



Blacktown & Districts Soccer Football Association Incorporated

Competition Regulations

1. General

- 1.1. These Regulations cover the activities of all persons associated with the game of football (soccer) and conduct of all competitive matches under the control of the BDSFA Inc.
- 1.2. BDSFA may alter these Regulations at any time due to unforeseen circumstances.
- 1.3. Penalties may be imposed for any breach of the Constitution, Regulations, By-Laws and policies of the BDSFA and for any matter, which is not expressly mentioned as are categorised by the Board prior to the parties being cited.
- 1.4. The BDSFA may, from time to time, adopt policies. Failure to adhere to policies may carry similar consequences to breaching a Rule, Regulation or By Law. All policies must be distributed to Clubs and will appear on the Association Web Site.

2. Competition

- 2.1. The Competition shall start on a date to be fixed by the Football Operations Manager.
- 2.2. The Season will consist of 18 Rounds played thus:
 - a. 6 team Divisions will play each other three times plus 3 extra rounds.
 - b. 8 team Divisions will play each other twice plus 4 extra rounds
 - c. 10 teams Divisions will play each other twice.
 - d. Divisions with more than 10 teams will play each other once plus extra matches to equal 18
- 2.3. The duration of the competition will be decided each year by the Board subject to clause 2.2.
- 2.4. Matches shall be played on grounds set down by the Football Operations Manager and shall commence at stipulated times, with no amendment, except where extenuating circumstances have delayed the previous games and it is not possible for a game to commence at the stipulated time. In such cases the games will commence immediately following the preceding game.
- 2.5. Games to be played, where possible, Friday nights for Masters, Saturdays for Under 5 to Under 20 age groups inclusive and on Sundays for the all other adult competitions. Junior & All Age Female competitions will be played on Sunday.
- 2.6. When a complete round is washed out it will be replayed thus:
 - A future Sunday for teams 12s to U20 inclusive.
 - A future Sunday for MiniRoos.



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- AA, AAL, 12 to 16G matches will be set down where possible on Friday and Wednesday nights.
 - A future Tuesday for Masters Games.
 - The Football Operations Manager will set down matches and no correspondence will be entered.
- 2.7. The Football Operations Manager is to advise All Club Competition Secretaries the times and venues of all matches. The Board may void a round if necessary, to complete the season.
- 2.8. Unless otherwise specifically designated in a relevant By-Law the first named team in the draw shall be deemed the “home” team.
- 2.9. In the event of inclement weather causing postponement of matches, as many games as possible shall be played on the day.
- 2.10. When other than a complete round is washed out, The Football Operations Manager will set down the matches at their discretion and no correspondence will be entered.
- 2.11. Female players may play in mixed sex competitions up to and including under 16's.
- 2.12. Where a team is participating in a competition conducted by FNSW, the BDSFA match will be postponed, and played within fourteen (14) days of the original date, as set down by the Football Operations Manager.
- 2.13. Subject to the discretion of the Board, the four highest placed teams will enter a final series at the end of the season.
- 2.14. The competition will be decided on points, and then goal difference and goals scored.

3. Referees and Referee Fees

- 3.1. Referees fees shall be determined each year for each grade of the Competition by relevant State Bodies.
- 3.2. The Board shall determine the way in which Referees are paid for services.
- 3.3. Referees shall be appointed to all matches by the Referees Association or at the direction of the Board of BDSFA
- 3.4. If a referee is not in attendance, in all competition matches, a substitute must be appointed with the following preference:
- a. An official referee from any Branch
 - b. Home Team Club Referee



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- c. Away Team Club Referee
- d. Any other Club Referee
- e. Any other capable person.
- f. Failure to comply with 5 a-e may result in the match being forfeit and awarded to the away team.

Once a substitute is appointed, they shall assume all responsibilities of an officially appointed referee and shall make themselves aware of their obligations regarding submitting reports to the BDSFA.

- 3.5. The electronic team sheet shall be completed in all instances. Teams unable to nominate the minimum number of player's shall be deemed to have forfeited the match.

4. Play Offs

- 4.1. In the event that a play-off has to be arranged to determine a League Champion or which team is to proceed to the Finals Series, that is where teams in the same section of a division are equal on points, goal difference and goals scored the play-off shall be arranged by the Football Operations Manager, on a neutral ground.
- 4.2. The play-off shall be played over the normal time for the age group playing.
- 4.3. If the two teams are tied at the end of normal time, extra time shall be played as follows:
 - a. Under 12 to Under 16 inclusive 5 minutes each way
 - b. Under 17 to All Age inclusive 10 minutes each way
- 4.4. Stoppage time will be used in all Play Off matches
- 4.5. Golden Goal rule applies in extra time. The game will end when a goal is scored.
- 4.6. If all is equal after the second period of extra time penalty shoot outs, as per the FIFA Rules of the Game, will determine the winner.
- 4.7. In all play-offs or replays each team shall supply one match ball of the correct size, suitably inflated.
- 4.8. In all play-offs each team shall supply two Ground Officials suitably identified, whose names shall be listed on the electronic team sheet.
- 4.9. The Club on whose ground the match is being played shall open all facilities and be responsible for supply or erection of nets, corner posts, etc. and for marking the ground.



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5. Finals

5.1. In each Division the top four placed teams will contest a Finals Series thus:

- a. Game 1 First plays Second
- b. Game 2 Third plays Fourth (loser exits)
- c. Game 3 Loser Game 1 v Winner Game 2
- d. Final Winner Game 1 v Winner Game 3

If the Finals Series requires adjustment due to unforeseen circumstances and/or inclement weather the following may occur:

- a. Game 1 First plays fourth (loser exits)
- b. Game 2 Second plays third (loser exits)
- c. Final Winner Game 1 v Winner Game 2

Or in extreme cases the Finals Series will be cancelled and the highest team on the Competition Ladder will be declared the Competition Winner.

5.2. In divisions eligible to enter the Champion of Champions the Competition Winner will enter subject to Board approval.

5.3. Clubs must nominate their teams prior to the Finals Series commencing on the form provided.

5.4. The total amount of players nominated cannot exceed the number of players allowed in that age group.

5.5. players are eligible to play in two teams for semi-finals if they have played for more than 60% of eligible games for the upgraded team.

5.6. The Coach and Manager must be nominated and must be the persons properly registered and in possession of a current BDSFA Inc ID Card.

5.7. Any protest or dispute regarding a semi-final match must be reported to the Football Operations Manager on the day of the match. All decisions will be final and not subject to Appeal.

5.8. Any protest or dispute regarding a Grand Final match must be reported to the Football Operations Manager within 15 minutes of the end of the match. All decisions will be final and not subject to Appeal.

5.9. The Winner of the Grand Final will be the Competition Winner.

5.10. Stoppage time will be used in all finals matches

5.11. During the Finals Series, if scores are equal at full time, all matches will be resolved thus:



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- a. Under 12 to Under 16s Extra Time 5 Minutes each way with a 2-minute break.
 - b. Under 20 to All Age Extra Time 10 Minutes each way with a 2-minute break.
- 5.12. Golden Goal applies in extra time. The game will end when a goal is scored.
- 5.13. If all is equal after the second period of extra time penalty shoot outs, as per the FIFA Rules of the Game, will determine the winner.
- 5.14. For the Finals Series and Grand Finals, all teams must supply two suitably identified Ground Officials.
- 5.15. The Club on whose ground the match is being played shall open all facilities and be responsible for supply or erection of nets, corner posts, etc. and for marking the ground.

6. Duration of Matches and Ball Sizes

6.1. Duration of matches shall be (excluding 5 minutes interval)

a. Under 12	50 minutes	size 4
b. Under 13	60 minutes	size 4
c. Under 14	60 minutes	size 5
d. Under 15 and 16	70 minutes	size 5
e. Under 18, 20 and All Age	90 minutes	size 5
f. O35	90 minutes	size 5
g. O45	90 minutes	size 5
h. O30W	90 Minutes	size 5

Equal halves will be played in accordance with the Laws of the game.

6.2. Other than in Premier League First Grade Matches, no stoppage time will be played. All matches terminated before the recommended duration due to player injury will be referred to the Football Operations Manager.

7. Competition Points

7.1. Competition points will be awarded as follows:

Win (by result or forfeit)	3 points
Draw	1 point
Loss	0 points
Bye	0 points



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8. Matches Played in Accordance with the Laws of the Game

- 8.1. All Fixtures will be played in compliance with the BDSFA Regulations in force at the time and in accordance with FFA and FNSW By-Laws, regulations, codes and directives, and under the FIFA laws of the game

9. Special Laws of the BDSFA

- 9.1. For Under 12 age group, goal kicks shall be taken from the 6-yard box.
- 9.2. For Under 12 age group, a 25Mt exclusions zone will be marked whereby no opposition player may intrude during the goal kick until the ball is touched by the first player inside that exclusion zone OR the ball clears the exclusion zone.
- 9.3. For Under 12 age groups, corner kicks shall be taken on the goal line halfway between the corner of the field and point where the 18-yard box meets the goal line.
- 9.4. There are no special provisions for the handball rule.

10. Sin Bins

- 10.1. There shall be no Sin Bin rule enforced in the BDSFA.

11. Forfeits

- 11.1. Any team not in attendance at the designated ground and ready to take the field at the due time shall be deemed to have forfeited the match. The referee shall endorse the team sheet to the effect that: - "***the name of the team***" was not ready to take the field."
- 11.2. In full field matches; if the minimum number of players is available, the match must commence on time, or when the referee takes the field of play to commence the match.
- 11.3. If less than the minimum number of players is not available, 10 minutes will be allowed to equal the minimum number whereby the referee will call the match forfeited and endorse the team sheet as per 11.1. In such cases the referee will be the sole judge of time.
- 11.4. A team must always field a minimum of seven (7) players.
- 11.5. Failure to have the minimum of seven (7) players, ready to take the field at the commencement of the match shall be deemed a forfeit to the opposing team.



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- 11.6. Failure to maintain a minimum of seven (7) players, shall result in the referee terminating the game whereupon a forfeit win will be awarded to the non-offending team. Other than no score been recorded, no penalty will apply to the forfeiting team.
- 11.7. The referee shall report such matters in the usual way, which will be dealt with as per the Regulations or By Laws.
- 11.8. Teams forfeiting on three occasions may be removed from the competition.
- 11.9. Where there is a forfeit the non-offending team shall be awarded the points and a score of 2-0 (or their score will stand if more than 2 at the time of an on-field forfeit).
- 11.10. When a game is forfeited without notice to the Association, the team to whom the game is forfeited shall submit an electronic team sheet in the usual manner, signed by the referee, who shall note on the team sheet that the other team forfeited. The referee will not be paid on match day and must submit a claim for fees to the Association.
- 11.11. The Board may deal with any team that is deemed to have forfeited a game to gain advantage, or to disadvantage another team, as it may see fit.
- 11.12. Any Team who forfeits during the last four (4) calendar dated rounds of the season will be deemed ineligible for the Finals Series.
- 11.13. Fines will apply for all team forfeits.
 - a. Clubs that notify the Association prior to 7:00pm Thursday for all weekend matches and within 48 hours of mid-week matches, including Masters, will pay \$50 forfeit fee.
 - b. Clubs that do not notify the Association as per 11.13 (a) will pay a forfeit fee equal to the Referee and ARs fees plus \$100.00

12. Match Terminations

- 12.1. When a game is abandoned by a referee, for any cause whatsoever, the matter shall be referred to the Match Review Committee who will investigate the circumstances appertaining to the abandonment and shall be authorised to make determinations based on the Match Review Committee Guidelines.
- 12.2. When a match is terminated because of violence the Match Review Committee will investigate the matter and shall be authorised to recommend the case be heard by a GPT. Refer to the BDSFA Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations.
- 12.3. Teams causing a match to be terminated before its natural conclusion through a mass "Walk Off", or refusal to allow play to continue shall be deemed to have committed



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serious misconduct against the BDSFA Inc. Refer to the BDSFA Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations.

13. Team Sheets

The BDSFA will use electronic team sheets. The conditions for the use of electronic team sheets will be provided to the teams competing in all ages and divisions.

- 13.1. The maximum players per match to be entered on the team sheet and to take the field in accordance with the Player & Player Equipment Regulations shall be:
 - a. Under 12 to 14 14 Players
 - b. Under 15 to All Age 16 Players
 - c. Masters 18 Players
- 13.2. Team managers must enter the player's shirt number in the space provided.
- 13.3. Both Home & Away Team managers and the referee must enter the match score at the conclusion of the match.
- 13.4. The "starting" goalkeeper must be designated with the initials "GK" in the space provided.
- 13.5. Players upgrading from other teams must be added to the team sheet. The upgraded players' age group and division must be entered.
- 13.6. Should player(s) nominated on the team sheet not take the field, (the names of those players should be unticked).
- 13.7. All players nominated on the team sheet shall be deemed to have played.
- 13.8. Suspended players need to be identified and unticked from the team sheet.
- 13.9. Managers must sight and confirm the correct players are exact to the players that play in the match.
- 13.10. Once the match has commenced, players may be entered on the team sheet by consent of both team Managers, but not to replace a player whom has already taken part in the match. Players that do not turn up must be removed from the team sheet by both managers.
- 13.11. Player's whose names and registration numbers are added to the team sheet, in line with the above paragraph (13.10) must present themselves to the opposing team manager prior to taking the field.



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- 13.12. At the completion of the match the referee shall populate all necessary fields to complete a match.
- 13.13. Once signed by the Team Managers, all information contained on Team Sheets will be deemed as correct, unless an Official Letter from both Clubs, showing proof to the contrary, is received within 48 hours of the finish of the match.
- 13.14. In the case of electronic team sheets not being available for any reason, paper team sheets are to be supplied by the home club. The sheets must be printed neatly, and a DNP marked next to any player who did not take part in that match. The Match Day Supervisor is responsible for the paper team sheets to be filled in correctly. A description on how to fill out a team sheet will be sent out to ALL clubs before season commencement. All paper sheets are to be delivered to the BDSFA office by 10am the following Monday. Scores must be entered by the home club via iCompman.

14. Substitutes / Interchange

- 14.1. Except for Premier League First Grade, interchange will be used in all age groups and divisions.
- 14.2. Substitutes and Interchange players may be added on the Team Sheet during the match in accordance with paragraph 13.10 and 13.11.
- 14.3. Interchange players may enter and/or leave the field of play as many times as necessary, but only with the express permission of the referee.
- 14.4. Both Teams' Officials are responsible for ensuring the correct numbers of players are always on the field of play.
- 14.5. Substitutes may not resume play after being substituted in that match.
- 14.6. The Referee may not allow interchange if they believe the use of interchange is not in the "spirit of the game".
- 14.7. The number of substitutes/interchange players per match is as follows:
- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| a. U12 to U14 | a maximum of 3 players |
| b. U15 to All Age | a maximum of 5 players |
| c. Masters | a maximum of 7 players |

15. Grounds

- 15.1. Clubs shall be responsible for obtaining their own home grounds.
- 15.2. Clubs shall not enter competition for another clubs ground.



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- 15.3. Clubs wishing to share a ground may do so only with the approval of the Board.
- 15.4. The host Club shall be responsible for correct and adequate marking of the field as per FIFA Rules; including technical areas, and shall provide properly secured goal posts, goal nets, corner flags.
- 15.5. The Club on whose ground the match is being played shall open all facilities and be responsible for supply or erection of nets, corner posts, etc. and for marking the ground.
- 15.6. The home Club shall provide two match balls for the fixture.
- 15.7. A referee may refuse to officiate on an insufficiently marked ground or one that he considers dangerous to the players. In such event this will be reported to the Association and the points connected with the match may be awarded to the visiting team at the discretion of the Board or the Football Operations Manager.
- 15.8. A visiting team desirous of protesting against the conditions of the ground, goal posts, nets, corner flags or balls, shall make their protest to the referee prior to the match where the cause of protest is apparent at that time. The referee shall note the protest on the team sheet.
- 15.9. The referee shall be empowered to order the game to be played despite the protests made in accordance with the previous clause, but where the protests relate to the ground, goal posts, nets, corner flags or balls not conforming to the Laws of the Game.
- 15.10. Protests must be made in writing to the Football Operations Manager for determination and should be in the hands of the Football Operations Manager, not later than 48 hours after the incident being reported accompanied by the appropriate fee.
- 15.11. Home/Host Clubs shall place ropes, where practicable, along both sides of the field. Such ropes to be placed approximately 3 metres from the sidelines.

STAR POSTS ARE NOT TO BE USED

16. Team Nominations

- 16.1. Nominations for registration of teams must be on the prescribed form and shall be in the hands of the Association at a date to be fixed by the Board each season.
- 16.2. Where a Club has more than one team playing in one age group and division in the competition, the names of the player's in each team shall be submitted to the Association Office on the prescribed form prior to first competition match and shall not be interchangeable without special permission of the Board. Such permission to be sought in writing and permission granted prior to playing for the other team. An alternate strip will be nominated for one team.
- 16.3. Where a Club has two or more teams playing in the same age group and wishes to withdraw one of these teams the lower graded team may be withdrawn at the discretion of



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the Board.

16.4. The maximum number of players to be nominated per team is:

Junior Teams	14
Under 15 - AA	16
O35 and O45	18

Extra members for All Age or Master's teams may be allowed subject to board approval.

16.5. Late entries may be accepted subject to byes being available. Such teams may enter the competition without playing any preceding rounds or may be accepted on a "social" basis and not accrue points or standings.

17. Team Gradings

All Clubs must grade their players into division in which the player can perform to their best.

17.1. Competition teams will be graded according to their performances in the previous season.

17.2. The Board may use the results of the Competition and or The Finals Series to assist with grading.

17.3. Clubs may request to the Board that a team eligible to be demoted is not demoted

17.4. Divisions will be formulated in a manner to avoid byes.

17.5. To make up the required number, teams finishing the previous season in a position lower than 1st or 2nd in a division may be promoted to a higher division but shall be promoted in order of merit, according to where they finished the previous season.

17.6. Clubs that nominate teams whom the Board consider of a higher standard to that age to which they are nominated will be nominated to a higher age group/division.

17.7. The Board will grade new clubs by taking into consideration the players nominated.

17.8. If the teams playing ability is above that division in where there is a bye round the team may be admitted to the next higher age group and/or division.

17.9. Teams withdrawn after nomination shall be liable for all fees and shall invoke a fine.

17.10. There shall be no appeal, nor amendment, to any grading or regrading once decided by the Board.

17.11. Any team whose nomination is accepted and then forfeits the first three games of the competition shall be deemed to have been withdrawn and shall be liable for all fees incurred as per 17.9.



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- 17.12. Where insufficient entries are received to form a competition in any grade, such teams may be permitted to enter competitions conducted by neighbouring Associations, at the discretion of the Board.

18. Joint Team Nominations

- 18.1. Where a Club has insufficient numbers to nominate a team in an age group; they may apply for nomination as a joint team.
- 18.2. Teams may be made up from different Clubs to form one or more teams in a division.
- 18.3. Player's playing in "joint teams" will remain members of that Club to which they first registered and will be due any membership benefits from that Club.
- 18.4. Each Club having members in a "joint team" will take turns in hosting the Home games of the team.
- 18.5. The BDSFA will designate the team's colours, training venue and team officials.

19. Premier League

Refer to BDSFA Premier League Regulations.

20. Under 18 and 20s

- 20.1. The age qualification for under 18 and under 20s is players who are turning 16 in the year of registration and players under the age of 18 or 20 as at 31st December in the year of registration.
- 20.2. Complete teams of U20s cannot participate in the lowest two divisions of All Age football.

21. Masters Competition

- 21.1. The age qualification is the players' age at the 1st January in the year of registration.
- 21.2. All Teams will consist of a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 18.
- 21.3. Over 35 Games will be played in 2 x 45 minute halves with a 5 minute break at half time.
- 21.4. Over 45 Games will be played in 2 x 45 minute halves with a 5 minute break at half time.



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- 21.5. For the current season the O45 may consist of a minimum 11 player who are over 45. (IE a minimum of 45 years old prior to January 1 of that season) and up to 7 players who are over the age of 40 (IE a minimum of 40 years old prior to January 1 of that season).
- 21.6. Any Upgrades must be 45 years old as per "overs" rules.
- 21.7. BDSFA will review the above each season.
- 21.8. Over 30W games will be played in 2 x 45 minute halves with a 5 minute break at half time.

22. Teams Removed or Withdrawing from Competitions

- 22.1. In the event of any team withdrawing or being removed from BDSFA competitions, the following procedure will take effect to allow the altered Competitions to proceed to a conclusion.
- Removed or withdrawing before Competition has started: The team will be withdrawn from the division and if necessary, replaced with a "Bye".
 - Removed or withdrawing during the first half of the competition: All opposing Teams that have played the removed or withdrawn Teams (for the complete first round) shall have points and goals deleted from their records and shall be credited with a bye result. Teams that have not played the removed or withdrawn Team will obtain a Bye result.
 - Removed or withdrawing during the second half of the competition: All points and goals acquired will be retained by opposing Teams (for the completed first round). Points and goals acquired against such disaffiliated Team shall be lost and Bye results shall be credited for the second half of the Competition.

23. Team Eligible for Champion of Champions

- 23.1. Teams eligible to enter the Champions of Champions must inform the Football Operations Manager prior to the Semi Finals Series of their intentions to represent the Association.
- 23.2. Clubs whose teams play in the Finals Series who are then eligible to participate in the Champion of Champions and refuse to attend that Tournament will be fined \$1000.00 and the players deemed ineligible to enter any external competitions and tournaments for the season.
- 23.3. At the discretion of the Board and subject to the Regulations, the First Division Minor Premier (first past the post) in all competitions Under 12 to Under 16, P20, O30W, O35s, O45s, and BDSFA Women's and Men's highest All Age League (Women's All Age Division 1 and Men's Premier League) may be entered into the Champion of Champions.



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- 23.4. Teams entering the Champion of Champions must read and understand all rules and playing conditions. Fines apply for non-compliance.
- 23.5. Female teams will be decided upon the highest placed BDSFA registered team in their corresponding age group.

24. Team Officials

- 24.1. A team official is deemed to be a coach or manager of a team.
- 24.2. All team officials must be registered and in possession of a valid BDSFA ID Card.
- 24.3. Persons not in possession of a valid BDSFA ID Card will not be permitted to enter the Technical Area.
- 24.4. In such case where the referee must remove officials from the Technical Area for the above reasons BDSFA may penalise the official/team/club.
- 24.5. Female only teams must contain at least one female Team Official.
- 24.6. As per FNSW Working with Children Check Policy all Officials including Coaches, Managers and Volunteers as a pre-condition of registration must have a Working with Children (WWC) number and that this needs to be entered in Play Football system at the time of registration. The only exemption is for persons aged under 18 years.

25. Trophies

- 25.1. The Grand Final winner and runner-up in each age group or division of a season's competitions shall be awarded a trophy or trophies at the discretion of the Board.

26. Private Academy Relationship

- 26.1. BDSFA recognises that a Club may choose to engage a private academy or external provider to deliver a variety of services to its players including, but not limited to, match day and training services.
- 26.2. Subject to satisfying all registration requirements, a nominated Team will not be excluded from the competitions only because of its relationship with a private academy or external provider.
- 26.3. Teams agree and acknowledge that:
- Their playing name must not include the name of, or reference to, a private academy or external provider, and the playing name must otherwise be identical to that used while participating in the Team's Association competition;



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- b. While participating in matches, Players must wear the Team's usual playing strip and any branding of a private academy or external provider on that strip shall not be shown;
 - c. While at a venue, any branding of a private academy or external provider on a Player's outerwear, bags, signage or other equipment shall not be shown; and
 - d. While at a venue, Club Officials and Team Officials must wear their usual match day attire and any branding of a private academy or external provider shall not be shown.
- 26.4. Should a Team be accepted into the Competitions and subsequently be found to be in breach of paragraphs (a) through to (d) above, that team may be removed from the Competition by the BDSFA in its absolute discretion.