



MEMO 32-2026

DATE: Wednesday 14th May
TO: All Premier Clubs
FROM: GM Football Operations
SUBJECT: Premier Competitions - General

| For Information or Action | Action required | Action completed by | NNSWF Contact | Total Pages |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Information | N/A | N/A | Liam Bentley | 4 |

Dear All,

This memo is to outline a number of key pieces of information relating to matchday and weekend operations across our Premier Competitions that we recently discussed at our Standing Committee meetings.

Wet Weather

Please refer to the updated [Wet Weather Policy](#)

A few key reminders and updates:

- Any senior match that is called off can only be postponed by NNSWF Football Operations staff or the appointed Match Official.
- Where a match is called off by the referee, the host club must contact the Football Operations out-of-hours line on **4941 7222** as soon as possible to confirm.
- Clubs are encouraged to play as many matches as scheduled as possible. We understand the need to manage pitches and council requirements, however recent seasons have shown that postponements can quickly lead to a significant backlog of fixtures, often requiring matches to be played in quick succession and in less favourable conditions.

Match Balls & Ball Kids

Clubs are reminded that prescribed match balls must be used for all First Grade fixtures. If replacements are required, these can be purchased at a discounted rate through Mitre. It is also important that all ball kids are familiar with and follow the protocols outlined in the Match Balls &



Ball Kids attached to this email and also included on the Premier Competitions portal of the website.

[Matchball and Ball Kids Directive](#)

Team Officials

All team officials must be correctly listed on the team sheet within Squadi. If there are any issues with selecting a team official, please notify us as soon as possible so we can assist in resolving the matter prior to matchday.

First Aid / Physio & Sports Trainer

Our competitions have specific guidelines on the level of first aid / medical support for our players. Clubs must firstly ensure they are taking all steps to meet these minimum standards, or above. Secondly, please ensure that any first aid or medical staff entering the field of play to assess and potentially treat a player is equipped to do so, including the use of gloves and taking a physio / first aid kit.

This is about ensuring your players get assessed properly, get any treatment they require and that risks are reduced for both player and your physio or sports trainer

Entry to & from Playing Field

If your club does not have a players race structure built into your facility you must follow the following guidelines:

1. A temporary barrier in the form of bike rack fencing / chain / water barriers or similar must be in place when players are moving to and from the field.
2. A minimum of one extra duty officer is required to be present at the temporary players race during player entry and exit from the field.



3. Caution must be used, and duty officers must be in attendance if a player is red carded and a form of temporary barrier must be erected unless the player is being escorted by multiple duty officers.
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Music at Grounds

We have recently had a number of livestreams taken down due to the use of copyrighted music at venues. As a result, clubs must ensure that no copyrighted music is played during matches that are being broadcast. Ultimately it is spectators tuning in to watch your team who are impacted when a stream is taken down.

Kit Allocation

Clubs are reminded that the approved kit allocation must be followed at all times. There have already been several instances this season where this has not occurred, and warnings and fines have been issued in line with what was outlined during the pre-season Standing Committee meetings.

Behaviour – Players, Officials & Spectators

We have unfortunately already seen a number of unacceptable incidents this season, including instances of homophobic and racist behaviour from both players and spectators. These matters are taken extremely seriously, as is any failure to identify those responsible.

Our preference is always to deal directly with the individuals involved. However, where clubs are unable or unwilling to identify those responsible, this will lead to increased financial sanctions being applied to the club.

While we acknowledge that identifying individuals can at times be uncomfortable, it is critical that this occurs. The impact on those subjected to this behaviour is far more significant, and it is essential that our competitions remain inclusive, respectful and safe for all participants.



Premier Competitions Calendar

The premier competitions calendar will continue to be updated with key dates and rounds as well as meeting dates: it can be found at the below link:

[Premier Competitions Calendar](#)

We recognise and greatly appreciate the effort that goes into delivering matchdays each week, particularly from the many volunteers and staff working behind the scenes. Ensuring the above areas are managed well will significantly improve the experience for everyone involved in our competitions, from players and coaches through to administrators and spectators.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and cooperation. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Liam Bentley

General Manager Football Operations
Northern NSW Football