

Competition Regulations

Girls Youth Combined Leagues

11th to 17th Grades



1. Combined Leagues

These regulations are specific competition regulations governing aspects of play and procedure in Girls Combined Leagues, being football competitions administered by the Auckland Football Federation involving girl's youth teams from clubs in AFF and neighbouring Federations, as allowed under Section 6 of the Federation Competition Regulations, Youth 10th to 17th Grade, General Provisions. ***The General Provisions shall apply to these Grades as well as these specific competition regulations with the proviso that where there is a contradiction between the two, these specific regulations shall take precedence.***

2. Sanction Required

Where teams are from clubs other than AFF, sanction must be granted by the appropriate Federation for those clubs to participate.

3. FIFA Regulations

All Girls Combined Leagues shall be conducted under the current FIFA regulations except as otherwise specified in these specific competition regulations.

4. Number of players per side

11th & 12th Grade – teams shall have a maximum of seven players on the field, one of whom shall be designated as a goalkeeper.

13th to 17th Grade - teams shall have a maximum of 11 players on the field at any time and a minimum of 7 players. Should any team fail to field 7 eligible players, whether through shortage or sending-off, they shall forfeit the match.

5. Duration of matches:

11 th & 12 th Grade	2 x 25 min halves with 5 min half time
13 th & 14 th Grades	2 x 27.5 min halves plus 5 min half time
15 th Grade	2 x 35 min halves plus 5 min half time
17 th Grade	2 x 40 min halves plus 5 min half time

In the event of a late start for any reason, if it is known or can be ascertained prior to kick-off that there is *no* later match scheduled for the pitch which would be disrupted by so doing, the match, at the sole discretion of the appointed referee or if there is no appointed referee by mutual agreement of both coaches/managers, shall be extended to its normal duration in two equal halves.

If there *is* a match scheduled to follow on the same pitch, *or if it is not known whether there is such a match to follow*, the time available may at the sole discretion of the appointed referee or if there is no appointed referee by mutual agreement of both coaches/managers shall be divided into equal halves with allowance for half time, so that the match shall end at the scheduled finish time and the next match on the same pitch may commence at the time scheduled on the fixtures.

The agreed game duration shall not be changed once the game has commenced, *even if it becomes clear that there is no match following*. No injury time or referee's added time shall be played.

11th & 12th Grade - Matches must start on time if both teams have a minimum of 5 players. A match may be forfeited if a team has less than 5 players, but by agreement between both coaches/managers, matches may be played with reduced equal numbers on each side.

13th to 17th Grades - If both teams have a minimum of seven players the match must start on time. The home team (the team named first on the fixture) is expected to be ready to start on time. In the event of the home team not being ready with a minimum of seven players to begin the game at the scheduled time, or the away team not being ready with a minimum of seven players 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, the team present and ready to start may claim the match as a default.

6. Substitutions

11th & 12th Grade - Teams should have a maximum of 10 players, only 7 to be on the field at any one time, one must be the goalkeeper.

There is no limit on the number of substitutions. Unlimited interchange of players is allowed *without* requiring the permission of the referee, provided that:

- i) the player leaves the field completely before the substitute goes on
- ii) substitutions are made during a break in play
- iii) players always enter and leave from the half-way line.

13th to 17th Grades - Up to three substitutes may be used from up to 5 named on the team Mastercard, with unlimited interchange of players at any time in the match, but *requiring* the permission of the referee, and provided that:

- i) the player leaves the field completely before the substitute goes on
- ii) substitutions are made during a break in play
- iii) players always enter and leave from the half-way line.

By agreement between coaches *prior* to the match, and with the permission of the referee, a higher number of substitutes may be used, with unlimited interchange.

7. Match Balls

11th to 13th Grades A size 4 FIFA-approved match ball shall be provided by the home team.

14th to 17th Grades A size 5 FIFA-approved match ball shall be provided by the home team.

8. Shin guards

Shin guards must be worn at all times, and must not be exposed.

9. Goal Kicks

11th & 12th Grades only - Goal kicks can be from the goalkeeper's hands or from the ground.

10. Corner Kicks

11th & 12th Grade: If the game is being played on a marked small pitch, or on half a senior pitch, the corner shall be taken from the corner flag.

13th Grade: Corner kicks for 13th grade matches played on full-sized fields are to be taken four metres out from the edge of the penalty area towards the corner flag.

14th to 17th Grades: Corner kicks in grades above 13th shall be taken from the corner flag.

11. Referees

If there is no appointed official, the home team may provide a Club Based Referee (CBR) with current accreditation (in AFF by way of a current CBR ID card with Membership Number) to control the whole fixture. If a CBR is provided he or she shall provide his/her name and membership number to the visiting coach/manager, and is required to wear their CBR shirt. If the home team does not have a CBR, and the visiting team does, then the visiting CBR shall control the fixture. If none of the above is available, the home team shall provide a referee for the first half and the visiting team shall provide one for the second.

Alternatively, teams may agree at the start of the game that one referee shall officiate the whole game, or at the start of the second half that the referee from the first half may continue to referee to the end of the game. Once agreed the referee should not be changed during a half other than for injury or on the mutual agreement of both team coaches. In any event, the referee controlling any part of the fixture has the same rights and obligations as an appointed official.

The prime purpose of anyone refereeing in these grades is to add to the enjoyment of the players through the application of the Laws of the Game, these regulations, and common sense.

12. Goals and Markings

11th & 12th Grade: Where half standard pitches are used there is no requirement for additional markings to be provided.

Goal size should be minimum 3.6m x 1.8m inside measurements, recommended size is 4m x 2m inside measurements. Nets are recommended for all Girls Youth Combined fixtures. It is recommended, but is not obligatory, that clubs indicate, by cones or other suitable markers, on the side lines and goal lines not on the field of play, a goalkeepers area approx 20 metres wide and 10 metres deep. Referees in these grades should award penalty kicks (to be taken from 9 metres) for foul play *clearly* inside this area, and handball for goalkeepers handling the ball *clearly* outside it. Whether or not the markers are in place, and whether or not assistants have been agreed (see offsides below) the referee is the sole judge of whether to halt play and award a free-kick or penalty.

13th to 17th Grades Matches are to be played on full-size pitches.

The approved goals, and marked grounds with corner flags must be supplied by the home team and must be in place before the scheduled kick-off time. Nets are recommended for all Girls Youth Combined fixtures.

13. Offside

The off-side law will be applied in all grades covered by these specific competition regulations. Teams are encouraged to provide their own assistant referees to advise/assist the referee. The referee is the sole judge of whether to halt play and award an indirect free-kick.

14. Uniform Clashes

Where there is a clash of colours, the away team (ie second-named team) in the fixture must provide a change of shirts that does not clash with the home team's registered colours. Failing to provide such a change, or playing in unregistered colours that creates a clash, will incur a fine for Incorrect Strip as set out in the AFF Schedule of Fees.

15. Defaults

Defaults must be notified in writing to their own Federation by the Club Secretary no later than 12.00 noon on the Friday preceding the fixture so that grounds may be used for an alternate fixture and any referee allocation can be changed. Clubs may be fined for defaults not notified before this deadline in accordance with the AFF Schedule of Fees published from time to time by the Federation, and may be further charged for referee fees. Any team defaulting two games consecutively, or three in a season, may be further fined and may be expelled from the competition. It is recommended that defaulting teams also advise their opposition as a matter of courtesy.

16. Team Mastercards and Player Eligibility

Anyone playing in a Girls Combined League fixture must be registered with the participating Club and their respective Federation. It is the Club's responsibility to ensure the player is properly registered with the Federation prior to taking the field in any match. A template Team Mastercard is available from the AFF website and in the AFF Club Operations Manual.

Clubs must provide a team list to their Federation on the approved Federation Mastercard, authenticated by an official of the club, latest by the Thursday prior to the commencement of competition. The Mastercard shall include for each player the full name, date of birth and where applicable the Club and division played in during the previous season.

Failure to lodge the Team Mastercard before the first game of the season will incur a fine to the Club in accordance with the Schedule of Fees published from time to time by the Federation.

No player shall be permitted to take the field in any Girls Combined League fixture unless they appear on a validated Team Mastercard.

Mastercards must be available at all Girls Combined League fixtures for inspection by opposition coaches/managers if so requested. Such requests to view the Team Mastercard must be made no later than 15 minutes prior to kick off or must wait until after the match.

Failure to produce the Team Mastercard on request shall incur a fine to the team's Club in accordance with the Scale of Fees published from time to time by the Federation. In addition the offending team, if it has won or drawn the game, will forfeit the game as a win to the non-offending team and goals scored by the offending team shall be deleted.

If neither team is able to produce their Team Mastercard then no competition points will be awarded for the game and a 'no result' shall be recorded.

In the event of any protest or enquiry into player eligibility the Team Mastercard will be checked against the database. Teams found to have played an ineligible player will lose all points gained in all fixtures in which the ineligible player appeared, and will incur a fine to the Club in accordance with the AFF Schedule of Fees published from time to time by the Federation.

Where clubs are found to have played an ineligible player the following sanction will apply:

- The offending team shall forfeit any points gained, goals scored by that team shall also be forfeited, goals against shall stand
- The opposing team shall be awarded the points for the match, goals scored by that team shall stand, goals against cancelled
- In the event of a scoreless draw, either before or after the application of the above, a 1-0 win shall be recorded in favour of the non-offending team
- If both teams are found to have played ineligible players, the match result shall be cancelled, any sanctions imposed by AFF, and the match may be replayed at the discretion of AFF
- The offending club(s) shall incur any Ineligible/Unregistered Player fine as set down in the Schedule of Fees published by AFF.

17. Dispensations

Players should normally play within their correct age grade from early ages as problems will occur in later competitions/higher age grades. Age grade is determined by the year of birth, not school year, eg 13th Grade is for players who will *reach* their 13th birthday during the calendar year, (not those who are 13 at the *start* of it).

In special circumstances a Club may apply to their Federation for age dispensations. Applications for age dispensation, accompanied by proof of reason, must be approved by the Federation before the player can take the field.

In 7-a-side combined girls youth leagues only, a maximum of *two* players per squad may be dispensated to play down from a higher age grade, and those players must be no more than one age grade older than the grade in which they are dispensated to play. In 11-a-side combined girls youth leagues only, a maximum of *three* players per squad may be dispensated to play down from a higher age grade, and those players must be no more than one age grade older than the grade in which they are dispensated to play.

A full list of all dispensated players shall be furnished to every club at the start of the season and as it is revised during the season.

Failure to obtain necessary dispensation renders the player ineligible for the competition and will incur a fine to the Club in accordance with the Schedule of Fees published from time to time by the Federation.

It is the Club's responsibility to sight a copy of proof of age of the player, such document to be a birth certificate, passport or other internationally recognised legal document. The Club is required to produce proof of age if requested by the Federation.

Players playing *up* more than two age grades within AFF clubs also require dispensation, and requests need to be accompanied by a letter to AFF from the parent or guardian supporting the request.

18. Coaching

Coaches may only coach from the sideline, not from behind the goal line. If a coach takes the field as a referee they are not allowed to coach from on the field of play.

Spectators and supporters should be along the sidelines not behind the goal line. Spectators guiding or advising a goalkeeper from behind the goal line are deemed to be coaches. Referees and opposing coaches are entitled to request that coaches, spectators and supporters move from behind the goal line to the sideline, and all coaches and Clubs should support and be prepared to adhere to this regulation.

19. Competitions

Grading rounds may be played and competition points shall be recorded purely for the purposes of grading.

Championship Leagues shall consist of a single round-robin, unless the AFF Competitions Manager in consultation with other Federations is required to devise an alternative format.

Three points shall be awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.

Defaults shall be recorded as a 3-0 win to the non-offending team. If both teams are deemed to have defaulted, a 'no result' shall be recorded unless the AFF Competition Manager in consultation with other Federations decides to reschedule the game.

Following any grading rounds, the team with the highest points at the end of competition in each league shall be declared the league champion. Goals for and against and goal difference shall not be used to determine competition winners, and teams equal on points will be declared joint champions.

20. Results

Results are to arrive at the Federation office on the appropriate Club form or to be input direct to the Federation Competitions Management website no later than 10.00am on the Monday after the fixture. AFF Teams failing to input results in time may incur a fine to the Club for Late Result as noted in the Scale of Fees published from time to time by that Federation.

21. Playing Days

All Grades Saturday

22. Misconducts

Misconduct reports and Incident Reports shall be sent to and dealt with by offending teams' Federations as per New Zealand Football Regulations, except reports of Violent Conduct (including spitting) and Exceptional Misconduct, which shall be dealt with by a joint Girls Combined League Judicial Hearing.

The personnel of any such Judicial Committee shall be agreed by the CEO's of participating Federations with any decisions handed down to be implemented by the offending player's Federation.

23. Protests and Disputes

Protests and Disputes shall be lodged in accordance with Federation Rules and Regulations to the clubs own Federation. Protests shall be decided by the AFF Competitions Manager in consultation with other Federations, and if necessary be referred to a joint Judicial Committee as described in 22 above.

24. Other Matters

These specific competition regulations should be read in conjunction with the appropriate NZ Football Rules and Regulations, Federation Rules and Youth playing regulations, Federation and NZ Football codes of conduct and FIFA Fair Play which shall apply to matters not provided for in these regulations.