



**GSSA**  
GREAT SOUTHERN SOCCER ASSOCIATION

**COMPETITION MANAGEMENT AND  
RULES OF COMPETITION 2024**

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## Introduction

These Laws shall apply to all teams taking part in all Great Southern Soccer Association (GSSA) fixtures.

All GSSA fixtures are played under FIFA Laws of the game unless otherwise specified in GSSA Rules of Competition, Competition Management or By-laws, in such case local rules only.

If a rule or regulation is not included in this document or other GSSA regulations or policies, GSSA will determine any such occurrence and post any amendment to the rules or regulations resulting from any determination to the club delegates.

For the purpose of these regulations, please refer to the Definitions Guide for all terms used.

GSSA includes, but is not limited to its competition procedures, competition team, committees, and sub-committees.

## Documents

This by-Law must be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- FIFA Documents
- FIFA Laws of the Game FIFA Statutes
- FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
- FIFA Disciplinary Code
- FFA Documents
- FFA Constitution
- National Registration Regulations National Disciplinary Regulations FFA Grievance Procedure By-Law
- National Arbitration Tribunal Regulations
- FFA Judicial Bodies By-Law National Code of Conduct
- National Member Protection Policy National Privacy Policy
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### **Competition Management and Rules of Competition**

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## **Section 1- Competition Management**

### **1 Competition Format**

- 1.1 The competitions in the Great Southern Soccer Association will be structured as follows, both Men's and Women's competition will have two to three Divisions, which may be known as "Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3". Other divisions may be created as deemed necessary by the association, which may include for example a specialized Men's Master Division.
- 1.2 The divisions will operate independently of each other. Players will register to a club at the beginning of the season (or at time of registration if mid-season). Players will not move between the divisions during the season without an official transfer. No player may apply for more than one transfer during any one season.
- 1.3 Players registering during the season may be assessed for a division allocation prior to taking the field, by their club.
- 1.4 The club responsible for the players shall discuss any allocation to divisions and any transfer between divisions as deemed necessary with the player(s) involved.
- 1.5 Clubs shall nominate for which divisions they will play in, and team lists will be forwarded to the Secretary and Registrar along with any changes or additions during the season.
- 1.6 Players will be allocated to teams on registration with Football West by the responsible club, on the My Football club website and any changes during the season will be made by the club.
- 1.7 Clubs shall nominate teams for either the Division 1, 2, 3 or 4, or any other division (s) as determined by the Executive Committee. A team may be allocated to a specific division by the Association based upon their previous performance, playing strength of the said club, or number of nominations. All clubs are encouraged to nominate a division 1 team or be working towards developing a division 1 team in following seasons.
- 1.8 The Executive Committee shall decide whether the Association shall participate in intrastate, interstate or international events and whether it shall be represented by club or Association teams.

## 2 Clubs

- 2.1 Clubs must be registered with Football West prior to registering players with the GSSA.
  - (a) Club registration permits an affiliate club of the GSSA to enter teams in any competition organized by the GSSA.
  - (b) Clubs must pay an annual affiliation fee, the amount of which is determined at the AGM of GSSA each year.
  - (c) Clubs must complete and return a GSSA Affiliates application form prior to the end of February, unless a specific date is named by the Executive Committee, to the secretary to be affiliated within the Great Southern Soccer Association.
- 2.2 No club may advertise a sponsor's name or logo in any form if the nature of the sponsor's business, name, or logo, is not in keeping with the image of the GSSA, as determined by the GSSA. Areas of business that would be deemed unacceptable include, but not limited to those relating to firearms, smoking and tobacco products, alcohol and the serving of alcohol, and adult entertainment.
- 2.3 Each club shall register with the Association on an annual basis via GSSA team nomination or new team uniform forms in writing to the GSSA Secretary to be approved:
  - (a) The club colours.
  - (b) Colours of each team's shirts, shorts and socks including change strip. This includes a different colour shirt for the goalkeeper.
  - (c) Any club's sponsorship, indicating the size of the logo
- 2.4 All club uniforms must be keeping in line with the GSSA image mentioned in 2.2.
- 2.5 In the event of a clash of colours the "away" team must change.
- 2.6 If prior or during the match the shirts of participating teams are alike or similar or are in the opinion of the referee likely to cause confusion, the away team will be required to change their shirt or wear numbered bibs. In the event of any dispute regarding the strip to be worn by either team, the referee's decision is final.
- 2.7 All clubs shall have their players uniquely Arabic numbered shirts.
- 2.8 All numbers shall be worn on the back of shirts and shall be clearly visible and distinguishable from a reasonable distance

- 2.9 The Match Referee shall report any club or player's uniform which doesn't conform to the above policy e.g., shirt numbers not being Arabic
- 2.10 A club infringing 2.1-2.9 and any part thereof may be fined an amount as described in Section 4-13 Other Charges
- 2.11 Clubs and individuals are required to have their uniform/kit also adhere to the standards set out in Law 4, Players Equipment, especially section 3.

### **3 Registration**

All registrations within the GSSA must comply with the FFA National Registration Guidelines.

- 3.1 The Association reserves the right to nominate a registration fee as required for the GSSA component of the registration fee, to be paid in conjunction with the City of Albany and Football West fees and any other annual fees that may occur but excluding any club component. The player registration fee will be set by the Executive Committee prior to the commencement of Pre-Season.
- 3.2 Failure to pay the prescribed registration fee and all its components within fourteen (14) days of the player registering on My Football website will result in the registration being null and void.
- 3.3 Failure to register players as required and subsequently playing unregistered players will result in the game being awarded against the offending club as 3-0 forfeiture with three (3) points being awarded to their opponents. The offending club may be fined as amount as described in the By- Laws Sect 3-9 Other Charges
- 3.4 Individual registrations for players during the season who are joining a team shall be lodged on the My Football website in the team allocated by the club for that player no later than 48 hours before the players match, and the Registrar/Assistant Registrars will be notified of this in writing/email prior to that match.
- 3.5 All players playing in GSSA competitions can only be an "amateur player" as defined by the FIFA and FFA. No professional player and/or player on signed contract involving payment may play in any Association match. A retired professional player wishing to play the GSSA must be reinstated to Amateur status prior to the player's first match.
- 3.6 The following players are not permitted to play in any competitions or be registered with the GSSA
  - (a) Any player who received monies and/or goods or benefits (apart from individual trophies and awards) from playing the game of soccer/football.

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- (b) Any player who has signed contracts involving the payment of monies or the transfer of goods in return for playing soccer/football.
- 3.7 All players must register with the club of their choice but may not be registered with more than one club across all GSSA Competitions unless they are registered with the AJSA (dual GSSA/AJSA registration). They must play only with that club to which the player is registered unless the team has an association approved player sharing agreement with the team in question.
- 3.8 A registration is valid from the date on which the registration or re-registration is lodged with a club and until the player registers with the same or another club for the season in the next following calendar year or the first match of the season in the next following year, whichever occurs first.
- 3.9 GSSA in its discretion, reserves the right to refuse or cancel a registration. Any player or club retains the right of appeal to the GSSA against the refusal or cancellation of a registration.
- 3.10 Requests for refunds on player registrations, where the player has decided not to play, will be made without penalty if received by the GSSA prior to the first match of the season. Requests for refunds on player registrations where the player has decided not to play, received after the first match of the season may incur an administration charge. If a player sustains a season ending injury, prior to round six (6), upon provision of a medical certificate stating this fact, the Association may on a case-by-case basis refund a portion of the registration (this does not include insurance and only affects the GSSA fees).
- 3.11 "Poaching" players from other clubs (Including AJSA Affiliated Clubs), by GSSA Affiliated Clubs is not allowed, and substantiated evidence of such, will be treated as a severe breach of GSSA protocol should be dealt with in accordance with the GSSA By-Laws.
- (a) "Poaching" is defined as the direct approach of a player of one club/team by an official/representative of another club or team, with the intention of having the player join that club or team.
- 3.12 Any player of a club, which becomes defunct or is non-financial shall be eligible for registration with another club as long as the Executive are satisfied that the players themselves are financial.

## **4 Transfers**

- 4.1 The transfer of a player's registration from one club to another must be on the prescribed transfer form and duly signed by the player, or where applicable the parent/guardian and the two clubs concerned. The form must then be

- submitted to the GSSA Registrar.
- 4.2 The transfer does not become effective until the Association Registrar has cleared the players transfer.
  - 4.3 Players may only transfer once during the season within the GSSA.
  - 4.4 A player will not be allowed to transfer between clubs after the 30th of June.
  - 4.5 Transfers during the season must be at the request of the player otherwise Section 3.11 (poaching) may apply.
  - 4.6 Transfer forms shall be delivered to the Registrar no later than one (1) week before the next fixture match.
  - 4.7 Once any transfer has been approved, the player must be deregistered from the original club/team on the My Football club site and re registered in the receiving club/teams lists on that site.
  - 4.8 The Association reserves the right to nominate a transfer fee as required.
  - 4.9 Failure to pay the prescribed transfer fee within two (2) weeks of transfer will result in the transfer being null and void.
  - 4.10 A club may transfer only three (3) players from any one registered Association club during the playing season unless permission is granted by the club holding the registration forms.
  - 4.11 The Executive Committee shall have the power to reject any application for transfer or cancel any transfer as it may deem expedient, but the person so affected may appeal within fourteen (14) days against any such cancellation or rejection.
  - 4.12 At the end of the season a player may transfer to another club without clearance from his/her previous club, but only if all property and monies due to the original club has been returned and paid.
  - 4.13 Any club playing a player not transferred as described in this section from 4.1-4.12 shall be reported to the P&D Board and the game will be awarded against the offending club as 3-0 with three (3) points awarded to their opponents. The offending club may also be fined an amount as described in By Law Section 4.8 Other charges.

## **5 Match Officials**

All Match Officials are to act in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Match Officials, National Disciplinary Regulations and officiate as per the Laws of the Game.

- 5.1 Match Officials shall be allocated by the Referee Coordinator, or an appointed GSSA Committee Member. No club, team or individual may request the appointment or non-appointment of any Match Official.

- 5.2 Should a Match Official either not be assigned or fails to arrive with ten (10) minutes of the scheduled kick off time, without communication to the Referee Coordinator or an appointed GSSA Committee Member, the following applies:
- (a) Both teams shall agree to a person to officiate the match. That person shall assume the same responsibilities as would an official referee. Note: Coaches are not encouraged to referee their own matches.
  - (b) Where Assistant Referees for whatever reason are not able to be provided by the GSSA, it is expected that a representative from the clubs (including players) fill this role. To remove any doubt the team with the highest match day squad according to the match card, shall offer up a suitable player for the role (using a player from the bench).
  - (c) Each club is responsible for the actions of persons acting as it's referee and/or assistant referees.
- 5.3 Official referees shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches. In the event of that the Match Official is not available or uncontactable. Assistant Referees will contact the Referee Coordinator, or an appointed GSSA Committee Member, who will then contact the Registrar/Assistant Registrar who together can decide the fitness of the ground or whether inclement weather deems the playing conditions unsafe.
- 5.4 If a conflict of interest exists in relation to the match to be officiated at, it is the responsibility of the Match Official to advise the referee Coordinator, or an appointed GSSA Committee Member. The Match Official will then disclose the conflict of interest to each team coach (not the players) prior to the match commencing and make note of it on the Match Card. A conflict that may prohibit a Match Official being assigned is a player, or any club official being immediate family to the Match Official. These decisions are up to the Referee Coordinator's discretion and are considered final.
- 5.5 Each match is controlled by the referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he or she has been appointed. The powers and duties of a Referee are as specified in the Laws of the Game and, in particular, Law 5. The Referee has the authority to make disciplinary decisions, as from the moment the Referee enters the field of play until he or she leaves the field of play after the final whistle.
- 5.6 During a match, the referee makes the disciplinary decisions, and these decisions are final.
- 5.7 No person is to be permitted to enter the field of play during the match without the permission of the Match Official, which shall be granted under an emergency

situation or for an injured player to be attended to.

- 5.8 Players may be substituted at half time without informing the referee, provided that the player numbers remain correct as per Laws of the Game.
- 5.9 Approaches to any Match Officials, before during and after matches may only be made by the Club's Secretary or properly appointed club committee member who must identify themselves to the Match Official and state the reason for their approach.
- 5.10 Under NO circumstances are players or coaches including players that are part of the clubs committee or an official of the club engaged in the match to approach the Match Officials once the match has been completed. Notwithstanding this, Referees may choose to approach individuals where they deem it appropriate.
- 5.11 Any player, official, spectator, or non-playing club associate assaulting/striking a referee, assistant referee, player, or any other person shall be reported to the P&D Board and may be expelled, suspended, or fined an amount as per By-Law Sect 4-15 Table of Offenses and/or placed on a good behaviour bond, or dealt with as the P&D Board considers appropriate.
- 5.12 Fees due to allocated Match Officials will be paid on a regular basis by the Treasurer. The pay period will be decided upon by the Executive Committee and the Treasurer prior to the commencement of the season.

## **6 League**

- 6.1 League and Knock-Out Cup Competitions are run as separate competitions. League placings will not influence the Knock-Out Cup draw.
- 6.2 League competitions shall be decided by points earned during the season, the team gaining the highest number of points in each respective league being deemed the winner of that league and the team with the second highest number of points being deemed the runner-up of that League.
  - (a) Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) point shall be awarded to each team for a draw, and zero (0) awarded for a loss.
  - (b) In the event of the teams finishing the home and away season with equal points, the tie will be separated by:
    - i. goals scored
    - ii. goals conceded
  - (c) If teams cannot be separated by the items listed in (b) the teams head-to-head record over the total amount of matches played against each other will be the deciding factor.

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- (d) If teams still can't be separated by then, if possible, a tie-break match will be played.
  - (e) If a tie-break match is not possible then the title will be declared a draw.
- 6.3 Where sufficient teams exist, promotion and relegation between divisions in the same league shall be determined by the Registrar before the season commences. The team finishing last in the division will automatically be considered for relegation from that division in the following season.
- 6.4 All teams shall play under the conditions as described within the By-Laws, Association Constitution, and the Rules of Competition.
- 6.5 The team finishing the home and away season at the top of the ladder for each respective league shall have their name recorded on the GSSA league honour board or equivalent and be awarded medals to a maximum of eighteen (18) per team.
- 6.6 The team finishing the home and away season in second position on the ladder for each League may be awarded to a maximum of eighteen (18) medals per team.
- 6.7 In all league matches, Fairest and Best points will be awarded as follows:
- (a) The Match Official, in consultation with the Match Officials, will allocate votes to three (3) players of their choice which will be recorded for the Registrar
  - (b) Three (3) votes will be awarded to the player deemed to be judged best afield
  - (c) Two (2) votes will be awarded to the player deemed to be judged second best afield
  - (d) One (1) vote will be awarded to the player deemed to be judged third best afield
  - (e) The names of players receiving Fairest and Best votes are not to be shared unless deemed acceptable by the Registrar
- 6.8 No Fairest and Best points will be awarded:
- (a) for Knock-Out Cup matches
- 6.9 The player receiving the highest number of Fairest and Best points for the season in each league will be awarded a Fairest and Best Award.
- 6.10 The player receiving the second highest number of Fairest and Best points for the season in each league will be awarded a runner up Fairest and Best Award.
- 6.11 The player receiving the third highest number of Fairest and Best points for the season in each league will be named as the third placed Fairest and Best.
- 6.12 In the event of a tie in the Fairest and Best points, two or more trophies may be awarded, but in the event of a tie for the first place, no runner up Award will be awarded.

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- 6.13 Players who receive a suspension during the season are ineligible to receive the Fairest or Best, or runner up Fairest and Best Trophies.
- 6.14 The Association reserves the right to create other awards for season as the deem appropriate

## **7 Knock-Out Cup Competition**

- 7.1 League and Knock-Out Competitions are run as separate events
- 7.2 All clubs must be financial to participate in the Knock-Out Cup Competition
- 7.3 A club may apply in writing to be not included in the Knock-Out Cup Competition.
- 7.4 The Knock-Out Cup format, being that a loss removes a team from further participation in the competition (subject to clause 3.3), winning teams progress to the next round.
- 7.5 The winning team of each GSSA Knock-Out Cup competition will have their names added to the Knock-Out Cup Honour board and if available may receive medals to a maximum of eighteen (18) per team. Runners up may receive medals (to a maximum of 18) per team. Each Match Official appointed may receive a medal in recognition of officiating at the Cup Final
- 7.6 The GSSA shall endeavour to supply a neutral referee for each Cup Match, and assistant referees (linesman) for all semi-final and final cup games. Referees are to be appointed by the Referee Coordinator or other appointed GSSA Committee Member. No Club may request the appointment or non-appointment of any match official.
- 7.7 The names of the teams in each GSSA league competition are placed in a draw (s) as determined by the GSSA Registrar. In the case of odd teams refer to Sect 8.5
- (a) The teams are then drawn at random to form the Quarter-Final Round of the Knock-Out Cup Competition,
  - (b) Semi-Finals
    - i. Quarter Final winners of Game 1 play winners of Game 2
    - ii. Quarter Final winners of Game 3 play winners of Game 4
  - (c) Finals are played between the winners of both Semi-Final matches.
- 7.8 In all instances the team drawn first in a cup fixture will be considered the home team, and in the event of a clash of colours the team drawn second will change

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their uniform.

- 7.9 If a team is eliminated from a cup competition due to any reason other than the result of a cup match, the team at the discretion of the GSSA Registrar, may be replaced in the cup competition by a team that was beaten in the previous round by the offending team.
- 7.10 Knock-Out Cup Matches may only be rescheduled at the discretion of the GSSA and both teams involved must make formal application to the GSSA Registrar for the request to be considered at the discretion of the Registrar.
- 7.11 The decisions of the GSSA Registrar regarding a rescheduling request is final and may not be appealed.
- 7.12 The decision of whether to enforce a replay for any abandoned cup match will be at the discretion of the GSSA Committee.
- 7.13 Any Club not fulfilling a cup fixture shall be referred to the P&D Board with a recommendation that the club be suspended from all Cup Competition fixtures in the remaining and following season.
- 7.14 To be eligible to play in the cup, players must be registered and have been listed on two (2) regular League game match cards for that team during that season prior to the cup round, unless at the discretion of the GSSA
- 7.15 In the Men and Women's Division 1 or Division 2 Leagues, players must have been listed on two regular league game match cards for that team during the season prior to the cup round. E.g., two games in Division 1 or Division 2 not one in each division.
- 7.16 Players are cup-tied according to the team they play for on the first round of the Cup Competition (Elimination Round or Quarter Final Round). They may not "play up or play down" in any other cup fixtures even if the team is short and their team has been eliminated. Any breach of the Cup-Tied player rules, and playing of an ineligible player, will mean automatic forfeit and elimination of the team from the competition. Men and Women's Division 1 / Division 2 Leagues: the players will be cup tied in the division that they play the first cup match with.
- 7.17 Players who transfer from one club to another and have already participated in a cup competition shall be ineligible to participate for their new club.
- 7.18 It is the responsibility of the clubs of the Association to ensure the eligibility of their players. Any club that plays an ineligible player may be reported to the P&D Board and the match will be awarded to their opponents on the basis of 3-0 and

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the offending club may be fined an amount as found in By Law Sect 4-8 item 3.8 will apply.

- 7.19 Any team infringing 7.14 by playing ineligible players on two occasions in one season will be reported to the P&D Board and may be fined an amount as found in By Law Sect 4- 8 Other Charges and may be expelled, suspended and/or placed on a good behaviour bond.
- 7.20 Where both teams are found to have ineligible players for any reason including being unregistered or it both teams are found to be non-financial or a combination of these, so that both teams are ineligible to field a team, then the match will be declared null and void and no result will be recorded and both teams will be eliminated from the Cup Competition
- 7.21 In the Knock-Out Cup matches, if scores are level at full-time, then...
- (a) extra time shall be played with 2 halves of 15 minutes each.
  - (b) If no winner can be determined at the end of playing extra time, penalties shall be taken by five (5) different players from each team, with the team with the highest score being deemed the winner.
  - (c) Should the result still be tied, then successive penalties shall be taken by the remaining players of each team alternatively, until a winner is determined based on the team that scores the most goals from the same number of penalty attempts.
- 7.22 Only players who are on the field at the end of the match, including extra time, can take part in the penalties.

## **8 Fixtures**

- 8.1 The season dates shall be set by the GSSA. The season will run from April till September unless specified by the Association.
- 8.2 All match fixtures will be arranged by the Registrar two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the competition.
- 8.3 All teams are to ensure that nominations and team lists are forwarded to the Registrar no later than the date nominated by the Executive Committee in order that fixtures can be set in place for the commencement of the season
- 8.4 The Registrar will distribute proposed fixtures to clubs and the clubs have seven (7) days to notify the Registrar of any reasonable scheduling issues. All requests after this date won't be considered unless in exceptional circumstances The GSSA reserves all rights on their final ruling.

- 8.5 Kick off times for all leagues, cups and carnival fixtures shall be determined by the Registrar/Assistant Registrar (s) and Executive Committee. If odd teams are in a league, then bye rounds will be scheduled. In the Cup Knock-out competitions, the bye round automatically qualifies for the next round.
- 8.6 In the interests of fairness, the Registrar (or person appointed by the Registrar) will endeavour to ensure that all teams will play an equal number of matches but may not play each other the same number of times.
- 8.7 Requests for teams to enter a league or change leagues after the first match of the relevant competitions shall be considered at the discretion of the GSSA.
- 8.8 Any team entering a new league (or new to the competition) shall not receive any points for matches not played prior to their entry to that League, Points earned -in previous leagues are not transferable.
- 8.9 Teams that would have otherwise played the new team, had they been entered in the League from the commencement of the season, shall be awarded the match and three goals. No catch-up matches will be permitted.
- 8.10 Where a team has transferred or withdrawn from a league, teams having already played the team in the league from which the team is transferring, shall have all point and goals earned or conceded in the relevant matches deducted from or added to their totals.
- 8.11 Any team not fulfilling any three (3) of their fixtures in their division during the season may face expulsion from the Association for the remainder of the season, and/or may incur a fine as prescribed in By-Law Sect 4-6 Other Charges. Any postponed fixture must be rescheduled and completed during the current season. If a mutually agreed upon date of the postponed match cannot be reached within seven (7) days of the original fixture date, the game will be played at a time and date determined by the Registrar.
- 8.12 If through weather conditions or other acts of nature, a match is not completed, it shall be replayed fully, subject to the 75-minute rule. Should a match be abandoned for any other cause, awarding other points, replays, or penalty, shall be vested in the Executive Committee or the P&D Board.
- 8.13 Any team refusing to enter the field of play to commence or continue a match or walking off the field of play during a match, for any reason at all except without approval of the referee shall be referred to the P&D Board who shall at their discretion confirm the outcome of the match by awarding of points, ordering a replay or imposing a penalty. They may also be fined as according to By Laws Sect 4-7 Other Charges

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## 9 Match Forfeits / Cancellations and Rescheduling

- 9.1 Teams will be deemed to have forfeited a match when...
- (a) any team not ready to commence play within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled match commencement time, with the match result and three goals awarded to the opposing team for League matches, or progression to the next round for Knock-Out Cup matches
  - (b) any team having fewer than seven (7) players, will be deemed as having insufficient numbers to field a team
- 9.2 Any team forfeiting a match must contact the Association Registrar who will inform the other team and the referee coordinator concerned. Notice may be issued via social media if necessary.
- 9.3 Any league match not played according to the scheduled fixtures must be played within the same round unless written permission is obtained from the Association Registrar.
- 9.4 The GSSA will generally not consider any request from a club for a fixture change once the deadline for any changes to the fixtures has passed, unless at the discretion of the Registrar and/or the Executive Committee. The request must be made in writing at least 14 days prior to the scheduled kick off time. A match postponed or abandoned due to weather conditions or other acts of nature may be replayed fully. Arrangements for the replay of the match will be made by the Registrar.
- 9.5 If a match is abandoned for any other reason, decisions related to the awarding of points, or the replaying of the match will be made by the GSSA Registrar. If the match is abandoned due to 9.1(a) the offending club may be responsible for the full referee's fees and any other expense related at the discretion of the Registrar.
- 9.6 Should the referee abandon the match after 75% of the match being completed, the match result at the time of the game being abandoned will end.
- 9.7 Should the referee abandon the match prior to 75% of the match being completed, the match result at time of the game being abandoned will stand. Unless one or both competing clubs request the fixture to be replayed.
- 9.8 Clubs must request a replay of the match, in writing to the Registrar within seventy- two (72) hours of the fixture being concluded. Any requests received after this time will be disregarded and the match result will stand. The decisions of the

GSSA Registrar regarding the request for a replay is final. GSSA reserves the right to refer the matter to the P&D Panel for determination.

- 9.9 The GSSA Registrar will take into consideration the following factors when considering such request:
- (a) Reason why the fixture was abandoned
  - (b) Result of the game at the time of abandonment
  - (c) The impact of the final League standing of this fixture.
- 9.10 The GSSA may, at the request of a club, received within 72 hours of the completion of the fixture, or at the discretion of the GSSA, refer to any deliberate incident that results in the abandonment of a GSSA fixture to the P&D Panel for determination.
- 9.11 If the allegation is proven under 9.11 the P&D may decide to direct one or more the following outcomes:
- (a) Fixture to be replayed
  - (b) Award 3-0 to the opposition
  - (c) Match result to stand
  - (d) Deduction of three (3) championship points to the offending club.

## **10 Association Carnivals (Tournaments and Competition)**

- 10.1 The Executive Committee shall appoint an individual or group to administer all Association Carnival (Games Tournaments) both in or out of season, organised under the jurisdiction of the association which are not part of the league or cup schedule.
- 10.2 The Appointed Officer shall draft Rules of Competition and Management to submit to Football West as per their requirements.
- 10.3 The Carnival Officer or a nominated representative, shall administer the Association Carnival according to these rules.
- 10.4 The Carnival Officer or nominated representative shall be responsible for implantation of the Rules and decisions shall be final and binding according to the By-Laws of the GSSA and all participating clubs.
- 10.5 All Clubs and registered players of the Association are required to abide by the Football West Policy regarding Friendlies and register the details of the match/tournament via the website forms prior to the match/tournament commencing and be approved by Football West.

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## Section Two - Rules of Competition

### 11 Field of play

- 11.1 Pitch size: The length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line. Minimum size: 90m x 45m and maximum size 120m x 90m
- 11.2 The GSSA will endeavour to ensure that all goalposts shall be the correct size in accordance with the Laws of the Game (FIFA Regulations) (Distance between the posts: 7:32m (8yds); distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground: 2:44m (8ft) and must managed in accordance with guidelines set out from time to time by GSSA and Football West. Goals must be firmly secured to the ground.
- 11.3 All ground markings shall be as per the Laws of the Game and shall be clearly visible, with exception of marking the technical area, which is not compulsory.
- (a) The technical area shall be marked by a line, one (1) meter on either side of the halfway line.
  - (b) Clubs hosting "offsite" games are to ensure that pitches are correctly marked, and nets placed on goals for home games.
- 11.4 The duty club is the first mentioned club on the published fixtures list. Where two or more fixtures are to be played at the same time, and at the same venue, then both first named clubs for the earliest fixture will share Duty Club responsibilities before the start of play, and the first two named clubs for the last fixtures(s) will share Duty Club Responsibilities are the conclusion of the last match.
- 11.5 Duty clubs are responsible for:
- (a) to ensuring that all goal nets and flags are put up correctly, removed and stored in the equipment room.
  - (b) Responsible for ensuring all amenities are left in a clean and reasonable condition
  - (c) Responsible for ensuring that the toilets are left clean and tidy
  - (d) Responsible for ensuring the ground and surrounding areas are free from debris
- NOTE: Any club not fulfilling their responsibilities as per 11.4 may incur a fine as prescribed in By-Law Sect 4-12 and 13 Other Charges
- 11.6 Prior to the commencement of any club, team or players using facilities as allocated, it is the responsibility of any person discovering an obvious hazard to report the matter to their club secretary in writing who will then forward the matter onto the Registrar.
- 11.7 Where another sports pitch is marked out, the football pitch shall be clearly

distinguishable from the other. It is the responsibility of the individual or group appointed by the GSSA to ensure correct markings.

- 11.8 Should the pitch, equipment or marking be deemed unsuitable by an official referee and unable to be rectified immediately, the match shall be moved to a vacant pitch (if available) or postponed and rescheduled by the Registrar.

## 12 Technical Rules

### 12.1 Match Balls:

- (a) The GSSA will provide the match officials with up to three match balls which are to be stored in the Referee's room. Alternatively, the association may determine that clubs are to be responsible for supplying the Match Officials with match balls.
- (b) Match balls are to be purchased by the Association and must be size 5 balls.

### 12.2 Matches:

- (a) The GSSA shall determine the starting time of all matches
- (b) There shall be no added time added for injuries in any league/division match unless the Referee in his/her discretion allows extra time due to the seriousness of the injury that has occurred and by informing both team coaches time has been time added. If this affects the following fixture, the assigned match official may use his discretion to move the game to another pitch if available.
- (c) In the event of a match starting late, the referee shall reduce the total playing time by the number of the minutes that the match is late and divided the balance of playing time into two (2) halves.

### 12.3 Players Equipment:

- (a) A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player including any jewellery. All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, fake/long fingernails etc.) are strictly forbidden and must be removed or adjusted to an appropriate and safe length. Using tape to cover jewellery is not acceptable. Sweat bands may be worn" Referees are prohibited from wearing jewellery except for a watch or similar timing device. Players are instructed to refer to the IFAB Laws of the Game - Law Four
- (b) Medic alert bracelets may be worn but should be taped down with the alert screen remaining uncovered.
- (c) Players may play in 'skins' or compression garments, they must be similar in colour to the main colour of the club uniform that they are wearing.
- (d) Referees may examine footwear of all players entering the field of play, prior to the

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commencement of all matches, to ensure the safety of the player's footwear. In the case of a player or their footwear being deemed hazardous, the Referee shall have the power to request a player to rectify their footwear according to.

- (e) Any other equipment permitted to be worn is as per Section 4 of Law 4 – Laws of the Game.
- (f) Any Player not complying with 12.3 is not permitted to play and the Referee may request a player to either: rectify their equipment, remove the item, leave the field of play if the player is unable or unwilling to comply, any player who refuses to comply or wears the item again must be cautioned.

Note: Players are instructed to refer to Laws of the Game, for further information

## 13 Players

13.1 A player is only eligible to participate in a match where their registration has been approved by the Registrar.

13.2 The number of players shall provide for optimum involvement and development:

- (a) A maximum of eleven (11) players are permitted to be on the field for one team at any given time.
- (b) A maximum of five (5) interchangeable substitutes are permitted to be used in any match. Substituted players may take the field again in the same match.
- (c) Any team playing in the Women's and Men's Division 1 or 2 shall not have any more than sixteen (16) players listed on the match card.
- (d) Any team playing in the Women's and Men's Division 3 or 4 shall not have any more than eighteen (18) players listed on the match card.

13.3 Playing up:

- (a) Playing up refers to a registered player in Division 3 or 4 playing in Division 1 or 2 to ensure that the Division 1 or 2 team can play for that match week.
- (b) The player "filling in" can have played their game for their division 3 or 4 side earlier in that match week.
- (c) Players may play up to assist a team that is low on players i.e., having less than eleven (11) players present, to make a maximum of 13 players for that match.
- (d) Any player who is playing up for a team may only do so for a team within the same club, or for a team with which a player share affiliation that has been agreed and approved by the association.
- (e) All players playing up must comply with other rules governing the competition in question.

- (f) Any player, from any team or league may only play up a total of three (3) times in a season. Players wishing to 'play up' more than this must transfer between the divisions.
- (g) Players "playing up" must be clearly marked as "S" on the Match Card when utilising paper form match cards.
- (h) Players cannot play down i.e., a registered Division 1 or 2 player playing in Division 3 or 4.

#### 13.4 In relation to the Division 1 and 2 Competition only:

- (a) Clubs shall nominate a senior Squad consisting of a minimum of twenty-six (26) and a maximum of thirty-two (32) registered players who participate in the 2024 Division 1 and Division 2 competitions. Squad members may play in either division in any league round. Clubs must submit to the Association a players roster (listing all eligible players) to be considered a squad. The GSSA may use its discretion to accept a squad of less than 26, and any such decision will be considered final.
- (b) Players selected in the starting 11 of the Division 1 team shall only be permitted to play the one game in that round of competition. Division 2 selected players are permitted to be named on the substitutes bench for Division 1 league games in the same round.
- (c) Division 3 or 4 competition registered players may "play up" in the Division 1 or 2 competition a maximum of three (3) times being required to transfer permanently into the clubs' senior squad (see above). This is to be a maximum of three (3) times playing up.
- (d) Squad registered players (from Division 1 and 2) are not permitted to play down in Division 3 or 4 Competition.
- (e) If a squad is unable to field two matches in any given round, in the process of giving priority to the Division 1 game, the Division 2 team may be required to fulfil their match even if depleted below eleven (11) players.
- (f) If a club has a team in the Division 1 and Division 2 Competition and only has enough players to field one side in each round of competition, the club may be required to forfeit the Division 2 match.

#### 13.5 Age of players:

- (a) Age requirements for all competitions are that they have turned the qualified age within that calendar year.
- (b) Players (female players aged 14 and male players aged 15) who have been approved to participate in the GSSA are required to adhere to any restrictions established by either GSSA or Football West. This may encompass regulations regarding the specific league in which the player is eligible to compete. Failure to comply with these conditions will result in the player being ineligible to participate and potential

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penalties imposed upon the club.

13.6 Where there is an exclusive Masters Competition:

- (a) 35+ Master's Men's teams may have two (2) players under the age of 35 years. All players must be marked clearly with an asterisk (\*) on the match card. N.B These players must be registered as Masters players not Open League players.
- (b) Only players who have been registered previously with the same Masters team are eligible to play as an Under 35 player for that said team. Teams must still comply with rule 13.6.a even when substitute player are joining the team.

13.7 Ineligible players are defined as:

- (a) Unregistered player
- (b) A non-financial player
- (c) A player not on the match card
- (d) A player on suspension
- (e) A cup tied player
- (f) A player deemed ineligible by the P&D Panel, Appeals Panel or the GSSA.

**Note: All clubs/teams PLEASE READ before letting a player take the pitch**

13.8 In all cases where a team is proven to have played an illegible player for any reason in a GSSA match, that team shall forfeit the match concerned, and a 3-0 win will be credited to the opposing team. The person or persons responsible may be liable for suspension as per the GSSA By-Laws Sect 4-8 Other Charges

13.9 It is the responsibility of the club to ensure eligibility of its players.

13.10 If a club nominates two (2) teams for the same division:

- (a) They will be required to submit playing lists for each individual team to ensure players are only playing for their respected team i.e., Player A cannot play for both "Team A" and "Team B"
- (b) If Team A has less than 11 players, they will be allowed to bring players up ('playing up' clause) from a lower division to ensure that they have enough players (see 13.3)
- (c) If Team A has less than 11 players but do not have a team in a lower division, the club may request, in writing to the GSSA Registrar no fewer than 48 hours to the allocated time for kick off, to "share" players for that specific round. This is a round to round basis that the request must be made. If the request is granted, those players can only play for one team that round.
- (d) the GSSA reserves the right to refuse and place them in another division if those divisions have not been nominated or already filled by the club. It is the

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responsibility of the GSSA to ensure fair and equitable gameplay for all registered players.

13.11 The following cap limits will apply for the 2024 season for the Men's competition.

Clubs that have...

- (a) Division 1 team only will have up to 20 players registered max.
- (b) Division 2 team only will have up to 20 players registered max.
- (c) Division 3 team only will have up to 20 players registered max.
- (d) Division 1 and 2 teams will have a squad of 26-32 players (see 13.4)
- (e) Division 1 and 3 teams will up to 18 players registered as Division 1, and up to 20 players registered as Division 3
- (f) Division 2 and 3 teams will have up to 18 players registered as Division 2, and up to 20 players registered as Division 3
- (g) Division 1, 2, and 3 teams will have a squad of 26-32 players for Division 1 and 2, up to 20 players registered as Division 3
- (h) Division 1 and 2 teams, and Division 3 with two teams will have a squad of 26-32 players in Division 1 and 2, and up to 20 players registered as Division 3 per team.  
(No sharing of players unless permission granted in division 3)

13.12 The following cap limits will apply for the 2024 season for the Women's competition. Clubs that have...

- (a) Division 1 team only will have up to 20 players registered max.
- (b) Division 2 team only will have up to 20 players registered max.
- (c) Division 3 team only will have up to 20 players registered max.
- (d) Division 1 and 2 teams will have a squad of 26-32 players (see 13.4)
- (e) Division 1 and 3 teams will have up to 18 players registered as Division 1, and up to 20 players registered as Division 3.
- (f) Division 1, 2, and 3 teams will have a squad of 26-32 players for Division 1 and 2, and up to 20 players registered as Division 3
- (g) Two Division 1 teams will have up to 16 players registered per team (no sharing of players unless permission granted, see 13.10)
- (h) Two Division 2 teams will have up to 16 players registered per team (no sharing of players unless permission granted, see 13.10)
- (i) Division 1 team and two Division 2 teams will have up to 18 players registered per team with limits on players sharing between divisions.
- (j) Two Division 1 teams and two Division 2 teams will have 16 players registered per team. Teams sharing from Division 2 to Division 1 will be allowed, but not between the two Division 1 and Division 2 teams unless permission granted. Limits will apply.

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- (k) Division 2 and 3 teams will have up to 18 players registered as Division 2, and up to 20 players registered as Division 3

13.13 The GSSA executive will use their discretion for scenarios outside of the above rules (13.11 and 13.12)

13.14 If a club/team wishes to register a number of players that fall outside of the above limits, they must write to the GSSA Executive for permission two weeks prior to the season commencement. The final decision will be at the GSSA Executives discretion.

## 14 Match documentation

14.1 The correct match cards to be used for all matches are:

- (a) White match cards are to be used for all **league matches**
- (b) Blue (any shade) match cards are to be used for **knockout cup matches** only.
- (c) If determined by the Association, electronic match cards will be used for all matches in lieu of paper form match cards. If determined, electronic match cards will be the preferred method.

**Note: If utilising paper form match cards, only the new GSSA Match Cards are to be used from the 2024 season onwards.**

14.2 In all matches, the first team mentioned first shall be the home team.

14.3 All match cards are to be completed either electronically or, if using paper form match cards, in ball-point ink, in block capital letters and contain the player's name (first name and surname) and shirt number in the appropriate columns. Lead pencil is not acceptable, neither is the use of a felt tipped pen, nor liquid ink. Failure to complete the match card in accordance with the Rules of Competition By-Laws Section 4-10 may result in a fine. The amount of such a fine shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

14.4 The coach or club official will complete an official match card (electronically or paper form), prior to the start of every match, certifying that all the players shown on the card are properly registered and/or eligible association players. Where no official assistant referee is in attendance, the names of club appointed referees shall be show on the reverse side of the card.

14.5 The official concerned in signing the match card and where an infringement has been proved will be reported to a P&D Board and may be liable to suspension and banning from involvement in football in any way and/or may be fined an amount as prescribed in By-Law Sect 4-2,9

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- 14.6 The match cards for the opposing team shall be available for viewing by the team managers, coaches or captain who will note any discrepancy with the opposing team's match cards. The club official will then make note of the concerned player's number and the relevant details on the match card and inform the Referee. In all instances the game shall go ahead.
- 14.7 In all Division 1 and 2 matches, a maximum match day team of sixteen (16) will be allowed. In all Division 3 and 4 matches, a maximum match day team of eighteen (18) will be allowed. Failure to Comply may result in the match concerned being forfeited to the opposition.
- 14.8 If no match cards are available, the club shall supply a player's list for the match to the referee. Note: Match cards are available online via the Association website
- (a) Match cards are to be handed to the referee no later than ten (10) minutes before the commencement of the match.
  - (b) The match referee shall report any discrepancies on the match card.
  - (c) The Match shall not commence until both match cards are in the Referee's possession or proven to be lodged electronically.
- 14.9 The player's shirt number must always match the number noted on the match card at all times.
- (a) If for any reason a player's shirt playing number changes throughout the game, the referee should be informed, and the change noted on the match card e.g., there is a change of goal keepers.
  - (b) Only the players indicated on the match card are eligible to take to the field. Failure to enter a player's name on the match card shall render that player ineligible to play in that match.
  - (c) The referee is to ensure that the match card is forwarded to the GSSA Registrar within forty-eight (48) hours by placing the match card into the box provided at the Western Precinct Pavilion, or electronically.
  - (d) In the event of it being proved to the satisfaction of the GSSA that a match card has been completely incorrectly or is incomplete, the GSSA may impose a forfeit on the offending team in accordance with disciplinary regulations which can be found in the GSSA by-laws Sect 4-10 Other Charges
  - (e) Notwithstanding Sect 1 9.2, in the case of a match card not being received by the Registrar, the Registrar will assume a double forfeit and award a 0-0 result until the match cards can be produced.
  - (f) Clubs shall be allowed a maximum of seven (7) days from the date of any match of the home and away season to register a protest at a recorded match result, otherwise the result stands
- 14.10 For the last two rounds of the season, protests must be lodged within three

(3) days from the date of the match.

14.11 For any Knockout cup matches, protests must be lodged with the Registrar within three (3) days of the date of the match.

14.12 The GSSA will endeavour to have the weekly results available to the public via either local media, social media or the GSSA website