

**TOWNSVILLE FOOTBALL INC.**

**JUNIOR PLAYING RULES**

**2010**

**SECTION 1    REGISTRATION and ADMINISTRATION**

**1.1    NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND TEAMS**

**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.**

- 1.1.1 Any club wishing to register a player for subsequent registration in a team competing in competitions or matches conducted by Townsville Football shall apply in writing on an approved Player Registration Form as provided by Football Queensland. A Player Registration Form must be completed for all players as more specifically described in Clause 1.3.1 hereof.
- 1.1.2 Any club wishing to register a team for inclusion in competitions or matches conducted by Townsville Football shall apply in writing on an approved Team Nomination Form as more specifically described in Clause 1.3.2 hereof. Townsville Football will accept nominations from North Queensland Centre of Excellence Teams for participation in the competitive age divisions. Centre of Excellence teams will play for competition points and will be eligible to win premierships in their respective divisions. Centre of Excellence sides will not participate in final series for their respective divisions.
- 1.1.3 Accompanying the Team Nomination Form shall be a Team Registration Form containing the names of the registered players comprising the nominated team, together with each player's identification number (if known) and the age and division in which each player competed during the previous year's competition, as more specifically described in Clause 1.3.2 hereof.
- 1.1.4 A team constitutes a minimum of seven (7) players for 11-aside teams, four (4) for 7 aside teams and three (3) for 4 or 5-aside teams.
- 1.1.5 **Number of Registered Players in a Team**
  - (a). A minimum of seven (7) players must be registered in teams in the U11 to U16 Divisions to be eligible to participate in the Townsville Football competition.
  - (b). For Optus Small Sided Football games, the maximum numbers are shown in the separate rules for these competitions. The maximum number is set by Football Federation Australia and Clubs are encouraged to create an additional team rather as you cannot exceed the maximum number of players in a team.

### 1.1.6 **Withdrawal of Teams**

- (a). Should a Club, having nominated a team for competition and such team is accepted by Townsville Football, then elect to withdraw that team prior to two (2) weeks before the commencement of the season, that Club may be fined up to a maximum of \$500.00
- (b). 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 up to a maximum of \$750.00.
- (c). In both cases mentioned above the nomination fee is forfeited on withdrawal of a team.

## 1.2 **REGISTRATION FEES**

### 1.2.1 **Payment of Registration Fees**

- (a) Registration fees are payable in instalments per year based on individual registration numbers. The dates when these are required and the amount of the capitation fee levied per registered player are those advised by Townsville Football from year to year.
- (b) Clubs will be billed based on the following formula:
  - 50% at 31st March
  - 30% at 31<sup>st</sup> May
  - 20% at 31st July
- (c) 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.

### 1.2.2 **Responsibility for Fees**

- (a) The club registering a player shall be responsible for the player's registration fee and any other fee or levy as prescribed from time to time by the Townsville Football.
- (b) Any club who has not paid these fees by the due date advised by Townsville Football will be asked to show cause why the teams registered by this club should not be declared ineligible to participate in the Final Series of their competitions. This is in addition to any additional action Townsville Football may wish to take in accordance with the Constitution.
- (c) The Townsville Football Registrar and Treasurer shall not be held responsible to advise clubs other than that required in existing preceding clauses.

### **1.3 REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

#### **Refer National Registration Regulations**

- (a). To ensure football is regulated in a consistent & coordinated manner, please follow the new National Registration Regulations.
- (b). A player may register with one (1) 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 required form, where a player receives a FFA Identification Number and has submitted the required form(s) to Townsville Football. Players are also required to sign a Player Insurance Benefit form.
- (c). Players cannot move from a Club without completing and lodgement of, a Cancellation of Amateur Player (NRR08) Form. This form is required to be signed by the Player, Club & Competition Administrator before a player can register with another Club in the same season. The new club completes a Supplementary Registration (NRR11) Form with use of the Players FFA Identification number which is required to be lodged with Townsville Football prior to the player playing.
- (d). The Grievance Process begins if a Club refuses to release a player by not signing the Cancellation form for legitimate grounds.

#### **1.3.1 Registration of Players**

- (a) No person is entitled to play Townsville Football Inc. fixtures or social games unless formal registration is affected in accordance with these rules.
- (b) Player Registration Forms are to be completed and dated by each club registrar, Secretary or President in duplicate or as required by Townsville Football.
- (c) The original of each Player Registration Form will be retained by Townsville Football as the official record of Townville Football, and the duplicate copy is to be forwarded to Football Queensland.
- (d) All registered players shall be entered onto a computerised registration system which shall include the allocation of identification numbers to new players, and full printed details of each Club's registered players shall be provided to each Club at such times as agreed by Townsville Football and the Clubs but not less than twice per season at such times as Townville Football deems appropriate.
- (e) Player Registration Forms will only be available for direct inspection by the registering club, although any club may query the validity of any registration.
- (f) Information provided to Townsville Football by way of player registration will be treated confidentially at all times by Townsville Football. Details of any medical conditions, silent telephone numbers and parents' occupations will be secured electronically and may only be viewed by members of the Playing and/or Management Committee.

#### **1.3.2 Team Nomination and Registration**

- (a) Each club wishing to nominate teams for inclusion in Townsville Football fixtures shall complete a Team Nomination Form and deliver it to the office of Townsville Football, by the date specified in Clause 1.7.1 Team Nominations received after the dates specified in Clause 1.7.1 may be accepted with an additional Late Nomination levy of \$25, at the discretion of Townsville Football.

- (b) After acceptance of Team Nominations by Townsville Football, each Club Secretary or Registrar shall be responsible for supplying to Townsville Football one (1) copy of an Official Team Registration Sheet specific to each team, which will list players playing for a particular team, their date of birth and their FFA Player Registration Number. A computerised team listing will be accepted by Townsville Football in place of an Official Team Registration Sheet, on the condition that same is both dated and signed by an appropriate club official.
- (c) A duly completed Team Registration Sheet or equivalent, is binding with respect to player eligibility and a player once registered with a team in a higher age grade grouping cannot play in his/her correct age grade grouping, pursuant to Clause 1.4.8 and 1.4.9 hereof. Such Team Registration shall be on an Official Team Registration form as devised by Townville Football, Club letterhead or computer printout.
- (d) Additions to and subtractions from Team Registration Sheets is allowable throughout the recognised playing season. Where such additions to or subtractions from Team Registration Sheets are made, Townville Football will require an amended Team Registration Sheet for the particular team, and same shall be supplied by the Club so requested within seven (7) days of such demand. Fresh Team Registration Sheets may be supplied by any club throughout the recognised playing season.
- (e) A Team Registration Sheet or an alteration to a Team Registration Sheet is not valid unless signed and dated by either a club secretary or registrar.
- (f) Original Team Registration Sheets shall be retained by Townville Football on behalf of Townville Football and will be available for inspection and/or display at the Townsville football Office.
- (g) The player so registered on each club's Team Registration Sheets shall be shown on the weekly Game Sheets.

## **1.4 GENERAL REGISTRATION RULES**

### **1.4.1 Duration of Registration**

Both player and team registrations shall be current for the calendar year in which such registration is affected.

### **1.4.2 Priority of Registration**

Except as provided for in Clause 1.4.5, where a player in any year signs two or more Player Registration Forms contracting to play for more than one team, despite the declaration contained on the form, shall be deemed to have sought registration for one team, selected by Townsville Football. In such cases, Townville Football may penalise a player and/or Club as it sees fit, in accordance with the Constitution.

### **1.4.3 Late Registration**

(a) Additional and/or late registration of players will only be officially recognised when the player's details are entered on both a Player Registration Form (with completed Indemnity Form attached if required) and on a Team Registration Sheet. Alterations, additions and/or deregistration to registered players will be accepted at any time, but such alterations or additions will not be incorporated

into the Game Sheet for fixture rounds unless received by Townsville Football office by 4:00 pm on the Wednesday preceding such fixture round.

- (b) Any club late with team registrations may be fined at the discretion of Townsville Football. Additional and late registration of players will only be recognised when completed in accordance with clause 1.3.1 hereof, alterations to and late registration of teams will only be recognised when completed in accordance with clause 1.3.2 hereof.

#### **1.4.4 Age Qualification**

**It should be noted that the Football Queensland Player Age Policy is applicable to the Townsville Football Junior Competition. Refer Football Queensland policies.**

- (a) The eligibility of a player to play in any age grade shall be determined by the player's age he/she becomes in the current playing year.
- (b) It is an obligation of each club to ensure that all of its players playing in an age grade are indeed eligible to play such age group. If Townsville Football suspects or a protest is received from another club as to the eligibility of a player to play in a particular age grade, Townsville Football shall require the club to produce that player's birth certificate or other proof of birth within a reasonable time, as defined by Townsville Football. If it is subsequently found that a player is ineligible because of age to play in a particular team that team shall lose all points that it has earned whilst the player has been playing, and those points will be awarded to the opposing team.

#### **1.4.5 Playing for Another Club**

- (a) In competition matches, except as provided for herein, any registered player of an affiliated club found playing for the team of another affiliated club may be penalised by Townsville Football.
- (b) In non-competitive matches this stipulation may be waived in specific defined circumstances and a registered player of one affiliated club may play for another club in an appropriate and correct age grade grouping. The specific defined circumstances in which this will be permitted will be decided by Townsville Football and/or at a monthly general meeting.

#### **1.4.6 Playing with Another Association, etc.**

Any registered player proved to have played in any competition match conducted by another Junior Football Association or other Football Organisation without the permission of Townsville Football may be suspended for a period to be determined by Townsville Football.

#### **1.4.7 Playing in a Lower Age Grouping**

Any registered player of an affiliated club found playing for his/her club in an age grade grouping lower than the player's registered team as stated on the appropriate Team Registration Sheet or Weekly Game Sheet shall be dealt with by Townsville Football.

#### **1.4.8 Playing in Separate Teams for Same Club in Same Age Grouping**

A player who is registered for a particular team in a club may play for any other team the club may enter in the same age grade grouping, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) A player may play in a higher division of a particular age grade grouping at any time;
- (b) No player can transfer between teams with the same club in the same division of an age grade grouping without written permission of Townsville Football.

#### **1.4.9 Playing in Higher Age Grade Grouping**

Any player may play in a higher age grade grouping for his/her club provided that for 11-aside games the following conditions apply:

- (a) The team the player is filling in for, has 7 of its own registered players entered on the Weekly Game Sheet as prepared by the Competition Administrator and playing at the commencement of the game;
- (b) A maximum of 4 players can be brought up from a lower age grade grouping provided sub-section (a) of this rule is satisfied;
- (c) Where a player who has been selected as a representative player in the previous year plays for his club at a level lower than that of the highest graded team (A, B or C) in that age grade grouping for that club, then written permission must be obtained each time from Townsville Football at least 24 hours in advance. So that this written permission can be given back to the Club within this time span, the Club must ensure that Townsville Football is notified by 12 noon on the Wednesday preceding the game;
- (d) Where a team is unable to field eleven (11) players in a Final Series, players from a lower age grade grouping or lower division within the same age grade grouping are allowed to play in more than one Final Series for the team which has insufficient players. A maximum of four (4) players may be used to make up a team of eleven (11) players maximum, with no reserves allowed. Townsville Football must be advised in writing documenting the particular circumstances and naming the nominated players and stating the intention to use up to the four (4) players nominated. The notice in writing must be received by Townsville Football six (6) days (144 hours) before the scheduled time for the game. Submission of the finals teams list, listing player's names as per 2.4.1 – Note 3 is not sufficient notice to meet the requirements of this ruling.
- (e) Players are permitted to play in more than one Grand Final Series but in these circumstances the 50% rule (1.4.9 (g)) and the representative player rule (1.4.9 (c)) will be strictly enforced;
- (f) The name or names of players playing above their Grade Team Age Grouping must be recorded on the Weekly Game Sheet with their correct Age Grade Groupings shown in brackets. Failure to indicate their age grade grouping on the Weekly Game Sheet may incur a fine of \$25 for each offence;

- (g) In the case of a player playing in a higher age grade grouping, no player can play in the finals series unless he/she has played a minimum of 50% of the games played by that team after his/her date of Registration. However consideration may be given to a player unavailable to play due to injury or games being played at the same or similar times.
- (h) Players who satisfy this rule will be eligible to play in a higher final series, and clause (d) may not necessarily apply (provided that the maximum number of sixteen (16) players is not exceeded).

#### **1.4.10 Identification of Teams**

Where a club has more than one team entered in an age grade the teams shall be designated with the notation "No. 1", "No. 2", "No. 3" etc, irrespective of the division into which they are graded. However clubs who wish to give their teams individual names may do so providing such name is not already chosen by another team and such duplication of name would, in the opinion of Townsville Football, cause confusion in the draw. The primary submission would, in such instance, be granted rights to the name by Townsville Football.

#### **1.4.11 Changes in Early Season**

Townsville Football Inc. recognises that during the President's Cup (early season) rounds, there may be application for a number of transfers of players between registered teams. Clubs are to provide a final and/or amended list of team players on a Team Registration Sheet specific for each team within each particular age grade grouping at such time as required by Townsville Football. This final and/or amended listing of players playing for a specific team within each particular age grade grouping will be binding with respect to player eligibility in accordance with clauses 1.3.2(b) hereof.

#### **1.4.12 Evidence of Registration**

Amended registration forms and procedures may be introduced by Townsville Football to permit or improve computer processing of player and team registrations. Appearance of a player's name and particulars on a computer printed sheet, generated on behalf of Townsville Football, shall be sufficient evidence that a player is registered for that team and/or Club.

#### **1.4.13 False Registration**

Players who wrongly state their year of birth or any club who submits a Player Registration Form knowing the facts stated thereon to be untrue, shall be dealt with by Townsville Football.

### **1.5 TRANSFER OF PLAYERS**

Refer to National Registration Regulations

## **1.6 COMPETITION RULES**

### **1.6.1 Weekly Game Sheets**

(a) Townsville Football will prepare each week, for each premiership fixture, a Game Sheet showing details of the scheduled match, and the teams to participate in such match in accordance with the draw. Three (3) copies of such Game Sheet will be provided and marked as follows:

White - Official Referee's Copy

Yellow - Home Team's Copy (i.e. First team named in the draw)

Blue - Away Team's Copy (i.e. Second team named in the draw)

(b) The referee of each game is required to complete the Game Sheet marked "Official Referee's Copy" by indicating the goals scored by each team, signing it and completing details of all persons involved in such game. At the start of the second-half, in consultation with the assistant referee and consistent with rule 1.6.1 (c), the referee shall add players who have arrived late (after the start of the game). All players playing from another grade shall have their correct age grade indicated (see also rule 2.6.7).

(c) The coach/manager for each opposing team is required to counter-sign the "Official Referee's Copy" of the Game Sheet as being the true and correct scores of the match indicated. It is each club's coach/manager's responsibility to ensure that the correct players are named on the "Official Referee's Copy" of the Game Sheet, and only indicate by identification number the players that are present. Players that arrive after the game has started have to report to the assistant referee (linesperson), through their manager, at a convenient break in play. The assistant referee will then register the player as present by recording their identification number next to their name.

(d) The referee for each game, whether official or otherwise, is required to return the "Official Referee's Copy" of the Game Sheet to the match day office. Home teams and Away teams may retain the copies of the Game Sheets marked respectively.

(e) A player is deemed to have played in a competition fixture if his/her name and appropriate playing shirt number, appears on the official team sheet. If no shirt number is recorded, this player is deemed not to have played.

### **1.6.2 Game Marshall**

Each team playing Townsville Football fixtures shall appoint a Marshall as that team's official observer for the match. In the event of any dispute arising from such match, the appointed Marshall may be called by Townsville Football to give evidence. A player, a coach, a manager or a referee directly involved with either team competing shall not be appointed Marshall for that match.

### **1.6.3 Referee's Fees**

Are determined on an annual basis and ratified by Townsville Football. These fees are payable within fourteen (14) days of the date of the account.

**1.6.4 Club's Financial Responsibilities**

All clubs which are fully paid, financial members of Townsville Football are eligible to vote at any general meeting. In the event of a club failing to meet its financial obligations, voting rights for such club will be suspended until such time as all outstanding fees, levies or fines are met or such other penalty imposed as per Rule 1.2.2.

**1.6.5 Registration Fees**

Are determined by and payable to Townsville Football under rule 1.2.1 & 1.2.2

**1.6.6 Fines as imposed by these Rules**

Are payable within fourteen (14) days of formal notification in writing

**1.7 TEAM GRADINGS**

**1.7.1 Entries**

- (a) The closing date for nomination of teams for premiership fixtures shall be the date set by Townsville Football and as advised by Townsville Football.
- (b) Following the closing date for nomination of teams in each grade, the C.A. shall meet to arrange suitable competitions for the season.
- (c) If insufficient nominations are received in any grade that part of the competition may be suspended for the year. In such a case, the teams entered may be permitted to enter a competition conducted by neighbouring Associations and all fees paid to Townsville Football will be refunded.

**1.7.2 Gradings**

- (a) Where there are sufficient teams entered in a particular age grade group to warrant, in the opinion of the grading committee (where appointed), the running of the competition in two or more divisions, the teams shall be graded as far as practicable into the division most suited to their abilities.
- (b) Any club has a period of seven (7) days in which to lodge objections against its team gradings. Such objection period shall commence from the receipt of these gradings from Townsville Football.

1.7.3 The U9 and U11 girls divisions will play under the Optus Small Sided Games Rules.

**1.8 SPECIAL COMPETITIONS**

Townsville Football may conduct knock-out competitions and gala day competitions under such rules and conditions as may be set down by Townsville Football.

**1.9 SOCIAL OR CHARITY MATCHES**

1.9.1 Any affiliated club, registered team or registered player, may take part in social, benefit or charity matches with other clubs in Townsville Football subject to prior permission of Townsville Football, provided Townsville Football fixtures are properly fulfilled and conform to Townsville Football's official program for the season.

- 1.9.2 However, any affiliated club, registered team or registered player wishing to partake in matches against clubs of other Associations, must first obtain the permission of Townsville Football. Clubs must abide by the Townsville Football program and may not play social games on any occasion when Townsville or North Queensland Zone Representatives are playing in Townsville, nor when semi-finals, finals and grand finals are being played.
- 1.9.3 Any registered team wishing to take part in competition matches outside the Townsville/Thuringowa area must complete a Football Queensland Travel Permit Form and return it to the Townsville Football Secretary fourteen (14) days prior to the date of travel.

## **1.10 TROPHIES**

- 1.10.1 The competition premiers in each division in each age grouping shall be awarded a trophy or trophies at the discretion of Townsville Football.
- 1.10.2 Where a trophy is in existence for annual competition, the trophy shall be handed to the winning team at the conclusion of the season or as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 1.10.3 All Townsville Football trophies shall remain the property of Townsville Football and shall not become the property of any club.
- 1.10.4 All Townsville Football trophies are to be returned to Townsville Football by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August each year, in a clean and sound condition.
- 1.10.5 The club winning a trophy shall be responsible for the arranging at its own cost, the engraving on the trophy of the club's name and the year it was won. This must be done prior to the trophy being returned to Townsville Football. If such engraving has not been carried out by the Club when the trophy is returned, Townsville Football shall complete the engraving on behalf of the club and shall levy a charge to recover that cost.
- 1.10.6 A club failing to return a trophy to Townsville Football by 1st August will incur a fine of \$50.00. If a trophy has not been returned by mid-August, a new trophy may be purchased with the replacement cost being borne by the offending club.

## **1.11 SATURDAY COMPETITIONS**

Competitions organised by Townsville Football shall be regarded as Saturday competitions. Special matches can be played at other times when deemed necessary by the Townsville Football.

## **1.12 TEAM MANAGERS AND COACHES**

- 1.12.1 It is the duty of the team manager and/or coach to see that these rules are observed in matches conducted under the jurisdiction of Townsville Football. If a team manager considers that a breach of any rule has been made, he/she should

first consult with his/her club's secretary who will then forward a written protest to the Townsville Football secretary who will pass it to the Townsville Football Disciplinary Committee. Each team is to appoint a Club Marshall for the game pursuant to Clause 1.6.2, whose responsibility will be to alert Townsville Football officials to any situation likely to bring the game into disrepute.

1.12.2 Where there is any form of misconduct by any spectator or club official considered undesirable, the referee of the match has the right to stop the game and contact an official of Townsville Football. The referee will advise the official of Townsville Football what action he desires and that official will then take charge of the situation.

### **1.13 NON-COMPETITIVE GAMES**

Townsville Football may organise non-competitive games between teams of contiguous age grades where there are byes in both grades.

### **1.14 INJURIES**

1.14.1 If a player is considered by the referee or member of Townsville Football to be seriously injured and must not be moved, then the game may be cancelled subject to the length of the delay and replayed at a later date. Townsville Football provides trained First Aid personnel during the President's Cup and Saturday competitions. First aid equipment is available from the Townsville Football First Aid Room.

1.14.2 Any one person (coach, manager, physiotherapist or other appropriate official) nominated to the referee prior to the commencement of a match, may in the event of an obvious serious injury to a player, enter the field of play only after being called on by the referee. In these circumstances entry to the field of play is from the team's official bench at the half way line and is solely for the purposes of dealing with the injured player.

1.14.3 In accordance with the recommendation of the International F.A. Board, the Referee should prevent a player who is bleeding profusely from taking any further part in a match until he has been adequately treated and the bleeding has stopped.

## SECTION 2 PLAYING

### 2.1 GROUNDS AND APPURTENANCES

2.1.1 Except where specifically stated otherwise, the first named team in the competition draw shall be considered the home team, and shall provide the match ball and match official(s) if necessary.

#### 2.1.2 Ball Sizes

Under 6, 7, 8, 9	Size 3: 56-61cm (21-24") in circumference
Under 10, 11, 12 & 13	Size 4: 61-64cm (24-25") in circumference
Under 14, 15, 16,	Size 5: 69-71cm (27-28") in circumference

For all sizes inflation pressure shall be 0.6 - 0.7 atmospheres, i.e. 62-72 kilopascals or 9.0 - 10.5 pounds per square inch. No ball shall exceed a weight of 453 grams (16 oz) at the start of a game. All balls shall be spherical and have an outer casing of leather or other approved material and has no material used in their construction which may be dangerous to a player. Mixed age grades (e.g. U12/13) play with the size applicable to the higher age grade.

#### 2.1.3 Playing Field Sizes

(a) For games played under Townsville Football jurisdiction, field sizes shall be as near as practicable to the following dimensions:

U13/14/15/16	100 metres x 70 metres (Full sized field)
U11/12	90 metres x 60 metres (Intermediate sized field)
U10/11G	70 metres x 50 metres (9-aside teams)
U8/9	40 metres x 30 metres (7-aside teams)
U6/7	30 metres x 20 metres (4-aside teams)

(b) Where games for girls only are conducted, smaller fields than specified above for each age group may be used. These are:

U13 and U15	90 metres x 60 metres (11-aside)
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#### 2.1.4 Draw

The competition draw for the whole season shall be introduced as early as possible in the season after the completion of the President's Cup. This is to include night and any other knock-out competitions. The competition draw shall be the one placed on the Townsville Football notice board at Brolga Park and posted on the North Queensland / Townsville Football website.

#### 2.1.5 Fields Becoming Unfit for Play

Once a field has been declared unsuitable for play by the appointed referee or referees for that game, any team playing on the particular field does so at its own risk. If, under the foregoing circumstances, a team refuses to take the field, then the match shall be reallocated for replay by Townsville Football.

### 2.1.6 Field Markings

- (a) For 11-aside games all fields shall carry markings in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- (b) For Optus Small-Sided Football games, refer to special rules for those games. All fields irrespective of size or usage shall have a broken spectator line marked at a distance not less than 1 metre outside each sideline.
- (c) Out of bounds areas as deemed appropriate by Townsville Football include behind goal areas on all fields used by any age grade groupings. Where necessary these areas may be used for transit purposes only and may not be used at any time for the purpose of viewing the game.

## 2.2 PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Refer Law IV (Laws of the Game 2010)

- 2.2.1 Players in all matches must appear in proper uniform, comprising shirts or jerseys, with sleeves, in team colours, shorts, approved footwear and socks.
- 2.2.2 Where the colours of opposing teams in any match are similar, at the direction of the Referee the second-named team in the draw shall change.
- 2.2.3 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. Teams playing Optus Small Sided Games are excluded from this requirement.
- 2.2.4 Approved footwear must be worn in all grades. In competitive grades shin guards are compulsory and boots recommended. In Optus Small Sided Games boots or training shoes and shin guards must be worn.
- 2.2.5 Safety – A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to him/her self or another player (including any kind of jewellery).

## 2.3 COMPETITION RULES

2.3.1 Townsville Football will abide by the Laws of the Game as ruled by Football Federation Australia and by Football Queensland where these rules are not inconsistent with the Laws of the Game. The table below shows the format for games played under the jurisdiction of Townsville Football.

### 2.3.2 Optus Small-Sided Football Playing Format

As per Football Queensland Policy and Optus Small Sided Football 2010:

### 2.3.3 Competitive Playing Format

Age	Pitch Size	Ball Size	Playing Format
U11	75 x 50 m	4 (61-64 cm)	11 aside, 2 x 25 min halves, FIFA Laws of the Game
U12	90 x 60 m	4 (61-64 cm)	11 aside, 2 x 30 min halves, FIFA Laws of the Game
U13	100 x 70 m	4 (61-64 cm)	11 aside, 2 x 35 min halves, FIFA Laws of the Game
U14	100 x 70 m	5 (69-71 cm)	11 aside, 2 x 35 min halves, FIFA Laws of the Game

U15	100 x 70 m	5 (69-71 cm)	11 aside, 2 x 40 min halves, FIFA Laws of the Game
U16	100 x 70 m	5 (69-71 cm)	11 aside, 2 x 40 min halves, FIFA Laws of the Game

### 2.3.3 Points

In premierships competitions, points shall be allotted as follows:

A win:	Three (3) points
A draw:	One (1) point
A loss	Zero (0) points
A win by forfeit:	Three (3) points & Three (3) goals

### 2.3.4 Competition Premiers

In all premierships competitions the team with the greatest number of points at the completion of the premierships proper shall be termed the competition premiers. In the event of a tie, goal differences will decide the premierships winner, with the following rules applying:

- (a) When teams win or lose points because of a registration or other infringement, any goals scored are disregarded.
- (b) If teams are still equal, goals against shall be subtracted from goals for, with the highest result winning.
- (c) If teams are still equal after the application of 2.3.4(b) above, then the team scoring the greater number of goals will be the winner.
- (d) If teams are still equal after the application of 2.3.4(c) above, then the team with the greater goal average, i.e.: goals for divided by goals against, will be the winner.
- (e) If teams are still equal after the application of 2.3.4(d) above, the team which had more wins during the season is to be the winner.
- (f) In the event that, after all the above procedures have been applied, two teams are still tied, they shall be deemed "Joint Premiers".

## 2.4 GRAND FINALS SERIES

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 will advise all clubs of their financial status prior to the commencement of the finals series.

**NOTE:** North Queensland teams playing in the junior competitions will not be eligible to participate in the final series. The fifth placed team in the divisions where a North Queensland team finishes in the top four, will fill the fourth place in the respective division.

### 2.4.1 Competition Champions

At the conclusion of the premierships in each age group, Semi-Final, Final and Grand Final series shall be played, except Optus Small-Sided Football games.

Note **ONE:**

Refer to Rule 1.4.9 (d, e, f, g & h) which specifies the conditions under which a player may play in more than one final series.

Note **TWO:**

To be eligible to play in a Final Series, a player must have played a minimum of 50% of the games that the team that player is nominated in has played, after his date of registration.

**Note THREE:**

Clubs are to provide a team list applicable to each competitive team playing in the finals series, no later than one week prior to the commencement of the final series. Refer 1.4.9 (d) for use of players from lower age grades.

- (a) The draw for Semi-finals shall be based on the premiership competition. Championship places and Grand Final places in the case of ties are to be decided by the hierarchy specified in Section 2.3.4.
- (b) All competitive age group competitions placing's: 1st versus 2nd and 3rd versus 4th
- (c) The winner of the 1st versus 2nd Semi-Final shall go direct to the Grand Final. The loser of the 1st versus 2nd Semi-Final shall go to the Preliminary Final to meet the winner of the 3rd versus 4th Semi-Final. The loser of the 3rd versus 4th Semi-Final drops out. In the Grand Final the winner of the Preliminary Final meets the winner of the first Semi-Final. The winner of the Grand Final shall be called the Competition Champions. In the event of a draw in a Semi-Final, Preliminary Final or Grand Final, teams will go straight into a Golden Goal situation i.e. the team scoring first will win the game. The maximum duration of the additional "golden goal" period shall be twenty (20) minutes (10 minutes each way).
- (d) If after the "golden goal" period of extra time for semi and preliminary finals, the teams are still level, then the teams will go to a penalty shootout to determine a result.
- (e) In a Penalty Shoot-Out a series of five (5) penalty kicks shall be taken by each team alternatively by different kickers. The goalkeeper may be replaced at any time. All players not actively engaging in the taking of the penalty kicks, and not more than two (2) of each team's officials shall remain on the halfway line in the centre circle. If, after both teams have taken five kicks, each has scored the same number of goals, then the taking of kicks from the penalty spot shall continue in the same order until such time as each has taken the same number of kicks and one team has scored a total of goals which establishes it as the winner. (That is, the replayed game is to be decided by "sudden death penalties" if necessary).
- (e) Grand Final winners will be decided in general by the same rules as apply to Semi-Finals and Preliminary Finals with the exceptions that:
  - i. A maximum duration of Golden Goal time of twenty (20) minutes extra time (i.e. 10 minutes each way) shall be played in Grand Finals ending in a draw after normal time.
  - ii. If, after the appropriate period of extra-time, the score in a Grand Final is still equal, then there will be a penalty shootout to determine the Grand Final Winner.

**Note:**

In the event of a three team draw, a Round Robin competition will be played. The leading team at the end of this series will be the Grand Final Winner.

## **2.5 FORFEITS**

- 2.5.1 Teams winning on a forfeit receive 3 points for the win and 3 goals awarded, with forfeiting teams having 3 goals awarded against them.
- 2.5.2 Matches shall be played on the fields set down by Townsville Football, and shall commence within five (5) minutes of the stipulated time. It should be noted that time delays may occur due to field condition, weather and player injury. A team failing to play its match as set down shall be deemed to have forfeited the match, and shall incur such further penalties as the Management Committee may impose.
- 2.5.3 An 11-aside team must field at least seven (7) of its registered players at the commencement of any match; failure to do so shall result in such team being deemed to have forfeited its match.
- 2.5.4 (a) A team forfeiting more than twice in succession and more than three times during the season may be removed from the competition.  
(b) In the event of a team being removed from the competition, due to forfeit, all results for that team are to be discounted.
- 2.5.5 (a) So that no team shall be disadvantaged, where possible a minimum of 72 hours notice shall be given to Townsville Football by any team which is unable to play its scheduled match. Townsville Football is then to give notice of the forfeit to the opposing club at least 48 hours before the scheduled game. Clubs failing to give the appropriate 72 hours notice of a forfeit without suitable proof of just cause may be liable to incur such further penalties as the Management Committee may impose. Teams forfeiting may do so by telephone but must confirm in writing.  
(b) The penalty fine for a forfeit will be \$100 with the club still having to show cause as to why notification was not given in accordance with Clause 2.5.4(a).
- 2.5.6 Immediately prior to the forfeiture of a game, as part of the forfeiture procedure, the referee is to check and confirm the number of players present by their identification number as indicated on the game sheets of both teams.

## **2.6 GAME SHEETS**

- 2.6.1 In all competition matches both teams will receive copies of the Weekly Game Sheet as specified in clause 1.6.1 hereof, and each sheet must be completed in accordance with clauses 1.4.9(d), 1.6.1, 1.6.2 and 1.6.4.
- 2.6.2 It is the responsibility of the Home Team (the team first named in the draw) to collect the Weekly Game Sheet and deliver the copy marked "Official Referee's Copy" to the referee, and the copy marked "Away Team's Copy" to the second named team in the draw.
- 2.6.3 Distribution of Weekly Game Sheets shall be as specified in clauses 1.6.1(a) and 1.6.1(d). The "Official Referee's Copy" of the Game Sheet must be handed to the referee before the commencement of the game or within five minutes of the stipulated starting time of the game. At the conclusion of the game the referee will record the results on the "Official Referee's Copy" of the Game Sheet, and shall

complete Home and Away Team's copies if so requested. The "Official Referee's Copy" of the Game Sheet will be delivered by the referee to the match day office.

- 2.6.4 If any dispute shall arise as to the result of a game and to the player who actually played in the game, the Management Committee will at all times refer to the "Official Referee's Copy" of the Game Sheet.
- 2.6.5 Any comments the referee may wish to make as to conditions of grounds, fixtures, markings etc should be written on the back of the "Official Referee's Copy" of the Game Sheet.
- 2.6.6 All players whose names appear on the "Official Referee's Copy" of the Game Sheet, including substitutes, must be eligible to play in that match, otherwise loss of points will ensue. (See Clause 1.4.4).
- 2.6.7 A player is deemed to have played in a competition fixture if his/her name and appropriate playing shirt number, appears on the official team sheet as according to rule 1.6.1(c). If no shirt numbers are recorded, this player is deemed not to have played. Reference should be made to 1.6.1(c) and also 1.4.9 also applies. The manager of the team is also to indicate on the team sheet the age group (team) of any player playing from another age group (e.g. U13 Blue).

## **2.7 DURATION OF MATCHES**

The duration of matches in the various age grade groupings shall be:

U15 & U16	2 equal periods of 40 minutes
U14	2 equal periods of 35 minutes
U13	2 equal periods of 35 minutes
U12	2 equal periods of 30 minutes
U11	2 equal periods of 25 minutes
U11 Girls	As per Optus Small Sided Football Rules
U10 and below	As per Optus Small Sided Football Rules

Note: All times played in games for both males and females shall be those specified above.

## **2.8 REFEREES**

- (a) A referee shall be appointed where possible for each 11-aside (Competition) by the Referees Appointments Officer. In the event of no official being assigned or an appointee not attending, the first team listed in the draw shall appoint a substitute referee and assistants.
- (b) For Roo-ball and Optus Small-Sided small sided games, for which officials are not provided by the referee's, procedures are detailed in the Optus Small Sided Football rules covering such games.

## **2.9 CORNER KICKS**

For 11-aside games played on fields appropriately sized for the competing age groups, corner kicks shall be taken from the marked corner quadrant as per the Laws of the Game.

## **2.10 GOAL KICKS**

Goal kicks shall be taken as per the Laws of the Game.

## **2.11 SUBSTITUTION OF PLAYERS**

Substitution of players may take place in competition matches played under the jurisdiction of Townsville Football as follows:

2.11.1 U11 to U16 teams shall not be permitted to name more than five (5) substitutes in any match.

2.11.2 Interchange of players is permitted in matches where:-

- (a) The players are under the age of 16 years; and/or
- (b) The matches are non-competitive or purely social games such as Optus Small Sided Football.

### **2.11.3 Interchange Procedure**

(a) In games where interchange is to be used, an area one metre either side of the half-way line, shall be known as the "Interchange Zone".

(b) All interchanges shall take place within this zone.

(c) An interchange is one which is made when the ball is out of play, and for which the following conditions shall be observed:-

1. The player leaving the field shall do so from the touch line crossing over at the sector called the "Interchange Zone".
2. The player entering the field shall also do so from the Interchange Zone but not until the player leaving the field has passed completely over the touch line.
3. The interchange is completed when the player, who was off the field, enters the field. From this moment they become a player and the player whom they have replaced ceases to be a player.
4. A player, nominated for interchange, shall be subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referee whether called upon to play or not.
5. The number of interchanges made during a match is unlimited. A player who has been replaced may return to the field for another player.
6. If during an interchange, an interchange player enters the field before the replaced player has completely left it, the referee shall ensure the replaced player leaves the field, cautions the interchange player, and then restart the game.
7. If during an interchange, an interchange player enters the field or a replaced player leaves it from a place other than the Interchange Zone, the referee shall caution the offending player(s).

## **2.12 PLAYERS ORDERED FROM THE FIELD**

Refer Section 3 "Disciplinary" of these Rules.

## **2.13 PENALTIES**

Failure of any club, team or player to observe the competition rules detailed in Section 2, or any Playing Rules for the time being in place or as amended, altered or substituted at any time in the future, renders such club and/or player liable to whatever penalty the Management Committee may deem fit and proper.

## **2.14 DEFERRED GAMES**

### **2.14.1 Club Fixtures**

Townsville Football, in exceptional circumstances, may approve the deferring of a game when three (3) or more registered players from one team are in a representative (Townsville Football, NQ Football, Football Queensland or Schools) side. A written application for a deferred game must be submitted on club letterhead and received at the offices of Townsville Football Fourteen (14) days before the date of the scheduled game.

2.14.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 2.14.1 above, on closing day matches the deferment of any game due to the absence of players through representative obligations shall be at the sole discretion of Townsville Football which shall take into account whether or not one team is unduly disadvantaged.

2.14.3 Townsville Football may grant a deferred game in exceptional circumstances for any other reason it deems appropriate provided that suitable documentation on club letterhead is lodged with Townsville Football Fourteen (14) days before the date of the scheduled game.

## **2.15 CLUB OFFICIALS**

2.15.1 Club officials are expected to issue specific instructions to their club's supporters, managers, coaches, players, etc. concerning sportsmanship and behaviour on the field. If any club considers that a breach of these Rules has been made then a written complaint should be lodged with the Townsville Football secretary as soon as possible who will forward it to the Disciplinary Committee.

2.15.2 The home club on any particular day is also responsible for the collection of the Weekly Game Sheets at the match day office prior to the commencement of the scheduled match.

2.15.3 A club marshal shall be appointed for each game in accordance with Clause 1.6.2.

## **2.16 INTERPRETATION OF THESE RULES**

2.16.1 In the event of a conflict in the interpretation of these rules, the rules as interpreted by Townsville Football shall apply.

2.16.2 A determination by Townsville Football may be made by any three (3) Committee members at the time of the dispute, PROVIDED HOWEVER that none of the three (3) Committee members are a party to the dispute. Any determination so made shall be confirmed in writing to all disputing parties within seven (7) days of the date of such determination.

2.16.3 Appeals against such determinations may be made to the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with Section 3 of these Rules.

## SECTION 3 - DISCIPLINARY

### 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 Competition Administrator (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 also nominate to 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 their plea (guilty or not guilty) and detail their 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 to include all Pre-Season and authorised trial matches.
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 four (4) yellow cards during the competition equates to a one (1) match suspension. A player accumulating seven (7) yellow cards during the competition equates to a two (2) match suspension. A player accumulating ten (10) yellow cards during the competition equates to a three (3) match suspension.

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

In the Competition or Final Series a player who accumulates red cards must serve the following mandatory match suspensions in addition to the standard match suspension for the relevant offence. Suspensions for card accumulation are in addition to any suspension for the offence for which the player was sent off.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion, equates to a two (2) match suspension
- 3<sup>rd</sup> occasion, equates to a three (3) match suspension
- 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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

**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 matches
- 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

**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.

### **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) Four Yellow Cards accumulated by a player **\$20**
- (ii) Seven Yellow Cards accumulated by a player **\$40**
- (iii) Ten 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

### **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.

### **RACIAL & RELIGIOUS VILIFICATION CODE**

Townsville Football 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 Townsville Football within five (5) 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 Townsville Football is obligated to lay charges of Misconduct against the individual(s) responsible and have the matter heard by the Townsville Football Disciplinary Committee.

## **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 Townsville Football 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 Townsville Football.

### **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 Townsville Football;
- Be detrimental to Townsville Football, 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 Townsville Football Officials, Match Officials and Ground Officials, and
- At all times behave in public in a manner which does not reflect adversely on Townsville Football, its 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 Townsville Football.

### **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 Townsville Football 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 it's 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.

Townsville Football reserves the right to vary the penalty if circumstances are warranted.

### **NATURAL JUSTICE**

The procedures to be undertaken are procedures to ensure maximum fairness to an Official, Players and persons before Townsville Football.

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 Townsville Football 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 Townsville Football must have no personal interest in The matter. If an individual has an interest, then he she should immediately Disqualify him/her self.

## **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 713 Townsville Qld 4810 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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- R1 Serious Foul Play
- R2 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
- R5 Denies an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity to an Opponent Moving Towards the Players Goal by an Offence Punishable By a Free Kick or Penalty Kick
- R6 Uses Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language and/or Gestures
- R7 Receives a Second Caution in the Same Match Card Accumulation

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**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.

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Regards

[name]

[title]

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Email: [townsvillefootball@nqfootball.com.au](mailto:townsvillefootball@nqfootball.com.au) Website: [www.nqfootball.com.au](http://www.nqfootball.com.au)



(Date)

(Club Name)

(Email Contact)

(Club Address)

Re: (Player Name)

Dear (First name)

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- R7 Receives a Second Caution in the Same Match Card Accumulation

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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)

**TOWNSVILLE FOOTBALL INC.**

ABN 98 532 387 674

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PO Box 713 Townsville Qld 4810 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]

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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]