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1. General Provisions

These regulations are specific competition regulations governing aspects of play and procedure and shall apply to the AFF/NFF Men's Conference and Reserve Leagues.

AFF and NFF recognize the shared responsibility for the AFF/NFF Men's Conference and the need for shared decision making between the two Federations.

The Competitions Managers from each Federation have delegated authority to act and determine upon minor issues arising in each Federation, however the Federations shall consult with each other on any issue that has a bearing on overall competition management or have an impact as a potential 'policy' issue on the other Federation.

AFF and NFF jointly reserve the right to amend or replace these competition regulations from time to time. Any such amendment or replacement shall be notified by email or in writing to all AFF/NFF clubs. The non-receipt by a club of notice of any such amendment or replacement will not invalidate the change. Prior to the start of each season AFF and NFF shall send to each of their clubs by email and publish on the AFF and NFF websites the regulations for the forthcoming season. Within any season, it is the club's responsibility to update their copies of these regulations with any amendments. No change to these regulations shall be implemented without a minimum notice period to clubs of 30 days.

The Federations will have regulations finalised for this competition and distributed to clubs no later than one calendar month prior to the first scheduled match of the season.

Final decision on interpretation of these competition regulations shall rest with AFF and NFF. Any decision by the Competitions Managers in relation to these regulations can be appealed to the Federation Board in accordance with Section 24 of these regulations.

Fines for breaches of these competition regulations may be prescribed by the Federations involved as listed in their Schedule of Fines.

These AFF/NFF Men's Conference regulations do not apply to age restricted grades that may play in conference competition formats.

2. AFF/NFF Men's Conference Competition

AFF/NFF jointly shall at its sole discretion determine each season the composition of the AFF/NFF Men's Conference leagues, including the number of divisions of men's competitions, and the inclusion of any Reserve competitions.

No club or combination of clubs forming a regional team shall enter more than one team in the same division of the AFF/NFF Men's Conference. AFF/NFF jointly may in its absolute discretion accept more than one entry from the same club in separate divisions of these competitions.

In the event of a vacancy in a division of AFF/NFF Men's Conference competition AFF/NFF jointly shall have the power to fill such a vacancy at its discretion.

AFF/NFF shall jointly determine arrangements for the promotion and relegation of teams between the divisions in each AFF/NFF Men's Conference competitions, between Conference and Federation only competitions, each season. AFF/NFF jointly shall use its best endeavor to inform clubs of these arrangements in advance of the first round of competition in each Conference division and Federation competition, but failure to do so will not invalidate the arrangements.

AFF/NFF jointly may at its absolute discretion split any division into two sections for the purposes of grading, easing travel or other circumstances which affect the running or continuance of that division, in which case the following shall apply:

- There shall be a play-off of the winners of each section to determine the division champion, and/or promotion to another division, and/or

- There shall be a play-off between the bottom two or four clubs, and/or those clubs plus clubs from a lower division, to determine placing in divisions of the following season's competition, if required.

AFF/NFF jointly shall use its best endeavours to notify clubs of any alterations to the composition of the AFF/NFF Men's Conference competitions or any particular division for the following season no later than 30 September in the preceding year. Failure to meet this deadline shall not invalidate the power of AFF/NFF jointly to make changes later than this date.

Any alteration to competition or divisions shall not normally deprive any team which has fulfilled all other requirements of these specific competition regulations the right to play in its graded division following any promotion or relegation during the previous season. However, AFF/NFF jointly reserves the right to make such provisions and arrangements as it deems necessary and for whatever reason for the effective continuance of the AFF/NFF Men's Conference or any division for any season which may override this principle.

3. Participation

Participation in the AFF/NFF Men's Conference shall be open to all clubs within the boundaries of Federations One and Two as specified in NZ Football Statutes, Regulations and Codes, that are qualified to play in Federation competition, subject to the granting annually of any further sanction or permission required in NZF or Federation Rules or Policies.

An area or regional team from within a Federation may participate in the AFF/NFF Men's Conference only if it is the sole representative of that area, subject to the approval of both Federations.

As a condition of entry all clubs and teams that participate in the AFF/NFF Men's **Conference competition** shall abide by these specific competition regulations, as set down or amended from time to time jointly by AFF/NFF.

AFF/NFF jointly may at its absolute discretion fill vacancies in any divisions, or accept entries from clubs after the closing date advised as above.

4. Costs of Participation

AFF and NFF may set from time to time costs of participation, above and beyond the normal Federation and NZF levies which shall in any case be payable to a club's own Federation. AFF and NFF shall endeavour to notify clubs of costs of participation and due dates by the end of the calendar year preceding the season for which those costs shall be due, but such costs shall not be invalidated by a failure to meet this deadline.

AFF and NFF shall have the power to recover all such costs remaining unpaid beyond due dates, and to take any sanctions or impose restrictions on participation, including expulsion from the competition, that may be necessary to effect such recovery.

Clubs withdrawing from competition beyond the deadline date, whether or not payments due have been made, may be subject to sanctions as set out in the 1st Schedule of these Regulations.

5. Draft Participation Criteria

AFF and NFF have set and previously published the Draft Participation criteria for AFF/NFF Men's Conference, (refer to the 3rd Schedule of these Competition Regulations), and which clubs must meet for their entry to that division to be accepted in any season.

Clubs not meeting the draft participation criteria in any one season may at the absolute discretion of AFF and NFF be allowed to play in that competition, but may be subject to a signed agreement that any particular areas of non-compliance with the criteria will be addressed to the satisfaction of AFF and NFF within a specified time-period.

If clubs for any reason fall below Draft Participation criteria, or if any terms of an agreement as above are not met, then AFF and NFF shall have the power to determine any sanctions, including the continued participation of that club in the competition, or the declining of an application to join the AFF/NFF Men's Conference League.

6. Player Eligibility

Clubs shall ensure that a player is eligible to play and is properly registered using their legal name as recorded on a legal document such as a birth certificate or passport, with their club's own Federation using the National registration form in Goalnet and be marked active in 2016 season, and that all necessary clearances from previous clubs are obtained from the club and via other Federations or FIFA member countries as required in NZF Regulation on the Status and Transfer of Players (including provisions for players playing under any loan agreement), prior to taking the field.

Any male player aged 15 years or below or any female player aged 14 years or below requires dispensation from their Federation to play for their club in AFF/NFF Men's Conference competitions. Clubs shall request dispensation from AFF in writing on the relevant form with the signature from the parent or guardian of the player supporting the dispensation request, and such dispensation must be notified to their club prior to the player taking the field. If such dispensation is required but has not been granted, the player is ineligible to play.

There is no restriction on movement between AFF/NFF Conference first and reserve teams in any division, within the AFF/NFF Conference competition, when both teams play on the same day.

- Where a club's first team plays on a different day of the week (e.g. Friday night fixture), no more than 3 players who played in the preceding first team fixture, may play in the corresponding Reserve team fixture. An AFF/NFF Men's Conference player is defined as one who has taken the field in two-thirds or more (by percentage) of AFF/NFF Men's Conference matches at first team level to that point in that season.

Where a team is found to have played an ineligible player(s), the team will forfeit the match(es). A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost each match by 3-0. If the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than three, the result on the pitch is upheld.

The offending team's club shall incur any Ineligible/Unregistered Player fine as set down in the Schedule of Fees published by AFF/NFF.

7. Transfers

Players may transfer between clubs, following the processes outlined in the NZF Regulation on the Status and Transfer of Players. Any player not correctly transferred in accordance with the regulation, will be deemed to be ineligible.

8. Registration period

The registration period for players competing in the AFF/NFF Men's Conference and Reserves leagues will close at midnight on 30th June 2016 with the closure of the transfer window as per Clause 9 of the NZF Regulation on the Status and Transfer of Players.

9. Obligations and Responsibilities of Participating Clubs

Clubs shall operate on match days under Law, under any bylaws of Territorial Land Authorities on whose land their grounds and premises sit, under FIFA Fair Play, NZF Code of Conduct and under the NZF Code of Ethics.

Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators, players and coaching staff, and are required to ensure their representatives abide by any FIFA, NZF Code of Conduct and NZF Disciplinary Code, Section 47 by upholding the spirit of Fair Play while participating in all AFF/NFF Men's Conference Competitions. Home Clubs are also responsible for the conduct of

any others present at the match, whether or not such persons are directly connected to the Club. Clubs must show that have taken all reasonable steps to manage offending spectators.

In particular clubs are reminded of their duties to manage, as directed by such instruments as are named above and any others that may apply, the sale and consumption of alcohol at their grounds.

It is the duty of the referee to request officials of the home club to remove offenders if he or she feels that the consumption of alcohol is affecting his or her control of the match. The referee may stop the match until such offenders have been removed, and the incident shall be reported by way of an incident report after the match to the relevant Competitions Manager.

If the match, once stopped, is abandoned for any reason relating to the consumption of alcohol, the matter must *immediately* be reported to the relevant Competitions Manager.

10. Fixtures

AFF/NFF Men's Conference & Reserve competitions shall normally be played on a double-round robin basis, with each team facing all others once at home and once away. However, AFF and NFF at their absolute discretion may vary this to effectively run or complete a competition or division. The Competitions Managers shall determine times, dates and grounds for any fixture and shall have the right at all times to amend, postpone or cancel any fixture.

Fixtures, venues and kick-off times shall be prepared and published by AFF in advance of the start of the season. Where scheduling on a home ground or a neutral ground consisting of artificial turf constructed and installed to the appropriate standards, both teams shall fulfil the fixture or be deemed to have defaulted. Artificial surfaces accepted for play in the competition shall be published in advance of each season by AFF and NFF, and no other artificial surface shall be included on this list without prior approval of AFF and NFF.

Matches shall be played at such time and on such grounds as may be directed by AFF or NFF, and both teams having not less than nine players present, must be prepared to commence the game no later than 10 minutes after the time set down for kick-off. Any team not complying with this specific competition regulation, unless good cause can be demonstrated to AFF or NFF, shall be deemed to have defaulted the match.

In the event of a late start for any reason, if it is known or can be ascertained prior to kick-off that there is no later match scheduled for the pitch which would be disrupted by doing so, the match shall be extended to its normal duration in two equal halves.

If there is a match scheduled to follow on the same pitch, *or if it is not known whether there is such a match to follow*, the time available shall be divided into equal halves with allowance for half time, so that the match shall end at the scheduled finish time and the next match on the same pitch may commence at the time scheduled on the fixtures. The agreed game duration shall not be changed once the game has commenced, *even if it becomes clear that there is no match following*.

Proposed postponement/abandonment of any match prior to kick-off, for any reason, shall be reported immediately to the relevant Competitions Manager, by the referee if present, or if no referee is present, by the home club.

If the match referee is not present, the Competitions Manager may request that the match referee attend the ground to assess conditions, or where the match referee is not able to attend within a reasonable time, request of the local Referee Appointments Officer that a senior local referee attend the ground to assess conditions, and provide a verbal report back to the Competitions Manager.

The above procedure shall be initiated with the traveling time of the away team in mind, such that the expense of wasted trips is avoided. Where a home club has in the opinion of the Competitions Manager through lack of timely action contributed to an away team commencing

or completing a journey and incurring unnecessary costs, the home club may be fined an amount commensurate with those costs and the fine be diverted to the away club to offset those costs.

The Competitions Managers may:

- Confirm the match is postponed, or
- Transfer the match to another venue on the same day at the same time, a later time, or
- By mutual agreement with the clubs and official involved, reschedule the match to be played later on the same day, the next day or on another day, at the original or a different venue.

Any match abandoned after kick-off, for any reason, shall be reported immediately to the appropriate Competitions Manager, by the referee if present, or if no referee is present, by the home club. The Competitions Manager may decide that:

- The score at the time of the abandonment shall stand, or
- The match shall be awarded to one of the teams as a forfeit win with a recorded scoreline of 3-0, or
- The match shall be rescheduled to another date.
- If at least 80 minutes of the match has been played and the match is abandoned for any reason, the score at the time of the abandonment shall stand.

Matches not played for any reason other than forfeit can, with the written agreement of both clubs *and* the Competition Manager, be rescheduled to another date. If no date can be mutually agreed (including by AFF and NFF) within 10 days after the date of the original fixture, AFF and NFF shall at its sole discretion reschedule the match at a suitable date, time and venue.

Standard match playing days and kick-off times shall be as follows:

- AFF/NFF Men's Conference Saturday at 2.45pm
- AFF/NFF Men's Conference Reserves Saturday at 12.30pm

Regular and/or programmed changes to standard match day and/or kick-off time may be allowed at the request of the home club and with the permission of AFF and NFF, *prior* to the initial publication of fixtures for the season on the AFF website, as follows:

- Sunday fixtures - if the match is so scheduled, any mirrored reserve grade match shall *also* be moved, unless agreed by both teams *and* AFF and NFF.
- Saturday late afternoon/evening fixtures - if the match is so scheduled, any mirrored reserve grade match shall *also* be moved, to the game preceding the first team fixture unless agreed by both teams *and* AFF and NFF.
- Friday evening fixtures - if the match is so scheduled, any mirrored reserve grade match shall *not* be moved, unless agreed by both teams *and* AFF and NFF.

Changes to individual fixtures *after* the initial publication of fixtures on the AFF website for the season may be requested by the home club, accompanied by the permission in writing from an authorised official of the opposing club/team. Such request for a change of fixture shall be made to the Competitions Manager at least 15 days prior to the scheduled game, which includes the written agreement of both clubs. AFF and NFF may in its sole discretion agree to the change.

In exceptional circumstances postponements may be proposed by Clubs through the Club Secretary or other recognised club official. Such proposed postponements must be received by the Federation no less than 24 hours before the scheduled time of kick-off, and will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the Competitions Manager. However, a request for postponement will normally be considered if:

- a. There is prior agreement of the opposition and an acceptable new time and date for the fixture has been agreed with the Competitions Manager;

- b. The team has been drawn to play in a New Zealand Football cup competition less than 72 hours before or after the fixture.

In exceptional circumstances or emergencies, requests for change of fixtures, venues and kick-off times *not* accompanied by the permission in writing of an authorised official of the opposing team/club may be considered by AFF and NFF. AFF and NFF may seek the cooperation of the opposing club/team or in its sole discretion agree to or decline the change.

Where the request by the home club is for a change to an already-rescheduled fixture, the request must be accompanied by the permission in writing of an authorised official of the opposing club/team. The request must be received by the Competitions Manager not less than 5 days prior to the rescheduled date of the fixture. The Competitions Manager may in its sole discretion agree to the change.

Other changes to individual fixtures may be made at the sole discretion of AFF and NFF, not instigated by a club and not requiring permission in writing from the opposing club/team or club. Such changes shall ordinarily be made with notice to both clubs of at least 15 days. However, in exceptional circumstances or emergencies such a notice period may not be possible.

Any costs of night matches scheduled at the request of a club shall be borne by the club making the request. Any costs of night matches scheduled by AFF or NFF shall be borne by AFF or NFF, unless it is a match *re*-scheduled at the request of a club, in which case the costs shall be borne by the club making the original request.

Teams may be required to play rescheduled fixtures at night at the direction of the Competitions Manager provided at least 10 days notice in writing is given to both clubs.

Changes to fixtures, venues and kick-off times for all matches shall be published by AFF not less than 5 days prior to the match, except where such changes are due to weather, poor pitch conditions or ground availability. All changes must be instigated by or have the approval of AFF.

11. Defaults / Forfeits

Defaults must be notified in writing to the appropriate Federation's Competitions Manager by the Club Secretary or other recognised club official no later than 12.00 noon on the Friday preceding the fixture so that the ground may be used for an alternate fixture and any referee allocation can be changed.

Clubs may be fined for defaults not notified before this deadline in accordance with the Schedule of Fees and may be further charged for referee fees.

Any team defaulting after the deadline, including on match day, will have a 3-0 win recorded to the opposition, providing that they in their turn have complied with these regulations. The Competitions Manager should immediately be informed of a default on match day. It is recommended that defaulting teams also advise their opposition as a matter of courtesy.

If both teams are deemed to have defaulted, a 'no result' shall be recorded unless the NRFL Competitions Manager decides to reschedule the game.

Where a team claims a match by default on the day of the match, it must submit a properly completed team card showing the names of the players present and prepared to play, and the grounds on which the match is claimed. If the match referee is also present the facts should be substantiated by his or her signature, or if not and if otherwise possible by an official or member of the opposing club.

Any team defaulting two games consecutively, or three in a season, may be further fined and may be expelled from the competition.

If a team arrives to a game that they have not been advised as defaulted, but their opponents do not arrive or do not have sufficient players to commence the game, the team should complete and submit the header section of a team card to the Federation office within three days following the fixture, with no player details but showing that the game is claimed by default. If a referee appointed to the game is present, he or she should also sign the team card.

A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the match by 3-0. If the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than three in favour of the opposing team, the result on the pitch is upheld.

The offending team's club shall incur a default fine as set down in the Schedule of Fees.

12. Duration of matches:

Matches shall be 2 x 45 minute halves plus half time (maximum of 15 minutes from whistle to whistle)

13. Number of players per side

Teams shall have a maximum of 11 players on the field at any time and a minimum of 7 players. Should any team fail to field 7 eligible players, whether through shortage or sending-off, they may forfeit the match as jointly determined by the AFF/NFF Competition Managers. Note also that a minimum of 9 players is required for the match to start (see 5 below).

If both teams have a minimum of nine players the match must start on time. The home team (the team named first on the fixture) is expected to be ready to start on time. In the event of the home team not being ready with a minimum of nine players to begin the game at the scheduled time, or the away team not being ready with a minimum of nine players 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, the team present and ready to start may claim the match as a default win.

14. Substitutions

Men's Conference

Up to 3 substitutes may be used from up to 5 players named on the team card, but requiring permission from the referee to enter the field of play, and provided that:

- i) the player leaves the field completely before the substitute goes on
- ii) substitutions are made during a break in play
- iii) players always enter and leave from the half-way line.

Men's Conference Reserves

Up to 5 substitutes may be used from up to 5 players named on the team card, *with unlimited interchange of players at any time in the match*, but requiring the permission to enter the field of play from the referee, and provided that:

- i) the player leaves the field completely before the substitute goes on
- ii) substitutions are made during a break in play
- iii) players always enter and leave from the half-way line.

15. Referees

A match official or officials will be appointed by Federation Referee Appointments Officers, to each AFF/NFF Men's Conference **and Reserves** match taking place in their own Federation area.

In the event of the referee so appointed not attending, the officials of the two teams shall make every endeavour, including contacting the Competitions Manager and/or the Referee Administrator of the home club's Federation, to mutually appoint or have appointed another person to referee the match. Any person so appointed shall have the same powers and authorities as an official appointed match official.

16. Match Balls

A minimum of three superior quality size 5 match balls of FIFA standard shall be provided by the home team, fit for play as determined by the referee. The match balls must be delivered to the referee not less than 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

17. Goals, Markings, Technical Areas

Matches in all competitions covered by these specific competition regulations are to be played on full-size pitches (according to FIFA Laws of the Game). The approved goals, and marked grounds with corner flags must be supplied by the home team and must be in place before the scheduled kick-off time. Nets are mandatory for all AFF/NFF Men's Conference and Men's Conference Reserves matches.

All grounds on which AFF/NFF Men's Conference and Reserve matches are played on must also meet the ground marking requirements as noted for Technical Areas in the FIFA Laws of the Game. (Please view 3rd Schedule of these regulations - Section A, Grounds and Facilities 2.4)

Only the players and officials named on the teamcard handed to the referee prior to the start of the game will be permitted in the Technical Area. All other people will be requested to leave the Technical Area. Sufficient seating must be provided inside the Technical Area for all those named on the match information sheet, up to a permitted maximum of nine people.

18. Team Cards

A completed Federation team card is to be filled out correctly and in clear and legible letters by each team in an AFF/NFF Men's Conference fixture, listing the given names and family names as registered in the Goalnet database of eleven starting players and up to five substitutes plus up to four additional coaching, managerial or medical staff authorized to be within the technical area.

If there is an appointed referee, completed team cards should be handed to the referee no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of the game. The referee will sign both cards and hand them back to the respective teams after agreeing the final score, after the game. Each team will sign the cards and return them to their Federation office by post, by fax, by email attaching a scanned file in PDF or similar format, or in person to their own Federation office, no later than three working days after the fixture has been played.

If there is no appointed referee the team cards are to be exchanged with the opposition at the end of the game, to be signed by both teams and the nominated referee who completed the game, after agreeing the final score after the game, and forwarded to the Federation office as above.

If either or both teams do not have a team card, it should provide a written list of players and substitutes to the appointed referee, if present, or to the opposing team if not, no less than 15 minutes prior to commencement of the game. The referee or the opposing team may furnish an incident report to their Federation and the team may incur the fine for not providing a team card, at their Federation's sole discretion.

Each team is responsible for its own team card. Any team card that is illegible or incomplete, or that is deliberately completed with obviously false names, will be treated as not returned.

19. Shirt Numbering

For the purposes of player identification by match officials and spectators, numbering on the back of shirts is mandatory in the AFF/NFF Men's Conference and Reserve competitions. There shall be sufficient numbered shirts for the whole team with no duplication of numbers. Shorts, if numbered, must carry the same number as the shirt number worn by an individual player.

20. Uniform Clashes

Where there is a clash of colours, the away team (i.e. second-named team) in the fixture must provide a change of shirts, shorts and socks that does not clash with the home team's

registered colours. Failing to provide such a change, or playing in unregistered colours that creates a clash, will be subject to a fine for Incorrect Strip as set out in the Schedule of Fees.

Home teams must not deviate from colours notified to Federations and published on the Federation websites to all other teams. Away teams will be deemed to have complied with this regulation if they arrive with a strip that does not clash with the home team's registered colours as noted on the website. It shall then be the responsibility of the home team to revert to their published colours or find an alternate strip that does not clash with the away team.

21. Offside

The FIFA off-side law will be applied in all competitions covered by these specific competition regulations. If there are no appointed assistant referees, teams are encouraged to provide their own assistant referees to advise/assist the referee. The referee is the sole judge of whether to halt play and award an indirect free-kick.

22. Results

Results for AFF/NFF Men's Conference and Reserves must be entered directly into the Federation Competitions Management website, no later than 12.00 noon on the Monday after the match for a weekend fixture, and 12.00 noon the day following the match for a mid-week fixture. Teams failing to enter results in time may incur a fine to the Club for Late Result as noted in the Schedule of Fees.

AFF/NFF Men's Conference teams shall text to their Federation Competitions Manager not less than 60 minutes after the conclusion of the match the half time and full time score and the first and family names of all goal scorers.

AFF clubs – Martin Baucutt 027-258-2612

NFF Clubs – Terry Hobin 021-795-070

23. Misconducts, Cautions and Expulsions

New Zealand Football Statutes, Regulations and codes and these Competition Regulations concerning misconducts of players, coaches and officials, apply to all matches, including Knockout Competition matches.

Teams, players, officials and spectators shall at all times behave in a manner that shall not damage the image of the game.

Youth age grade players playing in senior competitions will be subject to fines as set out for senior players.

Misconducts, cautions and expulsions shall be referred to the player's relevant Federation who will inform the player's club through normal processes and will be dealt with under the New Zealand Football Disciplinary Code.

Any players under suspension shall be ineligible to take part in any matches or to act as a club or team official during the term of the suspension, and may not be named as a team official on the teamcard nor occupy a place in the technical area.

Instances of exceptional misconduct involving players or officials from more than one team, will be dealt with by the Federation Disciplinary Committee formed for the purpose of hearing such cases.

24. Protests, Disputes and Appeals

NZ Football Statutes, Regulations and codes, and specific Competition Regulations, apply to all NRFL Competition matches.

Any Club playing in this competition may submit an incident report to their Federation to be forwarded to the Competitions Manager.

A protest shall be made by the Club Secretary or other recognised club official, by the Wednesday following the match or three working days of a mid-week fixture of the alleged breach, or earlier if stipulated by the rules of the specific competition. The protest must be in writing to the Competitions Manager, setting out the full details of the incident or protest and must be accompanied by the prescribed Incident Report Form.

On receipt of the protest, Competitions staff will make the necessary enquiries or defer to the relevant federation to investigate into the matters placed before them, including any referee and/or officials from opposing teams, and will advise the decision in writing to the party or parties concerned.

Players or Clubs may appeal a decision through the processes set out in the New Zealand Football Disciplinary Code.

25. Determination of Competitions

Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.

Following any grading rounds or preliminary competitions, the team with the highest points at the end of competition shall be declared the league champion or, if a further play-off series is to follow, minor premiers. If teams are equal on match points, goal difference shall be used to determine the winner, and if still level the team with most goals scored will be declared the winner.

If still level then head-to-head results between the teams shall be used to determine a winner, using first match points won, and then, if still level, aggregate scores over the matches. Any play-off matches between the two shall not count in this calculation.

If two or more teams cannot be separated as above then the team's disciplinary record shall be the determining factor, with yellow cards counting as one point and red cards as three points. The team with the lowest total points shall be deemed the winner.

If two or more teams cannot be separated using any of the provisions above, then the teams will remain tied unless it is necessary to establish the final placings for promotion, relegation or any other reason, in which case AFF and NFF shall at its sole discretion establish final placings using an alternative method.

In the event of a team being withdrawn from any division at any round during competition, then results, points and goal statistics shall be adjusted as though the club concerned was never involved in that division. This regulation shall apply even if one full round robin has already been completed.

AFF and NFF may at its sole discretion supply medals and/or trophies to Championship or Knockout cup winning sides in the NRFL Competition. Any perpetual trophies shall remain the property of AFF at all times. Trophy winners are responsible for the maintenance, repair and/or replacement, and engraving of their Club name on any perpetual trophies awarded to them.

26. Promotion and Relegation formats

The AFF/NFF Conference will continue to operate the principle of promotion and relegation between divisions, the creation of opportunity to join the Lotto NRFL from lower grades, and the possibility of losing Conference status based on performance.

PROMOTION/RELEGATION FORMATS INTO NRFL COMPETITIONS FOR 2017:

- **Men's Division 2** – The 1st and 2nd placed teams gain direct promotion to Division 1 with the 11th & 12th placed team relegated to Federation competitions in 2017.
- **Federation competitions** - The teams promoted to NRFL Men's Division 2 shall be determined by the following means :
 - The winner of the AFF/NFF Men's Conference will be automatically promoted to NRFL Men's Division 2.

- The second placed team in the AFF/NFF Men's Conference will play in a home and away play-off against the winner of WaiBOP Football's top Men's League. The winner of this play-off series will gain promotion into the NRFL Men's Division 2.

Teams are subject to Federation approval. Should one team not wish to enter the play offs, then the other shall be deemed the team to be promoted.

Note: NZ Football has recently completed their Competitions Review which may introduce changes in both format and participant entry for national competitions. The Federations will review any such changes as to their effect on the competition in 2017.

27. Other Matters

These specific competition regulations should be read in conjunction with the appropriate NZ Football statutes, regulations and codes, Federation Rules, Federation and NZ Football codes of conduct and FIFA Fair Play which shall apply to matters not provided for in these regulations.

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or drones) is prohibited under Council rules on Council parks. Any person found to be operating one of these devices over a sports field if it is in use by others, will be requested by the home club to remove the device. If this request is not complied with, the home club is to submit an incident report with all relevant details to the Competitions Manager. The local Council will be notified and sanctions may be applied against the offending individual.

1st Schedule

2016 Schedule of Fees and Fines

TRANSFERS & CLEARANCES

Transfers: system based (with no AFF input) No Charge
Transfers: AFF-actioned \$15.00 + GST = \$17.25

Clearances: system based (with no AFF input) No Charge
Clearances: AFF-actioned \$26.09 + GST = \$30.00

International Clearances: Senior No Charge
Youth No Charge

MISCONDUCTS

Fines for Misconducts are charged to the Club as per the New Zealand Football Disciplinary Code - Clubs in turn may recover the amounts from individual players.

APPEALS

Appeal Fee:

Appeal to AFF/NFF against findings of a Federation Disciplinary Committee \$125.00 plus GST

Fee to further appeal to NZF (*NZF fee*) \$250.00 plus GST

Appeal to AFF/NFF against decision of a Federation Competitions Manager \$125.00 plus GST

Fee to further appeal decision to NZF (*NZF fee*) \$500.00 plus GST

Fee to appeal any other Federation decision to NZF (*NZF fee*) \$500.00 plus GST

ADMINISTRATION

Non-Receipt or Incomplete Team Cards:

1st Fine (1 Week Late) \$10.00 (No GST)
2nd Fine (2 Weeks Late) an additional \$40.00 (No GST)
3rd Fine (3 Weeks Late) an additional \$40.00 (No GST) & will have one competition point deducted.

Late Defaults:

Seniors \$100.00 (No GST)

Late Results:

Seniors \$10.00 (No GST) per team.

Unauthorised Playing in Strip other than Club Registered Colours:

Failure to Provide Alternate Strip per team:

1st offence \$25.00 (No GST)
2nd and subsequent offences \$50.00 (No GST) each time

Playing an Ineligible/Unregistered Player:

Seniors \$100.00 (No GST) + Loss of match points*

Failure to Obtain Necessary Dispensation:

Youth player in senior competition \$100.00 (No GST) + Loss of match points for an ineligible player

*The above follows NZ Football Regulation on the Status and Transfer of Players.

Withdrawal of Team:

After first draft of leagues published and agreed by the club, but before publishing of draw	No charge
After publishing of draw but before first game of season	\$50.00 + GST (Administration fee)
After 1 st Game of Season	Seniors: ½ Fee + \$200 + GST

All withdrawal fees are subject to waiver by the relevant Federation. Clubs are encouraged to keep their Federation informed where teams have been accepted in good faith, but obtaining club membership fees from team members is proving difficult. It is strongly recommended that clubs use the dates shown in this schedule as a means of enforcing payment early in the season, against the threat of withdrawal.

2nd Schedule

Artificial Turf fields approved for Conference matches

Ashley Reserve 1 & 2

Venue Address : Ashley Reserve, Long Bay

Bill McKinlay Park

Venue Address: Ireland Road, Mt Wellington

Crum Park 2

Venue Address: Hilling Street, Green Bay

Greville Reserve

Venue Address : Cnr Forrest Hill & East Coast Roads, Forrest Hill

Michaels Avenue Reserve 1

Venue Address: 46 Michaels Ave, Ellerslie

Ngahue Reserve

Venue Address: Merton Road, Glen Innes

QBE Stadium Domain 3

Venue Address: Stadium Drive, North Harbour

QBE Stadium Domain 4

Venue Address: Stadium Drive, North Harbour

Parrs Park 6

Venue Address: Cnr West Coast Road and Parrs Cross Road, Oratia

St Peters College

Venue Address: Mountain Road, Epsom

Seddon Fields 1 & 2

Venue Address: 180 Meola Road, Pt Chevelier

Starling Park 2

Venue Address Starling Road, Massey

Westlake Boys

Venue Address: Forrest Hill Road, Forrest Hill

William Green Domain 1

Venue Address: Hutchinsons Road, Pakuranga

3rd Schedule

DRAFT Participation Criteria AFF/NFF Men's Conference League

A. GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

1. Players and Match Officials

1.1 There shall be safe and unhindered access for players and officials between the pitch and the changing rooms. *(Compulsory*)*

1.2 There shall be spectator barriers surrounding the whole pitch, not less than 2m from the sidelines and not less than 3m from the goal lines. *(Compulsory* - Although rope barriers may be used, permanent or temporary continuous fencing or fixed pipe-rail are preferred)*

1.3 There shall be benches or separate seating within each team Technical Area for five substitutes and up to four team officials. *(Compulsory* - may be uncovered)*

2. Pitch, Equipment and Markings

2.1 There shall be a high quality playing surface which may be a grass or an artificial approved by AFF/NFF. Teams new to the conference league shall require signoff by the Federations. *(Compulsory*)*

2.2 There shall be a maintenance program in place to ensure the pitch continues to meet the required standard. *(Compulsory*)*

2.3 Pitch dimensions shall be not more than 110m x 75m and not less than 100m x 65m. *(Compulsory* - Clubs may seek dispensation in exceptional circumstances for pitches outside these dimensions)*

2.4 All line markings to the pitch shall be to FIFA standards as set out in Laws of the Game, and shall include the proper marking of Technical Areas. *(Compulsory*)*

2.5 Goalposts shall be provided that meet FIFA/NZF standards and meet all applicable safety standards. *(Compulsory*)*

3. Changing Facilities

3.1 There shall be separate lockable changing rooms for the exclusive use of each team, with hot water showering facilities and separate cold water provision, available at the venue 60 minutes prior to kick off and for 45 minutes after each match. *(Compulsory*)*

3.2 There shall be separate lockable changing rooms for the exclusive use of three match officials, with hot water showering facilities and separate cold water provision, available at the venue 60 minutes prior to kick off and for 45 minutes after each match. *(Compulsory*)*

3.3 There shall be adequate toilet facilities available to both officials and teams. *(Compulsory*)*

3.4 There shall be approved procedures for the locking of changing rooms, or a separate key for the use of each team and the match officials available for their possession for the duration of their use. *(Compulsory*)*

4. Medical and Access

4.1 There shall be sound procedure to gain access to an adequately provisioned medical room. *(Compulsory*)*

4.2 There shall be ready access to a trained first aid responder. *(Compulsory*)*

4.3 There shall be adequate unlocked and unblocked access to enable an ambulance to gain access to the ground and to the playing area. Where access is locked there shall be sound procedures for unlocking and providing access. *(Compulsory*)*

5. Facilities

5.1 There shall be adequate car parking spaces provided at or within close walking distance of the ground. *(Compulsory*)*

5.2 There shall be adequate public toilet facilities. *(Compulsory*)*

5.3 There shall be clubrooms at the match venue or other approved facility in close proximity to host visiting teams, supporters and other spectators. *(Compulsory*)*

5.4 There shall be public refreshment/canteen facilities. *(Optional**)*

5.5 There shall be spectator seating (excluding the clubrooms) for 200 spectators covered or 300 spectators uncovered. *(Optional**)*

5.6 The ground shall be enclosed so that an entry fee may be charged. *(Optional**)*

5.7 There shall be a reliable PA system available for use with speakers so that public safety and information announcements can be made and clearly heard all around the ground. *(Optional**)*

5.8 There shall be a scoreboard showing the match score and game time available and visible from most parts of the ground for public information. *(Optional**)*

5.9 There shall be separate, private and quiet facilities provided for the use of media, with telephone jackpoint for laptop/email connection. *(Optional**)*

B. CLUB DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

1. Player and Coach Development Plans

The club shall have in place a Federation approved player and coach development plan that:

- Supports NZF's Whole of Football Plan and includes appropriate elements of the WoFP within its club operations. *(Compulsory*)*
- Has in place player and coach development pathways through its youth and senior teams. *(Compulsory*)*
- Designates a specific position to player and coach development e.g. Director of Football. *(Optional**)*

2. Club Governance and Infrastructure

Clubs shall hold a 'Quality Club Mark' certification. *(Compulsory*)*

3. Club Reserve teams

Clubs must enter a second team in the conference reserve competition. *(Compulsory+)*

Footnotes:

*Compulsory** - Dispensation is granted to clubs until the start of the 2017 winter season however clubs shall have a player/coach development and facilities plan lodged with their federation describing the work being carried out at the club with relevant timeframes. This dispensation may be extended by the Federations if significant progress has been made towards the completion of these club programs.

*Optional*** - The inclusion of these facilities align with facility standards expected at the highest NZ club competitions.

Compulsory+- this is a requirement from the 2016 season