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NORTHERN NSW
WOMEN'S
PREMIER LEAGUE
FOOTBALL

**NEWCASTLE HERALD
WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE
2017 COMPETITION
RULES**



The Newcastle Herald Women's Premiers League 2017 competition rules are to be read in conjunction with Northern NSW Football 2017 Premier Competition Regulations.

1. FEES

1.1. COMPETITION FEE

Total		\$1884
Instalment Payments Due:		
Instalment 1	28/2/17	\$ 942
Instalment 2	31/5/17	\$ 942

1.2. MATCH OFFICIALS FEE

Total		\$3600
Instalment Payments Due:		
Instalment 1	30/4/17	\$ 720
Instalment 2	31/5/17	\$ 720
Instalment 3	30/6/17	\$ 720
Instalment 4	31/7/17	\$ 720
Instalment 5	31/8/17	\$ 720

2. REGISTRATION PERIODS 2017

Amateur	1 st December 2016 – 30 th June 2017
Contract First Window	17 th January – 1 st April
Contract Second Window	1 st June – 30 th June

3. REGISTRATION FEES

A Player registration fee will be imposed by Northern NSW Football for participation in all Premier Competitions. Senior and Youth fees are determined annually.

Youth is classified as 18 Years and below as at 31 December each year.

Premier competition registrations are refundable up until 30th June each year provided that the de-registering player has not played during their time of registration nor lodged an insurance claim for that same period. The player cannot be listed on a team sheet for any competition fixture as either a starting player or a substitute/interchange player.



4. AGE RESTRICTIONS

A player's age is determined by the age they turn during that calendar year.

Age restrictions for the Herald Women's Premier League are:

4.1. 14 Years

Player must be turning 13 or 14 years of age in 2017.

Clubs may seek dispensation for a maximum of two (2) players born in 2005 to participate in their 14 Years team. Dispensation will be subject to the approval of the applicable Zone Manager and Zone Technical Director. This regulation will only be applicable for season 2015.

The three (3) youngest players in the Club's 16 Years squad will be permitted to play in the Club's 14 Years in the event of injuries in that age group.

4.2. 16 Years

Player must be turning 14, 15 or 16 years of age in 2017.

4.3. 18 Years

Player must be turning 15, 16, 17 or 18 years of age in 2017.

Clubs will be permitted to play a maximum of five (5) overage players (listed on team sheet) in the 18 Years competition.

4.4. 1st Grade

Players must turn 15 years of age in 2017.

5. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

Herald Women's Premier League is restricted to a maximum of 64 registered players at any one time during the season.

5.1. Clubs will not be permitted to multiple register players from other affiliated Zone competitions.



6. MATCH DURATION

The following shall be the playing times:

1 st Grade	45 minutes each half
18 Years	40 minutes each half
16 Years	35 minutes each half
14 Years	35 minutes each half

6.1. A minimum of five (5) minute interval will be taken at the end of the half time. Extra time may be added at the discretion of the Referee.

6.2. A fixture which falls short of the stipulated playing time may be deemed to have been completed or may be replayed at the absolute discretion of NNSWF.

7. MATCH BALLS

Approved match balls to be used in all competition fixtures.

14 years to 1st Grade - Size 5

8. TEAM SHEETS

Team sheets are to be completed by both clubs a minimum 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

Team sheets shall be completed in black or blue biro using block letters and all relevant details thereon being legible.

At the conclusion of the fixture and after the Match Officials have completed the Referees Report, a Team Official from both clubs must sign the team sheet to confirm the details entered for their respective club are correct.

In the event of a dispute regarding the recorded result and the referee refuses to alter the result, the Team Official(s) shall have the dispute noted on the team sheet and sign their name under that note. The Team Official(s) should also report the dispute to their Club who may wish to lodge a protest.

If the team sheet is not signed by a team Official, all information on the team sheet pertaining to infringements, results and goal scorers, is deemed to be correct.

The home club must email a copy of team sheets (front & back) to competitions@northernnswfootball.com.au by 9am on the first business day following the fixture being played.

The home club must then post the team sheet originals to NNSWF using the priority paid envelopes provided to clubs by NNSWF within 24 hours of completion of the fixture.



Clubs failing to comply with team sheet regulations will be subject to a fine as determined annually.

9. TEAM OFFICIALS

Clubs will be permitted to allow a maximum six (6) Team Officials on the Technical Bench during the fixture.

10. SUBSTITUTION / INTERCHANGE OF A PLAYER

10.1. Substitution - ref regulation 36.2.

The substitution rule will apply to 1st Grade and 18 Years grades.

10.2. Interchange

The interchange rule will apply to the 16 Years and, 14 Years, grade. Unlimited interchange will apply.

11. RESCHEDULED FIXTURES

11.1. Fixtures postponed due to inclement weather or any other causes must be rescheduled and replayed the second week after the postponement, with first grade and 18 Years scheduled for the Wednesday night. The home Club reserves the right to determine which night (in accordance with above – Tuesday or Thursday) the two lower grade fixtures will be rescheduled.

11.2. It is the responsibility of the Home Club to liaise with the Away Club to confirm the rescheduled date and match times.

11.3. Postponed fixtures involving Football Mid North Coast must be rescheduled on a weekend date. In this instance, NNSWF will liaise with both Clubs to determine a suitable weekend date.

11.4. Should inclement weather persist and cause the postponement of rescheduled fixtures, NNSWF will liaise with the HOME Club to determine new fixture dates.

11.5. The availability of players or team officials will not be taken into consideration when determining rescheduled fixtures.

11.6. NNSWF's decision and determination regarding rescheduled fixture will be final and not subject to appeal.

12. WET WEATHER PROCEDURES - Ref Regulation 42

In the event of wet weather cancellations/amendments, it is the responsibility of the host club to take the following actions allowing enough time for all relevant participants to be notified.

1. Contact the opposing Club Secretary
2. Contact the NNSWF Referees Appointments Officer
3. Enter the result as a Washout on Sports TG
4. Post washout on clubs Facebook and Twitter account tagging NNSWF & opposition club

13. RESULTS PROCEDURES

13.1. It is the responsibility of the host Club to upload all match day results into the NNSWF website no later than two hours after the conclusion of the last fixture.

13.2. In the event that a club is not able to post results as per above due to technical difficulties, the club is required to email all results to NNSWF within the required timeframes.

13.3. Clubs who fail to adhere to the above procedures will be subject to a fine as determined annually by NNSWF currently \$100 per each individual offence.

14. FINAL SERIES FORMAT

14.1. Semi Final Series

Week 1	4	v	1
	3	v	2
Week 2	2	v	3
	1	v	4

The following criteria will be applied until one (1) team can be determined as the winner.

14.1.1. Highest aggregate of goals scored over the two (2) legs.

14.1.2. Highest number of away goals (away goals rule) over the two (2) legs.

14.2. Drawn Fixtures – Semi Final Series

If the winning teams for grand final placing's cannot be determined by the above criteria, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the second semi-final leg;

14.2.1. Extra time of two (2) equal periods of fifteen (15) minutes will be played in accordance with FIFA Law 8.

14.2.1.1. The away goal rule does not apply to extra time periods.



14.2.2. If at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, a winner has not been determined, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine grand final placing's.

14.2.3. No extra time will be played in the lower grades – decided by penalties

14.3. The highest placed team on the competitions points table reserves the right to host a Sunday final series fixture.

14.4. Grand Final

The winners of semi-final series fixtures in accordance with the above final series format will progress to the grand final.

14.5. Drawn Fixtures – Grand Final

If at the conclusion of a Grand Final fixture the scores are level:

14.5.1. Extra time shall be played. Two fifteen (15) minute periods will be permitted to find a winner. The conditions of FIFA Law 8 will apply.

14.5.1.1. The away goal rule does not apply to extra time periods.

14.5.2. If scores are level at the conclusion of both periods of extra time, penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game, to determine the winner of the match.

14.5.3. No extra time will be played in lower grades – decided by penalties

15. ELIGIBLE PLAYER FOR FINAL SERIES - Ref Regulation 6.5

Subject to any disciplinary restriction, a player is eligible player to compete in her team's final series fixtures as per below;

In a division/league competition a player who has played in four (4) fixtures out of her last six (6) fixtures in the 18's, 16's and 14's grade (provided that she has not been named in the starting line up for a higher grade for that round) during the premierships competition is eligible to play in the respective 18's, 16's and 14's grade final series competition.

Clubs may seek special dispensation no later than Wednesday before the final series fixture for a player who has participated in a minimum of 66% of her games in the 18's, 16's and 14's grade competition. The above rule is not applicable whilst all grades are still participating in the finals series.

15.1. In the case of a 14 Years Final Series fixture, Clubs wishing to play 15 year old players down must seek permission in writing from NNSWF. Consideration will only be given in the event of a shortage of players due to injury and any application must be accompanied by a doctor's medical certificate.

15.2. Goal keeper

Clubs may seek special dispensation for the specialist position of goalkeeper. All requests will be considered on an individual basis by NNSWF.

16. DISCIPLINARY

The Disciplinary competition rules below are to be read in conjunction with FFA National Disciplinary Regulations.

16.1. Accumulation of Yellow Cards

A player who accumulates the following number of yellow cards during the course of the competition must serve the required mandatory match suspensions.

16.1.1. Pre-Season Competition (where applicable)

Three (3) yellow cards during the competition equals one (1) match suspension.

16.1.2. Premiership

Five (5) yellow cards during the competition equals a one (1) match suspension.

Six (6) yellow cards during the competition. No suspension.

Seven (7) yellow cards during the competition equals a two (2) match suspension.

Eight (8) or more yellow cards during the competition Player subject to disciplinary hearing.

16.1.3. Final Series

Three (3) yellow cards during the competition equals a one (1) match suspension.

16.1.4. Players may be subject to further disciplinary action as determined by the Competition Administrator.

16.1.5. It is the clubs responsibility to record and monitor all player infringements and impose player sanctions.

16.2. Accumulation of Red Cards

A player who accumulates the following number of red cards during the course of the competition must serve the following mandatory match suspensions.

16.2.1. Pre-Season Competition (where applicable)

One (1) red card during the competition equals a one (1) match suspension.

Two (2) red cards during the competition equals a two (2) match suspension.

Players may be subject to further disciplinary action as determined by the Competition Administrator.

Above suspensions include the mandatory one match suspension.

16.2.2. Premiership

One (1) red card during the competition equals a minimum one (1) match suspension.

Two (2) red cards during the competition equals a minimum two (2) match suspension.

Three (3) or more red cards during the competition, player subject to disciplinary hearing with a minimum three (3) match suspension.

16.2.3. Any Player who has served a suspension for the accumulation of five (5) or more yellow cards during the competition and is dismissed once again from the field of play during a fixture for a red card infringement will be subject to a minimum two (2) match suspension.

Above suspension includes the mandatory one match suspension.

16.2.4. Players may be subject to further disciplinary action as determined by the Competition Administrator.

16.2.5. Final Series

One (1) red card during the competition equals a one (1) match suspension.

Two (2) red cards during the competition equals a two (2) match suspension.

Above suspension include the mandatory one match suspension.

16.2.6. Players may be subject to further disciplinary action as determined by the Competition Administrator.

16.2.7. It is the clubs responsibility to record and monitor all player infringements and impose player sanctions.

16.3. Misconduct of a Team

Disciplinary sanctions will be placed on a club for the misconduct of a team, for any part of the competition season proper, including when:

16.3.1. Five (5) players are cautioned or sent off during one (1) match;

16.3.2. Three (3) players are sent off during one (1) match; or

16.3.3. Several players together make threats or show force against a match official.

16.4. Match Official Abuse – Minimum Sanctions

Any Player, Team or Club Official found guilty of Match Official abuse will be subject to the following minimum sanctions:

16.4.1. Player

1st Offence Two match suspension – not able to attend Club fixtures during suspension

2nd Offence Four match suspension – not able to attend Club fixtures during suspension

More than two offences appear before Disciplinary Chairman

16.4.2. Team or Club Official

1st Offence Two week time suspension – not able to attend Club fixtures during suspension

2nd Offence Four week time suspension – not able to attend Club fixtures during suspension



More than two offences appear before Disciplinary Chairman.

16.4.3. Club Disciplinary Action

16.4.3.1. A Club which has more than two (Player, Team or Club Officials) found guilty of match official abuse (in any one age group or division in both Senior and Youth) will be subject to a loss of three Competition points for each offence in that particular age group or division after the second offence.

16.4.3.2. A Club which has more than two (Player, Team or Club Officials) found guilty of match official abuse (in all grades inclusive of both Senior and Youth) will be subject to a fine of \$2000.00 for each offence after the second offence.

16.4.3.3. Notwithstanding the above all Clubs may be subject to further Disciplinary / Code of Conduct action as determined by NNSWF.

17. MEDIA & MARKETING

17.1. Playing Strips

Playing Strips are to incorporate the following logos as directed by NNSWF:
Newcastle Herald WPL Competition Logo Right Chest of Playing Shirt as garment is worn.
Newcastle Herald Logo Right Sleeve of Playing Shirt as garment is worn.
NNSWF Logo Right or Left Front of Playing Shorts as garment is worn.

An EPS image of the clubs full playing kit inclusive of playing shirt, playing shorts and playing socks is to be provided to NNSWF prior to 31st January 2017.

Clubs who fail to adhere to this will be subject to a fine as determined annually by NNSWF.

17.2. Feathers

The erection of two Newcastle Herald WPL Feathers at a prominent position as spectators enter the venue.

Clubs who fail to adhere to this will be subject to a fine as determined annually by NNSWF.