

# **NORTH SYDNEY DISTRICT JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE**

## **BY LAWS and COMPETITION RULES**

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**December 2003**

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## **1.0 Interpretation and Amendment**

- 1.1 These by-laws shall be read in conjunction with the rules of the association and in the event of any inconsistency the rules of the association shall prevail.
- 1.2 Unless exceptional circumstances arise which necessitate a change, these by-laws shall not be amended during the currency of a football season but amendments to the by-laws shall be considered and if the Board of Management thinks fit passed in the period from October to December in any year.
- 1.3 The Board of Management shall give the affiliated clubs reasonable notice of any change in the competition by-laws.

## **2.0 Members Only**

- 2.1 Every player, coach, manager, trainer or official of any team must be a member of the association and no affiliated association shall appoint to such a position a person who has not been admitted to membership of the association.
- 2.2 In addition to the foregoing every coach of a team entered in a competition conducted by the association must have obtained or be in the process of obtaining the relevant coaching accreditation.
- 2.3 It is the responsibility of the home club to have a person with acceptable sports trainers credentials ( as set forth by the NSWRL) in attendance for all games. The home club must supply a properly maintained first aid kit and stretcher (refer to 6.19). Failure to do so could render the home club liable to a penalty to be determined by the Board.
- 2.4 All clubs and their members must abide by the Child Protection Act.
- 2.5 All clubs, officials, players and spectators must abide by the codes of conduct as set forth by the NSDJRL. Failure to abide by the codes of conduct could render the offender/s liable to disciplinary action as determined by the Board.

## **3.0 Competition Qualifications**

- 3.1 The grades in which junior rugby league football competitions are to be conducted and the qualifications for each grade shall be set by the Board of Management and shall be notified to each affiliated club on or before the 1st day of January in every year.
- 3.2 In default of notification the grades and qualifications shall remain unchanged. Present grades and qualifications are as follows:-

- |           |                                       |                           |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A Grade   | any age                               | U/13 years at 1st January |
| A Reserve | any age                               | U/12 years at 1st January |
|           | U/19 years at 1st January             | U/11 years at 1st January |
|           | U/17 years at 1st January             | U/10 years at 1st January |
|           | U/16 years at 1st January             | U/9 years at 1st January  |
|           | U/15 years at 1 <sup>st</sup> January | U/8 years at 1st January  |
|           | U/14 years at 1 <sup>st</sup> January | U/7 years at 1st January  |
|           |                                       | U/6 years at 1st January  |
- 3.3 Any club having more than one team in any age group, other than A Grade and A Reserve which have special rules, may interchange players as determined by the Board prior to the 2004 season.
- 3.4 Qualifications for Jersey Flegg Cup, S.G. Ball Cup and Harold Mathews Cup representative teams shall be determined by the League.

#### **4.0 Applications to Enter Competition**

- 4.1 Every affiliated association wishing to enter a team or teams in any competition conducted by the association shall make application in such form and by such date as the Junior League Administrator shall determine.
- 4.2 To enter a new club or reform a previous club in the North Sydney Junior League an application must be submitted that states that the following requirements will be abided by.
- a) The Clubs Financial Statements must be presented every four months, until the Junior League is satisfied with the Clubs financial stability. From then on every twelve months or as requested by the Junior League.
  - b) The Clubs Executive and contact addresses must be submitted to the Junior League Board before the start of the season or at a date set down by the Board.
  - c) All coaches and trainers of the sides must have the respective qualifications as set down by NSW Rugby League.
  - d) The Clubs Constitution must be submitted before any team plays under the Club name.
  - e) The clubs proposed name, colours and logo must be submitted to the Junior League Board and ratified by the Board.
  - f) The oval on which the Club intends to play its competition matches and training sessions.
  - g) An intention to incorporate the Club.

- h) All coaches, managers and officials of the Club must become members of the North Sydney District Junior Rugby Football League Inc.
  - I) All members must abide by the North Sydney Junior League Constitution.
- 4.3 Before any team can be nominated to enter into the competition a minimum number of player registrations for each side shall be as follows:-
- 5 players for mini (7,8 and 9 years)
  - 7 players for mod (10 & 11 years)
  - 9 players for mod (12 years)
  - 9 players for international

## **5.0 The Draw**

- 5.1 The method of running the competitions including the finals format (whether four team or five team semi-finals) shall be determined by the Junior League Administrator and ratified by the Board of management immediately after the close of entries and affiliated associations shall be notified of any changes prior to the first competition round.
- 5.2 Semi-finals, finals and grand finals are to be conducted for all ages under 9 to A Grade.
- 5.3 A non-competitive format to be conducted for U/6, U/7 and U/8 age groups.
- 5.4 After the close of entries the Junior League Administrator shall decide the draw for each competition and the venue and time of play for each match and the decision of the Junior League Administrator shall be final.

## **6.0 Control of Fixtures**

- 6.1 Each home club shall nominate a ground manager who will be responsible for the conduct of fixtures at the respective ground. The name of the ground manager must be supplied to the Junior League Administrator prior to each fixture.
- 6.2 Subject to any overriding decision by the local council that controls the ground or by the Junior League Administrator or his delegate any decision as to whether a ground is fit for play shall be made by the ground manager in consultation with the referee and shall be final.

- 6.3 Every member of the association present at a match shall be under the control of and shall obey any reasonable direction of the ground manager or any other person authorised by him to assist in the running of the fixture, or the referee.
- 6.4 Where the association requires a playing field to be roped off from spectator areas it shall be the joint responsibility of the affiliated clubs playing in the last fixture to remove the ropes or the designated home club whichever is applicable.
- 6.5 No person other than the persons herein authorised shall enter upon the playing area or where the ground is roped off without the permission of the ground manager.
- 6.6 The coach, the manager, the trainer, the reserves and the first aid attendants are hereby authorised to remain within the fence or roped off area provided they obey the reasonable directions of the ground manager. The rules and the policies of the North Sydney Junior League are to be adopted. These players and officials are to remain seated where possible.
- 6.7 The coaches of U/7 and U/6 grades are allowed to coach their teams on the playing field. The coach is at all time subject to the referee's jurisdiction while on the playing field. He is to coach from behind all his players. In the U/8's coaches may coach from behind their team for the first 7 games of the season. Coaches of other grades shall not enter the playing field while their matches are in progress.
- 6.8 Persons other than the players allowed on the playing field shall wear clothing not likely to be confused with the uniform of either team and such persons shall not take any goods likely to constitute a hazard to the players upon the playing field. These persons are to wear a distinctive top or bib as approved by the Board of Management. The ground manager can approve a top on the day if circumstances require.
- 6.9 It shall be the responsibility of the home club to provide a table suitable for signing on and use by the timekeepers, together with a suitable timing and sounding device. A timekeeper is required from each of the opposing clubs and shall remain in view of the referee throughout the game, preferably near the halfway line. At the end of the game the timekeepers are to sign the signing-on forms in case of subsequent dispute.
- 6.10 Reserves must report to the timekeepers before they take the field for the first time in the match. The timekeepers shall record on the signing-on form the use of the replacements(s) and the replacements not used in the match.

- 6.11 Any player called upon to sign the signing-on form by the ground manager, the Junior League Administrator, the registrar, or a member of the Registration Committee shall forthwith do so in his usual signature.
- 6.12 Signing-on forms and identification cards shall be left at the signing-on table for the duration of the game after which identification cards shall be returned to the respective team managers.
- 6.13 At the completion of the game both team managers must verify the score and sign both teams signing-on forms and check that all players have been recorded. The ground manager shall ensure that the correct scores are recorded so that the scores can be rung through to the JL Administrator or his delegate by 6.00 pm on the day of play. Copy of signing-on forms are then to be handed to the referees adviser or senior referee on the ground who shall be responsible for ensuring that they are delivered to the Junior League Administrator by the nominated time on the Tuesday following the game. Failure to comply could result in a penalty to the home club as determined by the board.
- 6.14 A team intending to forfeit a match shall notify the Junior League Administrator by 9pm on the Thursday prior to the match. Failure to do so renders the team liable to a penalty as the Board of Management shall decide, and the referee's and touch judges' payments for the fixture will be charged to the club whose team forfeits the match.
- 6.15 Where a team forfeits, the match shall count as a match played, and be declared in favour of the team forfeited to. Any team receiving a match by forfeit may submit a signature sheet for checking within seven (7) days after receiving such a forfeit.
- 6.16 Any team that has forfeited twice in succession or three (3) times in all, may be eliminated from the competition but only by a decision of the Board of Management.
- 6.17 A bye shall count as a win but will not be classified as a match played.
- 6.18 Where touch judges are not appointed or the appointed touch judges are not present at a fixture the ground manager or the referee may appoint a person to act as touch judge. Such person may not enter the field of play to report players and the decision of such person may be overruled by the referee.
- 6.19 A properly equipped medical kit and stretcher must be present at all grounds. Failure to comply could result in a penalty to the Ground Managers home Club as determined by the board.

## **7.0 Referee**

- 7.1 The Referee's Appointment Board and in default the Junior League Administrator shall appoint a referee and linesmen for every game. Referees may not vary the match to which they are allocated and shall if they are in default forfeit the refereeing fees for the match.
- 7.2 If a referee so appointed is not present within fifteen (15) minutes after the time fixed to commence, then a referee may be appointed by a committee comprised of the ground manager, one official from each of the opposing clubs in conjunction with the senior referee on that day.

## **8.0 Duration of Play**

- 8.1 Every match shall be played in equal divisions of time, injury time where applicable excepted, which shall not exceed the maximum time of play specified for the respective grades.

Maximum playing times are as follows:-

A Grade	thirty five (35) minutes per half
A Reserve	thirty (30) minutes per half
U/19 years	thirty (30) minutes per half
U/17 years	thirty (30) minutes per half
U/16 years	thirty (30) minutes per half
U/15 years	thirty (30) minutes per half
U/14 years	twenty five (25) minutes per half
U/13 years	twenty five (25) minutes per half
U/12 years	twenty five (25) minutes per half
U/11 years	twenty (20) minutes per half
U/10 years	twenty (20) minutes per half
U/9 years	three periods of ten (10) minutes
U/8 years	three periods of ten (10) minutes
U/7 years	three periods of ten (10) minutes
U/6 years	three periods of ten (10) minutes

- 8.2 There shall be an interval of not less than five (5) minutes between halves/divisions in all games, except as provided.
- 8.3 Time off for injuries shall not be allowed in matches except for A Grade and all grades for semis, finals and grand finals.
- 8.4 As far as possible, all games are to commence at the scheduled starting time. Any team not ready to commence a match within fifteen (15) minutes of the appointed time shall be deemed to have forfeited.
- 8.5 Where a team does not have the minimum number of players required to start a game, or for any other legitimate reason that is agreed to by both team coaches, a club may seek a postponement of starting times or a reduction in playing time.

- 8.6 The ground manager may at his discretion delay the starting time (subject to By-Law 8.4), by reducing playing time by a maximum of 5 minutes overall in Mini and Mod grades and 15 minutes overall in other grades, or increase or reduce the intervals, providing in all cases that there shall be no variations of the conditions of play unless the opposing clubs are notified before the commencement of the game. In all cases, any time deducted from playing time shall be apportioned equally to both halves/all periods of play. All A Grade games shall be played in full.

## **9.0 Registration**

- 9.1 Every player must be registered with the association before they will be eligible to play in any competition conducted by the association.
- 9.2 Registration shall be in the form prescribed by the association and shall be ineffective until the player's identification card has been approved by the Registration Committee and the player's identification card has been stamped with the registration stamp. At the start of the season a player may be registered but his card not stamped for the first 2 games of the season. The player's name must be recorded on the sign on sheet as being unstamped. A new player must have a photo and a copy of his proof of birth (if applicable) with his card.
- 9.3 A player shall sign his identification card and application to be registered in ink in such manner as is required and shall upon demand by the registrar, Junior League Administrator or an official of the Registration committee provide a specimen of his signature.
- 9.4 Upon first registering and thereafter upon demand by the registrar or a member of the Registration Committee, players shall produce to the Registration Committee one passport photo of themselves and evidence of their age in the form of an original birth certificate or passport or such other evidence (if applicable) as shall satisfy the Registration Committee.
- 9.5 It shall be an offence to provide false information when making an application for registration.
- 9.6 All players must be registered prior to the commencement of the third last round of their respective grade.
- 9.7 No player may register with and play for more than one club in the same season except as provided.
- 9.8 A player may play in a higher grade than his registered grade and return to his registered grade at any time, including semi-finals, finals and grand finals. A player may not play in a grade lower than his

registered grade. Special rules apply to A and A Reserve grade competitions.

- 9.9 Every player shall prior to playing in a competition match produce his identification card to the signing-on table and no player shall take the field unless he has complied with this provision.
- 9.10 No player may play in semi-finals, finals or grand finals until the Registration Committee has approved their qualifications.
- 9.11 Loss of identification cards, where any cost is involved in replacement, shall be the cost of the club involved.
- 9.12 Photo's for identification and master cards are to be renewed every three years (4), or as required by the Board of Management, registrar or registrar's delegate.
- 9.13 In the event of any dispute, the duly stamped identification cards will be recognised.

## **10.0 Clearances**

- 10.1 All players who wish to transfer to another club require a clearance as per the rules of the NSWRL. The table below shows the procedure to be followed for clearances. Persons specified in Column 1 shall not be eligible to take part in any Junior Rugby League competition conducted by the association until they obtain a clearance from the persons or association specified in Column 2 and lodge the clearance with the Registration Committee.

### **Column 1**

### **Column 2**

* Players transferring from clubs within the district.	The secretary of the first club to the Junior League Administrator.
* Players from any other district other than North Sydney.	Through the NSW Rugby League and the District Club and the Junior League
* Players transferring to another district.	The secretary of his current club to the Junior League Administrator then to the District Club.
North Sydney grade players	The secretary of the District Club

\* A Clearance is required for all players who have played international rugby league (13 years and above) who wish to transfer to another

rugby league club. Clearances are required as per the NSWRL policy. A letter of clearance is required for all players 12 years of age and younger.

- 10.2 A player who has registered with one affiliated club but not played in a competition match may be cleared to play with another club in the same season. Once he has played in a competition match, a clearance will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, that the Board of Management shall determine. This rule will apply to all grades.
- 10.3 A maximum of 3 players only be allowed a clearance from one team from a club in the North Sydney Junior League to play in a team from another club within the North Sydney Junior League. This rule will apply to North Sydney teams playing in combined or joint competitions.  
A player may make representation to the Board of Management of the Junior League for consideration to waive this rule. The Board will have the right to consider each case or hand it on to a sub committee from the Board for a decision. Consideration may be given to players who are requesting a clearance to return to a previous club and any other special circumstances as the Board will determine.  
This rule will apply to players from club's or teams which have abandoned either before or during the season.
- 10.4 Where a team within a club disbands at any time during the season the members of that team may seek permission through the Board of Management to re-register with another club. Such permission shall not be granted, however, if the club can accommodate the players in a team appropriate to them. Permission will be conditional on the Boards consideration of by law 10.3.
- 10.5 No clearances will be allowed after the 30th June in any season unless clearly initiated before and in transit at that date. This closing date shall not apply to North Sydney grade players being released to junior clubs or to junior players returning to the junior league competition after having been called up to grade. These latter situations are covered by by-laws 11.2 and 11.4 respectively.
- 10.6 As per the NSWRL rules clearances may not be refused for players that owe registration money. Players that have club property or owe for other items may be declared as defaulters prior to the season commencing and their clearances may be refused.

## **11.0 Ineligible Disqualified and Suspended Players**

- 11.1 Any player who plays whilst disqualified or who plays in a team in which he is not entitled to play or who plays whilst ineligible shall be liable to suspension.

- 11.2 Any team playing an ineligible, unqualified or suspended player shall be liable to such penalty as the Board of Management determines and shall lose the competition points for every game in which the player played whilst ineligible, unqualified or suspended.
- 11.3 Any player graded with the District Club at the commencement of the season will be ineligible for the junior league competition unless he registers with the junior league before the closing date for registrations.
- 11.4 Any graded player returning to the junior league competition will be ineligible for the finals competition unless he has played in the three junior competition matches before the finals competition.

**12.0 Number of Players**

- 12.1 The number of players per side and the number of reserves who may be used as replacements throughout a match shall conform with the rules of the game.
- 12.2 In grades played under international rules (U/13 upwards) 7 fresh reserves are allowed with unlimited replacements.
- 12.3 If a team plays with more than the permitted number of players, the referee shall disallow all points scored while the team was in breach of this by-law and shall order the removal of the extra player(s) from the field.

Where points scored are disallowed under this by-law, the timekeepers and the two captains or in the case of Saturday competitions (U/9 to U/13 games) the coaches or managers are to be advised to that effect before play is resumed.

- 12.4 For local purposes only, the minimum number of players per side shall be as follows:-

Mini	-	7,8 and 9 years	5 players
Mod	-	10 and 11 years	6 players
Mod	-	12 years	7 players
International			7 players

**13.0 Referees Decisions**

- 13.1 The rules of the game and the football for use in the game shall confirm with the specifications of the League.
- 13.2 Subject to these rules and the following provisions, the referee shall be the final arbiter of fact and of the rules.

- 13.3 A decision of a referee in respect of the rules of the game may be challenged by the captain of a team on the field of play, either at the time of the incident or at the completion of the game. In the case of Saturday competitions (U/7 to U/14) any such challenge should be made by the coach or manager or by a senior club official at the end of a period of play or at the conclusion of the game. Failure to formally challenge a decision in this manner may negate any subsequent appeal against the decision.
- 13.4 Any appeal by a club against a decision of a referee shall be in writing specifying the grounds of the appeal and shall be lodged with the Junior League Administrator of the association no later than 7.30pm on the Monday following the match and shall be accompanied by such fee as shall be set by the Board of Management.
- 13.5 The Junior League Administrator of the association shall forward a copy of the statement of appeal to the referee and shall convene a meeting of the Disputes Protests and Conduct Committee which shall adjudicate in the matter and report back to the Board of Management which may in its absolute discretion:-
- dismiss the appeal;
  - find in favour of the appellant but confirm the match result; or
  - vary the match result in such manner as they think fit; or
  - order the match replayed.

#### **14.0 Suspension of Players**

- 14.1 Where a player is sent off other than for a period of temporary suspension, he must leave the field immediately and change from his playing attire.
- 14.2 Immediately upon completion of the game, the referee shall provide a written copy of the charge to the team manager who will supply the player's name and identification card.
- 14.3 The referee shall advise brief details to the Junior League Administrator of the association on the night of the match.
- 14.4 The referee shall forward a report in the form prescribed together with the player's identification card and any report(s) of the touch judges, to reach the chairman of the Judiciary Committee by 7.30pm on the Monday night following the match.
- 14.5 Where a player is sent off on the report of a touch judge, the touch judge shall also make a report in such form as is prescribed.

- 14.6 Except for players in the U/6 to U/12 grades, a player sent off shall be suspended from playing, pending the decision of the Judiciary Committee or the Board of Management.
- 14.7 Players sent off in the U/13 and U/14 grade will have their send off report appraised by the Judiciary Manager, President and JL Administrator or his delegate. After review this panel may refer the matter to the judiciary or may decide to counsel the player before his next match and may ask 1 or two members of the board to attend to this if they are unavailable themselves.
- 14.8 The Judiciary Committee will meet during the week after the weekend fixture. The Junior League Administrator or the Judiciary Manager of the association will advise all parties of the time and venue for the hearing.
- 14.9 Judiciary hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines issued by the League. The decision of the Judiciary Committee shall be final subject to any right of appeal - see By-Law 14.10.
- 14.10 There shall be no appeal against the decision of the Judiciary Committee Except in the case of genuine new evidence in accordance with Rule 33(4) or where it can be shown that there were procedural deficiencies in the first hearing that may have prejudiced the outcome.
- 14.11 Any appeal should be made in writing in accordance with Rule 32(4)(c) of the constitution and shall be accompanied by such fee as shall be prescribed by the District Club.
- 14.12 The statement of appeal shall be vetted by an appeal tribunal appointed by the District Club which may at its discretion convene a formal hearing, or dismiss the appeal. Where an appeal is heard and upheld, the appeal tribunal may quash or vary the Judiciary Committee decision as it sees fit and in all cases its decision shall be final. The appeal body will also determine whether the appeal fee is to be forfeited or refunded.
- 14.13 No club may appeal on behalf of a player.
- 14.14 Any referee or official of the association may lodge with the Junior League Administrator of the association a complaint of misconduct on the part of players or officials whether during the progress of a match or otherwise, and whether or not any player has been ordered from the field of play.
- 14.15 The Junior League Administrator shall submit the matter to the Board of Management which may in its discretion decide to take no action or

to refer the matter to the Judiciary Committee or the Disputes Protests and Conduct Committee as it sees fit.

### **15.0 Temporary Suspensions**

- 15.1 Temporary suspension shall be of ten (10) minutes duration only and shall commence when the player has left the field of play.
- 15.2 When the referee signals that a player has been temporarily suspended for ten (10) minutes, the timekeeper will confirm the suspension by returning the referee's signal.
- 15.3 A player or players dismissed from the field of play for a period of temporary suspension must proceed directly to the official timekeepers of the match and stay with the timekeepers for the period of temporary suspension.
- 15.4 The timekeepers will advise the player at the completion of his temporary suspension, and the player will then proceed to the touch judge. The touch judge will allow the player to enter the field.
- 15.5 Timekeepers are required to record on the back of the team signing-on form the player's number and the time during the match that the player was dismissed and the time during the match when the player's temporary suspension was completed and sign the back of the form.
- 15.6 A player's period of temporary suspension will carry on if the game goes into extra time.

### **16.0 Club Championship**

- 16.1 The senior club championship will be decided by the combination of a club's competition points in grades U/15 to A grade and the club's team nomination points (10 per team that completes the season). The winning club will be presented with a suitable trophy.
- 16.2 A similar award will be made to the club that accumulates the most points in aggregate during competition games for junior grades, U/9 to U/14 combined with team nomination points for all teams U/6 to U/14's (10 points per team)
- 16.3 Competition points shall be awarded as follows:- two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw.
- 16.4 Where a club participates in another District competition (not a joint competition with the North Sydney Junior League) where there is a North Sydney Competition in place, competition points shall not be eligible for club championship points.

## **17.0 Club Uniforms**

- 17.1 Each affiliated club shall subject to the approval of the Board of management register with the Junior League Administrator of the association a uniform of distinctive design, colour and logo which shall be the club's uniform.
- 17.2 A club shall not field a player unless the player is properly attired in the club's uniform. A penalty may be imposed for breaches of this by-law.
- 17.3 No club shall be allowed to wear the colours of the District Club (red and black)
- 17.4 All sponsorship on playing uniforms and ground signage must be approved by the Board of the North Sydney Junior League

## **18.0 Local Rules pertaining to grounds**

- 18.1 The following rule shall apply only to matches played on Primrose Park, Tunks Park, Waverton Park and Dural and Howson Ovals.
- 18.2 Teams awarded penalty kicks shall not kick into touch on the canal side of Primrose 1 and 2, the eastern side of Tunks, the harbour side of Waverton park or the western sides of Dural or Howson Ovals. Instead they may elect to advance 10 metres and recommence play with a tap kick. All other options allowed under the rules of the game are also available.

## **19.0 Players Eligible for Finals**

- 19.1 All players must play three (3) competition matches with their respective clubs before being eligible to play in semi-finals, finals and grand finals.
- 19.2 Additional provisions apply in respect of the A Reserve competition - refer to by-law 21.

## **20.0 Finals Competition**

- 20.1 For and against points will decide positions in semi-finals with the exception of the last semi-final position being decided by a play-off or play-offs between teams on equal competition points. In the event of a draw in a play-off, an extra ten (10) minutes each way will be played (U/12 and lower grades five (5) minutes each way). Should the teams still be level after extra time a further period of extra time will be played, where the first team to score points shall be declared the winner. Play-offs or the replay of any such match will not count as competition matches for the purposes of qualification of players for semi-finals, finals or grand finals.

20.2 When a draw takes place in any semi-final, final or grand final, an extra ten (10) minutes each will be played (U/12 and lower grades five (5) minutes each way). Should the teams still be level after extra time a further period of extra time will be played, where the first team to score points shall be declared the winner.

**21.0 A Grade and A Reserve Rules These rules only apply when the North Sydney Junior League have these two grades.**

- 21.1 Clubs may nominate both grades or enter one team only.
- 21.2 Where a club nominates only one team, the Board of Management will allocate the team to either the A Grade or the A Reserve competition.
- 21.3 Any club fielding a team in the A reserve competition for two (2) consecutive years without fielding an A Grade team during those two (2) consecutive years will be automatically eligible to be promoted to the A Grade competition in the third year, at the Board of Management's discretion.
- 21.4 Any club, after competing in A Grade only in the previous season may make application to be included in the A Reserve competition for the coming season. Such application to be in writing setting out the reasons for such application and be handed to the Board of Management prior to the Annual General Meeting of the association each year.
- 21.5 The decision of the Board of Management in relation to 21(2), 21(3) and 21(4) will be final.
- 21.6 Clubs having both A Grade and A Reserve teams will wherever possible and practical play at the same ground.
- 21.7 The rule that a maximum of four (4) replacement players with unlimited inter change may be used in the course of a game shall apply, In A Grade, up to four (4) fresh players may be used, otherwise replacements for A Grade shall be players who have participated in the A Reserve or lower grade match that day. Replacements for A Reserve may all be fresh players. In A reserve only up to six replacement players may be used with unlimited interchange. Special provisions apply for the finals series of matches - refer to By-Law 21.11.
- 21.8 Where a club has no A Reserve team, or on a day when the A Reserve has a bye, none of the replacements for A Grade would have to play in a lower grade. This situation will apply also where the A Grade is playing a club with no A Reserve, and the A Reserve another club.

- 21.9 Where a club has participated in an A Reserve game and forfeits the A Grade, no competition points will be awarded to them for a win or draw in the A Reserve and all players concerned will be credited with having played an A Grade game. A cash penalty in accordance with By-Law 6.16 shall also apply.
- 21.10 Every competition round, play-offs for semi-finals, minor semi-finals, major semi-finals, finals and grand finals shall each be deemed a separate series of matches.
- 21.11 The qualifications of players for the finals series of matches shall be determined at the conclusion of the A and A Reserve competitions and shall not be affected by subsequent matches including play-offs or the replay of such matches.
- 21.12 To be eligible for A Reserve a player must have played three of his last five competition matches in that grade or a lower grade. For this purpose part games as a replacement in A Grade shall count as a game played in the A Reserve grade and not in A Grade.
- 21.13 Where both the A Grade and A Reserve teams of any club are competing in the same series of finals matches, players shall be eligible to play in either grade. Once the A Grade side is eliminated or where it is not playing in the same series of matches then eligibility qualifications for the A Reserve side shall apply.
- 21.14 In the finals series of matches four (4) players may be replaced during the course of an A Grade game and four (4) players in the course of an A Reserve game by players who have the necessary qualifications for the relevant grade irrespective of whether those players have played in an earlier match on that day or not.
- 21.15 Each club with teams competing in A Grade and A Reserve semi-finals shall lodge with the association a list of the names of players which it considers eligible to play in each of those grades, immediately following the conclusion of the last competition round.
- 21.16 The association will check the qualifications of players and advise the clubs of their eligibility. Any player whose qualifications have not been endorsed by the association will be ineligible to take part in the finals series of matches.