade of Competition:

- a) Greater number of points obtained in all Premiership Matches.
- b) If two (2) or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above criteria, their place will be determined as follows:
  - i. Greater goal difference resulting from all Premiership Matches;
  - ii. Greater goals scored from all Premiership Matches;
  - iii. Greater number of points obtained in Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head-to-head); and
  - iv. Greater number of goals scored in Premiership Matches between the Teams concerned (head-to-head).

## 10.

### 10. COMPETITION POINTS

Points will be allocated as follows for all Premiership Matches:

- a) Win - 3 points;
- b) Draw - 1 point each Team;
- c) Bye - No points;
- d) Loss - No points; or
- e) Forfeit - 3 points to the Team receiving the forfeit.

### 11. COMPETITION SYSTEM

The Competition Administrator may conduct a Premiership or Premiership and Championship which will include:

- a) A Premiership consisting of a league format as approved by the Competition Administrator; and, if applicable,
- b) A Championship consisting of knockout Matches in a format approved by the Competitions Administrator.

### 12. TECHNICAL RULES FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

- a) All Championship Matches (where applicable) will be played in accordance with the knockout system, single match.
- b) Teams will play a single match and the Team having scored most goals in the Match will win the Match.
- c) If extra time or penalty kicks are required to determine the winner of a Championship Match, they will be conducted as per these Regulations.

### 13. CLASH OF COLOURS

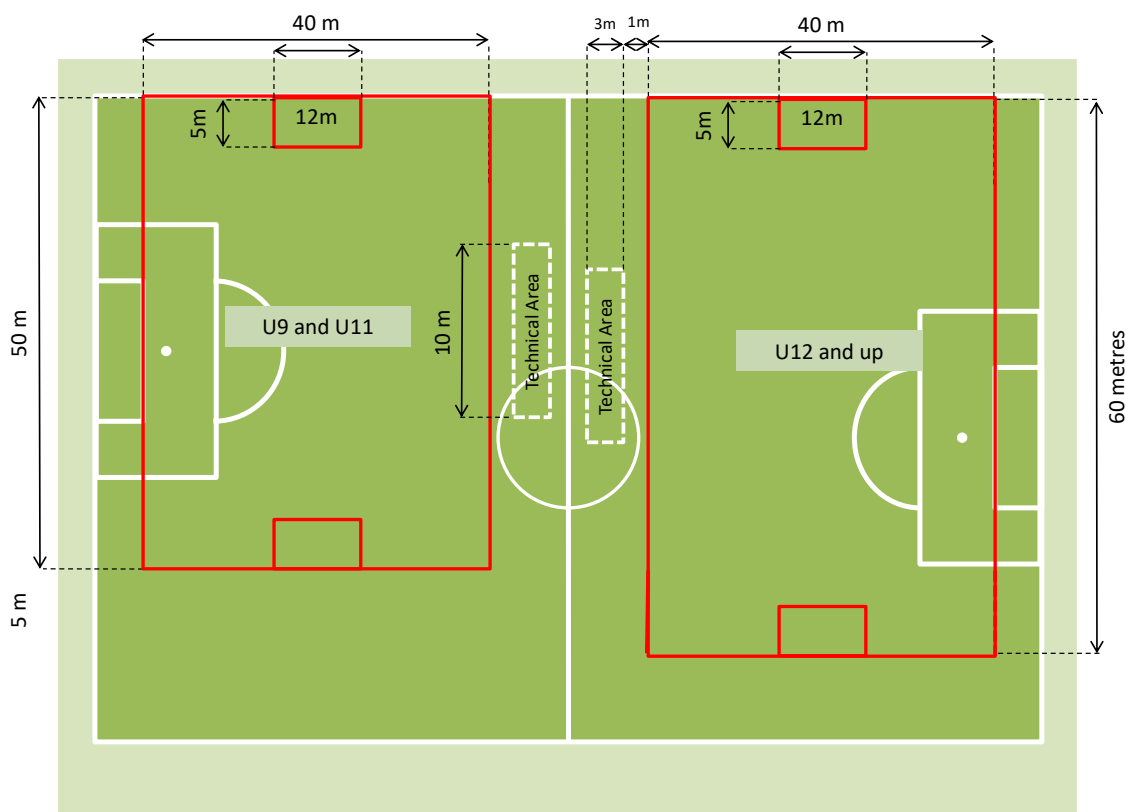
Resolving a clash of colours will be at the direction of the Competition Administrator.

### 14. INTERCHANGE

- a) For all Competitions, unlimited interchange applies.
- b) The following is the procedure and rules for the unlimited interchange of Players:
  - i. The “Interchange zone” will be an area one (1) metre either side of the half-way line.
  - ii. An interchange is one which is made when the ball is out of play, and for which the following conditions will be observed:
    - a. the Player leaving the field will do so from the touch line, crossing over at the Interchange zone”; and
    - b. the Player entering the field will also do so from the Interchange zone, but not until the Player leaving the field has passed completely over the touch line.
  - iii. If penalty kicks are required to obtain a result, any Player that participated in the Match is able to participate in the taking of penalties.
- c) Substitutes and interchange Players cannot be used to replace any Player who has been dismissed from the Match by the Match Official.

## 15. PREFERRED FIELD DIMENSIONS

a) The following is the preferred field orientation for each age group:



## 16. CLUBS REMOVED OR WITHDRAWN FROM COMPETITIONS

In the event of any Team withdrawing or being removed from the Competition, all Matches against that Team will be treated as a bye or forfeit.

## 17. RESTARTS (GOALS KICKS, THROW-INS OR KICK-INS)

- The Competition Administrator may either apply throw-ins or kick-ins as the approved method of restarts should the ball leave the Field of Play across a touch line.
- The Competition Administrator may require the goalkeeper to either throw the ball into play or kick the ball into play to restart the match after a “goal kick” is awarded by the Match Official.

## 18. MATCH SCHEDULE AND KICK-OFF TIMES

Match scheduling will be flexible and rests with the Competition Administrator.

## 19. WET WEATHER AFFECTED FIXTURES

In all instances where rain preceding a Match raises doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the Competition Administrator will establish a process by which Clubs are informed of the status of that day's Matches. This may include the responsibility being passed to the Clubs to check a wet weather phone line or website notification.

## 20. ABANDONED MATCHES

- a) When a Match is abandoned for any reason for which neither Club is responsible, the Match may be replayed at the discretion of the Competition Administrator.
- b) Should a Club, its Players, Officials, or Spectators be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Club to the opposition.
- c) Should both Clubs, their Players, Officials, or Spectators be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will not be replayed and no match result will be applied.
- d) A decision in relation to the responsibility for causing an abandonment under this Rule 20 is to be made by the Competition Administrator in its absolute discretion and that decision is final and not subject to any challenge, appeal or review.

## 21. FORFEITS

- a) Teams will be deemed to have forfeited a Match when:
  - i. they fail to fulfill an engagement to play a Match on the appointed date, time or venue; or
  - ii. they refuse or fail to begin a Match within ten (10) minutes of the stipulated kick-off time; or
  - iii. they field fewer than the required players as communicated by the Competition Administrator; or
  - iv. they field an ineligible Player; or
  - v. any other scenario within these Regulations or the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations that stipulates a forfeit of the Match.
- b) In the event of any Team forfeiting its Match, full points allocated for the Match will be forfeited to the opposing Team (**Opposing Team**) and the goals will be recorded as three (3) goals scored by the Opposing Team and 0 goals by the Team who has forfeited, unless the Opposing Team won by more than 3 goals, in which case the result on the pitch will be upheld.

## 22. PROTESTS

- a) Protests must be lodged and received by the Competition Administrator no later than two (2) hours after the Match was played.
- b) The Competition Administrator will only consider protests for obvious breaches of the Laws of the Game that clearly had a material effect on the outcome of the Match.
- c) No protests as to the result of a Match will be considered in relation to disciplinary decisions of the Match Officials or decisions of facts relating to play.



- d) Protests must be accompanied by a \$50 administration fee in order to be considered. The administration fee must be lodged together with the written protest.
- e) The Competition Administrator may, in its absolute discretion, refund the administration fee if the protest is upheld.
- f) A decision by the Competition Administrator in relation to a protest is final and not subject to any challenge, appeal or review.

## SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY

### 1. AGE ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility to age grades will be determined by the age in which the player turns in 2023. For example, a player turning 12 at any time during 2023 is eligible for the U12 age grade.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY AND INELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS GENERAL

- a) Eligible Players: An eligible Player is one that meets all registration requirements within these Regulations and is not ineligible according to any article of these Regulations.
- b) Ineligible Players: Ineligible Players include:
  - i. unregistered Players;
  - ii. suspended Players;
  - iii. a Player who is required to stand down for receiving the required number of cautions; and
  - iv. a Player that is deemed ineligible due to any article of these Regulations, the Summer Football Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations or the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- c) Any Team that fields an ineligible Player will automatically lose that Match on forfeit.
- d) Additionally, the Club, its Official/s and the Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the Summer Football Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations or the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- e) For clarity, it is the Club's absolute responsibility to ensure that they field eligible players in any Match.

## SECTION 4: REGISTRATION

### 1. PLAYER STATUS

- a) All Players registered to the Competition must be amateurs.
- b) Clubs are required to record the status of each Player on PlayFootball by having the Player self-register.
- c) Players are permitted to play for any number of Clubs in Summer Football competitions affiliated with Football NSW, but not for multiple Clubs within the one division of any Competition.

## 2. PROCESS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF AN AMATEUR

- a) All Players must be registered via the PlayFootball system. The registration of an amateur Player with a Club is effective from the date the individual is made active by the Club on PlayFootball.
- b) The registration must be effected through:
  - i. the player self-registering via PlayFootball and the Club accepting the Player's registration; and
  - ii. if a Player is registering for the first time, that Player must provide the Competition Administrator with evidence of name and age, by producing an original birth certificate, passport or drivers licence.

## 3. SUBMISSION OF REGISTRATIONS

All registrations must be submitted via PlayFootball and a head and shoulders photo is to be uploaded into the Player profile within the communicated registration period.

## 4. REGISTRATION PERIODS

The Competition Administrator will communicate the Competition registration period.

## 5. PLAYER DEREGISTRATION

- a) A Player may be de-registered by applying to de-register via PlayFootball, which will notify the Club and the Competition Administrator of the Player's intention to deregister.
- b) If a Club no longer wants a Player to play for the Club, that Club needs to apply to deregister that Player via PlayFootball, which will notify the Player and the Competition Administrator and Football NSW of the Club's intention to deregister the Player.
- c) The deregistration is effective:
  - i. When the other party (i.e. Club or Player as the case may be) has confirmed the notification or cancellation; or
  - ii. Players: seven (7) days from the date the Player requested the deregistration via PlayFootball unless a grievance has been initiated with the Competition Administrator
- d) Any disputes relating to Player deregistration will be settled in accordance with the Football Australia National Grievance Resolution Regulations and the Football NSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## 6. MAXIMUM PLAYER ROSTERS

The Competition Administrator will communicate maximum team roster if applicable.

# SECTION 5: TEAM SHEETS, REPORTING AND MATCH OFFICIALS

## 1. MATCH OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The appointment of all Match Officials will be made by the Competition Administrator in consultation with the Referee Branch or Association providing the Match Officials.

## **2. MATCH OFFICIAL POWERS, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS**

- a) The Match Officials are charged with all duties, responsibilities and obligations as contained within the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- b) Unless otherwise stated, the Match Official will be the sole arbiter as to whether a game will proceed, having regard to the condition of the ground, the weather at the time of inspection, and the projected weather forecast.
- c) If the Match Official finds it necessary to stop play for whatever reason, he / she should wait a reasonable time before deciding to abandon the Match.
- d) The Match Officials may abandon, postpone, or forfeit a Match in accordance with any relevant articles of these Regulations.
- e) In addition, the Match Officials are required to, immediately after the conclusion of each Match, forward to the Competition Administrator send-off reports and any incident reports.

## **3. WELFARE OF THE MATCH OFFICIALS**

The Competition Administrator will be responsible for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the venue, until the time they depart the venue.

## **4. NON-ATTENDANCE OF MATCH OFFICIALS**

Should an official referee not be appointed, or be appointed and not attend, it is the Competition Administrator's responsibility to determine who will officiate the Match. This may be a volunteer, employee or Club representative, or combination of any of the above throughout the Match.

## **5. TEAM SHEETS**

- a) The Competition Administrators is required to prepare team sheets for each Match. These can be either via the SportsTG online platform or hard copy.
- b) The numbers on the back of the Player's jerseys will correspond to the numbers on the team sheet handed to the Match Official before the commencement of a Match.
- c) When a Match is forfeited, the team sheet will be endorsed accordingly by the Match Official.
- d) A Team/Club Official from both the home and away Club is to sign the team sheet at the completion of the Match to confirm the information is correct.
- e) Unless otherwise stated in the Summer Football Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, or in these Regulations, a Player listed on the team sheet will be deemed to have participated in the Match.
- f) The home Club Team appears first on the team sheet (left side).

## **6. MATCH RESULT REPORTING**

The Competitions Administrator will upload the scores of each match to the Competition website.

## **7. EXPULSION AND CAUTION REPORTING**

Expulsion and caution reporting is as per the Summer Football Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## SCHEDULE 1: ADDITIONAL RULES – COMPETITION SPECIFIC

### 1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- a) These additional regulations expand on the Regulations presented above.
- b) These additional regulations are specific to the following Competition only:
  - i. **Over 45s Summer Sevens Soccer**

### 2. MATCH FORMAT

7 v 7

### 3. DURATION OF MATCH

25 minutes per half with a 5 min break

### 4. ADDED TIME

No added or extra time will be played

### 5. FOOTBALLS

AHSC will supply a match ball

### 6. COMPETITION SYSTEM

Draw & results will be published on AHSC website

### 7. CLASH OF COLOURS

Bibs will be offered to teams

### 8. RESTARTS (GOALS KICKS, THROW-INS OR KICK-INS)

Normal rules apply

### 9. REGISTRATION PERIODS

Registration will open once dates & price are confirmed

### 10. MAXIMUM PLAYER ROSTERS

Maximum of 12 players in a squad

### 11. OTHER COMPETITION SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

The competition Administrator reserves the right to alter the format of the season if there are insufficient players to continue with a 7v7 competition.

No goal can be scored with force from inside the penalty area. Tap ins & headers are acceptable. This rule is in place to protect goal keepers from injury.

No goal can be scored from behind the half way line.

Slide tackling is not permitted in this competition under any circumstance. This offence will result in a free kick to the opposing team.

During a Penalty shoot-out the goalkeeper who finished the game, must be the goalkeeper for the shoot-out.

## SCHEDULE 2: DEFINITIONS

**“AHSC”** means Albury Hotspurs Soccer Club.

**“By-Laws”** means the by-laws of Football NSW as amended from time to time.

**“Championship”** means the final series conducted at the completion of the Premiership in accordance with the Regulations.

**“Club”** means any entity, team or group of individuals registered with Football Australia and/or Football NSW or admitted to participate in the Competition.

**“Club Official”** means any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of a Club (whether paid, unpaid or honorary), including employees, contractors, directors, representatives and volunteers.

**“Competition”** mean the relevant organised Summer Football matches delivered by the Competition Administrator.

**“Competition Administrator”** means the entity endorsed by Football NSW to administer and conduct the Competition, including enforcement of its rules and regulations, and/or its delegate.

**“Constitution”** means the constitution of Football NSW as amended from time to time.

**“Football Australia”** means Football Federation Australia Limited, the governing body for football (soccer) in Australia.

**“Field of Play”** or **“playing area”** means the field of play and any perimeter area between the line markings of the pitch and the spectator area.

**“FIFA”** means Federation Internationale de Football Association, its successor or assignee.

**“Fixture”** means a meeting of two (2) Clubs as scheduled in all grades applicable.

**“Football NSW”** means Football NSW Limited ACN 003 215 923 which is the governing body for football (including Futsal) in the State.

**“Home Club”** means the Club playing the Match at its home ground and/or appearing first on the fixture list in the event a Match is conducted at a neutral venue.

**“Laws of the Game”** means the official laws of the game of football and futsal as promulgated by FIFA.

**“Match”** means any match played in the Competition, a Football NSW Competition, Cup, Premiership, other event or tournament under Football NSW’s control.

**“Match Official”** means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by Football Australia, Football NSW, a Referee’s Body, a Centre, an Association Member, a Club, or the Competition Administrator to assume responsibility in connection with a Match but does not include a Team Official or Club Official.

**“Official”** means a Club Official, Match Official or Team Official.

**“Participant”** means a Player, Official or Spectator.

**“Player”** means any person who participates in a Match (irrespective of whether he or she is registered with Football Australia, junior or senior or an amateur or professional).

**“Premiership”** means the round robin Matches (both home and away) that a Team competes in during a Season in accordance with these Regulations.

**“Regulations”** means these Regulations.

**“Season”** means from the commencement of the Competition to the conclusion of the Competition unless otherwise directed by the Competition Administrator.

**“Spectator”** means a person who attends a Match.

**“State”** means the state of New South Wales with the exception of the northern regions of NSW which are identified by Football Australia as “Northern NSW”.

**“Summer Football Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations”** means the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations of the Competition as endorsed by Football NSW.

**“Suspensions”** means the suspensions issued by a Body pursuant to these Regulations or the Summer Football Disciplinary Regulations.

**“Team”** means an any team registered with Football Australia and/or Football NSW or any team admitted by the Competition Administrator to participate in the Competition.

**“Team Official”** means any person involved with the management, preparation or participation of a Team (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff, other support staff or any other person acting for or on behalf of a Team.