BFQ Incorporated
2026 Regular Season and Finals Series Rules

The regular season and finals series rules of BFQ shall apply to all affiliated clubs and teams of BFQ Incorporated and shall be strictly adhered to.

In these Rules:

(a) The term “BFQ” will be taken to mean BFQ Incorporated; and

(b) “Executive Committee” refers to an established competition based Executive Committee. If no competition-based committee is established, the BFQ Executive Committee will assume these responsibilities.

Rules Of the Game

The rules of the game shall be as published in the available current edition of the “the Official Laws of the Game” (FFA) and as altered from time to time by the Executive Management Committee.

Deviations from those rules currently include:

Adding Players to the Team Sheet after the Commencement of a Match

- Normally registered players names may be added to the match sheet up to and including the time the Referee leaves the ground. However, should the Manager of the particular team be accessing the borrowing of players ruling then borrowing of players rulings shall apply and players shall only be able to be added to the match sheet to make up to the maximum number of players specified in the Specific Competitions Rulings contained in these Rules.

The Unlimited Substitution rule

- Each team on a given game day shall be allowed to play up to the maximum number of players specified in the Specific Competitions Rulings contained in these Rules. At any one time only a maximum of 11 players per team shall be allowed to be on the field of play. However, players may be substituted on an unlimited basis. Players may only enter or leave the field with the permission of the Referee at the centre line of the field. Should the Referee believe that a particular coach is utilising this system as a tactical tool the Referee shall inform the Manager that all future substitutions involving that team for that particular fixture shall be restricted to times when the team is in control of the ball. The Referee at the conclusion of the game shall include a report on the matter as part of their match report.

“Temporary Dismissal”

Temporary dismissals will take place in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

The Borrowing of players between clubs on an occasional basis.

- This rule is only available for usage by clubs up to and including the last weekend of fixtures in the regular season.

a. A team may borrow players to make up to the maximum number of players specified in the Specific Competitions Rulings contained in these Rules on the team sheet.
b. Any team fielding a team (across both the Senior Men’s and Woman’s competitions) in BFQ can access “The borrowed players ruling”. A team may only borrow players from teams of the same or a lower division.
c. On match day the following procedure shall apply when borrowing players.
d. The borrowed player rule does not apply to the finals series (see Additional Finals Series Rulings section).

Any team found to be exploiting this provision for the purposes of constructing wins may have this provision withdrawn at the discretion of the Executive Management Committee.

Procedure for Borrowing Players:

a. Advise the Referee that your team is accessing the borrowed player ruling
b. Write in the Borrowed Player section of the team sheet:
   (I) Player’s name
   (II) Player’s usual team
   - each player will sign next to his or her detail, as well as in the normal team listing on the team sheet as per normal.
   - the Referee will authorise the transfer by countersigning.

Once a manager has accessed the borrowed player system and the game has commenced, should a normally registered player with that team arrive, they will be allowed to replace a borrowed player. A borrowed player will no longer be eligible to take any further part in the match unless it is to make up the maximum number of players specified in the Specific Competitions Rulings contained in these Rules before they actively take part in the match.

The Manager of the team borrowing players is responsible for ensuring that the information supplied on the team sheet is correct. Supplying incorrect, insufficient or no information on the team sheet will be deemed as playing an unregistered player and the normal penalties for such shall apply.

All yellow and red card offences committed whilst playing, as a borrowed player will be accredited to the individual borrowed player’s season tally regardless of the team they are playing for at the time of the offence.

Resolution of Disputes Procedure

Any club or team belonging to BFQ who wishes to protest or dispute any matter other than a Referee's ruling, may do so. The matter must be addressed in writing to the BFQ Secretary from the nominated management team of the particular club or team who will refer the matter in question to the Executive Committee whose ruling on the matter shall be final. The Executive Committee may refer the matter to the Executive Management Committee should it be unable to resolve the issue. The Executive Management Committee may also require a player, club or team official to present themselves for an interview in order to give a direction to the party or parties concerned in some misunderstanding, controversy or hostility.

Any club or team wishing to appeal against a decision of an Executive Committee will be required to pay a $150 appeal fee. At the completion of the appeal process, the Executive Management Committee, at its discretion, will determine if the appeal fee is to be refunded. The appeal fee will be refunded if the appeal is successful.

Team Divisional Placements Procedures

- Teams shall be divided into divisions on a season-by-season basis as decided upon by the Executive Management Committee after the completion of the Pre-Season Grading (if conducted) and before the commencement of the regular playing season.
- The Executive Management Committee will review the divisional status of all teams in each league competition before the end of the first rotation of fixtures and may promote or relegate teams should their playing history support either course of action. Teams that are promoted or relegated shall take any points that they have gained during the first rotation of fixtures with them to their new division.
- Should their points tally be greater than the leading team in their new division then they shall assume common points status and goal differentials with the leading team in their new division.
- Should their points tally be below the lowest placed team in their new division they shall assume the same status as the lowest placed team in their new division with regard to points and goal differences.
- Teams that are both minor premiers and championship winners will automatically be promoted to at least the next division for the following season.
- Teams that are either minor premiers or championship winners (but not both) will normally be promoted to at least the next division for the first rotation of fixtures of the season following and then their divisional placement shall be reviewed.

Divisional Finals Series

Divisional finals series will be conducted on the following basis:

Teams In Division	Teams in Finals
Four	Two
Five	Three
Six	Four
Seven or more	Five

If at the end of the regular season teams in a particular division are equal on points, goal differences shall be taken into account in determining:

a. Premiers;
b. The teams eligible to enter the semi-finals in each division; and
c. Positional placements for semi-final positions.

The number of goals scored against a team shall be deducted from the number of goals scored by the team in the regular season. The highest resultant figure shall be deemed to have the better goal difference. If teams are still locked then the team which has scored the higher number of goals shall be deemed the winning team. If there is still a deadlock, then the teams concerned shall play an extra midweek fixture under semifinal rulings conditions to determine eligibility for semi-final positions.

Additional Finals Series Rulings

- Each team on a given finals game shall be allowed to play up to the maximum number of players specified in the Specific Competitions Rulings contained in these Rules.
- During the finals series, if both teams have scored an equal number of goals at the end of the normal period of football, the Referee will allow both teams to have a five-minute break at which time the coin shall be tossed as per the normal start of game rules and 2 x 10 minute periods of extra time shall follow. At half time in extra time the teams will swap ends and continue to play. There will be no rest period designated for half time. If after extra time the score is still locked then the Referee will conduct a penalty shootout as per the current FIFA guidelines to determine the winner of the match.
- Only players who are registered in the BFQ portal on the 30th June are eligible to play in the finals series. There is no minimum number of games players registered players must have played to play in the finals series. If a team is found to have played an ineligible player, the Executive Committee of the competition shall apply an appropriate sanction at its discretion which may include awarding the result to the opposing team or replaying the semi-final or final.
- No team shall be allowed to play in a semi-final or final unless all outstanding fees and fines are paid in full. Any team found in this situation shall forfeit their fixture. The next best placed team shall then be promoted to take this particular team's place in the finals series.
- Any team forfeiting a final series fixture shall be replaced in that scheduled fixture by the next best placed team in that division.
- All finals series matches shall be played at their scheduled time and place. Normal flexibility rules regarding scheduled timing of fixtures shall not apply during finals series matches.
- All finals series games venues will be wherever possible played at a neutral venue. The venue selection is at the sole discretion of the games convenor.
- The Borrowed Player rule does not apply to finals series (see Borrowed Player rule). Permission must be sought from the Executive Management Committee regarding any special requests in special circumstances to play such players in the finals series.

Player Sports Injury Policies

- BFQ and its elected officers accept no liability for injury caused on the field of play in respect of a player's wearing of spectacles or contact lenses. Any prescription spectacles worn on the field must be attached to the player via tape or a fastening device, which wraps around the back of the head. It is preferred that only safety sport type glasses or goggles be worn on the field.
- BFQ offers a blanket policy for sports injury insurance to cover players when playing and training for BFQ sanctioned matches. Inclusion in this policy is on a club-by-club basis. It is the responsibility of the individual club to ensure that all players registered with their club are aware of the individual club's player insurance policy and procedures.
- Whilst BFQ will strive to enhance player safety at all of its sanctioned games, BFQ accepts no responsibility or liability for any and all injuries incurred by players involved in, or training for, BFQ sanctioned games.
- BFQ strongly advises individual players to supplement this insurance cover by arranging their own personal accident and or income protection insurance independently through an insurer or insurance agent should they require it.

Team Playing Strips

- Each team shall play in an individually numbered approved same coloured playing shirt complete with same coloured socks and same coloured shorts. All playing strips must be approved by the Executive Management Committee before ordering or usage.
- Clubs are encouraged to find a suitable sponsor for playing strips to help offset costs. Clubs are reminded that all sponsors must be approved by the Executive Management Committee of BFQ before acceptance of any sponsorship arrangements between member clubs and other bodies.
- No team may change its approved playing strip without the written permission and prior approval of the Executive Management Committee of BFQ. Team Managers should contact the Secretary for further clarification if required.
- Teams MUST carry an alternative strip to cover the possibility of a clash of playing strip occurring at each scheduled fixture.
- Should a playing strip clash occur it is the responsibility of the teams listed first (home team) on the fixture listing to supply an alternative playing strip. It is hoped that a common sense approach will be undertaken by all teams to come prepared when a possibility of playing strip clash might eventuate.

Registering Of Players During the Regular Season

- Players may be registered with a club up to and including the 30th June of each year.
- No team shall register players after that date without the approval of the Executive Management Committee. Approval will only be given in extenuating circumstances. Team Managers should contact the Secretary for further clarification if required.
- During the regular season, and prior to 30th June, all registered players are to be added into the match sheet produced from the BFQ Portal. Any non-registered players are to be handwritten on the match sheet, and registered in the BFQ Portal within seven days.
- During the regular season post 30th June, unregistered players can play, but cannot be registered as a player for the purposes of playing in finals. The playing of any unregistered players is to be reported to the Secretary via email at secretary@bfq.org.au.

- Players must be registered with a particular team and shall not be allowed to transfer to any other team within a playing season except with the written permission of the Executive Management Committee of BFQ. Requests for transfer must be made in writing to BFQ before the player plays their first match for their new club. Player registration forms and any fees owed to their previous club must be forwarded to the Club Registrar/Team Manager of the receiving club prior to the day of the first fixture with the new club.

Forfeits Procedures

- In the event of a team failing to arrive within 10 minutes after the scheduled kick-off, or within five minutes of the end of play of the earlier game if such game is late, the Referee shall abandon the match. The Referee shall sign the team sheet accordingly.

- In the event of the match being abandoned as above, brought about by circumstances beyond the control of the absent team, then such team shall submit the circumstances in writing to the Results Officer within seven days of the event. If upon investigation, the Match Review Committee finds that the circumstances are unavoidable, then the teams shall be given one calendar month in which to replay the fixture. If both teams cannot come up with a suitable time to replay the fixture within one calendar month or the end of the regular season (whichever is the lesser) then a 2-2 draw shall be declared, and points awarded accordingly. If the match review committee finds that the abandonment was avoidable, a 3-0 forfeit will be awarded to the team present.

- Each affiliated club shall lodge with BFQ upon joining a forfeit fee as a guarantee of fulfilling its fixtures. Any club forfeiting a match without sufficient notice of its intention shall have the expense deducted from its forfeit fee. Clubs fulfilling their fixture obligations shall have their respective forfeit fee held in trust from year to year by the executive of BFQ. Clubs found to be continually forfeiting fixtures may be required by the executive to lodge a larger forfeit fee based upon the clubs history of recent forfeits. The amount of this additional bond shall be decided on a case by case basis by the Executive Management Committee and communicated in writing to the particular club.

- Teams incurring a forfeit fee during the season are required to resubmit a new bond should they be requested to. All points awarded to a team in this situation will be suspended until such time as the new bond is paid in full.

Forfeit Guidelines & Charges

- All forfeits must be lodged via email to the BFQ Referees Convenor, BFQ Games Convenor, and BFQ Secretary (all three must be notified) no later than 3pm on the Sunday preceding the scheduled fixture.
- Forfeiting of games later than 3pm Sunday previous to the scheduled fixture: equal to cost of full Referee team for the fixture (currently $200) plus loss of two competition points.
- Teams found to be forfeiting games on a continuing basis shall be asked to show cause as to why their right to continue to field teams in BFQ competitions shall not be withdrawn.

Team Manager's Match Day Responsibilities

- It is the team Manager's responsibility to ensure that their team is at the designated field and ready to play **a minimum** of 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of their game.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility that all players be dressed in their ***correctly approved club-playing strip***. Players not in correct playing uniform may be requested to leave the park at the discretion of the Referee. The Referee will report breeches of uniform code in his match report for the Executive Committee to take further action.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that if a clash of strip does occur it is the responsibility of the first side mentioned on the fixture draw (home side) to arrange for a change of playing strip. The Executive Committee may make exceptions to this rule from time to time. The home side shall be the one listed first on the fixture draw for that game regardless of the geographical location of the fixture.

- The Team Manager is to ensure that all players wear suitable footwear in accordance with the Laws of the Game. In the interest of player safety, the wearing of solid or hollow aluminum tags is strictly forbidden.

- The Team Manager shall ensure that no player is allowed to enter the field of play without suitable (fit for purpose) FIFA approved shin guard protectors in place.

- The Team Manager is responsible for ensuring that all players expecting to play in a scheduled fixture will have read and understand their obligations under BFQ's Player's Code of Conduct before during and after games sanctioned by BFQ.

- The Team Manager is responsible for ensuring that all players on their team are aware of BFQ's "sports injury insurance" policy.

- The Team Manager will ensure that all players and supporters act in a manner that enhances the goals and aims of BFQ including its policies with regard to the consumption of alcohol and other prohibited substances including recreational and performance enhancing drugs.

- The Team Manager shall be their player's advocate at any necessary judiciary hearing that may be necessary due to breaches in the player's code of conduct.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that no player during a game shall change shirts unless it is to interchange with the goalkeeper. No Player shall be allowed to enter the field of play wearing another player's numbered shirt.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that their teams pay all Referee and assistant Referee fees due each game ***prior to the commencement of play***.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that their team completes a team sheet for each fixture in the prescribed manner. The signed team sheet will be handed

to the match Referee no later than five minutes before the scheduled start of play, however this sheet may be altered up until the Referee leaves the ground. A signature will be deemed included if signed by the player or Team Manager.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that at the commencement of each fixture, teams shall enter the field from the halfway line in an orderly fashion and line up on either side of the centre line to receive instructions from the Referee.

- It is the Team Managers responsibility to ensure that each player fill out the BFQ Individual Player Registration Form which is retained by the club. It is the Team Managers responsibility to ensure that players are registered in the BFQ Portal.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that a suitable first aid kit is available for use by their team.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that the area they occupy at a ground on the day of a scheduled fixture is left in a neat and tidy state free of litter.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure the provision of a safe, supportive and organised environment for all players, spectators and match officials.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that all players and spectators depart from the ground in a safe and orderly manner.

- It is the Team Manager's responsibility to ensure that team spectators associated with their particular team are kept under control and behave in an acceptable manner.

Game Cancellations and Postponements

In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of fixtures due to rain or acts of God rendering the grounds unplayable the executive committee shall be empowered to have all or any of the matches replayed or declared abandoned and award points according to the following guidelines.

All Games Cancelled

- Declare a dead rubber and award no points.
- If all games are cancelled all fields normally utilised by BFQ are therefore deemed unplayable. Should any team utilise a field when it has been officially deemed unplayable, that team will be charged by BFQ for any repairs to the playing surface that may have been made necessary as a result of using the closed field.

Some Games Cancelled

- The balance of fixtures for the round not played shall be played within one calendar month from the originally scheduled match date at venues and times agreed to between the relevant teams, Games Convenor and the Referees Convenor. If no

agreement can be reached on a suitable time and venue, then a 2-2 result shall be declared, and points allocated accordingly.

- Cancellation or relocation of games will be posted on the website up until 10.00am on the morning of the fixture.
- Games not cancelled before 10.00am on the day of the scheduled fixture shall be deemed to be playable until such time as the allocated Referee for the fixture has completed a pre-match inspection of the playing surface. Should the Referee deem that the surface is unplayable the fixture will be deemed to be a postponed fixture and normal such rulings shall apply.
- If the game is cancelled by the Referee due to their assessment of the field being in an unplayable condition, the playing surface shall be immediately vacated. Should any team utilise a field when it has been officially deemed unplayable, that team will be charged by BFQ for any repairs to the playing surface that may have been made necessary as a result of using the closed field.

Finals or Semi-Finals Cancelled

- Should a final or semi-final be cancelled or abandoned by the Referee, the decision as to whether the results at the time of abandonment will stand, or the replaying of the match, will be at the discretion of the Executive Management Committee.
- In making its decision, the Executive Management Committee, as a guideline, may consider the following:
    - If the match is abandoned up to or including the commencement of the second half, the match may be considered for replay;
    - If the match is abandoned after the second half commences, then the result may stand as it is at the time of the abandonment by the Referee; and/or
    - The score at the time of abandonment, and whether there may be a likelihood of there being a different result if the game were to have been played for the full 90 minutes.
- If it is deemed by the Executive Management Committee that the match is to be replayed, the replay will be at the time and venue as specified by the Executive Management Committee. If a team is unable to comply with the specified replay, then that team will be deemed to have forfeited the match.

<u>Postponement of Games:</u>

If by mutual agreement of both teams a scheduled fixture is unable to be played at its scheduled time and venue, then the match may be played at a more convenient time and venue suitable to both teams.

- Matches may only be postponed prior to 3.00pm on the Sunday afternoon before the scheduled fixture. No postponements will be accepted after this time.
- The details of the rescheduled match (time and venue) must be included in the email advice submitted, as outlined in the Forfeits Guidelines and Charges section above.
- If the rescheduled match is not played as advised above, a technical forfeit will be incurred on the part of the team who initiated the original forfeit (the team which lodged the email) and will result in the payment of the $200 forfeit fee.

- All rescheduled matches must be played with a one calendar month period of the original scheduled fixture.
- Any approved rescheduled games being played at night must kick off no later than 7.30pm.
- The playing of all postponed games must be completed prior to commencement of the last scheduled fixture for that division in the regular season.

Playing of Friendly Games with Member Clubs and Clubs from Other Associations

BFQ both before, during and after the season encourages the playing of trial matches and friendly games. For the purpose of player penalties during these games it is hoped that any incidences requiring the use of infringement cards by the Referee will be minimal. It is the intention of the Executive Management Committee to only take action where the Referees report from such a game would deem the need for a player to have a case to answer that could incur a lengthy suspension. In these instances, the standard judiciary procedures would be called upon.

- Any match involving a BFQ club and or controlled by a BFQ Referee shall be considered a sanctioned match of BFQ and therefore any and all BFQ affiliated players playing in the match will be required to play the game under the canopy of the BFQ players code of conduct.

- BFQ clubs are free to organise friendly games with clubs from other football associations. Clubs are to be aware that any game played by a BFQ registered club is deemed to be sanctioned by BFQ for insurance purposes. Clubs wishing to play friendly games with clubs from other associations are requested to notify the Games Convenor and Secretary of the match time and venue. Should a BFQ Referee be required for the match then the BFQ club should contact the BFQ Referees Convenor who will advise as to whether a BFQ accredited Referee can be made available for the match.

- A BFQ team sheet will be required to be filled out for these matches and the completed team sheets will be lodged by the BFQ home team with the BFQ Results Officer after the game has been played. The Referee shall mark the front of the team sheet as being a 'friendly game'. If the game was controlled by a Referee not accredited to control BFQ matches then the BFQ Team Manager shall forward the completed team sheet to the BFQ Results Officer.

Player Infringement Penalties & Procedures

The following is a list of offences for infringements on the field and a points system similar to the current FIFA rules and is subject to review by the Executive Management Committee from time to time.

Red Card (Send Off) Offences

Send off offences are treated as an automatic minimum one game suspension and may be extended after the match review committee has reviewed the official match report. If after

reading the report BFQ's results officer and or relevant competition Registrar acting on behalf of BFQ Executive Committee feels that a greater suspension is required (up to and including three weeks), the player and club shall be notified in writing of the suspension. Suspensions imposed up to and including three games are not subject to appeal.

Send Off Offence (Red Card)	***Minimum Suspension***
Violent Conduct (including threatening a Referee – verbally or physically) • Grade 1 (eg. pushing without striking/retaliation) • Grade 2 (all other offences)	 1 Game 4 Games
Serious Foul Play	2 Games
Uses Offensive or Insulting or Abusive Language and or Gestures	1 Game
Receives a Second Caution in the same match	1 Game
Spits at an Opponent, Official or Spectator	2 Games
Denies an opponent a goal or obvious goal scoring opportunity	1 Game

A player who accrues a second red card in the season will serve an extra week suspension period that will be served following any other sentence that may have been imposed due to the red card offence. A third red card may result in the player having their right to play further games withdrawn for the balance of that particular season and finals series.

Byes and game cancellations due to field closures shall not be included in the suspension period.

The Executive Management Committee reserves the right in the interest of fair play and safety to impose lengthier suspensions for serial offenders.

Yellow Card (Caution) Offences

A player who accumulates four yellow card offences in the regular season shall incur a one game suspension penalty. This penalty is mandatory and is not subject to the appeals process.

Any player who accumulates eight yellow cards will serve two weeks suspension.

Any player who accumulates 12 yellow cards may result in the player having their right to play further games withdrawn for the balance of that particular season and finals series.

Players who accumulate a fourth yellow card in the last fixture of the regular season shall serve a one match suspension in their first scheduled game of the final series.

At the end of the regular season all outstanding yellow card offences shall be negated.
i.e. All players contesting finals series football at the start of the final series shall be deemed to have zero yellow card offences.

Players contesting finals series games who accumulate three yellow card offences during the finals series shall also serve a one game suspension penalty.

Yellow card offences once recorded on the official team sheet by the Referee controlling the match are not eligible for any appeal processes.

Cautionable or Yellow Card Offences
Deliberately Obstructing or tripping an opponent
Entering or re-entering the field of play without the Referee's permission
Deliberately leaving the field of play without the Referee's permission
Persistently Infringes the Laws of The Game
Showing Dissent of Referees or Asst. Referees Decisions by word or action
Deliberately Delaying the Restart of Play
Deliberately Grabbing or Holding a Player
Foul or Dangerous Play
Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
Removal of jersey when celebrating a goal
Unsporting Behavior

Playing of a suspended player by a club when they have been notified by BFQ in writing (email, letter or text message) will result in the players normally registered team losing any points allocated whilst the player is under suspension. It will also result in an automatic doubling of the individual players prescribed penalty.

Penalties incurred and not practically completed in the regular series of a season are to be served in the final series (if contesting) and then in the consequent season of registration for the individual player.

Penalties incurred and not practically completed in the final series of a season are to be served in the consequent season of registration for the individual player.

Technical Breeches of Competition Rules

Where a technical breach of the rules of the competition occurs and is brought to the attention of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall prepare a report for the Executive Management Committee's consideration and review. The Executive Management Committee has the power, after completing its investigation and review of the incident to determine an appropriate penalty where one is not already indicated within the rules of competition or constitution. Penalties imposed may include, but not be limited to loss of competition points, monetary fine, or replaying of a designated fixture. The Executive Management Committee's decisions on matters of this nature shall be deemed as final and are not appealable.

All complaints of this nature must be submitted in writing to the Secretary by the nominated contact of the team's club and must be in the hands of the Secretary within five days of the incident occurring.

Judiciary Procedures

- The club of a player sent from the field by the Referee will be notified by the Executive Committee (normally via the Results Officer) via email, telephone or SMS message as soon as possible what suspension will be applied for the offence committed. Suspension periods up to three games will be notified by the Results Officer to the players club as soon as the Referees match report has been reviewed by the competition Match Review Panel. The normal review panel shall be made up of a minimum of two members of the Executive Committee, who may include others as they deem necessary. Suspension periods up to and including three games are not eligible for the appeals process.

- If the Executive Committee feels that a greater suspension may need to be applied due to the nature of the offence or previous charges against the player concerned, the Results Officer shall advise the players club that the player is to be immediately stood down from BFQ sanctioned matches until such time as a suitable judiciary panel can be convened to fully hear the charge. This judiciary panel shall be made up of the following representatives:
    a. Independent Chairperson (an executive member not from the players club);
    b. Secretary (or an executive member to be nominated as Secretary for the purpose of the judicial panel);
    c. Referees Representative (Convenor or their representative should they have been in control of the match concerned);
    d. Players Representative (from those elected to the current Executive Committee); and
    e. One other currently elected Executive Committee member.
- The Match Review Panel shall hear evidence from the players club who may send two representatives to the hearing and also from the Referee (either in person or via the match report) and any other witnesses that either the judicial panel or the players club may call. After hearing all evidence presented the Match Review Panel will advise the club as to the outcome of the hearing via written notification on behalf of BFQ Executive Committee. Decisions made by this Match Review Panel are subject to appeal as per the association's normal procedures. Any further appeal should be in writing and addressed to the BFQ Secretary by the club's nominated representative.
- The Executive Management Committee reserves the right after due consideration to penalise teams either via a fine or loss of premiership points for continual breaches of the season rules, player's and team's code of conduct. Any penalty imposed shall be notified to the club in writing and subject to normal appeals processes.
- Players suspended by the BFQ discipline tribunal may be required to undergo a suitable course in behavior management before being allowed to take part in any further BFQ sanctioned matches.
- Players playing in more than one sanctioned competition of BFQ shall accrue demerit points for the competition in which the infringement occurred. However, a player suspended from playing matches in a particular competition is suspended from all BFQ sanctioned matches until such time as the suspension period expires in the competition in which the infringement occurred.

Duration of Matches

The BFQ Executive Management Committee has instructed Referees that wherever possible, adherence to the following schedule with regard to duration of matches shall apply.

Competition	**Duration of Match (Minutes)**	**Half Time Interval (Minutes)**	**Ball Size for Games**
Mens	**45 x 45**	**10**	**No. 5**
Womens	**35 x 35**	**10**	**No. 5**

BFQ accredited Referees are permitted to shorten the length of any fixture should weather, ground or other circumstances outside BFQ's control be in place at a particular ground on a particular scheduled match time.

The Referee will, wherever possible communicate their intention to shorten a match to the Captain/Managers before the commencement of the fixture.

Season Points Calculations

Points are only allocated for specific fixtures once the Results Officer of BFQ has the official team sheet in his possession. Any and all results are only provisional until such time as the Results Officer declares them as official.

Regular season fixture results will wherever possible be posted to the BFQ web site no later than the following Tuesday evening.

Competition	Win	Loss	Scoreless Draw	Scored Draw	Attendance General Meeting	Bye
All competitions	**3 Points**	**0 Points**	**1 Point**	**1 Points**	**1 Point**	**3-0 Win**

Specific Competition Rulings

Whilst all general rulings apply to BFQ sanctioned games, a number of additional exemptions and additions relate to specific competitions run by the association on a season-by-season basis.

Senior Women's Competition

- Players must be or turning at least 13 years of age in the year of the season for which they are applying for registration.
- Teams competing in the Senior Women's competition shall be able to use up to **13 players** in each scheduled match.
- All players must have distinctive and different shirt numbers.
- No piece of jewellery may be worn at any time during a game. Medical alert bracelets are the exception to this rule and shall be taped under the jersey or on the wrist or ankle without covering the medical information it displays. BFQ will however allow players who are married to wear a taped wedding band as long as the band has no sharp edges.
- Any prescription spectacles worn on the field must be attached to the player via tape or a fastening device, which wraps around the back of the head. It is preferred that only safety sport type glasses or goggles be worn on the field.
- Goalkeepers shall be the only players on the field of play allowed to wear a cap or head covering and this must not be of a hard brimmed variety.
- Any sharp or long fingernails shall be taped and covered before entering the field of play.
- Under special circumstances teams may apply for registration of underage players to compete in teams in this competition. Players applying for registration under this rule must be approved by the Women's Competition Committee prior to their first game and must have attained a minimum of 12 years of age and demonstrate that their skill level is in keeping with the aims and objectives of this competition.

- Any players registered to play in the Senior Women's competition, and are aged 17 or under, will be eligible for selection in the age appropriate representative team that they may qualify for.

Senior Men's Competition

- Teams shall normally be made up of male players. If a team wishes to register players in a team comprising members of both sexes, then this may be done.
- Teams competing in the Senior Men's competition shall be able to use up to **17 players** in each scheduled match.
- Only the goalkeeper shall be allowed to wear a cap or head covering and this must not be of a hard brimmed variety.
- No piece of jewelry may be worn at any time during a game. Medical alert bracelets are the exception to this rule and shall be taped under the jersey or on the wrist or ankle without covering the medical information it displays. BFQ will however allow players who are married to wear a taped wedding band as long as the band has no sharp edges.
- Players registered to play in the men's competition shall be turning a minimum of 15 years of age in the year they are applying for registration in.
- Any players registered to play in the men's competition, and are aged 17 or under, will be eligible for selection in the age appropriate representative team that they may qualify for.
- Any players registered to play in the men's competition, and are aged 17 or above will be eligible for selection in the Open Mens representative team

Pre-Season Grading Competition

- The Executive Management Committee reserves the right to conduct a pre-season grading competition on a season to season basis.
- The normal season rules apply to Pre-Season Grading Competition games.
- Any sanctions awarded during Pre-Season Grading will carry forward into the regular season.
- It is expected that all teams will play pre-season grading competition games if a pre-season grading competition is conducted.
- Normal forfeit procedures will apply.