



NORTHERN NSW
FOOTBALL

2024

Northern NSW Football

Premier Competition Regulations



**NATIONAL
PREMIER LEAGUES**
NORTHERN NSW

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1. SCOPE & DEFINITIONS

- 1.1.** Northern NSW Football's (NNSWF) Premier Competition Regulations (Regulations) apply to the following competitions and/or fixtures conducted by NNSWF:
- (a)** National Premier Leagues NSW Men's (Senior).
 - (b)** National Premier Leagues NSW Women's (Senior).
 - (c)** Northern League One (Senior).
 - (d)** Premier Youth League.
 - (e)** Junior Development League.
 - (f)** Other competitions, tournaments and special events as promulgated by NNSWF from time to time.
- 1.2.** These Regulations apply to all Clubs, Players, Teams, Club Officials, Volunteers Match Officials participating in NNSWF's Premier Competitions.
- 1.3.** These Regulations are supplementary to Football Australia Statutes and Regulations including:
- (a)** Football Australia National Registration Regulations.
 - (b)** Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations.
 - (c)** Football Australia National Code of Conduct.
 - (d)** Football Australia National Grievance Procedure By-Law.
 - (e)** Football Australia National Member Protection Policy.
 - (f)** Football Australia Spectator Code of Behaviour; and
 - (g)** Any other regulations or policies adopted by Football Australia from time to time.
- 1.4.** These Regulations are supplementary to the following agreements:
- (a)** National Premier Leagues NSW Men's Licence Agreement.
 - (b)** National Premier Leagues NSW Women's Licence Agreement.
 - (c)** Northern League One Participation Agreement.
 - (d)** Premier Youth League Participation Agreement.
 - (e)** Junior Development League Participation Agreement.
 - (f)** Football Australia Club Licensing Administration System.
- 1.5.** Football Australia Statutes apply to NNSWF's Premier Competitions.
- 1.6.** In case of any conflict between these Regulations and the FA Statutes, Regulations, or Policies, the relevant provisions of the FA documents shall take precedence to the extent of the inconsistency.
- 1.7.** The subsequent Competition Rules address additional Regulations, conditions and requirements for specific competitions as outlined in Regulation 1.1.
- 1.8.** All Competition Fixtures will be conducted in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.



- 1.9.** All Competition Fixtures shall be conducted in accordance with the NNSWF Premier Competition Regulations, relevant Competition Rules and Football Australia Regulations and Statutes.
- 1.10.** NNSWF reserves the right to amend Competition Regulations and Competition Rules at any time in its absolute discretion.
- 1.11.** NNSWF reserves the right to deal with any persons or Clubs in respect of any offences or complaints and other matters not specifically provided for in these Regulations.
- 1.12.** The following definitions shall apply across these Regulations and Competitions Rules unless otherwise stated:
- (a) Accreditation Board** means the approved passes for competitions as stipulated in the respective Competition Rules.
 - (b) Active** means in relation to a Player or Team Official's registration status within the FA National Registration System, that the Player or Team Official has paid the required registration fee to the Club.
 - (c) A-League Men's** means the senior men's national competition staged in Australia by the Australian Premier League, known as the A-League Men's competition or such other name as notified by Australian Premier Leagues from time to time and includes the Regular Season and Finals Series Matches.
 - (d) A-League Women's** means the senior women's national competition staged in Australia by the Australian Premier League, known as the A-League Women's competition or such other name as notified by Australian Premier Leagues from time to time and includes the Regular Season and Finals Series Matches.
 - (e) Automatic / Auto** means, with respect to disciplinary sanctions, the automatic 1-match mandatory suspension applied as a minimum.
 - (f) Away Team** means the second listed Team on the Official Fixtures Draw.
 - (g) Business Day** means between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday with the exception of government public holidays.
 - (h) Coach** means the person employed, engaged, or appointed by the Club (whether paid or unpaid), charged with the primary responsibility of managing, training, and selecting players for Competition Fixtures.
 - (i) Club** has the same meaning as in the NNSWF Constitution.
 - (j) Club Associate** means one or more of the following, whether individually or collectively:
 - (I) Club Director(s), Committee Member(s) and Office Bearer(s).
 - (II) Team Official(s) (including but not limited to a coach, Team manager or anyone who is officially associated with or on behalf of a Club).
 - (III) Player(s) of a Club.
 - (IV) Member(s) of a Club as defined in the Club's Constitution.



- (V) Supporter(s) of a Club.
- (VI) Spectators at a Competition Fixture who, unless otherwise identified with a Club, shall be deemed to be supporters of the Home Club.
- (VII) Any person(s) involved with and / or who contributes to the game of Football in any capacity.

(k) Competition Fixture means any individual Match scheduled by Northern NSW Football for points, or during Finals Series, including Junior Development League.

(l) Competition Management System means the online system for all fixtures and results currently contained within the Squadi network.

(m) Cup Fixture(s) means matches conducted within a tournament format including but not limited to Australia Cup and / or Men's / Women's State Cup.

(n) Doctors Medical Certificate means a written statement from a physician which attests to the result of a medical examination of a patient.

(o) Duty Officer(s) means persons engaged by a Club to fulfil the role as outlined in Regulation 10.

(p) FA means the National governing body, Football Australia Limited.

(q) Australia Cup means the national male club competition staged by, or under the control of, Football Australia between A-League Clubs and Member Federation Clubs.

(r) Football Australia NPL Finals Series means the NPL Team knockout competition administered by FA between State NPL Premiers of each Member Federation or as determined by FA.

(s) Football Australia National Code of Conduct means the national code of conduct, as promulgated by FA from time to time.

(t) Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations means the national disciplinary regulations, as promulgated by FA from time to time

(u) Football Australia National Registration Regulations means the national regulations specifying the rules relating to the registration of Players, Clubs, Officials and Competitions with FA, as promulgated by FA from time to time.

(v) Football Australia National Registration System means the online PlayFootball system used for Player, Official & Match Official registrations.

(w) Football Australia National Spectator Code of Behaviour means FA's National Spectator Code of Behaviour which governs the behaviour of spectators present at a Match or otherwise involved in any activity staged by NNSWF or Club in order to enhance the reputation of FA and football generally.

(x) FIFA Equipment Regulations means the FIFA Equipment Regulations as promulgated by FIFA from time to time.



(y) FIFA Laws of the Game means the official Laws of the Game as promulgated by FIFA.

(z) Field of Play means:

- (i)** At an enclosed pitch the entire area within the temporary or permanent perimeter fencing; or
- (ii)** At an open pitch the entire area within 3 metres of the boundary line of the football pitch.

(aa) Finals Series means the series of Competition Fixtures contested with qualifying Teams as stipulated in the Competition Rules.

(bb) Force Majeure Event means any event beyond the reasonable control of the party affected by it, including any acts of God, fire, explosion, flood, war, acts of terrorism, theft, malicious damage, strikes, lock outs, industrial action of any kind, government regulations or requirement or restraint or intervention.

(cc) Goalkeeper means the player designated by a Club as that Club's goalkeeper in a Match.

(dd) Group Phase means matches conducted (generally on a round robin basis) during a Cup Competition as stipulated within the applicable Competition Rules.

(ee) Home Team means the Team whose name appears first in the Official Fixtures Draw;

(ff) Host Club means a Club which hosts one or more Competition Fixtures or Finals at their nominated Venue, whether or not that Club participates in one of those Competition Fixtures or Finals.

(gg) Just Cause means a legally sufficient reason.

(hh) Kit Matrix means the document provided to all Clubs indicating required playing kits for each Competition Fixture.

(ii) Licence Agreement means the signed licence between the Club and NNSWF executed annually.

(jj) Manufacturer's Identification(s) means the product manufacturers identification marking on a garment or object (e.g., a symbol on a playing shirt).

(kk) Match(es) means a matchday for the relevant group of Teams. E.g., a Senior NPL Match would include 1st Grade and Reserve Grade.

(ll) Match Official includes the following:

- (i)** NNSWF appointed Senior Match Official (also known as the Referee).
- (ii)** Assistant Match Official (also known as Assistant Referee).
- (iii)** Fourth Official.
- (iv)** Match Assessor.
- (v)** Any other person designated by NNSWF as a Match Official; or
- (vi)** Any individual who acts as a Match Official in any Match.



(mm) Mass Walk Off means where a Team or group of individuals remove themselves from a Match resulting in the Match being abandoned as per Regulation 28.2a.

(nn) Normal Time means the maximum length of 2 equal periods not including added time as specified in Competition Rules.

(oo) NNSWF means the Member Federation governing body, Northern New South Wales Football.

(pp) NNSWF Social Media Policy means the policy implemented by NNSWF inclusive of guidelines and requirements for Clubs operating social media accounts.

(qq) NNSWF Technical Department means the individual or group employed by NNSWF in this position and / or department.

(rr) NPL Player Points System means the system for the calculation of a National Premier Leagues Club's player points with respect to participation in National Premier Leagues NSW Men's competition, as prescribed by the NNSWF.

(ss) Official Fixtures Draw means the competition draw for Northern NSW Football's premier competitions published on the Competition Management System.

(tt) Official Points Table means the recording of data including points, goal differences and matches played for each Competition where points are recorded housed within the Competition Management System.

(uu) Outfield Player(s) means the player(s) other than the designated Goalkeeper who participate on the field of play in a Match.

(vv) Overage Player means a Player who does meet the age requirements of the respective competition age group, however, is permitted to participate in accordance with the Competition Rule conditions.

(ww) Player means any person who is registered with a Club to participate in the NNSWF Premier Competitions.

(xx) Player Contract Regulations means the regulations that regulate the eligibility, registrations, contracting and payments of Players as prescribed by Football Australia.

(yy) Participation Agreement means the signed agreement between the Club and NNSWF executed annually.

(zz) Participation Criteria means the requirements as set out in the relevant Club Licencing Criteria document in the case of National Premier Leagues or the Club Participation Criteria for all other competitions.

(aaa) Premiership means the Matches conducted within a Competition forming the home and away season excluding the Finals Series if applicable.

(bbb) Professional Player Contract means the mandatory form of contract for the casual



employment of a Professional as specified in Prescribed Form 05 or, for a Player in a National League Competition, the mandatory form of contract specified in the relevant National League Player Contracting Regulations.

(ccc) Red Card means a Player Red Card or Team Official Red Card, as the case may be.

(ddd) Regulations means these NNSWF Premier Competition Regulations promulgated by NNSWF from time to time.

(eee) Regular Season means the Premiership home and away fixtured competition, excluding Finals Series Matches.

(fff) Representative Team means a Team representing a State or Territory, a region or an Institute that participates in a Competition.

(ggg) Roster means players listed who are eligible to participate for a specific Team with the exception of Player(s) or Official(s) suspended from time to time.

(hhh) Senior Match Official means the most senior appointed Match Official for a Competition Fixture, usually the Referee.

(iii) Sporting Advantage means anything that provides a more favourable position, greater opportunity, or a favourable outcome.

(jjj) Talent Support Program means players who are selected to participate in the Talent Support Program administered by NNSWF technical staff.

(kkk) Team means Players and/or Team Officials representative of a Club in a specific competition age group and/or grade.

(III) Team Official means any person employed or volunteering their services, including but not limited to, a Coach, team manager or physio / sports trainer.

(mmm) Team Sheet means the official Match record with details pertaining to Players and/or Team Officials who participated in the Match as well as the result, goal scorers and any disciplinary actions.

(nnn) Technical Area means the area marked and designated in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game within which the coach, the substitute Players and the Team Officials must remain during a Match.

(ooo) Trial Game means any fixture sanctioned by NNSWF, but not as a Competition Fixture.

(ppp) Venue means the venue at which Competition Fixtures are staged.

(qqq) Visa Player means a Player that is not a citizen or resident of Australia and who requires a valid visa or work permit to enter Australia, whether to play football as an Amateur or Professional.

(rrr) Withdrawn Club has the meaning prescribed in Regulation 30.



(sss) **Yellow Card** means a Player Yellow Card or Team Official Yellow Card, as the case may be.

1.13. Interpretation

(a) In these Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise, capitalised terms shall have the meaning set out in clause 1.12 (Definitions).

(b) Unless otherwise defined in these Regulations, capitalised terms in these Regulations have the same meaning as defined in:

- (i) The FA Statutes.
- (ii) The FIFA Laws of the Game.
- (iii) The National Registration Regulations.
- (iv) The National Disciplinary Regulations.

(c) In the event of inconsistency between these Regulations and any other FA Statutes, the interpretation will prevail in the following order:

- (i) The FIFA Statutes.
- (ii) The National Registration Regulations.
- (iii) These Regulations.
- (iv) The National Disciplinary Regulations.

(d) In these Regulations:

- (i) Any use of the words 'includes' or words such as 'for example' or 'such as' do not limit anything else that is included in general speech.
- (ii) 'Business Day' means a day when the offices of FA are ordinarily open for business.
- (iii) Any reference to '\$' or 'dollars' is to the Australian dollar.
- (iv) A reference to a singular includes the plural and vice versa.
- (v) A reference to any document is to that document as amended, supplemented, varied, or replaced from time to time except to the extent expressly prohibited by that document or these Regulations.
- (vi) A reference to a clause, annexure or schedule is to a clause, annexure, or schedule to these Regulations, unless otherwise specified.

2. PREMIERSHIP

2.1. Notwithstanding NNSWF's right to determine the Venue of any Competition Fixture, each Team competing in a Premiership competition shall play its opponents on a home and away basis and in a sequence as far as is practicable according to the respective home venues availability.

2.2. Premiership Points - Determination of Placing Premiers.

(a) Competition points shall be awarded as follows:

Outcome	Value
Win	3 Points
Draw	1 Point
Loss	0 Points
Forfeit (awarded to)	3 points
Abandoned	As per Regulation 28



2.3. When all Premiership Competition Fixtures are concluded, and the competition points allocated, the Team with the highest number of points on the Official Points Table shall be declared the Premiers.

(a) Where Teams are equal on points at the conclusion of all Competition Fixtures, their placing is determined by the following process being applied in this sequence:

- (i)** Highest positive goal difference.
- (ii)** Highest number of goals scored.
- (iii)** Highest number of points accumulated in Competition Fixtures between the Clubs concerned.
- (iv)** Highest goal difference in Competition Fixtures between the Clubs concerned.
- (v)** Lowest number of Red Cards accumulated.
- (vi)** Lowest number of Yellow Cards accumulated.
- (vii)** In the event of a tie involving two clubs, a coin toss will determine the outcome. In the case of a tie involving three or more clubs, the winner will be decided by drawing lots.

2.4. NNSWF reserves the right to implement Points Per Game to determine final placings where required.

2.5. In the event of the Premiership being determined by Regulation 2.3 (a, vii) any prizemoney, where applicable, will be split on an equal basis between the Teams concerned.

3. HOME / HOST CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1. Home Clubs and Host Clubs are as defined in Regulation 1.12.

3.2. The Home Club and Host Club may be the same Club.

3.3. The responsibilities of the Host Club are as follows:

(a) Venue Availability

- (i)** Ensure its nominated home ground is available for the Competition Fixture, on the date and time as published in the Official Fixtures Draw.
- (ii)** In the event that the ground is unfit or unavailable (except in the event of a washout) for the Competition Fixture, the Host Club shall, where possible, arrange an alternative Venue for that date and time. NNSWF, the Away Team, and the Match Official Appointments Officer must be notified of any change of Venue as soon as possible, but not later than 48 hours before the scheduled Competition Fixture.
- (iii)** Failure to comply with Regulation 3 or part thereof may result in a forfeit to the opposing Team and a fine as outlined in section 1 of Appendix A.

(b) Playing Surface

- (i)** The Host Club must ensure the playing surface is in a condition the Match Official considers safe, ground markings are clear and accurate as specified within the FIFA Laws of the Game and that nets and corner posts are provided to conform to the requirements of the competition.



- (ii) The Senior Match Official shall decide on all matters relating to Regulation 3.3 and shall report any breaches in writing to NNSWF.
- (iii) Should the Senior Match Official refuse to commence a Competition Fixture due to non-compliance with Regulation 3.3 (except in the event of a wash out), the Host Club shall be responsible for payment of the Match Official's fees and the Club may be fined a sum as outlined in Section 1 of Appendix A, and the result of the Competition Fixture will be determined by NNSWF.

4. MATCH BALLS

4.1. NNSWF shall determine the brand and standard of a match ball to be used in a Competition Fixture which is defined within the applicable Competition Rules.

(a) All premier competition fixtures in 2024 must use a Mitre match ball

4.2. The Host Club shall provide a minimum of 3 approved match balls to the Match Official, no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of each Match.

4.3. Match Ball Sizes

Age Group	Match Ball Size
8-9 Years	Size 3
10-13 Years	Size 4
14 Years +	Size 5

5. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS PROCESS

5.1. It is the responsibility of the Match Official to upload all Match results into the NNSWF Competition Management System at the conclusion of each Match.

5.2. In the event there is no match official present, the Home Club is required to notify NNSWF of the result via email to competitions@northernnswfootball.com.au by not later than 9am the following day.

6. POWER TO DIRECT A CHANGE OF HOME VENUE

6.1. Notwithstanding any other Competition Rules, NNSWF may direct a Club to play its Home Competition Fixture(s) at a Venue other than its Home Venue, providing that reasonable notice is given to the Team(s).

7. REGISTRATION OF PLAYER/TEAM OFFICIAL

7.1. Registration Periods

(a) The amateur registration period for all NNSWF Premier competitions is 8th January – 30th June.

(b) Notwithstanding the above, NPL Mens & Womens Competitions also have specific competition windows.

7.2. Registration Fees

(a) A player registration fee will be imposed by NNSWF for participation in all Premier



Competitions which shall be determined annually.

- (b)** The NNSWF player registration component fee is refundable to the Club up until 30th June each year provided that the de-registering player has not:
 - (i)** Played in a competition fixture during their time of registration.
 - (ii)** Lodged an insurance claim during their time of registration.
 - (iii)** Been listed on a Team Sheet for any Competition Fixture as either a starting Player or a Substitute / Interchange Player.

7.3. Player Registration Process

- (a)** For all NNSWF competitions, Players are required to register online via the Football Australia National Registration System.
- (b)** A Player is not considered registered to a Club until such time as the Club makes them Active.
- (c)** A Club is responsible for ensuring that all of its Players have been registered and made Active 60 minutes prior to the Match the Player is participating in.
- (d)** The final date for any amateur Player registrations with NNSWF is 30th June each year. Any registration submitted after this date will only be accepted in the terms outlined in Regulation 7.4.
- (e)** This Regulation is subject to Football Australia National Registration Regulations.

7.4. NNSWF may register a Player outside the Registration Period if:

- (a)** That Professional Player was bound by a playing contract before the expiry of the immediately preceding Registration Period.
- (b)** That Player is a Goalkeeper and NNSWF has been satisfied that the Club has a justifiable reason for the request and has provided appropriate evidence.
- (c)** Football Australia or the Member Federation is satisfied in its absolute discretion that exceptional circumstances exist, including if a Player terminated his Professional Player Contract for Just Cause.

7.5. Player Eligibility

- (a)** An eligible amateur Player is one who has registered in accordance with Football Australia National Registration Regulations and NNSWF Premier Competitions Regulation 7.3.
- (b)** An eligible professional Player is one who has registered through the Football Australia National Registration System in accordance with Football Australia National Registration Regulations and NNSWF Premier Competitions Regulation 7.3 and has signed a Football Australia Player Professional Contract which has been lodged with NNSWF.
- (c)** A Club may seek special dispensation regarding a Player's eligibility by applying in writing to NNSWF.



7.6. Teams Playing Ineligible Players

- (a)** A Team found guilty of playing an ineligible Player in any Competition Fixture shall be ineligible for any points associated with that Match and shall be fined a sum outlined in section 2 of Appendix A:
- (i)** In such cases, the Competition Fixture shall be awarded as a 3-0 victory to the non-offending Team unless the score of the Competition Fixture was greater, and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand.
 - (ii)** In determining what is a greater result, NNSWF will give preference to goals for in the first instance (i.e., 4-1 will be considered greater than 3-0).
- (b)** If a Competition Fixture result is amended in line with Regulation 7.6, any goals and / or player award votes accumulated by the non-offending Team will be upheld.
- (c)** If a Competition Fixture result is amended in line with Regulation 7.6, any player award votes accumulated by the offending Team will be removed for the fixture.
- (d)** If a Competition fixture result is amended in line with Regulation 7.6, and a score awarded in line with 7.6.a.ii, any goals for the offending Team will be upheld in the results and Official Points Table but will not be attributed to any individual Player.
- (e)** Any Player or Team Official infringements i.e. Red / Yellow Cards for both Teams will be upheld.
- (f)** NNSWF retains the authority to assess whether a Club played an ineligible Player with malice or the intent to gain an advantage. If NNSWF determines that there was no malice or intent to gain an advantage in playing an ineligible Player, it reserves the right to decide on the suitable course of action, considering any Sporting Advantage gained as a result.

7.7. A Club shall not allow a Player who is under suspension or disqualification from NNSWF or any other FIFA / Football Australia affiliated football body to play in the competitions.

- (a)** Such Player will be declared an ineligible Player.
- (b)** Any Club playing a suspended or disqualified Player during their period of suspension or disqualification may be sanctioned in accordance with Section 2 of Appendix A.

7.8. Subject to any disciplinary restriction, a Player is eligible to compete in their Team's Final Series Matches subject to compliance with the Competition Rules.

7.9. Team Official Registration Process

- (a)** For all NNSWF competitions, Team Officials are required to register online with the Football Australia National Registration System.
- (b)** A Club is responsible for ensuring that all of its Team Officials have been registered and made Active a minimum of 60 minutes prior to commencing duties as a Team Official.



- (c) The Team Official must be registered in accordance with Football Australia National Registration Regulations and NNSWF Premier Competition Regulations.
- (d) The eligibility and qualifications of a Team Official shall be prescribed within each Competitions' Participation Criteria and Participation Agreement or Participation Licence where applicable.
- (e) NNSWF reserves the right to refuse registration of a Team Official who does not have the required minimum qualifications.

8. NUMBER OF PLAYERS REGISTERED

- 8.1. A Club must register sufficient Players to fulfil the requirements of the Team(s) in the competition(s) as per the Competition Rules, subject to timelines determined by NNSWF.

9. SECURITY AT COMPETITION FIXTURES

- 9.1. A Host Club is responsible for providing appropriate security measures to ensure the orderly behaviour of spectators and safety of Match Officials, Players, and Team Officials.
- 9.2. A Host Club is responsible for increased security and / or police measures as directed by NNSWF when deemed appropriate. NNSWF reserves the right to implement a Match Risk Assessment when required.
- 9.3. When assessing any misconduct charges that may be brought against a Club, NNSWF may consider the security measures implemented by a Club and any security requirements directed by NNSWF.
- 9.4. When secure/lockable change rooms are not available for Match Officials, the Host Club must appoint a property steward to ensure the safety of all Match Official property and valuables.
- 9.5. The Host Club may be held responsible for any missing Match Official property if NNSWF determines appropriate steps have not been taken to ensure the safety of the property.
- 9.6. Each Team is responsible for the safety of their Players and / or Team Officials property and valuables at all times during a fixture.

10. DUTY OFFICERS & MATCH OFFICIAL SUPPORT OFFICERS

- 10.1. At all Matches, the Home Team must have a minimum of 1 identifiable Duty Officer and 1 identifiable Match Official Support Officer present at all times and the:
- 10.2. Away Team must have a minimum of 1 identifiable Duty Officer present at all times.
- 10.3. Duty Officers are required to:
 - (a) Actively patrol the entire playing arena.
 - (b) Escort Match Officials on and off the playing arena, with Match Official Support Officer.



(c) Be the point of contact with spectators of the Duty Officer's own Club.

(d) Be 18 years or older

10.4. Match Official Support Officers are required to:

(a) Escort Match Officials on and off the playing arena at the start and conclusion of each half.

(b) Remain within playing arena, between technical areas for the duration of the match, unless required to address spectator behaviour.

(c) Provide assistance to youth Match Officials, if required, when addressing staff in technical area.

(d) Wear designated Match Official Support Officer Vest.

(e) Be 18 years or older

10.5. Duty Officers & Match Official Support Officers will be required to be listed on Squadi for all Premier Competition Matches (13 Years plus).

10.6. For all JDL Matches, Match Official Support Officers will be required for each full size pitch (i.e. one Match Official Support Officer can cover two under 10s matches on the same full size pitch).

(a) Failure to appoint and document the required number of Duty Officers will result in the match not being permitted to commence

(i) Should a Match fail to commence as a result of a Club not supplying Duty Officer(s), the result of the Match may be awarded to the non-offending Team.

(ii) NNSWF reserve the right to determine such outcomes and sanction Clubs.

10.7. Duty Officers and Match Official Support Officers are not permitted to consume alcohol whilst engaged as a Duty Officer.

11. BEHAVIOUR OF PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SPECTATORS

11.1. Each Club shall be responsible and liable for the behaviour of its Players, Team Officials, and Supporters at all times in accordance with the FA National Code of Conduct and Football Australia Spectator Code of Behaviour.

12. PLAYING ARENA & TECHNICAL AREA REQUIREMENTS

12.1. Field of Play

(a) During any Match, an Official or Player not involved in the Competition Fixture, or a supporter shall not be permitted to stand closer than 3 metres to the playing field marked lines or where a permanent boundary fence exists, shall not be permitted to stand inside the boundary fence.

(b) Coaching from the boundary line / fence is strictly prohibited.

12.2. Technical Area



- (a) Each bench must be capable of seating a minimum of 11 persons:
 - (i) A maximum of 6 Team Officials.
 - (ii) A maximum of 7 substitute Players for 1st Grade.
 - (iii) A maximum of 5 substitute or interchange Players for Grades other than 1st Grade.
 - (b) All Team Officials must always display their Team Official Accreditation.
 - (c) All persons must remain seated within the prescribed area during the fixture, with the exception of:
 - (i) Team Officials attending to an injured Player.
 - (ii) 1 Team Official who may engage in active coaching.
 - (iii) Players warming up under the directions of Match Officials.
 - (d) Any Team Official who leaves the bench and gives instructions from outside the field of play shall forfeit any rights to organise the activities of the Team from the bench or to attend to an injured Player of the Team for the duration of the Match.
 - (e) Should the substitution / interchange of a Player become necessary a Team Official will notify the fourth Official or assistant Referee of the change and will remain with the Player at the centre line until the Player is called onto the field of play.
 - (f) If there is no fourth Official, or assistant Referee, the Team Official shall take the substitute Player to the centre line and shall remain with the Player until he is called onto the field of play by the Referee.
- 12.3.** Should a Player injury occur, the Team Official (1 only) will be called onto the field of play by the Match Official, to attend to the injured Player.
- (a) In the event of an injury of a serious nature, treatment or movement of that Player is to be at the discretion of the first aid attendant or a Team Official.

13. ADMISSION CHARGES & ENTRY TO COMPETITION FIXTURES

- 13.1.** Clubs are permitted to charge admission fees, including a fee for cars if permitted into the Venue for specific competitions, as outlined in Competition Rules.
- 13.2.** With the exception of Clubs that are registered for GST, the distribution of gate receipts from a Home Competition Fixture shall be retained by the Home Team. Should the gate receipts be insufficient to cover the fixture expenses the Home Team shall bear the loss.
- 13.3.** Clubs registered for GST are subject to government regulatory requirements.
- 13.4.** At any Competition Fixture, in which the Player / Team Official is participating in that Match it shall be compulsory to produce an approved Player or Team Official Accreditation pass for entry upon request by any Host Club official.
- 13.5.** In the event of a pass being lost or destroyed, NNSWF is to be advised immediately by the Player's Club and a new pass will be issued, at a cost outlined in Section 6 of Appendix A.



13.6. Any Club found to have forged a Player, Team Official or Committee Pass / Accreditation may be charged under the FA Code of Conduct.

13.7. Northern NSW Football will issue an accreditation board providing all accreditation which permits entry into the venue for Competitions Fixtures. Clubs are required to permit all eligible passholders into the venue.

14. WINNERS MEDALLIONS

14.1. The winner of the Premiership will be awarded a set of medallions per grade:

- (a)** 25 medallions will be presented to 1st Grade Teams.
- (b)** 22 Medallions will be presented to lower grade Teams.
- (c)** NNSWF representatives will present medallions / Premiership trophy to 1st Grade competitions only.
- (d)** Premiership medallions will be provided to respective Clubs for lower grade winners.

14.2. The winner of the grand final will be awarded a set of 25 medallions for 1st Grade.

14.3. The grand finalists will be awarded a set of 25 medallions for 1st Grade.

14.4. The winner of the grand final will be awarded a set of 22 medallions per lower grade.

14.5. The grand finalists will be awarded a set of 22 medallions per lower grade.

14.6. Further medallions may be purchased from NNSWF by a qualifying Team, at their own cost.

15. PRIZE MONIES

15.1. Competition prize money (where applicable) will be determined by NNSWF annually and prescribed in the relevant Competition Rules.

16. PLAYERS UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

16.1. Club Colours must be approved by NNSWF and in accordance with the [Playing Strip and Branding Requirements](#) document.

(a) Clubs are required to have Home and Alternate kits, for both Outfield Players and Goalkeepers.

(b) Clubs must submit full colour images of both their Home and Alternate kits by January 31st.

(c) All Clubs will be required to wear their designated kit as nominated in the weekly prescribed kits supplied by Northern NSW Football.

- (i)** Any club who fails to comply with prescribed kits will be subject to a fine as outlined in Section 7 of Appendix A



- (d) Clubs may vary their kit for a Competition Fixture provided they submit a request to Northern NSW Football.
- (e) The Match Official will decide on the day if any alteration constitutes a clash.
- (f) Clubs' Alternate kit shall not contain any of the dominant colours (other than trim) of the Home kit and shall include Alternate shirts, shorts and socks for both outfield and goalkeepers;
- (g) Goalkeepers must wear colours that distinguish them from the other Players and the Match Officials including shirt, shorts, and socks. If the Referee deems there is a clash with the Goalkeepers playing apparel, the Goalkeeper must change their apparel in accordance with the Referee's requirements which may include socks being worn on the outside of the pants.
- (h) Should a Goalkeeper take the place of an Outfield Player during a Match, said Goalkeeper must wear the same colour shorts, jersey and socks as the rest of the Team.
- (i) Club playing kits must comply with the FIFA Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations.
- (j) It is the responsibility of the Match Official to officiate in colours which are not likely to be mistaken for those of the Outfield Players and / or Goalkeepers from either Team.
- (k) The ball persons colours shall be distinct from those worn by either of the competing Teams and Match Officials.

16.2. Equipment

- (a) A Player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to themselves, or another Player (including any kind of jewellery) as outlined in Law 4 of FIFA Laws of the Game.
- (b) Shin guards must be worn by all Players at all times during any fixture outlined in Law 4 of FIFA Laws of the Game. A shin guard should provide a reasonable level of protection.

16.3. Law 4 of the FIFA Laws of the Game states that the basic compulsory equipment worn by Players must not have any political, religious, or personal statements:

- (a) Where a Player contravenes this Regulation, their Team may be subject to sanction by NNSWF where the contravention occurred or by FIFA.
- (b) Basic compulsory equipment is inclusive of Player jerseys, shorts, and socks (stockings), shin guards and footwear.

16.4. In addition, Article 8 of the FIFA Equipment Regulations states that Player equipment items may contain decorative elements, provided that they do not produce the visual impression of a country, a religious symbol or comparable symbol. A decorative element is defined as a further aesthetic element, other than identifications of a Member Association or Manufacturer's Identifications, which are added to, and used in, the design of any Player equipment item.



16.5. The numbers on the back of shirts must be of a consistent design and dimensions, as approved by NNSWF. They must be in complete contrast to dominant colours of the shirt. (i.e., white, or light colour numerals on dark coloured shirts and black or dark colour numerals on light coloured shirts).

16.6. Where dominant shirt colours are light or dark colours or horizontal, vertical, or diagonal stripes or carry a multi-coloured pattern thereon, which may impair the clear identification of the number from a distance of 100 metres, then the numeral must be placed on a plain coloured panel, in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

(a) For number size and placement, refer to Appendix C.

16.7. Sponsor branding can only be positioned on the playing strip in line with the Playing Strip and Branding Guidelines.

(a) NNSWF reserves the right to deny or approve at its absolute discretion the placement of a sponsor's logo / emblem on any Club kit in the event that the sponsor and / or sponsor's branding:

- (i)** Is determined by NNSWF to be inappropriate and / or offensive.
- (ii)** Has the potential to damage the reputation of NNSWF or the sport of football.
- (iii)** Conflicts with NNSWF's Naming Rights and / or Major Sponsor of the relevant Premier Competition; and / or
- (iv)** Contravenes the FIFA Laws of the Game and / or FIFA Equipment Laws including by referencing or containing a national or political flag, foreign nation, political emblem, religious or racial inference or foreign language.

(b) If requested by NNSWF, Clubs must make a submission and provide evidence within 21 days as to the appropriateness and legitimacy of the sponsorship (financial or in kind) which will be determined by NNSWF at its absolute discretion.

(c) Clubs that seek to acknowledge sponsors that may breach Regulation 16.7 are required to apply to NNSWF for prior written approval to use the proposed sponsor logos on Club kits.

17. NNSWF LOGO & NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR LOGO

17.1. Where required, NNSWF will supply participating Clubs with the NNSWF and Naming Rights Sponsor Logo annually for 1st Grade only.

(a) It is the Clubs' responsibility to ensure that the logos are placed on strips as prescribed by NNSWF in accordance with the [Playing Strip and Branding Requirements](#) document.

(b) The costs associated with application are the Clubs' responsibility.

18. EXPENSES

18.1. All expenses incurred participating in a competition shall be the responsibility of the participating Teams. NNSWF may at its discretion, make a contribution from NNSWF funds to help offset costs.

19. OFFICIAL FIXTURES DRAW



19.1. All Matches to be contested in each competition shall be prepared by NNSWF and, upon publication, shall be known as the Official Fixtures Draw.

19.2. Notwithstanding any other Competition Rules on the same subject matter, NNSWF reserves the right to alter, abandon or amend any Match after it has been nominated in the Official Fixture Draw.

20. KICK-OFF TIMES

20.1. Scheduled Fixtures

(a) Matches should be played on the dates and times as nominated in the Official Fixtures Draw.

(b) Unless both competing Club agree and provided it does not impact the kick off time of a senior match, any match starting later than the stipulated time, will be required to play equal shorter halves to allow the following Match to start at the scheduled time.

(c) Competition Fixtures on a Saturday, Sunday, or Public Holiday may not be scheduled before 8:00am.

(d) Competition Fixtures between Monday and Friday may not be scheduled before 5:15pm.

(e) Competition Fixtures may not be scheduled to commence after 8:30pm.

(f) Notwithstanding the above, NNSWF reserves the right to determine kick-off times for all Competition Fixtures.

(g) All home and away final round 1st Grade Matches shall be scheduled to kick-off at the same time, on the same day. These Matches are not subject to the provisions outlined in Regulation 22.2.

21. LIGHTING

21.1. A Match may be played on any day, wholly or in part under floodlights provided that the standard of lighting shall meet the relevant Australian Standards.

22. CHANGE OF VENUE / FIXTURE REQUEST BY CLUB

22.1. Change of Venue Requests

(a) Change of Venue requests may only be made on the basis of perceived unplayable pitch conditions, or to relocate a Competition Fixture to an improved Venue.

(b) A written request, including booking confirmation, to relocate Competition Fixtures to an improved Venue must be received by NNSWF no later than 14 days prior to the Competition Fixtures. NNSWF shall consider factors such as maintaining kick-off times, relative distance to travel, and the quality of the Venue and playing surface when considering such requests. Any request that involves a change to kick-off times or dates will be subject to Regulation 22.2.

(c) Any change request based on deteriorating pitch or Venue conditions may be considered within the 14-day period prior to the Competition Fixtures at the discretion of NNSWF.



(d) Alternate Venues will be assessed against the relevant competition facility standard document with any approval / dispensation to rest at the discretion of NNSWF.

22.2. Fixture Date / Time Change Requests

(a) NNSWF will consider a Competition Fixtures change request by a Club if the request is received no later than 14 days prior to the Competition Fixtures with written consent provided to NNSWF by the Club Officials of both Clubs.

(b) No date or time change request will be accepted for the final round of any competition.

(c) Scheduled NNSWF competition catch-up and Cup Fixture rounds will only be used in the case of postponed or abandoned Competition Fixtures.

(d) Exemption from Regulation 22.2.c may only be made if:

- (i) 5 days prior to the catch-up or Cup Fixture round neither Club is involved in any other Competition Fixture being played in that catch-up or Cup Fixture round.
- (ii) The request is in relation to a representative Match or tournament.

22.3. Regulations 22.1 and 22.2 do not apply to Finals Series Competition Fixtures.

22.4. Any decision to reschedule a Competition Fixture (or otherwise) under Regulation 22 is subject to NNSWF's right to reschedule a Competition Fixture.

22.5. NNSWF decisions in relation to rescheduling of Competition Fixtures will be final and binding on all parties and are not subject to appeal.

22.6. Deferral of Fixtures

(a) A Team may seek permission from NNSWF to have a fixture(s) deferred.

(b) Such requests for deferrals must be received no less than 14 days prior to the fixture.

(c) Consideration for a deferral will be given, when 3 or more Players of a Team are involved in a representative fixture endorsed by NNSWF where that fixture impacts the scheduled NNSWF Competition Fixture(s);

(d) Consideration for a deferral will be given if a club is unable to field a team due to COVID 19, or other public health matters cases or isolation on the basis that they:

- (i) Provide required proof that a significant number of players are affected and unable to take part due to the relevant Public Health Order or subsequent health directives from NSW Health.
- (ii) Provide reasoning as to why players from lower age group / reserves are unable play in the affected team.

(e) Consideration for a deferral will be given when a Club is scheduled to participate in a Cup



Competition (inclusive of Australia Cup Round of 32 and beyond) where that fixture impacts the scheduled NNSWF Competition Fixture(s).

- (i) Deferrals may be required where a Club has multiple Competition Fixtures scheduled within a 72-hour period.
- (f) Due notice to defer a fixture may be waived in the event of a critical incident which occurs within the 14-day period in Regulation 22.6. NNSWF reserves the right to determine the validity of a critical incident and the result of any fixture deferred due to a critical incident.
- (g) Should an opposing Team be unable to recoup expenses resulting from a deferral, NNSWF shall decide the amount of compensation to be paid by the Team granted the deferral.
- (h) NNSWF shall reschedule the date for the playing of a deferred fixture.
- (i) NNSWF may at its discretion declare a deferred fixture cancelled.

23. FORFEITED FIXTURES

- 23.1.** A Team that, without Just Cause, fails to fulfil an engagement to play a Competition Fixture on the appointed date, time, or Venue (except for in accordance with Regulation 27) shall, for each and every offence, forfeit that Competition Fixture.
- 23.2.** Any forfeit shall be awarded as a 3-0 victory to the non-offending Team.
- 23.3.** The offending Team shall also be liable for any reasonable expenses incurred by its opponents relative to the fixture as determined by NNSWF.
- 23.4.** Any points, goals scored, or votes acquired by the forfeiting Team will be removed from record.
- 23.5.** The offending Team shall pay all appropriate Match Official fees, compensation and any another penalty as determined by the NNSWF.
- 23.6.** A Team forfeiting on 2 or more occasions, without an acceptable reason, may be removed from the competition and will be subject to a fine in accordance with Section 9 of Appendix A.

24. START TIMES

- 24.1.** With the exception of any delay outside the control of the participating Teams, a Match must start at the scheduled time and may not start more than 15 minutes after the scheduled Match starting time.
- 24.2.** Any Team unable or unwilling to begin a fixture after this period shall have forfeited the Match.
- 24.3.** A Team refusing to start to play a Match shall be fined in accordance with Section 12 of Appendix A and a forfeit shall be awarded to the opposing Team.
- 24.4.** Clubs that repeatedly fail to be ready to start play at the scheduled kick-off time will be fined in accordance with Section 12 of Appendix A.



25. MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS

25.1. For all 11-a-side competitions a Team must field a minimum 7 of its eligible Players at all times in a Match in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game.

(a) For competitions with modified playing numbers the minimum number of Players shall be defined in the respective Competition Rules.

25.2. Any Club who does not have the minimum number of Players to commence a Competition Fixture will be deemed to have forfeited that Competition Fixture.

25.3. If a Club is unable to maintain a minimum of 7 players for the duration of the Competition Fixture, that Competition Fixture will be abandoned.

25.4. In the case of abandoned Competition Fixtures relating to regulation 25.3.

(a) Results and Match details will be dealt with in accordance with Regulation 7.6.

25.5. A Team starting a Match and failing to continue due to the inability to maintain the minimum number of 7 players on 2 or more occasions, without an acceptable reason, may be removed from the competition and will be subject to a fine in accordance with Section 10 of Appendix A.

26. APPROVAL FOR OTHER COMPETITIONS / FIXTURES

26.1. A Club shall not play in any other fixture / competition in opposition to NNSWF Competition Fixture(s) unless it has received prior written approval from NNSWF.

27. WEATHER AFFECTED

27.1. In all instances where weather or other incidents preceding a fixture raise fair doubt as to the possibility of play taking place, the following shall apply:

(a) 1st Grade

- (i)** A Host Club Official, a Senior Match Official and / or NNSWF Representative are to inspect the Venue on the day of the Competition Fixtures and decide whether play can take place during the day.
- (ii)** The Host Club may supply verifiable photographic or video evidence to NNSWF prior to a physical inspection which may be used to determine the condition of the Venue.
- (iii)** The authority to determine whether a Match can proceed is the responsibility of either the NNSWF Representative or the Senior Match Official.
- (iv)** The Host Club Official shall advise the Away Team(s) and the Match Official Appointments Officer.

(b) Lower Grades (excluding 1st Grade)

- (i)** The Host Club Official(s) are to inspect the Venue on the day of the Competition Fixtures and decide whether play can take place during the day.



- (ii) The Host Club Official shall advise the Away Team(s) and the Match Official Appointments Officer.
- (iii) In the event of a Venue being declared unfit for play due to inclement weather, Clubs are required to submit photos / short videos to NNSWF of the affected areas within 48 hours after the scheduled Competition Fixtures.

(c) For any Competition Fixture postponed in accordance with Regulation 27.1 Clubs are required to:

- (i) Contact the opposing Club Secretary.
- (ii) Contact the Match Official Appointments Officer.
- (iii) Confirm match status via email to competitions@northernnswfootball.com.au by 9am the following day.
- (iv) Post details of affected Competition Fixture on Clubs Facebook and social media account tagging NNSWF & opposition Club.

27.2. In the event of a Venue being declared unfit for play that Venue shall not be used for any Matches during that day notwithstanding that the Home and Away Clubs may agree to defer lower grade Matches in an effort to ensure that the 1st Grade Match proceeds.

27.3. Failure to comply with procedures in Regulation 27 may render the Home Club liable for Match Officials fees and any other expenses incurred by the Away Team.

28. ABANDONED FIXTURES

28.1. Competition Fixtures may only be abandoned by a decision of the Match Official.

28.2. The Competition Fixture may be abandoned for any, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- (a) A Team has its playing numbers reduced for any reason below the minimum FIFA requirement of 7 players.
- (b) The lighting at the Venue fails such that in the opinion of the Match Official it is impossible or unsafe to continue to play.
- (c) The Match Official determines that playing conditions have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.
- (d) The Match Official, in consultation with security staff and duty officers, determines that the conditions for Players, Team Officials, Match Officials or supporters have become unsafe or untenable for any reason.

28.3. If a Competition Fixture is abandoned due to a matter set out in Regulation 27.2 NNSWF may determine one of the following outcomes of the Competition Fixture at its absolute discretion:

- (a) If 75% or more of Normal Time of a 1st Grade Competition Fixture has been played, then the score at the time of abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by NNSWF with reference to the Match Official.



- (b) If 50% or more of Normal Time of any Competition Fixture, with the exception of 1st Grade, has been played then the score at the time of abandonment may stand. 'Played' in the context of this Rule will be determined by NNSWF with reference to the Match Official.
- (c) Competition Fixture to be replayed in full.
- (d) Competition Fixture to be awarded as a 'No Result'.
- (e) Competition Fixture result is 0-0.
- (f) Competition Fixture result is 3-0 to the non-offending Team unless the score at the time of abandonment was greater and in favour of the non-offending Team, in which case the greater result will stand. In determining what is a 'greater' result, NNSWF will give preference to goals FOR in the first instance (i.e., 4-1 will be considered a 'greater' result than 3-0).
- (g) Competition Fixture to be replayed from the time at which the original Competition Fixture was abandoned. In the event a Competition Fixture is replayed in accordance with this Rule:
 - (i) The score at the time of the abandonment remains at the time the Competition Fixture recommences.
 - (ii) Only players listed on the Match Record for the initial Competitions Fixture between the 2 Teams will be eligible to compete in the recommenced Competition Fixture, unless NNSWF determines that additional Players are eligible (for example, in the case of player injury or availability).
 - (iii) NNSWF will determine what, if any, further substitutions are allowed by each Team during the recommenced Competition Fixture, giving consideration to the number of substitutions made in the Competition Fixture before it was originally abandoned (including which players may take the Field of Play or be substituted on).
- (h) Competition Fixture at the time of abandonment is to stand.

28.4. A Team causing a fixture 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 serious misconduct and a forfeit shall be awarded to the opposing Team.

28.5. In respect of the above Regulations, the decision of NNSWF shall be final and not subject to an appeal to another authority. The action of NNSWF in respect of penalties imposed in this regard shall be distinct from decisions as determined by the Competition Administrator and / or the Disciplinary Chairman in respect of Players charged with offences by a referee and / or assistant referee.

29. FIXTURES NOT PLAYED AS SCHEDULED

29.1. In the event that weather or other causes, disrupt a competition to such an extent that it will not be completed within the Competition Fixtures time frame, NNSWF may cancel all or any Premiership / Final Series Matches or reschedule 1st Grade Matches to complete as many Competition Fixtures as possible in the Premiership and / or the Final Series.



- 29.2.** Should a Match be declared cancelled by NNSWF, each competing Team shall be awarded a draw result. The goal score shall be recorded as 0-0.
- 29.3.** Should a Finals Series fixture not be completed due to inclement weather or other causes over which neither Team has any control, NNSWF shall reschedule the postponed / abandoned Finals Series Fixture prior to the next scheduled Final Series fixture.
- 29.4.** Should continuing inclement weather prevent the rescheduling of either semi-final fixture, the highest place Team, as determined in Regulation 2 of this document, will progress to the next final series stage.
- 29.5.** Should a grand final fixture not be completed due to inclement weather or other causes over which neither Team has any control, NNSWF reserves the right to determine the result of the fixture.
- 29.6.** Should a Match be affected directly by COVID-19 or similar related circumstances NNSWF shall review and determine the status of the Match at its sole discretion.

30. TEAMS WITHDRAWN / REMOVED FROM COMPETITIONS

- 30.1.** If a Team is withdrawn after the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and:
- (a)** All Premiership points along with goals scored (for & against) for:
 - (i)** Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times will remain.
 - (ii)** Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team after the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.
 - (b)** All Player award votes gained in:
 - (i)** Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team up to the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times will remain.
 - (ii)** Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team from the point of the season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, until the time the Team withdrew, will be erased.
 - (c)** For the avoidance of doubt, NNSWF may consider forfeited Competition Fixtures as Played for the purposes of Regulation 30.1 (a).
- 30.2.** Any Player or Team Official infringements i.e., Red / Yellow Cards in all fixtures involving of the withdrawn Team, will be upheld.
- 30.3.** If a Team withdraws prior to the start of the Regular Season and cannot be replaced, a "BYE" will be inserted into the fixture, or the fixture may be amended to accommodate the new number of Teams.



30.4. If a Team is withdrawn prior the point of the Regular Season at which all Teams have played each other an equal number of times, a 'BYE' will be inserted to replace the withdrawn Team in the fixture, and

(a) All championship points along with goals scored (for and against) for Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased.

(b) All Player award votes gained in Competition Fixtures involving the withdrawn Team will be erased.

30.5. NNSWF may alter Competition Fixtures kick-off dates, Venues and / or times as it deems necessary in its sole and absolute discretion due to the removal or withdrawal of a Team.

31. TEAM SHEETS

31.1. Each Club is responsible for completing the Official Team Sheet for each Competition Fixture they are participating in Squadi.

31.2. 1st Grade Team Sheets are to be completed by both Teams a minimum 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

(a) Amendments are permitted to be made to the Team Sheet up until kick-off of the Match subject to Match Official notification.

31.3. All other Team Sheets are to be completed by both Teams a minimum 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time.

(a) Amendments are permitted to be made to the Team Sheet up until kick-off of the Match subject to Match Official notification.

31.4. The number on the Player's shirt and / or shorts shall correspond with the Player's name and number on the Team Sheet and there should be no change of a number before or during a Match except on a change of Goalkeeper or blood on a playing shirt.

31.5. All teams competing in 1st Grade Matches must provide their formation in the appropriate part of the Squadi app, for use by broadcast partners and league correspondents. Failure to do so will be subject to a fine as outlined in Appendix A Section 13.

31.6. Clubs failing to comply with Team Sheet regulations will be subject to a fine as outlined in Section 13 of Appendix A.

32. MATCH DETAIL DISPUTES

32.1. Match detail Disputes will only be investigated by NNSWF in the following circumstances:

(a) The Match Record and request to conduct a Match investigation is lodged with NNSWF within 7 days of the Competition Fixture; and

(b) The following evidence is submitted by the Club in support of its request for a Match investigation:



- (i) Video and / or photographic evidence.
- (ii) Statutory Declaration(s); and
- (iii) Any other information accepted from the Club at the discretion of NNSWF.

32.2. Match details will only be amended if NNSWF is satisfied that the information disputed is proven beyond reasonable doubt. There is no appeal against NNSWF's decision.

32.3. For the avoidance of doubt any dispute relating to a suspension will be dealt with in accordance with Regulation 37.

32.4. NNSWF may extend or abridge the deadline referred to in Regulation 32.3 (a), at its discretion.

32.5. Should a Team Official have a reasonable doubt regarding the eligibility of an opposing Player(s) named on the Team Sheet, they should note such concern on submit these details to Northern NSW Football.

(a) The Player(s) will be allowed to play in the Match and NNSWF shall adjudicate on the eligibility of the Player(s) upon receipt of any report.

32.6. A person and / or Club found guilty of deliberately supplying false information on a Team Sheet shall be subject to disciplinary action and may be fined in accordance with Section 13 of Appendix A.

33. SUBSTITUTION / INTERCHANGE

33.1. Substitution and Interchange procedures shall be detailed within the applicable Competition Rules.

34. MATCH OFFICIALS

34.1. Each Match, (including Trial Game fixtures) wherever possible, shall be played under the control of a registered referee and assistant Match officials (hereinafter called Match Officials) who are appointed by NNSWF.

34.2. In the event of no appointed Match Official being in attendance 15 minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time, the Home Team shall be responsible for the appointment of a replacement Match Official for the Match.

(a) Failure of the Home Team to do so shall result in a forfeit being awarded to the non-offending Team in line with Regulation 23.2.

(b) Failure by the Away Team to accept the appointed person shall result in a forfeit to the non-offending Team in line with Regulation 23.2.

34.3. The appointed person shall assume the full authority of a Match Official and shall be recognised as such.

34.4. Any Club appointed Match Official for an age grade division competition should not be younger than 14 years of age and should be a minimum of 2 years older than the age grade they are appointed to referee.



- 34.5.** Should the appointed person be 18 years of age they are entitled to referee senior (18 Years plus) competitions.
- 34.6.** In the event of non-attendance of a Match Official, both teams will still be required to submit their team sheet through Squadi, and all match details should be provided to Northern NSW Football within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.
- 34.7.** The Match Official shall record all key Match information including, but not limited to, goal scorers, Red and Yellow Cards and substitutions in Squadi.
- 34.8.** Any postponement or abandonment of a fixture must be submitted on Squadi by the Match Official.
- 34.9.** The referee and assistant Match officials shall report, in writing, any misconduct they have witnessed or breach of the Laws of the Game, including a Player and / or Team Official Red Card to NNSWF by 9:00am the next Business Day after the end of the Match.
- 34.10.** The referee / assistant Match officials may be required to attend the respective disciplinary hearing as determined by the Disciplinary Chairman.

35. MATCH OFFICIAL FEES

- 35.1.** Match Official's fees for Competition Fixtures and Trial Games are outlined in Appendix F.
- 35.2.** Each participating Team in any Finals Series Competition Fixture (excluding Grand Finals) shall be invoiced for payment 50% of Match Official fees for that Match.
- 35.3.** NNSWF shall pay the Match Officials' fees for all National Premier Leagues Men's and Women's and Northern League One Grand Finals.

36. PLAYING NAME & CLUB LOGO

- 36.1.** No Club shall be admitted to compete in NNSWF's Premier Competitions for the upcoming season where such Club's playing name / Club emblem has not been approved in writing by NNSWF. A Club's playing name must be in accordance with the Football Australia Inclusivity Principals for Club Identity.

37. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 37.1.** The Competition Administrator may (in accordance with the Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations):
- (a)** Determine and impose mandatory disciplinary sanctions and / or impose fines and / or suspensions as per these Competition Regulations or relevant Competition Rules.
 - (b)** Cite a Player, Team Official or Club to appear before its Disciplinary Committee.
 - (c)** Suspend, fine, reprimand, caution or otherwise a Player, Team Official, or Club or any other



person whom they consider has breached the Laws of the Game, the Regulations, Competition Rules or has brought the code into disrepute.

37.2. Appeal Against Initial Disciplinary Sanction Imposed by Competition Administrator or Disciplinary Chair/ Committee:

- (a)** A Player, Team Official, or any other person may appeal a sanction imposed by the Competition Administrator or Disciplinary Chair/ Committee.
- (b)** Should a Player, Team Official, or any other person appeal a sanction imposed by the Competition Administrator or Disciplinary Chair/ Committee, they must notify the Competition Administrator in writing within 72 hours of receiving the summary disciplinary notification. Received is taken to include club notification.
- (c)** In the instance of a sanction given by the Competition Administrator, the Disciplinary Chair will, at their sole discretion, review whether the appeal will be heard by:
 - (i)** The Disciplinary Chair.
 - (ii)** The Disciplinary Committee.
- (d)** In the instance of a sanction given by the Disciplinary Chair or Committee, the Appeals Chair will, at their sole discretion, review the appeal.
- (e)** A fee of \$1000 will be imposed for any hearing requests as a result of a disciplinary sanction which is administered by the Disciplinary Chair through a hearing.
- (f)** A fee of \$1500 will be imposed for any hearing requests as a result of a disciplinary sanction which is administered by the Disciplinary Chair through a hearing with the full Disciplinary Committee.
- (g)** A fee of \$1500 will be imposed for any hearing requests as a result of a disciplinary sanction which is administered by the Appeals Chair through a hearing.
- (h)** All fees are partly, or wholly, refundable at the sole discretion of the Disciplinary Chair if the appeal is successful.
- (i)** A Mandatory Match Suspension cannot be appealed, other than in accordance with the limited exceptions contained under Regulation 37.10 and 37.11.

37.3. Suspensions

- (a)** A Suspension is a ban or prohibition imposed on a Club or Club Associate from participating in a Match in a specific capacity, either for a period of time, or for a number of Matches.
- (b)** Minimum mandatory suspensions for Red Card offences are outlined in table 37.4a:



Table 37.4a Minimum Mandatory Suspensions			
CODE	OFFENCE	GRADING GUIDELINES	PENALTY
R1	Serious Foul Play (Typically, but not limited to, serious foul play when the ball is in play)	1. Careless or reckless tackle	Auto
		2. Attempting to gain possession of the ball using excessive force	Auto
		3. Conduct that endangers the safety of an opponent in a contest for the ball or has the potential to cause serious injury	Auto +1
		4. Conduct causing serious injury	Auto +2
R2	Violent Conduct (Typically, but not limited to, serious foul play when the ball is not in play, and/or playing distance)	1. Minimal contact with an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +1
		2. Violent conduct and / or attempted violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	Auto +1
		3. Serious and / or premeditated violent conduct towards an opponent, Club Associate or cause malicious damage to property.	Auto +2
		4. Serious violent conduct that has caused bodily harm	Auto +3
		5. Violent conduct causing, or with the potential to cause, serious injury	Auto +4
R3	Spitting	1. Spitting at anyone	Auto +4
		2. Spitting on anyone	Auto +8
R4	Denying goal scoring opportunity - Handling the ball		Auto
R5	Denying goal scoring opportunity - Foul		Auto
R6	Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or gestures	1. Using language and / or gestures in frustration	Auto
		2. Using language and/or gestures directed at anyone	Auto +1
		3. Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive language and / or gestures, to anyone	Auto +2
		4. Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious ethnic or sexist language and / or gestures.	Auto +4



R7	Second caution (Yellow Card)		Auto
R8	Offences against Match Officials	1. Unsporting conduct	Auto +4
		2. Using offensive language and / or gestures	Auto +5
		3. Repeated use of offensive language and / or gestures	Auto + 7
		4. Unwarranted contact with and / or conduct with a Match Official	Auto + 7*
		5. Threatening or intimidating language and / or conduct towards a Match Official or conduct reasonably perceived as a threat of physical violence towards a Match Official or their family or property	Auto + 10*
		6. Spitting at or on a Match Official	Auto + 12*
		7. Violence towards a Match Official and / or their family or property	Auto + Direct to Code of Conduct
		8. Violence towards Junior Match Official and / or their family or property	Auto + Direct to Code of Conduct
		9. Use of offensive language and or violence by a Club, Team Official or Club Official aged 18 or over towards a Match Official under 18 years of age	Minimum 12 month suspension.
R9	Team Official Specific Offences (not covered in R1-R8)	1. Delaying the restart of play for the opposition	Auto
		2. Deliberately throwing / kick an object onto the field of play	Auto
		3. Physical aggressive behaviour towards any person other than a Match Official	Auto +2
		4. Entering the field to confront a Match Official at half time or full time	Auto +5
		5. Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner	Auto +2
		6. Entering the field to interfere with play or an opposing player	Auto +3
		7. Entering the field to confront a Match Official during a Match	Auto +10*

* NNSWF will assess these charges and may also refer them to the Independent Disciplinary Chair to be dealt with under the Code of Conduct in addition to the minimum sanction.



(c) In addition to the matches outlined for any R8 offence, clubs will be subject to a fine outlined in Appendix A – Section 23

(d) In addition to the Minimum Mandatory Suspensions detailed in table 37.4a, any Player or Team Official found guilty of failing to leave the Field of Play or Technical Area following dismissal will be issued with a minimum 2 match suspension (inclusive of the auto 1 match).

(e) For the purposes of these Regulations, unless otherwise directed by NNSWF, a Club Associate with a Suspension imposed in respect of circumstances where the individual was directly involved in a Match, may attend Competition Fixtures as a spectator only but must not participate as either a Coach, Player or in any official capacity for any NNSWF Club. This means and includes, but is not limited to, a Suspended Club Associate may not:

- (i)** Enter the field of play and / or change rooms for the period of 30 minutes prior to a Competition Fixture, during half time and 15 minutes after the Competition Fixture.
- (ii)** Be within 10m of the Technical Area for the period of 30 minutes prior to a Competition Fixture, during half time and 30 minutes after the Match.
- (iii)** Take, or otherwise be involved in, training sessions or warm-ups on Match Day.
- (iv)** Give the Team or Players instructions, either directly or via a third-party, on Match Day (this does not prohibit giving encouragement or barracking).
- (v)** Be in the change rooms for the period of 30 minutes prior to a Match, during half time and 30 minutes after the Match.
- (vi)** Complete Team / Match Sheets; or
- (vii)** Otherwise approach the Senior Match Official to discuss any aspects of the Match as a representative of the Team or Club, or otherwise hold themselves out as having the authority of a Club Associate for the Match.

(f) An individual Suspended under Regulation 37.7 may, unless otherwise directed by the Disciplinary Committee:

- (i)** Act as a Duty Officer or Assistant Referee, provided that the Senior Match Official is made aware of the individual's Suspension and permits the involvement.
- (ii)** Attend team training sessions; or
- (iii)** Participate in NNSWF's Summer Football programs unless the individual's Suspension is for conduct greater than 4 weeks length of Suspension.

(g) Any violation of Regulation 37.7 (b and c) may be deemed Misconduct and subject to further NNSWF Disciplinary sanctions as follows:

- (i)** Recommencing the Club Associate's Suspension from the date of the violation of the Suspension; or
- (ii)** Referring the matter to the Disciplinary Committee for determination of Misconduct.

(h) In all cases where an individual is Suspended and ordered to undertake training, provide a written apology, or complete any other tasks as required by the Disciplinary Committee, the individual shall remain Suspended until such time as all aspects of the determination have been satisfied or completed.



(i) Any Player or Club Official who has served a suspension for an accumulation of Yellow Cards as outlined in table 37.6 during the competition and subsequently receives a suspension from a Red Card in line with regulations 37.4a will be subject to an additional Match suspension:

- (i)** The additional Match will only be applied once for any Red Card suspension.
- (ii)** For the avoidance of doubt, any Player or Team Official sent off during a Match is subject to the provisions of Regulation 37.4 (c).

(j) Any person who is shown a red card must

- (i)** leave the playing arena immediately and must:
- (ii)** Not communicate directly to any players, coaches or match officials directly involved in the match.
- (iii)** Not be within 25m of the technical areas.
- (iv)** Failure to abide by regulation 37.3(i) will result in an increased sanction imposed on the original send-off offence.

(k) Any Coach or Team Official show a red card in a Grand Final or Cup Final, will not be permitted to enter the field for post-match presentations.

(l) All suspension applied in premier competitions will be publicly available on the Northern NSW Football website

37.5 Serving A Suspension:

(a) A Club Associate must serve a Suspension without delay and a Suspension shall remain in effect until served in full irrespective of a change of status, league, level, Club, or age group.

(b) In all cases, until a Suspension is served in full, a Club Associate must not participate in any other Match at any level (either as a Player, Coach, Manager and / or Team Official) in NNSW Competitions. This includes Suspensions that are not totally served in a Competition Season and that are carried over and served in future or subsequent seasons.

(c) A Suspension arising out of a Finals Series which is not served in full in that Finals Series shall be carried over to the following Competition Season in which the Club Associate participates.

(d) If a Match is postponed prior to its commencement, such Match will not be classified as a Match served under Suspension for the purposes of calculating a Suspension remaining.

(e) A Match that is Abandoned after commencement, or Forfeited prior to commencement, shall count as a Match served under Suspension for the purposes of calculating a Suspension remaining unless:

- (i)** Any Club or Team to which the Suspended Club Associate belongs was responsible for the facts that led to the Abandonment or Forfeit.
- (ii)** An incident leading to the Abandonment or Forfeit of a Match is referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
- (iii)** For the avoidance of doubt: where a Match is Abandoned after commencement, or Forfeited prior to commencement, and is subsequently re-played, the Abandoned / Forfeited Match shall not be considered to be a Match served under Suspension, and the



relevant Player or other Club Associate will serve their Suspension in the next available Match.

37.6. Accumulation of Yellow Cards:

(a) If a Player or Club Official accumulates Yellow Cards during the competition, they are subject to mandatory Match suspensions as outlined in Table 37.6. This suspension takes effect immediately. For example, if a player receives their 5th Yellow Card in U18 matches, they will be suspended for the Reserve Grade match.

Table 37.6 Accumulation of Yellow Cards			
Person	Competition	Number of Yellow Cards	Mandatory Suspension
Player	Premiership	5	1 Match
		8	2 Matches
		9	Disciplinary Hearing and / or sanctions
	Finals Series	3	1 Match
Club Official	Premiership	2	1 Match
		5	2 Matches
		6	Disciplinary Hearing and / or sanctions
	Finals Series	2	1 Match

(b) Any Player or Club Official who has served a suspension for a Red Card as outlined in table 37.4a during the competition and subsequently accumulates Yellow Cards in line with Regulation 37.6 will be subject to an additional Match suspension:

I. The additional Match will only be applied once for any Red Card suspension.

(c) It is the Clubs responsibility to record and monitor all Player / Team Official infringements and impose sanctions in accordance with the FA National Disciplinary Regulations and competition rules.

(d) The accumulation of Yellow Cards in a Final Series is inclusive of all grades participating in the Final Series.

(e) Yellow Cards accumulation totals are only relevant in the competition (League or Cup) in which they are received (i.e., a yellow card received in the Australia Cup, does not add to the total accumulation for a player in NPL Men’s).

(i) For the avoidance of doubt, yellow cards accumulated in either NPL men’s or Northern League One will accumulate towards a combined total if a Player or Team Official moves between these divisions.



(f) Any suspension received as a result of the accumulation of yellow cards must only be served in the competition in which the yellow cards were accumulated.

37.7. Accumulation of Red Cards

(a) A player who accumulates the following number of Red Cards during the course of the competition must serve the following mandatory Match suspensions.

Table 37.7 Accumulation of Red Cards			
<u>Person</u>	Competition	Number of Red Cards	Minimum Mandatory Suspension
Player	Premiership	2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional Match
		3	As per initial suspension plus 2 additional Matches
	Finals Series	2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional Match
Club Official	Premiership	1	As per initial suspension
		2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional Match
		3	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional Match and mandatory Disciplinary Hearing
	Finals Series	2	As per initial suspension plus 1 additional Match

(b) Players stood down by the club will not be deemed to have served a suspension if NNSWF has not confirmed the suspension in writing.

(c) It is the Club’s responsibility to record and monitor all player infringements and impose player sanctions.

(d) Red cards received in any competition, including Cup or League, will be counted towards the accumulation of red cards noted in table 37.7.

(e) Suspensions resulting from an accumulation of red cards must be served in the player or official’s next Competition Match.

37.8. Misconduct of a Team



(a) A minimum sanction of a \$300 fine will be imposed on any club for the misconduct of a Team which includes, but is not limited to:

- (i)** 5 Players / Team Officials or more are cautioned or sent off during a Match.
- (ii)** 3 Players / Team Officials or more are sent off during a Match.

37.9. Match Official Abuse

(a) In line with Northern NSW Football's Match Official Support Policy – Zero Tolerance, the following additional sanctions will be applied for any incidents of Match Official Abuse:

- (i)** Any Player or Team Official found guilty of a 2nd Offence will receive a minimum added 4 Match suspension, to the sanction given for the initial offence.
- (ii)** If a Player or Team Official commits more than two offences of Match Official Abuse, they will be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for further sanction.
- (iii)** If a Player or Team Official is sanctioned by suspension for offences against a Match Official, they will not be permitted to attend Club fixtures during this suspension.

(b) Any Player, Team or Club Official within a Team who is sanctioned for Match Official Abuse, will cause that team to incur 3 competition points deduction for that team, wholly suspended for the remainder of the Regular Season.

(c) Should a Team, already subject to the suspended 3 point deduction as set out in 37.8(b), have a Player, Team or Club Official subject to a further sanction for Match Official abuse, the team will be deducted a further 3 competition points in addition to the previously suspended 3 points, totalling an immediate deduction of 6 competition points for this second offence within the team.

- (i)** Any subsequent instance of Match Official abuse will incur a sanction of three competitions points for that team, and the club will be required to attend a hearing with the Disciplinary Chair / Committee

(d) A Club is jointly and severally liable for a fine imposed on one of its participants (even if that participant subsequently leaves the Club).

(e) Any spectator found guilty of Match Official abuse towards a senior Match Official will be suspended for a minimum of 30 days.

(f) Any spectator found guilty of Match Official abuse toward any Match Official under the age of 18, will be suspended for a minimum of 12 months.

37.10. Mistaken Identity

(a) Where NNSWF can be satisfied through clear and verifiable video evidence, that a referee:

- (i)** Issued in error a Yellow Card and / or Red Card during the Match to a Player instead of to another Player (being the Player who should have received the card as the Player who committed the offence attracting the card); or



- (ii) Expelled in error a Team Official instead of another Team Official (being the Team Official who should have been Expelled);

NNSWF will rectify this error provided the process outlined in Regulation 37.10 (b) has been complied with.

- (b) Clubs seeking to have any Yellow or Red Card amended due to mistaken identity must submit via email within 48 hours of the Match concluding:

- (i) The name of the player incorrectly identified.
- (ii) The name of the player that should have received the Yellow / Red Card.
- (iii) A link to the footage; and
- (iv) The time the incident occurred.

- (c) Any submission that does not meet the requirements set out in 37.10 (b) will not be considered.

37.11. Obvious Error / Serious Missed Incident

- (a) For 1st Grade competitions in National Premier Leagues Men's, National Premier Leagues Women's and Northern League One, where any Club believes that a Referee:

- (i) Has made an obvious error in the dismissal of a player or Team Official through a Red Card; or
- (ii) Missed a serious incident which would have resulted in a Red Card had the referee been in possession of all the facts.

The Club may submit a request for a decision to be reviewed by the Obvious Error Panel.

- (b) A fee of \$500 will be imposed for any obvious error / serious missed incident review request. This fee will be refunded, either wholly or in part, if an obvious error is found to have occurred.

- (c) Clubs seeking to have any decision reviewed for an obvious error must submit via email within 48 hours of the Match concluding:

- (i) The name of the player involved in the incident.
- (ii) A summary of the alleged incorrect decision.
- (iii) A summary of the club's opinion on the correct decision.
- (iv) A link to the footage; and
- (v) The time the incident occurred.
- (vi) Confirmation of payment of the lodgement fee

- (d) Any submission that does not meet the requirements set out in 37.11 (c) will not be Considered.

- (e) Decisions relating to the following offences will not be reviewed by the Obvious Error Panel:

- (i) Yellow Cards.
- (ii) Red Cards due to a second Yellow Card.



(iii) Players not shown a Red Card for denial of a clear goal scoring opportunity.

(f) Decisions of the obvious error panel are not appealable alone, notwithstanding any rights of appeal a player or Team Official has throughout the remainder of these regulations.

(g) NNSWF reserves the right to refer any incident within National Premier Leagues Men's, National Premier Leagues Women's and Northern League One to the Obvious Error Panel in the instance that neither Club involved in the Competition Fixture requests a review.

37.12. Any allegations of misconduct by a club, must be submitted in writing to NNSWF by a Club official within 14 days of the alleged incident.

38. FINANCIAL STATUS

38.1. Competition Member

(a) Should the accounts from NNSWF to a competition member remain unpaid for a period of 30 days after they become due, then the competition member may, after notice of default, be declared an unfinancial competition member.

(b) NNSWF may consider allowing an unfinancial competition member to continue participation in the competitions up to a period not exceeding 4 Competition Fixtures.

(c) Unfinancial competition members may not receive any competition points in these 4 fixtures.

(d) A Team may not be entitled to participate in a Final Series fixture if its Club has not paid accounts due in full, before its last Premiership fixture:

(i) Should a vacancy occur in a Final Series, NNSWF may at its discretion fill that vacancy with the next highest placed Team on the points table.

(e) A Club may not be entitled to be considered for future membership of NNSWF competitions if its financial obligations, other than those subject to the normal terms of payment, have not been paid in full by 30th September each year.

(f) NNSWF reserves the right to relegate a Club not fulfilling its financial obligations to a lower competition or refuse its membership.

38.2. Player / Team Official / Match Official

(a) Should the accounts from NNSWF to a Player / Team Official / Match Official remain unpaid for a period of 14 days after they become due, then the Player / Team Official / Match Official may, after notice of default, be declared unfinancial and subject to sanctions as determined by NNSWF.

39. NATIONAL FLAGS, EMBLEMS AND SLOGANS



- 39.1.** In accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game and the FIFA Equipment Regulations, Clubs are prohibited from displaying political emblems, religious or racial slogans and emblems at sanctioned fixtures and on any part of the Players' attire or any uniform worn by Club Officials.
- 39.2.** NNSWF reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to approve or deny a Club's proposed use of logos and / or emblems that breach Regulation 39.1. NNSWF will consider whether the proposal is reflective of a Clubs' heritage or history.
- 39.3.** Clubs may not display, distribute, disseminate, broadcast, or publish by any means whatsoever whether electronically or otherwise any material in a language other than English, without the prior written consent of NNSWF to do so.
- 39.4.** All Clubs must have the prior written approval of NNSWF before introducing or incorporating any design, emblem or slogan onto any Club logo or name, product or medium, including but not limited to playing strips, promotional material, Club letterhead, banners, advertisements, public announcements, website, or any other form of communication.
- 39.5.** NNSWF may request the immediate removal of any offending material at any time.
- 39.6.** If any person is in breach of this rule, both the individual and any Club of which that person is associated may be sanctioned and disciplined in accordance with Part V of the FA Statutes.
- 39.7.** All Clubs are required to display, enforce, and abide by NNSWF Premier Competition Terms of Admission. Clubs will be held responsible and liable for any breaches of the above regulations and may be subject to fines as determined by the regulations.

40. SALE OF ALCOHOL

- 40.1.** Clubs seeking to sell, or supply alcohol must obtain the applicable liquor license and comply with all legislative requirements.
- (a)** NNSWF takes no responsibility for any Club participating within its Premier Competitions that does not comply with relevant legislation.
- 40.2.** NNSWF reserves the right at its absolute discretion to direct a Club not to sell or to restrict the sale of alcohol at any fixture under its jurisdiction.
- 40.3.** The sale of alcohol is prohibited for 18 Years and below Competition Fixtures.

41. GROUND SIGNAGE AND SPONSOR BRANDING

- 41.1.** In accordance with the Football Australia Spectator Code of Behaviour, the display of any sign or banner featuring political emblems, religious and racial inferences is strictly prohibited at sanctioned fixtures.
- 41.2.** In addition to regulation 41.1 above, NNSWF reserves the right to deny or approve, at its absolute discretion, the display of ground signage at fixtures sanctioned by NNSWF in the event that the signage:



(a) is determined by NNSWF to be inappropriate and / or offensive.

(b) has the potential to damage the reputation of NNSWF or the sport of football.

(c) conflicts with NNSWF's Naming Rights and / or Major Sponsor of the relevant Premier Competition.

(d) features a religious emblem or symbol.

41.3. If requested by NNSWF, Clubs must make a submission and provide sufficient evidence as to the appropriateness and legitimacy of any sponsorship. The legitimacy of Club sponsorship will be determined by NNSWF at its absolute discretion.

41.4. Clubs that seek to display signage that conflicts with the terms outlined in Regulation 41.2 are instructed and required to contact NNSWF for prior written approval.

41.5. Clubs are required to remove offending signage at NNSWF's total discretion and direction.

41.6. The above terms also apply to any other form of sponsor branding including but not limited to equipment and Club stationery.

41.7. All clubs will be required to display the Zero Tolerance signage supplied by Northern NSW Football at their ground on matchdays, in a prominent position.

42. BALL PERSONS

42.1. Home Clubs must provide a minimum of 4 ball persons for every Home Competition Fixture for 1st Grade Matches.

(a) The ball persons are to be a minimum 10 years old and be instructed prior to the fixture of their role and responsibilities. It is recommended that clubs utilise their Youth (13 or 14 Years) squads as ball persons.

43. FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA CLUB LICENSING ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM (CLAS)

43.1 All NPL Clubs are required to comply with and maintain the Football Australia Club Licencing Criteria, through the FA CLAS system

44. COACHING ACCREDITATION

44.1 Coaches must be accredited in accordance with the minimum standards as set out in the Participation Criteria. Coaches that are not appropriately accredited or provided dispensation will not be permitted to enter the Field of Play or Technical Area, actively coach (during any Competition Fixture) and / or enter the change rooms at half-time of any Competition Fixtures.

44.2 For the avoidance of doubt only the following persons will be permitted to Coach a Team:



- (a) A Coach who holds or exceeds the minimum required accreditation.
- (b) A Coach who is currently undertaking the course required to achieve the minimum
- (c) accreditation and has kept within the requirement to submit an initial assessment within 6 months.
- (d) Coaches who have attended part 1 of a course and have not attended part 2 of that course
- (e) within 12 months will not be permitted to coach.
- (f) A Coach who has registered and paid for the course required to achieve minimum
- (g) accreditation.
- (h) A temporary Coach, for a maximum 6-week period, in the event of the accredited Coach
- (i) leaving the Club.
- (j) A Coach who has been provided written dispensation by NNSWF for any reason.
- (k) NNSWF reserves the right to provide dispensation at its sole discretion.

45. MATCH OFFICIAL COMPLAINTS

45.1 Any club wishing to provide feedback on a Match Official performance is required to do so through [NNSWF Referee Feedback Form](#). Any feedback in relation to Match Official performance submitted in any other format will not be reviewed or considered.



APPENDIX A – DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

Item	Offence	Minimum Cost	
1. Home Team Responsibilities			
1 a	Deficiency in ground	\$100	Per offence
1 b	Failure to provide approved Match Balls	\$100	Per offence
1 c	Failure to post results	\$100	Per offence
1 d	Repeated failure to post results	\$300	
2. Ineligibility			
2 a	Playing an ineligible Player	\$200	Per offence
2 b	Use of false ID tag, Team Official	\$200	Per offence
3	Playing for another Club	\$1000	Per offence
4	Player Bringing Code into Disrepute	\$1000	Per offence
5	Inducement to Bring About a Result	\$2000	Per offence
6	Replacement of Player / Official Pass	\$35	Per pass
7. Player Uniform / Gear Requirements			
7 a	Failure to wear correct alternate strip, resulting in a clash	\$200	Per Team
7 b	Failure to have playing strips approved by NNSWF	\$200	Per strip
7 c	Inappropriate sponsor branding	\$500	Per round
7 d	Failure to adhere to competition logo requirements	\$500	Per Team
8	Failure to obtain consent for kick-off time change	\$200	Per offence
9. Forfeited Fixtures			
9 a	Forfeited fixtures – Senior Grades	\$1000	Per offence
9 b	Forfeited fixtures – Youth Grades	\$500	Per offence
10. Abandoned Fixtures			
10 a	Caused by a Player	\$1000	Per offence
10 b	Caused by a Club	\$2000	Per offence
10 c	Caused by another Club Associate	\$500	Per offence



11	Mass Walk Off	\$2000	Per offence
12. Fixture Start Delay			
12a	Failure to exit change room on time	\$250	Per offence
12b	Significant delay to start a Match	\$500	Per offence
12c	Refusing to start a fixture	\$2000	Per offence
13. Team Sheets			
13 a	Failure to lodge a Team sheet	\$100	Per offence
13 b	Failure to complete a Team sheet within required timelines	\$100	Per offence
13 c	Illegible Team sheet (if paper used)	\$100	Per offence
13 d	Supplying false information on a Team sheet	\$1000	Per offence
13 f	Failure to include the required number of Duty / Match Official Support Officers on Team sheets	\$100	Per offence
13G	FAILURE TO INCLUDE COACH, MANAGER, TEAM OFFICIALS	\$100	PER OFFENCE
13h	Failure to complete the team formation for any First-Grade match	\$100	Per Offence
14	Failure to provide replacement Match Official	\$500	Per offence
15	Three Players, Teams or Club Officials found guilty of Match Official abuse across all grades inclusive of both Senior and Youth	\$2000	Per offence
16	Failure to Advise required persons of Washed-Out Fixtures	\$100	Per offence
17. Code of Conduct			
17 a	Breach of Code of Conduct by Player of Team Official	\$500	Per offence
17 b	Breach of Code of Conduct / Spectator Code of Behaviour by Player of Club Associate	\$500	Per offence
17c	Misconduct of a Team	\$300	Per offence
18	Display of prohibited flags, slogans, or emblems	\$500	Per offence
19	Display of any non-compliant signage anywhere within the ground	\$500	Per offence
20	Failure to erect required competition sponsor banners / feathers	\$500	Per offence
21	Failure to maintain up-to-date social media accounts	\$200	Per offence
22. Administrative and League Correspondents			
22a	Failure to submit required documents to NNSWF within timelines	\$200	Per offence
22b	Failure to respond, engage and/or communicate with NNSWF League Correspondence	\$250	Per offence



22c	Coaches failing to respond to Correspondence	\$250	Per offence
23. Match Official Abuse			
	First Offence of Match Official Abuse for a club during a calendar year	\$500	Per Offence
	Second Offence of Match Official Abuse for a club during a calendar year	\$1000	Per Offence
	Third and subsequent offence of Match Official abuse for a club during a calendar year	\$2500	Per Offence
	Serious offences of Match Official Abuse (including but not limited to offences noted from table 37.4a R8.5 through to R8.9)	\$5000	Per Offence



APPENDIX B – APPEAL FEES

Disciplinary Sanctions	
Appeal to NNSWF Competition Administrator ¹	\$500
Code of Conduct Sanction	
Application for a Grievance Hearing NNSWF Competition Administrator ²	\$1000
Grievance Appeal Fee NNSWF ¹	\$1500
Grievance Appeal Fee FA ¹	\$2000

¹ - Refundable if appeal completely successful

² - Non-Refundable



APPENDIX C – PLAYING STRIP BRANDING

Refer to the [Playing Strip and Branding Requirements](#) document.



APPENDIX D – NNSWF TERMS OF ADMISSION

1. General - The following Terms of Admission shall apply to all spectators attending the event. By attending the event spectators agree to be bound by these Terms of Admission. These Terms of Admission should be read in conjunction with the Venue Conditions of Entry and the 'FA Spectator Code of Behaviour'.

2. Spectator Behaviour - Patrons agree to comply with the 'FA Spectator Code of Behaviour', a copy of which is available at www.footballaustralia.com.au.

3. Tickets - In the instance that tickets must be purchased to enter the Venue, patrons must not:

- (a) Resell or transfer, or attempt to resell or transfer, the ticket at a premium;
- (b) Use the ticket for advertising, promotion or other commercial purposes (including competitions and trade promotions) or to enhance the demand for other goods or services; or
- (c) Package the ticket with other goods and services.

Tickets must be carried at all times and produced upon request.

4. Refund / Exchange - Tickets will not be refunded or exchanged except in accordance with the "Code of Practice for the Ticketing of Live Entertainment in Australia" (the Code), available at www.liveperformance.com.au. Except as provided by the Code, to the extent permitted by law, NNSWF is not liable to any person for any loss (including consequential loss) arising out of, or in connection with, the cancellation or rescheduling of the event.

5. Refusal of Entry / Eviction - NNSWF, Club and Venue Management reserve the right to refuse entry or evict any person:

- (a) Who breaches these Terms of Admission or who NNSWF, Club or Venue Management has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to breach these Terms of Admission.
- (b) Who jeopardises safety or security at the Venue or event.
- (c) Deemed to be intoxicated or disorderly or under the influence of drugs.
- (d) Attempting to bring in, or found in possession of, Prohibited or Restricted Items.
- (e) Engaging in a Prohibited or Restricted Activity.
- (f) Failing to comply with lawful directions by FA, NNSWF, Club, Venue Management, Police, or Contract Security staff.
- (g) Previously issued with a Court Banning Notice, FA Banning Notice, NNSWF Banning Notice or Club Banning Notice that still applies.
- (h) Not authorised to be in the Venue e.g., without a valid entry ticket or accreditation.

6. Security Screening - All persons and their possessions will be subject to searches before entering the Venue and may be subject to searches upon exit. Persons who refuse to participate may be denied entry or asked to leave the Venue. Any person having entered the Venue and found to be in possession of a Prohibited or Restricted Item, shall have such item confiscated and may be evicted from the Venue.

7. Surveillance - For the safety and security of patrons and staff, surveillance cameras may be operating in and around the Venue. All persons entering the Venue consent to having their image recorded and held for a specified period. In the event of an incident, any footage obtained may be provided to FA, NNSWF, Club, Police and the Contract Security Provider and used to prosecute or support the implementation of a ban on a person, or for other law enforcement purposes.

8. Prohibited / Restricted Items - The following is a non-exhaustive list of items that are prohibited by law and are not permitted to enter the Venue:



- (a) Illegal substances including controlled, dangerous, or illicit drugs; and
- (b) Flares, fireworks, weapons, explosives, and smoke bombs.

The following items are considered restricted and are not permitted to enter the Venue:

- (a) Alcoholic beverages.
- (b) Glass bottles, cans, and breakable containers.
- (c) Missiles of any description.
- (d) Recreational equipment such as skateboards, rollerblades, and bicycles.
- (e) Animals and pets (other than Assistance Dogs).
- (f) Laser pointers.
- (g) Non-accredited photographic equipment and recording devices for commercial purposes including audio and video equipment.
- (h) Confetti or shredded paper.
- (i) Flag poles composed of materials other than plastic or wood or greater than 1.5metres in length.
- (j) Signs, banners, flags, and clothing displaying offensive, political, racial, or unauthorised commercial material.
- (k) Eskies, coolers and iceboxes too large to be stored under a seat.
- (l) Any item determined by FA, NNSWF, Club or Venue Management that may cause injury, public nuisance or which is deemed dangerous to fellow spectators.

9. Prohibited / Restricted Activities - The following is a non-exhaustive list of activities that are restricted or prohibited within the Venue and participation in such activities may result in eviction:

- (a) Smoking (other than in a designated area).
- (b) Displaying commercial or offensive signage.
- (c) Throwing objects of any description.
- (d) Striking or igniting flares, fireworks, explosives and or smoke bombs.
- (e) The use of offensive or racist chanting or language.
- (f) Storage of equipment or standing / sitting in aisles or walkways.
- (g) Unauthorised soliciting and customer surveying.

10. Responsible Consumption of Alcohol - All persons entering the Venue are advised that:

- (a) They are entering a licensed premises.
- (b) Persons identified as being intoxicated will not be permitted to enter.
- (c) Persons found in possession of liquor will not be permitted to enter.
- (d) Persons identified as being intoxicated will be removed from the premises.
- (e) It is an offence for minors to purchase and consume liquor.
- (f) It is an offence to purchase liquor for (or supply liquor to) minors.
- (g) Persons supplying liquor to minors will be reported to the Police.
- (h) Penalties and fines may apply under the relevant State's Liquor legislation.

11. Liability - Viewing of football and associated activities can be dangerous and may result in injury. Patrons viewing such activities do so at their own risk. Patrons bring personal items into the Venue at their own risk and assume all risk of any damage or loss (including property damage, personal injury, economic and consequential loss) however it arises at the Venue. The hirer and the Venue will not be held responsible for any damage to, loss or theft of a patron's personal property.

12. Pass-Outs - Pass-outs are issued at the discretion of the Venue. Should pass-outs be granted, patrons wishing to re-enter the Venue must present both the pass-out and a valid ticket to regain entry. Persons will be subject to searches upon Venue re-entry.

13. Photographs and Broadcasts - Photographs taken within the Venue may be used only for private non-commercial purposes. Making or distributing broadcasts, commentary, news reports or statistics (by any means including by mobile phone or other wireless device) is prohibited.



14. Image Release - Patron's grant NNSWF and Clubs the non-exclusive right to use their image and likeness in any form or medium, as part of any broadcast or recording of the Match and for any other commercial purposes (including in advertising and promotional materials).

15. General Conditions - The following general conditions apply:

- (a) smoking is prohibited other than in designated smoking areas.
- (b) umbrellas are permitted into the Venue but, for the comfort of others, must not be raised in the seating areas.
- (c) for safety reasons, strollers and prams may not be permitted in the seating areas.
- (d) unauthorised persons are prohibited from entering the field of play. Prosecutions may be pursued for unauthorised access to either the Venue or field of play.
- (e) patrons are responsible for their own conduct whilst in the Venue and must pay for the cost of repair of any damage caused to the Venue as a result of their conduct.
- (f) drums may be permitted into the Venue on the condition that the owner is identified and receives prior approval from the Venue and Event Manager.

16. Breach of Terms of Admission - If Patrons breach these Terms of Admission they may be:

- (a) denied access to, or evicted from, the Venue.
- (b) banned from attending future Matches at the discretion of FA, NNSWF, Club or Venue Management.
- (c) asked for identification by NNSWF (including its authorised contractors, agents, or employees), Club, Police, Venue Management or Contract Security staff.

Information collected from or on Patrons who breach the Terms of Admission may be shared between FA, NNSWF, Club, Venue Management, Contract Security staff and / or Police. This information may be used to prosecute or support the implementation of a ban on the person, or for other law enforcement purposes, and Patron's consent to such use. All information collected will be handled in accordance with FA's Privacy Policy, which is available at www.footballaustralia.com.au.

17. Privacy Waiver - Patrons grant consent for their name, address, date of birth and photograph to be provided to NNSWF, by the relevant State or Federal Police or Contract Security staff, in the event that they are evicted from or arrested within the Venue and for State or Federal Police to disclose to NNSWF the nature and result of any action or criminal proceeding initiated by Police as a consequence of their eviction from or arrest within the Venue.

18. Privacy Notification - All persons entering the Venue are advised, in accordance with applicable State and Commonwealth Privacy legislation, that the relevant State or Federal Police may provide NNSWF with the name, address, date of birth and photograph of any person detained or arrested by Police at the Venue and the nature of any action or criminal proceeding initiated by Police as a consequence so that NNSWF can consider, and if deemed necessary, implement a ban on the person from attending future football Matches at NNSWF sanctioned Venues.



APPENDIX E – DISCIPLINARY CODES

Player Red Card means the sending-off of a Player for the commission of the following sending off offences specified at Law 12 of the FIFA Laws of the Game:

- R1 – Serious foul play.
- R2 – Violent conduct.
- R3 – Biting or spitting at someone.
- R4 – Denying the opposing Team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a Goalkeeper within his own penalty area).
- R5 – Otherwise denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent as prescribed by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game.
- R6 – Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and / or gestures.
- R7 – Receiving a second Yellow Card in the same Match.

Player Yellow Card means a caution of a Player by the Referee for the commission of the following cautionable offences specified at Law 12 of the FIFA Laws of the Game:

- Y1 – Unsporting behaviour.
- Y2 – Dissent by word or action.
- Y3 – Persistent infringement of the FIFA Laws of the Game.
- Y4 – Delaying the restart of play.
- Y5 – Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw in.
- Y6 – Entering re-entering, or deliberately leaving the field of play without the Referee's permission.

Team Official Red Card means the sending-off of a Team Official by a Referee for the commission of the following sending-off offences specified in the Approved IFAB Trial Guidelines read in conjunction with the Laws of the Game:

- R-TO1 – Violent conduct.
- R-TO2 – Physical or aggressive behaviour towards an opposing Player, substitute, Team Official, Match Official, spectator, or any other person (e.g., security or competition official).
- R-TO3 – Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and / or gestures.
- R-TO4 – Biting or spitting at any person.
- R-TO5 – entering the field of play to:
 - Confront a Match Official (including at half-time and full-time).
 - Interfere with play or an opposing Player.
- R-TO6 – deliberately leaving the technical area to:
 - Show dissent towards or remonstrate with a Match Official.
 - Act in a provocative or inflammatory manner.
 - Enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner.
- R-TO7 – Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play.
- R-TO8 – Delaying the restart of play by the opposing Team e.g., holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player.
- R-TO9 – Receiving a second Yellow Card in the same Match.

Team Official Yellow Card means the caution of a Team Official by Referee for the commission of the following cautionable offences specified in the Approved IFAB Trial Guidelines read in conjunction with the Laws of the Game:



Y-TO1 - Dissent by word or action, including throwing / kicking drinks bottles or other objects to show dissent and / or gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the Match Officials (e.g., sarcastic clapping).

Y-TO2 – Gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory, or inflammatory way.

Y-TO3 – Gesturing for a Red Card or Yellow Card to be shown.

Y-TO4 – Clearly / persistently not respecting the confines of their Team’s Technical Area.

Y-TO5 – Deliberately entering the Technical Area of the opposing Team (nonconfrontational).

Y-TO6 – Delaying the restart of play by their Team.

Y-TO7 – Showing a lack of respect for the game.

Y-TO8 – Persistent / repeated unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences).



APPENDIX F – MATCH OFFICIAL FEE SCHEDULE

Competition	Age Grade	Referee	Assistant Referee (each)	4 th Official
National Premier Leagues – Men	First Grade	\$200	\$100	\$50
	Reserve Grade	\$112	\$56	\$40
National Premier Leagues – Women	First Grade	\$200	\$100	\$50
	Reserve Grade	\$112	\$56	\$40
HIT Northern League One – Men	First Grade	\$147	\$74	\$50
	Reserve Grade	\$80	\$40	\$30
Premier Youth League – Male and Female	U18	\$80	\$40	\$40
	U17	\$70	\$35	\$20
	U16	\$70	\$35	\$20
	U15	\$64	\$32	\$20
	U14	\$52	\$26	\$20
	U13	\$46	\$23	\$20
Junior Development Leagues	U12	\$30	\$15	N/A
	U11	\$25	N/A	N/A
Special Events	Match Fees Determined by Northern NSW Football			
Travel Allowance	200 Kilometres and Over - \$75			