

IF NOT COVERED IN SECTION 21,
REFER TO SECTION 5.

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SECTION 21

YOUTH LEAGUE AND CADET LEAGUE

21.1 Participation in the Youth League and Cadet League competitions is on an annual basis. The composition of the respective divisions will be subject to the criteria as outlined in the Rules and Regulations and as determined by the Board of Directors.

Applications for the Youth League and Cadet League competitions must be in writing on the prescribed form.

21.2 AGE GROUPS, ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSION

(A) SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

- (i) Only full member clubs/associations that have complied with Article 7 of the NSW Soccer Federation Articles of Association and /or NSW based Ericsson Cup clubs will be eligible to participate in the Super Youth League.
- (ii) Clubs/associations may only register a maximum of 5 players per age group who reside outside of the zone in which the club is situated.
- (iii) The age groups will be Grade 13, Grade 14, Grade 15 and Grade 16.
- (iv) Clubs/associations participating in the Super Youth League will be required to have Grade 11 and Grade 12 teams participating in the Cadet League.

(B) FEDERATION YOUTH LEAGUE

- (i) The Federation will conduct 2 minor leagues to be called Federation Division 1 Youth League and Federation Division 2 Youth League.
- (ii) The age groups will be Grade 13, Grade 14, Grade 15 and Grade 16.
- (iii) Each Division will have a maximum of 14 clubs/associations.
- (iv) All clubs/associations must be members or associate members of the Federation.

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(C) CADET YOUTH LEAGUE

- (i) The competition will be conducted for age groups Grade 11 and Grade 12 with entry in both grades compulsory. It shall be open to all National Soccer League clubs, NSW Soccer Federation clubs and NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Association's participating in Youth League competitions on an annual basis. Participation in the Cadet League is accepted on the basis of it taking precedence over any other fixtures.

(D) AGE ELIGIBILITY

The grade players are eligible to play in that age they turn on or after the 1st January in that year, i.e. in 1996 Grade 16 are born in 1980.

21.3 NOMINATIONS, PLAYING

- A. Nomination forms each year will be forwarded to all participants as defined in Rule 2, and must be completed in all detail and returned to the Competition Secretary by 1st October. Late applications will not be accepted.
- B. Players registration costs will cover:-
- i) Australian Soccer Federation Levy
 - ii) New South Wales Government Sports Insurance
 - iii) Player Injury Insurance
 - iv) Players Public Risk Insurance
 - v) Players Identification Card

21.4 COMPETITION, TEAM WITHDRAWALS, PENALTIES

- A. Shall commence on a date as determined by the number of entries, and will be played on a home and away basis where practical. If necessity dictates participants will be expected to play other than on Saturdays.
- B. (i) In Season 2000, there will be a Super Youth League division who will play one round plus the Finals Series which will be a top six final series.
- (ii) The Federation Youth League Divisions will play 2 Rounds followed by a Top 4 Final Series.

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- (iii) Further divisions shall be conducted as required by the number of entries received and a Final Series shall be conducted.

Where a club/association fails to register a team prior to the start of the competition, or withdraws a team or teams before or after commencement, they shall be required to immediately withdraw from the competition, re-admittance will not be considered under any circumstances in that season.

- iv) The bottom two (2) clubs/associations in each division will be relegated.
- v) The top two (2) clubs in each division will be promoted.

21.5 LEAGUE POINTS, FORFEITS, BYES

Points allocated shall be as followed:

Win	3 Points
Forfeit	3 Points
Draw	1 Point
Loss or Bye	No Points

A result of 3-0 will be awarded to teams which win on a forfeit.

21.6 STATE TEAMS

All registered players will be eligible for State Team trialing.

21.7 REGISTRATIONS, CLEARANCES, TRANSFERS

- A. No player registered with a club/association may register with another club/association within the league in the same year without first obtaining a written clearance from the party that registration was first effected with.
- B. No new players will be registered after 30th June each year.
- C. Any player granted a clearance and wishing to register with another club/association within the Youth League must submit his Identification Card and clearance letter together with a registration form and two (2) identical passport size photographs to the New South Wales Soccer Federation, before being allowed to play. Such registration must comply with the rules governing registrations.
- D. All coaches, managers and officials must be registered with the New South Wales Soccer Federation and have Identification cards.

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- E. An amateur player's registration with a club shall cover a period from the 1st of October in any one (1) year and conclude on the 30th of September of the following year.
- F. Original birth certificates or a certified copy from the Registrar General or passports or an acceptable government document will be the only acceptable proof of age for new registrations, and registrations will be restricted to a maximum of sixteen (16) per team at any one time.
- G. All registrations are to be typed.
- H. Non compliance with any of the aforementioned shall result in the imposition of a one hundred dollars (\$100-00) fine, the player will be deemed ineligible, and any game in which such player has participated will be deemed a forfeit, any points gained being awarded, along with three (3) to nil (0) result, to the other team.
- I.
 - (i) If there are less than sixteen (16) players registered in an association grade thirteen (13) year old Youth League team, a twelve (12) year old player may be registered in the normal way with the New South Wales Soccer Federation upon payment of the necessary fee. The Federation will accept the Sydney Branch Junior League identification card as proof of identity in these cases.
 - (ii) If however there are sixteen (16) players already registered in a thirteen (13) year old association Youth League team, one of these players must be de-registered with the New South Wales Soccer Federation before any further player can be registered.

21.8 IDENTIFICATION CARDS

- A. All games shall be played under the Identification Card system. Such Identification cards, complete with players photographs, shall be authorised by the New South Wales Soccer Federation. In such photographs, the facial dimensions of the player shall occupy at least two thirds of the space provided on the Identification Cards.

Two identical photographs of passport size must accompany the players registration form if no current Identification Card is submitted.

- B. Identification Cards are current for one (1) year and shall be embossed with the year of issue and players clubs. Should a player change his club he shall obtain a new Identification Card from the New South Wales Soccer Federation.

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- C. Opposing team managers are responsible for sighting Identification Cards, and failure to inspect will incur a penalty of twenty five (\$25-00) dollars. Inspection is to occur on the field immediately prior to the commencement of play and no players are to leave the field after inspection.
- D. If a team's identification cards are not produced and inspected prior to the commencement of the match, the offending team (s) shall incur automatic forfeiture and points will be awarded to the opposition. No individual player may play without producing his identification card.
- E. Players are not required to sign team sheets against their names, except that signatures must be provided if a player's identity is challenged.
- G. Where any of these procedures are not adhered to ineligibility will exist and the provisions of Rule 21.7 shall apply.

21.9 GROUNDS APPURTENANCES, OFFICIALS

- A. Grounds are to be enclosed, the field fenced off, or otherwise suitably protected against spectator incursion, and the playing surface of an adequate standard for this competition. Covered cricket pitches are not permitted. Two (2) change rooms are required in close proximity to the field of play, and are to be available for the sole use of Youth League teams as required. A canteen is to be available. All grounds are subject to inspection prior to acceptance for any season competition.
- B. In circumstances where nominated grounds are shared by other than the senior body of the same club/association, the responsibility for eradication of fixture clashes between Youth Leagues teams and the third party shall rest with the nominee.
- C. Nominated grounds must be located in the clubs/associations district, and in close proximity to the Federation or National Soccer League club's home grounds. The participating club/association must supply to the Federation all information as to the location of this club's home ground.
- D. Where a clubs/associations Youth League grounds nomination may clash with the use of said ground for any other activity, the club must nominate a second, alternative ground in close proximity to the main ground at the time of nominating for acceptance into the competition.
- E. No alterations to nominated grounds or times are permitted after the competition commences (wet weather cancellation problems excepted).
- F. Two (2) ground officials from each club/association, appropriately identified, must be in attendance at all fixtures. Coaches/Managers cannot officiate while their own age grade fixture is in progress.

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G. REFEREES

The home team shall be responsible for payment of referees fees, home team being defined as the club/association named first in the fixture list.

H. NON ATTENDANCE OF REFEREE

Should appointed referees not be in attendance by the appointed time, it is the responsibility of the home club/association to provide same, and the appointee must control the whole game, except that a suitably qualified and identified referee, in uniform, from either side shall take precedence over an unqualified person from the home team.

21.10 GROUNDS AVAILABILITY, WET WEATHER, MATCH RESULTS

- A. Mid-week (evenings) or Sundays, as determined by the Competitor Secretary, will be set aside for the wet weather cancellations and/or replays.
- B. Rescheduling of fixtures will be arranged accordingly and subject to ground availability and weather conditions be so played. Failure to reschedule games/fixtures within two (2) weeks will result in the New South Wales Soccer Federation taking over and rescheduling at a time and place of their choosing.
- C. A change of grounds is to be permitted for good reason up to the Tuesday evening prior to normal Saturday playing days, or at least three (3) days before any other playing day. In circumstances where such change occurs, or where cancellation becomes effective, it is the responsibility of the home club/association to notify the opposing contact as well as the New South Wales Soccer Federation as soon as practical and in any event no later than 7:00 a.m. on the playing day. No ground swapping is to be considered at that stage.
- D. The home club/association will be responsible for providing three (3) match balls and they must be of the Sponsors brand, which must comply with the laws of the game. Referees shall endorse team sheets accordingly. Failure to abide by this stipulation will result in a twenty five dollar (\$25-00) fine. Where forfeits occur as defined in Rule 21.5, 21.7 (H), 21.8 (d) and 21.12, referees' fees will still be due and payable by the offending team, except that where games are abandoned by the Referee because of the state of the ground arising from wet weather, prior to commencement, no Referees' fees are payable.
- E. Each club/association shall fill in an Evaluation Report form on Referees for all fixtures. Such forms are to be in the hands of the New South Wales Soccer Federation within seventy two (72) hours of the match. Failure to comply will result in a five dollar (\$5-00) fine per age group.

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- F. The New South Wales Soccer Federation will provide team sheets to each club/association in book form and in triplicate. The home club/association shall supply all stationery as provided. The home team must collect the team sheets and forward them to the New South Wales Soccer Federation so as to arrive within forty eight (48) hours of the fixture. Failure to comply shall incur a fine of five dollars (\$5-00) per team.

21.11 PROTESTS AND DISPUTES

- A. Where a dispute arises over identification cards, the Referee shall be requested to endorse the nature of the dispute on the team sheet.
- B. All other matters arising from fixtures shall be lodged with the New South Wales Soccer Federation by Wednesday following the match. A fee of fifty dollars (\$50-00) must accompany any protest, which shall be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- C. The P & D Chairman shall, prior to the hearing, notify the nature of the complaint to all involved parties.

21.12 FORFEITS AND ABANDONED GAMES

- A. There shall be a fine for a forfeit comprising one hundred dollars (\$100-00) plus all Referees' fees for each games involved, whether or not referees are in attendance.
- B. Upon a team or group of teams first forfeiting, officials will be called before the New South Wales Soccer Federation to present an explanation.
- C. On a second forfeit, the club/association involved shall further be required to show cause why they should not be expelled from the competition, and each team involved shall, in addition to the fine in the first paragraph above, also forfeit four (4) match points.
- D. In cases where a game is abandoned by the Referee, through the invasion of the field by spectators, or through an assault on the game official(s), the New South Wales Soccer Federation shall investigate the circumstances surrounding the abandonment and shall:-
- i) Determine the result of the abandoned game if a decision is taken not to order replay;
 - ii) Impose such penalties as they deem fit on the club/association Officials, or players adjudged to have been associated with the abandonment.
- E. In respect of (D) (ii) above, the decision of the New South Wales Soccer Federation shall be final and not subject to an appeal to other authority.

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21.13 CAUTIONS, INELIGIBLE PLAYERS, SEND OFFS

- A. A player shall be cautioned during the course of a Federation fixture for any offence under the Laws of the Association Football which is deemed necessary by the Referee.
- B. The Referee may record any such caution during the course of play and will show the player the yellow card.
- C. An official booking (or caution) is administered by the Referee recording a player's name and number and the offence committed on the Federation's caution report form at the conclusion of the match.
- D. The club/association officials shall present to the Referee at the conclusion of the fixture the club's/associations copy of the official report book. The club/association shall forward the original copy to the New South Wales Soccer Federation to arrive within forty eight (48) hours of the match completion.

Failure to comply may result in a fee of ten dollars (\$10).

- E. In the event of no players being cautioned the report shall still be completed. The words "NO CAUTIONS" shall be written across the report.
- F. After an individual player has received five (5) official cautions in premiership matches the player shall serve a one (1) fixture suspension. There shall be no appeal against a one (1) fixture suspension after receiving five (5) official cautions.
- G. Any player who accumulates a further three (3) official cautions, making a total of eight (8) shall be suspended for a further two (2) fixtures. There shall be no appeal against a two (2) fixture suspension after accumulating eight (8) official cautions. The player must serve the two (2) match suspension in the club's next two (2) premiership fixtures following the match in which the eighth (8) official caution was received.
- H. Any player who accumulates nine (9) or more official cautions in any one season shall automatically appear before the next Disciplinary meeting following the receipt of this caution. The Disciplinary Committee may apply a bond, fine or suspension for each caution received after eight (8) in any one season.

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I. Official cautions shall not carry over from season to season. The termination of an official season shall be at the conclusion of the last official match of the season nor into the final series which follows the premiership competition of the season shall be at the completion of the last official premiership match of the season in which the player competes.

J. A player shall be sent from the field for the following offences as prescribed for in the laws of the game;

Law 13 Determination 13 and 14

Violent Conduct

Serious Foul Play

Foul or Abusive Language

Persisting in Misconduct after receiving a caution

K. Players sent from the field shall incur a minimum one (1) fixture suspension unless waived at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

L. The Referee must inform, on request, the Club/Association Secretary at the termination of the match under what charges the player has been dismissed.

M. The Referee shall note in his send off report whether the club/association was informed of the send off offence charge.

N. All players suspended from the field of play on a charge of violent conduct or serious foul play shall automatically appear before the Disciplinary Committee at 6.30 pm on the day of the week appointed by the Board of Directors at the commencement of the season as the regular meeting day for the Disciplinary Committee.

i) Players sent from the field of play shall appear before the next Disciplinary Committee following the suspension and being on the time and day appointed by the directors as the meeting day for the Disciplinary Committee.

ii) Clubs shall be notified prior to the commencement of the season of the meeting day for the Disciplinary Committee.

iii) Players shall be deemed to have received notice from the club/association as to the meeting day of the Disciplinary Committee.

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- iv) Where a player does not appear before the Disciplinary Committee on the scheduled meeting date then subject to the *Disciplinary Committee being satisfied that there is sufficient evidence for the suspension it may make a determination in the absence of the player.*
- v) *Players may no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing inform the Federation in writing that they consent to the matter being heard ex-parte and submit written evidence in support of their defence or in mitigation of penalty.*
- O. *All players suspended from the field of play for any offence other than violent conduct or serious foul play are not required to attend the Disciplinary Committee's next meeting but may elect to do so. In their absence the Disciplinary Committee will examine the reports of the Referee and Assistant referee and will decide either to deal with the matter summarily or to have the player appear at the next meeting. Players sent from the field of play on a charge of assault or violent conduct and/or persons summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee shall automatically appear before the Disciplinary Committee at 6:30pm on the day of the week appointed by the Board of Directors at the commencement of the season as the regular meeting day for the Disciplinary Committee.*
- P. *A player sent from the field on a Saturday is not permitted to play on Sunday when teams are engaged in Saturday/Sunday.*
- Q. *All suspensions appertaining to the Youth League includes all State League fixtures.*
- R. *Any appeal against the determination of the Disciplinary Committee must be made in writing within forty eight (48) hours of notification of the determination by the NSW Soccer Federation accompanied by an appeal fee of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150). All determinations shall remain in place until the appeal is heard.*

21.14 FINAL SERIES CAUTIONS

Any player receiving two (2) cautions in the Final Series shall automatically stand down the next match. If the players team/club has completed its finals series commitments the player shall stand down the first competition fixture in the following season.

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21.15 CUP CAUTIONS

Any player receiving two (2) cautions in a cup tournament shall automatically stand down in their next cup fixture. Should the player's team be eliminated from the cup tournament the player will serve their automatic one (1) match stand in their club's next official fixture.

A player sent from the field on a Saturday is not permitted to play on Sunday when teams are engaged in Saturday/Sunday fixtures the same weekend.

All suspensions appertaining to the Youth League includes all State League fixtures.

21.16 STRIP, TEAM SHEETS

- A. The nominated strip of the respective clubs/associations as indicated in the draw must be worn at all fixtures. Failure to comply will incur a ten dollar (\$10-00) fine per team.
- B. All players must wear unduplicated numbered jerseys, such numbers to coincide with the team sheet. The first eleven (11) named thereon are deemed to be the players taking the field for the commencement of play. Names are to be printed neatly in the column provided. Failure to observe this ruling will incur a five dollar (\$5-00) fine per player nominated on the team sheet.
- C. The home club/association is responsible for ensuring the team sheets reach the New South Wales Soccer Federation prior to the next round ie by the Thursday following the match. Failure to submit same within the stipulated time shall result in a ten dollar (\$10-00) fine being levied for each missing team sheet.
- D. In the event of colour clashes, the away (visiting) team shall change if so requested by the Referee.

21.17 A. REPLACEMENTS

Five (5) players may be replaced at any time during the game, but once replaced cannot further participate in the game. In all, sixteen (16) players are permitted to participate.

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6. The interchanging of players will cease, at the completion of normal and extra time. If at this time penalty kicks is required to obtain a result, then the eleven (11) players on the field at the end of extra time are the only players permitted to participate in the penalty kicks. No interchanging at this time is permissible.

NOTE: If during the taking of the penalty kicks the Goalkeeper is injured he may be replaced with another Goalkeeper providing the replacement was listed on the team sheet.

21.18 THE BENCH

- A. Only currently registered players, coaches/managers and officials are allowed to sit on the bench during fixtures.
- B. A maximum of nine (9) persons only are allowed to sit on the bench at any one time. These nine (9) persons to be five (5) substitute players and four (4) other registered club representatives.
- C. Seating shall be supplied and placed in position by the Home Team in sufficient quantity to seat nine (9) persons from each side.

21.19 COMPETITION WINNERS

If at the conclusion of the competition rounds, two or more teams finish on equal points, the winner will be determined on goal difference. When goal differences are equal, the team scoring the greater number of goals shall be deemed winners. If still equal, the team scoring the greater number of goals whilst playing away will be declared winners. If still equal, there shall be a play-off to achieve a result.

21.20 FINALS, EXTRA TIME, PLAYER QUALIFICATION

- A. At the completion of the Competition rounds, the first four (4) teams in each age group each division/group, shall play off.
- B. The format of finals shall be determined by the New South Wales Soccer Federation annually, prior to the commencement of the competition, on the recommendation of the Youth League Committee.
- C. When scores are equal at the end of normal time in "Finals" fixtures an additional ten (10) minutes each way will be played and the "Sudden Death" rule will apply. If at the completion of extra time the result is still level, the system of penalty kicks will be introduced to achieve a result.

21.20 Cont.

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- D. No player shall be eligible to play in his registered age group Finals if he has played three (3) of his last four (4) competition matches in a higher age grade, and playing two (2) grades on the one day is evaluated as the higher grade. The goalkeeper will be the exception to this rule.
- E. Players from a lower age grade may be promoted to replace injured players or bring team numbers up to the allowable sixteen (16) members, but not to replace existing team members.

21.21 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- A. On the principle that teams are graded into divisions/groups, a system of promotion and relegation within the respective divisions/groups shall apply.
- B. The method to be used to grade clubs will be combined total of competition points attained by the four (4) teams added together. In the event of two (2) or more being equal on points, Rule 21.19 shall apply.

21.22 INJURY AND STOPPAGE TIME

Is to be played.

21.23 MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS, TEAM SHEET ENDORSEMENT

- A. A team must field at least seven (7) of its registered players at the start of a match. A team may field up to a maximum of four (4) registered players from lower age groups during a game. The team sheet shall be endorsed with the borrowed player's age group of registration alongside the player's name. Failure to comply shall result in a five dollar (\$5-00) fine per instance.
- B. There shall be no movement downwards under any circumstances. Contravention of this rule constitutes ineligibility, subsequent loss of points if attained, and a hundred dollar (\$100-00) fine. See 21.27).

21.24 MATCH DEFERMENTS

Clubs/associations seeking to defer matches must submit their request in writing to be lodged with the New South Wales Soccer Federation giving a minimum twenty one (21) days notice of the date on which deferment will be sought.

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21.25 COACHES QUALIFICATIONS

All coaches coaching Youth League will need either:-

- i) to hold a Level 2 Certificate and be accredited with the Australian Coaching Council;

OR

- ii) be currently registered on a Level 2 Coaching Course and actively taking part.

21.26 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The teams representing Sydney Branch in the State Age Group Championships as Sydney (1), Sydney (2) and Sydney (3) shall be those teams who finish in first, second or third place of the Super Youth League division premierships competition of that year.

21.27 GENERAL PURPOSES TRIBUNAL

The New South Wales Soccer Federation's General Purposes Tribunal shall hear:-

- A. All matters that occur off the playing field.
- B. All matters that concern reports of discipline or breaches of the Rules and Regulations.
- C. The General Purposes Tribunal shall report its decision on any matters to the New South Wales Soccer Federation who will notify all parties to any hearing or investigation of the determination.
- D. In exercising its functions, the General Purposes Tribunal shall have the power to disqualify, suspend, fine, expel, reprimand or otherwise deal with any member club, association, player, coach, manager, club official or other persons found guilty after investigation of any matter referred to it.
- E. All appeals against the determination of a General Purposes Tribunal hearing must be received in writing within fourteen (14) days of the General Purposes Tribunal hearing, accompanied by the appeal fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) refundable if the appeal is upheld.

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F. The General Purposes Tribunal may investigate any complaint of:

- i) any breach of these rules and regulations;
- ii) unsportsmanlike or unbecoming conduct against any club, member or official thereof, player or coach;
- iii) violence or threats of violence or intimidation; or
- iv) conduct which brings or may bring the game into disrepute.

G. LEGAL REPRESENTATION

If legal representation is required then written notice must be given to the Federation no later than forty eight (48) hours before the matter is set down for hearing before the Tribunal.

21.28 DURATION OF PLAY

Duration of playing times shall be as follows:

- Grade 11 and 12 - 25 minutes each half.
- Grade 13 and 14 - 30 minutes each half.
- Grade 15 and 16 - 35 minutes each half.
- Grade 17 - 40 minutes each half.

21.29 BALLS

The following sizes are applicable:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Ball Size</u>	<u>Measurement</u>
11	4	64/66cm or 25/26 inch
12	4	64/66cm or 25/26 inch
13	4	64/66cm or 25/26 inch
14	5	68/70cm or 27/28 inch
15	5	68/70cm or 27/28 inch
16	5	68/70cm or 27/28 inch
17	5	68/70cm or 27/28 inch

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21.30 FINES

Not providing three (3) match balls of sponsors brand for the fixtures	\$25.00 per game
Late Referee Evaluation Forms	\$5.00 per form
Home team failure to supply team sheets	\$5.00 per offence
Failure to telephone results to the Federation Office (both clubs)	\$50.00 per result
Late Referees Report	\$10.00 per report
Late team sheets	\$10.00 per sheet
Duplicated shirt numbers	\$5.00 per offence
Shirt numbers of players not matching the team sheet numbers	\$5.00 per offence
Failure to endorse age grade of borrowed player on the team sheet	\$5.00 per offence
Playing of players downwards from registered grade	\$100.00 per offence
Non use of substitution board	\$10.00 per game
Failure to wear nominated strip	\$10.00 per team per game
Forfeits	\$100.00 per game

21.31 DEFINITIONS

Rounds	A series of fixtures scheduled by the New South Wales Soccer Federation.
Fixtures	A meeting of two (2) clubs as scheduled in all grades applicable.
Match	A individual meeting between (2) teams in a particular grade.
Game(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. As per match b. The code as outlined by FIFA