

**Annexure 9**  
**Women's Metropolitan**  
**League**

## Article 1 - Competition Format

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1. A club may not enter more than one team into the same division unless the club enters more teams than there are divisions or at the discretion of Football West.
2. The club finishing in first place of each division at the end of the season will be crowned the champion club for that season. The order in which teams finish the competition will be determined by the criteria specified in Article 2.
3. The clubs finishing in first and second places of each division at the end of the season, with the exception of the highest division, will play in the division above in the following season, subject to paragraph 1.
4. The clubs finishing in the lowest two places of each division at the end of the season, with the exception of the lowest ranked division, will play in the division below in the following season, subject to paragraph 1.
5. If enacting paragraphs 3 or 4 causes paragraph 1 to be breached, then Football West will determine which clubs are promoted and relegated, if any.
6. A club may request a change to the division of one or more of its teams in the Women's Metropolitan League. Any such change may or may not be granted at the discretion of Football West, and if granted any change will be subject to the applicable fees. The decision as to whether or not a change request is granted by Football West is final.

## Article 2 - Competition Points

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1. Three points will be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a defeat. Points are not transferable between divisions.
2. If two or more teams are equal on points on completion of the season, the following criteria are applied in order to determine the higher ranking team.
  - a) the team with the superior goal difference
  - b) the team with the higher number of goals scored
  - c) the number of points gained in matches between the teams concerned
  - d) the superior goal difference in matches between the teams concerned
  - e) the team with the lower number of red cards
  - f) the team with the lower number of yellow cards
  - g) the drawing of lots

## Article 3 - Individual Awards

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1. A Fairest and Best prize will be awarded to the best player in each division.
2. The match referee for each match will award votes. Three votes will be awarded to the best player, two votes to the next best player and one vote awarded to the third best player.
3. The player who receives the most votes over the course of the season will win the Fairest and Best prize for her division.
4. If two or more players tie for the highest number of votes, then a prize will be awarded to each of those players.
5. If a player receives a suspension as a result of being shown a red card, or as a result of a sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee during the regular season, she will be ineligible to win the Fairest and Best Award for that season.

6. An award will be presented to the player who scores the most goals in her division in league matches throughout the season. If two or more players score an equal number of goals, an award will be presented to each player of those players.

## Article 4 - Venue

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1. The home venue of a Women's Metropolitan League club must meet the criteria of a Class D venue as specified in the Football West Competition Management By-Law.
2. A club may request to change its home ground venue but may do so only by written application to Football West. Football West reserves the right to refuse any application if the facilities do not meet the criteria as specified in the Football West Competition Management By-Law.
3. Football West reserves the right to reject any application for a change of venue if the proposed new venue is within 5 kilometres of another Women's Metropolitan League club.
4. Football West reserves the right to require that its sponsors' signage is prominently displayed at all Football West matches.
5. Football West reserves the right to take whatever action is deemed necessary in the event that Women's Metropolitan League Matches are affected by changes to the availability of any venue or venues.

## Article 5 - Matches

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1. With the exception of abandoned matches, each period of a match must last for a minimum of 30 minutes in order that a result may be recorded.
2. The duration of the half time interval will be 10 minutes.
3. The referee may adjust the duration of a match to ensure that a following match on the same field of play commences at the scheduled kick-off time.
4. When a match is shortened in accordance with paragraph 3, each match official is entitled to receive the full amount of his normal match fee.
5. On days in which the temperature is expected to be high, the referee may use his discretion to allow players to take drink breaks. During any such break, all players must remain on the field of play.
6. The home club must provide one stretcher which is to be placed in a safe and accessible position. The stretcher must be in position before the commencement of the first match of the day until the conclusion of the final match of the day unless being utilised.
7. Each team must have a first aid kit available at the venue on the date of the match.
8. The result of each match must be entered into Fox Sports Pulse by the home club no later than 8:00pm on the day of the match, unless the match kicks off after 3:30pm.  
**Penalty for Breach        \$30**
9. Each club is responsible and accountable for the behaviour of its spectators and their adherence to the Spectator Code of Behaviour, whether playing at home, away or at a neutral venue. It is the responsibility of the ground marshals to inform spectators of any breach of the Spectator Code of Behaviour and request immediate compliance.

10. Football West may from time to time nominate any match as being under the direct control of Football West. In such circumstances, Football West will determine the conditions under which the match is to be played.
11. Substitutes in the Women's Metropolitan League are not bound by the condition in Law 3 of the Laws of the Game forbidding further participation in the match. All substitutes in the Women's Metropolitan League are able to be substituted on and off the field of play on multiple occasions.
12. No more than five named substitutes may be listed on the team list of which a maximum of five may be used in any one match.

## Article 6 - Postponed or Forfeited Matches

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1. A postponed match may be rearranged at a mutually convenient time and venue by the participating clubs. Football West must be notified in writing of the date, time and venue of the rescheduled match at least 72 hours prior to the rescheduled kick-off time.
2. If a postponed match cannot be rescheduled through mutual agreement, Football West will determine the date, time and venue of the match and any such decision will be final.

## Article 7 - Ground Marshals

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1. Each club must appoint a ground marshal who is 18 years of age or older whose duties are:
  - a) to ensure the security and safety of players, match referees and club officials;
  - b) to supervise the conduct of ball persons if provided;
  - c) to liaise with club officials and emergency services if required;
  - d) to ensure the security of the venue, players, match referees and club officials at the conclusion of the match; and
  - e) to provide an escort for the referee to and from the field of play at the start and finish of each playing period.
2. Neither the coach nor manager of a team involved in a match may act as ground marshal for that match.
3. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that the ground marshals are fully briefed on their responsibilities.
4. All ground marshals must have access to all areas of the ground at all times. Ground marshals may not be limited to a specific location (for example, the person working in a canteen may not be a ground marshal).
5. All ground marshals must wear the ground marshal vests which have been supplied by Football West for the duration of the match. Lost vests may be purchased from Football West.
6. Ground marshals must be visible at all times.
7. The ground marshals may not smoke or drink alcohol while on duty.
8. All ground marshals must identify themselves to the appointed match referee at least fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of each match.

## Article 8 - Match Documentation

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1. The team list for each match must clearly indicate the match result, the half-time score, goal scorers if any, times of any goals scored and misconduct offences. Each team list must be correctly signed by the authorised representative of each club and the match referee.

2. The referee must provide the facts relating to the match to the home club within 15 minutes of the completion of the match.
3. The appointed referee must ensure that the team list arrives at Football West within 2 business days of the completion of the match.
4. The appointed referee must complete a match report according to the instructions dictated by the Referees Technical Committee. Such reports are to be lodged with Football West within 2 business days of the completion of the match.
5. If no referee is appointed by Football West, it is the responsibility of the referee appointed by the home club, under the conditions of Article 12 paragraph 4, to ensure that all match documentation is received by Football West within 2 business days of the completion of the match, including any reports of expulsions (red cards).
6. At the conclusion of each match, the match official will record best and fairest votes. This information is not to be disclosed to anybody and must be lodged with Football West within 2 business days of the completion of the match.

## Article 9 - Players

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1. Only female players are eligible to compete in the Women's Metropolitan League.  
**Penalty for Breach**      **Forfeit**
2. To be eligible to play in the Women's Metropolitan League, a player must have been born in ~~2001-2002~~ or earlier.
3. A player who was born in ~~2002-2003~~ or later may apply to Football West to be assessed as being competent to play in the Women's Metropolitan League but is ineligible to play until such competency has been provided to the club in writing.
4. A player who is listed on a team list in a Women's State League match, may not be listed on the team list of a team in the Women's Metropolitan League on the same day.
5. Once a player has been listed on the team list of a team of the Women's State League (including first team and reserves team matches) on nine occasions, she may not appear on the team list of any team in the Women's Metropolitan League for the remainder of the season.
6. A player who has been listed on the team list of an NTC team may not play for any team in the Women's Metropolitan League for the rest of the season.
7. A player who was recorded on the player roster in a Westfield W-League team may not be listed on the team list of a Women's Metropolitan League within 12 months of the completion of ~~the relevant~~ **the most recent** Westfield W-League season.

## Article 10 - Playing Strips

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1. All clubs must nominate a "home" and "alternative" playing strip.
2. In any match, if the shirts or socks of the participating teams are alike or similar, or are in the opinion of the referee likely to cause confusion, then players of the away team will be required to change its shirts or socks or both. In the event of any dispute with regard to the strip to be worn by either team, the referee's decision is final.

3. If the shirts or socks of the participating teams are alike or similar, or are in the opinion of the referee likely to cause confusion, and the away team is unable to change that part of its attire which is causing that confusion, then the match may not proceed. For the avoidance of doubt, bibs may NOT be worn.

## Article 11 - Match Balls

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1. The home club will provide the referee with three match balls no later than 5 minutes prior to the commencement of the match.

## Article 12 - Match Officials

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1. Each club is responsible for 50% of match official fees. Football West will determine the fees payable and publish the rates prior to the commencement of each season.
2. Match official fees are payable in cash to the match official(s) on the day.
3. The allocation of match officials will be determined by Football West. No club may request the attendance or non-attendance of any particular match official.
4. In the event that a referee is not allocated to the match by Football West, or that none of the match officials allocated to a match is ready and able to commence the match within 5 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, then the home club will allocate a referee.
5. In the absence of one or both assistant referees, each team will provide a club assistant referee to assist the match referee. If either club does not comply, then the match may not proceed.
6. If the appointed referee postpones or delays any match, he must submit a report in writing to Football West within 72 hours of the scheduled conclusion of the match outlining the reasons for his actions. The appointed referee is entitled to 50% of the prescribed match fee for a postponed match and 100% of the match fee for a delayed match which is subsequently completed or abandoned.
7. When a match is forfeited by a club, the referee is entitled to receive 100% of the prescribed match fee to be paid by the club which forfeited the match, unless the forfeiting club informed Football West in writing at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off.
8. When a match is abandoned, the match officials are entitled to receive the full amount of their normal match fees.

## Article 13 - Representative Teams

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1. If a club has 3 or more players from one team participating in a representative match, it may seek the postponement of any club match which clashes with the representative match.
2. To be considered as a qualifying player under paragraph 1, and subject to the conditions of paragraph 3, the player must have been recorded on that team's team lists for a minimum of 80% of all matches up to and including the date of the request to postpone.
3. If the player is required to participate in a representative match prior to round six of the season, Football West will determine the team of a player from the team sheets available. Football West's decision in determining the team of a player is final.