

## Football SA Competition Operating Regulations

### Summary of Key Changes – January 2026

Clause	Issue / Rationale	Current	Key change(s)
<b>Various</b>	Formatting, grammatical updates, clause number references.	Throughout	Throughout.
<b>Various</b>	Reference of Player Points System (men's)	PPS was the player roster used for Men's and Women's NPL.	In 2026, the Men's competition will use a new Player Roster Principle (PRP) mandated by Football Australia.
<b>Appendix A</b>	Fines and Penalties	Updated	
<b>Appendix B</b>	Men's PPS Updated to Player Roster Principles	N/A	N/A

<b>Appendix G</b>	YCC Bonus/Deduction Points	Various updates	
<b>Appendix H</b>	Match Official Fees	Updated to 2026 match official fees.	
<b>3.2</b>	Removal of age specific grades and amend to competition type, i.e. MiniRoos and Youth.		
<b>3.2.3</b>	Addition of MiniRoos.	Did not previously include MiniRoos.	
<b>3.11.6</b>	Created confusion as to who is able to be located in technical area.	Only substitutes and registered team officials shall occupy their teams Technical Area	Amended to: Only persons listed on the match sheet shall occupy their Team's Technical Area.
<b>4.8.7.</b>	Reaffirming FSA will determine any changes outside of prescribed time.	Does not allow FSA to have	Football SA will determine any changes outside of the 14-day period in its sole discretion.

<b>4.10.10</b>	Provide further clarity on when a match is deemed abandoned.	Only defined time of match.	Provide clarity at the determination of the match official.
<b>4.12.3</b>	Inclusion of Women's Community League.	Did not reference Women's Community League.	Provides a timeline to replay postponed Women's Community League matches.
<b>4.12.5</b>	Rule did not provide FSA with authority in this section to schedule a match where a team disagrees.	New clause.	Where a team refuses to agree to a rescheduled time, FSA has the ability to set a time and place that the match will be played.
<b>4.15.2.</b>	Redefined wording to accommodate Under 18 girls.		

<b>4.16</b>	Removed cap on submitted player list for YCC. Wording was confusing in its application.	Previously the Regulations provided a Cap on the maximum number of players a Club could use to nominate a team.	Provides Clubs with more time to shortlist to their final YCC squad lists.
<b>4.17</b>	No change to rule. Clause moved from 7.6 to 4.17.	Better located in overall competition rules as the eligible team is from the home and away season, not finals.	
<b>4.19.14.</b>	Removed age specific reference and replaced with type of match, e.g. 9v9 or 11v11.	N/A	Clearer on number of players allowed on a match sheet dependent on match type.
<b>4.25</b>	Goal Difference clause moved to be located under League Points.	N/A	N/A
<b>5.2.10</b>	Rule was not clearly defined to what competitions it was applied to.	Include “in the Women’s Community League and Youth Competitions”.	Ensures no confusion for which leagues this rule is applied to.

<b>5.3</b>	Professional Contracts allowed in State League 2 from 2026 Season. Rule moved from 5.14 to 5.3.	Rule updated to reflect professional contracts are allowed in SL2.	N/A
<b>5.7</b>	Title amendment to reflect rule is specific for Senior Competitions.	Eligibility of Player	Amended to: “Eligibility of Players – Senior Competitions.”  Eligibility for other competitions are provided elsewhere.
<b>5.8.4.</b>	Inclusion of Under 18	N/A	N/A
<b>5.13</b>	Guest Players	Players can only play as a guest player in Girls or Women’s Community if they meet a range of criteria.	This clause made it difficult for a player to play as a guest if registered in the previous season. New rule allows greater flexibility for players to play, providing increased opportunity for guest players to become registered players for the season.
<b>5.18.2</b>	Provide further clarity for movement of players in Women’s Community.	Restriction on movement down to Women’s Community League for WSL Reserve players.  Inclusion of rule that players can only move down to next lowest division that their Club participates in.	Amended lowest division that WSL reserve players can move down to, previously no lower than Division 2, amended to Division 4.

<b>5.18.3</b>	Improve flexibility for goalkeepers as a specialised position to move between YCC and YSL.	Goalkeepers were restricted to their mapped team and could not move between YSL and YPL.	Amended to allow clubs to seek an exemption to double map their players to both YSL and YPL to allow movement.
<b>7.1</b>	Away Goals rule was silent.	N/A	Provide clarity within the regulations of away goals rule during Finals.
<b>8.2</b>	Rule was strict on eligibility of players for YCC Finals.	Only eligible for your specific age group.	Amended rule allows players from lower age groups to play up in finals without having to play minimum number of matches.

<b>11.1.2.</b>	No definition of player eligibility if Clubs have teams in the same age division within a Cup competition.	N/A	Cup ties a player to their specific team within an age division.
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