



REGULATION 3

Senior Competition Playing Regulations 2010

Glossary of Terms

“The Board”	The Board of Central Football
“Central Football”	Trading name for “No. 4 District Federation of New Zealand Football Incorporated”
“Club”	A duly constituted organization in an area within a district charged with the organization and administration of Football in that area for players playing in the district or Federation’s competitions.
CL	Central League – premier competition run between clubs in Capital and Central Football
“NZF”	New Zealand Football Inc.
“The Federation League”	Refers to the top Central Football Men’s League
“Premierships”	This refers to the Pacific and Western Premiership competitions
“Operations Manager”	The person appointed by Central Football, to liaise with the District Branch and to perform administrative functions on behalf of Central Football in their local District.

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1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- a) This regulation shall apply to all senior players in all competitions within the Central Football Federation area. For local variations or special conditions, refer attached Appendices. Local variation suggestions can be submitted to the Operations Manager. Final approval of all regulations and any local variations is made by the Central Football board.
- b) The control and management of all competitions shall be vested by the Central Football Board to the respective Operations Manager, who shall have the discretion to manage the competitions in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of Central Football.
- c) Each club desiring to compete in competitions shall on or before a date advised by the Operations Manager complete an entry in writing on the prescribed form to compete in such competition(s) advised, agreeing that:
 - i. The final compositions of divisions shall be at the discretion of the Operations Manager;
 - ii. The Operations Manager shall have the power to accept further entries during the season if, in their opinion, it is expedient to do so;
 - iii. The Operations Manager will have the power to increase or reduce the number of divisions and to form, or discontinue, sections in any division whenever the occasion arises
 - iv. By returning a completed entry form each Club will abide by the Rules and Regulations of Central Football and the NZF code of Conduct.

2. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- a) Every player taking part in competitions in any year must be registered for the club for which they wish to appear. All registrations must be held in the respective Regional Administration Office. Registrations not held by the Regional office will not be deemed to be registered for Central Football competitions. Clubs will be supplied a current Registration list at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the season, and at any other reasonable time as requested by the club. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that the information held by the Regional Administration Office is correct.
 - i. Every new registration shall be in the form as advised by Regional administration office.
 - ii. No player shall be deemed to be registered until a registration number, issued by the regional administration office is received by the requesting club.

- iii. In the event of any player being registered twice, the second registration shall be deemed to be null and void.
- iv. All Players should be registered with Central Football on the National database. However until this is fully implemented we will accept that only senior players and secondary school players who play in senior club competitions must be registered in accordance with this regulation.
- v. To be eligible to play in Senior Men's competitions you must be 14 as of the 1st January of the current playing year. (ie. turn 15 in the current year). To be eligible to play in Senior Women's competitions you must be 13. (ie. 13 before you can register).
Central League regulations will apply for teams in the CL competition.
- vi. Once a player is registered, the registration shall be permanent with the Club until such time as the player is transferred to another Club.
- vii. Central Football may cancel any players' registration whose Club has wound up and no longer participates in Central Football's competitions. This will enable the player to register with a new club rather than transferring.

3. PLAYER TRANSFERS

- a) All transfers must comply with the provisions of New Zealand Football Regulation 5.
- b) The transfer window is the 1st October to the 1st July of the following year. No player transfers will be accepted outside the transfer window unless the player moves and resides more the 50km away from his club.

Note that with online registrations and online transfers the transfer procedure has changed. Transfers can be processed online if your club is set up to process transfers in this way. All other transfers will need to be completed as below

- c) Any player wishing to transfer their membership from one club to another shall
 - i) **Local** - obtain the written sanction of their current club on the Transfer Request form. They shall then present this written sanction to the club to which they propose to transfer to, who will then promptly forward the completed form to their respective Regional Administration Office.
 - ii) **Regional but within our Federation**- obtain the written sanction of their new club on the Transfer Request form. The form shall then be forwarded to their respective Regional Administration Office. The Office will then request a clearance from the player's old club. On receipt of clearance , office will action as 3 (d)
 - iii) **Outside our Federation (including International)** - obtain the written sanction of their new club on the Transfer request form. The form is then forwarded to the Regional Administration office who

will then liaise with Federations outside our region to complete the transfer.

A player is not transferred until the approval has been granted by the Regional office. Clubs will be notified when the transfer is complete and a record of all transferred players for the season will be kept on our website. Please note that for transfers outside our Federation it could take up to a fortnight for approval to be received.

- d) The player's current club must notify its consent or denial to the player's transfer request within 7 working days. If the club refuses to release the applicant, such club must state its' reason for doing so to both the player and the Regional Administration Office. The Regional Administration Office will then handle the dispute and the decision made by the office will be binding on all parties. A fee of \$20.00 will be charged to the club refusing the transfer if the subsequent enquiry finds the refusal was unlawful.
- e) Any club or official of such club offering financial or material inducement to a player to transfer without first notifying, in writing the player's present club, shall be deemed guilty of misconduct and the club concerned shall be fined a sum of a minimum of \$500.00. No investigation of this alleged offence will be instigated without a written statement from the player concerned.
- f) There will be no charges for NZ internal transfers but \$135 charge for all international transfers. Charges will be invoiced monthly to the new club.

4. PLAYER CONTRACTS

- a) A copy of all player contracts relating to players participating in leagues controlled by Central Football must be lodged in the Central Football Regional Administration Offices. Contracts held by NZF on behalf of NZFC clubs will be deemed to comply with this Regulation.
 - i. the contracts will be kept under seal and held in confidence;
 - ii. the contracts will only be opened in the event of a dispute and in the presence of the club's representative;
 - iii. in the event of a dispute between a player and his club, the decision regarding the dispute will be made by the Administrator having regard to the conditions of the contract
 - iv. The contract must not extend beyond 30th September in any one year unless carried forward to 30th September the following year.
- b) In the event of a dispute where no contract has been lodged as in 4(a) above, and the player is financial and has returned all gear to their old club, the player will be cleared to their new club.

5. BREACH OF REGISTRATION & TRANSFER PROVISIONS

If any club is found to be in breach of the Registration & Transfer provisions of this Regulation, due to either

- a) The receipt of a protest or
- b) Being brought to the attention of the Operations Manager, i.e. by a Referee's Misconduct or other report or
- c) In the event of the Operations Manager performing a "compliance" team card check

Then the following sanctions will apply:

- i. The offending club 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 that team shall stand goals against cancelled.
- ii. A fine of \$100.00 per unregistered player will be imposed on the offending club if a Premiership team is involved and \$50 fine for any other local league.
- iii. If both clubs are found to be in breach, the match result shall be cancelled. Fines as above shall be imposed and the match may be replayed at the discretion of the Operations Manager

6. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a) A player being duly registered and otherwise complying with these and relevant Regulations shall be at liberty to play in the competitions in any team entered by their club in any division at the discretion of their club selection committee. A "player" is defined as a person who actually takes the field in the current season. If a club has a team in a higher competition, the following shall apply:
 - i. Once a player has played for a club's lower graded team, in 3 consecutive games they are deemed to be a member of that team until such time that they return to the higher graded team.
 - ii. If a player plays in a higher grade competition for 2 consecutive games or 4 appearances in 8 weeks then they are deemed to be a member of that team.
 - iii. No more than two (2) Central League, Federation League or Premiership players can play in a team graded directly below them in any one game. When the relevant Central League, Federation League or Premiership is completed, no further players can be re-graded from such Central, Federation or Premiership League teams.
 - iv. For all Local divisions no more than three players can be re-graded down one league for any one game.

- v. Where a Club has more than one team in a league no more than 2 players may play across.
 - vi. Up to 3 senior players (non high school) are eligible to play on a team card as part of any one High School team competing in the Senior Men's League. If more senior players are on the team card then a full senior fee will be charged.
 - vii. When a team has completed its' season, and is involved in a playoff, no further players can be re-graded to that team.
 - viii. If a player is currently registered with an NZFC Franchise Team and is not required for a NZFC fixture he may be temporarily released by the NZFC team to play in Central Football competitions. That player will be eligible to play for the club he was registered with at 1st September in the previous year.
 - ix. No more than two (2) players registered with a COMPOSITE team, can play in a competition game for the club who hold their affiliation **UNLESS** the club who hold the affiliation is competing in a Chatham Cup fixture.
- b) In the event of any team found to be in breach of this Regulation, the following procedure shall be adopted:
- a. The offending club 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 that team shall stand goals against cancelled.
 - b. A fine of \$50.00 per player will be imposed on the offending club
 - c. If both clubs are found to be in breach, the match result shall be cancelled. Fines as above shall be imposed and the match may be replayed at the discretion of the Operations Manager.

7. SENIOR COMPETITIONS FORMAT

- a. All Senior Leagues (Men & Women) will be based on a minimum of 8 teams and maximum of 10. Where this is not possible appropriate Operations Manager will constitute accordingly.
- b. 10 team competition will be straight forward home and away = 18 rounds
- c. 8 team competition will be home and away = 14 rounds
- d. At the end of the 14 rounds there will be a Divisional knockout cup which will cover an additional 4 weeks based upon two pools formulated from the final league standings, i.e. 1,3 ,5 and 7 play a round robin as do 2,4,6,8 and covering 3 playing weeks. Pool winners will contest the "Cup Final" and the remaining teams will play each other on a 2nd v 2nd, 3rd v 3rd etc basis.

8. FIXTURES

- a) All Men's divisions will play on Saturday and Women's divisions on Sunday, unless the home team, with the sanction of the Operations Manager, wishes to vary this. Notification of all such variation requests or determinations must be advised to the Operations Manager on the official postponement form in writing by the Club Secretary prior to the proposed changes being scheduled, no less than fourteen (14) days before the match is played. This also applies to all Chatham Cup match postponements.
- b) Once the draw has been published by the Operations Manager a club cannot request to alter the time, date or venue of a fixture without the consent of the opposition and the Operations Manager.
- c) Any team failing to take the field within 15 minutes of the scheduled fixture kick-off time shall be considered to have defaulted the match unless good cause can be shown. The Operations Manager shall be advised immediately of any such occurrence.
- d) Any match abandoned for any reason shall be reported immediately in writing to the Operations Manager. This responsibility lies with the referee, if present, or the home team. After considering the facts, the Operations Manager may decide that:
 - i. The score at the time of the abandonment shall stand providing a minimum of 60 minutes have been played, or
 - ii. The match will be re-scheduled to another date.
- e) Matches not played for any reason, i.e. weather, referee, Chatham Cup, etc, will be rescheduled by the Operations Manager.
- f) Any player who has been selected to play for a representative team or trial team shall not play for a club on the same day as such representative or trial game is being played. Unless consent is obtained from Central Football.

When a team has more than two regular playing members (of that team) engaged in representative matches, then that team on application to the appropriate Operations Manager will be granted a postponement of any competition match it may be due to play.

- g) A default fee of up to \$1000 (One thousand dollars) for The Federation League, \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) for Premiership teams and \$200.00 (two hundred dollars) for Senior Local Division teams will be charged to any team who defaults a match without advising the Regional Administration Office before noon on the Friday preceding the scheduled fixture.

- h) All teams defaulting matches shall be required in writing to give reasons for their actions to the Operations Manager, who may take appropriate action including suspension from the league if this is a re-occurring infringement.
- i) In the event of a team being withdrawn from any competition during any round, results, points and goal statistics will be adjusted as though the team concerned never existed. Refunds if applicable to be negotiated with our Financial Manager.
- j) Where a team coach or manager is sent from the field for abuse or dissent towards the match officials, a fine of \$250.00 (two hundred & fifty dollars) may be imposed on the offender's club, plus a one week suspension after due investigation. Repeated occurrences by the coach or manager during the same season would result in a minimum fine of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) being imposed, plus additional suspensions as decided by the Judicial Committee.
- k) 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 either the Referee or seen by the Operations Manager/Coach or evidence provided by 3rd parties then the offending team will lose 2 points and be fined \$500 for the first two offences. If a team is caught for the 3rd and any subsequent time with alcohol at a fixture then they will be stood down one game

9. TEAM CARDS

- a) An Official of a competing team shall before the commencement of every match hand to the Referee the official Team Card, listing legibly the players for that team participating in the match. Up to 5 substitutes may be named.
- b) If any team fails to comply with 8(a) above, the Referee shall report the facts to the Operations Manager who may impose a fine of \$20.00 on the offending team.
- c) All team cards are to be written or printed legibly and contain the first name and surname of each player, including substitutes, with the numbers on the team card corresponding correctly with the numbers on the individual player's uniform. Team cards must also include goal scorer's numbers. Failure to comply will result in a \$20.00 fine.
- d) Each team card must be signed after the game by team management or the captain of the team to confirm that the result reported on the card is correct
- e) Team cards shall be in the hands of the Regional Administration Office within 3 working days following the match. Any team card received after this day will incur a fine of \$10.00. If the missing team card is not received during the following week, an additional fine of \$40.00 will be incurred. 3rd Week missing will incur loss of 1 point. Team cards may be faxed initially then posted.

- f) On receipt of a protest or by a “compliance” team card check by the Operations Manager , if any team is found guilty of playing a player who is
 - i) not listed on the team card, or
 - ii) playing under an assumed or false name or
 - iii) playing while suspended

the following sanctions will apply:

- i. The offending club 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 that team shall stand goals against cancelled.
- ii. A fine of \$50.00 per player will be imposed on the offending club
- iii. If both clubs are found to be in breach, the match result shall be cancelled. Fines as above shall be imposed and the match may be replayed at the discretion of the Operations Manager

10. SUBSTITUTIONS

- a) The Federation League, Pacific & Western Premierhips, Taranaki Premier and Eastern League Div 1 – 5 subs are allowed on the team card and 3 substitutions can be made during the game.
- b) All other Men’s and women’s local leagues, including Wanganui Men’s Div 1, below the above leagues & including masters - A maximum of 5 rolling substitutes may be used in a game

11. RESULTS

- a) The “Home Club” is responsible for telephoning or, emailing the result of the match to their regional office.
- b) All the Federation League & Premiership game results must be received by 6.00pm on the day of the fixture. All other results must be in by 8am Monday morning. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$20.00

12. REFEREES

- a) For each local competition game where the Referees Appointments Officer has appointed a referee, a fee as agreed by the Central Football Board shall be divided evenly and charged to each team.
- b) If the appointed referee is not in attendance at the scheduled kickoff time, it is the responsibility of the home team to provide a mutually agreed referee who will have the full backing of the Operations Manager. If no agreement can be

reached, each team will provide a referee for each half with the team winning the toss having the choice of which half to referee.

- c) 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 would result in a \$500.00 fine for each instance.
- d) Reported written abusive or critical comments against a match official contained in any Club Match Programme or publication, web page or in the media, will incur an automatic fine of \$250.00 on the offending club. Repeated occurrences during the current season involving the same club would result in a \$500.00 fine for each instance.
- e) The Operations Manager shall have the power to request that the Referees appointment officer make appointments to games that have more importance in terms of promotion/relegation rather than on the basis of the grade of a competition.

13. COMPETITION POINTS

- a) In all league games, three (3) points shall be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a draw and zero (0) points for a loss.
- b) A team's accumulated points shall govern all promotion and/or relegation for each season. In the case of two or more teams accumulating the same number of points in a season, the final positions shall be decided as follows:
 - i. goal difference;
 - ii. if still level, the higher number of goals scored;
 - iii. the goal difference from the matches played between the teams equal in points;
 - iv. if, after applying the above criteria any two or more teams are still equal, then the team with the superior disciplinary record shall be the highest placed team.

14. PLAYOFFS

- a) All playoffs, if required shall take place at a suitable time after the conclusion of the season as determined by the Operations Manager.
- b) The Rules of this competition, and the venue(s), will be determined by the Operations Manager prior to the commencement of this competition. The playoff Rules and venue may be subject to consultation, but decisions made in this regard by the Operations Manager will be final and not subject to appeal.

- c) Players of any club taking part in the playoffs are required to be registered players of the club concerned and have been registered for the Club prior to 30 June of that year.
- d) No club can be represented in the play-offs by 2 different teams.
- e) Pacific and Western Premiership Play-Offs
 - i. The two top eligible teams (one from each premiership) are able to compete for a Federation League playoff position. The winner of each premiership will go into a home and away play-off to determine the team allowed to play-off for Federation League. If the winners of each league are not eligible or do not wish to enter Federation League then the 2nd place teams may compete for a position.
 - ii. Players of the Club taking part in the playoffs are required to be registered players of the club concerned and have been registered for that Club prior to 1st July of that year.
 - iii. The play-offs are considered to be an extension of a Club's season. Therefore, cautions and suspensions will carry over into a playoff series.
 - iv. After match functions must be provided by the home team for all fixtures in the play off
- f) Pacific Premiership promotion/relegation

At the conclusion of the season, the last placed team in the Premiership will play-off home and away with the winners of a play-off between Gisborne Eastern Div 1 winners and HB Division 1's eligible team.

- g) Western Premiership

At the conclusion of the season, the last placed team in the Premiership will play-off home and away with the winners of a play-off between winners of the Manawatu Mid Central and Taranaki Premier team.

15. KNOCKOUT CUPS – STANDARDISED FROM APPENDICES

- a) All Knockout Cups under the control of Central Football will be subject to the following rules.
- b)
 - i. Each round will be drawn out of the "hat".
 - ii. 1st Round will be used to remove byes from the competition.
 - iii. Teams will be required to enter the cup competitions on the pre-season entry form.
 - iv. Chatham Cup/NZ Womens Cup rules will apply.
 - v. Game duration: Men – 45 mins each way
Women - 40 mins each way

- vi. If scores are level at full time then 2, 15-minute periods of extra time will be played
 - vii. If scores are still level then kicks from the penalty mark will take place under FIFA rules.
 - viii. Players who have appeared in the Chatham Cup/ NZ Womens Cup are still eligible to play in the Senior Cup competition. Central Football Regulation 3, 6 Player Eligibility a) ii will apply.
 - ix. Player eligibility for Knockout Cup games will be based on Central Football Regulation 3, 6 Player Eligibility
 - x. Once a player has played for a team in a Knockout Cup competition they are cup-tied to that team.
 - xi. Where a Knockout Cup competition includes teams playing under two different substitution rules the 3 sub rule will apply and they will not be rolling.
 - xii. Home team MUST ring through the result to appropriate Operations Manager
 - xiii. All other Central Football playing regulations will apply
- c) Winners medals will be provided for all Senior Knockout Cup/Plate winners. Runners-up medals will only be provided in competitions where 8 or more teams are entered.

16. CHALLENGE CUPS – From Appendices

A number of Divisions in the Federation have Challenge Cups. The following will apply:-

- a) At the start of the season the team holding the trophy at the end of the previous season shall display the trophy at its first home game. Should the team lose the game the trophy is passed onto the winner, who will in turn display and defend it at their next home game.
- b) A drawn game will see the holder at the start of the game retain the trophy till the next game.
- c) At the conclusion of the season the holder after the last game will be presented with trophy, engraved for that season with that team's name.

17. PLAYING EQUIPMENT – (Refer The Federation League also)

- a) Match Balls - Local Leagues - each home team shall provide a minimum of one (1) match ball in good condition.
- b) Regulation nets, corner flags and crowd barriers, if required, shall be supplied and erected by the home team at all fixtures. All items to be checked by clubs for safety.
- c) Crowd barriers 1 metre high and 2 metres from each sideline must be erected for all Western and Pacific premiership games. If 3 point control then both sides must be erected. If 1 point control then only the team side needs to be erected. Clubs will receive a \$50 fine for non-compliance.

- d) The registered playing strip as advised to the Operations Manager at the beginning of the season will be those worn by the team for the season for all fixtures. Alternative strip must not be worn unless there is a clash of colours.
- e) Where team colours clash, the visiting team shall be obliged to change to their alternative strip. It is a visiting team's responsibility to ensure there is no clash. Failure to wear the alternative strip if there is a clash will incur a fine of \$100.
- f) All team strips must be clearly numbered on the back of the shirts, the number must be 250mm in height.
- g) For clubs providing their own goalposts – these must have an engineer's safety check prior to the commencement of the season. A copy of the report must be received by the Operations Manager prior to any fixtures being played on that pitch. If this has not been received then Central Football will co-ordinate the engineer's inspections and charge costs back to clubs.
- h) If incident reports are received from a referee regarding the standard of pitch markings then the pitch will not host any other fixtures until the problem is rectified. Continued offences will be monitored and home games may be affected.

18. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- a) Any club playing in the Central Football region may bring a dispute or protest to Central Football through their Operations Manager.
- b) A protest shall be made, within seven (7) days of the breach (including Sunday), by forwarding a written statement, on the club's letterhead, setting out the protest and the name of the club, player or persons involved to the Operations Manager.
- c) On receipt of the protest, as outlined above, a copy of the protest will be forwarded to the offending club by the Operations Manager. The Operations Manager will make the necessary enquiries into the matters placed before them and advise their decision to the party or parties concerned.
- d) The Operations Manager has the authority to forward the protest to the Federations Judicial Representative or the Chief Executive if required to resolve the protest.
- e) A fee of \$100.00 + GST must accompany all protests from all clubs. This fee will be retained if the protest is proven to be frivolous.
- f) Each club has the right of appeal against any ruling of Central Football to New Zealand Football, as per NZF Rules and Regulations. The appeal must be submitted to NZF through the Regional Administration Office with a fee of \$500.00 plus GST.

19. COMPOSITE TEAMS

The following rules will apply to all “composite” teams allowed to participate in the Central League/Federation League and Premierships.

- a) Players must be registered to a local club within the region they are representing.
- b) Players will play for the “composite” team for the duration of the season and can also play for their local club on any weekend. Priority will be given to Central and Federation League teams.
- c) Squad lists will be limited to 24 and will be given to the appropriate Central /Federation League manager or Operations Manager for Premierships.
- d) All changes to the squad list must be made via the Operations Manager
- e) No additions to the squad list will be accepted after 1st July each year which falls in line with current transfer regulations.
- f) All cards and suspensions will be covered under NZF Regulation 7.

20. MASTERS DIVISIONS

Anyone playing in the Masters Divisions must be 35 years of age or older at the time of the game.

21. MISCELLANEOUS

- a) Anything not covered by these Regulations shall be at the sole discretion of Central Football and their governing Rules and Regulations.
- b) Central Football shall issue any further instructions from time to time as necessary. These instructions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.