



**New Zealand  
Football**

**MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS  
SEASON 2025**

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# MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS 2025

## 1 DEFINITIONS

1.1 The terms given below denote the following:

- 1.1.1 **Auckland FC:** shall have the same meaning given to that term as “Professional Club” under the NZF Statutes.
- 1.1.2 **Away Team:** the Participant playing a match at an opponent’s nominated match venue.
- 1.1.3 **Championship Phase:** the second stage of the NL, solely governed and administrated by NZF, with Participants who have qualified out of the Regional Phase (as set out in more detail in regulation 12.6).
- 1.1.4 **Club:** shall have the same meaning given to that term as in the NZF Statutes.
- 1.1.5 **Commercial Contract:** means the commercial contracts that NZF may enter into from time to time.
- 1.1.6 **Competition Manager:** either the NZF Competition Manager during the Championship Phase OR the Controlling Federation Competition Manager during the Regional Phase, as the case may be.
- 1.1.7 **Competition Sponsor:** means a sponsor of NL as determined by NZF in its sole discretion, from time to time.
- 1.1.8 **Controlling Federation:** a Federation that has the delegated authority from NZF of performing specified operational requirements for the NL at the Regional Phase, as set out in more detail in regulation 11.2.
- 1.1.9 **Federation:** has the same meaning as the term “Regional Association” in the NZF Statutes.
- 1.1.10 **Force Majeure:** means and includes acts of God, fire, war, earthquake, terrorism, epidemic, pandemic, strike, lockout, labour controversy, civil commotion, acts or restriction of any government or governmental agencies, orders of court, shortage or interruptions of facilities or material supply, and any other circumstances beyond the reasonable control of NZF.
- 1.1.11 **Grand Final:** means the grand final of the Championship Phase, between the two highest placed Participants.
- 1.1.12 **Home Match:** a match played at a Participant’s own nominated match venue.
- 1.1.13 **Home Team:** the Participant playing a match at their own nominated match venue.
- 1.1.14 **Host Participant:** the Participant responsible for the organisation and management of matches played at their own nominated match venue.
- 1.1.15 **LOTG:** International Football Association Board Laws of the Game.

- 1.1.16 **Match Coordinator:** means a person who is responsible for running all the relevant Participant's home matches.
- 1.1.17 **Match Official:** the appointed referee, assistant referees, fourth official or match assessor to a NL match.
- 1.1.18 **Match Week:** a period between Tuesday-Monday following, when NL matches take place.
- 1.1.19 **National League Club Licence:** shall have the same meaning given to that term in the NZF Club Licensing Regulations.
- 1.1.20 **National Registration System:** the national registration system that NZF uses from time to time, which at the date of these Regulations is COMET.
- 1.1.21 **NL/Competition:** men's National League.
- 1.1.22 **NL Contingencies Framework:** means any framework put in place by NZF, at its discretion, from time to time to deal with logistical impediments for NL as a result of Covid-19, or other matters of Force Majeure.
- 1.1.23 **NL Season:** the period of time starting with the first official competition match of the Regional Phase of the NL and ending with the last official competition match of the Championship Phase of the NL (Grand Final).
- 1.1.24 **Non-Citizen Player:** a Player, playing in the Competition and named in the Start List, who does not hold New Zealand citizenship.
- 1.1.25 **NZF:** New Zealand Football Incorporated.
- 1.1.26 **NZF Brand Guidelines:** means branding guidelines or other branding direction in relation to the NL given to Participants by NZF from time to time.
- 1.1.27 **NZF Statutes:** means the Statutes of NZF, including any schedules and other annexures to these statutes.
- 1.1.28 **Operations Manual:** means the NL operations manual, or respective manuals, relating to operational requirements as published by NZF from time to time.
- 1.1.29 **Player Agreement:** New Zealand Football Amateur Player Agreement.
- 1.1.30 **Participant(s)/team:** the Participants defined in regulation 3.1, or other entity, as approved by NZF to participate in the NL, at NZF's sole discretion, and includes the Participant's team, as relevant.
- 1.1.31 **Player:** any football Player, including outfield Players, goalkeepers and substitutes, selected by a Participant to play in the NL.
- 1.1.32 **Playing Day:** the day of the week on which any NL match takes place.
- 1.1.33 **Regional League:** a competition that is included in the Regional Phase and administered by a Controlling Federation delegated by NZF.

- 1.1.34 **Registration Date:** the date by which Players must be registered to a Participant in order to be selected to play in the NL, set at 30 June 2025, subject to what is outlined within these Regulations and in accordance with the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 1.1.35 **Regional Phase:** the first stage of the NL, administered by the three Controlling Federations, with delegated authority from NZF to manage the operational running of an individual Regional League, at NZF's sole discretion.
- 1.1.36 **Regulations:** means these Regulations governing the NL, inclusive of the Regional Phase and Championship Phase.
- 1.1.37 **Select Operation Duties:** means certain responsibilities that NZF may delegate to a Federation, such responsibilities shall be determined by NZF at its sole discretion.
- 1.1.38 **Start List:** the list of all starting and substitute Players and Team Officials selected from a Participant to compete in any NL match within the National Registration System.
- 1.1.39 **Team Official:** any member of a Participant who operates a non-playing capacity role.
- 1.1.40 **Under 20 Player:** means a Player born on or after 1 January 2005.
- 1.1.41 **Wellington Phoenix FC:** shall have the same meaning given to that term as "Professional Club" under the NZF Statutes.
- 1.2 The following shall apply unless the context requires otherwise:
- 1.2.1 headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation;
- 1.2.2 the singular includes the plural and the converse;
- 1.2.3 where any word or phrase is given a defined meaning in these Regulations, any other part or speech or other grammatical form in respect of such word or phrase has a corresponding meaning;
- 1.2.4 a reference to a legislation includes all regulations under and amendments to that legislation and any legislation passed in substitution for that legislation or incorporating any of its provisions to the extent that they are incorporated;
- 1.2.5 "Including" and similar words do not imply limitation;
- 1.2.6 reference to a party includes their respective permitted assignees, successors, executors and administrators;
- 1.2.7 every right, power and remedy of a party remains unrestricted and may be exercised without prejudice to each other at any time.

# The National League

## 2 NATIONAL LEAGUE

- 2.1 The NL is a competition established by NZF.
- 2.2 NZF shall have the right to add to or change the Competition name to reflect the name of a sponsor if it so desires, for certainty this includes the Regional Phase and Championship Phase.
- 2.3 Where applicable, these Regulations shall be read in conjunction with the Wellington Phoenix FC and Auckland FC Participation Agreement between NZF and Wellington Phoenix FC/Auckland FC (**Participation Agreement**), the Operations Manual, , along with all other circulars and documentation related to the Competition. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the Participation Agreement, these Regulations and the Operations Manual, then the provisions of the Participation Agreement shall prevail. Extracts of the Participation Agreement may be made available to other Participants where relevant.
- 2.4 The NL will consist of two phases, a Regional Phase and a Championship Phase. The Regional Phase shall be played first and will encapsulate three Regional League competitions. The Championship Phase will be played at the conclusion of the Regional Phase between teams who qualify from the Regional Phase.
- 2.5 These Regulations regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all Participants in the NL. These Regulations, the Operations Manual, along with other circulars and documentation are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition.
- 2.6 The NZF Statutes and Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and all FIFA Regulations in force shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to the NZF Statutes and Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and FIFA Regulations, refers to the Statutes, Rules and Regulations valid at the time of application.
- 2.7 For the avoidance of doubt, these Regulations shall apply to the Regional Phase and the Championship Phase, as applicable.

## General Provisions

### 3 THE PARTICIPANT

- 3.1 Each entity who competes in the NL shall be deemed a "Participant". Each Participant shall comply with these Regulations and the Operations Manual, along with other circulars and documentation, failure to do so shall be deemed a non-compliance of these Regulations. Each Participant must hold a valid National League Club Licence at all times to compete in the NL.

### 4 COMMERCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- 4.1 The Participant shall provide such rights, facilities and services as are required to enable NZF to fulfil its Commercial Contracts. If doing so would result in the Participant being in breach of contractual obligation entered into before the date of NZF entering into the conflicting Commercial Contract, the Participant must immediately notify NZF of such conflict and NZF may waive the requirement to comply in its absolute discretion.

- 4.2 The Participant shall permit NZF or any of its commercial partners or agents to use the Participant's club badge or logo, as applicable, for any commercial and/or promotional purposes related to the Competition. The Participant shall obtain any consents required (if any) to permit NZF or any of its commercial partners or agents to use the Participant's club badge or logo. The Participant indemnifies NZF from and against any claim or proceeding in respect of any third party's claim against NZF, in the event NZF's use of the Participant's club badge or logo infringes the intellectual property rights of that third party.
- 4.3 NZF encourages sponsorship at all levels and authorises the Participant to obtain sponsorship subject to the provisions of these Regulation, the NZF Statutes, the Operations Manual (or NL competitions manual, as applicable), the NZF Brand Guidelines, and/or any other NZF policies or regulations. In the event of any conflict between the documents recorded in this regulation 4.3, NZF retains discretion to determine priority.
- 4.4 NZF own the audio visual rights of matches within the NL but may allow Participants to live stream Home Matches in writing to Participants. Any rights passed to the Participants for the purposes of live steaming are at the sole discretion of NZF as outlined to Participants via the Operations Manual and/or other documentation issued by NZF from time to time.
- 4.5 Without limiting the scope of the provisions referred to in regulation 4.3 the Participant acknowledges that the Competition Sponsor may be entitled to specific sponsorship rights and benefits that the Participant will be required to provide, including:
- a. Displaying the Competition Sponsor's logo, banner and/or signage board on the Participant's playing strip, official website and/or within the Participant's stadium (including on the playing field) as the case may be and as directed by NZF from time to time;
  - b. Having a playing strip that does not include the logo of, or carry reference to, any particular competitor of the Competition Sponsor;
  - c. Having ground signage (all signage between ground level and 1.2m above) that does not include the logo of, or carry reference to, any particular competitor of the Competition Sponsor;
  - d. Ensuring that the promotional/digital materials and platforms of the Participant do not include any reference to any particular competitor of the Competition Sponsor where such references imply a direct link to the Competition Sponsor;
  - e. Not permitting activations of any particular competitor of the Competition Sponsor during the NL.

## **5 ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL**

- 5.1 The Participant shall meet all of its own financial obligations and expenses (except only those expressly provided by these Regulations, as relevant, to be met by NZF) and shall at all times be administered, managed and operated in accordance with the NZF Club Licensing Regulations, these Regulations and the Operations Manual and so as to be financially solvent including complying with the "Solvency Test" as referred to in Section 4 of the Companies Act 1993, construed to apply to the relevant Participant entity.
- 5.2 NZF reserves the right to inspect the Participant's financial books and records at any time at its sole discretion (during normal business hours). If as a result of this inspection of the

Participant's accounting records, NZF is concerned about the Participant's financial position, it may require more information and/or remedial action to be taken. Failure to provide more information and/or remedial action by the Participant, shall be deemed a non-compliance under these Regulations and regulation 31 shall apply. The purpose of the inspection of a Participant's books may include but not be limited to a Player Reimbursement Review (**PRR**) investigating breaches of integrity in respect of the status of amateur Players.

## **6 PAYMENT OF FEES**

- 6.1 The Participant is required to pay a participation fee of \$12,500, plus GST, for participation in the Competition. In the absence of prior consent in writing from NZF in its absolute discretion to an alternative payment proposal, the fees are payable in accordance with a schedule notified to Participants by NZF from time to time, in cleared funds and must be paid as directed by NZF from time to time (time being of the essence) and in its absolute discretion. For certainty, the participation fee set out in this clause is reviewable seasonally by NZF in its absolute discretion.

## **7 PRIZE MONEY**

- 7.1 The Participants acknowledge that, any Participant that shall qualify for the Championship Phase, must sign an unamended deed in a form prepared by NZF, as directed by NZF from time to time (time being of the essence) (**NZF Deed**) and in its sole discretion. Such NZF Deed having been prepared by NZF in line with the Participants' input. The NZF Deed will set out, among other things, the distribution model of prize money from competing in the OFC Qualifying Competition of the FIFA Club World Cup and/or the FIFA Club World Cup.
- 7.2 Each of the Participants acknowledge and agree that any prize money they receive or otherwise are entitled to (as a result of competing in the OFC Qualifying Competition of the FIFA Club World Cup or the FIFA Club World Cup) will, as soon as possible (and if at all possible, directly from the payer), be paid to the bank account of NZF, as notified to the Participant from time to time. The Participants assign any rights they may have in any such prize money (as a result of competing in the OFC Qualifying Competition of the FIFA Club World Cup or the FIFA Club World Cup) to NZF and shall do all things necessary and co-operate with NZF to receive such prize money. NZF shall endeavour to engage with the Participants in good faith in the event there is any change to the model relating to distribution of prize money.
- 7.3 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this regulation 7, the Participants acknowledge and agree that NZF may, after consultation with the Participants and having taken into account the feedback, by notice in writing to the Participants determine changes to the distribution of prize money from competing in the OFC Qualifying Competition of the FIFA Club World Cup and/or the FIFA Club World Cup.
- 7.4 In the event the Participants do not provide NZF with an unamended and signed NZF Deed, two weeks prior to the Championship Phase, this will be deemed a non-compliance under regulation 31 and the relevant provisions shall apply.

## **8 INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY**

- 8.1 The Participants shall at all times have all required insurance in place which shall include such, if any, types and minimum levels of insurance cover as may from time to time be prescribed in the Operations Manual.



- 8.2 The Participants will indemnify and keep NZF indemnified from and against all claims, proceedings, damages, losses, liabilities, costs (including all legal costs on a solicitor/client basis) and expenses of any nature concerning any breach by the Participant of its obligations under or pursuant to these Regulations or any breach by the Participant of any warranties or representations expressed or implied which it may make or have made to NZF, or for any injury to any person or damage to any property arising from the act or omission of the Participant or any of its players or personnel and from all its debts and expenses.

## **9 CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 9.1 The Participants shall not and shall procure that its officers and personnel do not disclose or use for any purpose other than that for which it was disclosed or allow or acquiesce in such disclosure or use, any information provided by NZF or relating to the Competition which is expressly or impliedly confidential in nature. The Participants will not copy confidential information, nor permit it to be copied, and if required shall immediately return it to NZF without retaining any copies.

## **10 DISCRIMINATORY INCIDENTS**

- 10.1 In the case of critical and/or continuing discriminatory incidents occurring from spectators during a match, the Match Officials can apply the FIFA directed three-step procedure based on Law 5 of the LOTG as set out below.
- a. In the first instance the referee shall decide whether to stop the match to inform the nominated Home Teams Match Coordinator so that an announcement may be made to the spectators by the Home Team, urging the spectators to cease the discriminatory behaviour. Any announcement or address to the spectators shall include a warning that any further discriminatory behaviour would see the game suspended.
  - b. In the second instance, if the discriminatory behaviour continues once the match has resumed, the referee may instruct the Home Team and Away Team to return to their dressing rooms while the match is suspended and until the behaviour stops. The Home Team shall, again, make an announcement or directly address the spectators, that the discriminatory behaviour is to stop before play can resume.
  - c. In the third instance, should the discriminatory behaviour continue, after the suspended match has resumed play and following consultation with all relevant parties, including Away Team and Home Team, the referee and the Match Coordinator, the referee shall abandon the match in line with regulations 5, 12, and 19 of the NZF Disciplinary Code. Following the abandonment of the match the Home Team will be required to make an announcement stating that the match has been abandoned due to the ongoing discriminatory behaviour.
- 10.2 Should the referee have to enact any of the steps outlined in regulation 10.1 then they shall submit an Incident Report (as defined in the NZF Disciplinary Code) to the Competition Manager.

# The Competition

## **11 ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION**

- 11.1 Unless otherwise determined by these Regulations, the entire control and management of the NL shall be vested in NZF. NZF shall have the power to do all other things necessary to ensure

the progress of the NL through all its stages and may take appropriate action to bring about such results. All or any of the powers vested in NZF may be delegated to a nominee.

- 11.2 NZF will delegate the control and management of a relevant Regional League within the Regional Phase to a Controlling Federation who shall act on behalf of NZF to run the operational requirements of that Regional League in accordance with these Regulations and other NZF regulations as specified under regulation 2.5.
- 11.3 NZF may appoint a Competition Manager or similar who shall be responsible for administration of the NL. All references to the exercise of a power or discretion by NZF in these Regulations shall include reference to the exercise of a power or discretion by the Competition Manager. The Competition Manager is authorised to determine the imposition and duration of the suspensions and fines pursuant to these Regulations and the NZF Disciplinary Code. The Competition Manager shall also retain the discretion to refer any matters to the relevant Judicial Body. Each Controlling Federation may also appoint a Competition Manager who shall perform such tasks as delegated to the Controlling Federation by NZF during the Regional Phase.
- 11.4 NZF will establish a Competitions Working Group (**CWG**) with a Competition Manager from each Controlling Federation and the NZF Competition Manager. The CWG will work as an advisory body to ensure alignment across the NL. For the avoidance of doubt, the CWG shall advise the respective Competition Manager, and where necessary NZF, on decisions in line with these Regulations who make the final decision under delegated responsibility.
- 11.5 Each Regional League included in the Regional Phase will be referred to as below, with the noted Controlling Federation:
- 11.5.1 Northern League, controlled by Northern Region Football;
  - 11.5.2 Central League, controlled by Capital Football Federation;
  - 11.5.3 Southern League, controlled by Mainland Football Federation.
- 11.6 Each Participant competing in the NL shall be primarily responsible for the organisation and control of each of their own Home Matches in a manner consistent with the objectives of the NL in accordance with the Regulations, and in accordance with any instructions as may from time to time be issued by NZF, in particular the Operations Manual, along with other circulars and documentation.

## **12 ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION**

- 12.1 NZF shall determine the number of Participants that may compete in the NL. The decision of NZF as to the composition of the NL shall be final and binding. NZF retains the ability to increase or decrease the number of Participants at its sole discretion.
- 12.2 Entry into, and continued participation in, the NL shall be determined by NZF in respect of:
- 12.2.1 The Participant satisfying criteria established from time to time by NZF on a continuing basis.
  - 12.2.2 The criteria established by NZF shall include, but not be limited to stadium facilities, Playing Day protocols and financial performance and shall otherwise be at the sole discretion of NZF.

- 12.2.3 Compliance with the Operations Manual, NZF Club Licensing Regulations and other NZF governing regulations, along with other circulars and documentation.
- 12.3 Subject to regulation 12.1, a total of thirty-two (**32**) Clubs shall participate in the NL Season (each a “Participant”) based on the below composition:
- 12.3.1 Twelve (12) teams within the Northern League;  
12.3.2 Ten (10) teams within the Central League; and  
12.3.3 Ten (10) teams within the Southern League.
- 12.4 Pending the approval of a National League Club Licence for the NL Season, the below Participants from the 2025 National League Season will be deemed a Participant for the NL Season, based on positions from the 2025 National League (Regional Phase) Season, unless otherwise stipulated by NZF at its sole discretion.
- 12.4.1 Northern League – Top ten (10) Participants  
12.4.2 Central League – Top nine (9) Participants  
12.4.3 Southern League – Top nine (9) Participants
- 12.5 Controlling Federations will formally nominate Participants to fill remaining spots within their respective Regional League for prior approval by NZF based on promotion or relegation criteria stipulated by that Controlling Federation. NZF maintain the right to accept or decline all nominations at its sole discretion.
- 12.6 A total of nine (9) Clubs will qualify into the Championship Phase at the conclusion of the Regional Phase, based on the below composition:
- 12.6.1 Top four (4) placed Clubs from Northern League  
12.6.2 Top three (3) placed Clubs from Central League  
12.6.3 Top two (2) placed Clubs from Southern League
- 12.7 The Wellington Phoenix FC and Auckland FC will be granted a Participation Agreement to automatically compete in the NL. This includes within the Regional Phase and the Championship Phase as the tenth and eleventh team. For certainty, Wellington Phoenix FC and Auckland FC cannot qualify for the Championship Phase Grand Final (as set out in more detail in regulation 29.16). Should the Wellington Phoenix FC finish in the top three (3) of the Central League, the fourth (4) placed team will qualify for the Championship Phase. Should Auckland FC finish in the top four (4) of the Northern League, the fifth (5) placed team will qualify for the Championship Phase. Should the Wellington Phoenix FC finish tenth (10) in the Central League, then the 9<sup>th</sup> placed team will be relegated for the following season. Should Auckland FC finish eleventh (11) or twelfth (12), the tenth (10) placed team will be relegated for the following season.
- 12.8 In the event of any Participant not continuing in the NL for whatever reason, including, failing to meet any of the NZF criteria, resulting in their removal from the NL, then the filling of the consequential vacancy shall be determined in consultation with the Controlling Federation by NZF, which may in its sole discretion choose not to fill the vacancy.
- 12.9 Any Participant who withdraws from the NL may be suspended from the NL for a period of two (2) years, regardless of any promotion or relegation regulations in place, and face other disciplinary sanction by the NZF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.

12.10 In the event of any Participant not paying the participation fee in the amount, manner and time frame (time being of the essence) as directed by NZF, then, without prejudice to any other remedies available to NZF, and at the sole discretion of NZF, the Participant will be subject to:

12.10.1 A fine of \$2000 to be imposed upon the Participant and a loss of two (2) competition points for each breach, and no ability to earn points in the NL from wins or draws whilst the Participant is in breach of payment terms.

12.10.2 If a Participant is still in breach at the end of their final competition match during the NL Season, the Participant will be suspended until the breach is remedied.

### **13 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

13.1 Disciplinary incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Disciplinary Code. To the extent that there is any conflict between the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations, then these Regulations shall apply.

13.2 The Regional Association Disciplinary Committee (**RADC**) of a Controlling Federation will be the next highest judicial body for all matters related to misconducts across the Regional Phase after the respective Competition Manager. The NZF Disciplinary and Ethics Committee (**NZFDC**) will be the next highest judicial body for all other matters across the NL, after the NZF Competition Manager, and for matters related to misconduct in the Championship Phase of the NL.

13.3 The Participants, their Players and Officials, agree to comply with the LOTG and with the FIFA Statutes and Regulations, in particular the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Code of Ethics (in particular in matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism and match-fixing), the FIFA Code of Conduct and Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and NZF Statutes and Regulations, in particular the NZF Disciplinary Code, the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations, the NZF Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Regulations, the NZF Code of Ethics and the NZF Code of Conduct.

13.4 In addition, the Players agree to:

13.4.1 Respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence;

13.4.2 Behave accordingly;

13.4.3 Refrain from doping as defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

#### **Referee's Reports**

13.5 Reference to referee's report for the purposes of the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations shall include reference to the match report.

#### **Offence Codes**

13.6 Citation by the referee of the relevant offence code shall be deemed to also be citation of the nature of the offence and the LOTG for the purposes of the NZF Disciplinary Code and these Regulations.

### **Misconduct, Suspension and Fines**

- 13.7 The Schedule of Suspensions and Fines in respect of misconduct by a Player or Team Official in the competition shall be:
- 13.7.1 Clubs shall be liable to a fine of \$75 in respect of each single caution related to Y5, Y6 and/or Y15 offences (Dissent by word, Dissent by gesture or dissent by substitute)
  - 13.7.2 All other minor infringement offences (Yellow Card) shall incur a fine of \$25.00 per occasion.
  - 13.7.3 The club shall be liable to a \$150 fine if R2, R3, R8, R9 and/or R10 (offensive, insulting or abusive language, dissent by word or action towards a match official, and/or intimidating or threatening a match official, Violent Conduct against a match official);
  - 13.7.4 a \$75 fine for any other red card offence unless otherwise specified by the relevant Judicial Body, Disciplinary Code, or Competition Regulations.
  - 13.7.5 All cautionary misconducts (indirect Red Card) shall incur a fine of \$75.00 per occasion and an automatic one Playing Day suspension, unless otherwise stipulated in the NZF Disciplinary Code.
  - 13.7.6 Serious infringements and misconducts shall incur an automatic one Playing Day suspension. Including the automatic suspension incurred, the overall suspension imposed on any Player receiving a direct Red Card shall be in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code.
- 13.8 A minimum \$200 fine may be imposed on Participants relating to Team Misconduct (as defined and outlined in the NZF Disciplinary Code) across the NL where five (5) or more Players or Team Officials receive sanction in a NL match as determined by the Competition Manager in their sole discretion.
- 13.9 Any fines shall be paid immediately, or once invoiced by the respective body. Should any fine imposed remain outstanding after the due date stipulated on the fine, the Player or Team Official shall remain suspended until such fine is deemed paid.

### **Cautions Accumulated by a Player or Team Official**

- 13.10 The Schedule of Suspensions imposed in respect of cautions accumulated by a Player or Team Official in the same season, unless otherwise stated within these Regulations, shall be:
- 13.10.1 Five single cautions shall result in one (1) Playing Day suspension;
  - 13.10.2 A further two (2) single cautions (seven (7) in total) shall result in one (1) additional Playing Day suspension; and
  - 13.10.3 A further two (2) single cautions (nine (9) in total) shall result in one (1) further Playing Day suspension.
- 13.11 In addition to the penalties outlined above, where any Player accrues ten (10) cautions or more during a NL Season (including other competitions that are not the NL), NZF will require the Player and the relevant Participant to attend a meeting of the relevant Disciplinary Committee,

as determined by regulation 13.2, to determine if any additional penalty should be imposed against the Player and/or his team.

- 13.12 Cautions will be accumulated for a Player or Team Official in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code.

### **Serving of Suspensions**

- 13.13 All Players and Team Officials enter the NL without any accumulation of cautions which have been cleared at the conclusion of the Participants' former season. Any Player or Team Official with a remaining suspension from a former season must complete the length of this suspension in the NL, until such a point as this suspension has been fully served in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code.
- 13.14 Under no circumstance may any suspended Player or Team Official occupy a position, in any capacity, in or in the vicinity of the Player's entrance, substitute's bench, technical area or playing arena.
- 13.15 A match that is abandoned does not count as a completed match in terms of a Player or Team Official serving a suspension.
- 13.16 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary under Serving of Suspensions, any Player serving a suspension incurred during the Regional Phase shall have that suspension carry through to and served during the Championship Phase, where that Player's team has made the Championship Phase and there is time yet to be served under the suspension at the outset of the Championship Phase. Otherwise, for all Yellow Cards incurred during the Regional Phase, in respect of which a suspension has not been incurred, at the outset of the Championship Phase, such Yellow Cards shall be expunged and of no further effect, so that a Player in these circumstances shall have a "clean slate" at the outset of the Championship Phase ("clean slate rule").
- 13.17 NZF may, in writing to the Participant, at its sole discretion approve a suspension being served within the Championship Phase that should otherwise be served outside of the NL in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code. This may be used in circumstances that prevent a Player from competing in the Championship Phase that may have otherwise been competing during this period of the Competition to allow the Player to be eligible to compete. A Player provided this discretion must have been named in a Start List during the Regional Phase.
- 13.18 Notwithstanding regulation 13.10, where a Wellington Phoenix FC or Auckland FC Player incurs a suspension in either the A-League or other official Football Australia matches, except for a suspension incurred because of Yellow Card accumulation, that Player will also be suspended from playing in the NL until such time as the suspension has been served in either the A-League or other official Football Australia matches. If a Player is suspended in the A-League or other official Football Australia matches for Yellow Card accumulation, they will serve that suspension exclusively in the competition in which they incurred the suspension and may otherwise play in the NL during such time. This is subject to regulation 13.17 albeit a Wellington Phoenix FC or Auckland FC Player does not need to have been named in the Start List during the Regional Phase for discretion to be applied.

## **14 ANTI-DOPING AND INTEGRITY**

- 14.1 Players shall be subject to drug testing by the Sport Integrity Commission NZ (Previously known as Drug Free Sport NZ). For the sake of clarity, this shall comprise in-competition and out of competition testing for all Players.
- 14.2 Drug Testing is specifically covered by the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations. It is the responsibility of each Participant and Player to ensure they are conversant with the appropriate Regulations, including the current list of banned substances provided by Sport Integrity Commission NZ, available via the Sport Integrity Commission website.
- 14.3 All Participants will have a compulsory education seminar presented by Sport Integrity Commission NZ, to Players and Team Officials prior to the commencement of each NL Season, or Players and Team Officials must complete this education seminar via the Sport Integrity Commission online portal before they take part in the NL. It is each Participant's responsibility to arrange the seminar or complete the course online with Sport Integrity Commission NZ.
- 14.4 All Participants must ensure all Relevant Regional Association Persons, as defined from time to time and who are listed in Schedule 2 of the NZF Anti-Match Fixing Regulations, go through NZF integrity training in respect of the NZF Anti-Match Fixing Regulations prior to their participation in the NL either via NZF online training or organise this education session with their respective Controlling Federation.
- 14.5 Any Participant breaching regulation 14 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$1,000 and an education seminar arranged within agreed timeframes between the Participant and NZF.

## **15 INCIDENTS, DISPUTES AND PROTESTS**

- 15.1 Any Participant in the NL may bring a dispute or protest to the Competition Manager who shall make a decision or refer to the appropriate Judicial Body according to NZF Statutes or these Regulations, and advise the party or parties concerned.
- 15.2 For the purpose of these Regulations, protests are objections of any kind related to events or matters that have a direct effect on matches, including but not limited to the state of and markings on the pitch, match equipment, eligibility of Players, venue installations and match balls.
- 15.3 Unless otherwise stipulated in this article, protests other than matters of Player eligibility shall be submitted in writing to the Competition Manager within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match in question.
- 15.4 Protests regarding the eligibility of Players shall be submitted in writing to the Competition Manager either within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match in question or 48 hours after information relating to Player eligibility is known to the party submitting the protest, whichever is the later. Notwithstanding anything in this regulation, protests regarding the eligibility of Players cannot be submitted after the date which is seven (7) days following a Participant's final match within a phase of the Competition. By way of example, no protest regarding eligibility of Player can be submitted seven (7) days after a Participant's final match in the Regional Phase and prior to the commencement of the Championship Phase of the Competition.
- 15.5 Protests against any incidents that occur during the course of a match shall be made to the referee by the Participant's captain immediately after the disputed incident and before play has resumed, in the presence of the captain of the opposing Participant. The protest shall be confirmed to the Competition Manager in writing no later than 48 hours after the match.

- 15.6 No protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play, such decisions being final in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code.

## **16 EQUIPMENT**

- 16.1 Each Participant shall comply with the National League Playing Strip Regulations as stipulated in Appendix One.

### **Playing Strips**

- 16.2 Each Participant shall seek the prior approval of the Competition Manager of playing strips that are two completely different and contrasting colours (one predominantly dark and one predominantly light) for its First Choice and Alternate strips (shirt, shorts, socks). In addition, each Participant shall select two contrasting colours for goalkeepers. These goalkeeper strips must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the First Choice and Alternate strips. A goalkeeper may, at the discretion of the referee, wear tracksuit trousers provided the colour of such tracksuit does not conflict with the provisions of this article. Only these colours may be worn during matches. There should not be any overlap of colours between the First Choice and Alternate strips.
- 16.3 Each Participant shall wear its First-Choice strip in their Home Matches, and all other matches where there is no clash of colours with the Home Team. In the event of any match being played at a neutral match venue, it will be the responsibility of the Competition Manager to ensure that there will be no clash of colours and to determine which Participant is to change, if necessary. Where possible the team listed first will be given priority to wear their First-Choice strip as communicated within the match confirmation.
- 16.4 Where the strips of the two Participants are alike or similar, the Away Team shall wear their Alternate strip as long as that does not, predominantly contain any of the basic colours of the Home Team and is approved by the referee. However, on others they may also be required to change shorts and/or socks. For the avoidance of doubt the Away Team shall have priority of wearing their First Choice Strip over the Home Team goalkeeper wearing their First-Choice strip.
- 16.5 It is the responsibility of each Participant to notify the Competition Manager of requests of strip for upcoming match in a timeframe stipulated by that Competition Manager and no later than when the respective match confirmation, or similar, is circulated to both Participants during the Match Week. It is also the responsibility of Participants to notify the Competition Manager of any changes to their registered colours at the earliest opportunity. Participants must also notify should they wish to change strip from that already notified to the Competition Manager.
- 16.6 It will be the responsibility of the Away Team to carry their Alternate strip with them at all times, to ensure that on Playing Day the Away Team has sufficient flexibility to change its strip as necessary so as to avoid any clash of colours with the Home Team.
- 16.7 If, in the opinion of the Competition Manager, a clash of colours will occur to the detriment of the match, the Competition Manager may direct either or both Participants to change or vary their strip.
- 16.8 A Participant breaching regulation 16.2-16.7 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500.00 for each breach.



## **Numbers**

- 16.9 A Player must wear the shirt with the corresponding number that is listed in any Start List. The number must be displayed on the back of their playing shirt and, where possible, on the front of the shorts. The same number may, at the Participants discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt. The number must be clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance for all Players, Match Officials, spectators and media from the colours used for the respective playing equipment item. This distinction may be achieved by displaying the numbers on a single-coloured patch. The number may be surrounded by a border or shadow outline.
- 16.10 A Participant must have corresponding numbers displayed on the front of their playing shorts during matches in the Championship Phase only.

## **Official Match Balls**

- 16.11 Only Puma or such other brand footballs, as determined and supplied by NZF from time to time, will be used in NL matches (Official Match Balls), unless otherwise approved by NZF in advance.
- 16.12 NZF shall supply each Participant with five (5) Official Match Balls for use on Match Days only, subject to regulation 16.11. NZF shall supply a further five (5) Official Match Balls for each Participant during the Championship Phase for Participants that qualify.
- 16.13 Host Participants shall ensure that five (5) Official Match Balls during the Regional Phase and seven (7) Official Match Balls during the Championship Phase in a good, clean condition are made available to the referee no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior to the schedule kick-off time, subject to regulation 16.11.
- 16.14 Participants should ensure that only the footballs referred to as Official Match Balls are used in all promotional, news or Participant photographs, and television interviews.
- 16.15 Any Participant breaching the regulations 16.11-16.14 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500 per breach.

## **17 BALL PERSONS**

- 17.1 There shall be a minimum of four (4) ball persons on duty for each match during the Regional Phase and six (6) during the Championship Phase arranged by the Host Participant.
- 17.2 Ball persons shall be not less than ten (10) years of age.
- 17.3 Ball person shall be suitably attired in a clearly identifiable uniform that does not clash with the colours worn by either of the Home Team, Away Team or the Officials. T-shirts, bibs, tracksuits, wet weather jackets, etc. are permitted, or as provided by NZF from time to time.
- 17.4 Balls shall be placed on the ground next to the ball person or held still in their hands. Ball persons are not permitted to play with the balls with their hands or feet.
- 17.5 Any Participant breaching regulations 17.1-17.4 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500.00 fine per breach.

## **18 MATCH VENUES, DATES AND KICKOFF TIMES**

- 18.1 Controlling Federations shall present their respective Regional League match list, including the match venues, dates and kick-off times, to NZF for confirmation by an agreed date. NZF shall confirm the match list including the match venues, dates and kick-off times for the Championship Phase. All matches shall be played on the dates and times agreed and confirmed between NZF and the Participants and shall not be varied without the prior written approval of the Competition Manager.
- 18.2 The Host Participant shall be responsible for booking match venues for their Home Matches as per the match list provided. Where the Host Participant does not own the ground, or lease it directly, they must work with the Controlling Federation to ensure the match venue, or suitable alternative as approved by NZF, is booked for respective matches. The Host Participant is responsible to ensure their match venue is organised in line with the match list and any contractual obligations to the venue owner. NZF may, within the Championship Phase only, reimburse the Host Participant for the costs associated with the match venue up to a certain amount as outlined to and/or agreed as between NZF and Participants prior to the commencement of the Championship Phase.
- 18.3 In the event of NZF agreeing with a broadcaster, the television (or other media) broadcast of matches during the NL Season, the Host Participant shall comply with all reasonable directions and requirements of NZF and/or any such broadcaster. Changes in the match list may be required by a broadcaster at the approval and discretion of NZF.
- 18.4 Prior to the commencement of each NL Season, each Participant shall nominate its match venue(s) to allow inspection and approval by NZF. This will be managed through the Club Licensing process to ensure the nominated venue/s are compliant with the Club Licensing Regulations.
- 18.5 If any Participant wishes to change any Match Date or kick-off time, they must advise the Competition Manager in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled game, setting out in full their reasons for requiring the change. The Competition Manager will check the request with the other Participant but holds the right to make the final decision. Any additional cost incurred in changing a previously agreed match date or kick-off time shall be borne by the Participant making the request.
- 18.6 In the event of a Participant wishing to play at a match venue other than its nominated match venue, the Participant must notify the Competition Manager ten (10) days' notice in writing setting out the reasons for the change of match venue, with full particulars of the new match venue and facilities available for Players, spectators and officials. The decision of the Competition Manager as to the acceptability of the proposed match venue change will be final.
- 18.7 NZF may require that Participants play a certain number of fixtures as Home Matches during the first and second round of the Regional Phase to maintain competition integrity. Should a Participant not have access to their respective Home Match venue then they will be required to play on a suitable other home venue approved by NZF.
- 18.8 NZF reserves a right to determine the match venue, date and kick-off time for all matches in Regional Phase and the Championship Phase. The Competition Manager has full discretion to adjust or make changes to the draw, matches, venues or kick-off times to ensure the successful completion of the NL.

### **Floodlight Matches**

- 18.9 A match may be played wholly or partially under floodlights subject to the floodlight installation having been approved by NZF, or Controlling Federation, as being suitable.
- 18.10 Any matches played wholly or partially under floodlights shall require the Host Participant shall ensure the venue is sufficiently booked with the respective owner to ensure no light issues arise and/or ensure a registered electrician or registered electrical engineer to be on standby at the grounds for the duration of the match during the Regional Phase only. A Participant breaching this regulation 18.10 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500.00 for each breach.

### **Safety & Security**

- 18.11 The Host Participant shall be responsible for taking all practicable measures to ensure:
- 18.11.1 That all facilities and equipment comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and related regulations (as amended from time to time). Certificates of compliance as required must be current;
- 18.11.2 That a dedicated security and safety officer is operating for all Home Matches. This person is to be clearly identifiable and in contact with the Host Participant at all times;
- 18.11.3 The orderly behaviour of the crowd and safety of the Match Officials, Players and Team Officials and all spectators; and
- 18.11.4 The availability of Host Participant's officials and where appropriate, security or police personnel.
- 18.12 All Participants will be held responsible for the behaviour of their spectators, whether playing at home or away or at a neutral ground. A Participant must forthwith give notice in writing to NZF of any unruly behaviour of their spectators.
- 18.13 Each Participant must make every effort to ensure that the Code of Conduct of NZF is communicated and made available to its staff, Players, Coaches, volunteers and spectators.
- 18.14 Any Participant breaching regulation 18.11-18.13 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500.00 fine per breach.

## **19 FIELD OF PLAY**

- 19.1 All Host Participants are to ensure that their grounds comply with the LOTG, Law 1 – The Field of Play.
- 19.2 Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces.
- 19.3 In compliance with the provisions of the LOTG, the technical area shall be marked out in front of the seated area for substitutes and technical staff.
- 19.4 The technical area shall be of sufficient size to include the maximum number of persons authorised to be on the substitute's bench, and in accordance with all NZF Club Licensing Regulations, and be located one metre either side of the substitute's bench, to one metre from the touchline.

- 19.5 All Host Participants are required to have the field of play of their home grounds maintained in a satisfactory condition.
- 19.6 In the event of inclement weather, the Host Participants shall be obliged to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that scheduled matches proceed.
- 19.7 In the event of inclement weather, Host Participants shall be obliged to arrange the re-mark of all or portions of the ground or request this to the venue owner, at the request of the Match Officials.
- 19.8 No unauthorised ground markings shall appear on any match venue. For the avoidance of doubt, the Competition Manager has the absolute discretion to determine whether markings are acceptable on match venues, subject to Club Licensing. Permanent non-football markings at a match venue may limit the ability for a Participant to host particular matches, at the sole discretion of NZF.
- 19.9 Any Host Participant breaching regulation 19.1- 19.7 shall be liable for a fine of up to \$500.00 per breach. Where there is a breach of regulation 19.8, the discretion as set out in regulation 19.8 may apply.

## **20 MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 20.1 Subject to NZF's prior approval (at its sole discretion), the Controlling Federation shall make appointments for all Regional Phase matches.
- 20.2 The NZF Appointments Panel shall make appointments for all Championship Phase fixtures.
- 20.3 An approved fee for referees and other Match Officials across the NL shall be met from Participant's entry fees.
- 20.4 Each referee shall upon the conclusion of each match, forward to the Competition Manager a referees report on the prescribed form where needed. These should arrive to the Competition Manager no later than 48 hours after the match has been played. Should a Match Official fail to furnish any required report within the prescribed time limit then the following will apply:
- 20.4.1 On the first occasion the Match Official shall forfeit the match fee to NZF and be given a warning by the Competition Manager.
- 20.4.2 On the second occasion the Match Official shall forfeit the match fee and be suspended from refereeing any NL matches for two Playing Days.
- 20.4.3 On the third occasion the Match Official shall forfeit the match fee and be suspended from the NL referees panel for the balance of the season, for such period as shall be determined by the chairperson of the referees committee, in conjunction with NZF.
- 20.5 Match Officials may, after thirty (30) minutes of the final whistle of the competition match, allow a meeting with one (1) nominated Team Official of a Participant to discuss match related issues.
- 20.6 Each referee shall attend the ground at least one (1) hour before the scheduled kick-off time and shall wait one (1) half-hour after the scheduled kick-off time, before abandoning the game for any reason.

- 20.7 The referee's decision shall be the final as to the condition of the ground for play.
- 20.8 NZF shall allocate an amount of money to meet approved travel expenses for Match Officials.

## **21 LAWS OF THE GAME**

- 21.1 All matches shall be played in accordance with LOTG.
- 21.2 The minimum number of Players a Participant must have to play in any NL match is seven (7). If a Participant team during any NL match is reduced, for whatever reason, to less than seven (7) Players, the referee shall abandon the relevant match, subject to the provisions of the LOTG.

## **22 SUBSTITUTION RULES**

### **Number of Substitutes**

- 22.1 A maximum of five (5) Players may be listed as substitutes on the Start List.
- 22.2 A maximum of five (5) Players may be replaced at any time during the match, up until the conclusion of normal playing time from a maximum of three opportunities and during the half-time break. Any replacement Players used must be one of the five (5) listed on the Start List.
- 22.3 In the Grand Final of the Championship Phase, a maximum of seven (7) Players may be listed as substitutes on the Start List. A maximum of five (5) Players may be replaced at any time during the match, up until the conclusion of normal playing time from a maximum of three (3) opportunities and during the half-time break. Any replacement Players used must be one of the seven (7) listed on the Start List. In the event extra time is played each team is permitted to use one (1) additional substitute in extra time from one (1) additional substitution opportunity. If a team has not used the maximum number of substitutes and/or substitution opportunities, any unused substitutes and substitution opportunities may be used in extra time.
- 22.4 Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for each team.
- 22.5 As an exception to 22.2 & 22.3, each team is permitted to use a maximum of one 'concussion substitute' in a match. A 'concussion substitution' may be made regardless of the number of substitutes, or substitution opportunities used. The 'concussion substitute' can be a player who has previously been substituted and may be used at any time. Where a team makes a 'concussion substitution' the opposing team can use an 'additional substitute' and receive an 'additional substitution opportunity', this may also be a player who has previously been substituted. This 'additional substitution opportunity' can be used only for the 'additional substitute' and not for a 'normal substitute'. Further information is provided in the NZF National League Concussion Substitute Protocols which form part of these Regulations.

### **Substitution Procedures**

- 22.6 The procedure for substitutions shall be in accordance with the LOTG.
- 22.7 Should a Fourth Official be appointed to a fixture in the NL in the Regional Phase and for all fixtures in the Championship Phase Participants wishing to make a substitution shall complete the NZF substitution slip and pass to the Fourth Official. The shirt number of the Player to be

replaced shall be written in the OFF boxed area, and the shirt number of the Player listed as a substitute in the ON boxed area.

- 22.8 Substitutes may warm-up during the game subject to the dimensions of the ground but may not use a ball. A goalkeeper is permitted to use a ball to warm-up. Substitutes when warming up may be accompanied by one official from the technical area.

### **Substitution Boards**

- 22.9 Controlling Federations or NZF, as applicable, may provide Match Officials with a set of substitution boards and communications equipment that it will be responsible to maintain for assigned matches during the Championship Phase.

## **23 TECHNICAL AREA**

- 23.1 No Team Official, outside of listed medical personnel, shall be able to occupy the technical area for more than one (1) Participant in the NL in a single Match Week.
- 23.2 Each Host Participant shall provide adequate seating for each person authorised to be in the technical area at each game it is host of during a NL Season.
- 23.3 The occupants of the technical area shall be identified to the Match Officials prior to the commencement of the match and reflect what has been selected and confirmed in the National Registration System within the specified match on the Start List.
- 23.4 Only one person at a time has the authority to convey technical instructions and that person must return to their position immediately after giving any instructions, to the intent that only one person at any time is standing.
- 23.5 Team Officials must remain within the confines of the technical area except in special circumstances, for example, a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play with the referee's permission to treat an injured Player.
- 23.6 All occupants of the technical area must conduct themselves in a responsible manner at all times, with particular regards to foul and abusive language.
- 23.7 Any Team Official listed as the Head Coach on the Start List must be the same Head Coach listed under the Participants Club Licensing application OR a Team Official who holds the required qualification under NZF Club Licensing Regulations. Any Participant in breach of this regulation 23.7 will be sanctioned with a fine of up to \$500.00 per offence by NZF at its sole discretion.
- 23.8 The Match Officials shall police the technical area and forthwith give notice in writing to the Competition Manager of any breach. Any Participant breaching regulation 23 shall be liable for a fine of \$500.00 per breach.

## **24 PLAYING OF MATCHES**

- 24.1 Participants must take all reasonable steps to arrive at a match on time. Any Participant breaching this regulation shall be liable for a fine of up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) in the Regional Phase and five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) in the Championship Phase, unless there is a valid reason outside the control of the Participant.

- 24.2 The Host Participant must film the entire match for the purposes of technical analysis and upload said footage to a nominated platform in line with the Operations Manual within 24 hours of the match being complete. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in a \$500 fine being issued to the Participant.
- 24.3 In the event of a match being postponed at late notice due to issues with travel arrangements, adverse weather, or for scheduling reasons, it shall be the responsibility of the two Participants concerned to immediately confer, in conjunction with the Competition Manager, with a view to playing the match at the earliest possible time, unless otherwise authorised by NZF. Should no agreement be reached by the two Participants by a date stipulated by the Competitions Manager then the Competitions Manager will determine the date, time and venue for the replay of the match at their sole discretion.
- 24.4 In the event of a match being postponed due to the scheduling of any official NZF National Cup, OFC or FIFA match it shall be the responsibility of the two Participants concerned to immediately confer, in conjunction with the Competition Manager, with a view to playing the match at the earliest possible time, unless otherwise authorised by NZF, within the relevant phase, unless otherwise authorised by NZF. Should no agreement be reached by the two Participants by a date stipulated by the Competitions Manager then the Competitions Manager will determine the date, time and venue for the replay of the match at their sole discretion. For the avoidance of doubt all NZF National Cup, OFC or FIFA matches involving Participants take priority over the NL.
- 24.5 In the event of a change of match venue being necessary because of unforeseen weather or field of play conditions, the Host Participant shall take all reasonable steps to give adequate notice to the Competition Manager and the Away Team as to the new match venue. In the event of any dispute arising as to the suitability of the match venue, NZF shall make the final decision, which will be binding, on all parties.

#### **Suspended or abandoned matches**

- 24.6 In the event of adverse weather conditions occurring during a match, which in the view of the referee endangers the Players or Team Officials, the Match Officials may at their sole discretion suspend play for a period of up to thirty (30) minutes to allow time for conditions to improve to a point that will allow the match to recommence.
- 24.7 Where weather conditions preceding a match raise doubts as to whether play shall take place, the Match Official and the Host Participant shall meet at the ground to consider whether the ground is fit for play. This meeting and discussion shall be held in sufficient time to enable the Away Team travelling on the day of the match to be notified of any abandonment prior to their departure for the match. If the Match Officials decide that play can take place provided that no further rain falls, then the Match Officials shall further decide whether or not any other scheduled activities prior to the match are to be postponed.
- 24.8 Before any decision is made as to whether the match should be abandoned, the Host Participant shall discuss the situation with the Competition Manager. The Competition Manager may arrange for an alternate Match Venue to be used for the completion of the match, at their sole discretion.
- 24.9 If there is doubt as to whether or not a match is to be played because of uncertainty about weather conditions, the Match Officials shall immediately notify the Competition Manager following the field of play inspection and the Host Participant shall advise the Away Team.

- 24.10 If the Away Team has been notified that a match is to be played provided no further rain falls, then all reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that the match proceeds, provided that the Match Officials nominated for the match shall have sole discretion as to whether or not it shall be played.
- 24.11 If for any reason the referee cannot make or does not attend the match venue, and if there is doubt about whether the field of play is fit to play, then the Host Participant in conjunction with the Match Officials shall be responsible for advising the Competition Manager on the condition of the field of play as well as notifying the Away Team.
- 24.12 If for any reason a match is abandoned, that match shall be replayed at the direction of the Competition Manager, who shall first discuss the matter with the two affected Participants, as per regulation 24.3.

## **25 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

- 25.1 The Controlling Federation will determine the travel organisation within the Regional Phase. The Controlling Federation may centralise all travel and accommodation arrangements for their respective conference, provide reimbursement to Clubs for travel up to a value determined by NZF (on proof of receipt), or a mixture of both options depending on the distance travelled by the Away Participant, as outlined in the Operations Manual.
- 25.2 NZF shall be responsible for the organisation of pre-determined travel and accommodation arrangements within the Championship Phase, at NZF's sole discretion. For clarity, this does not include airport transfers for which the Host Participant shall be responsible for as set out in more detail in regulation 25.4. Travel and accommodation shall be provided on the basis of a party of eighteen (18) persons, including Team Officials. NZF shall not be responsible for the costs for any additional persons.
- 25.3 All pre-determined and approved travel and accommodation shall be paid for by NZF, at the Championship Phase, with the exception of additional costs incurred by the Away Team, which must be paid in full by the due date by the Away Team.
- 25.4 The Host Participant shall be responsible for the organisation and any costs of return transfers from the airport to the match venue and/or accommodation, if applicable, with sufficient space for team and luggage; ice; massage table; pre-match and half-time liquid refreshments (water as a minimum); and a post-match meal. The Host Participant shall also be responsible for a local, suitably qualified physiotherapist at the request and cost of the Away Team. NZF may reimburse the Host Participant for the organisation of any return transfers for travelling Participant up to a certain amount as outlined to Participants prior to the start of the NL Season within the Championship Phase. If a Participant has opted to fly, as opposed to travel by road based on pre-determined travel principles, then the Participant is responsible for the costs of return airport transfers, unless otherwise agreed to by NZF.

## **26 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

- 26.1 A Player is eligible to play in the NL provided that:
- 26.1.1 The Player is duly registered to the Participant in the National Registration System, subject to regulation 27.3; and
- 26.1.2 The Player and a Participant have signed a Player Agreement and the Player Agreement has been lodged with NZF in accordance with regulation 26.6; and



- 26.1.3 The Player is duly registered with a Participant in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 26.2 Notwithstanding any regulation noted in 26.1;
- 26.2.1 A Player is eligible to compete for the Wellington Phoenix FC or Auckland FC in the NL, in accordance with the terms of the Participation Agreement, as outlined in regulation 2.3.
- 26.3 Each Participant shall be responsible for fielding only eligible Players. Any Participant found guilty of fielding an ineligible Player for whatever reason shall be subject to the penalties as determined in NZF Disciplinary Code.

#### **Amateur Player Agreement**

- 26.4 Once both the Player and the Participant have signed a Player Agreement, the Player is obliged to register for the Participant, and the Participant is obliged to register the Player into the National Registration System.
- 26.5 Upon execution, a copy of the Player Agreement, signed by both the Player and the Participant must be provided to the Player.
- 26.6 Upon execution, a copy of the Player Agreement, signed by both the Player and the Participant must be lodged by the Participant against the Active Contracts tab in the Players profile, in the NZF National Registration System. Where the Player Agreement is executed a copy of the Player Agreement must be lodged with NZF on or before 4:00pm on the Friday before the Player is eligible to play in a weekend NL match. Where a match is scheduled mid-week, or on a public holiday, the Player Agreement must be lodged on or before 4:00pm the day prior to the match/public holiday. A copy of the Passport, Birth Certificate or Citizenship Certificate of the Player must also be uploaded to the Players profile in the National Registration System before the Player Agreement is confirmed by NZF, as per the requirement under the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 26.7 All copies of the Player Agreement received by NZF will be held securely and in confidence by NZF and the Controlling Federation, except as required by law.

#### **Early Termination**

- 26.8 The Player Agreement may be terminated by either the Participant or the Player, pursuant to the terms of the Player Agreement between the Participant and the Player.
- 26.9 The Player may be required to stand down from the Competition for a period of time as stipulated under the Player Agreement following written notice of termination, unless agreed by the Player and Participant, with proof required by NZF to waive any such stand down period.

### **27 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

- 27.1 The registration of Players shall begin on 1 January 2025.

- 27.2 A NL Start List may consist of Players from the Participants registered membership as reflected in the National Registration System, subject to regulation 27.3.
- 27.3 No Player may participate in the NL where they have registered to a Participant after the Registration Date. For the sake of clarity, a Player must hold at least an “entered” status in the National Registration System on or before 11:59PM on the Registration Date. For the avoidance of doubt in the event of a Player de-registering from one Participant to register for another, no Player may hold an “entered” status to another Participant unless they have provided written proof of the termination of their current Player Agreement with a Participant they were formerly registered with to NZF. Should a Player be named in a Start List for Participant while holding a “entered” status to another Participant on the National Registration System, then the “entered” status will be deleted. Players who are registered to the Participant by the Registration Date can be selected in a Start List in the NL at any time after the Registration Date, except where:
- 27.3.1 A Player who has been listed as a goalkeeper in the Start List at least once during the NL Season for a Participant may be replaced at any time, with another goalkeeper, on a permanent or temporary basis as determined by the Competition Manager, on account of illness or injury, which prevents the relevant goalkeeper from playing, where a certificate from a medical doctor is provided, and the replacement Player is listed as a Goalkeeper.
- 27.3.2 An injury/illness replacement goalkeeper as described in 27.3.1 may return to the club they were with prior to replacing a goalkeeper of another club even after the Registration Date as long as they meet their obligations under the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 27.3.3 A Player (**Player Y**) has been registered with a New Zealand based A-League Club as a professional Player named in their A-League squad (including as a short-term injury replacement) or received an International Transfer Clearance (**ITC**) request to register with another professional football team (excluding as a short-term injury replacement). In such circumstances, Player Y must be replaced prior to 12:00pm on the Friday before the final round of the NL Championship, unless Player Y’s referred registration/ or ITC takes place after the league, in which case Player Y may be replaced at any time provided such Player satisfies eligibility requirements set out under these Regulations. Where Player Y is a goalkeeper, they may only be replaced by a goalkeeper and where Player Y is an outfield player, they may only be replaced by an outfield player. No Participant may replace Player Y with a Player from another Participant who at the time of replacement has mathematically qualified for the Championship Phase.
- 27.4 A Participant who qualifies into the Championship Phase may register an additional two (2) Under 20 Players following the conclusion of the Regional Phase, who are deemed eligible to compete for the Participant, as an exception to regulation 27.3. For the avoidance of doubt no Participant is able to register these additional Under 20 Players from another Participant who qualifies for the Championship Phase. In all cases the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players in respect of the number of registrations a Player may hold in a single season apply.
- 27.5 A Participant breaching regulation 27.3 shall be liable for the following fines for each breach:
- 27.5.1 an initial fine in relation to the NZF Disciplinary Code, plus a loss of three (3) competition points in respect of the current NL Season; and

27.5.2 Should any fine not be paid within 48 hours from the original due date, the relevant Participant may be excluded from the current NL Season.

**Start List and substitute's benches**

27.6 Each Participant shall play its full-strength team in all matches, unless some satisfactory reason is given to the Competition Manager. Failure to do so will constitute a breach of the Regulations.

27.7 A Start List must be confirmed at least sixty (60) minutes before the time fixed time for the kick-off of a match by a Participant entering and saving their line-up in the NZF National Registration System with a maximum number of Players, which:

27.7.1 In the case of all NL matches, outside of the Championship Phase Grand Final, will be 16 Players (11 starting Players and up to five substitutes) for each match.

27.7.2 In the case of the Championship Phase Grand Final, will be 18 Players (11 starting Players and up to seven substitutes) for the match.

27.8 The Start List will be selected from registered Players of the Participant in the National Registration System, subject to 27.3. The Wellington Phoenix FC and Auckland FC may also select Players pursuant to the terms of its Participation Agreement with NZF.

27.9 The Start List may include:

27.9.1 A maximum number of Four (4) Non-Citizen Players and one (1) additional Non-Citizen Player who has the nationality of an Oceania Football Confederation member association.

27.9.2 Should a Participant exceed the maximum number of Non-Citizen Players, the additional Non-Citizen Player will be deemed ineligible as described in more detail in the NZF Disciplinary Code (15.1-15.3), or such equivalent provisions.

27.10 A Participant must allocate 10% of the total available playing minutes in each the Regional Phase and the Championship Phase (if applicable) to Under 20 Players. This will be monitored through reporting via the National Registration System and the extracted data after each relevant phase set out in regulation 27.11 below will be taken as fact.

27.11 For the avoidance of doubt should a Participant not allocate 10% of the total available playing minutes as set out under regulation 27.10 then;

27.11.1 If NZF establishes that the Participant has not complied with regulation 27.10 following the conclusion of the Regional Phase or Championship Phase, then the Participant will not be eligible to be a Participant in the immediately following NL Season.

27.11.2 If NZF establishes that the Participant has not complied with regulation 27.10 following the conclusion of the Regional Phase, then the Participant is not eligible to qualify for and participate in the Championship Phase.

27.11.3 If NZF establishes that the Participant has not complied with regulation 27.10 following the final Match Week in the Championship Phase, then the Participant is not eligible

to qualify for and participate in the Championship Phase Grand Final. Any Participant who qualifies for the Championship Phase Grand Final will have the Championship Phase Grand Final match included within their minute allocation requirement set out in regulation 27.10 for the overall Championship Phase.

- 27.11.4 If NZF establishes that the Participant has not complied with regulation 27.10 following the Championship Phase Grand Final, then the Participant is not eligible to be nominated to participate at the OFC Qualifying Competition.
- 27.12 Any Player listed in the Start List must be at least sixteen (16) years old on the date of the match. Any Player aged fifteen (15) on the date of the match may be listed on the Start List if they have parental/legal guardian consent via being a signatory to the Player Agreement. No Player aged fourteen (14) or younger may participate in the NL.
- 27.13 Each Participant is responsible for ensuring that they correctly name their Start List by selecting their line-up in the National Registration System by 12pm on the Friday prior to any match, with changes that can be made up until sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled kick-off. The numbers on the Player's shirts must correspond to the numbers on the Start List. Any Player in the named starting eleven may be replaced by another Player in the Start List in the case of an injury during the warm-up only, up to ten (10) minutes before the kick-off with notice to the Match Officials. Where a match is played mid-week, each Participant must name their Start List by 12pm the day prior to the match.
- 27.14 Match Officials shall report any breaches of this regulation, including but not limited to any Participant who fails to provide an accurate Start List by sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled kick-off, or who requires changes to the Start List after this point for reasons not listed, is liable for a sanction of up to \$500.00 per breach by NZF at its sole discretion.
- 27.15 For all matches in the NL, except the Championship Phase Grand Final, a maximum of eleven (11) people are entitled to sit in the Technical Area during a match, being comprised of no more than 5 substitutes and no more than six (6) Team Officials. For the Championship Phase Grand Final, a maximum of thirteen (13) people are entitled to sit in the Technical Area during a match, being comprised of no more than seven (7) substitutes and no more than six (6) Team Officials. All occupants of the Technical Area must wear different coloured tops to those worn by the team they are associated with. For every match, Participants shall submit the names on the Start List of all people sitting in the Technical Area.

## **28 MATCH RESULTS AND REPORTING**

- 28.1 Within thirty (30) minutes of the final whistle the Match Officials must enter the result of the match and within sixty (60) minutes of the final whistle enter the respective match events for each team in the National Registration System.
- 28.2 A Team Official of each Participant shall, within two hours of the final whistle, confirm the match result and match events as a true and accurate record of the match by ticking the relevant check box in the 'other' tab of the relevant match report in the NZF National Registration System.
- 28.3 A Team Official of each Participant shall complete a match report and referee assessment report in the National Registration System by Monday 5pm following the match, or at a date determined by the Competition Manager, whichever is the earlier.
- 28.4 Any Participant breaching regulation 28 shall be liable for a fine of \$200.00 per breach.

## **29 NL FORMAT**

- 29.1 The NL shall consist of two parts, being the Regional Phase and the Championship Phase. NZF may, at its discretion, produce an official NL Contingencies Framework prior to the start of the NL Season that covers matters of significant disruption. NZF shall retain sole discretion to amend the format of the NL with notice to Participants following good faith discussions with affected Participants.
- 29.2 Should a game be postponed, without the ability to be replayed (at the sole discretion of NZF), then NZF reserve the right to declare the fixture a nil-all (0-0) draw.
- 29.3 Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of 15 minutes whistle to whistle in between.

### **The Regional Phase**

- 29.4 Each Participant shall play two matches against the other Participants, being the Home Team in respect of one such match and the Away Team in respect of the other.
- 29.5 Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw.
- 29.6 No extra time shall be played during the Regional Phase in the case of a drawn match between teams.
- 29.7 The results of all matches will be recorded in a league table. The ranking of each Participant shall be determined as follows:
- 29.7.1 Greatest number of points obtained in all league matches;
  - 29.7.2 Goal difference in all league matches;
  - 29.7.3 Greatest number of goals scored in all league matches.
  - 29.7.4 Least number of goals conceded in all league matches.
  - 29.7.5 The head-to-head results between the teams equal on points.
- 29.8 If, after applying the above criteria, any two or more teams are still equal, then the team with the superior disciplinary record in NL (by virtue of having the fewest penalty points accrued during the season) shall be the highest placed team. Penalty points shall be accrued as follows:
- a for each Yellow Card received, a team will accrue 1 penalty point;
  - b for each Red Card received, a team will accrue 3 penalty points;
  - c and where an individual Player receives 2 Yellow Cards in the same NL game, a team will accrue 3 penalty points (the same as for a Red Card).
- 29.9 If, after applying the above criteria the final position of any two teams remain equal their final placing will be determined by a toss of a coin under the direction and supervision of NZF. Where there are more than two teams who are equal having applied the above criteria then the final placing of these teams will be determined by the drawing of lots under the direction and supervision of NZF.

### **The Championship Phase**

- 29.10 The Championship Phase will consist of a single league match played between the ten (10) Participants, followed by a Grand Final, where each Participant shall play one match against the other Participants.
- 29.11 Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw.
- 29.12 No extra time shall be played during the Championship Phase in the case of a drawn match between teams.
- 29.13 The results of league matches will be recorded in a league table. The ranking of each Participant shall be determined as follows:
- 29.13.1 Greatest number of points obtained in all league matches;
  - 29.13.2 Goal difference in all league matches;
  - 29.13.3 Greatest number of goals scored in all league matches.
  - 29.13.4 Least number of goals conceded in all league matches.
  - 29.13.5 The head-to-head results between the teams equal on points.
- 29.14 If, after applying the above criteria, any two or more teams are still equal, their respective placing on the league table shall be determined as follows:
- a for each Yellow Card received, a team will accrue 1 penalty point;
  - b for each Red Card received, a team will accrue 3 penalty points;
  - c and where an individual Player receives 2 Yellow Cards in the same NL game, a team will accrue 3 penalty points (the same as for a Red Card).
- 29.15 NZF reserves the right to determine the Match Venue, Date and Kick-off Time for any match in the Championship Phase, at its sole discretion.

### **The Championship Phase Grand Final**

- 29.16 The Championship Phase Grand Final shall be played between the top two (2) placed Participants, excluding the Wellington Phoenix FC and Auckland FC, at the conclusion of the Championship Phase, subject to regulation 29.15. The Wellington Phoenix FC and Auckland FC cannot qualify for the Championship Phase Grand Final. Should the Wellington Phoenix FC or Auckland FC finish in the top two (2) of the National League Championship, the other team in the top two (2) shall play the Participant finishing third in the Championship Phase Grand Final.
- 29.17 Should the result be a draw at the end of normal time, extra time will be played in accordance with the LOTG. Extra time shall consist of two periods of fifteen (15) minutes each, with an interval of five minutes at the end of normal playing time, but not between the two periods of extra time. Should the score remain a draw at the end of the second period of extra time, the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty spot in accordance with the LOTG.

- 29.18 The NL is the property of NZF and as such NZF retains, at its absolute discretion, all rights to the marketing and promotion of the Grand Final.

#### **OFC Qualifying Competition of the FIFA Club World Cup**

- 29.19 Should New Zealand be entitled to one entry in the OFC Qualifying Competition of the FIFA Club World Cup, then, subject to regulation 29.21, that entry in the OFC Qualifying Competition of the FIFA Club World Cup, will be to the winner of the Grand Final of the Championship Phase.
- 29.20 Should New Zealand be entitled to have two entries in the OFC Qualifying Competition of the FIFA Club World Cup, then subject to regulation 29.21, the highest ranked entry shall be the winner of the NL, being The Grand Final of the Championship Phase and the second ranked entry shall be the runner-up of the Grand Final of the Championship Phase.
- 29.21 Notwithstanding anything in these Regulations, NZF in its absolute discretion retains the right to:
- 29.21.1 interpret and decide the effect of regulations 29.19-29.20; and/or
- 29.21.2 determine the Participant(s) that qualify for any OFC Qualifying Competition of the FIFA Club World Cup.

### **30 TROPHY, AWARDS & MEDALS**

- 30.1 The winner of each Regional League will be presented with the respective trophy of that competition. All trophies remain the property of NZF, and respective winners are liable for the loss or damage done to the trophy. In addition, NZF shall provide thirty-five (35) medals to each of the Champions of the Regional Phase.
- 30.2 The NL Trophy will be presented to the winner of the Championship Phase at the conclusion of the Championship Phase Grand Final.
- 30.3 The NL Trophy and Golden Boot is the property of NZF and shall be insured by NZF. The winner of the Championship Phase is responsible for the loss of, and any damage done, to the trophy. The winner of the Championship Phase shall return the trophy to NZF in good order and condition two months prior to the date of the following the Championship Phase Grand Final.
- 30.4 In addition to the NL Trophy, NZF shall present thirty-five (35) medals to each of the Participants in the Championship Phase Grand Final, plus four (4) to the Match Officials of the day.
- 30.5 At the conclusion of the Championship Phase the Golden Boot will be awarded to the Player who scores the most goals in the Championship Phase. The Golden Boot will be awarded at the conclusion of the Championship Grand Final.
- 30.6 At the conclusion of the Championship Phase a Player will be awarded the Most Valuable Player (MVP) based on a shortlist of who has been awarded the most points voted by their opposition in the Championship Phase that will then be determined by NZF at its sole discretion. Each Participant shall select three opposition Players in each match and shall rank the Players based on performance and award 3 points, 2 points and 1 point respectively. The MVP trophy will be awarded at the conclusion of the Championship Phase Grand Final.

## **31 NON-COMPLIANCE**

31.1 Unless otherwise specified, if a Participant is in breach of these Regulations, and/or any part of the Operations Manual and/or any part of the Participation Agreement, the following procedure will be undertaken to remedy the breach:

31.1.1 In the first instance of a breach, NZF shall notify the Participant in writing of the breach, and the Participant will be given a reasonable period of time to rectify the breach. It is the Participant's responsibility to undertake remedial action within the timeframe set & to keep NZF informed of progress, including any possible delays due to circumstances beyond its control;

31.1.2 If the breach is not rectified within the timeframe prescribed, NZF shall issue a second written notice to the Participant, outlining the breach and a timeframe for rectification, and imposing a fine. The level of fine will be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending upon the particular matters of the breach. It is the Participant's responsibility to undertake remedial action within the timeframe set and to keep NZF informed of progress, including any possible delays due to circumstances beyond its control;

31.1.3 If the breach is not remedied within the prescribed timeframe after the issuance of the second notice of breach, the Participant will be banned from participation in the NL upon 10 days written notice to the Participant.

## **32 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

32.1 For the purposes of this regulation, "Intellectual Property" shall mean the intellectual property of NZF in the NL (this includes the Regional Phase and the Championship Phase) including but not limited to all copyright, trademarks, design rights and all rights whether created before or after the date of the Regulations and/or relevant Participation Agreement and whether registered or unregistered, the format of the NL, the Participation Agreement and Regulations of the NL, the name and logo of the NL, all broadcasting, media and production and reproduction rights of any games in the NL in any form whatsoever, all operational information including the NZF Operations Manual, all promotional and advertising material in relation to the NL and all internet and website based information on the NL and the Competition. For the avoidance of doubt, any footage of matches played in the NL is the property of NZF and no Participant or party may make matches publicly available, either live or on a later date, unless prior approval from NZF is obtained. Any rights passed to the Participants for the purposes of live streaming are at the sole discretion of NZF as outlined to Participants via the Operations Manual or other documentation issued by NZF from time to time.

32.2 A Participant shall ensure that the ownership by NZF of the Intellectual Property is protected at all times and that any breach of it or unauthorised or unlicensed use of it is reported to NZF promptly.

32.3 Any unauthorised or unlicensed use of the Intellectual Property by a Participant or any such unauthorised or unlicensed use permitted by a Participant shall be deemed a breach of these Regulations and enforceable under the non-compliance provisions of these Regulations.



### **33 CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 33.1 No person is entitled to bring the NL, NZF, the game or any related issue into disrepute. In particular, Team Officials and Players are not entitled to communicate negative comments to the media, aimed at any official, which results in such disrepute. Any person who breaches this regulation will be liable to a fine of \$500 per breach, at the sole discretion of NZF.

### **34 MISCELLANEOUS**

- 34.1 Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by NZF. All decisions shall be final.

### **35 REFERENCES**

- 35.1 IFAB Laws of the Game:  
<https://downloads.theifab.com/downloads/laws-of-the-game-2024-25?l=en>
- 35.2 FIFA Statutes and Regulations;  
<https://www.fifa.com/who-we-are/legal/rules-and-regulations/documents/>
- 35.3 New Zealand Football Statutes and Regulations:  
<https://www.nzfootball.co.nz/ABOUT-US/Important-Information/Statutes-Regulations>
- 35.4 Sport Integrity Commission:  
<https://sportintegrity.nz/>
- 35.5 Additional Permanent Concussion Substitutions Protocol:  
<https://www.theifab.com/laws/latest/additional-permanent-concussion-substitutions-protocol/>

## APPENDIX ONE

### NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYING STRIP REGULATIONS

#### 1 Numbers

- 1.1 The numbering of the Players shall be regulated by the relevant competition Regulations to be issued by NZF.
- 1.2 The Player's number must be displayed on the back of their playing shirt and, where possible, on the front of the shorts. The player's number must be displayed on the front of the shorts during the Championship Phase. The same number may, at the Participants discretion, be displayed on the front of the shirt must be displayed on the back of his playing shirt and on the front of the shorts. The number must be clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance for all Players, Match Officials, spectators and media from the colours used for the respective playing equipment item. This distinction may be achieved by displaying the numbers on a single-coloured patch. The number may be surrounded by a border or shadow outline.
- 1.3 The size of the number on the back of the shirt must be between 25cm and 35cm in height and positioned in the centre of the back of the shirt. The number must be entirely visible when the Player's shirt is tucked into the shorts. The stroke width of the figure of the numbers on the back of the shirt used by the Players must be between 3cm and 5cm.
- 1.4 The number on the front of the shirt must be positioned at chest level, and the size of the number must be between 10cm and 15cm in height.
- 1.5 The number on the front of the shorts may be positioned on either leg. The size of the number must be between 10cm and 15cm in height.

#### 2 Advertising

- 2.1 Player's strips may carry advertising subject to the following conditions:
  - 2.1.1 There is no conflict with the interests of the sponsors of the relevant competition;
  - 2.1.2 The sponsorship does not conflict with the aims and objectives of NZF;
  - 2.1.3 The strip design has been submitted for approval to NZF;
  - 2.1.4 NZF has approved the strip design in writing; and
  - 2.1.5 The dimension of the proposed advertising does not exceed those outlined in these Regulations.
- 2.2 Subject to NZF approval in accordance with clause 2.1.3 of this Appendix One, advertising and logos shall be permitted on Players shirts as follows:
  - 2.2.1 Competition Logo - One example of the competition logo having an area not exceeding 100cm<sup>2</sup> on the right sleeve;
  - 2.2.2 Sponsor Badge (Logo) - One example of the competition sponsor emblem having an area not exceeding 100cm<sup>2</sup> on the left sleeve;

- 2.2.3 Participant Badge (Logo) - One example of the Participant emblem having an area not exceeding 100 cm<sup>2</sup>;
- 2.2.4 Makers Trademark - One example of the trademark or name of the manufacturer of such clothing, having an area of not more than 20 cm<sup>2</sup>;
- 2.2.5 Participant Sponsor - Participants are limited to two registered sponsors on the front and two registered sponsors on the back of the shirt. Any sponsor may appear in more than one place. The location of the name or logo of the Participant sponsor or sponsors must be as follows:
- a (Major Sponsor) Front of Shirt - One name or logo giving recognition to only one sponsor, which:
    - i Shall be the same sponsor on all the players and goalkeepers shirts;
    - ii Shall be the same name message or logo on all of the shirts;
    - iii Shall not be of a luminous or reflective material;
    - iv Shall not use up an area greater than 450cm<sup>2</sup>;
    - v Shall not exceed 30cms in width and 15cms in height.
  - b (Minor Sponsor) Front of Shirt - One name or logo giving recognition to only one sponsor, which:
    - vi Shall be the same sponsor on all the players and goalkeepers shirts;
    - vii Shall be the same name message or logo on all of the shirts;
    - viii Shall not be of a luminous or reflective material;
    - ix Shall not use up an area greater than 200cm<sup>2</sup>;
    - x Shall not exceed 30cms in width.
  - c Back of Shirt, Above the Shirt Number – One name or logo giving recognition to only one sponsor, which:
    - i May be a different sponsor on each of the players and goalkeepers shirts;
    - ii Shall not be of a luminous or reflective material;
    - iii Shall not use up an area greater than 150cm<sup>2</sup>;
    - iv Shall not exceed 30cms in width and 5cms in height; and
    - v Shall appear above the players and goalkeepers respective numbers.
  - d Back of Shirt, Below the Shirt Number – One name or logo giving recognition to only one sponsor, which:

- i Shall be the same sponsor on all the players and goalkeepers shirts;
- ii Shall be the same name message or logo on all of the shirts;
- iii Shall not be of a luminous or reflective material;
- iv Shall not use up an area greater than 300cm<sup>2</sup>;
- v Shall not exceed 30cms in width and 10cms in height; and
- vi Shall appear below the players and goalkeepers respective numbers.

2.3 The only advertising and logos permitted on players shorts shall be as follows:

2.3.1 Competition Logo – One example of the Competition logo having an area not exceeding 105cm<sup>2</sup>, 7cm in height or 5cm in width, and being located on the front of either leg, but not on the same leg as the number.

2.3.2 Participant Badge (Logo) – One example of the Participant emblem having an area not exceeding 50cm<sup>2</sup> and being located on the front of either leg, but not on the same leg as the number.

2.3.3 Makers Trademark – One example of the trademark or name of the manufacturer of such clothing, having an area of not more than 20cm<sup>2</sup> and being located on the front of either leg, but not on the same leg as the number.

2.3.4 Participant Sponsor – One example of the name or logo of a Participant's sponsor or sponsors on the front of the shorts, having an area not exceeding 105cm<sup>2</sup>, 7cm in height or 15cm in width, and being located on either leg, but not the same leg as the number.

2.4 The respective advertising area is to be calculated by measuring around the outline of the advertising and to include the space between the words if more than one word is carried, or between words and emblem, if both are carried.

2.5 Nothing that may be regarded as distasteful, ethically or morally undesirable, must be carried on any item of clothing or equipment.

2.6 No advertising that may be deemed to have any connection with the cigarette or tobacco industry will be permitted.

2.7 No colour or design may be used in advertising, which might create problems of identification. This means that the colour and design of the clothing of opponents, goalkeepers and Match Officials must be taken into account.

2.8 Participants may seek an exemption to allow for additional sponsors on Player's strips. Participants must request an exemption from NZF, including the design of the playing kits including the potential sponsor, and a brief summary of the potential sponsor to the Competitions Administrator. NZF may approve or reject the request for an exemption at its sole discretion.

### **3 Previous Player Strip**

- 3.1 A Participant may seek an exemption from NZF from complying with any one or more requirement of this Appendix One in order to utilise its player strip from a previous season. A Participant must request such an exemption from NZF prior to the new NL Season and NZF will award such exemptions in its sole discretion.