

JUNE 20

COMMUNICATION



2 July 2020

No. 2020-017

COMPETITION MATTERS

Given the opening round of fixtures commence this weekend, we take the opportunity to re-issue the communication, which was issued back on 9 March, with one amendment to deal with drawing eligible players from another team within a club.

PLAYER ID CARDS

The Rules of Association provide for players to be eligible to participate in a competitive league fixture, they must be able to produce a CDSFA Player ID Card. A competitive league fixture is a competition for players 12 years and above.

This rule exists at the insistence of the Member Clubs of the CDSFA.

Essentially, the rule can be distilled down to **"No ID Card, No Play"**.

It would be appreciated if you could take the opportunity to remind all Coaches and Managers, and stress this to adult age players within your club.

Fixtures are at times delayed because team management and players seek to argue with Referees and Ground Officials about permitting players to take the field when the teams are unable to produce player ID Cards.

The leadership in each club needs to signal to the Managers and Coaches to respect the role of the Referee. The Referee is required to inspect Player ID Cards. The Referee does not have the discretion to circumvent the Rules of the Association by permitting a player without a valid Player ID Card to take the field.

The assistance of each club in conveying this message will remove unhelpful impediments that delay matches commencing and disrupt game-day operations at venues.

LATE REGISTRATIONS & ID CARDS

The Association rules state that following the first round of competition, any late or additional registration applications must be received in electronic format by the Manager Football Operations no later than 7:00 pm on the Wednesday of each subsequent week for players seeking eligibility to play on the following weekend. It would be helpful if Clubs could respect this deadline.

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REFEREE FEES PER TEAM

Age Group	2020 (Centre - Referee)	2020 (Line – Assistant)
10	\$15	\$5
11	\$15	\$5
12	\$20	\$10
13	\$20	\$10
14	\$20	\$10
15	\$25	\$15
16	\$25	\$15
17	\$30	\$15
18	\$30	\$15
21 / WIL	\$35	\$17
AA	\$35	\$17
O35/45/O30W	\$35	\$17
BBC / AAW1	\$40	\$20

PERMITTED PERSON ON BENCHES / TECHNICAL AREA

Only registered coaches and managers displaying CDSFA ID cards and wearing team official vests and substitute players, in playing strip engaged in the game are permitted inside the ropes or inside an enclosed playing field and on the bench.

Players who are not listed on the team sheet and who will not be taking part in the fixture are not permitted on the bench or in the technical area.

The Referee has the right to stop the match and remove any person from within the roped or enclosed area if in the opinion of the referee it is deemed necessary for the efficient conduct of the game. Therefore, it is important for those team officials and players to be cognisant they should not behave in an unsporting manner, which would give the Referee cause to have them removed.

A maximum of TWO registered team officials per team is permitted at any one time on the bench/Technical area.



PROTEST REGARDING MATCHES

Protests regarding any fixture must be made in writing by the Club Secretary/Administrator. The Association Rules require such protest to be lodged by **5.00 pm on Monday** immediately following the match or incident to which it relates and **must be accompanied by match protest fee** (\$275 plus GST=\$302.50). No lodgement of fee, no protest accepted.

ROLE OF TEAM MANAGERS

Team Managers play an important role in ensuring aspects of matchday operations transpire in an orderly manner. The Match Sheet for a fixture is a significant source document. Team Managers have responsibility for ensuring the correct details are on the team sheet, with respect to the names and details of their players. After a match, each Team Manager is required to sign the Match Sheet and must initial the score signifying it is correct. As provided for in the Rules (R5.1.3), Team Managers are responsible for retrieving their team's player ID cards from the Referee after the game. Noting of course that the Referee will retain the card of any player sent from the field or subject to an incident report. Please note that any team official sent from the bench will be required to surrender their ID card to the Referee if requested to do so.

STARTING TIMES OF MATCHES

Any team failing to take the field by the stipulated time (plus maximum ten minutes grace) or failing to have sufficient players available without satisfactory explanation shall be deemed to have forfeited the match and shall be liable for referees' expenses and a fine per the Association's Schedule of Fines current at the time.

Where a match starts late the Referee shall shorten the total match time to avoid delaying the start of subsequent matches. The match may be shortened only to the extent that it starts late and must still be played as two equal halves.

MATCH SHEETS

2.1.1 Match details and results are to be recorded on the match sheets provided by the Association. The home team, or whichever team is listed first on the draw, is responsible for providing and completing the match sheet before the match, except for the away team details which are to be completed by the away team.

The match sheets will be as follows: -

- Home team to keep the original.
- The home team to return the original copy to the Association Office by no later than Wednesday's mail following the match. Scanned copies of match sheets may be emailed to the Association offices, however, this does not negate the need to return the original by the due date.
- Electronic results shall be received at the Association Office no later than noon on Monday following a weekend match, and no later than 24 hours following completion of a weeknight match.

- 2.1.2 Prior to the commencement of matches, Team Managers shall enter shirt numbers of the players. Team Manager shall sign the match sheet in the space indicated at the conclusion of the match. Any additional eligible players must be added to the section provided for on the match sheet for Substitute Players from Different Teams.
- 2.1.3 Any player playing in a higher age group or higher division shall be identified on the match sheet by entering the player's registered age and grading beside his/her name.
- 2.1.4 Players names may be entered on the match sheet after the commencement of the match but only with the knowledge and agreement of the opposing team's manager or coach and only with the permission of the referee. Such agreement and permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- 2.1.5 Only the names of players intending to play in the match should be entered onto the match sheet.
- 2.1.6 Players whose names have been entered onto the match sheet but who subsequently take no part in the match may have their name struck from the match sheet at the conclusion of the match. The referee should not refuse to strike out the name of such a player.
- 2.1.7 Scores are to be entered onto the match sheet, by the referee, in both numerical and alphabetical format. At the conclusion of the match both team managers or coaches must initial the score.
- 2.1.8 Team managers and referees shall collectively be responsible for ensuring that all necessary details and signatures are entered onto the match sheet at the conclusion of the match, and that the information is printed in ball point pen and clearly legible.
- 2.1.9 *(Deleted 2013)*
- 2.1.10 Any injury suffered during the game should be recorded on the match sheet by the referee.
- 2.1.11 Except for those details specifically required to be completed by the team managers as specified above, only the referee is permitted to write on the match sheet. If a team manager or coach requests any relevant matter to be recorded on the match sheet, the referee shall not unreasonably refuse such request.
- 2.1.12 A responsible adult not participating in the team for divisions up to and including Under 18 is to be registered with the team and listed as a Team Official (Coach/Manager) on the official Match Sheet.
- 2.1.13 A responsible adult for all divisions older than Under 18 is to be registered with the team and listed as a Team Official (Coach/Manager) on the official Match Sheet.

RESULTS

Electronic results shall be received at the Association Office no later than noon on the Monday following a weekend match, and no later than 24 hours following completion of a weeknight match. Clubs are asked to ensure they have internal systems in place which will operate in a way that the Club can meet the timeline for this requirement.

MATCH FORFEITS

The Secretary or Competition Secretary of a Club shall notify the Association and Opposition Club of its intention to forfeit a match. Such notice shall be given in writing no later than 72 hours before the time at which the match is scheduled to be played.

Failure to give such notice will make the Club liable for referees' expenses and a fine per the Association's Schedule of Fines current at the time.

To assist clubs with the notification process for forfeits a prescribed form 22 has been designed for this purpose. The link to the form which is in the resources area of the CDSFA website is <https://form.jotform.com/60328290239960>

The form when used correctly will notify multiple parties involved in the fixture being forfeited.

NON-ATTENDANCE OF MATCH OFFICIALS (REFEREES)

1. Where there is no referee in attendance at a match, both teams must agree on one person to referee the entire match.
2. When any two teams are unable to decide on a suitable substitute referee they shall: -
 - not proceed to play the match without a referee, and
 - complete the match sheet details, recording on the sheet that the match was not played due to there being no suitable person to referee, and
 - return the match sheet as for a normally completed match, and
 - within 48 hours of the match's originally scheduled time, forward to the CDSFA an explanation detailing why an agreement could not be made, and
 - the Fixtures Committee shall meet within 14 calendar days following when the match should have been played and, based on the information before it, decide the outcome of the match.
3. The match may be rescheduled, or another outcome determined for that match at the sole discretion of the Fixtures Committee. ***The Clubs whose teams are involved will have no right of appeal against the Fixtures Committee decision in the matter.***
4. Once a person is appointed as a substitute referee under rule 7.2.1, he/she has all the rights, powers and responsibilities of an official referee, (including the right to issue yellow cards (cautions) and red cards (send-off) to players and officials of the teams involved in the match) and shall be accorded the same respect by the teams as would an official referee.
5. A person appointed as a substitute referee under this rule shall complete the match sheet details including any necessary incident report in the same manner as would an official referee.
6. Where there is no assistant referee in attendance at a match, each Club should supply a person to act as an assistant referee for the entire match.

THE CAPTAIN - THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Many people believe that the Laws of the Game confer, on the captain, the right to challenge and question the decisions of the match officials. **This is not the case.**

The Laws of the Game were first collated in 1863 and, until today, there has never even been a mention of the captain. Indeed, the current law book runs for 116 pages and there is no mention of any special rights for the captain.

FIFA, on several occasions (notably in the 1970s and 1990s), has issued a memorandum on the rights and responsibilities of captains. They have clarified the matter, explaining that the captain has no special rights. They are merely another player but one with greater responsibilities.

The captain is not seen as a spokesperson for their team, but they are expected to be a positive role model who assists in controlling the behaviour of the players in their team.

Please draw this matter to the attention of your coaches, players and particularly adult male players.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Teams in age groups under 8 and under 9 - must field at least 5 of that teams registered players at the commencement of the match and at all times during the match.

Teams in age groups under 10 and under 11 - must field at least 6 of that teams registered players at the commencement of the match and at all times during the match.

Teams in other age groups - must field at least seven (7) of the team's registered players at the commencement of the match and at all times during the match. If a team cannot field seven or more of that team's registered players at any point during the match, for whatever reason, the match will be considered to have been forfeited by that team to the opposition, regardless of the amount of match time elapsed.

PLAYERS PLAYING UP (OUT OF AGE GROUP OR DIVISION)

The rule regarding the maximum number of players that may be brought up into a higher graded or different age group for the 2020 season has been amended.

A team may only draw players from another team within the Club, where those players are eligible to play, to achieve a maximum number of 11 players on the field.

The maximum number of players that may be brought up into a higher grade or different age group team for any given match, subject to the preceding paragraph, shall be

For U8 and U9 age groups,	2
For U10 and U11 age groups	3
All other age groups/competitions	4

WEARING OF JEWELLERY

The Laws of the Game establish the framework within which the game is to be played. Law 4 – Players' Equipment lists the items that must be worn and those that are precluded.

The opening paragraphs of Law 4 states:

"Safety

A player must not use equipment or wear anything dangerous. All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed.

Using tape to cover jewellery is not permitted. The players must be inspected before the start of the match and substitutes before they enter the field of play.

If a player is wearing or using unauthorised/ dangerous equipment or jewellery the referee must order the player to:

- remove the item
- leave the field of play at the next stoppage if the player is unable or unwilling to comply.

A player who refuses to comply or wears the item again must be cautioned."

FFA Laws of the Game 2018 edition Page 54

COMPULSORY EQUIPMENT

The compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate items:

- a shirt with sleeves
- shorts
- socks – tape or any material applied or worn externally must be the same colour as that part of the sock it is applied to or covers
- shin guards – these must be made of a suitable material to provide reasonable protection and covered by the socks
- footwear

Goalkeepers may wear tracksuit bottoms.

COLOURS

- The two teams must wear colours that distinguish them from each other and the match officials
- Each goalkeeper must wear colours that are distinguishable from the other players and the match officials
- If the two goalkeepers' shirts are the same colour and neither has another shirt, the referee allows the match to be played Undershirts must be the same colour as the main colour of the shirt sleeve; undershorts/tights must be the same colour as the main colour of the shorts or the lowest part of the shorts – players of the same team must wear the same colour.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

Non-dangerous protective equipment, for example, headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material is permitted as are goalkeepers' caps and sports spectacles.

Head Covers

Where headcovers (excluding goalkeepers' caps) are worn, they must:

- be black or the same main colour as the shirt (provided that the players of the same team wear the same colour)
- be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment
- not be attached to the shirt
- not be dangerous to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g. opening/ closing mechanism around the neck)
- not have any part(s) extending out from the surface (protruding elements)

FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE

Each season the CDSFA receives complaints relating to the use of language that may be considered as being "foul or abusive", commonly known as "swearing". Complaints are made by Club Officials, but more importantly by **Members of the Public** attending matches and **Residents** next to some playing fields.

Most clubs would be aware that access to our sporting fields is contingent upon proper social conduct by participants. There is a collective obligation by football to ensure fixtures are conducted within the laws of the game.

Unfortunately, swearing (foul and abusive language) is regrettably commonplace within society, the use of such language within the football environment is unacceptable. The complaints in the main relate to adult male matches, however, in 2018/2019, the Association received reports regarding parents in the junior competitions using expletives.

In terms of players, Match Officials have authority (and are obliged to respond) under the Laws of the Game (Law 12) to any incident of a participant identified as "showing dissent by word or action" or the use of "offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures". The referee's interpretation of the seriousness of the words or actions will determine whether one of the two following actions occurs;

- Yellow Card issued (ie caution);
- Red Card issued (ie Send-Off)

Foul or abusive language uttered is NOT able to be defended based on reasons such as a claim that such language was "only uttered to myself, my team-mates or was unable to be heard by others." Despite some expectations that ALL referees will make the SAME interpretation on DIFFERENT incidents, participants are advised that action taken by "any" referee in "any" match, will NOT set a precedent or provide immunity for any other incident where a referee determines that dissent was shown, or offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures were used.

The CRA will be instructed to inform its members to deal with any audible swearing; given there are families with children attending CDSFA fixtures.

Sanctions imposed by the CDSFA can be anticipated as being more severe when offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures is reported as being made against a match official.

The CDSFA Judiciary & Disciplinary Regulations (Table of Offences) defines a MINIMUM sanction to be imposed for an offence reported as; "Repeated use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a match official" to be SIX (6) matches. Threatening or intimidating language towards a Match Official has a minimum penalty of EIGHT (8) matches, and use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language and / or gestures the minimum penalty is ONE (1) year.

Our aim must be to change the culture whereby the use of foul and abusive language (and/or actions), is not acceptable as part of local football activity. Member Clubs play a critical influential role in brokering the values that are required and the Association applaud efforts to promote appropriate behaviour, including respect for match officials.

The issue of sideline misconduct by parents has been an emerging issue in recent seasons. It may require the Association eventually issuing a directive to the CRA to have its members terminate games early where parents and supporters direct abuse towards match officials and the opposition. *It would be prudent at this early stage for clubs to circulate to team managers the need to warn parents and supporters at junior fixtures, in particular, to be mindful of the FFA code of conduct that applies to spectators at games.*

ASK – TELL - REMOVE

Over recent seasons the conduct of team officials (coaches and managers) has at times impacted upon the detrimental behaviour of players participating in fixtures. In 2018/2019 a formal policy around team official behaviour was commenced in the form of the issuing of yellow and red cards. This will again be implemented in 2020.

Below is a presentation that has been made by the CRA to its referees. It explains how the policy will apply.

For the information of clubs, the following will apply:

1. Any coach or manager issued with a yellow or red card will be recorded by the referee on the match sheet.
2. If a coach or manager accumulates three yellow cards during the season, they will be suspended for one competition fixture. If a coach or manager reoffends a further two times (five occasions for the season) they will be stood down for a further two competition fixtures and will be required to appear the Disciplinary Committee where further sanctions may be administered.
3. If a coach or manager is shown the red card it shall be recorded, and the individual will receive an immediate mandatory one-match suspension as well as being subjected to any further sanction in the same way as a player.

We trust this initiative will have a positive impact on the game and will curb the behavioural issues which have evolved with managers and coaches within the CDSFA particularly in junior games.

In previous years, coaches and managers have been managed using **ASK – TELL – REMOVE**

- The same policy will apply this year with the addition of showing YC and RC at the TELL and REMOVE stage, respectively.

Objectives:

- To portray to players and spectators that the Coach/Manager has been warned that their behaviour is not acceptable
- To portray to the Coach/Manager that the referee is in control of the situation

- **Ask**

If a situation arises where there is irresponsible behaviour, the referee will **ASK** the person(s) to stop.

- **Tell**

If there is another occurrence where there is irresponsible behaviour, the referee will inform that person that the behaviour is not permissible and **TELL** them (insist) to stop.

- **Remove**

If the non-accepted action continues, the referee will **REMOVE** that person immediately.

ROPING OF GROUNDS

To assist with the orderly conduct of matchday operations the rules provide for the roping of fields as provided for in the quote below:

8.2 ROPING OF GROUNDS

- 8.2.1 *All open grounds must be roped off to a minimum of 2 metres from the extremities of the penalty area at either end of the field and where possible to be at least one metre high.*
- 8.2.2 *Mini Fields and half fields do not require roping*
- 8.2.3 *Any Club whose ground is reported to the Board by the referee for inadequate roping off shall be given 48 hours by the Association to show cause why it should not be fined an amount set by the Board for such breach*

8.3 PERSONS ALLOWED INSIDE ROPES

- 8.3.1 *Only coaches, managers and substitute players in playing strip engaged in the match in progress are permitted within the ropes or permitted within the fence if an enclosed ground. The number of officials (coaches, managers, etc.) permitted to each team within the technical zone / on the field of play at any time during the course of a match shall be limited to two (2). Where seating is provided, only one team*

*official at a time may be standing. **Team Officials are required to wear the designated Yellow (Hi Vis) Team Official vest coupled with their Team Official ID Card clearly visible.***

- 8.3.2 *All persons described in 8.3.1 above must have a current Association ID card for the team taking part in the game to be permitted within the ropes or fence.*
- 8.3.3 *No person, Club official, team manager or team coach is permitted to stand along the goal line within the area defined by the junction of the goal line and the penalty area within 15 metres of the goal posts.*
- 8.3.4 *The referee shall have the right to stop the match and remove any person from within the ropes or from within a fence or from behind the goal posts if he/she deems it necessary for the efficient running of the game.*
- 8.3.5 *Unless permitted otherwise by the referee, coaches, managers and players must stay within the designated technical area during the game.*

Thank you for taking note of the matters contained in this Communication.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the opportunity is taken to thank Club Committees and Volunteers for their patience and resilience in dealing with the disruption associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The fact there is going to be a football season in 2020 is the result of a determination by all clubs to work constructively through the challenges as they have arisen in such a collaborative way. The club committee and the volunteers are the unsung heroes of the 2020 football season.

Please enjoy this delayed season of football.

Regards



Ian Holmes
Chief Executive