



**CENTRAL LEAGUE**

## **2018 Regulations**

# CENTRAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

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## Glossary of Terms

- “CL” The Football League set up between Capital Football and Central Football Federations, known as the “Central League”.
- “CL Committee” The committee comprising the Chairman and General Manager/CEO of each of Capital Football and Central Football (together “the Federation Representatives) plus one Club representative from each Federation as agreed by the Clubs in each Federation. (See Regulation 1.8 for further details.)
- “Central Football Federation” or “Central Football”
- “Club” A duly constituted organisation in an area within a District charged with the organisation and administration of Soccer in that area for players playing in the District or Federation’s competitions. For the purposes of the CL and these Regulations “Club” shall include a “Representative Team” as defined and governed by these Regulations.
- “Local Administrator” The person nominated by the Local Federation, to conduct the affairs of that area of the Federation.
- “The Manager” The Manager of the Central League.
- “NZF” New Zealand Football Inc.
- “Representative Team” A team comprising players registered with clubs within a region, the region being within the Capital Football or Central Football Federations and accepted into the CL by the CL Committee.
- “MNL” Men’s National League
- “New Zealand Qualified Player” A New Zealand Qualified Player is a player who holds New Zealand Citizenship.

## 1. General Provisions

- 1.1. This regulation shall apply to all participants in the competition known as the Central League. The Men's League will comprise 10 teams;
- 1.2. The control and management of this competition shall be vested in The Manager who will be appointed by the Capital and Central Football Federation Boards.
- 1.3. The CL committee will conduct an annual review of the CL to determine any changes that may be required to enhance the overall development and performance of the CL. This review will be completed, and outcomes published by 31 October. A meeting will be held in each Federation if there is sufficient interest.
- 1.4. Any fees payable for entry to the CL will be agreed by the CL Committee. Such fees shall be advised to the Clubs at the time of invitation to the CL. Invitations will be sent to Clubs by 10 November each year
- 1.5. Each Club desiring to compete in this competition shall by 1 December each year, confirm in writing their acceptance of an invitation to compete in such competition. The Local Federation Administrator will also confirm that the Club is financial and eligible to play in this competition.
- 1.6. Any fees payable for entry to the CL will be charged by The Manager. Fees will be paid in 2 instalments - 50% by 20 February and 50% by 31 March each year. Any Club which does not pay the entry fee by the due dates will be withdrawn from the Competition. Any monies already paid will be non-refundable.
- 1.7. The Manager, will deal with all disciplinary matters relating to the CL. **With reference to the NZDC**
- 1.8. The Federation Representatives on the CL Committee shall take heed of input from the Club Representatives, but the responsibility for decisions of the CL Committee shall rest with the Federation Representatives.
- 1.9. NZDC

## 2. Registrations and Transfers

- 2.1. All registrations must comply with local Federation Regulations.
- 2.2. All transfers must comply with the provisions of NZF Regulations, apart from transfers as per Regulation 3.2.

- 2.3. If any Club is found to be in breach of these Registrations and Transfers regulations, or the NZF Disciplinary Code, as a result of:
- i) the receipt of a protest; or
  - ii) a breach being brought to the attention of The Manager; or
  - iii) the Manager performing a teamcard check,
- the following sanctions will apply
- a) the offending club shall forfeit any points gained and goals scored – the opposing team will be credited with a 3-0 winning result or credited with the goals they scored if higher
  - b) a fine of \$ 150.00 per unregistered players will be imposed on the offending club
  - c) if both teams are found to be in breach, the match result shall be null and void, the match will not be replayed and fines per b) above shall be imposed

### 3. Player Eligibility

- 3.1. A player must be duly registered with his Club and otherwise complying with these and relevant Regulations. A “player” is defined as a person who actually takes the field in the current season. See appendix 1 which covers eligibility rules for representative teams.
- 3.2. No player can compete in the CL if he was not registered with his Club on or before 30 June in the year of the competition.
- 3.3. All Clubs will forward to The Manager their respective team squad listings with shirt numbers, certified on behalf of the Club as correct.
- i) These squad listings must be with The Manager 7 days prior to the first match (between any Clubs) of the CL season. This may be added to by the Clubs at any time. Clubs are required to keep their squad lists, as held by The Manager, current on a weekly basis (see Regulation 13.3).
  - ii) All Clubs competing in the CL must have their entire senior registrations held at their respective Federation office, i.e. Wellington, Napier, Taranaki or Palmerston North
- 3.4. If a player is currently registered with an MNL Franchise Team and is not required for an MNL fixture, he may be temporarily released by the MNL Franchise Team to play in the CL. That player will be eligible to play for the Club he was registered with at 1 September in the previous year and **the Manager must be notified**
- 3.5. No male player under the age of 16 years may compete in the CL unless he has received a written dispensation from the Manager.

- 3.6. In the event of any team found to be in breach of clauses 1, 2 or 5 of this Regulation, the following sanctions shall apply:
- i) the offending Club shall forfeit any points gained and goals scored - the opposing team will be credited with a 3–0 winning result or credited with the goals they scored if higher.
  - ii) fine of \$150.00 per player will be imposed on the offending Club
  - ii) if both Clubs are found to be in breach, the match result shall be null and void, the match will not be replayed and fines per b) above shall be imposed.
- 3.7. Teams will be required to have a minimum of eight New Zealand Qualified Players (out of a match day squad of sixteen) on a teamcard in the same match, plus up to seven non-New Zealand Qualified players and one Oceania Player

#### 4. Laws of the Game

- 4.1. All matches shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

#### 5. Fixtures

- 5.1. The CL will play on Saturdays or Sundays and certain Statutory Holidays unless the home team requests, and obtains approval of, a variation. Any request to play on a day other than those specified in this Regulation must be made to The Manager who will seek approval of the opposition and local administrator. The decision of The Manager will be binding on both teams.
- 5.2. A draft draw will be prepared by The Manager and circulated to all Clubs by 15 December each year. The draw will be confirmed by The Manager and circulated again to the Clubs by 1 February each year. After 1 February a Club cannot request to alter the time, date or venue of a fixture without the consent of The Manager. The Manager will have regard to the views of the Clubs concerned and relevant travel arrangements. A request to alter the time, date or venue of a fixture within 14 days of a fixture requires the consent of the Manager and the opposition.
- 5.3. Any team failing to take the field within 15 minutes of the scheduled fixture kick-off time shall be considered to have defaulted the match unless good cause can be shown. The Manager shall be advised immediately of any such occurrence. The Manager will have discretion to allow for “away team” delays on the day. Such discretion must be exercised and notified by The Manager only to both teams (on the Match Day contact telephone numbers) before the 15 minutes

after scheduled kick-off time has elapsed. If the two teams waive this regulation and play the match the result shall stand.

- 5.4. Any match abandoned for any reason shall be reported immediately to The Manager. This responsibility of reporting lies with the Referee, if present, or the Home team. After considering the facts, The Manager may decide that
  - i) the score at the time of the abandonment shall stand, providing a minimum of 60 minutes have been played; or
  - ii) the match will be re-scheduled to another date if time allows.
- 5.5. Matches not played for any reason, i.e. weather, Referee, Chatham Cup, etc, will be rescheduled at a later date. The Manager will reschedule such matches, having in mind the necessity for the completion of the Leagues by a due date.
- 5.6. A default fee of \$2,000 (Two thousand dollars) will be charged to any team in the CL who defaults a match. At the discretion of The Manager any costs incurred by the traveling team may be reimbursed from the default fee upon receipts being produced.
- 5.7. In the event of a team being withdrawn from this competition during any round, results, points and goal statistics will be adjusted as though the team concerned never existed. If a team withdraws from the CL, it will not be eligible to participate in the CL for a period of 3 years, regardless of the Club's finishing position in its Federation League.
- 5.8. If a team withdraws from the Central League after accepting their place but prior to the season starting, the vacant spot will be offered as follows:
  - i) The losing team from the end of season play off
  - ii) The relegated team from the previous season
  - iii) If none of these scenarios are possible the spot will then be filled at the Managers discretion.
- 5.9. A maximum of (11) persons for each Club, are permitted to occupy the Technical Area, during any fixture. This includes the five (5) named substitutes and up to five (6) Team Officials. Only one person is permitted to stand at any time and is authorised to convey tactical instructions from the technical area and that person must return to their position immediately after giving any instructions.
- 5.10. If alcohol is present at a match, it is seen to be the duty of the Referee to have the offender(s) removed by the Home Club if he/she feels that the consumption of liquor is affecting his/her control of the fixture.

The Referee may stop the match until the offenders are removed and the incident shall be reported to The Manager.

- 5.11. If the match, once stopped, is abandoned for any reason relating to the consumption of liquor, the matter will be reported to The Manager and a minimum fine of at least \$500.00 will be imposed on the offending Club.
- 5.12. All participating teams must provide an 'away team liaison' to greet travelling teams, show them to the facilities and ensure any valuables are safely secured.
- 5.13. The Manager must be informed immediately if a change of designated venue and pitch is required.

## 6. Teamcards

- 6.1. Teams must have their match day squad lists in Comet by 12.00pm on the Friday prior to the game (unless otherwise communicated by the Manager)
- 6.2. Teams may make alterations to these lists up to 1 hour prior to kick off.
- 6.3. Within 1 hour of kick off any changes must be communicated to the referee
- 6.4. The referee will be responsible for loading all match information, including score, goal scorers and yellow and red cards.
- 6.5. If there are any disputes with what is loaded in to Comet in relation to a match information, these need to be communicated to the Manager within 48 hours of completion of game. After this point no changes can be made to the match information sheet.
- 6.6. On receipt of a protest, if any team is found guilty of playing a player who is not listed on the teamcard, or who plays under an assumed or false name or who plays while suspended, Regulation 34 of the NZF Disciplinary Code will apply

## 7. Results

- 7.1. All results will be loaded by the referee in Comet by the end of the match day



## 8. Referees

- 8.1. Referee Reimbursements for all CL fixtures are included in the entry fee.
- 8.2. Collection and disbursement of Referee's Reimbursements will be handled by The Manager in conjunction with the local Federation.
- 8.3. If the appointed Referee is not in attendance at the scheduled kick-off time, then the senior AR will referee the game and he/she will select a suitable volunteer to replace him/herself as AR if he/she wishes to. If no referees or ARs are in attendance then it is the responsibility of the home team to provide a Referee, to be agreed to by the away team, who will have the full backing of The Manager. If no agreement can be reached the game will be replayed at a later date.
- 8.4. No 4<sup>th</sup> officials are to be appointed for any fixture.
- 8.5. Reported verbal abusive comments, or criticism directed to, Match Officials, by a Club, Team Official or Player will incur A penalty as prescribed in the NZF Disciplinary Code or the NZF Code of Conduct
- 8.6. Reported written abusive or critical comments against a Match Official contained in any official Club Match Programme or publication, in the media, **on any form of Social Media** or on a Club's web page will incur an automatic fine of \$250.00 on the offending Club. Repeated occurrences during the current season involving the same Club will result in the fine being doubled. The report of any alleged breach of this Regulation must be sent in the first instance to The Manager for action.
- 8.7. All teams will have the ability to request a meeting with the referee 30 minutes after the conclusion of the game. One of the match officials will make contact at the end of the game so a request can be made.

## 9. Competition Points

- 9.1. In all games, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss.
- 9.2. A teams' accumulated points shall govern all promotion and/or relegation for each season. In the case of a tie the deciding factors shall be:
  - i) goal difference
  - ii) if still level, the higher number of goals scored
  - iii) if still level, the goal difference from the matches played between the teams equal in points

- iv) if, after applying the above criteria any two or more teams are still equal, then the team with the superior disciplinary record shall be the highest placed Club.

## 10. Promotion/Relegation

10.1. The following will determine promotion/relegation:

- i) The 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team of the Capital Football Premier Competition will play-off with the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team in Central Football, home and away.
- ii) The winner of the inter-Federation series will automatically be promoted to the CL. The lowest placed team in CL will be automatically relegated.
- iii) If the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team from one of the Federation is ineligible to be promoted, no playoff will take place. The other eligible Federation team will be automatically promoted.
- iv) If neither 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place Federation team is eligible to be promoted, then no promotion/relegation will take place.

## 11. Playoffs

11.1. All playoffs, if required, shall take place during the first two weekends of September after the conclusion of the season. These dates are subject to change at the discretion of The Manager.

11.2. Subject to Regulation 9, the Rules of the playoffs, will be determined by The Manager prior to the commencement of the playoffs. The playoff, but decisions made in this regard by The Manager will be final and not subject to appeal.

11.3. The first home game will be given on a rotational basis to each federation i.e. 2018 – Central team will have the choice if they want the first home game, 2019 the Capital team will.

11.4. Players of any Club taking part in the playoffs are required to be registered players of the Club concerned and have been registered for the Club, or confirmed on a Representative Team's squad list, on or before 30 June of that year.

11.5. The playoffs are considered to be an extension of a Club's season. Therefore, cautions and suspensions will carry over into a playoff series.

11.6. The 'away goals' rule will be applied to all CL playoffs. based on a 90-minute game. i.e. if the game goes to extra time the away goal rule will no longer apply during the extra time period.

## 12. Playing Equipment / Strip

- 12.1. Each home team shall provide a minimum of five (5) match balls, in good playing order. Failure to use the brand/type of ball supplied for that season, as notified by the Referee to The Manager will result in a fine of \$100.
- 12.2. The home Club shall provide not less than four (4) identically dressed ball persons who must wear uniforms that do not clash with the competing teams' and match officials' colours. These ball persons must be at least ten (10) years old on the day of the match. Failure to comply with this requirement, as notified by the Referee to The Manager, may result in a fine of \$50. The Manager may make an allowance for neutral venues.
- 12.3. Where team colours clash the visiting team shall be obliged to change to its alternate strip otherwise the first-choice strip (both strips as stated by each Club and circulated by The Manager prior to the start of the season) for both teams will be worn at all times. Any Club wishing to vary from the stated colours must advise The Manager, by noon on the Wednesday preceding the match. On most occasions it may only be necessary for teams to change their shirts. However, on other occasions they may also be required to change shorts and/or socks. It is the responsibility of the visiting team to ensure that they take the correct strip with them to the fixture. Failure to comply with any aspect of this Regulation will result in a fine of \$250 to the offending Club.
- 12.4. All team strips must be numbered on the back of the shirts, the number being the appropriate size (250mm in height).
- 12.5. The team colours advised to The Manager prior to the commencement of the CL will be those that will be worn by the team for the season.

## 13. Protests and Appeals

- 13.1. Any Club playing in the CL may bring a dispute or protest to The Manager.
- 13.2. A protest shall be made, within three days of the breach (including Sunday), by forwarding a written statement, on the Club's letterhead, setting out the breach complained of and the name of the Club, player or persons complained against to The Manager.
- 13.3. On receipt of the protest, as outlined above, a copy of the protest will be forwarded to the offending Club by The Manager. The Manager

will make the necessary enquiries into the matters placed before him and advise his/her decision to the party or parties concerned.

- 13.4. A fee of \$100.00 + GST will be charged for protests from all Clubs. This fee will be retained if the protest is proven to be frivolous.
- 13.5. Each Club has the right of appeal against any ruling of The Manager to New Zealand Football, as per NZF Disciplinary Code The appeal must be submitted to NZF through The Manager.

#### 14. Criteria

- 14.1. The Manager reserves the right to inspect grounds and facilities prior to the acceptance of any team into its competitions. If a Club fails to provide a suitable ground or acceptable facilities, that team may be refused entry to the competition.
- 14.2. All Clubs must produce and make available at home matches a reasonable number of Match Day Programmes of at least 1 x A4 page (including the cover), containing the current team lists. Failure of a Club to comply with any part of this Regulation will result in a fine of \$250.
- 14.3. All grounds must be in accordance with the Laws of the Game including nets and marked with white lines, including the “Technical Area”, (with adequate seating) in accordance with the Laws of the Game. A barrier one metre high and at least two metres from both sidelines must be erected for CL games. Failure to comply with any aspect of this Regulation may result in a fine on the home team of \$100.00; The Manager may make allowance for late venue changes, neutral venues or circumstances beyond a Club’s control.
- 14.4. Changing facilities with showers adjacent to the ground should be provided for each team and, separate facilities provided for the Match Officials
- 14.5. Club assessment forms of the match officials are to be supplied. They are to be emailed to [jamie@capitalfootball.org.nz](mailto:jamie@capitalfootball.org.nz) within 3 working days of the match being played. Failure to receive a report on the first occasion will result in the club receiving a written warning. Should a report not be received a second or subsequent time/s a fine of \$50.00 per report not received will be imposed.
- 14.6. All teams must provide a pre-season meeting with a qualified Referee as appointed by the Manager. This must consist of a minimum of 9 players. This must be held prior to the start of the season.

14.7. All home teams must operate a Twitter account and provide a minimum of half time and full-time scores for every home game.

## 15. Finances

15.1. All teams competing in the 2018 CL will adhere to the 2018 Capital Football Financial Regulations, in particular clause 3.6.1.

## 16. Miscellaneous

16.1. Anything not covered by these Regulations shall be at the discretion of The Manager after consulting with the CL Committee.

## Appendix 1

### Rules governing eligibility of Representative Teams in the CL.

1. Representative Teams will be accepted into the CL on a case by case basis. Such entries will only be accepted by the CL Committee whereby a Representative Team enables an area within the Capital Football or Central Football Federations to participate in the CL, and it could not participate if only club teams were eligible.
2. Although such admissions will be granted with a long-term view they will only be granted for one year at a time. The most likely causes for the CL Committee refusing to extend a Representative Team's admission will be that team having achieved results so outstanding that it clearly has an unfair advantage over non-Representative Teams, or that team abusing the privilege of a representative entry into the CL.

The following rules will apply to all representative teams allowed to participate in the CL.

3. Players must be registered to a local club within the region they are representing.
4. Players will play for the representative team for the duration of the season but can play local football if not required by the CL team for that weekend.
5. Squad lists will be limited to 24 at any point in time and will be given to The Manager as per regulation 3.
6. All changes to the squad list must be made via the local administrator to The Manager and must comply with the timeframe prescribed in Regulation 2.1.

7. No changes to the squad list will be accepted after 30 June each year.
8. Suspensions arising from red cards or the accumulation of yellow cards shall be served in accordance with NZF Regulation 7.
9. All other rules in regulation 3 apply in regards to player eligibility.