



**Macarthur Football Association Inc
M-League Rules 2020**

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MACARTHUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION INC.

M-LEAGUE RULES 2020

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

In these rules, defined terms (capitalised words) have the same meaning ascribed to that term in the Competitions Regulations unless the contrary intention appears or it is defined below:

“Association” or “MFA” means Macarthur Football Association Inc.

“Board” means the body consisting of the Directors of the Association.

“Club” means a football club which is a Member of the Association.

“CMC” means the “Competitions Management Committee” established under the Competitions Regulations.

“Competitions Manager” means the person employed or appointed by the Association as the competitions manager of the Association. If that person is unwilling or unable to act or there is a vacancy, then the General Manager (or such other person designated by the Board) will assume the role of competitions manager.

“Competitions Regulations” means the MFA Competitions Regulations, as amended from time to time.

“General Manager” means the general manager employed or appointed by the Association from time to time, and in the case he or she is unavailable to act, then such other person(s) as directed by the Board from time to time.

1.2 Interpretation

In these rules:

- (a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty;
- (b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a power, authority or duty, a reference to the exercise of the power or authority of the performance of the duty;
- (c) words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- (d) words importing any gender include the other genders;
- (e) the words “include”, “including”, “for example” or “such as” are not used as, nor are they to be interpreted as, words of limitation, and, when introducing an example, do not limit the meaning of the words to which the example relates to that example or examples of a similar kind;
- (f) references to persons include corporations and bodies politic;
- (g) references to a person include the legal personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns of that person;

- (h) headings (including those in brackets at the beginning of paragraphs) are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this Constitution;
- (i) a reference to a statute, ordinance, code or other law includes regulations and other statutory instruments under it and consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of any of them (whether of the same or any legislative authority having jurisdiction); and
- (j) a reference to "writing" will, be construed as including references to printing, lithography, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, including messages sent by electronic mail.

Any question or issue relating to the interpretation of these rules will be decided by the CMC (and whose decision will be final and binding).

1.3 Severance

If any provision of these rules or any phrase contained in it is invalid or unenforceable, the phrase or provision is to be read down if possible, so as to be valid and enforceable, and otherwise will be severed to the extent of the invalidity or unenforceability, without affecting the remaining provisions of these rules.

1.4 Inconsistencies

If any provision of these rules is inconsistent with the Constitution or any other regulation of the Association, then the document as directed by the Board will prevail to the extent of any such inconsistency.

2. COMPETITONS REGULATIONS

In the absence of a specific M-League rule set out in this document, the Competition Regulations will apply.

3. FEES

All fees and benefits applicable to the M-League Competition are outlined in the **Fees and Benefits Schedule** annexed to these rules.

4. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

All players and coaches participating in the M-League Competition must be registered and financial on the National Registration System prior to round 1 of the M-League season to be eligible to take the field.

5. TEAMS

- (a) All M-League Divisions will consist of one (1) team per Club.
- (b) Each team can nominate a maximum of 18 players for the First Grade.
- (c) Each team can nominate a maximum of 18 players for the Reserves Grade.
- (d) Each team can nominate a maximum of 16 players for a Women's M-League team.
- (e) Each team can nominate a maximum of 16 players for an U21's M-League team (**M-League Colts**).

- (f) Teams in the U21's M-League Competition will be afforded the opportunity to register a maximum of three (3) players over the age of 21.
- (g) Selected M-League games, as approved by the Association, may be played on the Association's ground at Lynwood Park.

6. APPAREL

- (a) Playing shirts must be numbered and only registered colours of the Club may be worn by all M-League teams as approved by the Association.
- (b) All playing shirts must have:
 - (i) the logo of the Club on the left chest;
 - (ii) the logo of the Association on the right chest; and
 - (iii) the appropriate sponsor logo on the left sleeve.

7. WITHDRAWALS AND FORFEITS

- (a) Withdrawal from any M-League competition at any stage after the first fixture is released by the Association carries a \$1,000 fine per team which will be payable by the Club unless otherwise determined by the CMC at its absolute discretion due to exceptional circumstances.
- (b) Match forfeits by a team carry a \$500 fine in the first instance, and \$1,000 in the second instance in the same season for all M-League Competitions and which will be payable by the relevant Club unless otherwise determined by the CMC at its absolute discretion due to exceptional circumstances.
- (c) The CMC may decide that any team that forfeits a third time in a season may be withdrawn from the M-League Competition and/or an additional fine of \$500 will be imposed.

8. GAME CHANGE REQUESTS

- (a) Clubs will be provided with a draft season fixture and a 5-day window to request fixture changes prior to the M-League season commencing. As such request changes must be lodged with the Competitions Manager.
- (b) The Competitions Manager will use his or her best endeavours to fulfil requests during the period referred to above, however there will be no guarantees made.
- (c) No further game change requests will be permitted, unless in exceptional circumstances, which is at the sole discretion of the Competitions Manager.
- (d) An administration fee of \$50.00 per occurrence will apply to any approved game change request.

9. PLAYER RECOGNITION

M-League Players will be acknowledged at an Annual Awards Ceremony and which will recognise, without limitation, the following:

- (a) Golden boot winner(s).
- (b) Player(s) of the year.

- (c) Goalkeeper(s) of the year.
- (d) Coach(es) of the year.
- (e) Referee(s) of the year.

10. BORROWING

- (a) Players registered in an M-League squad may play in either grade throughout the season.
- (b) Borrowing of players from lower divisions within the Club is permitted. A maximum of three (3) players can be borrowed at any one time.
- (c) Players are permitted to be borrowed into an M-League team and play up to four (4) matches in a higher age or division in any one season. Any player exceeding these requirements automatically become a member of the team with which he/she plays their fifth (5th) match.
- (d) Players borrowed from lower all age divisions and down to under 17's must be aged 16 as at 1 January in the calendar year of the M-League season.
- (e) In the M-League U21 League, should registered overage players be unavailable to play, players may be borrowed from the U17 and/or U18 teams within the club only. The club may apply for special consideration to replace a registered overage player with another overage player, in the event that the registered overage player suffers a long-term injury or is unavailable for selection for a long period of time. Approval will be granted at the discretion of the MFA Competition Manager.
- (f) Players registered in a competition of ages 35 and over cannot be borrowed into the M-League Competition.

11. OTHER RULES

- (a) Interchange rules apply throughout the M-League.
- (b) The Sin-Bin Rule applies throughout the M-League.
- (c) The Premiers of the Men's and Women's First Grade shall be the Association's representatives in the appropriate Football NSW "Champion of Champions" competition.

12. FINALS SERIES

- (a) The **Finals Series** will consist of the top four (4) placed teams as follows:

	Match Number	Fixture
Week 1	1	<u>Semi Finals</u> 3v4 SF1 Winner to Match 3; Loser Eliminated
	2	<u>Semi Finals</u> 1v2 SF2 Winner to Grand Final

		Loser to Match 3
Week 2	3	<u>Preliminary Final</u> Loser Match 2 v Winner Match 1 Winner to Grand Final; Loser eliminated
Week 3	6	<u>Grand Final</u> Winner Match 2 v Winner Match 3

- (b) Extra time will be played in the Finals Series. If the score is equal at full time, 15 minutes each way will be played. If the score remains equal at the completion of extra time, a penalty shoot-out will determine the winner.
- (c) To qualify for the Reserve Grade Finals Series, a First Grade player must have played at least 50% of the games in the Reserves Grade Regular Season.
- (d) For a Reserves Grade player to qualify for First Grade Finals, they must play the minimum two (2) games in the First Grade during the regular season to qualify for Finals.

13. CMC REVIEW

The CMC may, in consultation with the Competitions Manager, amend or add to these rules during the M-League Season but may only do so in exceptional circumstances.

14. FEES AND BENEFITS SCHEDULE

PLAYER REGISTRATION FEES		
	U18	SENIORS (19+)
FFA National Registration Fee	\$14.00	\$33.00
Football NSW Registration Fee	\$23.00	\$83.00
Macarthur FA Registration Fee	\$38.00	\$61.00
Total 2019 Fee	\$75.00	\$177.00

All fees and charges listed below are GST inclusive.

COMPETITION FEES	
TEAM NOMINATION FEES	
M-League Men's First Grade	\$750
M-League Women's Premier League	\$750
M-League Men's Reserve Grade	\$550
M-League Men's U21 (Colts)	\$550

WEEKLY MATCH FEES	
All Age	\$25.20
PLAYER TRANSFERS AND REGRADES	
Player Transfers	\$24.20
Regrades	\$50
OTHER FEES	
Membership Fee	\$55.00
Non-attendance at monthly Club Meetings	\$20.00 per person. No GST applicable
Competition Withdrawal	\$1,000
Forfeits	As outlined in Rule 7
Approved Game Change Requests	\$50

All fees and charges listed below are GST inclusive.

Macarthur Football Association Inc (M-League Rules 2020)

INCLUSIONS	
10 X Tickets to the M-League Awards Night for all M-League teams 5 x Deploy Ignite Match Balls for each team	
PRIZE MONEY	
M-League Men's First Grade	\$8,000 Pool \$5,000 Premiers \$3,000 Champions
M-League Women's Premier League	\$8,000 Pool \$5,000 Premiers \$3,000 Champions
M-League Men's Reserve Grade	\$3,000 Pool \$2,000 Premiers \$1,000 Champions
M-League Men's U21 (Colts)	\$1,500 Pool \$1,000 Premiers \$500 Champions

GST inclusive.