

2016 Federation Competition Regulations

AFF Senior and 19th Grade Men's Leagues



1. Reference to General Provisions

These regulations are specific competition regulations governing aspects of play and procedure as allowed under Section 2 of the Federation Competition Regulations, AFF Senior and 19th Grade Men, Senior Women, General Provisions. **The Senior General Provisions shall apply to these competitions in conjunction with these specific competition regulations.**

2. Player Eligibility

See the separate regulations - Senior and 19th Grade Men, Senior Women's General Provisions for full player eligibility criteria.

Any player eligible to play 15th Grade or below requires dispensation from the Federation to play in senior competition (including 19th Grade). Requests for dispensation must be received at the Federation office accompanied by a letter from the parent or guardian of the player supporting the dispensation request. Players must not take the field unless dispensation has been granted.

Photographic identification must be made available at all age grade senior fixtures as listed below for inspection by opposition team management if so requested. Such requests to view identification of players taking part in age grade competitions must be made no later than 15 minutes prior to kick off or must wait until after the match.

If the player concerned is unable to produce the requested identification at the match, he is able to play in the match but must allow his photo to be taken by the opposition. This photo can be submitted with an incident report within three business days of the match to AFF, so that his club may have the opportunity to verify his identity as a registered member prior to the date of the fixture.

Players playing in 19th Grade Saturday league must reach their 19th birthday during the 2016 calendar year, or have been born after 1997 and before 1st January 2001. Teams may have up to two players on the team card who do not meet this criteria who are reaching their 20th birthday during the 2016 calendar year provided dispensation has been applied for and approved by their Federation.

Players playing in 19th Grade Sunday league must reach their 19th birthday during the 2016 calendar year, or have been born after 1997 and before 1st January 2001. **No dispensations will be granted for older players to play down in this grade.**

Players playing in Over 30's leagues must reach their 30th birthday during the 2016 calendar year, or have been born prior to 1986. Players not meeting this age criteria are not eligible to play in Over 30's competition.

Players playing in Over 35's leagues must reach their 35th birthday during the 2016 calendar year, or have been born prior to 1982. Players not meeting this age criteria are not eligible to play in Over 35's competition.

Players playing in Over 40's leagues must reach their 40th birthday during the 2016 calendar year, or have been born prior to 1977. Teams may have up to two players on the team card for any match who do not meet this criteria, provided that they meet the age criteria for Over 35's leagues, i.e. they must reach their 35th birthday in the 2016 calendar year, or have been born prior to 1982.

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 AFF Schedule of Fees.

3. Fixtures

Fixtures, venues and kick-off times shall be prepared and published by AFF in advance of the start of the season. AFF Senior 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 at their sole discretion may vary this to effectively run or complete a competition or division.

If both teams have a minimum of seven 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 seven players to begin the game at the scheduled time, or the away team not being ready with a minimum of seven players 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, the team present and ready to start may claim the match as a default.

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 so doing, 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*.

No injury time or referee's added time shall be played.

4. 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 shall forfeit the match.

5. Duration of matches:

All Senior Open Men's Leagues	2 x 45 min halves plus half time*
All 19th Grade Leagues (Saturday & Sunday)	2 x 45 min halves plus half time*
All Over 30, 35 and Over 40's including Conference	2 x 45 min halves plus half time*

*Maximum of 15 minutes from whistle to whistle.

6. Substitutions

Senior Men's AFF Championship Division

Up to 3 substitutes may be used from up to 5 players named on the team card, 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.

Senior Men's Division 1 and below

Up to five substitutes may be used from players named on the team card, with unlimited interchange of players at any time in the match. Each substitution shall require the permission to enter the field of play from the referee, and proceed as follows:

- 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.

Senior Men's Over 30's, Over 35's and Over 40', including Masters Conference divisions

Up to five substitutes may be used from players named on the team card, with unlimited interchange of players at any time in the match. Each substitution shall require the permission to enter the field of play from the referee, and proceed as follows:

- 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.

19th Grade Saturday and Sunday

Up to five substitutes may be used from players named on the team card, with unlimited interchange of players at any time in the match. Each substitution shall require the permission to enter the field of play from the referee, and proceed as follows:

- 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.

7. Match Balls

A size 5 FIFA sanctioned match ball shall be provided by the home team.

8. Shin guards

Shin guards must be worn at all times, and must not be exposed.

9. Referees

If there is no appointed official, the home team may provide a Club Based Referee (CBR) with current accreditation (by way of a current CBR ID card with Membership Number) to control the whole fixture. If a CBR is provided he or she shall provide his/her name and membership number to the visiting coach/manager, and is required to wear their CBR shirt. If the home team does not have a CBR, and the visiting team does, then the visiting CBR shall control the fixture. If none of the above is available, the home team shall provide a referee for the first half and the visiting team shall provide one for the second.

Alternatively, teams may agree at the start of the game that one referee shall officiate the whole game, or at the start of the second half that the referee from the first half may continue to referee to the end of the game. Once agreed the referee should not be changed during a half other than for injury or on the mutual agreement of both team coaches. In any event, the referee controlling any part of the fixture has the same rights and obligations as an appointed official.

10. Goals and Markings

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 recommended for all Federation Senior Competition matches, but are mandatory for all men's AFF Championship matches.

11. 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.

12. Uniform Clashes

Where there is a clash of colours, the away team (ie second-named team) in the fixture must provide a change of shirts 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 incur a fine for Incorrect Strip as set out in the AFF Schedule of Fees.

Home teams must not deviate from the colours notified to AFF and published on the AFF website 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.

13. Shirt numbering

AFF Men's Championship - for the purposes of player identification by match officials and spectators, numbering on the back of shirts is mandatory for this division. There shall be no duplication of numbers within a team. Shorts, if numbered, must carry the *same* number as the shirt number worn by an individual player.

All other divisions covered by these regulations, shirt numbering is not mandatory. It is however preferred for shirts to be numbered. If numbered, there shall be no duplication of numbers within a team. Shorts, if numbered, must carry the *same* number as the shirt number worn by an individual player.

14. Defaults / Forfeits

Defaults must be notified in writing to the AFF 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 AFF Schedule of Fees and may be further charged for referee fees. Any team defaulting two games consecutively, or three in a season, may be further fined and may be expelled from the competition. It is recommended that defaulting teams also advise their opposition as a matter of courtesy.

For all matches administered by AFF, 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 their club representative 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.

Please advise your club secretary or club representative of the default, so that they can notify AFF by email of the default.

Defaults shall be recorded as a 3-0 win to the non-offending team. If both teams are deemed to have defaulted, a 'no result' shall be recorded unless the AFF Competition Manager decides to reschedule the game.

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.

15. Team Cards

For AFF Championship Division

A completed Federation team card is to be filled out correctly by each team in a Federation Senior League 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 three 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.

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 their respective club official 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 AFF and the team may incur the fine for not providing a team card, at AFF's sole discretion.

All completed teamcards are to be forwarded to the federation via scan and email or fax or post no later than Wednesday following the fixture or three business days following a mid-week fixture. It is recommended a copy/photo is taken of any posted teamcards.

For AFF Senior Mens Division 1 and below

The above conditions will apply to teams of Division 1 and below with the exception that each team will sign the cards and return them to their authorised club official no later than three business days after the fixture has been played. The club is responsible for maintaining team card records in good order for a period no less than 12 months. The Federation may from time to time request team cards for the purposes of investigating reported incidents or the auditing of players listed by individual teams. The club shall provide a team card requested by AFF no later than three working days after receiving such a request. In requesting team cards from clubs AFF shall take into consideration the three business days provided for teams to return team cards to its home club. Any club unable to provide a team card so requested by AFF shall be subject to the fines applicable to the non-return of team cards.

For all AFF Senior Mens divisions 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 to AFF or club.

16. Coaching

Coaches may only coach from the sideline, not from behind the goal line. If a coach takes the field as a referee they are not allowed to coach from on the field of play.

17. Competitions

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

Following any grading rounds, the team with the highest points at the end of competition in each league shall be declared the league champion. 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, the result of games in Championship round(s) will be taken into account to determine the winner, and finally if still level teams shall be declared joint champions.

18. Results

Results for all divisions 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 AFF Schedule of Fees.

19. 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 Ethics and FIFA Fair Play which shall apply to matters not provided for in these regulations.