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PURPOSE

Obtain a consistent Men's Premier League (PL) and Premier 20's (P20) competition encouraging growth, longevity and inclusiveness.

AUTHORITY

These regulations will be managed by the BDSFA. Amendments to these regulations may only be done so by a majority of competing clubs of PL/P20 in that particular year. No amendments put forward shall be implemented during the season.

SCOPE

These regulations are binding on all clubs competing in the BDSFA PL and P20 competitions.

DEFINITIONS

Association means BDSFA

BDSFA means Blacktown and Districts Soccer Football Association

Category A Squad means three teams (First Grade, Reserve Grade and P20) belonging to one club

Category B Squad means two teams (First Grade and Reserve Grade) belonging to one club

Category C Squad means one team of P20 belonging to one club

Club means an affiliated club of the BDSFA

First Grade means the highest grade.

Mid-Week means a specified mid-week round of competition set by the BDSFA

MRC means the Match Review Committee

P20 means the highest division of Men's under 20's within the BDSFA

Postponed means a match or matches that have been set down for a later date than the original due to weather, injury, unplayable pitch, or any other reason that the BDSFA sees fit.

PL2 means Premier League second division

Premier League means the highest all age men's division

Reserve Grade means the second highest grade

Squad means players from the same club playing first grade, reserve grade or P20

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. The Association will conduct a Men's Premier League (PL) comprising of first grade, reserve grade. These grades shall be recognised as being one squad with players being exchangeable between first and reserve grades during regular season games.
- 1.2. The Association will conduct a Men's Premier Under 20 competition (P20) comprising of players whom are turning 20 in that year of competition or younger.
- 1.3. Clubs can apply to enter the PL, P20 or both.
- 1.4. All players must be older than or turning 16 in the year of competition.
- 1.5. Premier League is to have a minimum of six clubs for a competition.
- 1.6. Nominations for PL and/or P20 are due at a date and time determined by the board for the year of competition.
- 1.7. Clubs may only enter one squad per season.
- 1.8. Where these Regulations are silent on any particular aspect, then all Clubs, shall first have regard to the BDSFA Constitution, BDSFA By-Laws, the BDSFA Competition Regulations, BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, FNSW, FFA rules and regulations and, where applicable, rules and regulations of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA.
- 1.9. BDSFA will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations.
- 1.10. Clubs who withdraw after Nominations (see section 1.6) will incur a fine based on the BDSFA Fines and Penalties.

2. SQUAD STRUCTURE

- 2.1 If a club competes in both competitions, P20 will be considered as a third grade and shall be included as being part of the squad. Players are interchangeable between the three grades with restrictions on age in P20 as per section 1.2. The maximum number of registered players is 48. This is to be known as a category A squad.
- 2.2 If a club competes in PL only, players are interchangeable between first and reserve grades. The maximum number of registered players is 32. Clubs can upgrade up to four players from their Under 20's (any division). This is to be known as a category B squad.
- 2.3. If a club competes in P20 only, the maximum number of registered players is 16. Clubs can upgrade players from their other Under 16, Under 18's and/or Under 20's teams (up to the maximum of 16 players). This is to be known as a category C squad.

3. PLAYING CONDITIONS

- 3.1. All matches will be played on Saturday's except in the case of section 4.
- 3.2. P20 will kick off at 12.00 midday (highest division)
- 3.3. Reserve grade will kick off at 2.00pm
- 3.4. First grade will kick off at 4.00pm
- 3.5. When mid-week or catch up rounds are required, game times will be at the discretion of the competition manager with a 14-day time frame for catch ups to be played.
- 3.6. Category A and B can only play at fields with flood lighting rated at 100 lux or higher.
- 3.7. P20 and Reserve Grade will be interchange with a maximum of 16 players on the team sheet.
- 3.8. First Grade will be substitutes with a maximum of 5 reserves.
- 3.9. Suspended players may be replaced by other squad players. (i.e. each team sheet can contain 16 players even if players are suspended).
- 3.10. P20 and Reserve Grade will play 90-minute matches with a 10-minute half time break. First grade will play 90-minute matches plus injury time with a 10-minute half time break.
- 3.11. Competition format will be determined based on Annexure A
- 3.12. Up to nine (9) people will be allowed in the technical area – a maximum of four (4) Officials and a maximum of five (5) substitute players (on the team sheet). Each Official must display an ID card whilst in the technical area

4. QUALIFICATION FOR POSTPONED OR MID-WEEK GAMES

- 4.1. All matches played at night will be at fields with flood lights rated at 100 lux or higher
- 4.2. Where all games are postponed, players may be selected in the usual manner.
- 4.3. For category C matches being postponed, players may be selected in the usual manner.
- 4.4. Applies to category B only: Where reserve grade only is postponed and rescheduled to be played at a later date, players who have played in first grade for that round shall not be eligible to play in the reserve grade match of that round.
- 4.5. Applies to category A only: Where P20 or reserve grade only is postponed and rescheduled to be played at a later date, players who have played in first grade for that round shall not be eligible to play in the P20 or reserve grade match of that round.
- 4.6. For Category B and C only: The selection process for mid-week games is per section 2.1 and 2.2.
- 4.7. For Category A only: P20 will be played on a prior day to reserve grade and first grade. The selection process for mid-week games are as per section 2.3.

5. RECORDINGS

- 5.1. Electronic team sheets will be used for all grades.
- 5.2. Goal scorers will be recorded for First Grade only. Goal scorers to be entered by the referee.

6. COMPETITION FORMAT

- 6.1. The following points are awarded for matches during the regular season:
 - a) Win = 3 points
 - b) Draw = 1 point
 - c) Loss = 0 points
- 6.2. At the completion of the Regular Season, teams are ranked from highest to lowest. The position of each team will be determined based on the following:
 - a) Highest number of points accumulated during the regular season
 - b) If two (2) or more teams are level on points accumulated, the following criteria are applied, in order, until one (1) of the teams can be determined as the higher ranked team in respect of:
 - 1) Highest positive goal difference
 - 2) Highest number of goals scored
 - 3) If teams are still equal at this point and needs to be determined for finals qualification, promotion or relegation, a play-off will occur based on finals qualification regulations.
- 6.3. At the completion of the season, qualifying teams will progress to the finals. The finals format will be determined on Annexure B.

7. FINALS

- 7.1. A finals series will be used to determine the competition winner.
- 7.2. For all games in the finals' series the following will apply:
 - a) Extra time is 10 minutes each way with a two-minute break
 - b) Golden Goal applies in extra time. Penalty shootout if required.
- 7.3. Accumulation of Yellow Cards – Finals Series: As per 16.3 of the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- 7.4. Eligibility of Players for Finals Series shall be:
 - a. For First Grade, all players registered for the squad are eligible;
 - b. If First Grade are not playing on the day, players must have played at least 60% of all Reserve Grade matches in which the player was available to play to be eligible to play a reserve grade finals match;

c. For Category A only: If First Grade are not playing on the day, players must have played at least 60% of all P20 matches in which the player was available to play to be eligible to play a P20 finals match.

d. Players whom have served suspensions shall have the served matches counted as being available – Example, if a player was available for 10 rounds but was suspended for three of those rounds, the player still would have had to play six rounds to be eligible to play finals.

7.5. Clubs will nominate reserve and/or P20 players whom are eligible prior to the finals series. As many players as possible can be nominated but only 16 players may play on the day in each team.

8. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

8.1. Club Championship is to be determined on the following:

- a) Multiplier of 3 for First Grade
- b) Multiplier of 1 for Reserve Grade

9. ABANDONED AND/OR FORFEITED MATCHES

9.1. For category A and B: If a Reserve Grade match is abandoned by the referee for any reason, the 1st Grade match will not be played until such time as the case is finalised by the MRC.

9.2. For category A only: If P20 forfeit, the non-offending team will be awarded a 2-0 win (or their score will stand if more than 2) and the offending team will lose one competition point. If reserve grade or first grade is forfeited then reserve grade and first grade are deemed forfeit, even if a match has been played. This includes on-field forfeits. The non-offending team will be awarded a 2-0 win (or their score will stand if more than 2) and the offending team will lose one competition point from first and reserve grade.

9.3. For category B only: If any match, being reserve grade or first grade is forfeited then all are deemed forfeit, even if a match has been played. This includes on-field forfeits. The non-offending team will be awarded a 2-0 win (or their score will stand if more than 2) and the offending team will lose one competition point from first and reserve grade.

9.4. For category C: If the match is abandoned by the referee for any reason, the case will be heard by the MRC.

9.5. For category C only: If any match is forfeited the non-offending team will be awarded a 2-0 win (or their score will stand if more than 2) and the offending team will lose one competition point.

9.6. Any team who forfeits during the last four (4) rounds of the season will be deemed ineligible for the Finals Series. Category A and B squads shall have first and reserve grades ineligible for the finals series in the case of a forfeit within the last 4 rounds.

10. PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 10.1. The competition structure is dependent on Annexure A.
- 10.2. A second PL tier (PL2) will be implemented if the number of nominations from clubs equals 13 or more.
- 10.3. If the competition is increased to 13 clubs or more from a previous year:
 - a) New clubs will enter PL2 if the total amount of clubs allows to do so;
 - b) Working from last place and up in the previous year PL club championship will make up the rest of the clubs in PL2. This is dependent on how many clubs nominate (Annexure A).
- 10.4. If the competition is reduced to 12 clubs or less following a year of PL2 all clubs whom nominate from PL2 will be promoted.
- 10.5. If the competition has successive years of PL and PL2:
 - a) The lowest club based on the previous year PL club championship will be relegated to PL2;
 - b) The highest club based on the previous year PL2 club championship will be promoted to PL.
- 10.6. In the case of a club being insolvent, they will automatically be relegated to PL2 and the next highest club based on the previous year PL2 club championship shall be deemed promoted.

11. P20 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 11.1. Category A squads will take preference when determining the home and away completion draw.
- 11.2. Category B will have a home and away draw (where possible).
- 11.3. Category C squads will not have a home and away season. Matches will be scheduled as per Competition Manager discretion.
- 11.4. Mid-week or Sunday fixtures for P20 will be used to make up the remaining rounds if the numbers of Category B and C squads are not equal.
- 11.5. Category A P20 teams will be promoted or relegated with the PL squad.
- 11.6. In the case of PL2 being implemented and the combined total of Category A and Category C squads are 12 or less, the P20 competition will be determined by Annexure A.
- 11.7. In the case of PL2 being implemented and the combined total of Category A and Category C squads are 13 or higher, Category C will fill the voids of Category B. New Category C squads will be placed into the PL or PL2 by decision of the BDSFA.

- 11.8. In the case of no PL2 and a combined total of category A and C squads is 13 or higher, the competition will be played over 18 rounds where each club plays each other once plus extra matches to make up 18.
- 11.9. In the case of no PL2 and a combined total of Category A and C squads is 12 or less, Category C will fill the voids of Category B. P20 matches will precede another reserve grade match. The season length will be determined by the amount of PL squads.
- 11.10. In the case of no PL2 and the total of Category A and C squads total more than 18, the season length will be that of playing each other club once.

12. REVIEW

- 12.1 These regulations will be reviewed at the end of every season by all stakeholders (i.e. BDSFA, clubs, referees).
- 12.2 Sections 10 and 11 will be reviewed at the completion of the 2021 season.

13. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

13.1 Champion of Champions selection for Premier League will be awarded to the Minor Premiers (first past the post) of Premier League Division 1 subject to Board approval

13.2 Champion of Champions selection for Under 20's (FNSW U/21) – Decided upon by the grand final winner.

14. ANNEXURE A

COMPETITION CLUBS	STRUCTURE
5 or less	No competition
6	20 rounds
7	21 round competition with a bye
8	21 round competition
9	18 week competition with a bye
10	18 round competition
11	22 round competition with a bye
12	22 round competition
13	PL1 is an 7 team structure PL2 is a 6 team structure
14	PL1 is an 7 team structure PL2 is a 7 team structure
15	PL1 is an 8 team structure PL2 is a 7 team structure
16	PL1 and PL2 are 8 team structures
17	PL1 is a 8 team structure PL2 is an 9 team structure
18	PL1 is a 10 team structure PL2 is an 8 team structure
19	PL1 is a 10 team structure PL2 is a 9 team structure
20	PL1 and PL2 are 10 team structures

15. ANNEXURE B

COMPETITION CLUBS	STRUCTURE
5 or less	No competition
6 - 10	4 team finals Game A: 1 vs 2 Game B: 3 vs 4 (loser exits) Game C: loser (game A) vs winner (game B) (loser exits) GF: winner (game A) vs winner (game C)
11 or more	6 Team Finals Series <u>Week 1</u> A. 1 vs 2 B. 3 vs 6 C. 4 vs 5 <u>Week 2</u> D. 2vs1 E. Winner of B vs Winner of C <u>Week 3</u> F. Loser A and D vs Winner of E (Preliminary Final) <u>Week 4</u> G. Grand Final: Winner of A and D vs Winner of F <u>Note 1:</u> A and D total aggregate. No away goal rule. Extra time is 10 minutes each way with a two-minute break. Golden Goal applies in extra time. Penalty shootout if required. <u>Note 2:</u> Games B, C, E, F, G - Extra time is 10 minutes each way with a two-minute break. Golden Goal applies in extra time. Penalty shootout if required.
Premier League Under U/20's	Finals Series – TBA