



# Summary of Changes to the GHFA By-Laws Version 1.0 - 10 Dec 2014

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This document has been created as an aid for Clubs, Coaches, Managers and players in GHFA competitions to understand the recent changes to the GHFA By-Laws.

The new GHFA By-Laws, Revision 1.0 dated 10 Dec 2014, is a complete rewrite of the By-Laws:

- a) the majority of content is taken from the previous By-Laws,
- b) many clauses have been reworded to aid clarity,
- c) clauses pertaining to the same or similar topics have been grouped together,
- d) new clauses have been added.

The new By-Laws have 13 sections compared to 33 in the previous version. The following are key changes from the previous version of the By-Laws grouped by the new sections.

**Note that this is a guide only and the GHFA By-Laws should be read in full.**

**Reliance on this document will not be accepted as mitigating a breach of the By-Laws.**

## 1. ALTERATIONS TO THE BY-LAWS

*This By-Law defines who, how and when the By-Laws can be altered, amended or corrected.*

The main change is that minor corrections to the By-Laws are allowed by resolution at a Management Committee meeting, rather than requiring the convening a Special General Meeting.

## 2. TEAM NOMINATION, GRADING & REGISTRATION

*This By-Law defines how Clubs nominate teams to the Association, and how they are graded or allocated into competitions, and how team registrations are completed.*

Teams registered with a private academy or other external provider and/or coached and/or managed by a private academy or other external provider, are not permitted to register in the Association. This is a ruling from FNSW. Please contact GHFA Office if you need to clarify the definition of “private academy”.

Teams registering with the Association may contain up to five (5) players that are registered to play in the FNSW Regional League/Conference.

At team grading submissions, when there is a combination of two teams into one from the previous year then the highest division for grading for the current year for the nominated team will be no higher than the average of the previous year’s two divisions unless nominated by the Club. Clubs submitting such nominations shall advise the names of at least four (4) players from the previous season’s higher graded team.

At team registration, a team consisting of not less than four (4) players for Under 6 to Under 8; five (5) players for Under 9 to Under 11; seven (7) players for Under 12 to Over 45; and fourteen (14) players for Premier League and Super League must be registered by the due date.

## 3. TEAM COACH(S) AND MANAGERS

*This By-Law requires that all teams registered with the Association have a team coach and/or team manager registered with the Association to facilitate communication with teams.*



Each team must have at least one (1) team official, who may be either a coach or manager, registered with the Association by the fourth competition game. Any team which does not have at least one team official registered by the due date shall forfeit subsequent matches until such time as one (1) team official is registered.

Team Officials must wear their ID Cards or a GHFA armband for the period during which they are acting in that capacity. For stand-in Team Officials without team official ID cards, a GHFA armband must be worn. In the event that a Team Official is also a player in that Team, the Team Official shall identify themselves as such to the Referee prior to kick-off and are not required to wear ID Cards or armbands whilst on the field.

#### **4. PLAYER REGISTRATION**

*This By-Law requires that all players are registered with the Association. It also defines the eligibility criteria for playing in the various competitions and how players registered for one team may be re-registered with another team.*

The O45 Saving Provision has been rewritten as: Players aged Under 45 who were registered in Over 45 in 2014 may re-register for the same team (more than six returning players from the same team) in subsequent seasons. A returning team (even if merged) must not have more than four (4) Under 45 players.

#### **5. CLUB STRIP & SPONSORSHIP**

*This By-Law requires that all Clubs register their playing strip with the Association to ensure it complies with appropriate standards, for example sponsorship.*

Uniquely numbered bibs of a different colour to the Club's regular strip and of different colour to the opposition strip, will be sufficient to satisfy a change of strip.

#### **6. GROUNDS AND APPURTENANCES**

*This By-Law requires that all Clubs provide consistent and appropriate ground dressing for their assigned grounds.*

For matches where the new goal kick rule applies (for all Under12 and Under 13, see Section 8), that ground shall have easily visible posts or cones placed at the 25m mark out from each goal line, placed 1m outside each touch line.

#### **7. NON-COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL FORMAT**

*This By-Law defines how non-competitive football (small sided football, MiniRoos) is structured for each season. Non-competitive football is to foster skills development of younger players.*

For Under 9s, 7 v 7 games shall be played in twenty (20) minute halves with a five (5) minute half time on a field approximately 50 x 35 metres with goals 5m x 2m.

For Under 10s, 9 v 9 games shall be played on a field approximately 70 x 45 metres with goals 5m x 2m.

Match results and "competition" style tables shall not be recorded or published by the Association or Clubs.



## 8. COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL FORMAT

*This By-Law defines how competitive football is structured and conducted for each season. It is intended that Clubs ensure matches can proceed even when registered members of a team may not be available by allowing players of an appropriate standard from other teams within the Club to play in the match.*

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

At the completion of the Premiership, Championship or Pennant competitions, should there be two or more teams equal on points their competition table position shall be decided by

1. Greater goal difference (i.e. goals against subtracted from goals for).
2. If goal difference is the same, then the greater number of wins,
3. If goal difference and number of wins is the same, the team with the greatest number of goals scored for.

If the commencement of a match for grades up to and including Under 17 is delayed, a shorter period of time must be played in equal halves. For grades Under 18 and up, the correct match duration should be preserved where reasonably possible, avoiding encroachment into subsequent match times. However, for 1.00pm games, no shortened times will be played unless the game commences half an hour or more late.

### COMPETITION STRUCTURE (EXCLUDING PREMIER LEAGUE & SUPER LEAGUE)

For grade Under 11, games of 9 v 9 shall be played on a field approximately 70 x 45 metres with goals 5m x 2m.

For grades Under 12 and Under 13, at the taking of a goal kick, the attacking team shall remain at least 25m from the defending team's goal line until: the goal kick is taken and is touched by a second player of the defending team; the ball travels beyond the 25m line; play is stopped for any other breach of the rules; or the ball goes out-of-play. If an attacking player encroaches within the 25m boundary before any of the above then play shall be stopped and the goal kick retaken. Cones or poles shall be placed at the 25m mark at each end to assist the referee and players (see Section 6).

In Championship Finals for grades Under 17 and lower, where two teams are drawn at full time, ten (10) minutes extra time each way shall be played, except for matches played in 25 minute halves where the extra time shall be five (5) minutes each way. During that extra time, the first team to score will be declared the winner. If no score is recorded during the extra time, the teams shall be declared Joint Champions.

In Championship Finals for grades Under 18 and higher and Over Age grades, where two teams are drawn at full time, the winner shall be decided by a penalty shootout.

### COMPETITION STRUCTURE FOR PREMIER LEAGUE & SUPER LEAGUE

For the final five (5) games of the Premiership Competition, those players who play in first grade three (3) of the final five (5) games will be ineligible to play in reserve grade for the balance of the Premiership and Championship Competitions. A player that is ineligible to play in reserve grade under this rule, is permitted to play as goalkeeper in any subsequent reserve grade game/s, but that player is not permitted to play in any position other than goalkeeper in the reserve grade game/s.

### SUBSTITUTION & INTERCHANGE



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For grades Under 11 to All Age, Over 35 and Over 45, more than the specified number of players on the teamsheet shall result in a fine and not a forfeit. This does not apply to Premier or Super League.

## PLAYER IDENTITY CARDS:

If ID Cards are not available for inspection prior to the start of the match, the game shall be forfeited by the offending team. The opposition manager must advise the referee of the situation and at that time the referee shall write on the back of the team sheet that the ID Cards were not produced making sure he/she signs the notation. The teams may then play a friendly game.

ID Cards for players, substitutes and interchange players that arrive after the opposition manager has sighted the team ID cards, must be produced to the opposing manager before the player, substitute/interchange player takes the field of play, provided that the team's ID Cards were checked prior to the commencement of the game.

## PLAYING OUT OF GRADE

It is the responsibility of all Clubs to keep a record of all players playing out of grade. The Club must then notify the Association in writing when a player has played his/her 6th game out of his/her original grade/division and also the grade/division in which the player played his/her sixth game. To facilitate the administration of this provision, the Association shall notify a Club in writing whenever the Association becomes aware that one of the Club's players has played in a higher grade/division four (4) times out-of-grade in the season.

During Championship/Pennant matches, a player in Under 11 to Under 17 grades may only play out of grade in a division higher than or equal to their own registered team's division if playing in the next higher grade. These players can play in any division, if playing two grades higher than their own team's registered grade.

In grade Under 11 during Championship/Pennant games, teams may only use upgraded players if the team has less than 10 of their own registered players available. The team may then use as many upgraded players sufficient to bring the team to 10 players

Players registered in Over 45 Division 1 are not permitted to play out of grade in any Over 35 Division except Over 35 Division 1.

Players in Over 35 Division 1 are not permitted to play out-of-grade in All Age Division 5 or lower.

Players who are over the age of 40 on 31st December in the previous year who register as players in the Over 35 or All Age competitions will be noted by the Association as an "Over 40" player.

1. "Over 40" players that are not registered in Over 35 Division 1 or All Age Division 1, will be eligible to play for their Club as a substitute/interchange player in any division of Over 35, except for any Championship or Pennant Competition matches.
2. "Over 40" players registered in All Age Division 1 will only be eligible to play for their Club as a substitute/interchange player in Over 35 Division 1. "Over 40" players registered in All Age Division 1 are not eligible to play for their Club as a substitute/interchange player in Over 35 Division 1 in any Championship or Pennant Competition matches.

Players eligible to play in the Over 45 competition but who are registered in Over 35 or All Age competitions will be noted by the Association as eligible "Over 45" players. These players will be eligible to play for their Club as a substitute/interchange player in any division of Over 45 equal to or higher than



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the Over 35 Division or All Age Division in which they are registered. No more than two (2) "Over 45" players can play in any one Over 45 game.

## FORFEITS

Clauses have been rewritten but no major change to requirements.

However, please note as per Section 8 that for grades Under 11 to All Age, Over 35 and Over 45, more than the specified number of players on the teamsheet shall result in a fine and **not** a forfeit. This does not apply to Premier or Super League.

## TEAM SHEETS

All upgraded players listed on the team sheet will be deemed to have played in the match.

1. Players entered onto the team sheet, but who will not participate in the game, must be crossed off the teamsheet. The manager shall, before handing the teamsheet to the referee, do so by ruling a line completely through the entire row containing the player's name.
2. Players entered onto the team sheet, but who do not take the field in the game, may be crossed off the teamsheet after the completion of the match. The manager shall, in the presence of the referee, do so by ruling a line completely through the entire row containing the player's name.

## REFEREES

Clauses have been rewritten but no major change to requirements.

## 9. DISCIPLINE

*This By-Law defines how grievance or disciplinary matters are dealt with.*

No change to requirements.

## 10. PROTESTS/APPEALS

*This By-Law defines how Clubs or players may appeal decisions of the Association or constituted bodies of the Association.*

No change to requirements.

## 11. PERPETUAL TROPHIES

*This By-Law defines the management of perpetual trophies*

No change to requirements.

## 12. SPECIAL COMPETITIONS

*This By-Law allows the Associations to run competitions other than those described elsewhere in these By-Laws.*

No change to requirements.



### 13. FEES AND FINES

*This By-Law defines the fees and fines that may be applied to Clubs, teams or players in accordance with general By-Laws.*

#### 13.1. GHFA Forfeit Fees:

Under 6 to Under 8	\$15.00
Under 9 to Under 11	\$20.00
Under 12 to Under 14	\$25.00
Under 15 to Under 16	\$30.00
Under 17 to AA	\$75.00
Over 35 to Over 45	\$75.00
Premier League & Super League	\$100.00

In addition to the above fees, if notification of such forfeit is NOT given to the Association by 4.00pm on the Friday preceding the game then the team forfeiting shall also be liable for the appropriate match officials' fees for the forfeited game.

13.2. Protest Fee: \$200.00

13.3. Appeal Fee: \$250.00 (\$100 of which is not refundable)

13.4. Late Team Registration Fine: \$100.00

#### 13.5. GHFA General Fines:

Undressed Grounds	\$50.00
No Ball	\$10.00
No Result	\$10.00
Non-attendance at MC Meeting	\$50.00
More than the allowed players on teamsheet	\$25.00
Non-numbered Shirts	\$5.00 per team
No Team Official ID (ID card or Armband)	\$5.00
No Alternate Strip	\$50.00
Incorrect Result Submitted to GHFA	\$10.00 per team per match
Failing to return perpetual trophy	\$100.00 each

13.6. The MC shall have the power to waive any fees or fines.

#### 13.7. State Competitions:

13.7.1. Failure to notify results by the prescribed time in the prescribed manner - \$250 (or such other amount as FNSW may impose)

13.7.2. Forfeit Fee - \$250 (or such other amount as FNSW may impose)

13.8. Fines for non-competitive football shall be \$5.00 per infringement except where varied by By Law 7.15 or By Law 13.1.

13.9. Fine for not complying with Strip & Sponsorship (see By-Law 5.3.4) shall not exceed \$500.