



COMPETITION RULES

1.0 RULES

1.1 FIFA Laws of the Game shall apply except when superseded by any of the following rules.

1.2 The intent is for the competition rules to apply for a full 12 months.

1.3 All players participating in the Gold Coast Masters Soccer Association are required to sign an acknowledgement OR agree to Terms & Conditions upon electronic registration that they are individually and personally responsible for his/her provision of personal accident insurance to relieve the club of any responsibility whatsoever should the player become injured, unable to work or incapacitated while participating in activities organized by the Gold Coast Masters Soccer Association.

2.0 TEAM COMPOSITION

2.1 Each team can nominate 17 registered players for any competition game and 16 registered players for finals. *(Amended 20.2.24 on trial basis)*

2.2 The number of players registered for each team shall be limited to 20. A team may request dispensation for a greater number where the team's membership includes players aged over 60.

2.3 Players can freely change teams at the start of a season but need to be released from the team after playing the first game for that team.

2.4 Players can be interchanged without restrictions with the permission of the Referee but only when the ball is out of play.

2.5 Each team must nominate a Captain before the match begins.

3.0 FORFEIT AND DEFAULT MATCHES

You must have 8 registered players from the team on the pitch at the scheduled kick off time for it to be a full competition game.

At all times the Committee's decision is final and any intentional abuse of the Competition Rules may result in the game being classed as a forfeit.

If you cannot field 8 players by the scheduled kick off time then the match is a forfeit and a 5-0 loss is recorded.

4.0 MATCH OFFICIALS

- 4.1 All officials should possess a good understanding of the rules.
- 4.2 A pool of Referee's and Assistant Referees will be compiled by the Referee Coordinator.
- 4.3 Fees for the Referee's shall be borne by the Club.
- 4.4 Assistant Referees appointed by the referee coordinator will be paid at the rate agreed by the Committee.
- 4.5 Management Committee members are deemed to be a official the same as a referee. Any abuse or disrespect toward a Management Committee member will be considered the same as abuse of a referee and the same penalties will apply.

5.0 SANCTIONS AND JUDICIARY

- 5.1 Team Leaders are responsible for the conduct of their players and must withdraw any player who is unwilling to play in the intended spirit, fun and fellowship.
 - 5.2 The Referee will have sole discretion as to disciplinary action against rough or ungentlemanly conduct on the field.
 - 5.3 A sin-bin situation is to be implemented at the Referee's discretion. This is a TEN minute period off the field. It is not mandatory that the player also be shown a Yellow card. No replacement is allowed.
 - 5.4 Two yellow cards in a game will be considered the equivalent of a red card as in FIFA rules. A team may not replace a player who has been sent off for a red card offence.
 - 5.5 Play shall not resume until a player who receives a red card has left the proximity of the field. The Referee may abandon game if player refuses to comply.
 - 5.5.1. If a player is given a red card (sent off) the player shall automatically be suspended until day after the team in which he/she is registered has played its next game.
 - 5.5.2. A forfeited game or games cancelled by rain are not to be counted as a missed game.
 - 5.5.3. The judiciary committee can impose a longer suspension if the referee submits areport with the red card.
 - 5.5.4. Suspensions commence from the time the player is dismissed. Should a team play a suspended player it will forfeit the game.
 - 5.6 Any player who has been sent off for the second time (red card) during any competition may be automatically suspended for the remainder of that season.
- Any suspended player may have the right of appeal to the Judiciary Committee. A notice of intention to appeal must be given to the Secretary.
- The Judiciary Committee must, within 1 month after the day of receipt call a meeting with the player to decide the appeal.

6.0 OFFENCES

6.1 No slide tackles are permitted. No tackles from behind are permitted.

Goalkeepers are allowed to slide out but not feet first.

Referee will award Indirect Free Kick for “careless” indiscretions and have **option** of using sin bin.

Referee will award Direct Free Kick for “reckless/excessive force” indiscretions and show relevant card and enforce sin bin visit.

6.1.1 First Offence – 10 minutes off field for yellow card.

6.1.2 Second Offence – Send Off – Referee to note name on team sheet.

6.2 Aggressive play is not tolerated. Same penalty as above.

6.3 Dissent and foul language are not tolerated. Same penalty as above.

6.4 Any player(s) involved in fighting will be sent off immediately. (red card)

6.5 A player who is laying/sitting/kneeling on the ground is not permitted to play at the ball within the vicinity of opposing players. Player must remain on his feet during process of playing the ball and not hyper extend the leg or slide in order to maintain or release ball. Referee will award in indirect free kick

6.6 To protect goalkeepers, any 50/50 challenge by an attacker on a goalkeeper is deemed to be a foul and a direct free kick awarded to the goalkeeper’s team

For safety and in keeping within the spirit of the game players should be encouraged to pull out of any challenge with a goalkeeper which could result in injury. The Referees are encouraged to call “keepers ball” to indicate to players that the goalkeeper should be allowed to recover the ball.

6.7 Any team playing an incorrect “loan player”, suspended, unregistered, underage or a non-financial player will forfeit the game.

7.0 VENUES

7.1 The Management Committee will determine details of the competitions regarding number of teams, length of games, point scores, trophies, etc. as the situation demands.

7.2 The Management Committee will issue draws of all competitions to each TeamLeader who shall ensure that individual team members are aware of the draw. The Management Committee shall also post the draws on Club website and advise the team’s nominated Representative as to changes of venues or date & times which occur within 7 days prior to the game.

7.3 It shall be the responsibility of each player to check game details.

7.4 In case of both teams having the same colours: Team playing in Non-Approved colours changes otherwise the Away team changes (ie. Second team named.)

6.0 TEAM SHEETS/BOOK PLAYERS

6.1 Team Leaders must ensure players have signed the team sheet prior to taking the field the game.

6.2 “Loan” players are solely to assist teams to be able to have a full squad (11) on the field.

6.3 Team Leaders have the right to request verification as to the identity of any player on the opposition team sheet.

6.4 All players playing in the game must have signed the teamsheet prior to taking the field, including those players arriving late.

6.5 Any “loan” players name and their regular team must be shown in brackets on the team sheet.

6.6 Teams who do not present fully filled in team sheets will be penalised one point; whether they win, lose or draw.

6.7 Loan Players:

6.7.1 May only be utilised to make up 11 players in total (ie team has no substitute players),

6.7.2 Any registered player may play as a “loan” player in Division 1,

6.7.3 Only those players registered in Division 2 who are aged 45 or above may play as a “loan” player in Division 2 provided that a specialist goalkeeper (being someone who only ever plays in goal) from Division 1 shall be permitted to play as a goalkeeper,

6.7.4 Loan players must have been nominated on team sheet before taking field and the opposing team advised.

9.0 GUEST PLAYERS

9.1 A guest player is limited to one who has not signed up as a player in the previous season (half year).

9.2 A team player is not to be displaced in order to play a guest player.

9.3 A guest player can be a guest only twice and must complete a disclaimer form and pay a guest player fee of \$10/game prior to playing.

9.4 Guest players are ONLY allowed to play in normal competition fixtures excluding finals.

10.0 TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

10.1 Any team joining the “Gold Coast Masters Soccer Association” may do so in the name of their club or any other name of their choosing but all the players must apply to become financial members of the Gold Coast Masters Soccer Association.

10.2 The Management Committee will issue draws of all competitions to each Team Leader who shall ensure that individual team members are aware of the draw. The Management Committee shall also post the draws on club website.

10.3 The first two teams playing are responsible for positioning the goal posts and corner flags.

10.4 The last two teams playing are responsible for repositioning the goal posts and collecting the corner flags. All equipment to be placed in storage room.

10.5 All team members are requested to look after their club’s property.

11.0 SPECIAL RULINGS

11.1 Any player who is suspended by a FFA affiliated body or **Gold Coast Over 35s Soccer Association** will **NOT** be eligible to play in Gold Coast Masters Soccer Association.

11.2 Any player aged 60 or over is entitled to wear “yellow/golden” coloured shorts. The Referee is to be notified of the presence of such players prior to commencement of the game.

11.3 A player wearing “yellow/golden” colored shorts in possession of the ball is not able to be tackled or challenged for the ball whilst:

- stationary or within a 1 metre radius of location where possession was taken
- within the first 5-metres of movement with the ball whilst outside of the penalty area

but only within 10 seconds of receiving taking possession of the ball.

(The Referee may verbally warn players to not encroach and may also indicate by countdown when the “protection” period is approaching expiration but ultimately the onus for not offending rests with the opposition player.)

(Rule Amended 20.2.24)

11.4 Only registered players are eligible to play for their own team during the FA Cup or other competition. No loan, new members or guest players. The exception is goalkeepers.

FA Cup Final – teams can only use players who have played a minimum of three games for that team in the current year.

11.5 Any game cancelled by the Management Committee will be recorded as a scoreless draw with both teams awarded 3 points unless the game has been otherwise re-scheduled.

11.6 New players shall not be added to a Teams Rosters in the final 6 games of a Competition. The Committee may make special exemptions where a team has insufficient players able to play due to injury or absence for the whole period.