



2016 Competition Regulations Girls Combined Youth Leagues 14th – 17th Grades



1. Combined Leagues

These regulations are specific competition regulations governing aspects of play and procedure in the Youth Girls Combined Leagues, which comprises age-grade football competitions jointly administered by Auckland Football Federation (AFF) and Northern Football Federation (NFF) **restricted to female players only** from clubs in both the AFF and NFF Federations.

All Federation Youth Competitions shall be conducted under the current FIFA regulations except as otherwise specified in these specific competition regulations as applied to particular grades.

The control and management of all Federation Youth Competitions is vested in the Competitions Managers of both Federations, under the supervision of their Chief Executives, by the Auckland Football & Northern Football Federation Boards.

Where the Competitions Managers or the Federations are required to grant approval for procedures under these regulations, the terms 'Competitions Manager' and 'Federation' shall include those people or groups appointed by the CEO or the appropriate Federation Board from time to time to oversee these procedures.

AFF and NFF reserves the right to amend or replace these competition regulations as applied from time to time. Any such amendment or replacement shall be notified by email or in writing to all **AFF and 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, the Federations shall send to each club by email and publish on the Federation's website 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 once the season has commenced.

The Federations will have regulations finalised for this competition and distributed to Clubs no later than three weeks prior to the first scheduled match of the season.

Final decision on interpretation of these specific competition regulations as applied shall rest with the Federations. Any decision by the Competitions Managers in relation to these regulations can be appealed to **a Club's relevant** Federation Board in accordance with Section 27 of these regulations.

Fines for breaches of these specific competition regulations as applied to particular grades may be prescribed by the Federation's in a Schedule of Fees, such fines to be notified to Federation Clubs prior to the start of each season.

Each Club desiring to compete in the **Girls Combined Youth Leagues** shall, on or before a date advised by the Competitions Managers, confirm in writing their entry into such competition in the division(s) advised.

- a) The final composition of such divisions shall be at the discretion of the Competitions Managers.
- b) The Competitions Managers shall have the power to accept further entries during the season if, in their opinion, it is expedient to do so.
- c) The Federations shall have the power to increase or reduce the number of divisions and to form or discontinue sections in any division as and when the need arises.

2. Sanction Required

Where teams are from clubs other than AFF/NFF, sanction must be granted by the appropriate Federation and AFF/NFF for those clubs to participate.

3. FIFA Regulations

All Girls Combined **Youth** Leagues shall be conducted under the current FIFA regulations except as otherwise specified in these specific competition regulations.

4. Team Mastercards and Player Eligibility

It is a Club's responsibility to 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.*

It is the Club's responsibility to sight a copy of proof of age of the player, such document to be a birth certificate, Passport or other internationally recognised legal document. The Club is required to produce proof of age if requested by the Federation.

Clubs must provide one copy of their team mastercard to their Federation on the approved Federation Mastercard, authenticated by an official of the club, by the advised date prior to the commencement of the competition. The Mastercard shall include for each player the national identification number, given names and family names as registered in the Goalnet database, date of birth, gender, address, email and any dispensation information.

No player shall be permitted to take the field in any Youth Girls Combined League fixture unless they appear on a valid Youth Team Mastercard.

A player may be included on more than one Team Mastercard. A player must be eligible by way of Federation approved dispensation to be included on any Team Mastercard more than one year above her correct age grade.

Unless dispensation has been sought and granted by the Federation, players shall normally play in their Youth age-grade competition as determined by the age they turn during the calendar year.

Where a player is playing up from a lower grade to fill in or make up a team, the Team Mastercard for the higher grade team does *not* need to be amended.

Youth players (**14-17th** Grade) who have been moved up to play in a senior **women's** team are free to return to their team in a Youth grade **competition**. **The Team Mastercard must be updated and signed with the relevant Federation.**

A Club may play (i.e. they take the field) a maximum of three players in any Youth Girls Combined League match from a lower division team or grade provided that a) no player is playing more than one year above their certified age (unless granted dispensation by the Federation) and b) such players are correctly registered on their regular team's Mastercard Team Mastercards with a full list of all players' names and dates of birth must be supplied to the appropriate Federation office on the Thursday prior to the first game of the season. A template Team Mastercard is available from the AFF and NFF websites.

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Failure to lodge the Team Mastercard before the first game of the season may incur a fine to the Club in accordance with the AFF and NFF Schedule of Fees.

Teams must produce their Team Mastercards if requested by the opposition. Failure to produce the Team Mastercard on request **will** incur a fine to the team's Club in accordance with the Schedule of Fees.

In the event of any protest or enquiry into player eligibility the Team Mastercard will be checked against the Goalnet database.

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 and NFF** Schedule of Fees.

5. Transfers

the Status and Transfer of Players. Any player not correctly transferred in accordance with the regulation, will be deemed to be ineligible.

The amount charged for transfers conducted through the Federation shall be set by the Federation.

No player may be transferred between 1st July – 30th September in any year, excepting with the written authorisation of the Federation or where otherwise provided for in New Zealand Football's transfer provisions.

Where any discrepancy arises between these regulations and those of New Zealand Football, the New Zealand Football statutes, regulations and codes shall apply. No player may be transferred in breach of any FIFA or New Zealand Football regulations.

6. 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 and AFF Codes of Conduct and uphold the spirit of Fair Play while participating in Federation Senior 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 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 Competitions Manager. The matter will be passed on the offending Club's own Federation for such action as it deems appropriate.

7. Grading

Any player may play at any time in a grade for which she is eligible by reason of age, irrespective of how many games she may have played at a higher grade, **including senior football**, provided she is *registered* on **the relevant** team Mastercards.

Applications for grading or re-grading of players must be in writing to the Federation, signed by a recognised Club official and giving reasons for such application.

8. Dispensations

In special circumstances a Club may apply for age dispensations. Applications for age dispensation, accompanied by the reason for request, must be approved by the Federation before the player can take the field.

Players should normally play within their correct age grade. An age grade is determined by the year of birth, not school year, e.g. 14th Grade is for players who will *reach* their 14th birthday at any time during the calendar year, (not those who are 14 at the *start* of it).

Clubs may seek dispensation for players to play in lower age grades. In girls-only 9-a-side competitions, a maximum of three players per squad may be dispensated to play down from a higher age grade, and that player must be no more than one age grade older than the grade in which she is dispensated to play.

Any application for a player to play more than one year *above* their age grade must be on the relevant dispensation form with a signature obtained from the parent or caregiver of the player.

Clubs seeking to play an entire team or squad, where all players or seven or more of the players are eligible for a lower grade, in a higher grade than their own age-grade, must seek team dispensation from the Federation, who will consider the application based on player development and safety, and on the grade played in previous seasons.

A full list of all dispensated players shall be furnished to every club at the start of the season and as it is revised during the season.

Failure to obtain necessary dispensation renders the player ineligible for the competition and will incur a fine to the Club in accordance with the **AFF and NFF** Schedule of Fees.

In special circumstances a Club may request, and the Federation may approve, dispensations outside those allowed for in **Clause 8, para 1.**

9. Fixtures & Postponements

Competition in the 14th-17th Grade Girls divisions shall normally be played with grading rounds, followed by one round of Championship. However, AFF/NFF at its absolute discretion may vary this to effectively run or complete a competition or division.

AFF/NFF shall determine times, dates and grounds for any fixture in the 14th -17th Grade Girls divisions and shall have the right at all times to amend, postpone or cancel any fixture.

Matches shall be played at such time and on such grounds as directed by AFF/NFF. 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, **unless good cause can be demonstrated to AFF/NFF.**

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

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.

AFF/NFF may:

- Confirm the match is postponed, or
- Transfer the match to another venue on the same day at the same 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 AFF or NFF Competitions Manager, by the referee if present, or if no referee is present, by the home club. The Competitions Managers 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, or
- The match shall be rescheduled to another date.

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

Planned postponements and changes to individual fixtures *after* the initial publication of fixtures 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 AFF/NFF Competitions Manager at least 10 days prior to the scheduled game. AFF/NFF may in its sole discretion agree to the change.

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, AFF/NFF may seek the cooperation of the opposing/team or in its sole discretion agree to or decline the change.

Other changes to individual fixtures may be made at the sole discretion of AFF/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 10 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/NFF shall be equally shared by both clubs unless exempted in writing by the host federation.

Teams may be required to play rescheduled fixtures at night at the direction of AFF/NFF 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/NFF 5.00pm on the Monday 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/NFF.

10. Defaults / Forfeits

Defaults must be notified in writing to the Competitions Manager by the Club Secretary or other recognised club no later than 12.00 noon on the Friday preceding the fixture so that grounds 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 and NFF Schedule of Fees published from time to time by the Federation, 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.

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 for 14th, 15th & 17th Premier fixtures, 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. For all other grades, please email the relevant Competitions Manager so the default can be recorded as a 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/NFF Competition Managers in consultation with other Federations decide 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.

11. Duration of matches:

14 th Grade	2 x 27.5 min halves plus 5 min half time
15 th Grade	2 x 35 min halves plus 5 min half time
17 th Grade	2 x 40 min halves plus 5 min half time

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, at the sole discretion of the appointed referee or if there is no appointed referee by mutual agreement of both teams coaches/managers, 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 may at the sole discretion of the appointed referee or if there is no appointed referee by mutual agreement of both coaches/managers shall be divided into equal halves with an 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.

12. Number of players per side

The recommended squad size in 11 a side grades is 14, with only 11 players to be on the field at any one time. One player must be the goalkeeper.

By agreement between both teams' coaches/managers, matches may be played with reduced equal numbers on each side.

13. Substitutions

Up to five substitutes may be used, 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 stoppage in play
- iii) players always enter and leave from the half-way line.

14. 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.

The prime purpose of anyone refereeing in these grades is to add to the enjoyment of the players through the application of the FIFA Laws of the Game, these regulations, common sense and fair play.

15. Match Balls

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

16. Shin guards

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

17. Goals and Markings

Matches in all grades covered by these specific competition regulations are to be played on full-size pitches with full sized goals (according to FIFA Laws of the Game). The approved goals, and marked grounds with corner flagposts must be supplied by the home team and must be in place before the scheduled kick-off time. Nets are recommended for all Federation Youth Competition matches.

18. Shirt numbering

Shirt numbering is not mandatory, and is not mandatory across *all* shirts being worn in any match by either team. However, when *any* shirts or shorts in use in any match by a team are numbered, there shall be no duplication of any number within a team. Shorts, if numbered, must carry the *same* number as the shirt number worn by an individual player.

19. 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 and NFF Schedule of Fines.

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

20. Coaches and Supporters

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 on the field of play.

Spectators and supporters should be along the sidelines not behind the goal line. Spectators guiding or advising a goalkeeper from behind the goal line are deemed to be coaches. Referees and opposing coaches are entitled to request that coaches, spectators and supporters

move from behind the goal line to the sideline, and all coaches and Clubs should support and be prepared to adhere to this regulation.

21. Offside

The **FIFA** off-side law **WILL** be applied in these grades. 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. 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. Goals for and against and goal difference shall not be used to determine competition winners, and teams equal on points will be declared joint champions.

The Federations may at its absolute discretion supply medals and/or trophies to championship winning sides in Girls Combined Youth Competitions. Any perpetual trophies shall remain the property of the Federations 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.

23. Team Cards

*For 14th – 17th Girls **Premier** Grades only*

A completed Federation team card is to be filled out correctly by each team in a Youth Girls Premier 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 commencement of the game. The referee will sign both cards and hand them back to the respective teams after the game with each team also signing the cards, **confirming that all details are correct.**

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 referee who completed the game, and forwarded to the team's Federation office as above.

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.

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, NFF or club.

For all other divisions below the Premier Grades

Teamcards are not required to be completed for these divisions.

24. Results

Results for all Youth Girls Combined leagues 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 and NFF** Schedule of Fees.

25. Discipline and Misconducts

Teams, players, officials and spectators shall at all times behave in a manner that shall not damage the image of the game. Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators, players and coaching staff, and are required to ensure their representatives abide by the FIFA Code of Ethics and uphold the spirit of Fair Play while participating in **Girls Combined** Youth Competitions.

No charge will be made for misconducts at 17th Grade and below. This waiving of fines does not apply in cases of exceptional misconduct where the Federation or the Disciplinary Committee may impose whatever penalties it may feel are appropriate. Suspensions associated with misconducts will be applied to age grade 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 actioned under the New Zealand Football Disciplinary Code.

Any team or members within a team that receives three incident reports within the same season of proven instances of unacceptable behaviour and/or NZF Code of Conduct breaches may be subject to a good behaviour financial team bond. This will be imposed by the Competitions Manager and may be refunded at the end of the season if no further proven reported incidents are received. Any proven reported incidents may result in a forfeit of the financial bond.

Teams or members within a team who have been placed on a good behaviour financial team bond in the previous season may be subjected to a non-financial team bond in the following season. The first proven reported incident of unacceptable behaviour and/or NZF Code of Conduct breaches may result in a good behaviour financial team bond being imposed by the Competitions Manager.

Any good behaviour financial team bond imposed must be paid by the club/team by the advised date. In the event of non-payment, fixtures for that team will be defaulted week by week until paid in full.

In instances of exceptional misconduct or where the Federation deems it necessary it shall convene a Disciplinary Committee to hold a Disciplinary Hearing to rule on an incident. The Federation may require an individual(s) to appear before the Committee, in which case the individual(s) may be accompanied by their parent or guardian and an official of their Club to give evidence or make a plea on their behalf. If the requested person fails to attend the Disciplinary Hearing, the Disciplinary Committee may make a decision in their absence. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to impose whatever penalties it may feel appropriate depending on the circumstances. The decision of the Disciplinary Committee will be communicated to the Club in writing.

26. Protests, Disputes and Appeals

Any Club playing in Federation Youth Competition may bring a dispute or protest to the Federation through the Competitions Manager.

A protest shall be made by the Club Secretary or another authorised officer of the Club, within **three business days** 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, the Competitions Manager will make the necessary enquiries into the reported incident, including any referee and/or officials from opposing teams, and will advise the decision in writing to the party or parties concerned.

Any decision of the Competitions Managers or Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the Federation Board by the person(s) or Club(s) involved. Such appeal must be received at the Federation office in writing within 14 days of the date of the letter containing the decision, and be accompanied by the Appeal Fee as set by the Federation in the Schedule of Fees. The Board may appoint a **Disciplinary** Committee to deal with the appeal. The Board may convene a second hearing or may choose at their absolute discretion to deal with the Appeal on the papers. The Board or the **Disciplinary** Committee may impose penalties as set out in AFF Rules and New Zealand Football statutes, regulations and codes, and any decision will be communicated to the person(s) and/or Club(s) in writing.

Players or Clubs may further appeal the decision to New Zealand Football under Federation Rule 30 and New Zealand Football statutes, regulations and codes.

27. Other Matters

These specific competition regulations should be read in conjunction with the appropriate NZ Football statutes, regulations and codes, Federation Rules and Youth playing regulations, Federation and NZ Football codes of Ethics, **the New Zealand Football Code 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 details to the relevant Competitions Manager. The local Council will be notified and sanctions may be applied against the offending individual.