



**Blacktown & Districts Soccer Football Association Incorporated**  
**Premier League Regulations**

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**PURPOSE**

Obtain a consistent Men's Premier League (PL) and Premier 21's (P21) Competition encouraging growth, longevity and inclusiveness.

**SCOPE**

These regulations are binding on all Clubs competing in the BDSFA PL and P21 Competitions.

**DEFINITIONS**

*Association* means BDSFA

*BDSFA* means Blacktown and Districts Soccer Football Association

*Board* means the Blacktown and Districts Soccer Football Association Board

*Category A Squad* means three teams (First Grade, Reserve Grade and P21) 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 P21 belonging to one Club

*Club* means an affiliated Club of the BDSFA

*EMS* means the Electronic Match Sheet as allocated by the BDSFA

*First Grade* means the highest grade.

*G&D Regulations* mean the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations as endorsed for that year of competition

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

*P21* means the highest division of Men Under 21'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.

*PL* means Premier League first tier

*PL2* means Premier League second tier

*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 P21



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**1. GENERAL**

- 1.1. The Association will conduct a Men's Premier League (PL) comprising of First Grade and 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 21 Competition (P21) comprising of players who are:
  - a) Born after 31 December 2003 for the 2025 Competition
  - b) Born after 31 December 2004 for the 2026 Competition
  - c) Born after 31 December 2005 for the 2027 Competition
- 1.3. Clubs can apply to enter the PL, P21 or both Competitions.
- 1.4. All players must be born before:
  - a) Born before 1 January 2009 for the 2025 Competition
  - b) Born before 1 January 2010 for the 2026 Competition
  - c) Born before 1 January 2011 for the 2027 Competition
- 1.5. Clubs will be permitted a maximum of three (3) players turning 16 in the year of competition. These three (3) players are only eligible to play in P21 matches. They are not permitted to play in Reserve Grade or First Grade fixtures.
  - a) It is the responsibility of the club to ensure these players meet the demands of the competition in regard to physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.
- 1.6. Where these Regulations are silent on any aspect, then all Clubs, shall first have regard to the BDSFA Constitution, the BDSFA Competition Regulations, BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, Football NSW & Football Australia rules and regulations and where applicable, rules and regulations of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).
- 1.7. BDSFA will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations.



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## **2. SQUAD ENTRY**

- 2.1. Premier League is to have a minimum of six (6) Clubs for a Competition.
- 2.2. Nominations for PL and/or P21 are due at a date and time determined by the Competitions Manager for the year of Competition.
- 2.3. At the time of nomination all clubs will be required to pay an entry fee of \$1000
  - a) In the event that a team withdraws from the competition after the close of nominations, the club will forfeit their entry fee. This club will also be given a 3 season ban from the P21 or Premier League competition, starting in the season in which the team withdrew. The ban will only apply to the competition from which they withdrew
  - b) Clubs who remain in the Premier League competition will have \$500 credited back to the club after 30 June in the year of competition
  - c) The remainder of the entry fee is to be used by the BDSFA for the administration and promotion of the Premier League competition
- 2.4. Clubs may only enter one squad per season.
- 2.5. At the discretion of the Board, any team may be deemed ineligible to compete in the PL
- 2.6. There shall be a maximum of twenty (20) Premier League Squads in a season.

## **3. SQUAD STRUCTURE**

- 3.1. If a Club competes in both Competitions, P21 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 P21 as per section 1.2 and 1.5. The maximum number of registered players is 48. This is to be known as a Category A squad.
- 3.2. Clubs are permitted to map players in the Competition Management System in whatever manner they choose for administrative purposes. Players may be mapped into multiple teams, making note of section 10.4
- 3.3. If a Club competes in PL only, its players are interchangeable between First and Reserve Grades. The maximum number of registered players is 32. This is to be known as a Category B squad.
- 3.4. If a Club competes in P21 only, the maximum number of registered players is 16. This is to be known as a Category C squad.
- 3.5. In the event that a team wishes to remove a player from their squad for any reason, they must apply to the Competitions Manager. Once a player is removed from the squad, they will not be permitted to be added back into the squad in that year of competition. New players can be added to replace removed players prior to June 30 in the year of competition.



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**4. BORROWING PLAYERS**

- 4.1. Category A squads are not permitted to borrow players from other teams within their club for Reserve or First Grade fixtures. Age eligible players may be borrowed from youth or Under 21 teams within their club for the Premier 21s competition only.
- 4.4. Category B squads are permitted to borrow age eligible players from youth, Under 21 or All Age Men teams within their club for Reserve Grade fixtures. Borrowed players are not permitted to play in First Grade fixtures.
- 4.5. Category C squads are permitted to borrow age eligible players from youth or Under 21 teams within their club.
- 4.6. Squads are only permitted to borrow players if they have already registered the maximum number of permitted players into their Premier League squad as per section 3.
- 4.7. A player may only be borrowed into the Premier League squad a maximum of three (3) times in the regular season
- 4.8. Players cannot be borrowed from teams outside the Premier League squad during the final series.

**5. PLAYING CONDITIONS**

- 5.1. All matches will be played on days specified by the Competitions Manager.
- 5.2. Match of the Round games may be played on Friday night at Blacktown Football Park at 7.30pm where possible based on the match draw for Football NSW competitions
- 5.3. In instances where the Match of the Round is played on a Friday night at Blacktown Football Park, the corresponding Premier 21 and Reserve Grade fixtures will be played midweek, prior to the first-grade match at the home team's ground
  - a) Premier 21s will kick-off at 6.15pm
  - b) Reserve Grade will kick-off at 8.00pm
- 5.4. A minimum of two fixtures will be played on Sunday each week with these matches to be evenly distributed where possible across all competing clubs.
- 5.5. Kick off times for Saturday and Sunday fixtures will be set by each club for their home fixtures at the time of nominations under the following restrictions

Saturday fixtures

- a) P21s to kick off no earlier than 11.00am
- b) Reserve Grade to kick off two (2) hours later than P21s on the same field. Allowance will be made for travel when the P21 competition does not align with Premier League
- c) First Grade to kick off two (2) hours after Reserve Grade, but no later than 7.30pm



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Sunday fixtures

- a) P21s to kick off no earlier than 9.00am
  - b) Reserve Grade to kick off two (2) hours later than P21s on the same field. Allowance will be made for travel when the P21 competition does not align with Premier League
  - c) First Grade to kick off two (2) hours after Reserve Grade, but no later than 3.00pm
- 5.6. When mid-week or catch-up rounds are required, game times will be at the discretion of the Competitions Manager.
  - 5.7. P21 and Reserve Grade matches allow for unlimited interchange, with a maximum of 16 players on the match sheet.
  - 5.8. First Grade is limited to five (5) substitutes during a match, with a maximum of 18 players on the match sheet (must include a Reserve Goalkeeper).
  - 5.9. Suspended players may be replaced by other squad players. (i.e. each Match Sheet can contain 16 players even if players are suspended).
  - 5.10. P21 and Reserve Grade will play 90-minute matches with a 10-minute half time break.
  - 5.11. First grade will play 90-minute matches plus injury time with a 10-minute half time break.
  - 5.12. Up to eleven (11) people will be allowed in the Technical Area – a maximum of four (4) Officials and a maximum of seven (7) substitute players (as listed on the EMS). Each official must have valid ID accessible via the EMS.

**6. GROUND CLOSURES AND DEFERRING MATCHES**

- 6.1. If a match cannot be played at the allocated venue, all effort will be made to move the matches at the discretion of the BDSFA and under the following criteria
  - a) If the second round of matches against an opponent has not been played the match will be played at the opponent's home ground as the first preference and the reverse fixture will then have the ground reallocated so each team has a home match
  - b) If the game cannot be played at either teams ground, a neutral ground may be used. The home fixture will not be reallocated in these circumstances
  - c) If the impacted game is a club hosted Match of the Round, the BDSFA will endeavour to ensure the match is still live streamed under the limitations of external contractors
- 6.2. Games that have been reallocated to another ground may have the game times altered so as not to impact on games already scheduled for the venue.
- 6.3. Clubs are permitted to request a change of venue in the event their home ground becomes unavailable



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6.4. Clubs may apply to the BDSFA to have a match rescheduled or reallocated to an alternate ground by applying to the Competitions Manager a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled date. Request will be reviewed under the following conditions

- a) If any clubs wishes to change any match date, time or venue, the club must first apply to the Competitions Manager and include suggested alternative arrangements for the match. The application must include consultation with the opposition club for alternative arrangements
- b) It is the responsibility of the requesting club to find suitable alternate dates, times or venues that do not impact on other competitions being administered by the BDSFA
- c) The match will be rescheduled to a date no more than fourteen (14) days after the scheduled match date.
- d) All rescheduled matches must be played prior to the final scheduled regular season round of the competition. Failure to do so will result in the requesting club forfeiting the match. Forfeitures in this instance would not result in ineligibility for the Finals Series.
- e) The Competitions Manager will have the right to make the final decision on all requests.

6.5 Clubs entering the Football NSW State Cup will have their relevant first grade matches moved to mid-week fixtures within two weeks of the scheduled match date. Reserve grade and P21's (if not entered in state cup) will still play as scheduled.

- a) Players who started the first-grade fixture in the prior round will not be eligible to play reserve grade or P21s when the first-grade match is rescheduled for the FNSW State Cup.

6.6 If a club enters the Premier 21s team in the Football NSW State Cup and did not enter or are no longer in the All-Age Men's State Cup competition, the Premier 21s game only will be rescheduled to a mid-week fixture within two weeks of the scheduled match date. Player Eligibility for the rescheduled match will be as per section 7.

6.7 The top four (4) teams from the PL1 first grade competition in the previous season will be required to enter the Football NSW State Cup. All other PL1 teams can enter at their own discretion.

## **7. QUALIFICATION FOR POSTPONED OR MID-WEEK GAMES**

- 7.1. Where all games are postponed, players may be selected in the usual manner.
- 7.2. For category C matches being postponed, players may be selected in the usual manner.



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- 7.3. 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 be ineligible to play in the Reserve Grade match of that round.
- 7.4. Applies to category A only: Where P21 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 be ineligible to play in the P21 or Reserve Grade match of that round.
- 7.5. For Category B and C only: The selection process for mid-week games is per section 3.2 and 3.3.
- 7.6. For Category A only: P21 will be played on a prior day to Reserve Grade and First Grade. The selection process for mid-week games is as per section 3.1.
- 7.7. For the purpose of Section 7, a player is deemed to have played if they are selected as a player for that match on the EMS and take the field during the match either as a starting player or used substitute.

## **8. RECORDINGS**

- 8.1. Electronic match sheets will be used for all Grades on the BDSFA Competition Management platform.
- 8.2. Goal scorers will be recorded for First Grade only. Goal scorers are to be entered by the Referee on the BDSFA Competition Management platform.
- 8.3. 3,2,1 player votes will be recorded by the referee for each First Grade match on the BDSFA Competition Management platform.
- 8.4. 3,2,1 player votes will be recorded for the opposition team by each First Grade Manager on the BDSFA Competition Management platform within 24 hours of the completion of the match. Failure to submit opposition votes will result in a fine to the club.

## **9. COMPETITION FORMAT**

- 9.1. The following points are awarded for matches during the regular season:
  - a) Win = 3 points
  - b) Draw = 1 point
  - c) Loss = 0 points
  - d) Bye = 0 points
- 9.2. 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





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- 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.
- 9.3. At the completion of the season, qualifying teams will progress to the Finals. The finals format will be determined based on Annexure B.

## **10. FINALS SERIES**

- 10.1. A Finals Series will be used to determine the Competition winner.
- 10.2. For all games in the Finals Series the following will apply:
  - a) If scores are tied at full time, extra time of 15 minutes each way with a two-minute half time break will be played
  - b) If scores are tied after extra time, then Penalty Shootout as per the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rules will determine the winner.
- 10.3. Accumulation of Yellow Cards – Finals Series: As per 17.3 of the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- 10.4. 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 in at least six (6) regular season Reserve Grade matches to be eligible to play a Reserve Grade Final Series match.
  - c) For Category A only: If First Grade are not playing on the day, players must be mapped into the P21 team in order to be eligible for the P21 Final Series.
- 10.5. Clubs will nominate Reserve and/or P21 players who are eligible prior to the Finals Series. As many players as possible can be nominated to play, however only 16 players may be listed on the match sheet.
- 10.6. The Finals Series will have different kick-off times compared to section 3 to cater for extra-time and streaming coverage. The kick-off times will be allocated by the Competitions Manager. Each match will be allocated two and a half hours.
- 10.7. Grounds for the Finals Series will be selected based on their suitability to host finals series games. In some instances, this may include grounds that are not considered neutral.

## **11. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

- 11.1. The Club Championship is to be determined on the following formula:
  - a) Multiplier of 3 for First Grade
  - b) Multiplier of 1 for Reserve Grade



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**12. ABANDONED AND/OR FORFEITED MATCHES**

- 12.1. For Category A and B: If a Reserve Grade match is abandoned by the Referee for any reason, excluding injury, the First Grade match will not be played until such time as the case is finalised by the BDSFA.
- 12.2. For Category A only:
- a) If P21 forfeit, the non-offending team will be awarded a 3-0 win (or their score will stand if more than 3) and the offending team will have one (1) Competition point deducted.
  - b) If Reserve Grade or First Grade is forfeited then Reserve Grade and First Grade are deemed to have forfeited, even if a match has been played. This includes on-field forfeits. The non-offending team will be awarded a 3-0 win (or their score will stand if more than 3) and the offending team will have one (1) Competition point deducted from both First Grade and Reserve Grade.
- 12.3. For P21 Forfeits:
- a) If in the first three (3) matches played in a season the P21 squad forfeits, the Reserve Grade and First Grade matches will also be forfeited by the offending squad.
  - b) After three (3) matches have been played in the Competition, players registered in the P21 squad as per the Competition Management System that regularly play in the P21 squad are ineligible to play Reserve Grade or First Grade in the round in which the P21 team forfeits. Regularly play is defined by playing in two (2) of the last three (3) matches played.
  - c) After three (3) matches have been played in the Competition, players registered in the P21 squad that regularly play in Reserve Grade or First Grade are eligible to play. Regularly play is defined by playing in two (2) of the last three (3) matches played.
- 12.4. For Category B only: If any match, being Reserve Grade or First Grade is forfeited, then all are deemed to have forfeited, even if a match has been played. This includes on-field forfeits. The non-offending team will be awarded a 3-0 win (or their score will stand if more than 3) and the offending team will have one (1) Competition point deducted from both First Grade and Reserve Grade.
- 12.5. For Category C: If the match is abandoned by the referee for any reason, the case will be heard by the BDSFA.
- 12.6. For category C only: If any match is forfeited the non-offending team will be awarded a 3-0 win (or their score will stand if more than 3) and the offending team will have one (1) Competition point deducted.
- 12.7. Any team who forfeits during the last four (4) rounds of the season will be deemed ineligible for the Finals Series. In this instance, Category A squads shall have the First Grade, Reserve Grade and P21 teams ineligible and Category B squads shall have First Grade and Reserve Grade team's ineligible for the Finals Series.



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**13. PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

- 13.1. The Competition Structure is dependent on Annexure A.
- 13.2. A second PL Tier (PL2) will be implemented if the number of nominations from Clubs equals thirteen (13) or more.
- 13.3. If the Competition is increased to thirteen (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 years' PL Club Championship will make up the remainder of Clubs graded in PL2. The number of Clubs graded in PL2 is dependent on how many Clubs nominate (Annexure A).
- 13.4. If the Competition is reduced to 12 Clubs or less, following a year of PL2, all Clubs who nominate from PL2 will be promoted to the PL.
- 13.5. If the Competition has successive years of PL and PL2, and all Clubs from the previous years' PL nominate, then:
  - a) The lowest Club based on the previous years' PL Club Championship will be relegated to PL2;
  - b) The highest Club based on the previous years' PL2 Club Championship will be promoted to PL.
  - c) In the case of a PL Club being insolvent, they will automatically be relegated to PL2 and the next highest Club based on the previous years' PL2 Club Championship shall be deemed promoted.
- 13.6. Competition Structures when all Clubs from the previous years' PL do not nominate and there continues to be a PL2 will be determined by the Competitions Manager annually, based on the nominations received.

**14. P21 COMPETITION STRUCTURE**

- 14.1. The structure of the P21 competition will be determined by the Competitions Manager based on the number of Category A and Category C nominations each year.
- 14.2. At the discretion of the Competitions Manager, the P21 competition may be played as a single division or split into multiple conferences.
- 14.3. Category A squads will take preference when determining the Home and Away Competition draw.
- 14.4. Category B will have a Home and Away draw (where possible).
- 14.5. Category C squads will not have a Home and Away season. Matches will be scheduled at the Competition Manager's discretion.
- 14.6. Mid-week or Sunday fixtures for P21 will be scheduled to make up the remaining rounds if the number of rounds differs from the Premier League competitions.
- 14.7. The season length will be determined by the Competitions Manager, based on the number of nominations each year and the structure of the competition.



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**15. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**

- 15.1. Champion of Champions selection for Premier League will be awarded to the Minor Premiers (first past the post) of the PL1 Competition (subject to Board approval)
- 15.2. Champion of Champions selection for Under 21's (FNSW U/21) will be decided by;
  - a) The Grand Final winner when Premier 21's are played in separate conferences
  - b) The Minor Premiers when the Premiers 21's play in a single competition

**16. TROPHIES**

- 16.1. The PL First Grade Grand Final winner will be presented the Graham Whitehouse Memorial Cup.
- 16.2. The P21 Grand Final winner will be presented the Viv Cook Memorial Cup
- 16.3. The PL Club Champion will be presented the Premier League Club Championship Shield
- 16.4. All perpetual awards shall be returned to the BDSFA by December 30 in the year of competition. These trophies will be stored by the BDSFA for the duration of the season
- 16.5. Clubs will be liable for the cost of repair or replacement for any damage to the perpetual awards in the time between presentation and returning the award to the BDSFA offices.

**17. REVIEW**

- 17.1. These Regulations are agreed for the 2025, 2026 and 2027 seasons.
- 17.2. These Regulations will be reviewed at the end of every season by all stakeholders (i.e. BDSFA, Clubs, Referees).
- 17.3. Any proposed changes to the Regulations will only be implemented due to unforeseen errors or to improve the Premier League Competition. These changes will be at the discretion of the Competitions Manager and with the approval of the BDSFA Board.
- 17.4. 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/P21 in that particular year. No amendments put forward shall be implemented during the season.



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**ANNEXURE A – COMPETITION STRUCTURES**

<b>COMPETITION CLUBS</b>	<b>STRUCTURE</b>
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	26 round Competition with a bye
14	26 round Competition
15	PL1 is an 8-team structure PL2 is a 7-team structure
16	PL1 is a 9-team structure PL2 is a 7-team structure
17	PL1 is a 10-team structure PL2 is an 7-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



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### ANNEXURE B – FINAL SERIES STRUCTURE

COMPETITION CLUBS	STRUCTURE				
5 or less	<b>No Competition</b>				
6 – 10	<b>4 team finals</b>				
	Round	Match	Name	Team 1	Team 2
	1	A	1st Semi Final <sup>[2]</sup>	Rank 3	Rank 4
		B	2nd Semi Final <sup>[2]</sup>	Rank 1	Rank 2
	2	C	Preliminary Final	Loser B	Winner A
	3	D	Grand Final	Winner B	Winner C
11 or more	<b>5 Team Finals Series</b>				
	Round	Match	Name	Team 1	Team 2
	1	A	Elimination Final	Rank 4	Rank 5
		B	Qualifying Final	Rank 2	Rank 3
	2	C	1st Semi Final	Loser B	Winner A
		D	2nd Semi Final	Rank 1	Winner B
	3	E	Preliminary Final	Loser D	Winner C
	4	F	Grand Final	Winner D	Winner E
Premier 21's	<b>Finals Series – To be determined by the Competitions Manager on a yearly basis based on the league structure.</b>				