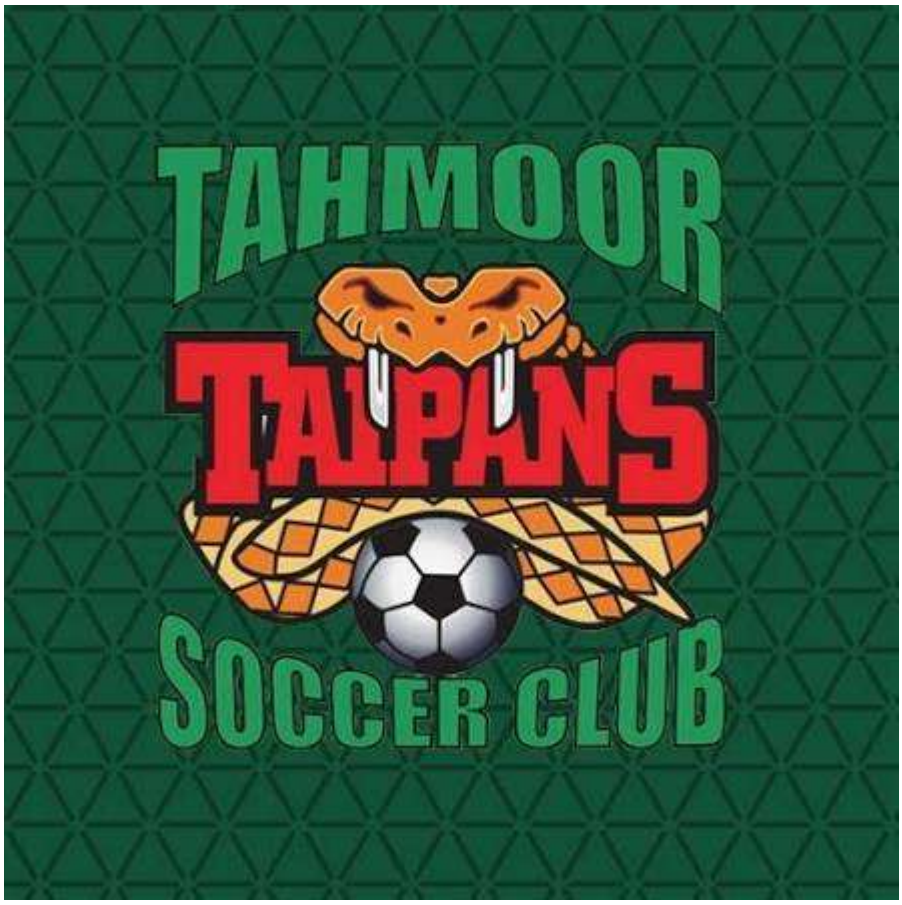


Competition Regulations
2026 Summer Football

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SECTION 1: ORGANISATION AND ADMISSION

1. Scope and Application

a) These Regulations apply to Participants in the Tahmoor Soccer Club Summer Competition
b) Where these Regulations are silent on any particular aspect, then all Teams, affiliated bodies and organisations will first have regard to the Constitution, By-Laws, FA rules and regulations and where applicable rules and regulations of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA.
c) If any part of these Regulations is void that part shall be severable and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining sections of these Regulations.
d) The Competition Administrator will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties.

2. Reference

Where these Regulations refer to a "Team" that reference is to a team that is entered into the Competition.

3. Capitalised Terms

Any capitalised terms used in these Regulations will have the meaning given to them in Schedule 3.

4. Alteration

The Competition Administrator will have the ability to expand on these Regulations and make additional rules which will be set out in Schedule 2.

5. Disciplinary Sanctions and Proceedings

All Teams, Players, Team Officials, Match Officials, Spectators or any person participating in any manner at a Competition Fixture, Match or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Competitions Administrator.

6. Unforeseeable Circumstance

Nothing in these Regulations will prevent Football NSW from approving a course of action to meet unforeseeable circumstances not covered by the Regulations.

7. Control of Competitions

The administrative control and conduct of the Competition is vested with the Competition Administrator affiliated to Football NSW.

SECTION 2: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

1. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

All Fixtures will be played in compliance with the Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with FA and FNSW By-Laws, regulations, codes and directives, and under the FIFA Laws of the Game where applicable.

2. Recommended Age Grades

The 2026 Summer Soccer Competition Administrators have defined the following age groups that will be supported in the 2026 season. These are:

- Minis (u6)
- Minis (u7)
- Minis (u8/u9)
- Juniors (u10-u13)
- Mixed / Over 35s / Juniors (u14/u15) – referred to as the Mixed Competition
- All Age Male – Division 1
- All Age Male – Division 2

3. Match Format

a) The competition Administrators have defined the following match formats
   - Minis (u6 and U7) : 4 vs 4 - no Goal Keepers : Min. 3 players
   - All others : 6 vs 6 including Goal Keepers : Min. 4 Players

   Note: for the Mixed Competition, Teams are expected to field 2 female players at any time during the match. It is at the Competition Administrators discretion to allow all male teams based on either

   - The age and skill of any O35 male teams
   - The age and skill of any Junior aged teams

   Inclusion in the competition is assumed to be permission from the Competition Administrators.

   Note: FNSW does not permit competitions below the U5 age group under any circumstances for social football. For the avoidance of doubt, players are participating in these competitions must turn 5 or older in 2026 to participate

b) For age groups U6 and U7, the Competition Administrator applys the principles of Football Australia MiniRoos Playing Format and Rules, including:
   a. 4 v 4 format;
   b. no competition tables or points; and
   c. no finals series.

c) For age groups U8 and U9, the Competition Administrators apply the following principles of Football Australia MiniRoos Playing Format and Rules, including:
    a. No published competition tables or points;
    b. No finals series;
d) For age groups U12 and upwards, the Competition Administrators will conduct competitions with competition tables and/or points
e) Note: There is no finals series as part of these summer soccer competitions

4. Duration of Match

a) All Matches are played with a Match format of 2 x 20 Minute Halves. The half time break will be a minimum of 2 minutes, however may be extended without impacting on the start time of later scheduled matches

5. Added Time

Matches will not include added time. The referee will have discretion to end the game at the completion of an active phase of play, or completion of a free kick as required.

6. Footballs

a) The Competition Administrator is responsible for providing the match balls
b) The following ball sizes are applicable to the different age grades: Grade Size

Age Group	Ball Size
U9 and under	Size 3
U10 – U13	Size 4
U14 and up	Mid bounce (preferred) or size 5

7. Premiership Ranking

The following process applies when determining the ranking of Teams within each grade of Competition:

a) Greater number of points obtained in all competition Matches.
b) If two (2) or more Teams are equal on the basis of the above criteria, their place will be determined as follows:
    i. Greater difference resulting from all competition Matches;
    ii. Greater goals scored from all competition Matches;
    iii. Greater number of points obtained in the competition Matches
    iv. Fewer number of goals conceded in the competition Matches
    v. If the teams are still drawn, The competition will be declared a draw for that position. A coin flip will not be used to further decide a place.

8. Competition Points

Points will be allocated as follows for all Competition Matches:

a) Win - 3 points;
b) Draw - 1 point each Team;
c) Bye - No points;
d) Loss - No points;
e) Forfeit - 3 points to the Team receiving the forfeit.

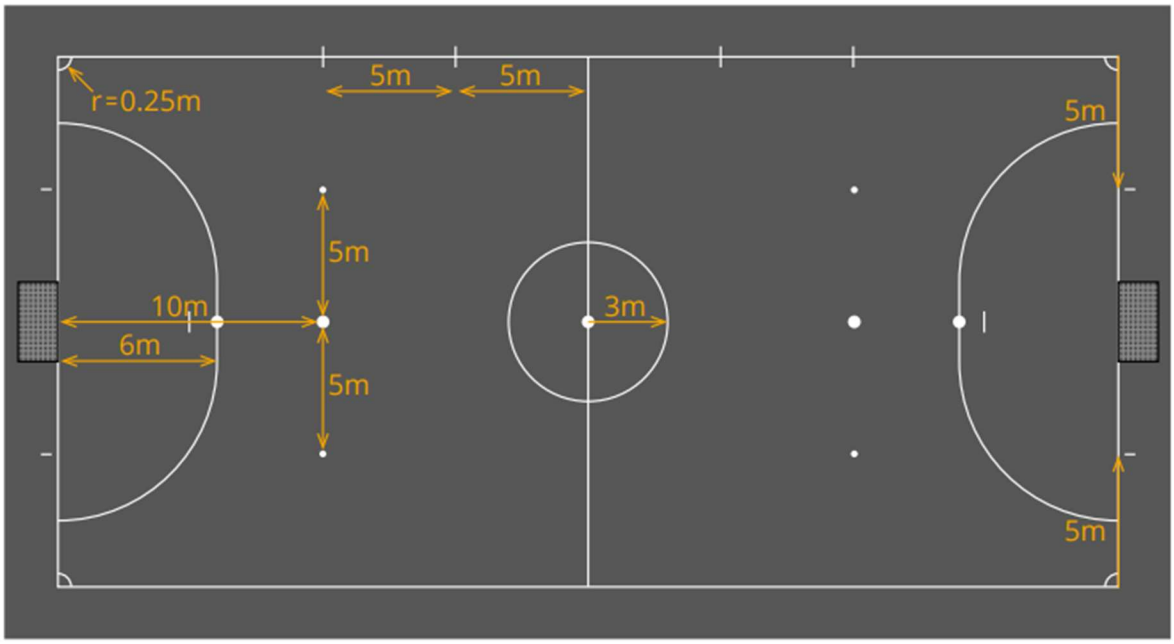
9. Interchange

a) For all Competitions, unlimited interchange applies.
b) The following is the procedure and rules for the unlimited interchange of Players:
    i. The "Interchange zone" will be an area one (1) metre either side of the half-way line.
    ii. An interchange is one which is made when the ball is out of play, and for which the following conditions will be observed:
        a. the Player leaving the field will do so from the touch line, crossing over at the sector called the interchange zone; and
        b. the Player entering the field will also do so from the interchange zone, but not until the Player leaving the field has passed completely over the touch line.
    iii. Interchange may occur at anytime without the need to notify the referee as long as b) ii has been observed.
    iv. If penalty kicks are required to obtain a result, any player that participated in the Match is able to participate in the taking of penalties.
c) Substitutes and interchange players cannot be used to replace any player who has been dismissed from the Match by the referee.

10. Field Dimensions

a) Field dimensions will be defined at the discretion of the Tahmoor Soccer club. In general, each field will be marked similar to a Futsal Field, however goal sizes will vary dependent on what is available.

    An example field marking is displayed in the following diagram noting the following:
    - There is a mark 10m from the goal where any DFKSAF (Drect free kick – Six accumulated fouls) free kicks will be taken from.
    - There is a 5m mark that the Keeper must stay behind during a DFKSAF free kick



11. Teams Removed or Withdrawn from Competitions

In the event of any Team withdrawing or being removed from the Competition, all Matches against that Team will be treated as a bye or forfeit.

12. Restarts (goals kicks, or kick-ins)

a) should the ball leave the field of play across a touch line, play will be restarted by a "kick in" where the ball must be stationary on the sideline, all defensive players must remain a minimum of 5 meters from the ball

b) the defending team is to kick the ball off the ground into play to restart the match after a "goal kick" is awarded by the referee, a goal kick cannot be kicked over half way on the full. An indirect free kick will be awarded at halfway to the opposing team.

13. Match Schedule and Kick-Off Times

Match scheduling will be flexible and rests with the Competition Administrators.

14. Wet Weather Affected Fixtures

In all instances where rain preceding a Match raises doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the Competition Administrator will establish a process by which teams are informed of the status of that day's Match. This may include the responsibility being passed to the teams to check Hills Football Facebook page.

15. Abandoned Matches

a) When a Match is abandoned for any reason for which neither Team is responsible, the Match may be replayed only at the discretion of the Competition Administrator.
b) Should a Team, its Players, Officials or Spectators be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Team to the opposition.

16. Forfeits

a) Teams will be deemed to have forfeited a Match when:
    i. they fail to fulfill an engagement to play a Match on the appointed date, time or venue; or
    ii. they refuse or fail to begin a Match within ten (10) minutes of the stipulated kick-off time; or
    iii. they field fewer than the required players as communicated by the Competition Administrator; or
    iv. they field an ineligible Player; or
    v. any other scenario within these Regulations or the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations that stipulates a forfeit of the Match.
b) In the event of any Team forfeiting its Match, full points allocated for the Match will be forfeited to the opposing Team (Opposing Team) and the goals will be recorded as 3 goals scored by the Opposing Team and 0 goals by the Team who has forfeited, unless the Opposing Team won by more than 3 goals, in which case the result on the pitch will be upheld. Any team who forfeits without notice will forfeit the match and a result of 0-10 will be recorded.

17. Protests

a) Protests must be lodged and received by the Competition Administrator no later than two (2) hours after the Match was played.
b) Protests will only be considered for obvious breaches of the Laws of the Game that clearly had a material effect on the outcome of the Match.
c) No protests as to the result of a Match will be considered in relation to disciplinary decisions of the Match Officials or decisions of facts relating to play.
d) Protests must be accompanied by a $50 administration fee in order to be considered. The administration fee must be lodged together with the written protest.

SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY

1. Age Eligibility

Eligibility to age grades will be determined by the age in which the player turns in 2026. For example, a player turning 12 at any time during 2026 is eligible for the U12 age grade.

The Competition Administrators may allow players to play in higher or lower grades at their discretion.

2. Eligibility and Ineligibility of Players General

a) Eligible Players: An eligible Player is one that meets all registration requirements within these Regulations and is not ineligible according to any article of these Regulations
b) Ineligible Players: Ineligible Players include:
   i. unregistered Players;
   ii. suspended Players;
   iii. a Player who is required to stand down for receiving the required number of cautions; and
   iv. a Player that is deemed ineligible due to any article of these Regulations and the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
c) Any Team that fields an ineligible Player will automatically lose that Match on forfeit.
d) Additionally, the Team, Team Official/s and Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
e) For clarity, it is the Team's absolute responsibility to ensure that they field eligible players in any Match.

SECTION 4: REGISTRATION

1. Player Status

a) All players registered to the Competition must be amateur.
b) Teams are required to record the status of each Player on Play Football by having the player self-register.
c) Players are permitted to play for any number of Teams in affiliated summer football Competitions, but not for multiple Teams within the one division of any Competition.

2. Process for the Registration of an Amateur

a) All amateur Players must be registered via the Play Football system. The registration of an amateur Player is effective from the date the individual is made active by the Tahmoor Soccer Club within the national online registration system.
b) The registration can be effected through:

i. the player self-registering via the Play Football system and Tahmoor Soccer Club accepting the Player's registration;
ii. if a Player is registering for the first time, that Player must provide the Competition Administrator with evidence of name and age, by producing an original birth certificate, passport or drivers licence.

3. Submission of Registrations

All registrations must submitted via Play Football and a head and shoulders photo is to be uploaded into the Player profile within the communicated registration period.

4. Registration Periods

The Competition administrator will communicate the Competition registration period.

5. Player Deregistration

a) An Amateur Player may be de-registered by applying to de-register via the Play Football System, which will notify the Competition Administrator of the Player's intention to deregister.
b) If a Team no longer wants a player to play for the Team, that Team needs to notify the Player and the Competition Administrators of the Teams intention to deregister the Player.
c) The deregistration is effective:
   i. When the other party (i.e. Team or Player as the case may be) has confirmed the notification or cancellation; or
   ii. Amateur Players: seven (7) days from the date the Player requested the deregistration in the Play Football system unless a grievance has been initiated with FNSW.
d) Any disputes relating to Player deregistration will be settled in accordance with the FA Grievance Resolution Guidelines and FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

6. Maximum Player Rosters

14 players per match permitted.

SECTION 5: TEAM SHEETS, REPORTING AND MATCH OFFICIALS

1. Match Official Appointments

The appointment of all Match Officials will be made by the Competition Administrator in consultation with the Referee Branch or Association providing the Match Officials.

2. Match Official Powers, Duties and Obligations

a) The Match Officials are charged with all duties, responsibilities and obligations as contained within the FIFA Laws of the Game.
b) Unless otherwise stated, the referee will be the sole arbiter as to whether a game will proceed, having regard to the condition of the ground, the weather at the time of inspection and the projected weather forecast.
c) If the referee finds it necessary to stop play for whatever reason, he / she should wait a reasonable time before deciding to abandon the Match.
d) Referees may abandon, postpone or forfeit a Match in accordance with any relevant articles of these Regulations.
e) In addition, referees are required to, immediately after the conclusion of each Match, forward to the Competition Administrator send-off reports and incident reports if the latter is deemed necessary.

3. Welfare of the Match Officials

The Competition Administrator will be responsible for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the venue, until the time they depart the venue.

4. Non-attendance of Match Officials

Should an official referee not be appointed, or be appointed and not attend, it is the Competition Administrator's responsibility to determine who will officiate the Match. This may be a volunteer, employee or Team representative, or combination of any of the above throughout the Match.

5. Team Sheets

a) Competition Administrators are required to prepare team sheets for each match.
b) There is no expectation that players will wear numbered jerseys.
c) When a Match is forfeited, the team sheet will be endorsed accordingly by the referee.
d) Unless otherwise stated in the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, or in these Regulations, a Player listed on the team sheet will be deemed to have participated in the Match.
e) The home Team appears first on the team sheet (left side).

6. Match Result Reporting

The Competitions Administrator will upload the scores of each match to the Competition spreadsheet. If the competition has a published table, this will be published on the Tahmoor Soccer Club Website.

7. Expulsion and Caution Reporting

Expulsion and caution reporting is as per the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

SCHEDULE 1: ADDITIONAL RULES – COMPETITION SPECIFIC

These additional regulations expand on the regulations presented above.

1. Clash of Colours

In the event of a clash of colours, bibs will be provided to the “home” team (the first team on the match card)

2. Restarts (goals kicks, kick-ins)

Touch Line Restarts: To restart the game after a ball has gone out of play, the ball is kicked back into play from the touchline and from corners. The ball must be placed stationary on the touchline.

The Four Second Rule - For all restarts of play (kick-ins, free kicks, goal clearances and corner kicks) the player in possession of the ball has 4 seconds to restart play. Allowance is given if the ball needs to be retrieved.

The Five Metre Rule - Players are required to keep 5m from the player in possession of the ball on free kicks, corners, goal clearances, kick-ins, 10m penalties, and direct penalties

3. Mixed teams

Mixed competition teams must have a minimum of 2 females on the field at all times

4. Slide Tackles

No slide tackles are permitted.

5. Goal Keeping

A Goal clearance from the goalkeeper must be thrown, but the goalkeeper can use their feet to distribute the ball from open play

The goal keeper is not permitted to throw or kick (from a goal kick) the ball over half way on the full, except when played to them by a team mate or by an opponent and does not control the ball with their hands.

6. The Penalty Area

Goalkeepers must remain inside of the penalty area and players are not allowed to go into the penalty area. The referee has discretion if the offense does not impact play or impede the goalkeeper.

7. Offside

There are NO offsides.

8. Free kicks

For free kicks, all defensive players must remain a minimum of 5 meters from the ball. If a wall is required, the kick will be moved back from the penalty area to allow the wall.

Accumulated Fouls - Each DIRECT free kick will result in an accumulated foul, and teams are allowed to accumulate 5 fouls in each half without further punishment. INDIRECT Free-Kicks DO NOT count towards accumulated fouls

Then on the sixth foul and every foul thereafter, a direct kick from the 10m penalty spot will be awarded to the opposing team. The defending team is not allowed to position any players (other than the goalkeeper) between the ball and the goal. The Goalkeeper does not have to remain on their line for 10m penalties, but they must remain 5m away from the ball

9. Penalty kicks

The penalty spot will be 10 meters from the goal line.

10. Yellow Card offences

Players who show dissent (word or action) towards any match official will be "Sin Binned" for 3 minutes. The team will play "short" whilst the player is temporarily dismissed.

11. U9 Exclusion Zone

For U9 games, at the taking of a goal kick opposition players must retreat behind the exclusion zone until the ball has been played by a second player or passes the exclusion zone line, the exclusion zone line will be half way between the goal line and the half way line at the sole discretion of the referee.

SCHEDULE 2: DEFINITIONS

"Body" Has its meaning given to it under the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

"By-Laws" means the by-laws of Football NSW as amended from time to time.

"Championship" means the final series conducted at the completion of the Premiership in accordance with the Regulations.

"Competition" mean the relevant organised matches delivered by the Competition Administrator.

"Competition Administrator" means the person in charge of all matters relating to the administration of the summer football competition, including enforcement of its rules and regulations.

"Constitution" means the constitution of Football NSW as amended up to 26 August 2011.

“Executive” means the Chief Executive Officer of Football NSW or his or her nominee.

“FA” means Football Australia Limited, the governing body for football (soccer) in Australia.

“Field of Play” or “playing area” Means the field of play and any perimeter area between the line markings of the pitch and the spectator area.

“FIFA” means Federation Internationale de Football Association, its successor or assignee.

“Fixture” means a meeting of two (2) Teams as scheduled in all grades applicable.

“Football NSW” means Football NSW Limited ACN 003 215 923 which is the governing body for football (including Futsal) in the State.

“Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations” Means the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations of the Competition as endorsed by FNSW.

“Home Team” Means the Team playing the match appearing first on the fixture list.

“Laws of the Game” means the official laws of the game of football and futsal as promulgated by FIFA.

“Match” means any match played in a Football NSW Competition, Cup, Premiership, other event or tournament under Football NSW’s control.

“Match Official” means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by FA, Football NSW, a Referee’s Body, a Centre, an Association Member or a Team to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.

“Official” means a Tahmoor Soccer Club Official, Match Official or Team Official.

“Participant” means a Player, Official or Spectator.

“Player” means any person who participates in a Match (irrespective of whether he or she is registered with FFA, junior or senior or an amateur or professional.

“Premiership” means the round robin Matches (both home and away) that a team competes in during a Season in accordance with the Football NSW Rules and Regulations.

“Regulations” means these Football NSW Competition Regulations.

“Season” means from the commencement of a Football NSW Competition to the conclusion of a Football NSW Competition unless otherwise directed by Football NSW.

“Spectator” means a person who attends a Match.

“State” means the state of New South Wales with the exception of the northern regions of NSW which are identified by FA as “Northern NSW”.

“Suspensions” means the suspensions issued by a Body pursuant to these Regulations.

“Team” Individual group of players and officials to represent them in Competition.