



2026

Premier Youth League | Girl's

Competition Rules



1. SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

1.1. The Premier Youth League Girl'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 \$8,539.67.

(b) This Fee includes the following:

(i)	Competition Fee	\$1,602.57
(ii)	Contribution to Match Official appointments	\$412.50
(iii)	Technical Levy	\$1,328.80
(iv)	Disciplinary Levy	\$275.50
(v)	Match Official Fees	\$5,332.80

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

	Instalment	Amount	Invoice Date
(i)	Instalment 1	\$ 1068.95	31/03/2026
(ii)	Instalment 2	\$ 1068.96	30/04/2026
(iii)	Instalment 3	\$ 1068.96	30/05/2026
(iv)	Instalment 4	\$ 5745.30	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) 17 Years.

(ii) 15 Years.

(iii) 13 Years.



3.2. The Premier Youth League Girl's is comprised of 9 Clubs across the following Competitions:

(a) League Season.

(b) PYL Girl'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 GIRL'S CUP MATCHES

4.1. The PYL Girl'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 15, and under 17 teams.

4.5. At the conclusion of round 3 of the PYL Girl'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 Girl'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 Girl'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) 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. LEAGUE SEASON FINAL SERIES

5.1. The Finals Series will be conducted under the following format:

(a) Finals Series Competition Fixtures:

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

(b) NNSWF will determine the Venue, kick-off time and playing date of all Finals at its sole discretion.

(c) The first named team in all Finals Series Competition Fixtures will be the designated home team.

(d) If the winning teams for the 17 Years, 15 Years and 13 Years grand final cannot be determined by the above criteria, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the match:

- (i) Penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine grand final placing's.
- (ii) For the avoidance of no extra time will be played in Reserve Grade, 17 Years, 15 Years and 13 Years Competition Fixtures.

5.2. League Season Grand Final

(a) If winners for the 17 Years, 15 Years and 13 Years Finals Series Matches outlined in Rule 6.1 (a), Weeks 1-2 or Week 1 of Cup Finals Series cannot be determined at the conclusion of normal time, then the following will occur immediately after the conclusion of the Match:



- (i) Penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine a winner.
 - (ii) For the avoidance of doubt, no extra time will be played in 17 Years, 15 Years and 13 Years Competition Fixtures for these Matches.
 - (iii) For all Grand Final Matches outlined in 6.1 (a), if a winner cannot be determined at the conclusion of normal time, then penalty kicks will be taken in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game to determine a winner.
- (b) NNSWF will determine the Venue, kick-off time and playing date of all Grand Finals at its sole discretion.

5.3. 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 6.3 (a) and grades above.
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. AGE RESTRICTIONS

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

6.2. 2026 Youth Grades inclusive of:

- (a) 17 Years.
- (b) 15 Years.
- (c) 13 Years.



(d) 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
15 Years	2011, 2012 and 2013
17 Years	2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012

(i) Players born in 2013 may seek approval from NNSWF Technical Staff in order to be considered eligible to participate in the 17 Years.

(e) 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).

6.3. 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.

7. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

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

(a) 48 across all Youth Grades.



7.2. Biological Maturation

(a) Clubs may seek dispensation (under Biological Maturation guidelines) for a maximum of 2 Players in each of the 13 Years, 15 Years and 17 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. MATCH DURATION

8.1. Each Match in shall consist of the following:

Age Grade	Match Duration	Half-Time Interval
17 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.)
13 Years	2 x 40-minute halves	5 minutes (min.) 10 minutes (max.)

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

9. MATCH BALLS

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

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

9.2. The following Match ball sizes must be used:

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

10. TEAM OFFICIALS & TECHNICAL AREA

10.1. 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
17 Years	6 Registered Team Officials	5 Interchange Players
15 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.

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

10.3. 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.

10.4. 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.

11. INTERCHANGE OF PLAYERS

11.1. Interchange

(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:

11.2. The interchange rule will apply for the following competitions:

(a) 17 Years;

(b) 15 Years;

(c) 13 Years.

12. RESCHEDULED FIXTURES

12.1. League Competition and League Cup Fixtures

(a) All League 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 multiple grades have been postponed.

(b) Should there be no available catch-up rounds, the matches will be replayed the second week after the postponement as follows with due consideration given to previously scheduled Competition Fixtures:

17 Years	Thursday	7:40pm
15 Years	Tuesday	7:40pm
13 Years	Tuesday	6:00pm



12.2. League Competition Fixtures Involving Regional Teams

(a) 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).

(i) NNSWF reserves the right to revert scheduled Competition Fixtures from catch-up rounds to mid-week in accordance with 12.1 (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).

(b) 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) excluded 1st Grade.

(c) 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 Competition Fixture may have a bearing on a Finals Series position all endeavours will be made to reschedule Competition Fixture.

12.3. Should inclement weather persist and cause the postponement of rescheduled Competition Fixtures, NNSWF will liaise with the home club to determine new Competition Fixture dates.

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