



OFFICIAL | Australia Cup
NNSWF Supplementary Regulations for Rounds 1 - 7

FIFA / FA / NNSWF Regulations apply in conjunction with Australia Cup Regulations for Rounds 1-7.

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1. Governance

All Australia Cup fixtures are conducted in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game and Australia Cup Competition Regulations.

- a. Northern NSW Football (NNSWF) is responsible for conducting and managing all Round 1-7 fixtures in accordance with Australia Cup Competition Regulations and any other relevant FA requirements or directions.
- b. Football Australia (FA) is responsible for conducting and managing all Final Round of 32 fixtures in accordance with Australia Cup Competition Regulations.

2. Eligible Clubs

In order to be considered eligible to participate in the Australia Cup, Clubs must meet all requirements contained in clause 6.1 of the Australia Cup Competition Regulations and:

- a. be affiliated to NNSWF or FA, and be registered with FA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations; and
- b. make payment of the Preliminary Round Registration Fee in accordance with the relevant payment process determined by NNSWF.
- c. Submit to FA a signed, completed copy of the Australia Cup Club Registration Form.

3. Club Participation Procedure

Clubs who wish to nominate for entry into the Australia Cup must do so in accordance with the requirements determined by NNSWF and within the timelines stipulated by NNSWF.

- a. Clubs must nominate via the Prescribed Form supplied by Football Australia;
- b. NNSWF Men's Premier Competitions Clubs are required to participate; and
- c. NNSWF will review all Club nominations received and confirm their participation at its sole discretion.

4. Draw Format

NNSWF reserves the right to determine the format of the Round 1-7 Draw subject to participation nominations accepted and FA requirements.

4.1 Conferences

2 Conferences (Northern and Southern) shall exist as determined by NNSWF:

- a. The Northern Conference shall include Clubs accepted to participate from NNSWF Regional Member Zones; and
- b. The Southern Conference shall include Clubs accepted to participate from NNSWF Metropolitan Member Zones and NNSWF Men's Premier Competitions.

4.2 Pools

The Southern Conference shall be divided into 3 Pools as determined by NNSWF:

- a. Pool 1 – NNSWF Metropolitan Member Zone Clubs;
- b. Pool 2 – NNSWF Northern League One Clubs (NL1); and
- c. Pool 3 – National Premier Leagues Clubs Men's NNSW (NPL).

4.3 Seeding

Teams placed 1st to 4th as per the Official League Table of the 2023 National Premier Leagues (NNSW NPL Men's) season must be Seeded in the corresponding Preliminary Round Draw whereby they shall not be drawn against any Club from Pool 3 within the Round. Seeding shall only apply to the 1 specified Round.

4.4 Rounds (1 - 5) – Northern Conference

Round 1-5 Fixtures shall be conducted as determined by NNSWF in a Knock-Out Format. All Matches shall be drawn randomly from the Pot until 2 Clubs remain at the conclusion of Round 5 who shall progress to Round 6.

4.5 Rounds (1 - 5) – Southern Conference

Round 1-5 Fixtures shall be conducted as determined by NNSWF in a Knock-Out Format. The draw shall be constructed whereby a total of 6 Clubs within Southern Conference Pool 1, Pool 2 and Pool 3 progress to Round 6:

- a. Round 2 will exclusively comprise of Clubs from Pool 1. All fixtures will be randomly drawn from the Pot. The winners from Round 1 will progress and be joined by Clubs in Pool 2.
- b. Round 3 shall include Teams progressing from the preceding Round as well as all Teams from Pool 2. All fixtures in this round will be drawn randomly from the Pot.
- c. Round 4 shall include Teams advancing from the preceding Round and all Teams from Pool 3. The Draw shall be conducted with 3 Pots:
 - a. Pot A – 4 Seeded NPL Clubs;
 - b. Pot B – 8 Unseeded NPL Clubs; and
 - c. Pot C – Remaining Clubs from Pools 1 and 2.

Matches shall be drawn randomly from Pot A & Pot C until no Draw Balls remain in Pot A. Pot B & C shall then be combined with Matches being drawn randomly.

- d. Remaining Matches shall take place until 6 Teams in total remain.
- e. Subject to Clubs accepted to participate Matches may not be required to be completed in the allocated Round 1 with the aforementioned structure commencing from Round 2 with Teams in Pool 1.

4.6 Rounds (6 - 7)

Fixtures shall be conducted as determined by NNSWF in a Knock-Out Format.

The Draw for Round 6 will be conducted to ensure that the 2 Clubs from the Northern Conference will be drawn against 2 of the Clubs from the Southern Conference. The remaining 4 Clubs from the Southern Pool will be drawn randomly from the Pot to determine the remaining fixtures in Round 6.

Teams advancing from Round 6 shall progress to Round 7 and will be randomly drawn from the Pot.

4.7 Round of 32

The remaining 2 Clubs at the conclusion of Round 7 will qualify to represent NNSWF in the Australia Cup Round of 32.

4.8 Home / Away Determination

The first Team drawn from the Pot shall be declared the Home Team with the second Team drawn from the Pot declared as the Away Team for the Match.

4.9 Fixture Allocation Method

NNSWF shall be responsible for the allocation of Matches to venues in accordance with the following provisions:

The Team allocated as the Home Team in accordance with Regulation 4.8 will be given the opportunity to host the Match in the first instance at their nominated venue. In the event the Home Team is not able to Host the Match at their nominated venue they may use an alternate venue provided it is secured within the timelines provided by NNSWF.

Should the Home Team not be able to host the Match the Away Team will be allocated hosting rights for the Match at their nominated venue.

In the event that neither club can provide a suitable venue for the nominated fixture, it is up to the discretion of NNSWF to provide a venue. Decisions made by NNSWF in this regard are not appealable

Matches will be nominated on the progression chart supplied to Clubs to be completed as either a Weekend Match or as a Mid-Week Match with specific dates attached.

4.9.1 Weekend Matches

Matches nominated to be completed as Weekend Matches must be completed on either the Saturday or Sunday of the nominated weekend.

Matches completed within the Northern Conference must consider any travel associated for the Away Team.

Participating Teams may apply to adjust the date of the Match outside of the stipulated timelines within the Progression Chart provided by Teams involved agree and the modification does not impact the next round of Matches.

NNSWF reserve the right to review and adjust any Match whereby the kick-off time, day or distance associated may be considered restrictive for Away Club. NNSWF decision in this regard is final and is not subject to appeal.

The availability of Players or Team Officials will not be considered when scheduling Matches.

4.9.2 Mid-Week Matches

Matches nominated to be completed as Mid-Week Matches must be completed on either the Tuesday or Wednesday of the nominated weekday. Matches cannot be scheduled to kick-off later than 8:30pm.

Participating Teams may apply to adjust the date of the Match outside of the stipulated timelines within the Progression Chart provided by Teams involved agree and the modification does not impact the next round of Matches.

NNSWF reserve the right to review and adjust any Match whereby the kick-off time, day or distance associated may be considered restrictive for Away Club. NNSWF decision in this regard is final and is not subject to appeal.

The availability of Players or Team Officials will not be considered when scheduling Matches.

5. Player and Official Eligibility

All Participants must meet criteria as determined by FA and NNSWF:

5.1 Player Eligibility

To be considered eligible to participate in the Australia Cup, Players must meet all eligibility requirements contained in clauses 13.2 to 13.4 of the Australia Cup Competition Regulations and:

- a. have fully completed an online registration through the National Registration System, either direct with a NNSWF Premier Club or with a NNSWF Member Zone Club.

5.2 Ineligible Player

Any Club playing an ineligible Player in any Australia Cup Match may be subject to action in accordance with Australia Cup Competition Regulations.

5.3 Team Official Eligibility

To be considered eligible to participate in the Australia Cup, Team Officials must meet all eligibility requirements contained in clauses 14.1 to 14.3 of the Australia Cup Competition Regulations and:

- a. have fully completed an online registration through the National Registration System, either direct with a NNSWF Premier Club or with a NNSWF Member Zone Club.

5.4 Match Official Eligibility

To be considered eligible to participate in the Australia Cup, Match Officials must meet all eligibility requirements in the Australia Cup Competition Regulations and:

- a. have fully completed an online registration through the National Registration System, either direct with a NNSWF or with a NNSWF Member Zone Branch.

6. Disciplinary Matters

All disciplinary matters shall be dealt with in accordance with the FA National Disciplinary Regulations and the Australia Cup Competition Regulations with provision for the following:

6.1 Yellow Cards

A Player or Team Official who accumulates 3 yellow cards during Preliminary Round Matches must serve a 1 Match suspension.

Suspensions incurred due to the accumulation of yellow cards during the Preliminary Rounds will apply to the next Australia Cup Match in which the suspended Player or Team Official's Club competes in.

Suspensions incurred due to the accumulation of yellow cards in a Player's Local Competition will apply to the next Local Competition match in which the suspended Player's Club competes in and the suspension cannot be served in Australia Cup.

In the event a participant is registered as both a Player and a Team Official and they accumulate 3 yellow cards during the course of the Preliminary Rounds, they must serve a 1 Match suspension.

6.2 Red Cards

For the Preliminary Rounds, the minimum sanctions set out in the Table of Offences (as outlined in [Schedule A](#)) must be applied by NNSWF to red card offences and to expulsion offences for Players and Team Officials.

Red card suspensions incurred in an Australia Cup Match will apply to the next Match in which the suspended Player or Team Official's Club competes in.

Red card suspensions incurred in a Local Competition Match will apply to the next Match in which the suspended Player's Club competes in, which may include an Australia Cup Match.

7. Match Duration

All matches will consist of 2 equal periods of 45 minutes. The referee shall have sole discretion of Stoppage Time.

8. Match Determination

In the event a Match is drawn at the conclusion of normal playing time (as stipulated in [Regulation 7](#)) the following shall apply in order to determine the winner:

8.1 Rounds 1 - 3

In accordance with clause 10.2(d) of the Australia Cup Competition Regulations, if a match is drawn at the conclusion of normal time (as stipulated in [Regulation 7](#)), the result of the match shall be decided by penalties as per FIFA Laws of the Game. No extra time shall be played.

8.2 Rounds 4 - 7

If a match is drawn at the conclusion of normal time (as stipulated in [Regulation 7](#)), extra time (2 equal periods of 15 minutes, excluding any injury time played as determined by the referee) shall be played to determine the result of the fixture. If a match is drawn at the conclusion of extra time, the result of the match shall be decided by penalties as per FIFA Laws of the Game.

9. Postponed / Abandoned Matches

The decision to postpone or abandon an Australia Cup Match during Preliminary Round Matches shall be made by the appointed Match Officials consultation with the Host Club and the participating Clubs.

Match Officials may, after waiting 15 minutes following the scheduled kick-off time, abandon the match due to the absence of a participating Club.

If an Australia Cup Match is postponed or abandoned due to weather conditions or a cause outside the reasonable control of either Club (including its Players and Officials) prior to kick-off or prior to 60 minutes of the regular period having been played, Match must be:

- a. rescheduled by NNSWF to a day and time determined by NNSWF, provided that the rescheduled Preliminary Round Match occurs within 7 days unless otherwise approved by NNSWF in its sole and absolute discretion.

If an Australia Cup Match is abandoned due to adverse weather conditions or a cause outside the reasonable control of either Club (including its Players and Officials) at or after sixty (60) minutes of the regular period being played, unless exceptional circumstances apply (such exceptional circumstances as determined by NNSWF in its sole and absolute discretion):

- a. the result at the time of abandonment will be declared the final result; or
- b. where at the time of the Match being abandoned scores are level the Match shall be rescheduled.

Where a Match has been postponed or abandoned more than 2 times or is unable to be rescheduled the winner will be determined by the toss of a coin.

10. Forfeited Matches

A forfeit will include, but not be limited to a Club being unable or unwilling to:

- a. participate in a Match within 15 minutes after the scheduled kick off time due to any act or omission of the Club; or
- b. continue to participate in a Match (including because it cannot place the required number of Players on the field due to Offences or injury), but will exclude any inability to participate due to a Force Majeure Event.

In the event a Club forfeits a scheduled Australia Cup Match:

- a. prior to kick off, the opposing Club will be deemed to have won the Match by a score of 3 goals to 0; or
- b. after the Match has commenced, the opposing Club will be deemed to have won the match by a score of 3 goals to 0, or the actual goal difference at the time of forfeit, whichever is the greater.

A Club that forfeits a Match will be deemed to be in breach of these Regulations and may also be subject to additional sanctions by NNSWF including potential financial compensation of NNSWF and/or the opposing Club.

11. Substitutions

For all Matches a Club may select up to a maximum of 5 Players as named Substitutes.

Club may select one further player on the starting list where that player is a nominated goalkeeper (i.e. a maximum substitutes if a nominated goalkeeper is selected)

A Club may, at its discretion, use a maximum of 5 named Substitute Players during 1 of 3 permitted substitution opportunities in an Australia Cup Match (including a Goalkeeper), up until the conclusion of normal playing time.

Substitutions made during the half time break will not count towards the 3 permitted substitution opportunities during a match and substitution or substitution opportunities not used at the conclusion of Normal Time may be used during Extra Time.

1 additional Player (outfield Player or goalkeeper) may be replaced, and each team will have 1 additional substitution opportunity during Extra Time of a match up until the conclusion of Extra Time (whether or not the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes or substitution opportunities). The replacement Player must be one of the substitutes selected on the Starting List as directed above.

A substitution can be made upon a Match Official being notified. A substitute Player must only enter the field of play:

- after the Player being replaced has left the field of play;
- after he receives a signal from the Referee; and
- at the half-way line and during a stoppage in the Australia Cup Match.

12. Match Balls

The Host Club shall provide a minimum 3 top quality match balls of the same brand, colour and weight for all Australia Cup matches.

Where directed by Football Australia or Northern NSW Football, Clubs must use the Official Australia Cup Match Ball.

13. Club Playing Strip

All participating Clubs must register 2 Playing Strips for both Field Players and Goalkeepers. Clubs must nominate their strips on the prescribed form provided by NNSWF.

In the event of a playing strip colour clash, the Away Team (listed second on the official draw) must provide an alternate strip comprising of shirts, shorts and socks.

The Referee shall be the arbiter on match day should there be a clash of colours.

All participating Clubs should have both registered strips available for all Matches they participate in.

14. Match Results

The Home Club is required to enter the Final Result of the Match into the Competition Management System (SportsTG) no later than 1 hour after the conclusion of the Match unless otherwise advised by NNSWF.

15. Team Sheets

NNSWF will provide an Official Australia Cup Team Sheet to the Host Club.

The team sheet must be completed in ink, in a legible manner by both teams and must contain the names and shirt numbers of the players taking part in the match, including the names of the nominated substitutes.

The original fully completed team sheet must be provided to the Match Official by the Host Club at least 15 minutes prior to the

scheduled kick-off time. Amendments to the team sheet are permitted up until the scheduled kick-off time provided the Match Official is notified.

The numbers on the back of the shirts shall correspond to the numbers on the team sheet handed to the Match Official prior to the commencement of the match.

A maximum of 17 Players and 6 Team Officials may be listed on the Official Team Sheet.

Any Team Manager, Team Coach or Club Official found supplying false information shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by NNSWF.

A Team Official from each Team must sign the completed Team Sheet once completed to endorse all information is correct.

The Home Club shall forward, by email, a legible scanned copy (PDF preferred) of the Official Team Sheet to competitions@northernnswfootball.com.au on the first Business Day after the Match by 10am.

Clubs who fail to submit the Official Team Sheet within the aforementioned timelines shall be subject to a financial penalty in accordance with Appendix B.

16. Club Officials at Fixtures

The Home Team must have a minimum of 2 identifiable Ground Officials present at all times and the Away Team must have a minimum of 1 identifiable Ground Officials present at all times.

- Ground Officials are required to:
- Actively patrol the playing arena;
- Escort Match Officials on and off the playing arena and
- Be the point of contact with spectators of the Ground Official's own Club.

17. Match Officials

The appointment of Match Officials will be the responsibility of NNSWF and Member Referee Branches dependent upon the location of the Match.

The Host Club shall be fully responsible for the welfare of the Match Officials, from the time they arrive at the ground, until the time they depart from the ground. Failure to carry out this requirement shall render the Host Club liable to a penalty, as determined by NNSWF.

18. Match Official Fees

The 2 respective Clubs who participate in each Match shall be responsible for the payment of 50% each of the total Match Official Fee in accordance with 18.1 and 18.2.

2023 Match Official Fees for all Preliminary Round Matches:

Centre Referee	\$126.00	
Assistant Referee(s)	\$63.00 <i>(each)</i>	
Fourth Official	\$31.50	
		Only applicable for Rounds 6/7

18.1 Northern Conference

The Host Club Member Zone shall be responsible for payment of appointed Match Officials for Matches conducted within their Zone.

Member Zones shall seek reimbursement for Match Official Fees from the relevant participating Clubs.

18.2 Southern Conference

NNSWF shall be responsible for the payment of appointed Match Officials for all Southern Conference Matches.

NNSWF shall seek reimbursement for Match Official Fees from the relevant participating Clubs.

19. Admission Fee

The Host Club may, at its discretion, may charge admission fees (maximum) as follows:

Adults	-	\$5.00
Concession	-	\$2.00
School Children	-	\$0.00

The Host Club will retain all admission fees to help offset costs related to hosting the match.

20. Field of Play

The minimum and maximum dimensions of the field of play are defined as follows:

For all Preliminary Round Matches:

- a. Preferred: 105m long and 68m wide;
- b. Minimum: 90m long and 45m wide; and
- c. Maximum: 120m long and 90m wide.

The playing surface for all Australia Cup Matches must be prepared and maintained to a reasonable standard as determined by NNSWF in its sole and absolute discretion.

Schedule A

Minimum Mandatory Suspensions			
CODE	OFFENCE	GRADING GUIDELINES	PENALTY
R4	Denying goal scoring opportunity Handling the ball		Auto
R5	Denying goal scoring opportunity Foul –		Auto
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
R3	Spitting	1. Spitting at an opponent or another Club Associate	Auto +4
		2. Spitting on an opponent or another Club Associate	Auto +8
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 or Club Associate	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
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 another player or Club Associate	Auto +1
		3. Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures, to another Player or Club Associate	Auto +2
		4. Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures	Auto +4
R7	Second caution (Yellow Card)		Auto
		1. Unsporting conduct	Auto +3
		2. Using offensive language and/or gestures	Auto +3
		3. Repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures	Auto +4
		4. Unwarranted contact with and/or conduct with a Match Official	Auto + 5*

R8	Offences against Match Officials	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 + 8*
		6. Spitting at or on a Match Official	Auto + 10*
R9	Team Official Specific Offences (not covered in R1-R8)	7. Violence towards a Match Official and/or their family or property	Auto + 10*
		8. Violence towards Junior Match Official and/or their family or property	Auto + Direct to Code of Conduct
		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 +1
		4. Entering the field to confront a Match Official at half time or full time	Auto + 3
		5. Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner	Auto + 1
		6. Entering the field to interfere with play or an opposing player	Auto + 2
		7. Entering the field to confront a Match Official during a Match	Auto + 5*

* 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.

Scheduled B

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 or Team Official	\$200	Per offence
2 b	Playing for another Club	\$1000	Per offence
2 c	Player Bringing Code into Disrepute	\$1000	Per offence
2 d	Inducement to Bring About A Result	\$2000	Per offence
2 f	Replacement of Player / Official Pass	\$35	Per pass
3. Player Uniform / Gear Requirements			
3 a	Failure to wear correct alternate strip, resulting in a clash	\$200	Per Team
3 b	Failure to have playing strips approved by NNSWF	\$200	Per strip
3 c	Inappropriate sponsor branding	\$500	Per round
3 d	Failure to adhere to competition logo requirements	\$500	Per Team
4	Failure to obtain consent for kick off time change	\$200	Per offence
5. Forfeited Fixtures			
5 a	Forfeited fixtures –Senior Grades	\$1000	Per offence
6. Abandoned Fixtures			
6 a	Caused by a Player	\$1000	Per offence
6 b	Caused by a Club	\$2000	Per offence
6 c	Caused by another Club Associate	\$500	Per offence
7	Mass Walk Off	\$2000	Per offence

8. Fixture Start Delay			
8 a	Failure to exit change room on time	\$250	Per offence
8 b	Significant delay to start a Match	\$500	Per offence
8 c	Refusing to start a fixture	\$2000	Per offence
9. Team Sheets			
9 a	Failure to lodge a Team sheet	\$100	Per offence
9 b	Failure to complete a Team sheet within required timelines	\$100	Per offence
9 c	Illegible Team sheet	\$100	Per offence
9 d	Supplying false information on a Team sheet	\$1000	Per offence
9 e	Team sheet not available	\$100	Per offence
9 f	Failure to include required number of Duty Officers on Team sheet	\$100	Per offence
10	Failure to provide replacement Match Official	\$500	Per offence
11	Three Players, Teams or Club Officials found guilty of Match Official abuse across all grades inclusive of both Senior and Youth	\$2000	Per offence
12	Failure to Advise required persons of Washed Out Fixtures	\$100	Per offence
13. Code of Conduct			
13 a	Breach of Code of Conduct by Player of Team Official	\$500	Per offence
13 b	Breach of Code of Conduct / Spectator Code of Behaviour by Player of Club Associate	\$500	Per offence
13 c	Display of prohibited flags, slogans or emblems	\$500	Per offence
13 d	Display of any non-compliant signage anywhere within the ground	\$500	Per offence
13 e	Failure to erect required competition sponsor banners / feathers	\$500	Per offence
14. Administrative			
14 a	Failure to submit required documents to NNSWF within timelines	\$200	Per offence

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