



**2026**

**Premier Youth League | Boy's**

**Competition Rules**



## 1. SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

1.1. The Premier Youth League Boy's 2026 Competition Rules are to be read in conjunction with Northern NSW Football 2026 Premier Competition Regulations.

1.2. All definitions as outlined in the Northern NSW Football 2026 Premier Competition Regulations will apply in this document.

## 2. FEES

### 2.1. Participation Fee

(a) The total Participation Fee is approximately \$18,110.04.

(b) This Fee includes the following:

(i)	Competition Fee	\$2,670.94
(ii)	Contribution to Match Official appointments officer	\$687.50
(iii)	Technical Levy	\$1,772.10
(iv)	Disciplinary Levy	\$275.50
(v)	Match Official Fees	\$12,705.00

(c) Regional clubs will be provided their participation fee directly.

(d) The Participation Fee will be paid over four instalments:

	Instalment	Amount	Invoice Date
(i)	Instalment 1	\$ 1802.02	31/03/2026
(ii)	Instalment 2	\$ 1802.01	30/04/2026
(iii)	Instalment 3	\$ 1802.01	30/05/2026
(iv)	Instalment 4 *	\$ 12,705.00	31/08/2026

## 3. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

3.1. Each Club will be required to field and maintain the following teams unless otherwise specified in their Participation Agreement.

(a) Youth Competitions:

(i) 18 Years.

(ii) 16 Years.

(iii) 15 Years.

(iv) 14 Years.

(v) 13 Years.



**(b)** Any club who is unable to field one of the required teams, will be permitted to continue in the PYL Competition for one season, but will be required to field all teams in the following season.

**(c)** Any club who is unable to field at least 4 of the 5 required teams in the Competition may not be permitted to participate with the exception of 3.1 (d)

**(d)** Northern NSW Football reserves the right to permit clubs to remain in the PYL Competitions on the basis that:

- (i)** Fielding the remaining teams provides a better competition experience for the remaining participants.
- (ii)** For 2026, that a regionally based club is adding extra teams previously not required in youth competitions.

**3.2.** The Premier Youth League Boy's is comprised of approximately 25 Clubs across the following Competitions:

**(a)** League Season.

**(b)** PYL Boy's Cup.

**3.3.** Competition Points for each Competition will be awarded in accordance with the 2026 Premier Competition Regulations unless otherwise specified.

#### **4. PYL BOY'S CUP**

**4.1.** The PYL Boy's Cup will run as follows:

**4.2.** Each age group will have its own individual competition

**4.3.** All teams in each age group will play 1 pool match against a team from group 1, group 2 and group 3

**(a)** Seeded group will be based on the club championships standings of season 2025.

**4.4.** Each age group will have its own ladder, which will then be combined into a club championship ladder, comprising all points and goals of the under 13, under 14, under 15, under 16 and under 18 teams.

**4.5.** At the conclusion of round 3 of the PYL Boy's cup, the combined club championship ladder will be used to determine matches for week 4, in the follow order:

**(a)** 1 v 2

**4.6.** All matches in the PYL Boy's Cup will comprise 2 x 40-minute halves, with a maximum half time of 10 mins.



4.7. Any matches which are not able to be completed will be declared a 0-0 draw, with both teams being awarded 1 point.

4.8. PYL Boy's Cup champions will be based on a club championship model between the clubs competing in the matches noted in 4.5(a) – specific to those matches.

(a) Should the number of points be equal after the completion of these matches, goal difference will be used to determine the pre-season cup champions.

(i) The Club with the highest goal difference;

(ii) The Club with the highest goals for;

(iii) Fair Play Points System in which the number of Yellow and Red Cards in group Matches is considered according to the following deductions:

Criteria	Value
First Yellow Card (per Player)	Minus 1 point
Second Yellow Card or Indirect Red Card (per Player)	Minus 3 points
First Yellow Card (per Team Official)	
Direct Red Card (per Player)	Minus 4 points
Direct Red Card (per Team Official)	Minus 5 points

## 5. PYL LEAGUE SEASON

5.1. The Premier Youth League will be split into two divisions for Phase One of the competition based on 2025 Club Championships:

(a) PYL Division 1 will comprise the top 12 ranked teams from 2025;

(b) PYL Division 2 will comprise the remaining 13 clubs, or less.

5.2. All clubs in PYL Division 1 will play each other club within their division once on a home or away basis.

5.3. All clubs in PYL Division 2 will play each other club within their division once on a home or away basis.

5.4. All teams will compete in their individual age group competition in their respective PYL division.

(a) Teams will be ranked within their own league based on the following:



- (i) Greatest number of points obtained in all Matches. If two or more teams are equal on the basis of the above criteria, their ranking shall be determined as follows:
- (ii) The result of the Match played against each other in the group phase;
- (iii) The Team with the highest goal difference;
- (iv) The Team with the highest goals for;
- (v) Fair Play Points System in which the number of Yellow and Red Cards in group Matches is considered according to the following deductions:

Criteria	Value
First Yellow Card (per Player)	Minus 1 point
Second Yellow Card or Indirect Red Card (per Player) First Yellow Card (per Team Official)	Minus 3 points
Direct Red Card (per Player)	Minus 4 points
Direct Red Card (per Team Official)	Minus 5 points

5.5. Whilst all teams will compete in their own age group competition, all results will be collated in a Club Championship format.

(a) A cumulative table, combining all teams from each club will be maintained to produce the Club Championship Table. This table will add all the following league data to produce a single table representing the total of the below data for each club:

- (i) Games Played
- (ii) Wins
- (iii) Draws
- (iv) Losses
- (v) Goals For
- (vi) Goals Against
- (vii) Points

(b) For the avoidance of doubt, separate Club Championship Tables will be maintained for PYL Division 1 and PYL Division 2.

5.6. At the conclusion of Phase One, Clubs will be split into three divisions based on their position in their respective Club Championships Table described in rule 5.5, as follows:

(a) Clubs ranked positions 1 to 9 in PYL Division 1 will qualify for PYL League A.



- (b) Clubs ranked positions 10 to 12 in PYL Division 1, and Clubs ranked 1 to 5 in PYL Division 2 will qualify for PYL League B.
- (c) Clubs ranked 6<sup>th</sup> and below in PYL Division 2 will qualify for PYL League C.
- (d) All clubs will play each other club in their phase two division two times on a predominately home and away basis (after regional travel considerations).
- (e) In the event not all fixtured matches are completed, and if it has an impact on the final standing, NNSWF reserves the right to implement the points per game model.
- (f) The model may be implemented specifically to enable differentiation between a number of clubs or implemented across the whole Club Championship Table.
  - (i) The points per game model will be required to take into account, at NNSW Footballs discretion, the impact of any club who is not fielding all required teams in PYL.

5.7. Clubs will then compete in each age group within their respective PYL League as follows:

- (a) PYL League A
  - (i) All points, goals and match statistics for clubs moving from PYL Division 1 to PYL League A will remain intact;
  - (ii) Teams will be ranked in accordance with Rule 5.4.

(b) The PYL League A Finals Series will be as follows:

Week 1   Semi-Final				
(i)	SF1	1 <sup>st</sup> Placed Team	v	4 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		
(ii)	SF2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Placed Team	v	3 <sup>rd</sup> Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		
Week 2   Grand Final				
(iii)	GF	Winner SF1	v	Winner SF2

- (c) PYL League B
  - (i) All points, goals and match statistics for clubs moving from PYL Division 1 and 2 to PYL League B will be removed. All teams will start a new league phase;
  - (ii) Teams will be ranked in accordance with Rule 5.4.

(d) The PYL League B Finals Series will be played as follows:

Week 1   Semi-Final				
(i)	SF1	1 <sup>st</sup> Placed Team	v	4 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		
(ii)	SF2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Placed Team	v	3 <sup>rd</sup> Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		
Week 2   Grand Final				
(iii)	GF	Winner SF1	v	Winner SF2



**(e) PYL League C**

- (i)** All points, goals and match statistics for clubs moving from PYL Division 2 to PYL League C will be removed. All teams will start a new league phase;
- (ii)** Teams will be ranked in accordance with Rule 5.4.

**(f) The PYL League C Finals Series will be played as follows:**

<b>Week 1   Semi-Final</b>				
<b>(i)</b>	SF1	1 <sup>st</sup> Placed Team	v	4 <sup>th</sup> Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		
<b>(ii)</b>	SF2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Placed Team	v	3 <sup>rd</sup> Placed Team
		Loser Eliminated		
<b>Week 2   Grand Final</b>				
<b>(iii)</b>	GF	Winner SF1	v	Winner SF2

**5.8.** In the event a Match is drawn at the conclusion of normal playing the result of the Match shall be decided by penalties as per FIFA Laws of the Game.

**5.9.** NNSWF will determine the Venue, kick-off time and playing date of all Grand Finals at its sole discretion.

**5.10. Youth Finals Eligibility**

**(a)** The grade a Player has played the highest number of their Matches as shown in Squadi is the lowest grade in which they are eligible to participate in the Final's Series.

- (i)** A Player is eligible to participate in the lowest grade they qualify for in accordance with 5.10 (a) and grades above.
- (ii)** Should a player have played an equal number of their Matches in all grades they participated in, they will be considered eligible to participate in those grades.

**(b)** Subject to any suspension and/or age eligibility a Player is eligible to participate in the grade they have qualified for and grades above.

**(c)** Club may seek special dispensation for the specialist position of goalkeeper. All requests will be considered on an individual basis by NNSWF.

**(d)** Should a Team be removed or withdrawn from a competition, NNSWF reserves the right to adjust finals eligibility requirements for remaining Clubs on the basis of a Player being eligible for the Team they have played the majority of matches for and the corresponding grades above.



## 6. FORMATION OF 2027 LEAGUES

6.1. Club Championship Tables will be maintained in accordance with Rule 5.5 for:

- (a) PYL League A
- (b) PYL League B
- (c) PYL League C

6.2. At the conclusion of the 2026 season clubs will be allocated a position in their 2027 PYL Division as follows:

- (a) All Clubs competing in PYL League A and Clubs ranked 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> in PYL League B, based on the Club Championship Table, will begin season 2026 in PYL Division 1.
- (b) All Clubs competing in PYL League C and Clubs ranked 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in PYL League B, based on the Club Championship Table, will begin season 2026 in PYL Division 2.

## 7. AGE RESTRICTIONS

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

7.2. 2026 Youth Grades inclusive of:

(a) Players are considered eligible to participate within the below Age Groups in accordance with their date of birth:

Age Group	Eligible Date of Births
13 Years	2013, 2014 and 2015
14 Years	2012, 2013 and 2014
15 Years	2011, 2012 and 2013
16 Years	2010, 2011 and 2012
18 Years	2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011

(b) Players born 2011 and before, are permitted to play into any higher age group, including senior grades an unlimited number of times (subject to Final Series qualification).

7.3. Player Eligibility Exemptions

(a) Players are not permitted to play down into an age group or grade lower than they are age eligible for with the exception of:

- (i) In the event of an injury or unavailability to a Goalkeeper and the subsequent goalkeeper from the age group or grade below is unable to participate, Clubs must complete and submit the following form [Eligibility Form](#) allowing for permission to play the Goalkeeper from the corresponding next age group or grade above.
- (ii) The [Eligibility Form](#) must be completed and submitted by a Club Executive or the Club Technical Director by or before 9am the next Business Day following the completion of the Match.



- (iii) Clubs are responsible for collecting and storing applicable evidence to support the usage of a Goalkeeper from the higher age group which may be requested by NNSWF.
- (iv) In the event a Player or Goalkeeper does not meet the above criteria, Clubs may apply in writing to NNSWF to request special exemption.
- (v) Should a Club be found guilty of the using a Goalkeeper from a higher grade to gain Sporting Advantage, which may include taking adequate steps in assembling their squads appropriately, they may be subject to NNSWF Premier Competition Regulation 7 and corresponding sanctions.

## 8. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

8.1. The maximum number of Players permitted to be registered per club is:

- (a) 80 across all Youth Grades.

8.2. Biological Maturation

(a) Clubs may seek dispensation (under Biological Maturation guidelines) for a maximum of 2 Players in each of the 13 Years, 14 Years, 15 Year and 16 Years. Clubs seeking dispensation must apply to NNSWF on the prescribed request form:

- (i) <https://www.northernnswfootball.com.au/talented-players/biological-maturation>

(b) All Players applying for Biological Maturation exemption must attend a physical session with NNSWF Player Development staff before being approved.

(c) Biological Maturation approvals are at the sole discretion of the NNSWF and are not appealable.

8.3. Mid Coast FC, North Coast Football, Northern Inland Rangers may apply to NNSWF to register female Players in the 13's, 14's 15's, 16's and 18's.

(a) Approval to register is strictly at the absolute discretion of the NNSWF's Technical Department.

(b) A female Player may be registered and is eligible to participate in an age group up to 2 years below the Player's age.

(c) The above rule is subject to female Players who are up to and including 18 years of age.

(d) Other Clubs may also apply to NNSWF to have female players on an exceptional basis but must include a detailed report from the Club's Technical Director which is to be followed up by a mid-season report. The initial application and continuation to play after the mid-season report is at the absolute discretion of NNSWF.



(e) Application must be submitted via the following prescribed form:

(i) [Application for Female to Play in Youth Male Competition](#)

## 9. MATCH DURATION

9.1. Each Match in shall consist of the following:

Age Grade	Match Duration	Half-Time Interval
18 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.)   10 minutes (max.)
16 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.)   10 minutes (max.)
15 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.)   10 minutes (max.)
14 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.)   10 minutes (max.)
13 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.)   10 minutes (max.)

9.2. Additional time for injuries and stoppages is not applicable to Youth Grades.

## 10. MATCH BALLS

10.1. Mitre is the approved Match ball for season 2026.

(a) Approved Match balls must be used in all Competition Fixtures.

10.2. The following Match ball sizes must be used:

Competition	Match Ball Size	Match Ball Min. Quality
18 Years	5	Mid-range Mitre
16 Years		
15 Years		
14 Years		
13 Years	4	Mid-range Mitre

## 11. TEAM OFFICIALS & TECHNICAL AREA

11.1. Clubs will be permitted to the following number of Team Officials and interchange Players within in the Technical Area during a fixture:

Competition	Maximum Officials Permitted	Maximum Players Permitted
18 Years	6 Registered Team Officials	5 Interchange Players
16 Years		
15 Years		
14 Years		
13 Years		

(a) All Team Officials & Players must be eligible to participate in the Match and named accordingly on the Official Team Sheet on Squadi

11.2. All registered Team Officials must display their NNSWF Accreditation Pass at all times.



**11.3.** A Player or Team Official who has been expelled or is serving a suspension is not permitted to be in the Technical Area during a fixture in accordance with the 2026 Premier Competition Regulations.

**11.4.** Anyone in the Technical Area who should not be in the Technical is still subject to the same sanctions as if they were allowed to be in the Technical Area.

## **12. INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS**

### **12.1.** Interchange (Youth Grades)

**(a)** A Team is permitted to name a maximum of 5 interchange Players on the Team Sheet.

**(b)** A Team will be permitted to make unlimited interchanges during each half and the half-time interval:

**12.2.** The interchange rule will apply for to all PYL Boys competitions:

## **13. RESCHEDULED FIXTURES**

### **13.1.** Youth Fixtures Involving Regional Teams

**(a)** Youth Competition Fixtures postponed due to inclement weather, or any other causes will in the first instance be rescheduled to the next available catch-up round, with preference given to matchdays where either multiple grades have been postponed or, for matches involving regional based teams (Mid Coast FC, North Coast Football and Northern Inland Rangers).

- (i)** NNSWF reserves the right to revert scheduled Competition Fixtures from catch-up rounds to mid-week in accordance with 14.2 (b) where metropolitan based Teams were scheduled in the event a regional based Team can participate in rescheduled Competition Fixtures against a metropolitan Team.
- (ii)** Adjustments to catch-up round scheduling, including prioritising regional based Teams over metropolitan v metropolitan rescheduled Competition Fixtures shall only be permitted where the rescheduled Competition Fixture is confirmed in advance of 10 Business Days prior to existing rescheduled Competition Fixtures.
- (iii)** In the event of no available catch-up rounds for regional based Teams, both Clubs can agree to an alternate date which may include a double header weekend within a 10 Business Day period following the postponement of the Competition Fixture(s).
- (iv)** Should both Clubs fail to agree on a date within this period the result of the Matches concerned will be recorded as nil all draw (0-0).

### **13.2.** Youth Fixtures Excluding Regional Teams

**(a)** Should there be no available catch-up rounds, the matches will be replayed the within the following options after the postponement as follows with due consideration given to previously scheduled Competition Fixtures (excluding Matches involving Mid Coast FC & North Coast Football and Northern Inland Rangers):

- (i)** Where no senior fixtures have been scheduled



13 Years	Tuesday of the second week following postponement	6:00pm
14 Years	Tuesday of the second week following postponement	7:40pm
15 Years	Thursday of the second week following postponement	6:00pm
16 Years	Thursday of the second week following postponement	7:40pm
18 Years	Wednesday of the second week following postponement	6:00pm

**(ii)** Where existing senior fixtures have been scheduled

13 Years	Tuesday of the third week following postponement	6:00pm
14 Years	Tuesday of the third week following postponement	7:40pm
15 Years	Thursday of the third week following postponement	6:00pm
16 Years	Thursday of the third week following postponement	7:40pm
18 Years	Wednesday of the third week following postponement	6:00pm

**(iii)** In the event the Home or Host Club's ground is not available within the available period and existing or prioritised Senior Competition Fixtures have not been scheduled at the Venue the Away Club will be afforded the opportunity to host the postponed Competition Fixture(s).

**(b)** NNSWF reserves the right at its absolute discretion to consider all available options to ensure that as many fixtures as possible are played during a period of inclement weather or postponements, and where any fixture may have a bearing on a final's series position all endeavours will be made to reschedule fixture.

**13.3.** Should inclement weather persist and cause the postponement of rescheduled fixtures, NNSWF will liaise with the Home Club to determine new Competition Fixture dates.

**13.4.** The availability of Players or Team Officials will not be taken into consideration when determining rescheduled fixtures.