



**NO. 4 DISTRICT FEDERATION OF NEW ZEALAND FOOTBALL**

**SENIOR COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

[1 DEFINITIONS](#_Toc400462980)

[2 LEAGUES](#_Toc400462981)

[3 ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION](#_Toc400462982)

[4 ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION](#_Toc400462983)

[5 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS](#_Toc400462984)

[6 DRUG TESTING](#_Toc400462985)

[7 DISPUTES AND PROTESTS](#_Toc400462986)

[8 EQUIPMENT](#_Toc400462987)

9 [MATCH VENUES, DATES AND KICK-OFF TIMES](#_Toc400462989)

[10 FIELD OF PLAY](#_Toc400462990)

[11 REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS](#_Toc400462991)

[12 LAWS OF THE GAME](#_Toc400462992)

[13 SUBSTITUTION RULES](#_Toc400462993)

[14 TECHNICAL AREA](#_Toc400462994)

[15 PLAYING OF FIXTURES](#_Toc400462995)

[16 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS](#_Toc400462996)

[17 ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS](#_Toc400462997)

[18 REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS](#_Toc400462998)

[19 TEAM SHEETS, MATCH EVENTS AND RESULTS](#_Toc400462999)

[20 COMPETITION FORMAT](#_Toc400463000)

[21 NON-COMPLIANCE](#_Toc400463002)

[22 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY](#_Toc400463003)

[23 CODE OF CONDUCT](#_Toc400463004)

[24 MISCELLANEOUS](#_Toc400463005)

[25 REFERENCES](#_Toc400463006)

[APPENDIX ONE: CF FEDERATION LEAGUE (MFL AND WFL)](#_Toc400463007)

[APPENDIX TWO: CF MENS PREMIERSHIPS](#_Toc400463007)

APPENDIX THREE: CF MENS PREMIERSHIP RESERVE LEAGUES

[APPENDIX FOUR: CF LOCAL LEAGUE COMPETITIONS (MEN AND WOMEN)](#_Toc400463007)

[APPENDIX FIVE: FEDERATION KNOCK OUT CUP COMPETITIONS (MFC AND WFC)](#_Toc400463007)

[APPENDIX SIX: LOCAL KNOCK OUT CUP COMPETITIONS/CHALLENGFE CUPS](#_Toc400463007)

# DEFINITIONS

## For the purpose of these Regulations, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

### **Away Team:** The Club Team playing a match at an opponent’s nominated match venue.

### **Board:** The Central Football Board designated by NZF to make decisions on football related matters in the Central Football districts

### **CF:** Central Football. The No. 4 District Federation constituted in accordance with these Regulations.

### **CL:** Central League. Premier Competition between Capital Football and Central Football Federations (Men’s & Women’s).

### **Club:** Means any Club, whether incorporated or not, formed and operating for the purpose of playing Football in competitions run or promoted by CF, that is approved and duly registered by CF.

### **Competition:** Any competition, tournament or league administered by CF including the pre-Season, Season proper, any finals series, and any post Season tournaments.

### **Region:** The regions that comprise the CF Federation: Poverty Bay, Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Wanganui, and Taranaki.

### **MFL:** Men’s Federation League. The Premier Central Football Men’s competition.

### **WFL**: Women’s Federation League. The Premier Central Women’s competition.

### **WCL**: The Women’s Capital League that Central Federation may have teams entered into.

### **Home Match:** A match played at a Club’s own nominated match venue.

### **Home Team/Club:** The first named Club Team playing a match at a nominated match venue, and thus the Club responsible for the organisation and management of matches played at a nominated match venue.

### **Team Sheet:** Summary of players and outcome of game, specific to each separate match.

### **NZF:** New Zealand Football**.**

### **OFC:** Oceania Football Confederation.

### **Player:** any registered football player playing under the Regulations.

### **Playing**: means taking the field of play including as a substitute. Being named on the Team Sheet and not taking the field of play does not constitute “playing”

### **Player Agreement:** New Zealand Football Amateur Player Agreement (NZFAPA).

### **Premierships:** Pacific Premiership (Hawkes Bay/Poverty Bay), Horizon Premiership (Manawatu, Whanganui,) Taranaki Premiership (Taranaki and surrounding areas)

### **The Regulations: The Central Football Senior Competition Regulations**

### **Transfer Period:** the period of time between the Transfer Opening Date (9am 1st October) and the Transfer Closing Date (11:59pm 30th June) of each relevant winter season.

### **Winter Season:** the period of time starting with the first official match of the CF Winter competition, and ending with the last official match of the CF Winter competition.

# LEAGUES

## The Leagues are competitions established by Central Football (CF).

## CF shall have the right to add to or change the competition names to reflect the name of a sponsor if it so desires.

## Participation in CF Leagues and Competitions is available to Clubs and any other entity that is approved from time to time by CF following consultation with the Clubs duly qualified according to these Regulations.

## CF Teams competing in the Men’s or Women’s Central League competition must comply and refer to the relevant CL Regulations, issued by Capital Football Federation.

## The Regulations regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all Clubs, Teams and Players in the Competitions. The Regulations issued by the CF Board are binding for all parties participating and involved in the preparation, organisation and hosting of the Competition.

## Any term in these Regulations which is otherwise not defined in these Regulations, and which corresponds to a defined term in the NZF Regulations, shall have the same meaning as is given to that term in the NZF Regulations.

## The NZF Statutes and Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and all FIFA Regulations in force shall apply. Any reference in these Regulations to the NZF Statutes and Regulations, the FIFA Statutes and FIFA Regulations, refers to the Statutes, Rules and Regulations valid at the time of application.

# ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION

## Unless otherwise determined by these regulations, the entire control and management of the competition shall be vested in CF.  CF shall have the power to do all other things necessary to ensure the progress of this competition through all its stages and may take appropriate action to bring about such results.  All or any of the powers vested in CF may be delegated to a nominee.

## CF may appoint a Competition Manager(s) or similar who shall be responsible for administration of a/or the League(s).  All references to the exercise of a power or discretion by CF in this Regulation shall include reference to the exercise of a power or discretion by the Competition Manager. The Competition Manager is authorised to determine the imposition and duration of the suspensions and fines pursuant to **NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players** and **NZF Disciplinary Code.** The Competition Manager shall also retain the discretion to refer any disciplinary matters to the CF Disciplinary Committee.

## Each Club competing in the Leagues shall be primarily responsible for the organisation and control of each of their own Home Matches in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Leagues, in accordance with any instructions as may from time to time be issued by CF.

# ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION

## Central Football:

### Shall request team entries into the leagues by a certain entry deadline;

### May or may not accept all entries into the leagues requested;

### May or may not accept entries after the deadline.

## The decision of CF as to the composition of the Leagues shall be final and binding. CF retains the ability to increase or decrease the number of teams at its sole discretion.

## By the act of registering a team entry, a Club agrees to abide by the Statutes and Regulations of FIFA, OFC, NZF and CF.

## Entry to, and continued participation in the Leagues shall be determined by CF in regard to:

### The Clubs satisfying criteria established from time to time by CF on a continuing basis.

### The criteria established by CF shall include, but not be limited to ground facilities, financial performance and shall otherwise be at the discretion of CF.

### Compliance with the terms and conditions specified within specific Competition Memorandum of Understanding where applicable.

## In the event of any Club not continuing in a League for whatever reason, including, failing to meet the criteria, resulting in their removal from the League, then the filling of the consequential vacancy shall be determined by CF, which may in its sole discretion choose not to fill the vacancy.

## In the event of a team being withdrawn from any Competition during any round, results, points and goal statistics will be adjusted at the sole discretion of CF. Consideration will be made by CF to ensure the integrity of any competition remains. Refunds, if applicable, maybe negotiated with CF.

## In the event of any Club not paying the entrance/participation fee in the quantum, manner and time frame (time being of the essence) as directed by CF, then, without prejudice to any other remedies available to CF, and at the sole discretion of CF, the Club will be subject to:

### A fine of $2000 be imposed upon the Club and a loss of two (2) competition points for each breach, and no ability to earn points in the league from wins or draws whilst the Club is in breach of payment terms.

### If a Club is still in breach at the end of the playing season, the CF competition entry approval for that Club will be suspended until the breach is remedied.

# DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

## Disciplinary incidents will be dealt with in accordance with **NZF Disciplinary Code** and the FIFA Disciplinary Code. To the extent that there is any conflict between **NZF Disciplinary Code** and the ‘CF Senior Competition Regulations’, then the **NZF Disciplinary Code** will apply.

## The Clubs, their Players and Officials, agree to comply with the Laws of the Game and with the FIFA Statutes and regulations, in particular the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Code of Ethics (in particular in matters regarding the fight against discrimination, racism and match-fixing), the FIFA Code of Conduct and NZF Statutes and Regulations, in particular **NZF Disciplinary Code**, NZF Regulation 17, and the **NZF Code of Conduct**.

## In addition, the players agree to:

### Respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence;

### Behave accordingly;

### Refrain from doping as defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

**Misconduct, Suspension and Fines**

## In accordance with the **NZF Disciplinary Code**, the Schedule of Suspensions and Fines in respect of misconduct by a Player in the Competition shall be:

### All minor infringement offences (yellow card) shall incur a fine of $25.00 per occasion. Any player that incurs a yellow card for “dissent against an official” and is temporarily dismissed under the “Temporary Dismissal” trial guidelines shall also incur a fine of $25.00. This caution will count towards the accumulation of cautions.

### All cautionary misconduct (indirect red card) shall incur a fine of $75.00 per occasion and an automatic one playing day suspension.

### All serious infringements and misconduct against match officials (direct red card) shall incur a minimum fine of $75.00 per occasion and an automatic one playing day suspension. Including the automatic suspension incurred, the overall suspension imposed on any Player receiving a direct red card shall be in accordance with **NZF Disciplinary Code.**

**Cautions Accumulated by a Player**

## A Player accumulating the number of single cautions below in the same Season shall automatically receive the corresponding Playing Day(s) suspension. The Player shall be suspended from all football until the team for which the Player received the majority of the cautions has played the required number of Playing Days or matches:

### Five single cautions shall result in a one Playing Day suspension;

### A further two single cautions (seven in total) shall result in an additional Playing Day suspension; and

### A further two single cautions (nine in total) shall result in a further Playing Day suspension

## A Player accumulating a total of ten cautions in the same Season may be required to appear before the relevant Disciplinary Committee. The relevant Disciplinary Committee may impose a further sanction which may be one or all of a reprimand; a fine; a suspension.

**Serving of Suspensions**

## For clarity, a Player serving a suspension in one competition, cannot play in another competition until such time as the Club Team in which the Player was playing at the time he received the penalty that led to the suspension, has played the requisite number of games.

## Under no circumstance may any suspended Player or Official occupy a position, in any capacity, in or in the vicinity of, the player’s entrance, substitute’s bench, Technical Area or playing arena.

## A match that is abandoned, postponed or in the case of a scheduled bye, does not count as a completed match in terms of a player serving a suspension.

## Notwithstanding anything to the contrary under Serving of Suspensions, any Player serving a suspension incurred during the winter season shall have that suspension carry through to and served during the play-off series and following winter season. Otherwise, for all yellow cards incurred during the Leagues, in respect of which a suspension has not been incurred, at the outset of the winter season, such yellow cards shall be expunged and of no further effect, so that a Player in these circumstances shall have a “clean slate” at the outset of the winter season (“clean slate rule”).

## The clean slate rule shall also apply for those yellow cards a Player incurs during any play-off series, so that a “clean slate” is again created at the conclusion of the play-off series, unless a suspension has been incurred, in which case the suspension is carried over to be served in the following winter season, unless the Player's suspension has been imposed by a judicial process over and above the automatic sanctions under **NZF Disciplinary Code.**

# DRUG TESTING

## CF Leagues shall be subject to drug testing by the Drug Free Sport NZ. For the sake of clarity, this shall comprise in-competition and out of competition testing for all Players.

## Drug Testing is specifically covered by NZF Regulation 17. It is the responsibility of each Club Team and Player to ensure they are conversant with the appropriate regulations.

## Any Club breaching this regulation shall be liable for a fine of up to $1,000 and an education seminar arranged within agreed timeframes between the Club and NZF.

# DISPUTES AND PROTESTS

## For all Judicial and Appeal matters, refer to NZF Disciplinary Code.

## Any Club in the Leagues may bring a dispute or protest to CF of a breach of who shall make a decision or refer to the appropriate Judicial Body in accordance with the **NZF Disciplinary Code (76.2)**, and advise the party or parties concerned. For the sake of clarity, a Protest by a club must be;

* Made by an authorised club member, in writing, and to the attention of either the CF Regional Operations Manager or CF CEO.
* Be made within three (3) working days of the date of the alleged breach

# EQUIPMENT

**Playing Strips**

## Each Club shall inform CF of playing strips with two different and contrasting colours (one predominantly dark and one predominantly light) for its First Choice and Alternate strips (shirt, shorts, socks) for each senior team. In addition, each Club shall select two contrasting colours for goalkeepers. These goalkeeper strips must be distinctly different and contrasting from each other as well as different and contrasting from the First Choice and Alternate strips. A goalkeeper may, at the discretion of the referee, wear tracksuit trousers provided the colour of such tracksuit does not conflict with the provisions of this article. Only these colours may be worn during matches.

## Each Club Team shall wear its First Choice strip in their Home Matches, and all other matches where there is no clash of colours with the Home Team. In the event of any match being played at a neutral match venue, the first named team is considered the Home Team.

## Where the strips of the two Club Teams are alike or similar, the Away Team shall wear their Alternate strip as long as that does not contain any of the basic colours of the Home Team and is approved by the Referee. On most occasions it may only be necessary for Club Teams to change their shirts. However, on other occasions, Teams may also be required to change shorts and/or socks.

## It is the responsibility of the Home Team to notify CF and the Away Team of any changes to their registered colours no later than 48 hours prior to the day of the match.

## It will be the responsibility of the Away Team to carry their Alternate strip with them at all times, to ensure that on match day the Away Team has sufficient flexibility to change its strip as necessary so as to avoid any clash of colours with the Home Team.

## In the opinion of CF, if a clash of colours will occur to the detriment of the match, and/or games are being played under floodlights, CF may direct either or both Club Teams to change or vary their strip.

## It is the responsibility of the Away Team to ensure there is no clash of playing strips. A Club breaching this regulation shall be liable for a fine of up to $100.00 for each breach.

**Numbers**

## Each Player shall wear the number assigned to him as per the match day MIS/Team Card. The number must be displayed on the back of the playing shirt, and be 250mm in height. The same number may, at the Club’s discretion, be displayed on the front of the shorts and/or on the front of the shirt. The number must be clearly legible and distinguishable from a distance for all Players, Match Officials, spectators and media from the colours used for the respective playing equipment item. This distinction may be achieved by displaying the numbers on a single-coloured patch. The number may be surrounded by a border or shadow outline.

**Official Match Balls**

## Certain competitions may have Official Match Balls supplied to them. Where these are supplied by CF, it is the Home Club’s responsibility on match days, to ensure that the Official Match Balls in a good, clean condition are made available to the referee as requested prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

### In these competitions, Clubs are not permitted to accept any sponsorship involving match balls other than the Official Match Balls.

### Clubs should ensure that only the footballs referred to as Official Match Balls are used in all promotional, news or team photographs, and television interviews.

## In leagues, where balls are not supplied, it is the responsibility of the Home Team to provide a minimum of one (1) match ball in a good, clean condition, and made available to the referee as requested prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

**Sponsorship**

## Should CF obtain a Principal Sponsor for any League or Competition, any requirement by said sponsor will take precedence, over any and all sponsorships placed on team strips, and will comply with sizes and situation as per NZF Regulations.

## If required, Club Teams match programmes, must give CF Sponsor recognition with logo on the front cover, at no cost to the Sponsor or Central Football.

## All Club Teams are responsible for the safekeeping and stowage of any signage or other publicity material (unless it is specified by the sponsor that storage shall be at one of their agencies). The display of these items at each home fixture shall be the responsibility of the Club Team.

# MATCH VENUES, DATES AND KICK-OFF TIMES

## CF shall make all reasonable efforts to publish a fixture list including the match venues, dates and kick-off times for all divisions, a minimum of one week prior to the start of the winter season. All matches shall be played on the dates and times agreed and confirmed by CF and the Clubs, and shall not be varied without the prior written approval of CF.

## Prior to the commencement of each season, each Club shall nominate its match venue(s) for approval by CF. For clubs providing their own goalposts, an engineer’s report must be completed and forwarded to CF two weeks before the commencement of the season. If this has not been received, then CF will action the engineer’s inspection and charge costs back to the club.

## In any circumstances, if a Club wishes to change any match date, match venue, and/or kick-off time, they must:

### Via the Club Secretary/Administrator apply in writing using the “Request for Game Change” Form, and thus

### Advise both the opposing Club and CF in writing at least 10 days prior to the scheduled game, setting out in full their reasons for requiring the change.

### 

### In the event of both Clubs agreeing to the change, CF shall take that into account when giving its decision. Any additional cost incurred in changing a previously agreed match date or kick-off time shall be borne by the Club making the request.

## The decision of CF as to the acceptability of the proposed match changes will be final.

## CF reserves the right to determine the match venue, date and kick-off time for all matches, and in particular for the Federation League and/or Federation Cup competitions.

**Floodlight Matches**

## A fixture may be played wholly or partially under floodlights subject to the floodlight installation and lux level, having been approved by CF as being suitable.

**Competitions outside of CF jurisdiction**

## Any team that has entered a competition outside of Central Football’s jurisdiction, i.e. Super 8, NZSS Tournaments, NZ Marist Tournament, whose fixtures clash with those of Central Football competitions, must obtain consent from their opposition and CF for any postponement. A “Request for a Game Change” Form must be completed in every instance.

## Where a fixture is required to be moved by CF due to weather or circumstances beyond their control, consideration will be given in respect to teams who have entered a competition outside of Central Football’s jurisdiction, only where these circumstances could not have been foreseen.

## Where a competition has a bye, CF will endeavour to schedule teams for that bye who have entered a competition outside of Central Football’s jurisdiction.

**Security**

## The Home Club shall be responsible for taking all practicable measures to ensure:

### That all facilities and equipment comply with the Safety at Work Act Certificates of compliance as required must be current; and

### The orderly behaviour of the crowd and safety of the match officials, players and officials of the teams and all spectators.

## All Clubs will be held responsible for the behaviour of their spectators, whether playing at home or away or at a neutral ground. A Club must forthwith give notice in writing to CF of any unruly behaviour of their spectators.

## Each Club must make every effort to ensure that the Code of Conduct of NZF is communicated and made available to its staff, Players, coaches, volunteers and spectators.

## Any Club breaching this regulation shall be liable for a fine of up to $500.00 per breach.

# FIELD OF PLAY

## All Home Clubs are to ensure that their grounds comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game (LOTG)

## Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces. Where artificial surfaces are used, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Football Turf.

## All Home Clubs are required to have the field of play of their Home grounds maintained in a satisfactory condition and regularly checked by clubs for safety.

## In the event of inclement weather, the Home Clubs shall be obliged to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that scheduled fixtures proceed, in priority order from highest level of competition to lower leagues.

## In the event of inclement weather, Home Clubs shall be obliged to re-mark all or portions of the ground, at the request of the Referee.

## No unauthorised ground markings shall appear on any match venue, unless otherwise approved by Central Football where applicable.

# REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS

## The CF Referee Development Officer (RDO) shall make appointments for all League fixtures, and have them ratified by the CF Referee Committee.

## For each local competition game, where the RDO has appointed an official referee, an approved fee for appointed referees and other match officials shall be met by the Home Team.

## Each Referee shall, as early as possible but within 60 minutes of the final whistle, check the accuracy of the Team Sheet for both Teams and sign the Team Sheet as a true and accurate record of the match.

## Each Referee shall attend the ground at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time and shall wait thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled kick-off time, before abandoning the game for any reason.

## The Referee's decision shall be the final as to the condition of the ground for play.

## 

## All matches shall be refereed in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, including specific competition amendments where relevant.

## Reported verbal abusive comments against, or criticism of, match officials, made by a club, team official, or player after the game, while at the grounds, or during after match speeches, will incur an automatic fine of $250.00 to the offending club. Any further incident during the season involving the same club will result in a $500.00 fine for each instance plus any offenders may be required to attend a disciplinary hearing

**Club Based Referees (CBRs)**

## It is a mandatory requirement as part of the team entry for any 11aside team, for at least one (1) person to be qualified (accredited) at least at CBR level.

## CBR accreditation must be renewed every 2-3 years (accreditation expires on 31 December, 2 years after initial accreditation or Refresher).

## If an official referee is appointed without Assistant Referees, then CBRs present may be asked to act as Assistant Referees for the purpose of ball in/outs only.

## In the event of no appointed referees, then the following will apply:

### It should be agreed that both teams CBR will officiate one half of the match each.

### If for any reason either the home or away teams CBR is unavailable, the team with the CBR present may either choose to referee the entire match or agree that the opposition provide an official for the other half (a qualified referee, CBR or not).

### If none of the above is available, then the Home Team will provide an official for the first half and the Away Team will provide an official for the second half (a qualified referee, CBR or not).

### If an accredited Level One or higher qualified referee is available, although not officially appointed, they will referee the whole game, irrespective of home or away status. .

## CBRs have the same rights and obligations as an appointed official, with regards controlling the fixture, issuing misconducts (yellow and red cards), and will have the full support of CF in the dealing with player misconducts and/or disciplinary issues.

# LAWS OF THE GAME

## All matches shall be played in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game (LOTG).

**From time to time, CF may choose to, or be instructed by the NZF, OFC or FIFA, to trial FIFA (or IFAB) approved variations to the LOTG. Any such trial will be communicated to clubs within two (2) weeks of the fixture(s) that the trial is taking place in**.

# SUBSTITUTION RULES

## The procedure for substitutions shall be in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, including specific completion amendments where relevant.

# TECHNICAL AREA

## Where required, in compliance with specific CF Competitions, a Technical Area shall be marked out in front of the seated area for substitutes and technical staff. Such Technical Area shall comply with FIFA Laws of the Game.

# PLAYING OF FIXTURES

## Teams must take all reasonable steps to arrive at a match on time. Any team failing to take the field within 15 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time shall be considered to have defaulted the match, unless good cause can be shown. The Competitions Manager shall be advised immediately of any such occurrence.

## In the event of a match being postponed at late notice due to aborted travel arrangements or adverse weather, it shall be the responsibility of the two Clubs concerned to immediately confer with a view to playing the match at the earliest possible time, unless otherwise authorised by CF.

## In the event of a match being postponed due to the scheduling of any official NZF or other CF fixture, the two Clubs concerned agree to play the match at the earliest possible time as determined by CF.

## In the event of a change of match venue being necessary because of unforeseen weather or field of play conditions, the Home Club shall take all reasonable steps to give adequate notice to CF and the Away Team as to the new match venue.  In the event of any dispute arising as to the suitability of the match venue, CF shall make the final decision, which will be binding, on all parties.

## All rescheduled games must be played prior to the last game of the League competition, or prior to the next scheduled date of the knock-out round. Failure to do so will mean the requesting team will incur a default.

## If for any reason a match cannot be completed due to any circumstances, the Competitions Manager must be notified immediately. After considering the facts, the Competitions Manager will determine the result of the match at their complete discretion.

## If for any reason a league cannot be concluded within the required time-frame, the Competitions Manager may close the League, and declare the final placings at its sole discretion, pursuant to the following factors:

### The standings at the end of the first completed round; or

### The standings at the close of the competition; or

### The result of a play-off between two or more teams to determine final placings.

## During League competitions, points shall be allocated on the basis of three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a draw, and zero (0) points for a loss. As pursuant to Regulation 15.24, defaults are recorded as a 3-0 loss.

15.9 Where two or more teams are tied at the top of the League table at the end of any Central Football competition, the goal difference will be used to separate the teams. If the teams are also tied on goal difference then the team with the most goals scored for shall be declared the winner. If still tied then the results head to head between the two teams will determine the winner. If this is still undecided then the League winner shall be shared. However, if the competition winner was to receive promotion, or have the opportunity to play off for promotion, then the teams shall play off pursuant to a knock out match format with the winner of that match gaining promotion, or will be the eligible team to play off for promotion.

**Promotion/Relegation**

## 15.10 The results of League matches will be recorded in a League table. A team’s accumulated points shall govern the process of all promotion and/or relegation fixtures for each season.

## The winner of a lower division shall have the choice of promotion to the higher division directly above them (where eligible).

## If the winner of the division does not wish to take this promotion opportunity, or is ineligible, the second placed team will be offered the option.

## If a team wins a division two (2) years in succession, they will automatically be promoted to the higher division immediately above them. CF will consider applications from clubs not wishing to take this promotion with the final decision at the sole discretion of CF.

15.14

### Pursuant to 15.12, if promotion is to any of the Federation, Horizon Premiership, Pacific Premiership or Taranaki Premiership leagues, then the said promotion will only occur if the same club does not currently have a team in that higher league.

15.15

The decision of CF as to the composition of the Leagues shall be final and binding. CF retains the ability to increase or decrease the number of teams at its sole discretion and to place teams in CF social divisions (Div 2 and lower), as it sees fit. This will be done with the best intention of ensuring fairness and appropriate levels of competition within these divisions.

## Where two or more teams are tied at the bottom of the League ladder at the end of any CF League, and the bottom team is to be relegated then the final positions shall be determined as in Regulation 15.9

**Play-offs**

## If required, play-offs shall take place at a neutral venue and suitable time after the conclusion of the winter season, at the direction of CF, who shall first discuss the matter with the two affected Clubs.

## Play-off competition regulations and venues will be determined by CF prior to the commencement of the play-off series. The play-off regulations and venue may be subject to consultation, but the decision of CF shall be final and binding.

## Players taking part in the playoffs are required to be registered players of the club concerned, and have been registered to that club prior to June 30th that year.

## No club can be represented in the play-offs by two different teams.

**Defaults**

## Notification of a team intending to default, must be made in writing to the Competitions Manager, outlining their reasons, no later than 12pm Friday preceding the scheduled fixture. CF reserve the right to consider any unforeseen circumstances that may have resulted in a club needing to default a particular game before imposing a fine.

## Teams who default a match without advising the Competitions Manager by 12pm on the Friday preceding the scheduled fixture, will result in a fine of up to:

### $1000 (one thousand dollars) for the Federation League;

### $500 (five hundred dollars) for Premiership teams;

### $200 (two hundred dollars) for all other senior teams.

## Teams who default a match prior to 12pm on the Friday preceding the scheduled fixture, will result in a fine of $50 (fifty dollars).

## A defaulted match, whether or not notification was given, shall be recorded as a 3-0 win to the non-defaulting team.

## A team who defaults either two (2) matches in succession, or a total of three (3) matches in a season may be disqualified from the League or Competition, at the discretion of CF. Their Clubs inclusion in further CF competitions will be at the sole discretion of CF.

**Suspended or abandoned matches**

## In the event of adverse weather conditions occurring during a match, which in the view of the Referee endangers the Players or Officials, the Referee may at their sole discretion suspend play for a period of up to thirty (30) minutes to allow time for conditions to improve to a point that will allow the match to recommence.

## Where weather conditions preceding a fixture raise doubts as to whether play shall take place, the Referee and/or Referee's liaison officer, CF Competition Manager and the Home Club shall meet at the ground to consider whether the ground is fit for play. This meeting and discussion shall be held in sufficient time to enable the Away Team travelling on the day of the match to be notified of any abandonment prior to their departure for the match.  If the Referee or Referee's liaison officer decides that play can take place provided that no further rain falls, then the referee shall further decide whether or not any other scheduled activities prior to the match are to be cancelled. The CF Competition Manager maintains the right to abandon the fixture if they believe there would be long term damage done to the playing surface potentially impacting on future fixtures scheduled on the same pitch. This decision must be made only after speaking with the Federation Operations and Game Development Manager

## Before any decision is made as to whether the match should be abandoned, the Home Club shall discuss the situation with the CF Competition Manager.

## If there is doubt as to whether or not a fixture is to be played because of uncertainty about weather conditions, the Referee or Referee's liaison officer shall immediately notify the CF Competition Manager following the field of play inspection and the Home Club shall advise the Away Team.

## If the Away Team has been notified that a match is to be played provided no further rain falls, then all reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that the match proceeds, provided that the Referee or Referee's liaison officer nominated for the match shall have sole discretion as to whether or not it shall be played.

## If for any reason the Referee cannot make or does not attend the match venue, and if there is doubt about whether the field of play is fit to play, then the Home Club in conjunction with the Referee’s liaison officer and the CF Competition Manager shall be responsible for making a decision and advising the Away Team.

## If for any reason a match is abandoned, the Competitions Manager must be notified immediately in writing outlining the reasons for the decision. After considering the facts, the Competitions Manager may decide that:

### The result stands at the time of abandonment, provided a minimum of 60 minutes of the match has been played; or

### That the match shall be replayed at the direction of CF, who shall first discuss the matter with the two affected Clubs.

# FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

## With the exception of the CF Federation League travel subsidy, CF has no financial provision for teams within their leagues. All travel, food, accommodation, and referee fees are the responsibility of the club.

# ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

## A Player is eligible to play in Central Football Leagues provided that they are duly registered in accordance with Regulation 18.

## Each Club Team shall be responsible for fielding only eligible Players. Any Club Team found guilty of fielding an ineligible Player for whatever reason shall be subject to the penalties pursuant to Regulation Appendix 8.

## Pursuant to Regulation 17.2, a “Player” is defined as a person who takes the field in the current season for that Team.

## At the start of any season, all players will be deemed to be ungraded and therefore eligible to play for any team in any grade. This is with the exception of both the Men’s and Women’s Federation Leagues (MFL and WFL). Teams that are entered into these competitions must name their intended squad of a minimum of 14 players prior to the first scheduled game of the season. Players named in these squads will be deemed to be immediately “graded” as either MFL or WFL players.

## A players is not considered to be graded to a specific team until they have played (3) three games for that team. In the interests of clarity, the team that a player plays their first three games of the season for will be the team they are deemed graded to. In addition, if a player plays for two different teams on the same day for the first two weeks of the season then they will be considered to have been graded to the team in the higher competition. The exception to this is where any region operates a one division league and a club fields more than one team in that league. In this case the player will immediately be graded to the team they play for first in that season.

## A player having played three (3) consecutive games in any lower graded team is deemed to be then become graded to that team. If a player that is graded to a lower league team plays (3) consecutive games in a higher league team (regardless of if they player for the lower league team as well), then they will become re-graded to the higher league team. In addition:

* The Player can only move to the lower graded team immediately below their registered team

#### A maximum of three (3) players can play in the lower graded team immediately below their graded team in any one game

#### When a Club has more than one team in a League, a maximum of three (3) players can play across in any one game.

* Players cannot be on the Team Sheet of two teams in the same club playing a fixture at the same time
* Where there is a Premiership Reserve competition, and a club has a team in both the Premiership and Premiership Reserve competitions, players deemed to be Premiership players i.e. regular players of the clubs Premiership team, will not be deemed eligible to drop to a clubs Div 2, or lower, teams.
* Players that are deemed to be Premiership Reserve team players will be eligible to drop to the clubs team immediately below the Premiership Reserve League but this will only be able to be done on approval of the CF Operations Manager.

**Note; some competitions may have differing rules around the restrictions on players movement between teams. Refer to specific appendices for details**

## Where a higher League competition has been completed, a maximum of three (3) players can play in the lower graded team immediately below their registered Team, but no further players can be re-graded down to become part of that team irrespective if they play 3 consecutive games.

## A High School team competing in a Senior Men’s League, is permitted to have a maximum of three (3) senior players (non-high school) recorded on the MIS/Team Card in any one game.

## When a Team has completed its winter season, and is involved in a play-off, no further Players may be re-graded to that Team.

## A maximum of three (3) Players registered with a Composite team, can play for the Club that hold their affiliation in the lower graded team immediately below the Composite Team’s League, in any one game, UNLESS the Club is playing in a Chatham Cup or Women’s Knock-out National Competition. If the club that holds the players affiliation does not have a team either entered or playing in the competition immediately below the Composite team’s league, the player will not be eligible to play on that playing day.

## Female Players wishing to play in Senior Men’s Leagues must seek dispensation through CF.

## For Youth players, to be eligible to play in Senior Men’s competitions they must be fifteen (15) at the time of the game. For Youth players, to be eligible to play in Senior Women’s competitions they must be fourteen (14) at the time of the game. Dispensations may be requested through CF, by submitting a “Request for Dispensation” Form.

## On receipt of a protest, a misconduct report, and/or by a ‘compliance’ Team Sheet check, any Club Team found to be in breach of the Eligibility provisions of this regulation, shall be subject to the following sanctions:

### The offending Club Team shall forfeit any points gained. Goals scored by that team shall be forfeited, goals against shall stand. The opposing team shall be awarded the points for the match. Goals scored by the non-offending Club Team shall stand, and goals against cancelled.

### In the event of a scoreless draw, a 3-0 win shall be recorded in favour of the non-offending team; and

### Offending clubs shall be liable for a fine of $50 per player for each breach; and

### If both clubs are in breach of this regulation, the match result shall be cancelled. Sanctions as pursuant to 17.12.3 shall apply, and the match may be replayed at the discretion of the Competitions Manager.

**Composite Teams**

## Composite Teams are permitted to enter into the Central League, Federation Leagues and Premierships. A Region is permitted to have only one Composite team in any particular league. CF reserve the right to make exceptions to this in exceptional circumstance on application from a club(s).

## Players must be registered in COMET to a local Club within the Region they are representing, and also to their ‘Composite’ Team. For the sake of clarity, the Regions are defined as: Poverty Bay, Hawke’s Bay, Manawatu, Wanganui, and Taranaki.

## Players will play for their Composite Team for the duration of the season, and can also play for their local Club on any weekend.

## Each Composite Team shall submit a Named Squad to CF, prior to the start of the winter season. Where the Named Squad submitted consists of less than 24 Players the remaining number of Players may be added to the Named Squad at any time prior to the Transfer Closing Date.

## All changes to the Squad lists must be made via the Competitions Manager, and no additions to the Squad list will be accepted after July 1st, pursuant to Regulation 18.9.1.

## On application to the Competitions Manager, Composite Teams may be granted the right to play on alternative days. This will be at the sole direction of the CF Competition Manager.

# REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

## A player must be duly registered in accordance with FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and duly marked active within COMET, by midnight 30th June. Only registered Players are eligible to participate in CF Competitions. By the act of registering, a Player agrees to abide by the Statutes and Regulations of FIFA, OFC, NZF and CF.

## All Players must be registered with NZF in COMET. Under all circumstances, it is the Club’s responsibility to ensure that each Player is successfully registered to their Club in COMET for each season, before the Player may participate in CF Competitions. The registration can be effected through the Player self-registering in COMET for each season. No club shall register or request a transfer of a player without the players consent.

## The registration of an amateur Player with a Club takes effect from the date the individual Player is made ‘active’ by the Club in COMET in the relevant Season.

## If a Player is registering with a Club for the first time, or for the first time with a New Club, that Player must provide the Club with evidence of name and age, by producing appropriate documentation, for instance an original birth certificate, passport or drivers licence.

## A Player may only play for the Club the Player is registered with. A Player may only be registered with one Club at a time. For clarity, a Player does not breach this regulation 18.5 if they also play for:

### A Futsal club or centre;

### A school team that is not playing in the same Competition as their Club’s team(s);

### Any other team affiliated to CF which plays in a Competition not controlled by CF, and which does not play in the same Competition as their Club, for example, a Masters tournament. For the purposes of this regulation 18.5, a body controls a Competition where it determines which teams and/or Players are eligible to participate in the Competition.

Pursuant to Regulation 17.15, players must be dual registered to a club and composite team.

NOTE: Players may be registered with a maximum of three Clubs during one Season. During this period, the Player is only eligible to play Official Matches for two Clubs (winter and summer are considered separate seasons)

## Once a player is registered, the registration shall be permanent with that Club until such time as the player is transferred to another Club.

## Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the Competition. In particular, a Player may not play Official Matches for more than two Clubs competing in the same Season, subject to stricter individual Competition Regulations of NZF and CF.

**Registration Period**

## The registration of Players for the winter season shall begin on the Registration Commencement Date as advised by CF, and continue throughout the season, except for:

### Teams competing in the Federation League, Pacific, Western, and Taranaki Premierships, where all players must be registered by June 30th, and no new registrations will be permitted after this date.

**Transfer Period**

## All transfers must comply with **NZF** **Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.**

**19** **TEAM SHEETS**

## 19.1 Each Club Team shall name a Start List on the Team Sheet with a maximum number of 16 Players (11 selected Players and up to five substitutes) for each match.

## 19.2 Each Club Team is responsible for ensuring that the Team Sheet is completed properly, is legible, and handed to the referee no later than fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled kick off, and that only the selected Players start the match. The numbers on the Player’s shirts must correspond to the numbers on the Start List. The starting eleven may be adjusted in case of an injury during the warm-up, up to ten minutes before the kick off.

## 19.3 The original copy or a clear legible photo of the Team Sheet should be submitted to CF no later than 48 hours after the playing of the game. A Club breaching this regulation shall be liable for a fine and/or loss of points.

19.4 The Team Sheet is an official document of the match. Any false or incorrect information or unauthorised changes made to the Team Sheet will result in sanctions including loss of points and monetary fines.

## **Match Results**

## 19.5 At the end of the match, each Club Team shall sign the Team Sheet and ensure their Team Sheet is signed by the Referee. The Home Team shall submit the result to CF after the conclusion of the match. NB: Signing the Team Sheet indicates that the information on the Team Sheet is correct.

### 19.5.1 All Federation League, and Pacific, Horizon and Western, Premiership results must be received no later than 6pm on the day of the fixture.

### 19.5.2 All other weekend match results must be received no later than 9am on Monday morning following the match.

### 19.5.3 All weekday match results must be received no later than 9am on the morning following the fixture.

### A Club breaching this regulation shall be liable for a fine for each breach.

# COMPETITION FORMAT

## CF shall decide the format of each League and Knock-out Competition. All Knock-Out Competition Regulations, specific competition variations, or Regional Regulation variations, are found in the appendices.

## If a Club wishes to enter more Teams than the previous year, the teams shall qualify for entry to the lowest Senior League.

## If a club wishes to enter fewer teams than the previous year, the lowest placed teams will be deemed to have withdrawn.

## Where the sporting integrity of the Competition may be affected by 20.2 or 20.3, CF shall have the power to determine the final placement of Teams, to ensure suitable competitions.

# NON-COMPLIANCE

## Unless otherwise specified, if a Club is in breach of this Regulation, CF shall notify the Club in writing of the breach, and the Club will be given a reasonable period of time to rectify the breach.  It is the Club's responsibility to undertake remedial action within the timeframe set and to keep CF informed of progress, including any possible delays due to circumstances beyond its control.

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

## For the purposes of this clause, "Intellectual Property " shall mean the intellectual property of CF including but not limited to all copyright, trademarks, design rights and all rights whether created before or after this date, and whether registered or unregistered; the name and logo of CF; all broadcasting, media and production and reproduction rights of any CF matches in any form whatsoever; all operational information, promotional and advertising material in relation to CF; and all internet and website based information including competitions.

## A Club shall ensure that the ownership by CF of the Intellectual Property is protected at all times and that any breach of it or unauthorised or unlicensed use of it is reported to CF promptly.

## Any unauthorised or unlicensed use of the Intellectual Property by a Club or any such unauthorised or unlicensed use permitted by a Club shall be deemed a breach of these regulations and enforceable under the non-compliance provisions of these regulations.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## No person is entitled to bring NZF, CF, the game or any related issue into disrepute. In particular, coaches and Players are not entitled to communicate negative comments to the media, aimed at any official, which results in such disrepute. Any person who breaches this clause will be liable to a fine of $500 per breach, at the sole discretion of CF.

## No alcohol is to be present on any ground where Central Football controls the fixture. If alcohol is present at a match, and is reported by the Referee, CF, or a Club Official, or evidence provided by 3rd parties then the offending Club Team will lose 2 points, and be fined $500 for each breach for the first two offences. If a Club Team is caught for the 3rd and any subsequent time with alcohol at a fixture, they will be fined $500 and stood down one game.

# MISCELLANEOUS

## Matters not provided for in these regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by Central Football and or NZF. All decisions shall be final.

## Central Football shall issue any further instructions from time to time as necessary. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

# REFERENCES

## **FIFA Laws of the Game**:

<http://www.fifa.com/mm/Document/FootballDevelopment/Refereeing/02/36/01/11/LawsofthegamewebEN_Neutral.pdf>

## **NZF Disciplinary Code**:

## <http://www.sporty.co.nz/asset/downloadasset?id=fe052633-6af4-4cb4-a5bb-2a6d02c8ab8d>

## <http://www.nzfootball.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NZF-Disciplinary-Code.pdf>

## **NZF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players**:

<http://www.sporty.co.nz/asset/downloadasset?id=19d703fa-74e9-498f-83b7-6aabdf60bdde>

**APPENDICES;**

**CENTRAL FOOTBALL MEN’S AND WOMEN’S FEDERATION (MFL and WFL) LEAGUE – Appendix 1**

Composite teams are permitted in the MFL and WFL. For the purposes of this Appendix 1, ‘Participant’ will be substituted for ‘Club’. Participant teams are still subject to all CF Competition Regulations.

1. **COMPETITION FORMAT**
   1. The MFL and WFL shall comprise of no less than 6 participant Teams however CF reserve the right to determine the makeup of both the MFL and WFL
   2. No Participant shall be permitted to enter more than one team in the MFL or WFL.
   3. In the event of any Participant Team not continuing in the MFL or WFL for whatever reason, including, failing to meet the criteria, resulting in their removal from the MFL or WFL, then the filling of the consequential vacancy shall be determined by CF, which may in its sole discretion choose not to fill the vacancy. Any team, not automatically relegated from the MFL or WFL, choosing not to re-enter the following season, may apply to enter their respective Premiership division. Whilst CF will make every effort to fit them into this division, they make no guarantee that this application will be approved.
   4. In the event of any Participant Team not paying the entrance/participation fee in the quantum, manner and time frame (time being of the essence) as directed by CF, then, without prejudice to any other remedies available to CF, and at the sole discretion of CF, the Participant will be subject to:
      1. A fine of $2000 is imposed upon the Participant Team and a loss of two (2) competition points for each breach, and no ability to earn points in the league from wins or draws whilst the Participant Team is in breach of payment terms.
      2. If a Participant Team is still in breach at the end of the playing season, the entry for that Participant Team will be suspended until the breach is remedied.
   5. In the event of any Participant Team not continuing in the MFL or WFL for whatever reason, including but not exclusive to clause 1.3 or 1.4 above, the club will be subject to a withdrawal fee. This withdrawal fee will be:
      1. The amount paid in travel support by CF to the Participant Team; and
      2. One third (33%) of the League entry fee.

This withdrawal fee penalty will be actioned for any such withdrawals from March 1st until after 4 playing weeks of the competition.

1. **ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION**

In addition to Regulation 4 of the CF Senior Competition Regulations:

* 1. The Teams to contest the MFL and WFL in any one season will be determined by CF.
  2. All MFL clubs must also have a team entered into their respective Premiership league (Western, Pacific or Horizon Premiership) with the exception being if the MFL team is a composite team.

2.3.1 Exceptions to 2.2 may be made by application to CF

* 1. Considerations for inclusion in the MFL will include but will not be bound by, the finishing positions of Teams in the Western, Horizon and Pacific Premiership Leagues with teams finishing below 3rd in their respective Premiership only being considered for MFL entry in exceptional circumstances. Other considerations will include, but are not limited to, the ability to meet minimum hosting standards, and the financial capability of the participant Club.
  2. Preference may be given to Participant Clubs not already represented in the Central League (CL).
  3. Notwithstanding 2.4, where deemed suitable, reserve Teams of Clubs participating in the CL may, on application, be allowed to play in the MFL or WFL to ensure the competitions strength.
  4. Any CF Participant Team relegated from, or those who elect not to re-apply to the CL will, on application be considered for a place in the relevant MFL or WFL
  5. If a Composite Team enters the MFL or WFL, no other Club Team from that region may enter a Team. For the sake of clarity, the Regions are defined as: Poverty Bay, Hawke’s Bay, Manawatu, Wanganui, and Taranaki.

The decision of CF as to the composition of the MFL and WFL shall be final and binding. CF retains the ability to increase or decrease the number of teams at its sole discretion and determine the eligibility for promotion and relegation to and from the MFL and WFL as it sees fit.

1. **PROMOTION / RELEGATION**

In addition to Regulation 15 (Playing of Fixtures) of the CF Senior Competition Regulations:

* 1. At the conclusion of the MFL season, the winning Participant Team will have the option to participate in a two round play-off series with the winning Team from the Capital Football Premier League, to gain automatic promotion to the CL.
  2. In the case of a MFL Participant Team advancing to the CL, and no CF Team dropping back to the MFL, the vacant MFL spot will be taken by the winner of a play-off series between the Taranaki, Horizon and Pacific Premiership League winners.
  3. The bottom placed MFL Participant Team may be relegated, and the vacant MFL spot will be taken by the winner of the play-off series between the Taranaki, Horizon and Pacific Premiership League winners.
  4. Should one, or more, Premiership winning Team not wish to participate in the play-off series, then the remaining Premiership winning team will advance to the MFL. Should no Premiership winning team wish to participate in the play-offs, then the bottom placed Participant Team shall retain its place in the MFL.
  5. There shall be no promotion/relegation process in the WFL unless specifically sated by CF prior to the season starting. Participating teams in the WFL will be at the sole discretion of CF.

1. **SUBSTITUTES**

Participant teams competing in the MFL, are permitted to name five substitutes on the Team Sheet and up to a maximum of three of the substitutes may take the place of the selected players at any time during the match (not interchanging)

Participating teams competing in the WFL are permitted to name five substitutes on the Team Sheet and use all five to take the place of the selected players at any time during the match (not interchanging)

1. **EQUIPMENT/FACILITIES**

CF reserves the right to inspect the grounds and facilities prior to the acceptance of any team into its competitions. If a Participant Team fails to provide a suitable ground, or acceptable facilities, or has not met their obligations as per CF Competition Regulations, that Participant Team may be refused entry to the MFL or WFL. Federation League Participant Teams are expected to have a higher standard of ground and facilities than lesser-placed teams.

* 1. Any Participant Team entering the MFL and WFL will be required to meet minimum hosting standards for Home games (excludes games played on neutral grounds) including the providing of changing and showering facilities, at or in the close proximity to the ground the fixture is played on. Team designated changing facilities should be available at least 60 minutes prior to kick off.
  2. Separate changing facilities should be provided for match officials
  3. Each participating MFL and WFL teams shall have a designated club member in attendance to welcome away teams and match officials and act as a point of contact pre and post-match
  4. CF will provide, prior to the season, a quantity of FIFA approved size 5 match balls for each Team. Each Home Team must provide a minimum of three (3) size 5 match balls in good playing order to be used in each FL game. Any replacement ball costs will be borne by the club.
  5. Regulation nets, corner flags, technical area, and crowd barriers shall be supplied by the Participant Home Team at all fixtures. Ground should be roped on both sides of the pitch and official technical areas clearly defined. Only designated team officials shall be permitted to be in the official technical area. The referee or AR’s may stop the game to insist that any person, that is not a designated team official, should leave the technical area. Technical areas should include seating for a minimum of six (6) team officials.

**CENTRAL FOOTBALL MEN’S PREMIERSHIP LEAGUES – Appendix 2**

1. **COMPETITION FORMAT**

* 1. Premiership competitions pertain to Pacific Premiership (Gisborne and Hawkes Bay areas), Horizon Premiership (Manawatu and Wanganui areas) and Western Premiership (Taranaki and surrounding areas)
  2. The Premiership Leagues (PL) shall comprise of no less than 6 and no more than 10 Teams however CF reserve the right to make a decision on the number of participants in need.
  3. No Club shall be permitted to enter more than one team in the PL.
  4. In the event of any Club Team not continuing in the PL for whatever reason, including, failing to meet the criteria, resulting in their removal from the PL, then the filling of the consequential vacancy shall be determined by CF, which may in its sole discretion choose not to fill the vacancy.

1. **ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION**

In addition to Regulation 4 of the CF Senior Competition Regulations:

* 1. Teams will only contest their regional competitions as outlined in 1.1 of the Central Football Men’s Premiership League Regulations
  2. The Teams to contest a PL in any one season will be determined by CF.
  3. Considerations will include but will not be bound by, the finishing positions of Teams in Taranaki Championship, Wanganui Division 1, and Manawatu Division 1, Gisborne Division 1 and Hawkes Bay Premiership Reserve and HB Men’s Division 2 Leagues; the ability to meet minimum hosting standards; and the financial capability of the Participant Team
  4. Any Club Team relegated from, or those who elect not to re-apply to the FL will, on application be considered for a place in the Premier Leagues.

The decision of CF as to the composition of a PL shall be final and binding. CF retains the ability to increase or decrease the number of teams at its sole discretion.

1. **PROMOTION / RELEGATION**

In addition to the CF Senior Competition Regulations:

* 1. At the conclusion of the PL season, the winning Western, Horizon and Pacific Premiership Teams will have the option to participate in a play-off series to gain automatic promotion to the Federation League. Pursuant to 3.2, if one of the Premiership winning or second place teams do not wish to participate in a playoff series for promotion to the FL, then the series will be played home and away between the two remaining Premiership winning, or second place teams. If winners or second place teams from two Premierships do not wish to be considered for a Federation League place, the sole Premiership winning or second place team will automatically be eligible to promotion to the MFL.
  2. Should a Premiership winning Team not wish to take up this promotion playoff opportunity, or is ineligible, the second placed team will be offered the option. Should no Premiership winning teams wish to participate in the play-offs, then the bottom placed Club Team shall retain its place in the FL.
  3. At the conclusion of the PL season, the bottom placed Pacific, Horizon and Western Premiership Team shall be considered to be automatically relegated, and the vacant PL spot will be taken by the winner of a play-off series between the winners of the relevant Regions Division 1 competitions. To avoid confusion this would be;
* Horizon Premiership - Wanganui Division 1 and Manawatu Division 1 League winners.
* Pacific Premiership – Hawkes Bay Division 1 and Gisborne Division 1 winners
* Western Premiership – Taranaki Championship winners
* Should no club, not currently participating in the relevant PL, wish to be promoted to the PL, then the club that finished last in the season completed will retain their place in the PL
* Pursuant to 1.3 of the Central Football Men’s Premiership Leagues Regulations, reserve teams of Clubs currently participating in the PL cannot enter the play-offs

Pursuant to Regulation 4; Entries to the Competition - CF retain the right to determine the makeup of leagues.  If the bottom club in a Premiership is not able to be relegated due to them being a FL reserve side, there will be no relegation but every effort will be made to ensure that any club, that does not currently have a PL team, wishing to be promoted from the Local league, will have the opportunity to do so.

1. **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Teams competing in the PL competitions, are permitted to name five substitutes on the Team Sheet and all five of the substitutes may take the place of the selected Players at any time during the match (not interchanging).

1. **EQUIPMENT** 
   1. CF will provide, prior to the season, a quantity of FIFA approved size 5 match balls for each Team. Each Home Team must provide a minimum of three (3) size 5 match balls in good playing order to be used in each FL game. Any replacement ball costs will be borne by the club
   2. Regulation nets, corner flags, and crowd barriers shall be supplied by the Home Team at all fixtures. Ground should be roped on both sides of the pitch and official technical areas clearly defined. Only designated team officials shall be permitted to be in the official technical area. The referee or AR’s may stop the game to insist that any person, that is not a designated team official, should leave the technical area. Technical areas should include seating for a minimum of six (6) team officials.

Any Premiership teams breaching the minimum standards of Regulation 5 of the Central Football Men’s Premiership Leagues - Appendix 2 shall be liable for a fine of $50.00 for each breach.

**CENTRAL FOOTBALL MEN’S PREMIERSHIP RESERVE DIVISION (MEN AND WOMEN) – Appendix 3**

**GENERAL;**

The concept of the Premiership Reserve league is based on the following;

* A team that a club has in place to support their Premiership team
* A team that promotes youth players (i.e. 15-17 year olds) and provides them with an environment that gives them appropriate development both on a football and social level.
* The concept is about being a genuine development and support team for a club rather than necessarily on results
* The rules around “Reserve Leagues” may differ from Region to Region with the Central Federation

1. **COMPETITION FORMAT**

1.1 Premiership Reserve leagues may pertain to Pacific Premiership (Gisborne and Hawkes Bay areas), Horizon Premiership (Manawatu and Wanganui areas) and Western Premiership (Taranaki and surrounding areas)

1.2 The Premiership Reserve Leagues (PRL) shall comprise of no less than 6 and no more than 10 Teams however CF reserve the right to make a decision on the number of participants in need.

1.3 No Club shall be permitted to enter more than one team in the PRL.

1.4 In the event of any Club not continuing in the PL for whatever reason, including, failing to meet the criteria, resulting in their removal from the PL, then CF reserve the right to enforce the withdrawal of the clubs PRL side also. The filling of the consequential vacancy shall be determined by CF, which may in its sole discretion choose not to fill the vacancy.

1.5 The PRL shall be conducted as per all other senior men’s and women’s competitions, shall be required to complete team sheets and maintain results and goal scorers via the provided online platform, however the emphasis will not be on results but development of both players and the strength of the Regions PL clubs.

1. **ENTRIES FOR THE COMPETITION**

2.1 Teams will only contest their regional competitions as outlined in 1.1 of the Central Football Men’s Premiership League Regulations

2.2 The Teams to contest a PRL in any one season will be determined by CF. The concept of the PRL is that teams will be the “reserve” side of the clubs Premiership team and therefore the makeup of the PRL should mirror that of the PL. CF, however, reserve the right to make exceptions to this at its sole discretion.

2.3 Any Club Team relegated from, or those who elect not to re-apply to the FL will, on application be considered for a place in the Premier Leagues. The club should then enter a team into the relevant PRL if such a league is operational in the relevant Region

The decision of CF as to the composition of a PRL shall be final and binding. CF retains the ability to increase or decrease the number of teams at its sole discretion.

1. **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Teams competing in the PRL competitions, are permitted to name five (5) substitutes on the Team Sheet and be permitted to have all five (5) interchange as the discretion of the match official.

1. **EQUIPMENT** 
   1. Regulation nets, corner flags, and crowd barriers shall be supplied by the Home Team at all fixtures. Ground should be roped on both sides of the pitch and official technical areas clearly defined. Only designated team officials shall be permitted to be in the official technical area. The referee or AR’s may stop the game to insist that any person, that is not a designated team official, should leave the technical area. Technical areas should include seating for a minimum of six (6) team officials.

**CENTRAL FOOTBALL LOCAL SENIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUES (MEN AND WOMEN) – Appendix 4**

**GENERAL;**

* **“Local Senior Football leagues” (Men and Women) generally pertain to Regional local competitions below the Regional Premiership leagues**

**1 COMPETITION FORMAT**

1.1 CF reserve the right to determine the number of teams that will compete in these competitions and alter this if required. If necessary, CF will liaise with clubs to ensure all competitions have the number of teams that will create a competitive and enjoyable competition. CF retains the ability to increase or decrease the number of teams at its sole discretion

1.2 Each league will, ideally, be played over a home and away scenario. CF do, however, reserve the right to change the format if the number of teams make a season of fixtures that is too short (less than 15 league games) or too long (greater than 18 league games). Changes to the format will be advised by CF with seven (7) days of the start of the season.

1.3 CF may decide to play one round followed by a top/bottom second round or a similar type format

1.4 Clubs will be permitted to have more than one team from their club in any of the Regions Division 2 or lower

1.5 CF reserve the right to place teams from clubs that may have two, or more, teams in the same division into another division – either up or down.

1.6 Any club wanting to enter a new team to a Regions competition will enter the team into the lowest league in the first instance. CF reserve the right to consider applications for teams to play in higher divisions and will do so on a case by case basis.

**2 PROMOTION / RELEGATION**

2.1 CF reserve the right to insist that a team that has won a local division in two consecutive seasons to be promoted to the division above. CF have the discretion to manage this should that club already have teams in the division above or the division above is a Premiership or Premiership Reserve division.

**3 PLAYERS**

3.1 Players in a clubs lower league team can play in a clubs higher league team. Only three (3) players from a higher graded team can play down in a lower graded team at any one time and they are only eligible to play in the team immediately below the team they are graded to play in.

3.2 Pursuant to 3.1, players are graded to a team after they have played three (3) consecutive games for that team. For the removal of confusion; “Playing” relates to taking the field in a game as either a starting player or substitute.

3.3 When a Club has more than one team in a League, a maximum of three (3) players can play across the two teams in any one game.

3.4 Players are not permitted to be on the team card for two teams from the same club playing at the same time.

**4 SUBSTITUTIONS**

4.1 All Central Football local league competitions (Men and Women) shall be entitled to name five (5) substitutes and will be permitted to have all five (5) interchange as the discretion of the match official.

**5 EQUIPMENT**

* 1. As per Regulation 8 of the Senior Competition Regulations – please refer.
  2. Nets and corners flags shall be supplied by the team named first in the fixture list and known as the “home” team

**FEDERATION KNOCKOUT CUP – MEN’S AND WOMEN’S – Appendix 5**

1. **Entries:**
   * Open to all Senior Men’ and Women’s Teams competing in CF Competitions
   * Only one team per Club is permitted to enter
   * Central League Teams are not permitted to enter, but CF Central League Clubs may enter a team from a lower competition
   * The entry fee must accompany the registration for the Federation Cups.
   * Minimum number of entries is at the discretion of CF.
2. **Playing of Fixtures:**
   * Regulation nets, corner flags, a technical area and also crowd barriers shall be supplied by the Home Team at all FC fixtures.
   * For all all rounds the team drawn first shall be deemed to be the Home Team. The first team drawn shall have Home ground advantage. Exceptions will be made in the case of the following:
     + Taranaki teams vs Gisborne Teams – to be played in Central Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North or Hawkes Bay
     + Taranaki teams vs Hawkes Bay Teams – to be played in Manawatu
     + Wanganui teams or Manawatu teams vs Gisborne – to be played in Napier
     + CF reserve the right to amend the neutral venues if required
   * When FC matches clash with local League or Knock-out Cup fixtures, the local fixture will be postponed to the next suitable date.
   * A squad list of players of the two finalists may be requested to be submitted to CF at least seven (7) days prior to the final.
   * CF reserves the right in the case of quarter and semi-finals to decide the match venue, match date and kick off time. In exercising this right, CF shall give notice of not less than fourteen (14) days to the competing teams
   * CF shall determine the most suitable date and match venue for the FC Final
3. Player Eligibility:
   * In exceptional circumstances, a club may apply to have a player’s eligibility to play in the Federation Cup Knock-out Final reviewed. This application must be received in writing, ten business days before the game is to be played. The decision of CF shall be final and binding.
   * Players that have played for their club in the Chatham Cup or NZ Women’s Knockout Cup in the same season are deemed ineligible for the Federation Cup competition
   * Players may only play for one club in any cup competition in the same season.

**LOCAL KNOCK-OUT CUP COMPETITIONS/CHALLENGE CUPS – Appendix 6**

**GENERAL;**

* **Local league or Premiership Men’s teams may enter the Federation Cup OR the Chatham Cup AND their local Knockout Cup**
* **Local league Women’s teams may enter the Federation Cup OR the NZ Women’s Knockout Cup AND their local Knockout Cup**
* **Federation League teams (MFL or WFL) may enter the Chatham Cup OR the Federation Cup but are not permitted to enter their Regions local Knockout Cup competitions.**
* **Composite team players will be eligible to play for their registered club in their Regions Senior Knockout Cup but only if they have taken the field for their Composite Team in 50% or less games for the total Composite Team’s season, i.e. if 18 games and they have played in 9 or less games at any time in the competition then they can play.**
* **Central League graded players will not be permitted to play in Local Knockout Cup Competitions**
* **Local premier Knockout Cup competitions will be able to name five (5) substitutes on the team sheet and will be able to play all five (5) and any time during the match**
* **In any local 2nd tier Knockout Cup competition, teams will be able to name five (5) substitutes and all five (5) will be able to be used interchanging.**
* **Clubs that have teams participating on both a Premiership and Premiership Reserve competition, where there is no restriction on player movement up or down between these two teams will be required to abide by the following;**
  + **Both teams shall play players normally associated with each team in the correct team.**
  + **Once a player has taken the field for either side in a Knock-Out Cup fixture, they will become “cup tied” from playing for any other team in the same competition.**

1. **GISBORNE**

**MEN**

*Bailey Cup* – Only open to teams playing in the top Gisborne League

*Chris Moore Cup* - Only open to teams playing in the 2nd tier Gisborne Competition

*Poverty Bay Cup* – Only open to teams playing in Division 3

*Emerre Hathaway* – Only open to teams who lose their 1st game in the Poverty Bay Cup OR

if there is a Division 4, only teams from that Division may enter

**WOMEN**

*Braybrooke Cup* – Open to all teams playing in the Women’s Division(s)

1. **HAWKES BAY**

**MEN**

*Premier Knockout Cup* –

* + Open to teams playing in the Premier and 1st Division/Reserve League
  + There will be no plate rounds
  + Players may only play for either their clubs Premiership or Div 1 team. They are deemed to be “cup tied” once they have played for either side. In the interests of clarity – “playing” constitutes taking the field. An unused substitute has not deemed to have “played”.
  + If scores are level at the end of 90 minutes of a Premier Knock Out Cup game, extra time (15 mins each way) will take place followed by penalties, if required, as per the FIFA Laws of the Game (LOTG).
  + Central League graded players are not permitted to play in the Premier Knock Out Cup.
  + Only three (3) MFL graded players, who are not cup tied, will be allowed to play for a team graded directly below that Federation League team in a Knockout Cup game.
  + Teams in the Premier Knock Out Cup will be allowed 5 named substitutes with all five allowed to take the field as replacement players (no interchanging).

*Holt Cup* –

* + Open to teams playing in the HB 2nd division and below including HB Masters
  + There will be no plate rounds.
  + Premier and 1st Division/Reserve League players are cup tied from playing in the Holt Cup after playing in the Senior Knockout Cup competition.
  + Once a team has been knocked out of the Holt Cup competition, players may play up in the Premier Knock Out Cup. This is restricted to a maximum of 3 players.
  + All Holt Cup games will be decided within 90 mins. If the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes then the game will be decided on penalties. There will be no extra time played.
  + Only three (3) Premiership or Division 1/Reserve League graded players, who are not cup tied, will be allowed to play for a team graded directly below them, in a Holt Cup game.
  + Only three (3) Federation League graded players, who are not cup tied, will be allowed to play for a team graded directly below that Federation League team in a Knockout Cup game. Federation League players would only therefore be deemed eligible to play in the Holt Cup is the club they play for does not have either a Premiership or Premiership Reserve team.
  + Teams in the Holt Cup will be allowed 5 named substitutes with all 5 allowed at the referee’s discretion (interchanging).

**WOMEN**

*Ray Turner Shield/HBWFA Plate*

* + Open to all teams entered in the HB Women’s Premiership
  + First round losers will be entered into the Plate competition.
  + The League Manager shall at their discretion give teams a bye through to the second round of the Ray Turner Shield to maintain the integrity of the Shield and Plate Competitions.
  + Once a player has played for one team they are deemed to be “cup tied” and therefore not eligible to play for any other side in either the Shield or Plate competition.
  + Only three (3) WFL graded players, who are not cup tied, will be allowed to play for a team graded directly below that Federation League team in a Knockout Cup game.
  + Teams in the Shield or Plate competitions will be allowed 5 named substitutes with all 5 allowed at the referee’s discretion (interchanging).
  + If scores are level at the end of 90 minutes of a Ray Turner Shield game, extra time (15 mins each way) will take place followed by penalties, if required, as per the FIFA Laws of the Game (LOTG).
  + All Plate games will be decided within 90 mins. If the scores are level at the end of 90 minutes then the game will be decided on penalties. There will be no extra time played.

**Men’s and Women’s Charity Shield;**

* These games will take place on the weekend preceding the senior seasons start.
* These games will be played between the winner of the Premiership (Men’s and Women’s) and the winner of the Premier Knock Out Cup (Men and Women). If the winner of these competition is the same team then the league runner up will play.
* Players must be registered to the club at the time of playing
* Carried over suspensions from the previous season will not be imposed on these fixtures, however CF reserve the right to recognise a suspension if it was imposed as the result of the hearing between the CF Disciplinary Committee.
* Teams will be permitted to name five (5) substitutes on the team card and play all 5 (interchanging)
* Games will be decided within 90 minutes. If the scores are level at 90 minutes then the Charity Shield will be shared.

1. **MANAWATU**

**MEN**

*Chinese Cup* - Will be played each year at the start of the season by the top two teams in the

Manawatu, i.e. the two highest placed Clubs at the end of the previous season.

*Easter Cup* - open to Manawatu teams playing in Horizon’s Premiership.

*Charity Cup* - open to teams playing in Division 1.

*Bill Dyer Memorial* - Open to teams playing 2nd division.

*Rod Pelosi Cup* – Open to teams playing in 3rd division.

*Nielsen Cup* – Open to teams playing in 4th division.

**WOMEN**

***Tingey Trophy*** –Manawatu division 1 teams can enter.

***Tingey Plate*** – Manawatu division 2 teams can enter.

1. **WANGANUI**

**MEN**

**RUTLAND ARMS CHALLENGE SHIELD**

Open to ALL Men’s Teams competing in the Roly Taylor Championship League:

1. All players must be registered with their respective Club or school.
2. The lowest place Team from the end of the previous season shall display and defend the shield at its first game, and all subsequent games the Team wins within the Roly Taylor Championship rounds.
3. Should the Team lose the game, the trophy is passed onto the winner, who in turn must display and defend the shield at their next game, and all subsequent games the Team wins.
4. If a game is drawn, the trophy remains with the current holders.
5. At the conclusion of the Roly Taylor Championship League competition, the successful defending Club Team shall be presented with the Shield. At the commencement of the next winter season the shield will be given to the lowest placed team from the previous year to start the challenge again.

***Charity Cup, Plate and Bowl Competition*** *– Open to ALL Wanganui Men’s teams (including PL Teams) registered to Central Football Competitions for the current season.*

1. All players must be registered with their respective Club or school.
2. For All Charity Cup Competitions including the plate and bowl components the rules from the Winter League Competition that, the lowest placed team in each cup are competing in shall be adhered to.
3. The Competition will be played over consecutive playing day’s determined and advised in writing to Clubs by the League Manager each season.
4. The format for the competition will be determined by the number of teams in the Wanganui Men’s Leagues and advised in writing to Clubs by the League Manager each season.
5. Players who have taken the field in any of the Charity Cup, Plate or Bowl competitions for a team may not play for another team in any of the Charity Cup, Plate or Bowl competitions.
6. Team cards need to be completed as per the CF Senior Competition Regulations for ALL games. Team cards must be a true and accurate record of the team and game.
7. Misconducts will be administered by CF as per the CF Senior Competition Regulations. The Disciplinary process set out by CF will be adhered to in the case of serious misconduct.
8. The League Manager shall at their discretion give teams a bye through to the second round of the Charity Cup to maintain the integrity of the Competition.

**WOMEN**

***Senior Cup* –** open to all teams in the Wanganui Women’s Local Leagues, excluding school based teams.

1. All players must be registered with their respective Club.
2. The Cup will be played on playing days either at the beginning of each season or will coincide with the April or July school holidays but this will be determined and advised in writing to Clubs by the League Manager at the start of each season.
3. The Cup will be played on a league basis and the winner will be determined on league position.
4. Players who have taken the field in the Senior Cup for a team may not play for another team in the same competition.
5. Team cards need to be completed as per the CF Senior Competition Regulations for ALL games. Team cards must be a true and accurate record of the team and game.
6. Misconducts will be administered by CF as per the CF Senior Competition Regulations. The Disciplinary process set out by CF will be adhered to in the case of serious misconduct.

***James Cup*** - open to all teams in the Wanganui Women’s Local League Competitions.

1. All players must be registered with their respective Club or school.
2. The Competition will be played over one playing day at the end of the season. The date set will be advised in writing to the Clubs and Schools by the League Manager each season.
3. The format for the competition will be determined by the number of teams in the Wanganui Women’s League and in consultation with the Wanganui Football Development Officer and advised in writing to Clubs by the League Manager each season.
4. Players who have taken the field in the James Cup for a team may not play for another team in the same competition.
5. Team cards need to be completed as per the CF Senior Competition Regulations for ALL games. Team cards must be a true and accurate record of the team and game.
6. Misconducts will be administered by CF as per the CF Senior Competition Regulations. The Disciplinary process set out by CF will be adhered to in the case of serious misconduct.
7. **TARANAKI**

**MEN**

*Duff Rosebowl* - open to all teams that play Premiership and Championship only.

1. No more than 3 players can play in another team from the same club competing in the Duff Rose Bowl, as long as they are not cup tied.
2. Once a team has been knocked out of the Nimmos Cup competition, players may play up in the Duff Rosebowl. This is restricted to a maximum of 2 players.

*Nimmos Cup* - open to all other teams in Taranaki Men’s Division 1 and Division 2 only.

1. No more than 3 players can play in another team from the same club competing in the Nimmo’s Cup, as long as they are not cup tied.

**WOMEN**

*Duchess Cup* -open to all teams in the Women’s Leagues.

1. No more than 3 players can play in another team from the same club competing in the Duchess Cup, as long as they are not cup tied.

**CHALLENGE CUPS (relevant to all Central Football Regions)**

1. **CHALLENGE CUPS**

In certain CF Competitions, where there are Challenge Cups, the following rules shall apply:

* 1. The Team possessing the trophy from the end of the previous season shall display and defend the trophy at its first Home game, and all subsequent Home games the Team wins.
  2. Should the Team lose the Home game, the trophy is passed onto the winner, who in turn must display and defend the trophy at their next Home Game, and all subsequent Home games the Team wins.
  3. If a game is drawn, the trophy remains with the Home Team.
  4. At the conclusion of the League competition, the successful defending Club Team shall be presented with the trophy and retain it until the next winter season.