



# The Illawarra Football Association

## 1. Structure of the Competitions from 2009/2010

### PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION DETAILS

Premier League Competition in Seasons 2009 & 2010 will be structured with the following pillars:

- a) The newly structured Premier League Competition to comprise of a Maximum of 12 clubs.
  
- b) A Mandatory Two Tier Grade Format, Comprising: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Open and an Under 20 Grade Competition. The Under 20 competition will permit 3 overage players on the field at any one time with 3 overage players in total permitted on the team sheet. Each team will be allowed three substitutes in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and 5 in Grade 20.
  
- c) A Reserve Grade Team to be optional from season 2009 onwards for all Premier League clubs. A non-mandatory Reserves League Competition open to all member clubs will be created and operated by the IFA, subject to demand from member clubs.
  
- d) The bottom two finishing clubs in Premier League in Seasons 2009 & beyond will be relegated to the newly structured District League Competition at the completion of the 2009 & beyond seasons.

## 1. PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION DETAILS (Continued)

- e) The Premier League 2009 Season Final Series to be played as a Top 5 Play-Off series in line with the smaller number of Premier League Clubs competing for the Premier League Championship.
- f) Illawarra Football Association member club entry Criteria and Standards fully implemented and operational for Season 2009 as included in this paper and beyond.{see point 5}
- g) Illawarra Football Association Premier League Criteria and Standards amended as included in this paper for Season 2009 and beyond.{see point 6 and attachment 1}

<b>2009/2010 PREMIER LEAGUE FORMAT</b>
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<b>Premier League First Grade</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>LEAGUE CHAMPION</b>
<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>TOP 5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>PLAY-OFF</b>
<b>5</b>	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	<b>RELEGATED</b>
12	<b>RELEGATED</b>

<b>Premier League Grade 20</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>LEAGUE CHAMPION</b>
<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>TOP 5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>PLAY-OFF</b>
<b>5</b>	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

## 2. DISTRICT LEAGUES DETAILS

**The IFA District Leagues Competition in Seasons 2009 & 2010 will be structured with the following pillars:**

- a) Two District League Competitions of **EQUAL STATUS FOR “PROMOTION TO PREMIER LEAGUE”** will be created to replace the existing large member club first division competition.
- b) There will be a minimum of 8 clubs and a maximum of 12 clubs in both groups of District League Competitions.
- c) The number of clubs in the 2 District League Competitions will be reviewed on annual basis by the IFA Football Competitions Portfolio and recommendations made to the full Board of Directors of the IFA .
- d) The District League format & structure will be fully reviewed by the Board of the IFA after completion of Season 2010.
- e) The District League Competitions will comprise of a parity alignment with the Premier League with a Two (2) Grade Tier Format, comprising a 1<sup>st</sup> Grade open and an Under 20 Grade competition. The U20 competition will also permit only a maximum of 3 overage players on the field at any one time and a total of 3 overage players permitted on the Team-sheet. Each team will be allowed three (3) substitutes in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and five (5) in Grade 20.

## **2. DISTRICT LEAGUES DETAILS (Continued)**

- f) A Reserve Grade Team to be optional from season 2009 onwards for all District League clubs. A non-mandatory Single Team Reserves League Competition will be created subject to demand from all Member Clubs.
- g) Each club will play their own District League Group twice on a home and away basis. (14 Matches) Note: Scenario is given on 8 clubs per District League group.
- h) Plus each club will also play the other District League Group once only (8 Matches). Note: Scenario is given on 8 clubs per District League group.
- i) All points won, goals scored for & against will be accumulated in that club's District League Group table i.e. Points gained against the other District League Group Clubs will be added to the accumulated points already achieved from their own group.
- j) With the current number of member clubs included, there will be a total of 22 rounds in this format for Season 2009.
- k) The WINNERS of BOTH District League Group COMPETITIONS will automatically QUALIFY FOR PROMOTION to the premier league for the following season {subject to entry and participation criteria being met for premier league as stated in this paper in Point 10 and Attachment 1}.**
- l) The Composition for Season 2009 District League Groups will be based on the final season standings of the 2008 Combined District League competitions.

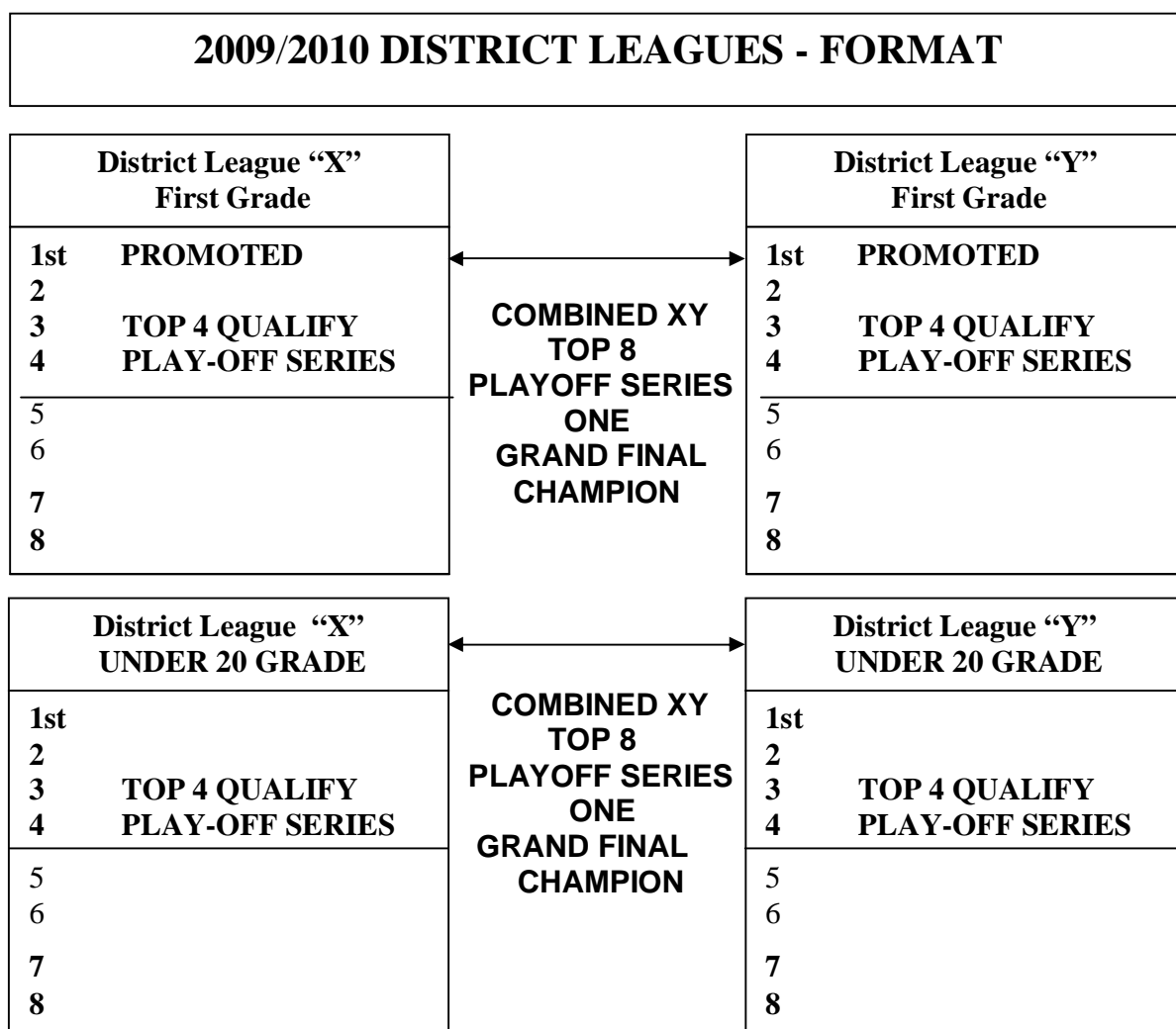
## **2. DISTRICT LEAGUES DETAILS (Continued)**

- m) The even finishing clubs will form one group and the odd finishing clubs from 3<sup>rd</sup> position down will form the other group. i.e. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> in one District League Group. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, in the other group.
  
- n) The Two Premier League Clubs relegated from the previous season in 2008 will be separated in Season 2009 with the relegated Premier League Club finishing 12<sup>th</sup> being placed in the “evens” District League Group and the relegated Premier League club finishing 13<sup>th</sup> being placed in the “odds” District League Group. This Composition Formula & Pattern of District League Allocations will remain in force & continue on in the following seasons to ensure all member clubs can plan their progress in a transparent and fully stable environment.
  
- o) The Entry Point Level for any new prospective club applications to join the IFA Competitions will be through the IFA District League Level and if more than 1 new application clubs will be split across the two District League Groups. This ensures that existing Member Clubs at District Level have preference, priority and equal seeding with their District League Group Competitions. In the case of only one successful application, the IFA Competitions Portfolio will after assessment, recommend to the Board of Directors which group the new prospective club will compete in, in a balanced and appropriate manner.
  
- p) The top 4 clubs in each District League Group Competition will combine to form a top 8 playoff series based on a composite table formula in Seasons 2009 & 2010 to attain only one Grand Final District League Champion per season. This means

## 2. DISTRICT LEAGUES DETAILS (Continued)

there will be only One (1) District League Grand Final Winner per season. {See below illustration for further details}.

- q) An amended and enhanced Illawarra Football Association Member Club Criteria and Standards will be implemented and applicable for 2009 and beyond. {see point 5 of this paper}



**3. Community League Competition Season 2009 & Beyond: Minimum of 8 Clubs**

- a) A non-mandatory Single Team Competition open to all member clubs from the premier and district leagues will be created & operated by the IFA from Season 2009 & beyond (subject to demand from Member Clubs)
- b) Players from Clubs in this competition will be available for selection to either first grade or U20's.
- c) Where possible clubs will have the option of scheduling matches prior to the Under 20 Grade matches when playing at home subject to approval from IFA.
- d) Competition matches can otherwise & shall be scheduled for a Thursday night, Friday night or Saturday afternoon or at other times to suit Member Clubs subject to approval from the IFA .
- e) If more than 12 clubs apply for entry into this single team competition, the IFA will review the format on an annual basis depending on the number of teams applying.

<b>IFA Reserve Grade League</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>LEAGUE CHAMPION</b>
<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>TOP 5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>PLAY-OFF</b>
<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b>	
<b>12</b>	

#### **4. IFA Entry & Participation Criteria & Standards Overview**

In developing the following Entry & Participation Criteria there a number of elements that have been considered which are in line with the IFA Business Plan's, Key Results Areas (KRA's). The IFA Business Plan was developed with considerable consultation and input from all member clubs and stakeholders. The KRA's discussed in the IFA Business Plan are:

- i. **Administration** – *Attain Excellence in the delivery of Administrative Services and Communication*
- ii. **Competitive Play** - *Continuously raise the standard of excellence in competitive Play*
- iii. **Build Relationships** - *Recognise the contribution by sponsors and Association members*
- iv. **Promote Football** - *To increase the participation and recognition of football in Illawarra*

## **5. IFA Entry & Participation Criteria & Standards for All Member Clubs**

**The standard criteria required for Entry & Participation in the IFA League Competitions as a member Club from 2009 onwards shall be as follows:**

- a) Formal and clearly identifiable Management Executive and Committee Structure with individual's names, stated titles and roles. This club detail shall be submitted to the IFA Office with application and amended and forwarded as required if any changes either following Club's Member's AGM or during following IFA Season Competition. All elected Club Executive Committee members will be required to attend an IFA Clubs Executive Induction Programme prior to the start of the Season Proper.
  
- b) A Proven and clearly visible efficient and effective Communication Manner by the Executive of the Applying new Club or an Existing Participating Member Club that demonstrates to the IFA Board a clear understanding, acceptance and adherence of the Standards, Rules, Protocols, Policies and Behavioural Manner expected & required to operate a Club under the control of the Illawarra Football Association
  
- c) Mandatory (compulsory) Club Executive Management participation and attendance at all IFA scheduled Club meetings, Seminars, Briefings and Events as called from time to time by the IFA Board of Directors or IFA manager.
  
- d) Failure by the nominated Participating Club Executive Committee members to attend any of these designated IFA club meetings/seminars and any other scheduled or IFA called meetings, will result in automatic Punitive Action but not limited to Monetary Penalties.

## **5. IFA Entry & Participation Criteria & Standards for All Member Clubs (Continued)**

- e) It is very important to note that any continued Failure by the Participating Club Executive Committee to attend IFA sanctioned Meetings/Seminars/Briefings/Events etc. and also any 2 consecutive IFA Sanctioned Meetings/Seminars/Briefings/Events etc. will result in further Punitive Action and is not limited to the deduction of at least one league championship point and the imposition of additional Monetary Fines being applied within that participation playing year.
  
- f) Again, further failure to attend IFA sanctioned meetings/seminars/briefings/events in the same playing year and non compliance after these major breach milestones to attend will result in a review of the club's status, membership and participation in that particular league and may lead to the expulsion of that participating club from the competition by resolution of the IFA Board of Directors.
  
- g) Participating Member Clubs must have all their Financial Accounts Independently Audited annually by an accredited public accountant and submitted to the IFA Manager for analysis & vetting by the Association elected Treasurer at the completion of each Football Competition Operational Year but prior to the following season's application deadline. Club must also provide a Financial Statement on the Club's financial position prior to each commencement of the Season proper detailing forecasted revenues & sponsorships, club operating expenses, player contract payments and any details of loans/arrangements. Such Financial Accounts must demonstrate that the Participating Club is financially viable, sustainable, stable and able to meet all their Financial Obligations & Commitments when they are due & payable.

## **5. IFA Entry & Participation Criteria & Standards for All Member Clubs (Continued)**

- h) Participating clubs must support and promote all IFA's endorsed sponsors. Clubs that negotiate sponsorship arrangements with sponsors that are in direct or implied competition with IFA sponsors must forward all details to IFA office prior to any acceptance of sponsorship conditions. This must be done in writing on a club letterhead signed by the Club President or Secretary. This shall ensure full disclosure by IFA of any club sponsorship arrangement to any affected IFA sponsor. Failure to comply with this notice may result on substantial fines being applied to club to ensure the integrity of IFA sponsorship arrangements.
  
- i) Participating clubs must abide by the Illawarra Football Association's Rules and Regulations, Articles of Association (Constitution) and Code of Conduct. Clubs must also abide by NSW Football's & FFA National Disciplinary Code. Club's Executive Committee must protect and promote the name of Football at all times and are responsible to ensure that all persons in their control, employment, assignment or allocation as Club Officials or Club Volunteers and spectators in attendance at all their Home Grounds abide by the Associations Code of Conduct and be socially responsible. All Breaches that contravene all such inappropriate behaviour, or are deemed by the IFA and/or its Tribunal as acting or behaving in an anti-social manner, or are considered to be racially directed or of an abusive nature will be dealt with by the IFA Tribunal Officials in the most severe possible manner. Club's Executives found not to be acting in the best interests of the game or failing to prevent such incidents at their home games, will also be highly scrutinized with all possible punitive actions enforced and enacted to ensure the game, it's officials,

## 5. IFA Entry & Participation Criteria & Standards for All Member Clubs (Continued)

it's players, it's supporters, the wider community and all our Sponsors are protected and fostered.

- j) Participating Clubs must also be in full Compliance to the Ground Criteria detailed and provided in Attachment 1,2 and 3 of this document.

### a. Entry & Participation Criteria Standards for Premier League Clubs

All Premier League Clubs will be subjected to a full Illawarra Football Association (& associated NSW Football) Rules, Regulations, Code of Conduct Compliance & Performance Annual Audit Review. The annual review will assess the level of compliance against each of the IFA Standard Entry & Participation Criteria and Standards and the Premier League Entry & Participation Criteria Standards The Entry & Participation Criteria for Premier League Clubs and the Annual Review Audit will be as follows:

- a) Mandatory Compliance to the IFA Standard Entry & Participation Criteria Standards for Premier League
- b) Compliance to the Ground Requirements Criteria (see attachment 1 and 3)  
**Note:** Clubs may be granted a 1 year extension on ground improvement program subject to approval from IFA after application to IFA in writing detailing timeline works program and reasons for delay in improvements and upgrade works.
- c) Club Payment of all Association associated Fees, Charges, Membership Levies, Fines, Loans, Club Accounts, etc..

## **6. Entry & Participation Criteria Standards for Premier League Clubs (continued)**

- d) A high level of compliance and acceptable disciplinary record in the previous season  
(At league average)
- e) Have fully adhered to & met – where applicable - all probationary requirements as set out by the IFA for the current & previous season
- f) Fielded all teams as required in the nominated League Competitions in the current and previous season
- g) Provide a Financial Statement signed-off and supported by a Public Accountant that confirms the participating club is currently solvent & has been solvent during the previous 12 months of operation.
- h) Undertake an annual off season ground playing surface maintenance program. Details to be forwarded to IFA with club application
- i) Ensure that the First Grade Coach has a minimum of a senior grade licence (part A) or equivalent by season commencement 2010.
- j) Ensure that the Grade 20 coach has a minimum of a youth grade licence or equivalent from Season 2009
- k) All premier league club sports/trainers shall possess a minimum level 1 accredited sports trainer certificate or be a qualified physiotherapist or doctor
- l) All appointed Premier League Coaches must attend an accredited and relevant IFA briefing & induction program &/or seminars/events as requested prior to the start of the Season Proper

## Attachment 1

### Ground Criteria Premier League

- a) The size of the playing area shall be (100-110) metres long by (65-75) metres wide. Goalposts must conform to FIFA regulations and be 7.32 metres wide by 2.41 metre high.
- b) The confines of the ground shall be totally enclosed with fencing at least 1.8m high while the playing pitch shall be enclosed with a perimeter fence in good condition a minimum 1.0m high and 2 metres away from playing area.
- c) Clubs must provide a defined separated access and exit from the change rooms to the playing field for referees and players with a minimum height of 1.1m and width of 1.5m.
- d) Surface should be flat and level with a good covering of grass. Drainage facilities should be able to cater for normal inclement weather and be capable of quick recovery from abnormal inclement weather. A annual offseason home ground maintenance program on playing surface shall be undertaken
- e) A separate change room is required for each competing team, each room to have both hot and cold showers, rubbing bench and whiteboard and with ample shelf or hangers for bags. No equipment is to be stored in change rooms on matchdays.
- f) A Referees room with hot and cold showers, separate from the rooms used by the players, shall be also made available. Room shall be clean and free and not used as storage room on matchday. Any new facility or upgrade of amenities block must allow for toilet in referees room
- g) Two covered substitute/coaches bench/dugout with adequate seating. Height of structure should be a minimum of 1.8 metres.
- h) Technical areas to be marked 1 metre from either side of substitute/coaches dugout and extend forward up to a distance 1 metre from the perimeter of playing field
- i) An endorsed First-Aid kit must be made available with location displayed by a sign for use by players, officials and spectators. A qualified trainer or first aid trained person must be in attendance. A suitable first aid stretcher must be made available and located close to dugouts.
- j) There must be a properly constructed ticket box that provides all weather protection and security.
- k) Seating must be in good, clean and safe condition close to the playing perimeter of the field and able to accommodate for 500 spectators.
- l) Undercover shelter must provide for 300 spectators in close proximity to the playing perimeter of the field.
- m) A fully functional scoreboard that is clear and visible and updated continually on matchday
- n) The public address(PA) system must be operational on matchday and able to be heard clearly all over ground

## **Ground Criteria Premier League (continued)**

- o) There must be a current written agreement on the Lease of the ground/facility.
- p) Lighting for playing night games must conform to a match standards as per Football NSW guidelines. Note: Subject to annual change A current lighting certificate shall be submitted to the IFA at the commencement of each competition season.
- q) The canteen must be maintained and clean and provide for a range of food and refreshments. Only accredited persons with the appropriate licences will be allowed to sell alcohol with the appropriate RSA signage in place.
- r) A telephone(fixed or mobile) located in the canteen must be made available for access by club officials for contact with Illawarra Football, media or emergency services
- s) Adequate toilet facilities must be provided for males and females. Minimum two cubicles and a urinal in the male toilets and two cubicles in the female toilets. Toilets must be fully maintained and clean on matchdays as per WCC standards with provisions for disabled preferred.
- t) Minimum six(6) matchday officials for home club and four(4) matchday officials for away club clearly identifiable(IFA supplied vests) and available to patrol ground

## Attachment 2

### Ground Criteria District Leagues

- a) The size of the playing area shall be (100-110) metres long by (65-75) metres wide. Goalposts must conform to FIFA regulations and be 7.32 metres wide by 2.41 metre high
- b) The playing pitch shall be enclosed with a perimeter fence a minimum 1.0m high and 2 metres away from playing area.
- c) Clubs must provide a defined separated access and exit from the change rooms to the playing field for referees and players with a minimum height of 1.1m and width of 1.5m.
- d) Surface should be flat and level with a good covering of grass. Drainage facilities should be able to cater for normal inclement weather and be capable of quick recovery from abnormal inclement weather.
- e) A separate change room is required for each competing team, each room to have both hot and cold showers, rubbing bench and whiteboard and with ample shelf or hangers for bags. No equipment is to be stored in change rooms on matchdays
- f) A Referees room with hot and cold showers, separate from the rooms used by the players, shall be also made available. Room shall be clean and free and not used as storage room on matchday. Any new facility or upgrade of amenities block must allow for toilet in referees room
- g) Two covered substitute/coaches bench/dugout with adequate seating. Height of structure should be a minimum of 1.8metres.
- h) Technical areas in front of dugouts to be marked approx 5m wide
- i) An endorsed First-Aid kit must be made available with location displayed by a sign for use by players, officials and spectators. A qualified trainer or first aid trained person must be in attendance. A suitable first aid stretcher must be made available and located close to dugouts
- j) Seating must be in good, clean and safe condition close to the playing perimeter of the field and able to accommodate for 200 spectators.
- k) A fully functional scoreboard that is clear and visible and updated
- l) Lighting for playing night games must conform to a minimum standard of 100 lux as per current standards. (subject to annual change) A current lighting certificate to be submitted to the IFA.
- m) The canteen must be maintained and clean and provide for a range of food and refreshments. Persons with the appropriate licenses will only be allowed to sell alcohol.
- n) A telephone(fixed or mobile) located in the canteen must be made available for access by club officials and for contact with Illawarra Football
- o) Adequate toilet facilities must be provided for males and females. Minimum one cubicle and a urinal in the male toilets and two cubicles in the female toilets. Toilets must be fully maintained and clean on matchdays as per WCC standards with provisions for disabled preferred.
- p) Minimum six(6) matchday officials for home club and four(4) matchday officials for away club clearly identifiable(IFA supplied vests) available that are free to patrol ground

## Attachment 3

### Ground Requirement Overview

<b>Ground</b>	<b>Premier League</b>	<b>District League</b>
Enclosed Ground	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Preferred</b>
Ticket Box	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Preferred</b>
Sheltered Accommodation	<b>Essential (300)</b>	
Open seating	<b>Essential (500)</b>	<b>Essential(200)</b>
Dugouts	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Substitution Boards	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Preferred</b>
Ground Officials(6)Home (4)away	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Long Term Lease	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Preferred</b>
Car parking	<b>Preferred</b>	<b>Preferred</b>
Score Boards	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Canteen	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Code of Conduct Signs Displayed	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Public/Mobile Telephone	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Public Address System	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Public Toilets	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Fencing Off Total facility	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Preferred</b>
No Overhead obstruction	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Lights – night	<b>200 Lux Essential</b>	<b>100 lux minimum Essential</b>
Pitch Perimeter Fence	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Fist Aid facilities	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Public Liability Insurance	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
<b>Dressing Rooms</b>		
Security locked	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Hot & Cold water	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Toilets	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Rubbing Bench	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Stretcher	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Showers	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
<b>Referees Room</b>		
Securely locked	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Hot & Cold water	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Toilets	<b>*Preferred</b>	<b>Preferred</b>
Showers	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
<b>Administration</b>		
Club Incorporated	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>
Email address	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Essential</b>