

# Women in Football- A Leadership Development Program

All-Female Leadership Program May-June 2026

Online Learning Content & 2-day Conference in the Hunter Valley

## Scholarship Guidelines



**Application Opening Date: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Application Closing Date: 12pm Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**



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## **About the Women's Leadership Program**

The Women's Leadership Program (the Program) is an initiative of Northern NSW Football (NNSWF), which was established under the NSW Football Legacy Plan to provide the opportunity for female leaders in football, aspiring and established, to partake in a unique development opportunity. Following its successful implementation throughout 2023-2025, NNSWF will continue to provide this program for women within the region.

The Program provides the opportunity for up to 15 women to complete a leadership course developed by Football Australia (FA) consisting of 5 weeks online content and attendance at a 2-day Women's Leadership Conference in the Hunter Valley on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Program learnings include understanding and developing leadership styles, communication and negotiation skills, working with different personalities, emotional intelligence, and much more. The content is delivered in a football context, but transferrable to employment and other areas of daily life.

A key objective of the program is to build capacity, representation, and visibility of women in decision-making roles in football across the Northern NSW region, and, where possible, connecting women with opportunities within the football industry.

## **About the Scholarship**

Northern NSW Football delivers this program on a Scholarship basis, with NNSWF providing a significant subsidy for participation in the program, requiring a participant contribution of \$250.

Applicants will need to complete the online application form which will require a letter of support from their NNSWF affiliated club/Member Zone/organisation. It is recommended that, where possible, applicants also include a letter of support from their employer.

Successful applicants will be required to attend and complete online sessions as well as the 2-day face-to-face Conference hosted at the Rydges Resort Hunter Valley. It is also expected that program participants will continue to engage with NNSWF and other

program participants after the completion of the program, contributing to a network that supports the development of football across our region. It is NNSWF's expectation that, having been provided this opportunity for your personal and professional development, you will look to support the development of other potential/aspiring leaders, continuing the growth and development of football, and in particular, of women in football.

## **Member Club Support Requirements**

All Applicants are required to provide evidence that the application has the support of their NNSWF affiliated Member Zone, Club, Referee Branch, Board, and/or employer, with willingness to ensure appropriate opportunities for development throughout 2026.

## **Who is Eligible to Apply for the Scholarship?**

Women aged 18 years or over who reside in Northern NSW, who are engaged in either a volunteer or paid capacity as:

- an employee of Northern NSW Football or Member Zone; OR
- a current member of a Zone Board or Standing Committee; OR
- a registered Player, Coach, Referee, Volunteer, Committee Member to a NNSWF affiliated club or Member Zone within the national PlayFootball registration system in 2026 OR
- an employee or volunteer of an organisation that provides support or services directly to football (e.g. media, local council)

## **Assessment Process**

An initial eligibility assessment will be undertaken to determine that:

- The Applicant is eligible to apply;
- The Applicant has the required support; and
- The application meets the Scholarship criteria and is submitted by the closing date.



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The NNSWF Participation & Women's Football department will assess the merit of all eligible applications and score each applicant against the assessment criteria.

The NNSWF GM Participation and Women's Football and team will assess recommendations from the panel and approve the distribution of the Scholarships.

## **Assessment Criteria**

Applications will be assessed on merit and scored against the following criteria:

1. A Letter of Support from the Club or football organisation that the applicant will be involved with in 2026;
2. History of relevant experience, specifically around leading and influencing; and
3. An outline of how the applicant wishes to progress in their relevant field over the next 12 months and beyond.

## **Scholarship Time Frame**

NNSWF will open applications for the Women's Leadership Program on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026, and close applications at 12pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.

Applicants will be notified of their outcome by 5pm Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

All components of the Scholarship must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026.

The Scholarship time frame is at the absolute discretion of NNSWF.

## **How to Apply**

1. Visit <https://www.northernnswfootball.com.au> for information about the Scholarship and determine if you're eligible to apply.
2. Complete the [online application](#).
3. Submit the application by 12pm Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026.



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## **Notification**

Applicants will receive an email to confirm that the application has been submitted successfully.

Successful applicants will be notified via email, with details of how to accept the Scholarship.

Applicants who are unsuccessful will also be notified via email of the outcome of their application.

## **Payment of Scholarship**

Successful Applicants will be required to enter into a Scholarship agreement. Once the Scholarship agreement has been signed, and the participant contribution has been paid, the successful applicant will be registered to attend the 2026 Women's Leadership Program.

At no stage during the scholarship will Northern NSW Football provide cash amounts to Scholarship recipients.

The Scholarship encompasses the full value of the online learning components, registration to the Women in Leadership Conference, and Women's Leadership Program participant pack.

If you do not meet the requirements of your scholarship agreement, it is at the discretion of NNSWF to invoice you for associated costs of your participation in the program.

## **Disclaimer**

The submission of an application does not guarantee a Scholarship. Any costs associated with preparing an application or completing the online content are borne by the Applicant.

## **Privacy Policy**

NNSWF will collect and store the information the Applicant voluntarily provides to enable processing of the application. Any information provided by the Applicant will be stored on a



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database that will only be accessed by authorised personnel and is subject to privacy restrictions.

NNSWF is required to comply with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. NNSWF collects the minimum personal information to enable it to contact an Applicant and to assess the merits of an application.

Applicants must ensure that people and member clubs whose personal details are supplied with applications are aware that NNSWF is being supplied with this information and how this information will be used.

### **Disclosure of Scholarship Information**

Information submitted in the application will be shared with the NNSWF representatives and assessors. Should your application be successful NNSWF may wish to provide certain information to the media for promotional purposes. This information will include name, member club, and history. The contact details supplied by the Applicant may also be provided.

### **Important Notes**

The capacity to efficiently assess an application is conditional upon the Applicant submitting a complete and accurate application. Applications may be deemed ineligible if all information is not provided.

Apart from organisational and Applicant contact details, information provided in applications cannot be changed after the closing date.