



COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS – FOOTBALL 2023 AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES

GENERAL

The football competition will be conducted in accordance with the FIFA rules and Laws of the Games, and under these Competition Rules and Regulations.

These Rules and Regulations may be subject to change at the sole and absolute discretion of the Football SA.

VENUE

All games will be held at the Service FM Stadium, Gepps Cross, SA subject to the number of team registrations. Where an additional venue is required West Beach Football Centre will be used.

Service FM Stadium comprises of two artificial fields, one natural turf field and 10 5-aside courts.

ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- a. Only teams that have completed the Team Registration Form will be eligible to participate in the competition. Teams' nominations must be submitted no later than **8 September 2023**.
- b. Participants that have registered as individuals, will be, where possible, allocated to a team.
- c. All players and team officials must be registered as Australian Masters Games participants and have the appropriate identification pass, to participate in the football competition.
- d. Registered participants may only play for one team in one age category. If a team has registered multiple teams across age groups, registered participants may only play in one team and must play in the team in which they are registered to.
- e. **All players must be registered by the close of business 29 September 2023.**
- f. All participants must display their identification pass prior to the commencement of each match.
- g. Identification passes are **STRICTLY NOT TRANSFERABLE**.
- h. Participants must be age eligible according to the age categories stipulated. The following age dispensation ruling is available to teams;



11-Aside & 5-Aside

1. A team may register a maximum of two underage players in the age categories listed below. The players are permitted to be 2 years below the minimum age group.

- **Men 35+**
- **Men 40+**
- **Men 45+**
- **Men 50+**
- **Men 55+**
- **Men 60+**
- **Women 35+**
- **Women 45+**

Age Dispensation Field Players - Men

A team may register a maximum of two players that are 33+ as of the 31 December 2023 in the Men's 35+ group.

A team may register a maximum of two players that are 38+ as of the 31 December 2023 in the Men's 40+ group.

A team may register a maximum of two players that are 43+ as of the 31 December 2023 in the Men's 45+ group.

A team may register a maximum of two players that are 48+ as of the 31 December 2023 in the Men's 50+ group.

A team may register a maximum of two players that are 53+ as of the 31 December 2023 in the Men's 55+ group.

A team may register a maximum of two players that are 58+ as of the 31 December 2023 in the Men's 60+ group.

Age Dispensation Field Players - Women

A team may register a maximum of two players that are 33+ as of the 31 December 2023 in the Women's 35+ group.

A team may register a maximum of two players that are 43+ as of the 31 December 2023 in the Women's 45+ group.

Walking Football: For Men 50+ and Men 60+ age divisions, teams are permitted to register one (1) player who is no more than two (2) years under the age threshold for the given age division. For Women and Mixed age divisions, teams are permitted to register two (2) players who are no more than two (2) years under the age threshold for the given age division.

Goalkeepers;

2. Goalkeepers are granted an age exemption and can be 5 years below the minimum age



requirement (1 age category below) except in the youngest men's age category where they must be the minimum age to qualify.

Age Dispensation Goalkeeper - Examples

A goalkeeper may play in the 40+ age group for men, if the player is age eligible for the 35+ age group. A goalkeeper that is below the 35+age group is **not eligible** to play in the 35+ age group.

A goalkeeper may play in the 35+ age group for women, if the player is aged 30+ as of 31 December 2023.

SCHEDULE AND FORMAT

Following the receipt of all team nominations the schedule and format of the football competition will be finalized. Please note the following:

- The football competition will be conducted over five days from Tuesday 10 to Saturday 14 October 2023. Finals will be conducted on either Friday 13 and Saturday 14 October 2023 subject to the number of teams nominated and the format applied.
- The competition will be conducted in a round robin format and will culminate in finals where possible.
- The duration of each match will be 2 x 30 minute halves for all age groups. There will be a half time break of a maximum of 10 minutes.
- There must be a minimum of four teams in each age category for the competition to be conducted. Where there is not the required number, teams may be allocated to another age category. Any decision will be at the discretion of Football SA.

POINTS ALLOCATION

- In the round robin stage of the competition, points will be awarded as follows:
 - Win 3 Points
 - Draw 1 Point
 - Loss 0 Points
- In the case of teams being equal on points at the end of the round robin stage, positions will be determined according to the following process:
 - Goal difference
 - Goals scored for
 - Goals against
 - Head to head
 - Draw of lots



Semi-finals and Finals

- Should the scores be tied at the end of normal time in a semi-final or a final match, then a period of extra time, 2 x 10 minutes halves, shall be played. Should the scores still be tied at the end of extra time, then a penalty shootout will be conducted, as per FIFA regulations.

TEAM SHEETS

- Each team must complete a team sheet for every game that they play. These will be available at the venue and are to be completed and provided to the Registration Desk at least 30 minutes prior to the game.
- The player's registration and their shirt number must be placed on the team sheet.
- A maximum of sixteen (16) players per match may be listed for age groups 30+ and 40+ and a maximum of 18 players per match may be listed for age groups 45+ and above.
- All players that are expected to play in that game must be named on the team sheet.
- A team official is required to sign the team sheet at the conclusion of the game verifying that the result is correct. The team official must ensure that all information on the team sheet is accurate prior to signing, this includes red and yellow cards, score line, goal scorers. Any injuries must also be noted on the team sheet.

INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

- Interchange will be used throughout this competition.
- Unlimited interchange may be used by each team at any time when the ball is out of play, at the referee's discretion, and following a signal from the referee.
- The referee may refuse any request for an interchange if they believe that permitting the interchange will give an unfair advantage or if a series of interchanges is unduly delaying or interrupting the flow of the game.
- Interchange of players may only occur at the interchange point (or halfway line of the field) on the sideline.

FORFEIT OF GAMES

- All teams must fulfill all their scheduled fixtures as provided by Football SA.
- All teams must be ready to commence the match at the scheduled kick-off time.



- Should a team be unable to take to the field within 10 minutes of the scheduled kick-off time, the Referee will not commence the game and a forfeit result may apply.
- If a team has less than seven (7) registered team members on the pitch at the starting time, it will forfeit the game. If the team commences the game and during the game have less than seven (7) players on the field, the game will be forfeited. If at the time of the forfeit, score line of the game is greater than the 3-0 forfeit result, the score line will stand.
- The points and goal allocation for a forfeited game shall be three (3) goals to nil (0) and three (3) points. If a game is forfeited once it has commenced and the score line is greater than the three (3) goals to nil (0) forfeit score, the score will stand.
- **If a team forfeits the last round robin game, which may impact on the final standings of the group competition, the team will be deducted three additional competition points in addition to the forfeit penalty of three (3) goals to nil (0) and three (3) points.**
- All instances of forfeits or match abandonment will be handled by the Disputes Committee.

TEAM COLOURS

- Each team is required to nominate a home and away playing strip. It is recommended that if one of the strips is dark in colour, the alternative strip should be light in colour. Each team must nominate alternative shirt, shorts and socks.
- Football SA will provide a list of all teams playing strips and will allocate playing strips to avoid a colour clash.
- If in the opinion of the Referee there is a colour clash between the teams or goalkeepers, the away named team or goalkeeper will be required to change into an alternative playing strip.
- Any player wearing undershorts must ensure that they are the same colour as the playing shorts or if the undergarment is a shirt, it must be the same colour as the dominant colour of the playing shirt sleeve or shirt.

REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

- The appointment of all Referees will be the responsibility of the Football SA.
- Where possible, a Referee and two Assistant Referees will be appointed to each game. If three officials are unavailable, each team will be asked to provide a suitable person to act as an Assistant Referee.



MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSIONS

- If a player receives two (2) Yellow Cards (cautions) in the course of a game, the player shall be suspended for the next competition game.
- If a player accumulates three (3) Yellow Cards (cautions) during the group stage of the competition, the player shall be suspended for the next competition game. All yellow cards will be reset at the conclusion of the group stage.
- If a player accumulates two (2) Yellow Cards (cautions) during the finals of the competition, the player shall be suspended for the next competition game.
- All yellow cards will be reset at the conclusion of the semi-final match.
- If a player receives a red card in the course of a game, the player will receive a minimum mandatory one (1) match suspension. All red card offences will be reviewed by the Disciplinary and Disputes Committee who will determine if a greater penalty is to be imposed.

COMPETITION DISCIPLINARY AND DISPUTES COMMITTEE

- The Competition Disciplinary and Disputes Committee shall be solely responsible for determining and monitoring all cases of player discipline infringements.
- Referee reports will be used to determine appropriate consequences for serious offences.
- The Competition Disciplinary and Disputes Committee will convene at the conclusion of each day to review player disciplinary matters.
- Once a decision is made relating to match suspensions, this information will be provided to the relevant team.
- The Competition Disciplinary and Disputes Committee shall also hear other matters of dispute complaint concerning the conduct of the competition.
- The Competition Disciplinary and Disputes Committee will consist of three (3) people appointed by Football SA.
- The decision of the Competition Disciplinary and Disputes committee shall be **FINAL**.
- **If required the Competition Disciplinary and Disputes Committee may refer the matter to the Football SA Disciplinary Committee for determination.**

ABANDONMENT OF GAMES

If any game is required to be abandoned, the matter shall be referred to the Competition Convenor who may, in consultation with the Competition Disciplinary and Disputes Committee, re-schedule the match or



PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Unless otherwise specified in these rules, the competition will be conducted under FIFA Laws of the Game.

MATCH BALLS

The provision of match balls will be the responsibility of Football SA. All participating teams will be responsible for supplying their own practice-warm up balls.

CHANGING ROOMS ROSTER

A changing room roster will be provided to all teams indicating access times to a changing room prior to and at the conclusion of each game. All teams are required to adhere to the roster.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Sports Medicine Australia Trainers will be at the venue for the duration of the competition.

WARM UP AREAS

Designated 5-a-side courts will be available to utilise as warm up areas. Where possible, teams may be able to utilise the field of play to warm-up.

FINALS AND PRESENTATION

Presentations will be made following the finals of each age group. Where a final is not played, presentations will be made at the conclusion of the team's last game or as directed by Football SA.